INVERNESS TOWN COUNCIL.

The Town Council met on Friday, for the purpose of electing magistrates and office-bearers—Bailie Dallas, senior acting magistrate, in the chair. With the exception of Dr Forbes all the councillors were present. The Rev. Mr Macgregor opened the proceedings with prayer, after which the Town-Clerk read the minutes of the preceding meeting, which were approved of unanimously. The members of Council qualified themselves by taking the statutory oath of allegiance.

Bailie Dallas then moved that they should elect Mr Lyon-Mackenzie as Provost of the burgh. He did not think it necessary to say much in recommendation of the Provost. Most of them had sat with him at that Board for a considerable time. He had done so himself, and had sat with no fewer than six Provosts, with any of whom, he believed, Mr Lyon-Mackenzie bore a very favourable comparison as an honourable and courteous gentleman. He begged to move that he be elected for the ensuing period.

Mr Shaw seconded the motion. It was, perhaps, unnecessary to remind them that the duties of the Provost were now different from what they once were. In the rampant days of Toryism the Provost was, to a great extent, the Council. Not only did he expect a general support in the discharge of his duties from the members of the Board, which he still had a right to look for, whether politically agreeing with him or not, but he expected their support for all his opinions; and so much was this the case, that practically the will of the Provost was regarded as the law of the Council. This was so well understood, that whenever anything was done by the town, from gilding a steeple to a war upon old wives' pigstyes, it was always said that Provost So-and-so did it. There was the Provost who had done nothing to commemorate his reign but make a puddle of a house up by the Castle-hill, but they knew that story. As representation was out of the question in those days, the coadjutors of the Provost were only so many satellites blinking around the central orb. Even then, however, there were symptoms of independence, but pandering, plastering toadyism was the rule. The Councillors did not even dare to laugh at a good joke until the Provost set the example. Now, they were under a representative system, and while he said that the Provost was entitled to receive from all of them support in the discharge of his duties, they, as representatives, were individually responsible for what they did, and they must think for themselves. The Provost had the same rights in that respect as any of them, but no more. However, there was no good in the world but had its attendant evils, and while they had made great advances in their political standing, there was this evil in the matter—that they turned the good to some extent into an evil, by constant bickerings and partyism. This was not confined to Inverness, though they had a liberal share of it; it was common to all Councils. But he hoped that with increased intelligence would come increased forbearance, and that while they differed in opinion they should see through the light of intelligence that it was unreasonable to be personally offensive or abusive of those who differed from them. He could with the greatest confidence say, with regard to the individual now proposed, that though he had never had the pleasure of acting with him in the capacity of Provost, he had for a long time served with him as a Councillor and fellow-Magistrate, and in both characters found him almost everything he could desire. They frequently agreed; sometimes they differed. When they agreed, he was a confiding, candid, sure-going friend; and when they differed, he was an honourable and moderate opponent. He had much pleasure, therefore, in seconding the nomination of Provost Lyon-Mackenzie.

Mr C. Fraser-Mackintosh said, that because there were several members around the Board well qualified to act as Provost, he objected to the re-election of Provost Lyon-Mackenzie. He had been already four years Provost of this burgh, and he conceived that there was an objection implied in the Act under which these elections took place. He would take the liberty of reading the preamble of the Act.

The Town-Clerk (in answer, as we understood, to a question by Bailie Dallas) said that the Chairman had the right to ask if Mr Fraser-Mackintosh was about to conclude with an amendment, and that if he was not, then he was out of order in addressing the meeting.

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh contended that he had a right to address the meeting in reference to the motion now before them. Suppose he was making a complimentary speech regarding the nomination?

Mr A. Macbean took the same view of the question.

Mr Shaw said, if an amendment were made and seconded, then a third party might speechify as much as he liked, but it would completely unhinge the order of public meetings, and breed endless confusion, if members could make speeches without having an amendment to propose.

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh said, if it was the opinion of the majority of the Council that he should not state his objection, then he would sit down.

Mr A. Macbean—Then there is no liberty of speech!

Mr James Simpson could not but regard such a proceeding as exceedingly discourteous to Mr Mackintosh. So far from making any personal objection to Mr Lyon-Mackenzie, he had spoken quite in his favour, so far as he was concerned as a gentleman. No mere technical objection to the system of re-election should put a stop to the "liberty of speech." This seemed an exceedingly bad beginning of their proceedings, to stop a gentleman when he was making proper observations in speaking to a motion. Mr Mackintosh might state that there were certain objections, though in the main he might be quite in favour of the motion.

Mr Shaw replied that Mr Fraser-Mackintosh had said enough to show that he was against the motion; and unless they were prepared to throw the bridle over the horse's neck at once, they must adhere to the rules of meetings of this sort, and the rule in cases of this sort must be, that any one speaking against a motion must conclude with an amendment, otherwise they could never get on with business at all.

Mr Simpson—These gentlemen are making half-a-dozen speeches on the question!

The Chairman said they were speaking to a point of order.

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh saw no use in continuing the discussion. The few remarks he had to make he should just be obliged to publish in the newspapers.

The motion was then put and carried.

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh protested for himself and those who might adhere to him, on the ground that the re-election of Mr Lyon-Mackenzie, who had been already about four years in the office of Provost, was in direct opposition to the spirit and intention of the Municipal Act, and would have a prejudicial tendency as regarded the *status* of future members.

Mr France also dissented, principally because Mr Mackintosh had not been heard, and because, in 1852, at the re-election of Provost Sutherland, Provost Lyon-Mackenzie had, with himself, objected on the same grounds as those now stated.

Mr Macpherson stated that Provost Lyon-Mackenzie was not at the table, nor was Mr France, when Provost Sutherland was re-elected in 1852.

Mr France repeated that Provost Lyon-Mackenzie dissented on that occasion with himself, but that they expressed their dissent by absenting themselves from the meeting.

The Provost having intimated his acceptance of the office, Bailie Dallas vacated the chair in his favour. The Provost tendered his grateful thanks to the Council for the honour conferred on him, now for the third time. He would endeavour to discharge his duties to their satisfaction, and to the best of his ability for the well-being of the town, and hoped that as soon as the little excitement of the elections had passed away, they would all do their best to perform the duties of Councillors, forgetting their differences in promoting the good of the town.

The Provost then said he had the pleasure of proposing the following gentlemen as Bailies for the following year:—Mr W. Dallas, first Bailie; Mr John Cook, second Bailie; Mr James Ross, third Bailie; and Mr Archibald Johnstone, fourth Bailie.

Mr Anderson said it gave him great pleasure to second the worthy Provost's motion. The gentlemen proposed for Magistrates were well known to all of them, and, so far as he had already heard, they had all along done their duty with great ability and to the gratification of the public in general. As his friend Mr Shaw had laid down the law so clearly about bygone days, he would say nothing more on that subject. One thing he was sure of—that the Provost would propose nothing that was not for the good of the burgh, and his humble opinion was also that, having such a leader, they would support him in every good measure. For his part he would.

Treasurer Mackenzie regretted that the Provost had proposed such a motion, and wished to say a few words on the ground of his dissent. In case of misunderstanding, he begged to explain that he objected to only one individual among those proposed—namely, John Cook. They should take the Scriptural rule—"The magistrate should be a servant of God for good, not bearing the sword in vain; an example to evil-doers, a praise and protection to those who do well." He dissented from any resolution that would propose to appoint to the Magistracy a man living under such a ban as John Cook. Having been one of the committee, he had, perhaps, more knowledge of the case than others, but if the trial was not yet concluded and before the Council, it was due only to Mr Cook's own friends, who delayed bringing it up by an arbitrary vote of the majority. He was not going into the merits of the charge brought against Mr Cook, but would simply move that John Cook be not elected a Magistrate of the town.

The Town-Clerk suggested that to keep the proceedings in order he should substitute another name for that of Mr Cook. Mr Mackenzie named Mr Shaw, but that gentleman declined, and he then suggested Mr A. Simpson. The amendment was not seconded, and fell to the ground.

Mr James Simpson then moved, as an amendment, that the Magistrates be elected singly, and not in a body. He desired to speak with the utmost courtesy in any observations he had to make, and he should like exceedingly not to drag in anything that might have the aspect of personality, but really he could not have supposed that such a motion as the Provost had submitted would have been proposed to the Council. As Mr Cook had been referred to, he could not help saying that, without prejudging the case in any degree, it would have shown better taste on the part of the majority of the Council if they had refrained from taking the course now proposed. He did not say but that Mr Cook could free himself from the charges which were made against him. They might be frivolous and unfounded; but they were charges which had gone about among the people of the town, and were believed by some to be true. He did not know himself whether they were true—but this was not the time, when Mr Cook was on trial before the people of Inverness, to elect him as one of their Magistrates. He would not condemn Mr Cook unheard; would not presume to do what he himself said—pass sentence before he was found guilty; but it was a new and unheard-of thing to elect a man to an office of dignity while he was under such a charge as the present. He knew nothing of the charges himself, had not read the report of the committee, or the minutes of evidence, and knew nothing therefore of the truth or falsehood of the charges; he hoped, and indeed he believed, that Mr Cook would be able to free himself, but the Council would be going out of its way to elect him as a Magistrate at present.

Mr A. Macbean seconded the amendment, and seemed to be going into the merits of the case (reserved for full discussion on the first Monday of December), when he was checked by Mr Shaw, who said he had only one general remark to make, and that was that he hoped every one would consider that, if Bailie Cook let himself be passed over, it would be pleading guilty to an unfinished inquiry. He knew nothing of the merits of the case, but held it to be his duty, till a man was convicted of something, to hold him to be what he knew him—an honest man.

Mr Mackintosh thought it would only be respectful to the feelings of the minority to give them an opportunity of showing whom they approved and whom they disapproved of as magistrates by putting them up *seriatim*. The majority would have their own way all the same.

After some further conversation, a vote was taken, and the following was the result:—

For the Motion—Provost Lyon-Mackenzie; Messrs W. Dallas, Cook, Ross, Johnstone, A. Fraser, Shaw, Macpherson, Anderson, Hepburn, Macqueen, and W. Macbean—12.

For the Amendment—Messrs J. Simpson, C. F. Mackintosh, A. Simpson, France, G. Ross, and A. Macbean—6.

Treasurer Mackenzie declined to vote, stating that his objection was only to Bailie Cook.

The motion was thus carried by a majority of 12 to 6.

Mr J. Simpson, for himself and those who might adhere to him, dissented from the election of Bailie Cook, "because, considering the tenor of a report lately presented to the Council, animadverting upon him, it is inexpedient in the meantime that he be appointed one of the Magistrates of the burgh."

All the members who voted in the minority, with the Treasurer, joined in the dissent.

The Bailies elect having intimated acceptance, were duly sworn into office, and Bailie Dallas expressed their thanks for the honour.

Bailie Cook said he felt called upon to state that though elected under circumstances very trying to himself and his friends, he was satisfied that when the matter was better known, he should not lose the confidence of his friends at home or abroad. But when this inquiring committee should have shown to the satisfaction of any judge in the land, or of a majority of this board, that he had wronged the town to the value of one silver sixpence, he would resign his seat not only as a Magistrate, but as a Councillor also.

The following offices were then filled up:—

Dean of Guild—Mr Andrew Fraser, who appointed the following to be his Council:—Messrs Shaw, Macpherson, J. Simpson, A. Simpson, Anderson, Hepburn, and W. Macbean

Director of Northern Infirmary—Mr Shaw.

Town-Chamberlain—Mr Robert Smith.

The Council then adjourned till the 17th inst., when they agreed to meet for the appointment of committees.

DINNER AND BALL AT DUNMAGLASS.

Neil John Macgillivray, Esq. of Glengarry, Canada West, who succeeded to the fine Highland property of Dunmaglass, arrived recently in this country. His accession to the estate gave sincere satisfaction in Dunmaglass, where Mr Macgillivray was to some extent personally known, and whither very favourable reports of his character and disposition had preceded him. In order that all might have an opportunity of meeting him, and in order, also, that they might show respect to the heir of the Dunmaglass family, the tenantry on the estate invited Mr Macgillivray to a dinner at the Mains Farm, which took place on Friday last. The day was fine, and, besides the tenantry, many other friends of Mr Macgillivray were present. On his approach to the Mains, some two hundred persons met the carriage, and having unyoked the horses, they dragged the vehicle to the scene of the banquet, preceded by pipers, and loudly cheering all the way. Materials for a large bonfire had been previously collected on the top of Mamour, and towards evening a large party assembled round the pile, which they set on fire; and having drunk to the health and prosperity of the laird, and danced round the fire, they returned to join the dinner party.

Dinner was served in an out-building, which was tastefully fitted up and decorated for the occasion. The chair was taken by Mr Macgillivray, tenant of Mains of Dunmaglass; and Mr James Anderson, factor on the estate, and Mr Donald Mactavish, officiated as croupiers. On the right of the Chairman sat Mr Macgillivray, the guest of the evening, supported by Capt. Fraser of Balnain; Mr Fraser, Abersky; Mr Greig, banker; Mr James Gordon, merchant, and others. The dinner was sumptuous and elegant, and reflected great credit on the management and arrangement of Mr Macgillivray of the Mains, under whose superintendence the preparations had been made.

Ample justice having been done to the dinner, the Chairman called for a bumper to the health of our Sovereign Lady the Queen.

The Chairman next gave the Prince Consort and the rest of the Royal Family. A more worthy or more exemplary family was not to be found in the country, and it was saying enough of Prince Albert to say that he was in every way worthy of the Queen.

Mr Fraser, Abersky, proposed the Army and Navy, passing a warm eulogium on both services.

The Chairman then called for a special bumper to the health of their esteemed guest—the laird. We have met, he said, to give a welcome to Mr Macgillivray on his arrival in our country, to take up his abode on the estate of his ancestry, and I am sure I speak the sentiments of all when I say that he receives a most sincere and hearty welcome. Neither he nor his family are strangers to us, and many an anxious wish during the litigation did we all express that he should be, as I rejoice to say he is, now among us. We felt satisfied, let the lawyers say what they would, and let the issue be what it might, that our honoured guest was the true heir of Dunmaglass, and no other could have received a like hearty welcome, or been acknowledged as our chief. I would not, in the presence of Mr Macgillivray, expatiate on his many virtues, but I may be permitted to say, that from all we have seen and known of him, as well as from what we have learned regarding him, he will be a good and honoured landlord. He has sprung from a good stock. His father and mother had been well known to the tenants, and had been as universally esteemed as known; and I doubt not the laird will keep alive those our pleasing recollections of the parents. The Chairman concluded by calling on the company to join him in wishing Mr Macgillivray long life, health, and happiness in the enjoyment of his property. The toast was drunk with Highland honours, and immense cheering.

Mr Macgillivray returned thanks, and was received with renewed cheering. He said—I never before felt how desirable it is to be a fluent speaker. I cannot express to you how I am affected by your conduct this day, but I assure you, so long as I live I shall look back upon this meeting as the most grateful to my feelings. I fear I shall not be able to realise all your high expectations regarding me, but the honour which you have done me to-day as well as former kindnesses shown to my family, will impel me to do my duty; and if I am not as good a landlord as your hopes lead you to expect, believe me the fault will be of the head and not of the heart. I believe that it is the duty as it is the interest of a landlord to go hand-in-hand with his tenants in effecting improvements; and if I can aid in this good work on Dunmaglass, I hope I shall ever be found ready, and that, in the carrying out of our respective parts of the work, we shall continue to hold the same good opinion of each other as it is my pleasure to believe we mutually entertain now.

Abersky then gave the neighbouring proprietors, coupled with the name of Captain Fraser of Balnain. Captain Fraser returned thanks. Mr J. Anderson, proposed Mrs Macgillivray, the landlord's lady. Mr Mactavish gave The Mackintosh, chief of the clan. Mr Gordon proposed Mr Macgillivray's friends in Canada. Mr Macgillivray returned thanks, and gave the Tenants. Captain Fraser proposed the neighbouring tenants and Abersky. Abersky gave the Chairman. Mr Smith, Croachy, in an eulogistic speech, proposed the health of Mr Patrick Grant, the late factor, than whom there never was a more courteous gentleman, or more obliging factor. Mr Gordon, the Ladies who are to join us in the dance. Several other social and convivial toasts were proposed in course of the evening.

At ten o'clock the dinner party adjourned to the ballroom, where a large number of ladies joined them. Upwards of 200 were present, and they kept up the dance with unflagging spirit until about five o'clock next morning.

PUBLIC DINNER TO MAJOR FRASER MACPHERSON OF CLUNY.

The return of this gallant gentleman, brother of the Chief, to his native country, after a lengthened service in India, extending over a period of thirty-three years, has been the occasion of calling forth the liveliest demonstrations of the respect and esteem in which the Cluny family are now, as they have always been, held, and the sympathy the men of Badenoch have for those gallant men who go forth at the call of duty to fight their country's battles, and maintain her honour in the far East.

The very night on which the gallant Major reached his native castle, bonfires blazed on many of the eminences in its neighbourhood; but, as his arrival was not generally known, and the demonstration then made was confined to the immediate locality, it was resolved to testify the general feeling in Badenoch in a more marked and public manner. Accordingly, a meeting was held in Kingussie, at which it was resolved to invite Major Macpherson to a public dinner in the Duke of Gordon Hotel there. The gallant Major having accepted the invitation, the dinner came off on Friday, the 5th inst., the anniversary of the deadly but glorious strife at Inkermann. About fifty gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous entertainment, provided in Mrs Hobb's usual liberal style. Major Duncan Macpherson, Falls of Truim, ably filled the chair, supported on the right by the gallant guest of the evening; Capt. E. D. Macpherson, Breakachy; Messrs Duncan Macpherson, banker; James Macpherson, Ettridge; Alex. Macdonald, Strathmashie, &c.; and on the left by the Chief, Cluny Macpherson; the Rev. G. Stuart of Kingussie, Captain Lachlan Macpherson (30th Regiment) of Glentruim, Captain Evans, Dell, &c., &c. James Macpherson, Esq., tacksman of Biallid, discharged the duties of croupier with his usual ability and tact. He was supported on the right by Robert Macpherson, Esq. of Glentruim; Messrs Macdonald, accountant, Caledonian Bank; M'Laren, British Linen Bank; the Rev. John Robertson, Insh; John Grant, writer, &c.; and on the left by the Rev. John Macleod of Laggan; Neil Macintyre, Esq., Blargy; Malcolm Macpherson, Esq., Killiehuntly; and Messrs Sinton, Aberarder; Mackintosh, merchant; John Macpherson, Killiehuntly, &c., &c. Among the general company we observed Messrs D. Macrae, banker; Eneas Macpherson, schoolmaster of Kingussie; Cameron, merchant; Macdonald, druggist; Haldane, Coilanture; Cattanach, Laggan; Cumming, Dalraddy; Cumming, Lynwilg; Macdonald, junior, Strathmashie; Wilson, Newtonmore; Macintyre, Kingussie; Macdonald, junior, Balintian; Dr Kennedy, Ruthven; Mr Hobb, Kingussie; Captain Mackintosh, of London; Messrs Cameron, Cluny Mains; Ross, Gaskbeg, &c.

Grace was said by the Rev. G. Stuart of Kingussie, and thanks returned by the Rev. J. Macleod of Laggan.

The cloth having been removed, the Chairman intimated that he had received apologies from the Rev. N. Macintyre, Rothiemurchus; Mr Grant, banker, Grantown; Mr Mackintosh, factor, Rothiemurchus; Mr Stamford Lumsden, and Mr Maclaren, Dalwhinnie; Mr M'Kenzie, postmaster; Capt. Littledale, Gaick Forest; Mr Robertson, Banchor—all of whom regretted very much their inability to be present on the occasion.

The Chairman then rose and said—The first toast throughout the British Empire is, of course, Her Majesty the Queen, to whom we are devotedly attached, and of whom we are justly proud, as well we may be. She is a bright example to the Sovereigns of the earth, as well as to the most exalted and most lowly of her subjects. The Queen—God bless her. He then gave "The Prince of Wales, Prince Consort, and the rest of the Royal Family," followed by "The Army and Navy." In proposing this toast, he said—According to etiquette, I believe I should class with this toast a younger officer of the line, my own nephew, of whose career hitherto, I may be excused for saying, I feel justly proud, in preference to an elder officer of the militia. But Captain Macpherson, Breakachy, who quitted the army in time of peace, when it was no disgrace to turn his sword into a ploughshare—who was in the line when the other was in the nursery—he is still a soldier, the son of a soldier, and of a family of soldiers. He had an uncle killed at Waterloo and another in India. His father and another uncle were severely wounded. I myself knew three of them, and served with two in different quarters of the globe; and I venture to say that no braver man ever spelt the name of Macpherson, although we flatter ourselves that, though we wear the *white heather* in our bonnet, none of the name of Macpherson was ever known to show the *white feather* in his cap. I give you "The Army and Navy," coupled with the name of Captain Macpherson of the Inverness-shire militia. (Cheers.)

Captain E. D. Macpherson, Breakachy, responded in able and eloquent terms, giving the assurance that the sea and land forces of her Majesty are now in as efficient a state as ever they were; and that whenever duty called them to action, and wherever their services would be required, in all climes and in all circumstances, they would be distinguished for the same gallantry and dash they had hitherto shown. (Cheers.)

The Chairman next called on the company to fill a special and overflowing bumper, and, in proposing the toast of the evening, said:—My gallant friend on my right hand, to honour whom we are assembled from various quarters and considerable distances, Major Fraser Macpherson, served his country in the East for the long period of thirty-three years, with credit to himself and benefit to his employers. He stuck to his regiment so long as it proved true to its colours; when they failed, and turned against those that fed them, he left with his head on his shoulders, little on his back, and nothing in his pocket. (Cheers.) Nothing can more clearly show the stuff of which he, and such as he, are made, than that, so long as the natives were led by them, they made even sepoys act like men, not unfrequently like brave men. Sepoys who, without such leaders, proved themselves not only monsters but arrant poltroons and cowards—running away in hundreds at the sight of a few white faces. Without going farther into particulars, I shall give you the health of our gallant guest as one of that noble band of heroes who may be said in the course of two years to have reconquered an empire that had previously taken the power of our glorious country a whole century to consolidate and subdue. Major Fraser Macpherson, with Highland honours. (Loud cheers.)

Major Fraser Macpherson, in returning thanks, said—Permit me, Mr Chairman and gentlemen, to return you my heartfelt thanks for this very distinguished mark of your feelings towards me. Allow me, gentlemen, to assure you that no one can feel more highly honoured than I do by the very kind and warm welcome you have all given me on my return to my native country after such a very lengthened absence. I am happy that time has spared so many of my old friends and companions; and I am particularly so to find they are all prosperous and happy. (Cheers.) It is now thirty-three years since I first left Badenoch, and during that time I have often thought of the old country—(Cheers)—and of the many kind friends I had left behind me; especially so within the last 17 months, when I had twice to flee from a mutinous soldiery, when, as my gallant cousin and good friend, the Chairman, says, "I had but little on my back, and still less in my pocket." (Tremendous cheering.) As you may imagine, gentlemen, I can know little or nothing of what is so important to you—I mean farming—but I am indeed glad to observe a general improvement throughout the country. I find a better stamp of horses and cattle, and also a larger extent of land under the plough than formerly. This may in some measure be attributable to your Farming Society—(Hear, hear)—and the emulation caused by the prizes annually given for the best specimens of district bred horses, cattle, and sheep. (Cheers.) Allow me, again, to repeat my heartfelt thanks for the honour you have done me; and I trust that that Providence which has separated me from you for so many years may now enable me to remain at home, and end my days where they began—that is, in Badenoch. (Loud cheers, renewed again and again.)

The Chairman next proposed "Her Majesty's Ministers," which was well received. This was followed by "The Lord-Lieutenant of the County," and the "Members for the Northern Counties and Burghs," coupled with the health of Henry J. Baillie, Esq., M.P. for Inverness-shire, and Alexander Matheson, Esq., M.P. for the Inverness burghs. Mr Macpherson, factor for Mr Baillie of Kingussie, having been called upon, said that he was not prepared to make a speech, but begged to thank the company for the compliment paid to Mr H. Baillie, who, if here himself, would have given a speech worth listening to.

The Chairman then proposed "The Clergy of all Denominations," and in doing so said he was sure the toast would be warmly received, because if we were not good people in Badenoch it was not for want of good and able hard-working ministers. At all events, he could speak with confidence of the minister with whom he had immediately to do, the Rev. Mr Macleod, Laggan, who was an earnest and faithful labourer, attentive to the interests of the poor, and diligently and efficiently discharging all the duties of his office. He was sure that others could speak of their own ministers in the same terms, and begged to couple with the toast the name of the Rev. Mr Stuart, Kingussie.

The Rev. Mr Stuart said, he felt much gratified by the compliment paid to the clergy of all denominations by this large and respectable meeting. The toast was a catholic one, and he liked it because of its catholicity. Seeing about him a sprinkling of red-coats, gave rise, he said, to military ideas in his mind. The clergy of all denominations were like the officers he saw around him—the leaders of different bodies of men under different colours, but serving the same Sovereign, and labouring in the same cause. He believed, as it was the duty, so also was it the object of the clergy of all denominations to impress upon their people the love of truth and righteousness, and to teach them to fear God and to honour the Queen. He was himself firmly attached to the Church of Scotland, and proud of being one of her humble office-bearers: he believed that she was faithful and loyal to her King and her Head; but that did not lead him to the narrow conclusion that other denominations of Christians had not the same loyalty to their common Lord and Master. The differences which prevailed were, he said, trifling and unimportant, compared with the great and living principles on which almost all Christian denominations were agreed; and he therefore hoped that the clergy of all denominations would strive to cultivate mutual charity, brotherly-kindness, and love, and so held on the day, when, as there is but one Shepherd, there shall also be but one sheepfold. He did not think that the clergy were out of place when, as now, they took part in doing honour to whom honour was due. (Cheers.)

The Chairman next proposed the health of his Chief and his friend, Cluny Macpherson, which was received with rapturous applause as soon as announced. He said—The toast I am now to propose will, I know, be received with acclamation, not only in this company, but wherever the gentleman to whom it is dedicated is known. It is the health of my Chief, the Chief of many in this company—a Chief who is proud of his clan as his clan is of him. He is an extensive landed proprietor, who feels that if property has its advantages it also has its duties; and, acting upon this principle, lives on his estate, and takes an active and lively interest in all country business—improving his property, benefitting his tenantry, and promoting, by every means in his power, the good and well-being of all around him—a man, in short, who reflects honour on his elevated position, and who, from his character and conduct, would have graced any position or situation in which it had been his lot to be cast. Cluny Macpherson, with Highland honours. (Tremendous cheering.)

Cluny Macpherson said—Mr Chairman, the very flattering manner in which you have been pleased to express yourself in proposing my health, the high eulogium you have passed on my character, and the enthusiastic manner in which it has been received by the gentlemen present, is, I fear, much more than I deserve. ("No, no.") It is, however, very gratifying to me to know that you give me credit for, at least, endeavouring to do my duty as a Highland chief and a country gentleman. I must say that I am proud of my position as a chief. (Cheers.) I am proud of the clan at whose head I have the honour to be, and proud of the inhabitants of the district of Badenoch. (Cheers.) When I recollect the kind consideration and support I invariably meet with from every individual in the district, it would indeed be ungrateful in me did I not do all in my power to promote their welfare to the utmost of my ability. My influence, gentlemen, is small, and my services humble, but such as they are, you can always command them. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I feel myself very differently placed from many other Highland proprietors: I pride myself on being an hereditary landlord, and many of you, gentlemen, are hereditary tenants of the soil. (Hear, hear.) Long may you continue to be so! (Tremendous cheering.) Consequently, our feelings and associations are the same, and our interests identical. (Cheers.) When I reflect on the ties of affection that existed between your ancestors and mine, when I recollect that my grandfather, upwards of a century ago, was an outlaw for nine whole years, with a price put upon his head, and that during the whole of that time he was actually resident in the district of Badenoch, and perfectly safe, though all knew his whereabouts. (Cheers.) When I also know that many of the descendants of those so faithful to him are now residing in this country, it is surely my duty, as it is also my wish, to endeavour to make myself worthy of the same kindly feeling from you, their descendants and successors. Before sitting down, allow me, gentlemen, to take this opportunity of thanking you for the warm and hearty and liberal reception you have given my brother on his return to his native country. I can assure you that I appreciate the compliment quite as much as if it had been conferred on myself; and it will be gratifying to you to know that my brother's military services, which you are at this moment honouring, have been acknowledged in the highest quarters, as the letter I now hold in my hand will testify. (Cluny here read a letter from the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellenborough, written by him when Governor-General of India, to his Grace the Duke of Richmond, intimating that his Excellency had anticipated his Grace's wishes by conferring on the guest of the evening an appointment, for which his Grace had applied at Cluny's request, because the Governor-General found his services such as to merit a mark of his favour.) I now beg again (Cluny concluded) to thank you for the honour you have done me in so cordially drinking my health. (Enthusiastic applause.)

The Chairman then gave the health of Major-General Towers, who, thirty or forty years ago, "When wild war's deadly blast had blown" past, made our country his home, its inhabitants his friends, and the poor the recipients of his bounty. All classes, rich and poor, young and old, good and bad (and we have a few black sheep among us)—(Laughter)—shared his hospitality, his liberality, and kindness. He is a man of whom it may be said with truth, he never made an enemy, and never had one, unless it be the deer in our forests, or the game on our moors, and even they, if brought to book by his gun, were treated by him as became a true sportsman, and thorough-bred English gentleman—Major-General Towers, and better health to him. (Cheers.)

The Croupier, in giving the health of Lord Strathspey, said, although we are not immediately connected with his lordship, and although he is not personally known to many of us, still he was sure his name would be warmly received, because his character was well known to all. He is the owner of princely estates, and discharges his duties as a landlord in a generous and liberal manner. He had lately been distinguished by the favour of our Queen, and promoted to a British peerage. The title he has selected is a compliment to his own estate farther down the Spey, but he (the Croupier) considered it also a compliment to Badenoch, from which Strathspey got our common river. His lady is distinguished by many virtues. She takes a warm interest in the poor, in the young, and in the old and frail. "I give you the health of Lord Strathspey, chief of the Grants, with Highland honours." (Cheers.)

The Croupier next proposed Lord Clyde and the Indian Army, longer, if not better, known as the gallant Sir Colin Campbell. He paid a high tribute to the military achievements of Lord Clyde, to the readiness with which he set out for the East at the shortest notice, and referred to the fact that he had led the army to many a signal victory, but never to one disgrace; and said it was quite true, as the Chairman had said, that under the guidance of that brave old Highlander a band of heroes had reconquered our Eastern empire. (Loud cheers.)

The Croupier next gave the health of Mrs Macpherson of Cluny, and, in doing so, characterised her in very appropriate terms as the best of wives, the best of mothers, and the best of sisters. But her goodness was not confined to the family circle. She interested herself in the cause of the poor, who received of her liberality, and she had endowed a Charity School. There was another point for which her country was indebted to her, and that was that without her Cluny, his chief, could not have sent to the East two such gallant sons as now fought their country's battles under the scorching sun of India. (Great applause.)

Cluny Macpherson thanked the company for the manner in which they had received his wife's name, and although she was his wife he would say it was quite true that she endeavoured to do her duty. She was much attached to the land of her adoption, and could speak and write grammatically in the mountain tongue, which she found useful in her intercourse with the poor, by reading the Bible to them in their native tongue. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Mr Stuart next gave "The Landed Proprietors of Scotland," and said he regretted that there was now-a-days a section of social politicians, who maintained that the connection between landlord and tenant was the cold and worldly one of pounds, shillings, and pence. He hoped it would be long before this social heresy would become general, and woe to Scotland when it did! He had considerable faith in the power of what the Yankees, in their classic language, called "the almighty dollar;" but he had still greater faith in the ties of mutual friendship, affection, and respect. Landlords should remember that it is by the skill and industry of their tenants they have their rents, and tenants should give their landlords the respect which is due them. Their interests are one and the same, and it was because he believed the landlords of Scotland as a body acted towards their tenantry in a generous manner that he doubted not the company would warmly receive the toast. (Cheers.)

Acknowledged by Cluny.

"The Lord of the Manor" was next given by Mr Macrae, banker, after which Cluny Macpherson, proposed, in very feeling terms, "The memory of the Duke of Gordon," which was drank in solemn silence. Glentruim then proposed "The Ladies," coupled with the name of Miss Macpherson of Belleville, and Mr Macpherson, Ettridge, one of her tenants, returned thanks, and instanced several acts of her kindness to her tenantry. Captain Macpherson, Breakachy, gave the young Chief and his brother in India, and expressed a hope that they both would pass through the perils of war unscathed, and soon return to be welcomed in Badenoch covered with laurels. Acknowledged by Cluny.

The Chairman next gave Colonel John Macpherson, Cluny's brother, which was acknowledged by Cluny.

At this stage the Chairman volunteered and sang a Gaelic song, which was rapturously applauded.

The Rev. John Macleod, Laggan, in an able and impressive speech, proposed success to education, and Mr Macpherson, schoolmaster of Kingussie, being called upon by the chair, made a very appropriate reply.

Captain Lachlan Macpherson gave "The Tenantry of Badenoch," which was acknowledged by Mr Macgregor, Achmore.

The next toast was Miss Macpherson of Cluny, proposed from the chair, and acknowledged by Cluny.

Mr Macpherson, Killiehuntly, proposed the health of his landlord, Sir George Macpherson-Grant, Bart., and spoke of the virtues of the family he represents. Major Duncan Macpherson thanked the company for the compliment paid to his relative.

Mr Macintyre, Blargy, proposed success to the banking interests, which was acknowledged by Mr Macpherson of the British Linen Company.

The Croupier proposed "The Scottish Peasantry," in neat and appropriate terms.

Cluny then proposed the Chairman's health, and Major D. Macpherson thanked the company for their kindness and for the forbearance they had shown him, and the support they had given him in presiding over them. He concluded by proposing the Croupier's health, to whose ability and aid was due any measure of success he himself had as Chairman. Mr Macpherson, Biallid, returned thanks for this compliment, and stated that his duty as Croupier was lightened by its being a labour of love, and that he had the utmost pleasure in contributing his humble aid in doing honour to his old friend, the gallant guest of the evening.

"Good night" was then given, and the company gradually dismissed, after giving three cheers for Cluny, three cheers for the Chairman, and three cheers for the Croupier, all of which were given most heartily, and so ended a demonstration, which, from its beginning to its end, was most cordial and enthusiastic.

The dinner and the wines gave the highest satisfaction; during the evening Cluny's piper played appropriate tunes after several of the toasts.

SOIREE AT IONA.

A tourist sends us an account of a soiree given to the inhabitants of the sacred Isle of Iona by the manager of excursion parties, Mr Thomas Cook, as representing the Society for the Assistance of the Fishermen in the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The gathering was held on the 2d of November in the parish schoolhouse, the objects being to give the children of Iona a treat in the shape of tea, sweetmeats, fruit, &c., and also to give the fishermen of the place some idea of the willingness of the Society to render them assistance in procuring boats, fishing apparatus, &c., and affording them an opportunity of disposing of the produce by establishing agents at the different fishing villages, and furnishing them with the necessary materials and means for curing their fish, and forwarding them to the best markets for sale. The custom has hitherto been that the merchants either took the produce of their fishing off their hands at a cost far below their real value, or adopted a system of barter very common in these islands, of giving the fishermen stores, such as flour, tea, tobacco, sugar, and such like, in exchange for their fish. The meeting was opened by the Rev. Alexander Macgregor (Establishment), after which the party partook of a sumptuous entertainment of tea, cake, and other accompaniments, the distribution of which was superintended by the families of the ministers of the Established and Free Churches, assisted by their friends. Mr Cook, in a suitable speech endeavoured to explain that henceforth arrangements would be entered into by the Society he had the honour to be the representative of to facilitate the ready transmission of the produce of their fishing to the best markets, which he hoped would act as a powerful stimulant to greater diligence and perseverance on the part of the fishermen than they had hitherto displayed. Mr Cook also stated that he was now here for the express purpose of receiving application from any parties desirous of obtaining boats, lines, &c., from the Society, and that he would exert all the influence in his power to see that their requests met with immediate attention; and as soon as the boats ordered could possibly be built, they would at once be forwarded to their respective crews. The Rev. Alexander Macgregor next addressed the meeting in Gaelic and English, thanking Mr Cook, in his own name and that of the islanders, for the interest he took in the welfare of the inhabitants of the island, and for his general exertions to promote their interest. He then proceeded to say that he had heard, and that it was the general opinion in other parts of the world, that the Highlanders as a body were a lazy class of people; but in his opinion this was a mistake—Highlanders had distinguished themselves in the Crimea and in India under Sir Colin Campbell (now Lord Clyde). The children then sang a hymn, after which a number of tracts and other publications were distributed by Mr Cook, furnished for the purpose by several parties in England interested in the success and well-being of the Society. After prayer from the Rev. Donald Macvean, Free Church minister, Iona, the party dispersed, evidently very much pleased with the entertainment.

NAIRN AND MORAYSHIRE.

The Duchess of Gordon and a large party from Huntly Lodge visited Gordon Castle on Wednesday week. Sir A. P. Gordon Cumming and lady, and Colonel Marshall, arrived on Thursday on a visit to their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Richmond.

Morayshire Railway.—A special meeting of the shareholders of this company, held on Friday, refused to sanction an agreement proposed to be entered into with the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Lhanbryd was held last week, to consider the practicability of introducing gas into the village. A petition was sent to the Earl of Fife for his aid and co-operation in the object in view.

Elgin City Band.—On Friday evening last, the Elgin City Band, assisted by several amateurs, gave a concert in the new Mason Hall at Rothes, under the patronage of John Grant, Esq. of Glen-Grant. The hall was crowded, and considering the short time the band has been in existence, their playing reflected the highest credit upon them, as was evinced by the repeated rounds of cheering from the audience. The comic singing was also well done. Another visit of the band would draw out a larger audience.

Sir James Weir Hogg's Election Expenses.—The official report of the expenses incurred by Sir James Weir Hogg, as a candidate in the late election of a member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs has been published. The amount is £291. 12s. 1d.

Opening of South Guildry Street.—At a joint meeting of a committee of the Town Council and the managers of the Guildry Fund Society Incorporation, held on Monday last, an arrangement was entered into with the view of having the street opened forthwith, to the entrance of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway Station, and which, when completed, will be a very great convenience to the citizens.—*Elgin Courant.*

CAITHNESS, ORKNEY, &c.

Sir George Sinclair on the Free Church.—Sir George Sinclair has sent a letter to the editor of the *Northern Ensign* on the subject of his remarks on the Free Church quoted at a meeting in Paisley. These remarks, he says, were made in a private communication, and were never intended to be read at a public meeting, or made the subject of public notice and animadversion. Sir George says he has come to the conviction that "a great majority of the ministers of the Free Church would never be satisfied until they were reponed into their original more eligible *status* as members of a national Church, deriving their independent incomes from public and compulsory sources; that such ministers as had once enjoyed that privilege did not feel equally contented and comfortable in their new and more precarious circumstances; and (though I am sure that they were incapable of making so dishonourable a concession for the sake of resuming their former *status*), that they would hail with satisfaction any such concession on the part of the Legislature which would enable them, with a safe conscience, to become the ministers of a church established and maintained by law. As the ministers of the Free Church are not in general friends or 'fellow-workers' with those of the present Establishment, I am driven to the conclusion that they look upon their system of upholding a church as perfectly legitimate, highly expedient, and far preferable to the mode of sustentation on which they themselves are at present involuntarily dependent. I think that they feel much as a landed proprietor would do who thinks he has been iniquitously deprived of a large property to which, in his own judgment, he possesses indefeasible right, and whilst thankful to any kind friend, through whose liberality he is (though much less amply) maintained, is restless and impatient in an altered and more dependent position, and would be glad, as a matter rather of justice than of favour, to recover the position which he had lost."

Steam Manufacture of Caithness Pavement.—A Reay correspondent, referring to our notices of the introduction of steam in connection with the pavement works of the Earl of Caithness and the Messrs Craig, Thurso, writes:—"You have not yet, so far as I have seen, taken any notice of the improvements effected by another enterprising county proprietor and owner of flag quarries—Mr Sinclair of Forss. Now, at Mr Sinclair's quarries, water power was applied to sawing pavement more than fifteen years ago, when no one else considered it practicable, and it has been in extensive use, unless when stopped by want of water in very dry seasons, regularly during that time. At present also perhaps the only complete and extensive machinery, driven by steam power in full operation in the county, is that erected by Mr Sinclair, a steam engine of peculiar construction and very superior action having been at work in connection with his quarries for more than three months, with a well-trained body of attendants on the machinery."

The Clyth Moors.—Game killed up to October 14, by Colonel Whitelock and Charles Turner, Esq., on the Clyth moors, in the parish of Latheron, near Lybster, Caithness-shire (acreage about 10,000, rental, £100):—Grouse, 980 head; black-game, 40; partridge, 48; snipe, 12; plover, 1; hares of both kinds, 35; rabbits, 4—total, 1121.

Child Poisoned by Hemlock.—A very sad case of accidental poisoning took place here last week. A little boy three years old, son of Donald Graham, labourer, Kirkhill, here, while in charge of some other children, had handed to him a small quantity of hemlock, which had been gathered from some bushes at the side of a field in the neighbourhood, of which he ate. Soon after the child manifested symptoms of illness, and vomited a part of the poisonous herb. Medical assistance was obtained, but the little sufferer obtained no relief, though he lingered for some days, suffering greatly, chiefly by vomiting. He died on Friday.—*Northern Ensign.*

BANFF AND ABERDEENSHIRE.

Buckie—Gale.—When the gale got up so suddenly on Friday morning last, the boats which had all gone to sea, at once returned without shooting their lines. The Buckie boats almost all made for their own harbour, and gained it in safety, except one, which struck the outer point of the west quay, and was driven upon the rocks at the back of it. While in this position, the crew were in some jeopardy, and the life-buoys, lately presented to the town by Miss Gordon, were in readiness for use, but lines were got attached to the boat, by which it was towed round the breakwater and into the harbour. The boats belonging to Portessie were all out also, but on being overtaken with the storm made for the shore, and took shelter in perfect safety within Craigenroan, from whence they were safely landed on the beach one after another, at convenience.—*Banffshire Journal.*

Prince of Wales's Birth-Day.—Yesterday (Tuesday) being the anniversary of the natal day of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the banks and public offices here were closed; and the city flag was displayed from the bartizan of the Town House, the bells also ringing a joyous peal in honour of the occasion. His Royal Highness has now completed his seventeenth year; and from this day, it is understood, the new arrangements for his household take effect.—*Aberdeen Journal.*

Prosperity of Aberdeen.—The Aberdeen Town accounts appear to be highly satisfactory. The new valuation of the treasury and properties, as compared with that taken in 1848, shows an increase of the stock of upwards of £20,000 There is also at this moment, belonging to the treasury, £7000 in the bank, and the amount of the treasury debt has been reduced during the year by upwards of £900.

Railway Appointments.—We understand that the Directors of the Scottish North-Eastern Railway have filled up the offices of Secretary and General-Manager, about to be vacated by Mr Reith's Canadian appointment. Mr Wm. Esplin, the present Goods Manager, is to be General (including Goods) Manager; and Mr Irvine Kempt, the Assistant Secretary and General Manager, will be Secretary.

Melancholy Accident.—On Friday forenoon, Mr David Laurie, one of the proprietors of Devanha Combworks, Ferryhill, and some of his men, were fitting a new grindstone into working order at the works. Mr Laurie was at one end of the grindstone, and Mr William Hutcheon, blacksmith, at the other, keeping the belt on the pulley driving the grindstone—the belt being, they thought, rather tight. The belt was at the same time driving round the grindstone with great rapidity, when, in instant, owing to some unobserved flaw in the grindstone, it flew to pieces, and one piece, about one-fourth the size of the whole, struck Mr Laurie on the left temple with such force that part of his skull was knocked in and awfully wounded. The same piece then struck a window, and the framing and five or six panes of glass were broken. Hutcheon was also somewhat hurt by one of the pieces falling on him from the top of the building, whither it had been driven. Mr Laurie, we regret to state, expired on Monday night about twelve o'clock.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EDINBURGH AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

On Wednesday a meeting of the inhabitants, invited by Mr Cowan and Mr Black, the representatives of the city of Edinburgh, was held in Queen Street Hall. The meeting was crowded from the commencement. The Lord Provost was called to the chair.

Mr Cowan, who was received with cheers and some hissing, began by allusion to three events which he described as "unprecedented in magnitude, or rather unparalleled in atrocity" which had occurred since he last addressed his constituents. These were the frauds in banking-houses, the Indian mutiny, and the third, to which he would more particularly refer, "that foul conspiracy against the life of the Emperor of the French, our ally. (Hear, hear, laughter, and hisses.) Yes, our ally, and one who had faithfully discharged the obligations which he had incurred. (Renewed laughter and hisses.) Whatever might be thought of the state of liberty in France, or of the means by which the present ruler of France obtained his throne, it was clear that he was the chosen of the French people—(Oh, oh, and cheers)—and thank God that, although that foul attempt, unsuccessful as it was, ended in the destruction of life in the streets of Paris, the only effect which it had on this side of the Channel was the destruction of a Government." Mr Cowan vindicated at great length the vote he had given against Lord Palmerston, which, he was aware, had given great dissatisfaction to many valued friends. He referred also to Mr Bright's speech at Birmingham, and to that hon. gentleman's "organ of combativeness," which he thought was very strongly developed.

"He hoped that he would say nothing offensive to any of the numerous admirers of Mr Bright in this room, but he might mention that when the French Colonels were talking about invading England, a member of the Government jokingly offered, in case they should come, to back Friend Bright and Friend Gilpin against any four of them. (Loud laughter.) While, however, paying a just tribute to the courage and honesty of purpose of that talented man, he felt bound to deprecate strongly the language which Mr Bright had employed in his attack on the House of Peers. (Hear, and cries of 'why?') He for himself had hoped that the war of party in this country was at an end, and that the differences which had separated two great antagonistic parties in Parliament had ceased to exist, and that they were about to see the most earnest and united efforts on the part of the most eminent men in the country to advance together along the high road of reform, and in the direction of social improvement." (Hear, hear.) After referring to the University Bill, he stated his opinion as to Forbes Mackenzie's Act:—"Well, then, he thought that the Act had on the whole worked well—('No, no,' 'Yes, yes,' and great uproar)—but he was in favour of an inquiry into its working. There had been some evils connected with it, more particularly the spy system—(Hear, hear)—and the increase of shebeens, and he had been assured that the keepers of those shebeens had no objection to pay any amount of fines, the profit of their illicit traffic was so great."

Mr Adam Black was received with loud cheers. His address touched upon a great many topics, and we extract the most salient points. He referred to the fall of Lord Palmerston's Government, which took many of those who voted on the decisive question completely by surprise:—

"Had an open and distinct vote of want of confidence been proposed, it would have been rejected by a large majority. (Repeated hisses and cheers.) As far as I am myself concerned, I do not regret the change of my seat from the Treasury to the Opposition benches. I rather like it. (Applause.) Opposition is more congenial to my disposition, and more in accordance with my previous political life. (Laughter.) To the great bulk of the House of Commons it is personally of no consequence who are the party in power; but it cannot fail to be a matter of interest to every right-thinking man that those who are intrusted with the management of our affairs should be men on whose intelligence, honesty, patriotism, sound political opinions, and administrative powers, the country may have confidence. Now, to Lord Palmerston this country owes an inextinguishable debt of gratitude for the true British courage and sound political wisdom he displayed in bringing his country safely and honourably out of one of the most fearful struggles in which she ever was engaged, and not less for the honourable peace by which he procured for his country all the objects for which the contest was entered on, in spite of the crooked diplomacy of Russia and the adverse circumstances and designs of France. (Long continued applause and some hisses.) The present Ministry attained to power under the pretence that their predecessors were disposed to truckle to France, and that they themselves had a superior regard for the honour, dignity, and reputation of England. It is, however, obvious, from his recent outrage on Portugal, in the case of the Charles and Georges, that the Emperor of France forms no such exalted estimate of their regard to national honour. (Hear, hear.) Had Lord Palmerston been at the head of the English Government—(A few hisses and loud cheers)—the Emperor would have thought twice—(Cheers, some hisses, and loud cheers, renewed again and again)—before he would have insulted and wronged the oldest and firmest ally of England, before he would have contemptuously thwarted the people of this country in their long-continued and philanthropic efforts to abolish the accursed slave-trade, efforts in which they have expended countless treasure and thousands of lives. (A voice—'War again.') The Emperor would have hardly ventured to violate international law, and give an example and encouragement to powerful despots, which they will be too ready to avail themselves of, to set justice at defiance, and insult and trample on the weak. The Emperor is a shrewd politician, and knows the men he has to deal with."

Referring to the present Ministry, he hoped good might come out of evil; but it should be remembered that hitherto it was to the weakness of Government and not to its will they owed the India Bill and other good measures of last session. The question of reform was discussed at some length. On the plea of population, Scotland was entitled to have 80 members, or an addition of 27; judged by her contributions to the Exchequer, she was entitled to 2 more; and combining population and revenue, and taking the average, there should be an increase of 15.

"Don't suppose, however, that I argue for uniform electoral districts, like the squares on a chess board; on the contrary, I believe that a considerable variety is advantageous, in order to enable all kinds of influences to bear on the representation, that all parties and all classes may have an opportunity of making their wants and opinions known in Parliament which thus acts as a great safety-valve for discontents, which, if pent up and secretly brooded over and aggravated by political fanatics, might prove dangerous to the community. I hold with Jeremy Bentham that that is the best system of government which produces the greatest amount of prosperity and happiness to the greatest number. Our representative system is but a machine for this purpose, but it is a human invention, and must partake of the infirmities of humanity; nevertheless, it is the best and most efficient of all the political machines that have been tried in any country. I confess I have a sensitive dread of any rash or opinionated inventor making experiments upon it. It may get out of gear, it may require repair, or may be susceptible of some improvement, but I would proceed with the greatest caution, and before I made any alteration I would be well assured that it would be an improvement. There are inventors, clever and enthusiastic men, who take up crotchets and hobbies which they think, if generally adopted, would cure all ills. Some imagine that all reform consists only in lowering the franchise, and if it is lowered but a little that will be a small and petty reform, but if it is more lowered that will be a greater reform, and the more it is lowered the greater and more perfect will be the reform. Now this system can only be consistently maintained by the supporters of universal suffrage. On this principle you cannot stop till you reach the bottom of the ladder. In some cases lowering the franchise will be an improvement. Let this, however, be first made clear. My own opinion is that the safest ground on which the franchise can be based is the holding of property, and as small proprietors are as careful for the preservation and prosperity of their property as larger, it is not necessary that the amount should be large. We have a precedent in the forty-shilling freehold of England. I am well aware that in Scotland we cannot technically have the same franchise; but I believe that a property qualification of 40s. a-year would be one safe mode of extending the suffrage." (Cheers.)

He had no great faith, however, in the "tinkering" of the Tories, who had so stoutly resisted the last Reform Bill, and indeed all reform. They might, however, prefer changing their opinions to changing their places! (Laughter.) Alluding to the subject of education, Mr Black expressed his approval of the bill brought in by Mr Moncreiff two years ago, but which was thrown out in the House of Lords, and after explaining his opinions on the subject of the University Bill and on the Annuity Tax Bill (the latter of which he said he would bring forward every year while he held the honour of a seat in Parliament, till it was carried), Mr Black resumed his seat amidst long continued applause.

Sir W. Dunbar addressed the meeting on the subject of the University Bill, but the impatience of a part of the audience became so great that it was impossible for Sir William to proceed.

A number of questions were put to the members amidst great uproar and interruption. As it grew dark there were loud cries of "light the gas," and persons in all parts of the hall were addressing the meeting or putting questions to the members. After several ineffectual attempts to do so, Mr C. F. Shand, advocate, succeeded in moving a vote of thanks to Mr Black and Mr Cowan, numbers of people crying out all the time "Sit down," and "More questions." The Lord Provost declared the vote of thanks carried, amidst a scene of uproar which, says the *Scotsman*, baffles description, it being evidently the desire of a large body of persons to prolong the meeting. Mr Black then moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Provost for presiding, and the meeting dispersed in great confusion and uproar.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

Professor Aytoun delivered a lecture on the subject of English and Scottish University systems, in his classroom, on Friday. With regard to the latter he said:—

"The system pursued in our Scottish Universities, however much it might be capable of further improvement and expansion, has become endeared to the Scottish people by its simplicity, its liberality, its absence of ostentation, its cordial recognition of struggling and unaided merit, and, let me add (what some have considered to be a reproach), its acceptability to every man who is desirous of cultivating his particular branch of study, without compelling him to engage in others, for which he may neither have time nor inclination. Any violent alteration of that system, gentlemen, would, in my mind, have been little short of a national misfortune. Had it, for example, been attempted to remodel our Universities after the pattern of Oxford or Cambridge, those renowned seats of English learning, which the wealth and wisdom of England has so munificently endowed with fellowships for the reward of distinguished scholars, besides opening to their reach the highest dignities of the Church, the practical effect would have been a grievous narrowing of the sphere of knowledge, and the exclusion of thousands from the advantages of education for lack of means to pursue their studies. That the English Universities are better adapted than ours for the production of what is called high scholarship I shall not venture to deny. That is essentially their forte, their aim, and their object; and their success may be measured by the fame of the many eminent scholars whom they have reared."

The learned Professor regards with much satisfaction the recent changes introduced into the system pursued at Edinburgh. He lamented the bitterness of the separation with the Town Council. "Certainly," he said, "I should have been willing, now that the sentence of divorce has been pronounced, to bury in oblivion all past causes of quarrel and dispute, and to take farewell of the Town Council in the courteous language of Jaques and Orlando—'God be with you; let's meet as little as we can. I do desire we may be better strangers.'" One thing, at least, he hoped would ensue from the changes effected:

"That the academical education of Scotland should be considered sufficient for Scotsmen of every rank. It is no use disguising the fact that, at present, the flower of our nobility and gentry, all in fact who can afford it, go to Oxford and Cambridge, without studying, even for a short time, in our national Universities. I know that there are many substantial reasons for that. Collegiate life, which we cannot have in Scotland, has many recommendations; and the great Universities of England are almost prescriptively considered as the proper training places for those who expect to enter Parliament. But I cannot help thinking that it is a great evil that the education of the young men who are most conspicuous by the accidents of birth and fortune, and whose influence must hereafter be so largely felt throughout the country, should not be conducted, in part at least, in the Universities of their native land. The time was when the name of almost every Scottish noble was enrolled in the books of St Andrews, or Aberdeen, or Glasgow, or Edinburgh—now, I fear, we shall look in vain for the entry of a single name. In the earlier part of this century, Edinburgh was a favourite place of education for the nobility of England, and two living statesmen of great eminence were alumni of this University."

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