

the subscription in India had been so large as to account for a very large balance. An application has been made to the Indian Government to obtain the surplus for distribution among the distressed operatives, and a reply has been received that as soon as the reports have been received as to the present state of the North-West Provinces, the suggestion will be a matter for the serious consideration of the Governor-General in Council.

In spite of the advice given by Mr Spurgeon to his hearers, that they should not peruse Bishop Colenso's book, and the general stand made against it among a large class of the religious public, no less than 10,000 copies have already been sold. It is now stereotyped, and, as a cheaper and lighter book, is finding its way among classes who were protected from the poison of the "Essays and Reviews," by their greater prolixity and abstruseness.

GENERAL WOLFE.

We lately mentioned that a life of General Wolfe is in preparation. The following allusions to acquaintances in Scotland, from unpublished letters by Wolfe, may interest our readers. In one of his letters to his mother, from Inverness, Wolfe writes:—"I have lately fallen into the acquaintance, by mere chance, of two young Scotch ladies, with whose conversation I am infinitely delighted. They are birds of a fine feather, and very rare in this country. One of them is a wife, the other a maid; the former has the strongest understanding, the other has the prettiest face; but, as I am not disposed to become the slave of either, the matron stands first."

We are of opinion that "the matron" was Mrs Forbes of Collieston; for, when writing, three years afterwards, to his friend, Captain Rickson, Wolfe says—"Pray ask Trap (Colonel Trapaud, then Governor of Fort-Augustus) if he knows anything of Lady Collieston, how she is in health? I have a particular esteem for her; am obliged to her for civilities shown me, and interest me in her welfare. She seemed, poor lady, to be in a very ill state of health when I was in that country."

Writing to his mother from Perth, August 1750, he says—"I am but just returned from Lord Glenorchy's, where I stayed a week. Lady Glenorchy is your acquaintance, and expresses a great regard for you. They invited and entertained me with all imaginable civility."

Again, in May 1752, from Fort-Augustus—"I can't find work enough to employ me here, and as the weather is tolerably fair, will visit some of our poets, and perhaps accept an invitation from the Laird of Macleod, who offers to show me a very extraordinary old castle in the Isle of Skye." And from Glasgow, May 1753—"I dined with the famous Duchess of Hamilton (Miss Gunning). They live about ten miles from Glasgow, and the Duke is civil to us. The lady has lost nothing of her bloom and beauty, is very well behaved, supports her dignity with tolerable ease to herself, and seems to be justly sensible of her good fortune."

Wolfe's biographer has recently acquired a very valuable original correspondence between his hero and General Amherst, during the siege of Louisbourg. There are more than 200 persons named in his letters, nearly every one of whom has been identified, though many of them are of minor importance. Altogether, we have no doubt the work will be interesting, and valuable as a contribution to our military biography. Wolfe was a great favourite last century, and his name and history have still a charm.

DEATH OF THE HON. MRS STEWART MACKENZIE.

This venerable lady, of whom Sir Walter Scott said that she had "the spirit of a chieftainess in every drop of her blood," died at Brahan Castle on Friday morning, within a few months of eighty years of age. Her death, though by no means unexpected, was at last very sudden. On Thursday afternoon Mrs Mackenzie was in good spirits, dictated a long letter to her son, who was in Edinburgh, and appeared altogether in such health that her safety for the winter was hardly called in question. In the evening acute shifting pains came on, and she gradually sunk into a state of unconsciousness. She breathed her last about six o'clock next morning, apparently without suffering.

The Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie (Mary Elizabeth Frederica), born in March 1783, was the eldest daughter and co-heir of Francis, Earl of Seaforth, and his Countess Mary, daughter of the Rev. Baptist Proby, Dean of Lichfield, brother of Lord Carysfort. On her mother's side the deceased was proud of tracing her descent from the famous Lord William Russell, who was executed in 1683. Lord Seaforth, the last male representative of his illustrious house, was, as Sir Walter Scott has said, "a nobleman of extraordinary talents, who must have made for himself a lasting reputation had not his political exertions been checked by painful natural infirmities." To those infirmities Scott alludes in his poetical lament for the last Chief of Kintail:—

"In vain, the bright course of thy talents to wrong,
Fate destined thine ear and impeded thy tongue;
For brighter o'er all her obscurities arose
The glow of the genius they could not oppose;
And who, in the land of the Saxon and Gael,
Might match with Mackenzie, High Chief of Kintail?"

In the same vein, but in a more exaggerated tone of flattery, is the saying, attributed to an eminent statesman of the day, that Providence had deprived Lord Seaforth of one of his senses in order that he might be kept down to the level of humanity. It is only relatively correct to say that Fate "imprisoned his tongue." When about sixteen years of age Lord Seaforth was seized with a violent fever, in the course of which he lost completely his sense of hearing. This, occurring so early in life, naturally deprived him in a great measure of the power of articulate speech, and it is a touching fact that this gifted man never heard the voice of his wife or children.

Without dwelling too long on the history of the last Lord Seaforth, it may be mentioned that, far back in the days of the second Earl, his misfortunes are said to have been foreseen by a seer of the family, Kenneth Oag, who predicted that, when there should be a deaf Chamberlain, the "gift land" would be sold and the male line become extinct. This prophecy is said to be extant in a letter written in the seventeenth century. Scott and Sir Humphrey Davy both believed it, and Mr Morritt says that he "heard the prophecy quoted in the Highlands when Lord Seaforth had two sons, both alive and in good health." Lord Seaforth became involved in West India property speculations, and when these pressed heavily upon him, he proposed to sell some of the outlying portions of Kintail. We have the authority of the late Captain Parquhar Macneil of Inverlathie, for saying that this gave rise to great alarm among the tenantry. They remembered the prophecy, and were aware of the infirmities of their Chief. Rather than sanction the change, they offered of their own accord to buy in the land for him. At this time Lord Seaforth's son, William, was alive, and there was no immediate prospect of the succession expiring; but, in deference to the clanish prejudices of the tenantry, the sale of any portion of the estate was deferred for about two years. The people, on their part, delicately did what they could to relieve the Chief from his embarrassment. Large gifts of cows, sheep, &c., were sent from Kintail, not to Lord Seaforth, but to the various members of his household. Kintail was, however, sacrificed to the demands of the West India property. The "gift land" was sold and the prophecy was fulfilled: the four sons predeceased their father, and the last of the Chiefs, in male succession, died in Edinburgh, January 11th, 1815:—

"Thy sons rose round thee in light and in love,
All a father could hope, all a friend could approve;
What wails it the tale of thy sorrows to tell—
In the springtime of youth and of promise they fell,
Of the line of Fitzgerald remains not a male,
To bear the proud name of the Chief of Kintail."

The venerable lady who died at Brahan on Friday succeeded to the property, still of vast extent and rising in value. In 1804 she had married Sir Samuel Hood, a distinguished naval officer, who rose, by a series of splendid services, to the rank of Vice-Admiral of the White, was installed Knight of the Bath, returned to Parliament in 1806 for the city of Westminster, and created a Baronet, 13th April 1809. Sir Samuel died in Madras December 24, 1814, being at the time of his death Naval Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies. Lady Hood returned to England, and her desolate condition is thus referred to by Scott in the "Lament" from which we have already quoted:—

"And thou, Gentle Dame, who must bear, to thy grief,
For thy clan and thy country the cares of a Chief,
Whom brief rolling moons in six changes have left,
Of thy husband, and of father, and brother bereft;
To the ear of affection, how sad is the hail
That salutes thee the heir of the line of Kintail."

Lady Hood married, May 21, 1817, James Alexander Stewart, Esq. of Glasstown, son of Admiral Keith Stewart, a nephew of the Earl of Galloway, by whom she had issue:—

"Keith-William-Stewart-Mackenzie, of Seaforth; b. 9 May 1818; m. 17 May 1844, Hannah-Charlotte, eldest daughter of James-John Hope-Vere, Esq. of Craigie Hall and Blackwood, and has a son and three daughters, Francis-Hamilton, Julia-Charlotte-Sophia, and Georgiana-Henrietta.

"Francis-Pelham-Proby, d. in 1844, s.p.
"George-Augustus-Frederick-Wellington, an officer in the army, b. in 1841; m. in Nov. 1859, Maria-Louisa, youngest daughter of the late James Alexander Stewart-Mackenzie, Esq. of Seaforth, and d. s.p. in 1852.

"Mary-Frances, m. in 1838 to the Hon. Philip Anstruther, Colonial Secretary of Ceylon.

"Caroline-Susan, m. in 1844, J. Bernay Petre, Esq.
"Louisa-Caroline, m. in 1849 to Lord Ashburton.

Mr Stewart, having assumed the name of Stewart-Mackenzie, for several years represented the county of Ross in Parliament and held office in the cabinet of Earl Grey. He was afterwards Governor of the Island of Ceylon, and subsequently Lord and High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. He died 24th September 1843.

The deceased Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie was a lady of no ordinary talents. In her youth, celebrated for her personal attractions, she charmed society by her graceful manners, extensive information, and various accomplishments. Sir Walter Scott has testified his regard for her, and her correspondence with Sir Walter is well worthy of publication. During her residence in India Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie corresponded largely with her relatives and friends at home, including the late Duchess-Countess of Sutherland, Lady Ann Hamilton, Mr Morritt of Rokey, &c. Those letters she had bound up in volumes, and they contain a vivid and amusing picture of events and personages during the first quarter of the present century. A journal kept by Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie of her residence in India is no less valuable and interesting. Her friends at one time pressed urgently for its publication, and the late Archibald Constable offered £2000 for the copyright of the MSS., but from the official position of Sir Samuel Hood and other circumstances the deceased declined all solicitations to commit it to the press. Up to the close of her life Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie retained her remarkable powers of conversation and memory. She had known no many eminent persons, had seen so much, and read so extensively, that her intellectual

resources in society appeared inexhaustible. The hospitality of Brahan Castle is too well known North and South, to require mention, but in the humbler scenes of life—in attending to the poor and sick, in providing education for the young, and comfort for the old—the deceased lady nobly discharged the duties attached to her as the representative of an ancient Highland family and line of chiefs. She is succeeded by her son Keith William Stewart-Mackenzie, Esq. of Seaforth.

The funeral takes place on Tuesday. The procession leaves Brahan Castle at 11 A.M., and is expected to arrive at Fortrose Cathedral, the old burying place of the family, early in the afternoon. The Provost and Magistrates of Dingwall, the Dingwall Rifle Volunteers, &c., are to attend the funeral officially, and no mark of respect to the deceased will be omitted throughout the county of Ross.

In course of a lecture delivered on Tuesday evening at the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, by Mr Carruthers of Inverness, on the subject of Scottish History in the Eighteenth Century, reference was made to the death of this estimable lady. According to the *Notissimus* report, after describing the battle of Sheriffmuir, and noticing the subsequent fate of the Jacobite leaders, Mr Carruthers said he could not help noticing the death recorded in the Edinburgh papers that morning of one of the descendants of these Jacobites, the Hon. Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie. In the death of Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie the North had sustained a very heavy loss. She had the spirit, the dignity, and the hospitality of a chieftainess, but all that was harsh and repulsive in ancient Highland manners had melted away, while all that was kind, affectionate, and patriarchal was preserved.

DESTITUTION IN SKYE.

A very strong statement has found its way into *Once-a-Week* regarding the condition of the people of Skye, and it has been copied into many of the London papers. We have good reason to doubt that Skye is in the miserable plight set forth. Cases of individual hardship there may be, and indeed always are, to be found in the island; for the people depend largely on fishing, which is precarious, and on potatoes, which are no less so. But the young men have been profitably employed this year on railway and other works in the South, and we are told by one who knows the island thoroughly, and who resides in it, that the people are no worse off than they were last year, except in the matter of fuel, which is undoubtedly scarce and bad. A Skye farmer, in a letter to the *Times*, ridicules the whole story. He says:—

"I have been a Skye farmer myself, and was very much startled by the new lights thrown on the subject. The article sets out with saying that 'the farms are poor and difficult to manage.' There are five farms in Skye rented at over £1000 a year. Are these poor farms? 'Nothing is attempted beyond oats and potatoes.' Where is mention made of the thousands of sheep and cattle bred and reared in the island, and exported every autumn? 'The oats have failed this year.' I have a letter from my manager in my pocket telling me that my this year's crop is the best I have ever had. To some minds, however, every storm is the most severe, every crop the worst that has been known. The object of poverty of the peasantry is a hard fiction. For four years I bought large cod-liver at 4d. a piece, and now they never exceed 6d. Are these famine prices, sir? The question of firing is the only serious one, and even that becomes ludicrous when we are asked to send cargoes of freight to Skye; where would it come from? What would the freight cost? How long would the cargo of a 40-ton ship last for one township? The money that the Free Kirk ministers of Skye have spent since the Disruption in manna for themselves and churches for an emigrating population, would have bought coats for the island, and built churches to burn them in. 'Fearful stress' has a galling sound, but I will venture to say that on the 1st January next every household in Skye will have a bottle of whisky to welcome the New-Year with. The article concludes with a heart-stirring appeal to the sons of England for 'some one to cross that strip of stormy sea' between Skye and the mainland. I could give the names, sir, of a dozen terriers who have swam across this ferry, and in five days out of six I would paddle over it myself in an Oxford canoe. We in the north-west are used to these groans from Skye ministers, but I was shocked to see they had found their way to your columns, especially when the real want of Lancashire is engaging all our sympathy. I will only add that if any one is found to cross the 'strip of stormy sea,' I shall have the greatest pleasure in putting him in the way of finding the truth of the matter by introductions or otherwise."

We have instituted inquiry, and hope to be in a position next week to speak with confidence on the subject.

Contributions to the Northern Infirmary, reported by the Treasurer, Mr W. Waterston, Caledonian Bank, Inverness:—

Donald Cameron, Esq. of Glenelg	£3 3 0
Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway,	
per Andrew Douglass, Esq.	10 0 0
Mrs Hay Mackenzie of Cromarty	5 0 0
The Earl of Seaforth, per J. Smith, Esq.	10 0 0
Captain J. Stewart, Inverness	1 0 0
Free Church, Cromarty	3 17 6
Free Church, Fodderty	1 18 10
Free Church, Fortrose	2 10 0

LANCASHIRE DISTRESS FUND.—The Bank of Scotland here has received and forwarded, on the 2d, the following subscriptions, on behalf of the unemployed operatives in Lancashire, viz:—

Inverness West Church Collection, per the	
Rev. Mr Macgregor	£8 7 0
Duncan Macdonald, Esq., Huntly Light	0 15 0
Staff of the Inverness, &c., Highland Light	
Infantry Militia, per Captain Donaldson	4 0 0
D. Duff, Esq., banker	1 1 0
The High Church of Inverness	38 0 0
The Gaelic do. do.	0 15 9
U.P. Church, Queen Street, Inverness, per	
Rev. Mr Ross	3 16 7

BISHOP'S MISSION CHURCH.—The Provost's proposal that a collection should be made on behalf of the distressed Lancashire operatives in all the churches in Inverness, on the day of thanksgiving for the harvest, was readily entertained in the Bishop's Mission Church, and a sum exceeding £23 was contributed towards this object in answer to the earnest appeal of the Bishop's chaplain, the Rev. Mr Roughton.

The following contributions have been received by the Treasurer of the Soup Kitchen.—Provost Lyon-Mackenzie, £1; Joseph Mitchell, Esq., £2 2s.

The Treasurer of the Dingwall Soup Kitchen begs to acknowledge a handsome donation of venison from Felix Pryor, Esq., of Strathvaich.

WEST CHURCH OF INVERNESS.—We understand that there will be three services in this Church on Sabbath first—forenoon, afternoon, and at half-past six o'clock in the evening—and that at each diet of worship a collection will be made to defray the fuel and other necessary expenses connected with the Church. It is earnestly expected that the collection will be liberal.

INDIGENT GENTLEWOMEN'S FUND.—The following is an extract from the report of Mr Fullerton, secretary of this very deserving institution, applicable to the claims and contributions from the county of Inverness. The moral is very obvious:—"At the distribution of the fund in March last the sum of £115 was paid to annuitants resident in or belonging to the county of Inverness; the annual contributions therefrom for the past year amounted to £46 7s. Of the first mentioned sum £85 were paid to annuitants in Inverness, the balance of £30 to different clergymen for behoof of annuitants in other parts of the county."

COOKING DEPOT.—A benevolent gentleman, whose name is at present withheld, has intimated his intention of taking active steps in preparing an eating-house for the working classes of Inverness, on the principle of those in Glasgow, referred to in our literary columns. Such an establishment would be of great benefit. The old Poorhouse is suggested as a fitting site; part of it is at present used as a Soup-Kitchen.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.—Dr Donald C. Black has been appointed medical officer for the parishes of Broadacres and Durnish.

NEW ZEALAND.—Numerous files of newspapers have lately reached us, including the results of the census taken this time last year at an interval of ten years from 1851. The European population now amounts to within a few hundreds of 100,000 souls, being an absolute increase of 67 per cent. even within three years, and of a much larger per centage for the decade. The whites, therefore, can now have no difficulty in at least "holding their own," and every month the numbers of men flocking to the diggings are so great, that whether successful or not in their own callings, they are ready at a moment's warning to put down any rising of the natives. The Coromandel gold-fields have turned out well, and proved that the colony abounds in gold, and the native tribes have recently not only consented to allow the survey proceed, but are themselves smitten with the gold fever, and have begun the washings and diggings on their own account. At Auckland, the opening of a local bank, the formation of a gas and water company, the contracting for raising and using the native coal, the widening of the streets, and providing a fire brigade, all betoken rapid strides towards prosperity; and we have no doubt the tide of emigration will soon set in at a greater pace than ever it did, not to one only, but to all the provinces of New Zealand. The Scotchmen who choose to band together in families flock much to Otago, but single men ambitious of pushing their fortunes, we hear, rather go among strangers, and therefore the Canterbury and Auckland districts are their favourite resorts. To the latter, several respectable individuals and families emigrated from Ross-shire early in May last, from whom we understand most favourable accounts have just been received, including the encouraging fact that the weather during the whole voyage was serene and delightful, and that not one of the party had been ill of seasickness for a single day.

POLICE BUSINESS.—During the month of November seventeen males have been tried in the Police Court here, twelve of whom were intoxicated when the offences were committed. Amount of fines recovered and paid to the treasurer, £5 1s 6d. This shows a decrease of two as compared with the corresponding month of last year. In November 1847, the first year of the Inverness Burgh Act, no less than forty-three were tried. The following is the classification of offences committed in November:—Theft, 1; assault, 3; malicious mischief, 1; drunk and disorderly, 6; drunk and incapable, 5; furious driving, 1.

PROPOSED.—It is pretty well known that there was most an esteemed and an Inverness. There is no no situated, per circumstances and having a would have a parish of Ab to abide with has largely in deeply grate in subsidiz love, gratitu posed to do tions will be the shops of Mackenzie, VOLUNT arrangements of Aberdeen "Peacock" and other re and most su be found in WEATHER From the mi of snow, acc complete embay would-be-bur Martinmas always, brin therefore, be fields to be oats and bar while barley both these a here shares Farmers have nearly ploug fresh, those TOWNS Council was presiding, and approve the motion reader, whet clergy to be communicat statute enact fire-proof an registers. I supplied to remedied. public inter dress to the that the addi The resigna Malcolm Mac appointment On the moti to advertise occupied, on remunerable communications subscription DINNER to friends and remains of Cr of the estate and Sir G. C. those prese Bochruben; Mr Sinclair Fraser, Falli drunk with including the evening hill, and bl people of th has fallen in resources th been of muc East Coa steamers ha intended to dalk," for so resume the GAVIAL co stuffer, has curious rep Princeps, Le home from many of th during twen length of th appearance. There can a "The Snow Governor of by him to E season as a "Windward and Cumber SHERIFF Hector Croa a jury, char peared from last, on the sheep and in adjoining th in the morn ticular lamb traced to the who had be questioned, the animal a sworn, Mr the case pro of swearing pled, whic case. This Sheriff, and before the j without ret Sheriff pass period of po the prisoners POLICE CO been tried Court.—Al ers, drunk Maere, d Burns, Jew eleven day 5d., or twon woman, acc ellar of a l guilty, and Gars, a mot of the pr ment, for at To-day (Th carter, was reckless dri contact with gentleman against the of two oth time, and w was clearly to a fine of was paid. During d Sunday las entrance int very diffi some offe on Monday STRAITS intense, the for some d several year quantities o much from the railway for a consid in perform within the will shortly BADNESS able weath the corn c such a dan cannot say outstanding The stick-y abundance, other thing the core— numerically Potatoes a difficulty proportion for the po much on of the Par ultimo—C siding. T Poor, was meeting u having pe ability, a then proo plications accountant master. The duti In one.

