

IN BONNIE SCOTLAND

A Depressed Feeling on Account of the African War News.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

Protestants Stirred Up by Higher Criticism—Notes on Various Topics.

Special Correspondence.

Edinburgh, Scotland, Nov. 22.—To a man over the sea it certainly looks as though Britain is getting vastly more than she bargained for in her present war with the Boers. No matter how encouraging to the British the ultimate outlook may seem at present, the fact remains that even now the English have lost far more lives than they at first anticipated, and are in a fair way to suffer defeat at many points of the South African campaign, for some time to come. The strict censorship over news from the seat of war has made accurate things very difficult to secure, but at best reports are not so encouraging as many would like to see them. The British force, however, is to stay aggressive action until such time as all the troops are landed, then it is anticipated that orders will be given to push things to a climax and drive the Boers from their positions.

Two weeks ago the last detachment of Gordon Highlanders took the steamer for the front. This regiment had occupied the Edinburgh Castle for a period of months, and it was with a regret on both sides that they were ordered to embark for the Cape. The boys left for Glasgow at midnight, but several hours before, marched from the castle to the station, down through the principal thoroughfares, to that touching Scottish selection on such occasions, "Will Ye No Come Back Again." The kettle lads promised that they would, and affectionately kissed and caressed their best lasses till the train pulled out with its cargo of precious fruit. This branch of the Gordon Highlanders is heard from soon after their arrival.

Ant the Duke of Connaught's allied tender of his services in the present war with South Africa, the British papers have had considerable to say of the Duke's military and naval services. It was a magnanimous and truly patriotic act, and the authorities, say they, acted wisely when they deemed his going to the front inexpedient. If he had been allowed to go, and mistakes had happened under his leadership, the argument is, the actions of a faulty commander would reflect gravely on the throne. Then again, the Boer war is no child's play, and the best of generals are apt to be outwitted; hence the wisdom of sending out General Buller.

The appearance of the first volume of the Higher Criticism of the Bible, as the Higher Criticism of the Bible, has created a small sensation among churchgoers in this country. The views therein expressed concerning things spiritual, have caused Bible readers to wonder what religion is coming to, and have brought forth also some very caustic comments on the press. For instance, here is a sample editorial from a leading paper published in this city:

"In dealing yesterday with the article Mr. Taylor writes in the 'Speaker,' we remarked that, from the standpoint of Protestantism, 'Christianity is the culmination and fulfillment in Jesus Christ of a series of revelations from God to man.' It might be interesting to discover the attitude of the Higher Criticism towards these revelations as shown in the new 'Encyclopedia Biblica' conducted by Christian professors and clergymen. According to the old orthodox views, the Bible gives a true account of God's dealings with, and communications to, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc. Let us begin with Adam, Eve, and the Garden of Eden. According to the 'Encyclopedia Biblica,' Adam and Eve never existed. The story of the Garden of Eden is not historical. The conclusion is obvious—God made no communication, did not reveal Himself, as the early chapters of Genesis would have us believe. What of the Deluge? There was no deluge. The 'Encyclopedia Biblica' tells us that the biblical account had its origin in the myth of winter and the sun-god. In other words, 'the Hebrew story must have been borrowed from the Babylonian.' Thus, as regards the Garden of Eden, the Flood, church professors have now endorsed the views of Tom Paine and Charles Bradlaugh. What of Abraham? Did God reveal Himself to Abraham? Paul believed that God's revelations to Abraham were of momentous significance not only to Jews but to Gentiles. Paul was also wrong. We are now told that no such person as Abraham ever existed. Sarah and Lot also disappear into the unknown, from which they would never have emerged had not the writers of Genesis been gifted with exuberant imaginations. So far, if we may trust the Higher Critics, Genesis contains no authentic accounts of a revelation from God to man. But surely we are on firm ground when we come to the life of Moses. We are told that it is historical. All that about dreams, visions, and the like, belong to the realm of imagination. Daniel cuts a very figure at the hands of the Higher Critics. What is the inference to be drawn from these results of the Higher Criticism? So far there are no signs of a revelation from God to man—nothing to imply the natural evolution of man's religious aspirations and a great deal of legendary matter. Mr. Taylor writes in the 'Speaker' that the new views of Christianity and the working man to accept the Christian religion. It was in the days of Dr. Chalmers. It is difficult to see what consolation the devout working man can get from the fact that leading clergymen and professors are rapidly reaching the views of Tom Paine and Charles Bradlaugh."

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in this city at which the Higher Criticism was burned in effigy, so to speak, at the hands of clergymen whose Scottish Covenantant traits still linger within them. "What is Protestantism coming to?" is the cry now being heralded throughout the British kingdom.

Things theatrical are quite lively here at present, the playhouses being well supplied with fairly good bookings. This week the Tyranny of Tears is playing to big business at the Theatre Royal. The play deals with the distresses of a married man, whose wife goes through the world harping almost incessantly on a minor key, and so successfully does it hold the mirror up to nature, that women witnessing the drama, are said to absolutely refuse to perceive the likeness to themselves. In other words it endows them for a time with that "gift" written of by Burns, the use of which, however, they fail to take advantage of when opportunity is so richly afforded them. The play, in fact, is an old favorite with Salt Lakeers, is being well received at the Lyceum.

Madame Patti, the noted diva, appeared here in concert a few nights ago, rendering "Caro Nome," "The Nightingale's Thrill," "Quand tu Chantes," "Batti Batti," "Pur Dicoi," and "Home Sweet Home." These displayed the singer's voice at its best, and her appearance was the signal for great enthusiasm.

Ex-Senator Frank J. Cannon and wife visited Edinburgh on the 19th and 20th, the Utahans having come up from London where Mr. Cannon had business, to see the sights of the Scottish capital. Both were delighted with their short stay, and while here, took occasion to have a peep at the great Forth Bridge. On Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. Cannon attended the meeting of the Latter-day Saints, the former dealing with historical evidences of the divinity of the Book of Mormon, and the latter speaking upon the women of Utah, their exponents and privileges. The ex-senator and wife were expected to be home about Christmas.

ALEX. BUCHANAN JR.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A few of the engineering fields from which much may be expected in the near future were pointed out by Sir Douglas Fox in a recent address to British civil engineers. The problems of surpassing importance now opening up include: Trunk railways through Russia, China, Persia, Africa; irrigation works to supply the wants of growing populations; harbors large enough to receive the vessels of the future; central installations to furnish lighting, power, traction and heating to whole countries; the extension of telephonic communication with and without wires; the abolition of the smoke and smell of cities; the replacement of horses by mechanical power in the streets; the increase of the speed of trains to 100 miles per hour; the erection of rail buildings where land is valuable; the utilization of waste products, especially the refuse of cities; the improvement of the water supply; the reclamation of land; the profitable working of deep seams of coal.

The most destructive insects are the locusts and the white ants or termites. Reporting the work of these in India, Mr. E. P. Stebbing states that the locusts invade the fertile districts from their home in the sandy deserts, and in their course leave not a green leaf or shoot in their path. Forests and moisture being their greatest enemies, conversion of arid sandy areas into plantations would tend to check this pest. The white ants work directly into any building, yet render service to man by rapidly converting decaying wood into mud, doing no damage to healthy trees. So marvelous is their instinct that they discover and attack a dead branch on any part of a tree's trunk.

Certain of the rarer elements, as appears from a paper by J. H. L. Vogt on the distribution of various constituents about the following percentages of the earth's solid crust: Phosphorus, 0.09 per cent; manganese, 0.075; sulphur, 0.06; titanium, 0.02; barium, 0.03; zirconium, 0.01; chromium, 0.01; lithium, 0.005; strontium, 0.005; nickel, 0.005; vanadium, 0.0025 to 0.005; cerium, less than 0.001; yttrium, less than 0.001; cobalt, 0.0005; thorium, 0.0001. Zinc and gadolinium are somewhat less rare than vanadium.

The steam turbine is the oldest heat engine on record, the engine described by Hero of Alexandria about 200 years before Christ having been a crude form of steam turbine. Its successful application to the turbine, which is estimated to have reached a speed of 34½ knots and to torpedoes boat destroyers, has led the Hon. C. H. Parsons to consider the fitness for larger engines of the principle that has lain so long dormant. He finds the conditions for its use even more favorable on the faster class of vessels, such as cross-channel boats, liners and cruisers. The reduction in machinery weight and in coal consumption per horse-power are of special importance in such vessels, and the absence of vibration is also a great advantage. A vessel of 1,000 tons, with spacious accommodations for 600 passengers and with machinery developing 18,000 horse-power, would have a speed of about 30 knots, as compared with the 19 to 22 knots, the present vessels of like size and accommodation. A special unarmored cruiser, with scanty crew accommodations, but an armament of guns and torpedoes, would have interesting speed possibilities. With dimensions double those of the 30-knot destroyers, and plates of double thickness, specially strengthened, there would be two tiers of water-tube boilers, and eight propellers of nine feet diameter, revolving at about 400 revolutions per minute, and the speed would be nearly 40 knots. For this speed the coal supply would last eight hours but for 10 to 14 knots the economy would exceed ordinary vessels.

The manufacture of mineral waters is criticized by a French chemist, P. Caries, who finds that very often too little care is exercised. The great expense is the judicious choice of water, the use of perfectly pure carbonic acid, and the exclusion of valves made partially of lead. In times of epidemics special attention should be given to the bacteriological purity of water, and it should be remembered that microbes—as those of typhoid—live longer in seltzer water than in ordinary water.

Gas engines driven by blast furnace waste have now been installed in England, Scotland, France and Germany. A recent estimate shows that a furnace producing 600 tons of pig iron per week, using ton of coke per ton of iron, would deliver 600,000 cubic feet of gas per hour, of which a third would be used for the blast. The remainder would give 3,500 to 4,000 horse-power in gas engines.

The automobile of Edouard Henriques of Brussels, Belgium, has an ingenious power combination. It is provided with both gasoline engine and an electric motor with storage battery; and by suitable gearing, clutches and switches, either the gasoline engine or the electric motor may be made to propel the carriage, or both may be used, or the engine may be made to drive the motor for charging the storage battery. The electric equipment is intended for use chiefly on city streets, where the odor of the exhausted oil vapor might be annoying. On level country roads the engine is to supply the power, but will have the aid of the electric motor in climbing long hills. The double source of energy offers an important advantage, of course, in the reserve of means to finish one's journey in case one motor fails.

The terrific explosion that occurred some months ago in a chlorate of potash factory at St. Helens, Eng., has been the subject of careful investigation. No previous explosion of chlorate of potash could be found on record, but experiment proves that the salt is liable to explode when the temperature is raised very rapidly, and sudden heat is the only probable cause suggested for the St. Helens disaster.

From barometric observations at Rome, P. Morano concludes that the moon produces two high and two low tides in the earth's atmosphere. At 300 kilometers (186.5 miles) deep, he calculates that the moon causes a tide of 21 meters and the sun one of 10 meters, the maximum tide being 31 meters.

The elephant beetle of Venezuela, sometimes weighing half a pound, is believed to be the largest known insect.

The artificial production of cold has reached its greatest development in Munich, where refrigeration by the passage of gases from high to low pressure was begun in 1881, and has since found so many applications that the industry has become second only to that of brewing. In the cold air storage building, the most complete yet erected, the temperature of the coils is kept at 3 degrees C. (37.4 degrees F.), the air containing 60 to 70 per cent of moisture. These are the chief industrial and scientific uses of the low temperatures. Manufacture of ice in the brewing industry; preservation of meat and other food; preservation of anatomical specimens; in the morgues; arrestation of the development of the silk cocoon; arrestation of the growth of bulbs (making them independent of their customary flowering season); in the preparation of mixtures rich in oxygen; in the manufacture of ozone; in the testing of meteorological instruments; and scientific research generally.

In photographing wood sections without a lens, Herr Fomm places a piece of tinfoil on one side of the section and the film surface of a sheet of bromide paper against the other side. A good impression—showing clearly the rings

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Interesting and beautiful effects of the well-known etching of glass by fluorine acid have been reported by Mr. E. Benham of Colchester, England. Various salts are crystallized in this layer on glass, which is well warmed to prevent the crystals from dissolving, and the glass is then exposed to the vapor of fluorine for five minutes. The microscopic figures of the crystals are accurately reproduced on the glass.

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Pride of Japan Tea
(Tree)
The more you drink the more you want. The most carefully prepared Package Tea that comes to America.

and rays of the wood—is produced in about half a minute when a metallic point heated by an electric influence machine is brought within about two inches of the paper. It is explained that the paper becomes negatively charged, and a photographically active glow light is produced between it and the wood. It is proposed to try this method for copying drawings and other purposes.

The Arctic ocean, says Nansen, is a kind of jagged separated from the Atlantic by a submarine ridge, stretching from Spitzbergen to Greenland. To this ridge is due a curious condition. The Arctic is covered with a layer of slightly salt water from the Siberian rivers and Bering Strait, and under this is the normally salt Gulf Stream water. If the two layers were mixed, the average temperature would fall, but this average would not be as cold as the surface layer. This accounts for the enormous formation of polar ice.

Cellulose, the fibrous base of plant structure so familiar in our paper and cotton, has long had its great usefulness extended by impregnation, with gypsum, resin and other substances, or by the use of impervious varnishes. Recent products into which it is transformed by chemical destruction of the cell itself are listed by S. Fernandez. 1. Several kinds of parchment paper are produced, resembling true parchment from having been treated with sulphuric acid, then freed from excess of acid by washing and neutralization. 2. Sulphite cellulose, prepared by treatment with sulphur dioxide, contains calcium or magnesium, because thirty years ago the most important substance in paper manufacture. When saturated for a long time in a pulping machine, it yields material for a cheap parchment paper, which, in thin, transparent sheets, is known as "pergamyn," and is used for packing perishable articles. 3. By long trituration of sulphite cellulose, destroying completely the textile fibers, and spontaneous excretion of the pulp, blood of amorphous cellulose are obtained. This material called "cellulith," when freed from air by boiling or steaming, can be worked like horn or ebonite, resists the action of alcohol, petroleum, fats and oils, and is fairly elastic. 4. Solution of chloride of zinc and ammoniacal oxide of copper, like sulphuric acid, transform cellulose into an amorphous mass. When after treatment, this mass is exposed to wind and rain for some weeks, it is completely changed into hydrocellulose, and is known as "vulcanized fiber." It is made in two varieties, the flexible and the hard. It has been used in the principal cities of the United States since 1878, and is now formed into tubes, rods, cogwheels, etc., and used to replace rubber and leather. 5. Treatment of cellulose with sulphuric and nitric acids yields nitrocellulose. This is the basis of the high explosive, and with camphor is changed into celluloid, which has very varied applications. 6. English makers are turning out an imitation leather, called "regaloid." This is a mixture of cotton and paper covered with a secret composition, supposed to be celluloid, with some oil, and is used for trunks, curtains, etc.

Leakage from steam pipes is believed to have been greatly underestimated, tests by Mr. E. S. Hale having indicated the following proportions of loss: In mills 5 to 16 per cent; electric plants, 2½ per cent; steamships, 1½ to 10 per cent; waterworks, 2½ per cent.

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