ous intelligence is a marked feature and embraces something about every denomination without favour of sect or creed. The "Christian Times" is published in a handy, suitable form, stitched, and contains sixteen pages.

THE BRITISH WORKMAN—January, 1868.
BAND OF HOPE REVIEW—January, 1868.
THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND—January, 1868. London: Published by S. W. Partridge. Forres: R. Stewart, bookseller. Nairn: A. U. Miller, bookseller.

THE initiatory numbers for the New-Year of the above popular serials promise well. We do not think the engravings, in point of merit, have been excelled in any previously published numbers. The picture of the girl in the *Review* sewing sampler work at school is the best we ever remember to have seen, and would have fetched half-a-crown not many years ago. Now the magazine itself can be had for one half-penny. If patrons of schools would only think of distributing these messengers of love and peace among all our schools, what a powerful influence for good would be thereby created! Artistic taste would also be promoted and the mind attracted and impressed by the lovely pictures presented.

CHAMBERS'S JOURNAL—Part xlviii. December. London and Edinburgh: W. & R. Chambers. Forres: James Gill. Nairn: A. U. Miller.

"ONE of the Family," the most interesting novel that has been running its chapters lately in *Chambers's*, comes to a close in this December part. It is one of the best stories we have read for a long time, and a rich treat is in store for us if "A Great Change of Luck," the new serial announced to appear next, proves as interesting. The articles in this number are as usual very good, and when all are so excellent it appears a somewhat invidious task to point what is most readable. However, we may enumerate—"Scissors and Paste;" "Historic Meteors;" Royal Christmasses;" "Ramazan;" "A School of Cooking;" "A Duel in the Dark;" "My Wife's Prayer-Book;" "Cousin Bob's First Love," &c. The poetical contributions are one and all of very high merit. Several extracts from this part of *Chambers's* will be found elsewhere in our columns.

THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE—January, 1868. Edinburgh: Strahan & Co. Forres: R. Stewart: bookseller.

THIS is a capital number, and gives renewed promise for the year now inaugurated. The staff of contributors this year is a strong recommendation. Among them we observe the author of "Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood;" the gifted Editor—Dr Guthrie; the Dean of Canterbury; Edward Garret; Dr Hanna; Dr W. G. Blackie; Gilbert Tait; Fanny Havergall, &c. The pictures are graphic and the printing beautifully clear and readable. Dr Arnot writes a good notice of the late Dr Hamilton of London, and there is also a striking likeness in portraiture of that eminent minister given. The "Notes for Readers out of the Way" are a great attraction, embracing the Exploration of Palestine, the Education Question, the Ritualistic Controversy, the Italian Question, the Politics of the United States, Missionary Intelligence, the Social Sores of Britain, &c.

Letters to the Editor.

HINTS ON HEALTH.—No. V.

To the Editor of the Forres Gazette.

SIR,—Before leaving the subject of ventilation, it may be seasonable to say something of disinfectants, more especially as,—judging from what has lately been told us in various forms through the press,—one cheap and safe disinfectant is likely to throw all the others into the shade—I refer, of course, to the much be-praised sulphurous acid, which, perhaps none of your readers require by this time to be told, is the fumes of burning sulphur. *Possibly* disinfectants would never be necessary if we could always avail ourselves to the full of a free *circulation* of air. As matters are, it is far otherwise. Wherever animal or vegetable matters are undergoing putrifactive, decomposition gases are evolved which are prejudicial to health, if breathed in any considerable quantity. It is probably on this account that a "green Yule" is proverbially unhealthy. Decomposition of animal matter is going on in the fields, &c., in warm weather in winter, and the evolved gases accumulate around us all the more because there is little growth going on to fix them again. It is at the same time universally known that wherever decay is going on, the elements become the appropriate food of certain other plants and animals. When cheese is decaying, mites, and even creatures of larger growth, multiply quickly. This is, no doubt, a merciful arrangement for man. These parasites use up the substances that otherwise would become fearfully noxious. Untold millions of seeds of fungi and animalculæ exist in the atmosphere, ready to be developed into animals or plants wherever the conditions are favourable. Unhappily such conditions are too often found in the blood and tissues of human beings. The human breath, through faults of diet in respect of quantity or quality, or both, give indications of semiputrescence in the blood and body. And often, when this is not the case, the inhalation of an atmosphere charged with gases from decomposing substances so taints the blood as to make it a fit soil for the growth of fungi. Hence, as many believe, comes the liability to diptheria, colds, eruptions, various specific fevers, &c., &c. In all these it is believed parasites of one kind or other are present by the million, as the consequence of suitable conditions for the development of their spories or germs having been produced as the result of the decay in question. It seems farther proved that whenever tissues are at all injured, as by accident, surgical operations, &c., the germs referred to fasten on the tender part, do farther damage by their presence and development there, and are the cause of the supporation, inflamation, and fever that have been looked upon as natural processes, and necessary as a preliminary to healing. Of course, if the air were thoroughly excluded from such parts, the parasitic attack would be prevented. Some disinfectants, and probably sulphurous acid among the rest, may have the property of chemically changing the noxious gases, and thus preventing the conditions favourable to the growth of parasites. Be that as it may, the grand doctrine of the day is, that sulphurous acid is fatal to the life of all the parasites in question; preventing injury from taking place where it otherwise would, and allowing speedy healing and recovery to take place, by obviating the chief hindrance to the success of these processes. It may not be out of place to say to your readers who may reside in out of the way corners, that if they wish to go more fully into this obviously most important health question, they should study two pamphlets lately published by Edmonston & Douglas, Edinburgh, one written by Dr Dewar, Kirkcaldy, and the other by Dr Pairman, Biggar. Meantime, in lack of farther instruction, let any one who wishes to have the benefit of the disinfectant, place a bit of paper on the fire shovel, or on anything else that fire will not injure; then lay a teaspoonful, more or less, of flour of sulphur upon the paper, and kindle it at the edges. This will set fire to the sulphur, and the fumes will soon be diffused throughout the apartment. The burning, of course, should take place as near the centre of the room as convenient. The process may be repeated frequently in the course of a day, if required. Sulphur that has been much exposed to the action of the air, as in a grocer's drawer, should not be used, as part of it will be converted already into sulphuric acid. It is best to purchase from a druggist, being particular to keep what is not used from being much acted upon by the air, by carefully rolling up.—Yours, &c.

ALEX. MUNRO.

[ADVERTISEMENT]

DISEASED MEAT.

(To the Editor of the Forres Gazette.)

Forres, 30th Dec., 1867.

SIR,—In answer to the letter on this subject in your journal of the 25th curt., charging the Vendors of cheap meat at the Cross with selling it in a diseased condition, evidently inferring therefrom that the meat must have been diseased before it could be sold cheap, and by a side wind warning the public from purchasing at the Cross. Now, Sir, I, as one of the Street Butchers on that occasion, challenge "Alpha," "Beta," or any other man, to say they ever purchased mutton, beef, or pork, in a diseased condition from me; and I must say that, during my experience of nearly twelve years, I have not seen any diseased meat with the other Vendors there. Nor do I think, Mr Editor, that front shops and plate-glass windows always guarantee either sound or cheap meat. The public of Forres, at least that part of it whose shillings count more than pounds (the upper twelve thousand I duly respect), are indebted to the Street Butchers for having a cheap Christmas dinner. Even supposing the Butchers at the Forres Cross had not sold at the seasonable rates they have done, my motto would still have been "live, and let live; and no monopoly!" The cry of diseased meat means, I suppose, the old cry of the payment of another municipal officer, as an Inspector of meat; but, it will be time enough, when diseased meat is seen, to call in the services of an inspector (vide Council minutes on this subject); and so long as Forres has got a V.S., that certainly can easily be done. Indeed, if Alpha had done his duty, he should have applied to the proper authority, by at once calling the attention of the Police to it, instead of trying to injure honest men, in an underhand manner. With these remarks, Mr Editor, I leave the matter betwixt you and the public to judge.—Yours,

C. CUMMING.

Notices to Correspondents.

THE Sale of the Property belonging to Mr Jamieson, Auchindar, as advertised in our first page, is postponed in the meantime.

Forres, Elgin, & Nairn Gazette, AND SUPPLEMENT.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1868.

As a Supplement to the *Gazette* of to-day, we enclose, to all our Subscribers, a copy of the Forres Family Almanac for 1868.

IN humble imitation of our great Metropolitan contemporaries, we beg, on this morning of the first day of a new year, to meet our subscribers and advertising friends with our annual expression of thanks, and with the kindly cordial greeting of "A Happy New-Year and many returns of the season." We shall not attempt a reminiscence of the events political and social of the year which has just so mournfully closed, and left an inheritance of undefined dread and anxious forboding to its successor. We have the Fenian conspiracy yet to cope with and extinguish—a conspiracy as dangerous as it is contemptible, and which can end in nothing but the ruin of its miserable dupes. Still it is not to be despised. Its motions must be narrowly watched and promptly arrested. Is it not lamentable that a presence as undefined as a myth should terrify society with its rumours and its acts, and put all the governing classes in the attitude of defence, from the Queen downwards? We think too much heed is given to those "warnings" as they are called, of meditated attacks on Government stores, on official personages, on gas-works, &c. Where are the men that are to capture the Armstrong guns, subvert the constitution of this country, and establish Fenianism? We don't believe in the said organization, or that power for actual revolution can be put forth by a few American Irishmen, living in the midst of the loyal population of this country. It looks almost ludicrous for the Heads of our national departments in politics and war to get so excited at the receipt of a few anonymous letters, which after all may have been sent more as diverting tricks than serious menaces. Still there may be information of a reliable nature on which the Government is warranted to act, at all events so far as to take precautionary measures for a time.

Another of our legacies from the departed year is the Abyssinian expedition—serious in every aspect of it. Whether the captives, the war has been undertaken to release, are to be restored or destroyed, there is no help for it now. Whether the expenditure shall be set down at three millions or twenty millions, we shall have no alternative but prosecute this enterprise to the bitter end. It seems awfully absurd to spend so much money, and sacrifice such an amount of human life, to compass a mere peradventure; but all political parties were agreed on the stern necessity of the case, and therefore repining and reproach are equally useless.

It is said the ensuing session of Parliament is to be devoted almost entirely to the redress of Irish grievances. If so, the first step must be the abolition of the Irish Established Church. If Earl Derby's Government are not prepared for this—contrary, however, to their antecedents—they must be prepared to relinquish office to the coming men who will. No patching up or redistribution of emoluments will do, but after providing for the interests of present incumbents, the transference of the Ecclesiastical Property to a National Education Fund must ensue.

THERE is a lull in the general news of the past week, both at home and abroad, if we except the Fenian panic, of which too much after all appears to be made.

THE WEATHER.—The weather still continues open and delightful for the season of the year. There was a slight degree of frost yesterday. Vegetation is making unwonted progress. We notice in some of the gardens pease and beans two inches above ground. Crocuses and snow drops, those "sweet harbingers of spring," are also beginning to make their appearance in sheltered nooks in the Bulletloan.

SERMON ON TEMPERANCE.—On the evening of Sabbath last, the Rev. Mr Hillocks, late of London, delivered a discourse in the Independent Church here, on the subject of Temperance. The rev. gentleman chose for his text 1st Peter, iv. 7—"Therefore be sober and watch unto prayer." After a pointed reference to the word "therefore" in the text, he proceeded to show what the word "sober" in the passage and in scripture generally meant, and, adapting it to the drinking customs of society, gave a forcible and able exposition of the subject. He implored all to be abstinent from drink, because it was a duty, because drinking was a temptation, because all who indulged in it were liable to fall, because it was opposed to all good, temporally and spiritually, and for other weighty considerations. A collection in aid of the funds of the Forres Total Abstinence Society was made at the door. The Church was crowded in every part.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOIREE.—The Annual Soiree of the Total Abstinence Society of Forres took place in the Mechanics' Hall last night. Rev. R. Kerr, President, occupied the chair. The Meeting, after partaking of tea and refreshments, was addressed by several ministers and friends of the cause of abstinence. In the intervals of the speeches, several ladies and gentlemen, who kindly volunteered their services on the occasion, sang a variety of songs, charmingly varied by pieces of music on the harmonium and pianoforte.

CAMPBELL'S DIARIES FOR 1868.—We have been before us specimens of these beautiful, cheap, and convenient annuals. They answer all the purposes of note-books and range from sixpence to half-a-crown. The scribbling Diary at 1s 6d, has fifteen lines for every day in the year. The Counting House Diary, at 1s 6d, in addition to valuable table, calendar, and memoranda, has faint lines for a dozen entries for every day of the year. The octavo Diary is an elegant gilt edged pocket-book bound in leather, with elastic strap. It contains all the requisite printed information, price 2s 6d. A smaller one at 2s, and a still smaller at 1s 6d similarly bound, can also be had. These Diaries are admirably and substantially got up and leave nothing to be desired.

FORRES NOVEMBER YEARLY FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—This Society held their Annual General Meeting for Election of Office-bearers and Committee on the evening of Tuesday last week, when the following were elected:—Mr William Watson, Warden's Buildings, President; Mr Simon Fraser, Treasurer; and Mr John Green, Secretary, with twelve of a Committee.

SABBATH SCHOOL TREAT.—On Thursday last week, the Free Church Sabbath Scholars of Rafford met in the school-room, to partake of tea and other refreshments kindly furnished by the Rev. Mr Mackay and Mrs Mackay. Presents of clothing were also given to some of the scholars. The missionary boxes of the school were opened, and the sums apportioned to the various schemes of the Church. The scholars, numbering about 70, were addressed by their pastor and others, and a very happy evening spent.

RAFFORD GAMES.—On Christmas Day, the young men of Rafford met in a field adjoining the Fife Arms Inn, and competed in a number of games, as usual on this festive season. Mr Wm. Clark, Blervie Castle, presided, and impartially pronounced the awards.

ST JOHN'S LODGE.—On Friday last week the annual dinner of the St John's Lodge of Forres, was held as usual, when the following were the Office-bearers elected:—

John Bezeck—R.W.M.
Thomas Black—D.M.
James Hendrie—S.W.
William Alves—J.W.
Charles Smith—S.D.
John Nairn—J.D.
John Mackendrick, Alex. Smith, James Hendrie, } Key-Keepers.
John Duffus, Secy.

THE BRODIE MARRIAGE.—The Marriage of Hugh Brodie, Esq., second son to William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, to the Lady Eleanor Moreton, daughter of the late, and sister of the present Earl Ducie, comes off to-day at the Earl's seat of Tortworth, Gloucestershire. The happy event is to be suitably celebrated in this quarter, where the ancient and honourable family of Brodie is held in great esteem. The tenantry on the estates of Brodie have been invited to dine in the Mason Hall of Dyke to-night, under the auspices of Wm. Sclanders, Esq., Forres, factor on the Estates. Bonfires are to be kindled at Penick, Kingsteps, and Crowhall, and similar bonfires are to illumine the heights of Cawdor, Kinsteary, Lethen, and Dalvey. On the neighbouring estates of Darnaway and Moy, we understand, such demonstrations will not take place, in consequence of the recent family bereavements there. Each of the bonfires on the Brodie Lands will be surmounted by a banner, bearing quarterly the arms of Brodie and Ducie. The Hall at Dyke is tastefully ornamented with evergreens. Along the wall is a banner screen, on which is painted a double heart, with the Brodie motto—"Unite." The marriage will be recognised here with every mark of respect and kindly feeling to Mr Brodie and his youthful, noble, and accomplished bride. We shall report the rejoicings in our next.

THE FINE ARTS.—If photography be not entitled to rank among the Fine Arts, paintings and engravings ought to be excluded. To success in photography, genius and skill are as much needed as in any other department of art. There must be delicacy of taste in pose and accessories; there must be skill in the management of light and shade, of colour and relative position, without which the best manipulation would be lost, and yet there must be the requisite time and handling too, as well as scrupulous regard to the preparation of the materials to be used. When all these are combined, we have perfection in this art. We have been led to these reflections on studying several groups of subjects, and single likenesses taken by Mr Collier, Inverness. They bespeak his eminence in his difficult and delicate task, and place him as far beyond ordinary dabblers in photography, as our first-class artists in portrait or landscape are to common sign painters. Of the portraits before us, some are of the nobility and gentry in and around the Highland Capital. In lady portraiture, Mr Collier is singularly happy and efficient, particularly in coloured miniatures. Some of these are gems which vie, in clearness and beauty, with water-coloured paintings on ivory. As something altogether unique in the art, we observe a series taken from subjects in relief, as if from tiles or fictile ware—cameos in fact—rivalling the delicacy and beauty the figures on the Barberini Vase! Some of these are the finest imaginable, and are most distinctly and truthfully transferred to the prepared sheets. Some of these pictures are not larger than a stereoscope slide, and contain a dozen figures. They are in the most graceful attitudes—evidently representing mythological scenes in the classic histories of Greece and Rome.

SOIREE AT RAFFORD.—On Tuesday last week, the Rafford Annual Temperance Soiree was held at the Parish School-house, at eight o'clock evening. The Rev. R. Kerr of Forres ably discharged the duties of the chair. In course of the evening, addresses were delivered by the Rev. John Whyte, Moyness; Rev. Mr Scott, Baptist Church, Forres; Dr Munro, Cluny Hill House; Mr Macgillivray, Shoggle; Mr Leal, Califer, &c. Mrs Kerr presided at the harmonium, and also sang several songs. Mr Leslie of Forres likewise enlivened the proceedings with some excellent song singing.

SALE OF TIMBER.—A public sale of timber (as growing in the woods of Altyre), took place in Fraser's Hotel here, on Saturday last, when, after a keen competition, the whole was sold off as follows, viz.:—1st lot, consisting of 2000 fir trees—Mr Sime, woodmerchant, Rafford, £840; 2d lot, 2500 larch trees—Mr Wilson, woodmerchant, Forres, £1805; 3d lot, 2800 larch trees—Mr Sime, Rafford, £1075; 4th lot, 59 0 larch trees—Mr Mann, Nairn, £640 in all £4360 sterling. Mr David Ross was auctioneer, and discharged his duty most efficiently, and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

CHRISTMAS DAY—EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

On Wednesday last week the usual services for Christmas Day took place in St John's Episcopal Church here. The Church was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The font, which stands on the left, on entering, was surmounted by an imperial crown wrought in flowers and evergreens. At the base, on a ground of moss, fern leaves, &c., was the inscription, "The Prince of Peace," in crimson everlastings. The Apse of the Church was richly adorned with emblematical triangular and circular figures artistically fabricated in flowers. On the left side of it was the ancient Christos, beautifully illuminated in yellow holly, and on the right a large star in varigated holly leaves. In the west transept was a scroll with the following inscription in the golden florets of immortelles—"Glory to God in the highest;" and in the east transept the remainder of the sentence—"Good will to men," in the same style of ornamentation. The sacred monogram I.H.S., was also here displayed. Small floriated crosses were placed in front of the reading-desk and pulpit. The Nave was ornamented with festoons of evergreens and figures of a symbolical character. On a scroll in front of the gallery, in brilliant flowers, was the inscription—"The Word was made flesh."

The Rev. E. H. Owen, incumbent, said prayers, and the choir, accompained by the organ, rendered the musical portions of the service very effectively—the only drawback being a deficiency of bass voices.

The Rev. J. Brodie Innes of Milton Brodie preached a sermon from Luke ii. 10 11—"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord—which, for appropriateness of subject, terseness, and brevity may be given as a model. We have much pleasure in here reporting it at length:—

"Thus spake the angel to the shepherds, the first to whom the birth of Jesus was proclaimed. Thus as years roll on, ever at this sacred joyous season proclaiming the wondrous truth to you is born this day the Saviour, the Anointed Lord, His holy Church bids all rejoice; marking with outward signs the inward feelings she would desire to excite, decking her buildings with sacred emblems, with evergreens, with flowers typical of a longer duration than the blossoms of spring, with fair things, bright through dreary winter time, contrasting with frozen stems and leafless branches without. Thus with our joyous service we endeavour feebly to give some expression of our gladness for an event which angels can but in part realize. 'A God,' says St Chrysostome, 'descends upon the earth, and man is elevated to heaven. Men and angels are associated together and united in harmonious concert. The enmity which had long subsisted between God and man subsists no more. Human nature enters into a covenant with the Deity. Death is bound in chains. The gates of heaven are thrown open. Error is banished from the world, and truth resumes her dominion over the children of men.'

"These are the blessings which the birth of Jesus brings on the earth, a prelude to far greater blessings in a future life.

"Join we then our voices with those of the bright hosts of heaven, and with the servants of God, who on this festival, in all the Catholic Church, sing 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,' the peace which Jesus imparts to men of good will.

"If we considered ourselves as we are, if we looked at what we have done, but little could we suppose ourselves sharers in the blessings, or entitled to join the angelic hymn of praise and thanksgiving; but we invite you to-day to lay aside thoughts of humiliation, and consider yourselves as joined in fellowship with the God-man born for your sake. We invite you to lay hold of the blessed assurance that His birth is a joy to *all* people; we address you as those who have run out to meet and welcome your infant Saviour, who come with a good will to lay by the manger of the nativity your crimes and your miseries, to kindle anew your love to Him, to devote to Him what is most valuable, to assure yourselves that you have received the adoption of the sons of God. By His couch you may learn how to accomplish the object of your desires. He will teach you how to live by His spirit, how to be perpetually joined to Him. He will teach you the heavenly wisdom which will enable you to raise yourselves above the world.

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"The news of His birth is good tidings to the poor. Without Him your hearts might be dejected, beholding the prosperity of others you might desire to be rich and great. Bring your thoughts to the stable of Bethlehem. Will you repine that your Divine Saviour has made you like Himself, that He has delivered you from temptations? that he has shielded you from dangers, that he has placed you where you may most easily, most securely walk in the path that conducts to everlasting life? Bless Him for the assurance of His support on your way, for the bright prospect of His presence with you now, of a future of which the fairest lot on earth, could it be everlasting, would be but the faintest shadow.

"The news of His birth is good tidings to the rich. To those who pass anxious days and restless nights in the acquisition or the care of wealth, who cling to money as to life, or value it only for ostentation and self indulgence, and yet have some glimmering good will to do better, the contemplation of the Saviour is a blessed one. He will teach you how to expend that which He has entrusted to your care; He will make the task of giving easy and delightful, when you learn that you can give to Him, and for Him, to His Church and His poor. Whether after the lowest rule of His ancient people you give the tenth of your income only to His service; whether your freewill offerings above that portion be more or less, the thought of Him, and your love towards Him, will make those gifts the most delightful part of your expenditure; even if you should become, as the world calls it, poor for His sake who laid aside His glory, and became poor for your—being, in that His poor estate, more like the self-denying rich. For there was no hour of His earthly life in which all things in heaven and all on earth were not at His command. The mightiest king could never have so absolute a power of gratification. Yet how did He use it? For the benefit of others only. He relieved by miracle the wants of the famishing multitude, yet He hungered Himself; He dried the tears of the afflicted, yet sorrowed Himself; He healed all manner of sickness and disease, yet He mitigated not one pain of His own bitter cross and passion.

"The news of His birth is good tidings for the afflicted. He enters into and sympathises with all. 'Behold and see if there were ever any sorrows like unto His sorrows.' In all the anxieties, the pains, the sicknesses we suffer, He is ever by our side, leading us, if so we use His dispensations, to lean more and more on His bosom, to love Him more, leading us nearer to Himself, to our eternal home with Him. In sorrow for sin we have Him as a fellow sufferer. He bore them all. God the Father laid on Him the iniquity of us all, and in each of our special sins He is wounded and sorrows, joining in our consolation when by repentance the pardon is gained.

"Thus ever present, ever sympathising, ever loving, is the blessed Jesus—an Almighty God, whose human birth we this day commemorate. Do we desire, as in spirit we stand by His couch, to obtain some of the privileges of His blessed Virgin Mother? We have the power, and can realise the blessing, even more than she herself could then do; for neither to her, nor to the Apostles, until after His resurrection, was it fully known that He whom in early years it had been her blessed lot to tend was really and truly God. Our offerings, our service and love are rendered with a full belief in that, the fundamental article of the Christian faith.

"He stands at our doors and knocks; if we will open the door he will come in and dwell with us. Open wide your doors, with open arms, and open hearts, receive Him as a member of your families. If pious poor, especially beloved, because that estate He chose for Himself; be it ever so humble a dwelling, He disdains it not; ever so unlearned a family, He will teach you the true wisdom; ever so poor, He will bring comfort in this world and true riches. If pious rich, still invite Him to enter. He will sanctify your riches, and purify your pleasures. As a member of your family, give Him at least the portion of one, and the best beloved of your children; give it to Himself through His Church, and through His poor. And let all, rich or poor, ever remember that while He sympathises in all sorrows, rejoices in all happiness, and looks with approval on all innocent and seasonable rejoicing; He will not consent to dwell with wilful sin, with carelessness, with niggardly greed, with undue self indulgence. 'Even to this man will I look; even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and that trembleth at my word.'"

After the offertory the service concluded with the celebration of the Holy Communion. The audience was unusually large, and comprehended not a few belonging to other Churches in the Town and district

ELGIN.

TOWN COUNCIL.—The ordinary monthly meeting of this body was held on Monday—Provost Russell presiding. There was little business of importance before the meeting. The Academy Committee reported that Mr Hamilton, the classical teacher, had been absent a week without leave from the Council, which they regarded as detrimental to the prosperity of the seminary. It was resolved to notify this to Mr Hamilton. The Cathedral Committee reported that they recommended no change in the scale of fees for digging graves, but suggested that a canvas sheet be obtained for holding the mould, and a box for holding the bones at the graves On the motion of Provost Russell, Walter Ross, labourer, was unanimously appointed grave-digger, in room of Alexander Winchester, resigned, and it was remitted to the Committee to endeavour to obtain the services of Mr Smith, keeper of the Cathedral gate, as superintendent of all funerals within the grounds. After some discussion, it was remitted to Mr Black to get the question of the Feeing Market settled, the resolution of the Council being, that the half-yearly markets he held on the Friday *before* the term days. Mr Nicoll reported that he and Bailie Taylor had collected £9 from Members of Council, to meet the expenses connected with the interdict recently served by the Town Clerk on the Council, regarding the Clerkship. The Council then resolved themselves into a meeting of Road Trustees, when an estimate was accepted from J. & R. Mackenzie, road contractors, Bishopmill, for completing the Ward Road, at 7s the square yard. The whole expense will be about £100. There was no other business before the meeting.

EVENING READINGS.—The second of a series of evening readings, under the auspices of the Elgin Literary and Debating Society, was given in the Concert Hall on Monday evening last—Mr Sheriff Smith in the chair Mr Mitchell, of the Elgin Academy, delivered his second lecture on the "Progress of Civilization Prior to the Reformation," in which he gave a running commentary on the feudal system, up to the eleventh century. The address was listened to with marked attention, and seemed to be well appreciated Mr Findlay, Keith, entertained the audience by an imitation of the harp, solo on the flute with variations, and several comic songs. His rendering of the Scotch song, "Hame cam' our Guidman at e'en," was exquisite. Mr Kerr, inspector of schools, gave a Reading from "Mansie Waugh." Mr Canton, teacher, Reidhaven Street, sang with taste and feeling "Sille Maiden," and "Ah, for many years," accompanied by Herr Noa on the piano These pieces were the composition of Herr Noa. Mr Symmons, inland Revenue, read "Mrs Caudle's Lecture on Buttons," which kept the house in roars of laughter. Mr Canton also gave a reading from "Pickwick." There was a large and highly respectable attendence. Mr Sheriff Smith, in a complementary address, moved a vote of thanks to the various performers for the very amusing and instructive entertainment. Dr Wylie having proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

SALE OF PROPERTY.—The tenement in North Street, Bishopmill, as occupied by Mr Johnston, baker, and others, belonging to the heirs of the late Mr Forsyth, baker, was sold on Saturday last, to Mr George Melvin, grocer, Elgin, at £150 sterling.

SOIREE.—The annual soiree of the Bishopmill Mutual Improvement Society was held, in the old Schoolroom, on the evening of Monday last—Mr James Anderson, watchmaker, in the chair. Several interesting addresses, songs, and recitations were given by members and others. Services of tea, fruit, and cake were liberally served round in course of the evening, and all passed off with the greatest *eclat*.

POLICE COURT.—Evangeline Smith, a young girl about 12 years old, from the South, compeared before Bailie Batchen, on Friday last, on a charge of falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition; and, having pled guilty, she was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment.—Jessie Fraser or Hardie, wife of John Hardie, farmservant, residing at Batchie, in the parish of Elgin, compeared on Monday, charged with stealing several articles of wearing apparel from a house in Philip's Close. She pled not guilty; but, on hearing evidence, the Bailie found the charge proven, and sentenced her to undergo ten days' imprisonment. Margaret Yunie or Dingwall, failed to appear, and her bail of 5s was forfeited.—Charles Macphee also failed to appear and his bail was forfeited.

JURY TRIAL.—On Friday last, John Davidson, a fisherman from Hopeman, was tried before Mr Sheriff Smith and a Jury, on a charge of uttering a certificate of the value of a house belonging to him, with the names of two tradesmen forged thereon, well knowing the same to have been forged, to enable him to get an advance of money from "The Forres, Burghead and Findhorn Permanent Investment Company." The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty as libelled, but recommended him to the leniancy of the court, in consideration of his ignorance, and he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Agent for prosecution—A. G. Allan, P. F. Agent for panel—D. Forsyth, Solicitor.

APPREHENSION.—On Friday last James Munro, a labourer, residing at Dell of Abernethy, was apprehended and brought to Elgin by Constable Macmillan, on a charge of assault with intent, &c., on a girl Clark, in the plantation at Garline, known as Battanaurran. He was same day examined before Mr Sheriff Smith, and committed for trial.

EDINBURGH NEWS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Edinburgh, Monday.

There are some apprehensions entertained here by the timidly-disposed that the Fenians may seek, and find an opportunity for, blowing up the powder magazine in the Castle. As this magazine is the chief store of powder in Scotland, it would, if exploded, lay the Castle and nearly the whole of the city in ruins. There is a talk, which has been kept up intermittently for a long time, of the great danger that there is in keeping such an immense quantity of highly combustible material in the heart of such a large city as Edinburgh, since accident might do what it is so foolishly dreaded the Fenians may attempt. And certainly there is some reason for crying out on account of this. I would humbly suggest to the Government that this great mass of powder ought to be distributed over the forts and fortified castles in Scotland, or, if they must have it in one unassailable stronghold, would not Dumbarton Castle, standing lonely on the shores of the Clyde, answer that description, and do comparatively little damage even if it were accidentally blown up? But let me quit this lugubrious topic.

The Christmas passed off here very quietly. It is not generally recognised as a holiday, although the English influence is making progress in Edinburgh, in this as in everything else But to all outward appearance it was just like any other day. Our theatres, however, have brought forth what they call their "Christmas Pantomimes," which will, as heretofore, keep possession of the boards for at least the six weeks ensuing. The one at the principal theatre has been pronounced rather a failure. Of the others I have not yet heard.

An important course of evening lectures, on the various sciences, has been begun in the Hall of the Industrial Museum. They take place twice a week, and are delivered by Professors of our University and other eminent men. To artizans, shopmen and clerks, the charge is merely nominal. Such is one of the advantages of living in Edinburgh during this winter. The Philosophical Institution has its usual course of lectures twice a week also. These are of a more varied character, including history, biography, criticism, music, philosophy, and, occasionally nonsense. It is, on the whole, a very noble Institution, worthy of the place that gave it birth, and no one here that has time to benefit by its varied stores and appliances—library, reading-room, newsroom, lectures, and classes—should fail to be a member of it, or grudge the guinea, which is the annual subscription.

Speaking of lectures, Mr Melville Bell was in Queen Street Hall on Friday night, discoursing on his famous invention of "Visible Speech," and demonstrating its practicability to the satisfaction and amusement of a numerous audience. Mr Bell, who is now a professor in the University College, London, was doubtless all the more cordially received in Edinburgh as being a townsman. There is not a doubt, I think, but that by this invention he has done great ultimate service to philology; but I fear it will take a long time to make its way into general favour, as everything new and rather difficult of acquirement does; and it can hardly expect ever to be used beyond the bounds of civinization, nor can it in the least supersede the necessity of acquiring modern languages, for the sake of the treasures of knowledge and wisdom which they contain; although it might prove serviceable as regards commerce.

The Oratorio of "Samson" was produced at the Saturday Evening Concerts for the first time in Edinburgh on Saturday se'ennight, and came off well. The "Messiah" was very creditably given on Friday last by the Edinburgh Choral Union—the principal vocal artists being—Miss Edmonds, soprano; Miss Julia Elton, contralto; Mr Wilbye Cooper, tenor; and Signor Foli, bass. We have this beautiful composition presented two or three times every winter, but it never fails to draw a large audience. On the present occasion, Miss Edmonds' rendering of the divine air, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," was perhaps the most highly appreciated of the whole performance. I think that such true taste and feeling as she displayed would, if it were more general, leave nothing to be said by objectors to Oratorio music on the score of its alleged secularising of sacred subjects. It was better surely than a cold logical discourse on the immortality of the soul. But I will not argue the matter.

New Years' Day is a great day in Edinburgh, from the first moment of its existence. The practice of "first-footing"—friends calling on friends from twelve till morning light appears in their eager solicitude to let no time be lost in giving and receiving the congratulations and good wishes of the season—was till lately very commonly observed, and a good many still keep it in remembrance—most y y uths. Wondrous, and numerous as wonderous, are the means at command for making the day one round of pleasure from morning till night; but of these I may speak in my next letter, and meanwhile I conclude by wishing all your readers "A Happy New Year!"

Markets.

LONDON CORN MARKET.—Dec. 30.

The little wheat fresh up from Essex and Kent was cleared at advance of 1s. on this day week. Foreign wheat, rather more inquired after, at full prices of last week. Barley brought fully late quotations. Beans and pease unaltered. Oats 6d. per quarter cheaper. Flour brought extreme prices.

LONDON CATTLE MARKET.—Dec. 30.

Beasts, 3240; sheep and lambs, 19,990; calves, 54; pigs, 360.

PRICES—Beef 3s 0d to 5s 6d; mutton, 3s 4d to 5s 2d; lamb, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; veal, 3s 4d to 6s 0d; pork, 3s 0d to 4s 4d.

ARRIVALS.—French and other Countries' beasts, 380; sheep, 4710; calves, 33; pigs, 30; English beasts, 2417; Scotch do., 193; Irish do., 230.

ABERDEEN GRAIN MARKET—Dec. 27.

	s	D		s	D
Wheat, white	56	0	to	63	0
Barley	34	0	to	36	0
Bere	34	0	to	36	0
Oats	24	0	to	25	0
Oatmeal	22	0	to	23	0
Flour	54	6	to	00	0

BANFF GRAIN MARKET.—Dec. 27.

	s	D		s	D
Common oats (40lb)	25	0	to	25	6
Barley and bigg (54lb)	38	0	to	00	0
Oatmeal (Pure), (140lb)	21	0	to	00	0

ELGIN CORN MARKET.—Dec. 27.

	s	D		s	D
Wheat	65	0	to	66	0
Barley	39	0	to	40	0
Oats	29	0	to	00	0
Flour, per sack	53	0	to	54	0

FORRES GRAIN MARKET.—(Yesterday) Dec. 31

	s	D		s	D
Wheat	65	0	to	00	0
Barley, chevalier	39	0	to	40	0
Barley, common	37	0	to	00	0
Oats	28	0	to	00	0

FORRES PROVISION MARKET—THIS DAY.

	s	D		s	D
Oatmeal, per boll of 10 stones	23	0	to	0	0
" per stone of 14lb	2	4	to	0	0
Butter per lb	0	10	to	0	0
Eggs per dozen	0	10	to	1	0
Four lb loaf—fine	0	8	to	0	9
" " seconds	0	7	to	0	8
Beef, per lb roast and steak	0	7	to	0	9
Do. boiling pieces	0	6	to	0	8
Mutton, gigots and chops	0	6	to	0	8
Do. quarters	0	5	to	0	7

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[Notice of a Birth requires to be given to the Registrar within TWENTY ONE DAYS *after its occurrence; of a Marriage,* THREE DAYS; *of a Death,* EIGHT DAYS. *All Notices sent for publication must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender. The cost of an authorised insertion of a Birth, Marriage, or Death, in this paper is 2s 6d.]*

BIRTHS.

At Beech Cottage, Forres, on the 20th ult., the wife of Mr R. Ross, coachman, of a son.

At 99, Urquhart Street, Forres, on the 8th ult., the wife of Mr A. Macpherson, shoemaker, of a daughter.

At Findhorn, on the 29th ult., the wife of Mr Robt. Macdonald, coast officer, of a son.

At 210, High Street, Elgin, on the 26th ult., the wife of Mr William Grant, quarrier, of a son.

At South Guildry Street, Elgin, on the 24th ult., the wife of John Milne, ironmonger, of a daughter.

At New Elgin, on the 6th ult., the wife of Mr Joseph Forsyth, grocer, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Beech-wood, Lochee, on the 4th ult., by the Rev. David Marshall, the Rev. Archibald B. Connell, M.A., of the U.P. Church, Lochee, to Jessie Methven, widow of the late Wm. M. Priest, Esq., Lochside, Elgin, and youngest daughter of the late David Methven, Esq., Kirckaldy.

At 297, High Street, Elgin, on the 27th ult., by the Rev. Dr Wylie, Mr James Innes Forsyth Robertson, iron-worker, Inverness, to Jane Christina, daughter of Mr John Inch, contractor, Elgin.

At 23, South College Street, Elgin, on the 24th ult., by the Rev. William Trail, South Free Church, Mr William Macdonald, quarrier, to Davina, daughter of the late Mr James Ross, Spynie.

At 15, Dean Terrace, Edinburgh, on the 24th ult., John Somerville, Esq., teacher of Languages, son of the late Rev. Simon Somerville, Elgin, to Helen, eldest daughter of the late Captain, John Grant, H.M. 92nd Regiment.

DEATHS.

At New Forres, on the 23d ult., Barbara Harper, wife of Mr John Fraser, farmer, aged 61 years.

At Burngreen, Forres, on the 27th ult., Mr T. Anderson, crofter, Hill of Burgie, aged 67 years.

At 9, Urquhart Street, Forres, on the 28th ult., Mr Donald Maclaudrish, sawyer, aged 45 years.

At 10, Murdoch's Wynd, Elgin, on the 24th ult., Mr David Davidson, aged 77 years.

At Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on the 23th ult., Mr David Balfour, Longlea, Edinkillie, aged 60.

At Keppleston Cottage, Aberdeen, on the 18th ult., David Shier, Esq., aged 38 years.

At Gordonville, Inverness, on the 26th ult., aged nine years, Jane Mackenzie, eldest daughter of Walter Carruthers, of the *Inverness Courier*.

At Inverness, on the 29th ult., James Macpherson, Esq., solicitor.

TAYLOR'S
RAILWAY & COUNTY HOTEL.
FORRES.

JOHN TAYLOR,

Lessee of the Forres Railway Refreshment-Rooms,

RESPECTFULLY announces that he has OPENED those Elegant, Commodious, and Convenient, Premises, adjoining the Railway Station, as a FIRST-CLASS HOTEL. The house is arranged and Furnished with a primary view to the Comfort of the Travelling Public. Its position admirably adapts it for this, being within Half-a-Minute's Walk of the Railway Platform.

The Rooms are spacious, and Tastefully Furnished, and the Bed-rooms are Light, well Ventilated, and Comfortable. The Hotel is replete with every requisite calculated to ensure universal approval, and, the Proprietor hopes also, universal Patronage,

The Hotel is beautifully situated, having a southern exposure, and ample views of a charming surrounding country.

Rooms can be pre-engaged by Letter or by telegram, and at Forres, where trains all arrive from and depart to South, East, and West at the same hours several times daily, Visitors can have the convience of proceeding direct from the Hotel to the Platform on the arrival of the Train by which they intend to Travel.

Apartments *en suite*, quiet and private, for Families.

On the Forres Market Days, an ORDINARY will be provided; and at all times the most careful attention will be paid to the *Cuisine*.

In the COFFEE-ROOM, on the Right Hand side of the Entrance, TEA, COFFEE, &c., with or without other Viands, will always be in readiness.

TAYLOR'S
RAILWAY & COUNTY HOTEL, FORRES.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS.

Sequestration of George Henry & Son. Merchants, Forres.

THE TRUSTEE HEREBY REQUIRES all parties still INDEBTED to the Estate to pay their several accounts to ROBERT URQUHART, Solicitor in Forres, within fourteen days from this date, failing which, Actions will be raised for recovery of all sums outstanding at the expiry of the said period.

Forres, 30th December, 1867.

THE NAIRN BUN SHOP.

ALEXANDER GRANT,
BAKER AND CONFECTIONER,

EXPRESSES his thanks to his numerous Customers in Town and at a Distance, for the continued Patronage bestowed on him; and will endeavour still to upnold the First-class reputation that his Business has acquired.

BREAD and BISCUITS Made by Machinery.

Special notice directed to the WHOLE MEAL BISCUITS, for Invalids. The great demand for this preparation, both at home and abroad, shows its unsurpassed superiority.

All kinds of CAKES—Bride's, Festival, and Christening—promptly made to Order.

66, HIGH STREET,
NAIRN.

The Forres Family Almanac, for 1868.

THE FORRES FAMILY ALMANAC, for 1868 has just been published, and may be had of the Booksellers, and at the *Gazette* Office—price One Penny.

The Almanac, consisting of 16 pages Demy 8vo, besides an advertising sheet, contains much interesting and instructive matter, and is tastefully illustrated by twelve wood-cuts. A list of the principal Fairs in the North is given, and it is hoped that it will prove useful to Farmers.

Forres, 31st December, 1867.