

Highland Immigration and Highland Hospitality.

GÆLIC CLUB.

It is perhaps strange to say that, while at the present hour so many sons of the Gael are found among the ablest of our merchants and manufacturers, the period is not far remote when scarcely one of the numerous cadets of the Highland clans would have dreamed of taking up his abode in Lowland Glasgow. To confine a Highland gentleman, a couple of centuries ago, to the drudgery of a shop or a counting-house, or what was worse, to that of a workshop or a manufactory, would have been felt a degradation and a punishment never to be submitted to. The chivalrous spirit of the child of "the mountain and the flood," eschewed disdainfully, at that period, the profitable employment of the shuttle, and everything akin to weaverism and chapmanship. He felt no reluctance to sell his sword to a foreign power, but he could not condescend to enrich by his industry his own country. The sentiments which Sir Walter Scott has put into the mouth of Rob Roy, were the opinions formerly entertained and acted upon by many a chieftain of the Highlands; and although some time before the Rob Roy period, which the great novelist so well illustrates, the Eldorado blandishments of trade had begun to attract some of the more energetic sons of the mountain to settle on the banks of the Clyde, it was not till some years after the last Rebellion in favour of the Stuarts, that the scions of the Gael were found seated in the high places of Glasgow society.

About the close of the seventh decade of the eighteenth century—when the successful sons of many Highland clansmen had, by their industry, won

a prominent position among their lowland competitors for fortune or power in Glasgow—a knot of rather remarkable men thought of establishing a Club, on a peculiarly Celtic basis, which has formed a bond of union among them even till this day, and was thus phrased in their first minute,—“To remind them of Ossian, the melodious and noble prince of poets, as well as to converse as friends in the bold and expressive language of heroes in ages past, the Highland gentlemen of Glasgow have resolved to meet stately as a society.”

On the 7th March, 1780, the Gaelic Club was established—its first president being Mr George M'Intosh of Dunchattan, father of the late Mr Charles M'Intosh; and its first secretary the zealous Mr M'Diarmid, the original Gaelic clergyman of Glasgow.* In addition to the hearty bond of similarity of tastes, which kept together the members of this brotherhood, they procured a charter from the Highland Society of London, which, among other privileges conferred on them by their patent, delegated specially to this fraternity the power of awarding the annual prizes given by the London Society at the Tryst of Falkirk for the encouragement of bagpipe music; and during many years, it appears, a committee of the Gaelic Club annually proceeded to that great gathering of men and bestial, to adjudge the valuable medal appropriated for the best pibroch.†

* In 1779, the Town Council voted £50 for re-building the Gaelic chapel.

† In the *Glasgow Mercury*, of 23d October, 1783, we find the following paragraph:—“The competition for the annual prizes given by the Highland Society, for the encouragement of the ancient martial music of Scotland, took place at Falkirk, on Wednesday, the 15th current, under the direction of a committee deputed by the Glasgow branch of the Society, when, after a trial of skill, which lasted from nine in the morning till five in the afternoon, before select judges, and in presence of a very numerous and respectable company assembled on the occasion, the first prize and the bagpipe were adjudged to Neil M'Lean, piper

to Major Campbell of Airds; the second prize to Archibald M'Gregor, fourth son of old M'Gregor; and the third to John M'Gregor, piper to the City Guard of Edinburgh. As soon as the judges and the company had taken their places, the bard, *Mac an Taoir*, was introduced, and pronounced his annual Gaelic poem in praise of the martial music and prowess of the Caledonians; and the whole was concluded with a grand procession to the church-yard of Falkirk, where the victors, at the three competitions, marched thrice round the tombs of the immortal heroes, Sir John Stuart, Sir John the Graham, and Sir Robert Muir, playing the celebrated ‘M'Crimman's Lament,’ in concert, on the prize pipes.”

The original qualification for becoming a member of the Gaelic Club was, that the individual should be a Highlander, either by birth or connexion. Another requisite was, that he should be able to speak the Erse, or be the descendant of Highland parents, the possessor of landed property in the Highlands, or an officer in a Scots or Highland regiment. These conditions were perhaps very necessary, when it is mentioned, that among the standing rules of the fraternity, when first established, it was a law that the Club should meet on the first Tuesday of every month, in Mrs Scheid's tavern—then a first-rate house in the Trongate—at the hour of seven at night, and that the members were “to converse in Gaelic, according to their abilities, from seven till nine.” In the progress of time, it may be easily supposed that those original regulations were departed from, and that, although the claim for membership was restricted to the applicant's ability to count kin with some Highland relative, the chance of his admission into what soon became a most aristocratic brotherhood, would depend more on his position in society, and on his connexion with the leading members who governed it, than on anything peculiarly Celtic in himself. Alas! how guiltless are the Highland gentlemen of the present day of the tongue which was at first the chief link of their union and cordiality!

From the very full and interesting Minutes of the Gaelic Club, which narrate the transactions of the brotherhood from 1780 down even to the present day, we find that, during the first ten years of the existence of the fraternity, the meetings were both regular and numerous; and that to add to the hilarity of their entertainments, they in 1784 appointed Neil M'Lean to be piper to the Club, allowing him five shillings every evening that he touched his chanter for their amusement. But scarcely four years had run their course before a successor appears to have been nominated, named M'Kechern, who, besides the usual fee of five shillings, enjoyed the advantages of a coat, bonnet, and kilt, every two years. Again, with the view of characterising the assembly by some ostensible marks of the Gael, it was agreed that each member should henceforth

appear, at all stated meetings, in a tartan short-coat, under a penalty, for non-compliance, of the usual punishment of the day, viz., the cost of a bottle of rum, which, being translated into coin, sounded something like eight shillings sterling. And further, to encourage those who might love to sport the habiliments of their earlier years, it was enacted, "that those who chose to appear in any additional particulars of the Highland dress, would be considered still more meritorious members of the Society of the descendants of the Clans of Caledonia."*

During the ten years above alluded to, the regular meetings of the Club, from November till April, were monthly; but it held only two meetings from April till November—summer emigration being then, as now, a characteristic of Glasgow society and a foe to all Club assemblages. Wednesday was then the day on which the Club met, and was chosen as being a blank post-day to London, showing that a letter, at that not very distant date, took three days to perform its journey from Glasgow to the metropolis!

Of all the social fraternities of the City, there never existed one which gave more palpable proofs of a spirit of hospitality than the Gaelic Club. While Glasgow through its private circles was never wanting in attention to strangers, it is only just to say, that in her public capacity she has done absolutely nothing; and while many of the leading cities of England have, through their several municipalities, given substantial proofs of the known hospitality of Old England, by inviting every remarkable stranger who might visit their locality, to some tangible expression of their admira-

* It is perhaps curious to state, that at a very early period there was a regular town piper elected and paid by the Corporation. The following is a minute of the Town Council on this subject, dated 3d April, 1675:—"The said day the Magistrates and Counsel being convened. In answer to the desyre and supplicatione given in be John M'Claine, pypper, craving to be admitted as the townes minstrell, they have given and granted, and

hereby gives and grants to him that office, as common pypper or minstrell within the said burgh, ordaining him heirby to goe throw the toune every day, morning and evning, or at such tymes the Magistrates sall appoynt, using his office, for quhillk they are to pay him yearlie during his service thereintill, the sowme of one hundredth marks Scots money, at twa termes," &c.

tion for him as a statesman, scholar, soldier, or philanthropist, it has been the general practice of the members of our municipality to show any little attention they did show—to themselves, and scarcely any to strangers. Perhaps this peculiarity may be attributed more to the poverty of the public purse than to any unwillingness on the part of those who, for the moment, held the purse-strings—in short, to decline to do collectively in the Town Hall what individually they were always ready to perform at home. If the Corporation, even amid Toryism and self-election, was in this respect chary in showing attention to strangers, the Gaelic Club was most liberal and free, particularly towards the brave defenders of their country; for, whenever any kilted corps took up their residence in our City, the officers were sure of being invited to the hospitable board of the Gaelic Club, and thereafter, through this very influential brotherhood, were introduced to the best society of Glasgow.

The first important entertainment which we find in the records, as given by the Gaelic Club, was on the 2d January, 1788, when Colonel Forbes and his corps were quartered in the City.

The next great public dinner of the Club was given to the 42d Highlanders, or Black Watch, in the year 1792; on which occasion, no effort on the part of the entertainers was spared to convince their guests that Highland hospitality could be shown even in Lowland Glasgow. Although this gallant corps had not yet attained the high pitch of renown to which, by its deeds of bravery, it was soon elevated, it must never be forgotten that it was then composed of men who felt that their fathers, amid their rocky fastnesses, had always successfully stemmed the inroads of advancing foes; and that, though other portions of the island had become at times the prey of the conqueror, the glens of the Highlands had never been polluted by the foot of a foreign aggressor. Besides, if the “Old Black Watch” had not yet won their red feather, they had at least shown enough to convince the most sceptical, that if ever the bonnet and the plaid should be called into the field of fight, it would be scarcely possible for any opponent, however brave, to offer an effectual resistance to *Clann*

nan Gael a qualibh a cheile. (The children of the Gael—shoulder to shoulder.)*

While the Gaelic Club was thus, in its early days, peculiarly attentive to the brave defenders of their country, they were, at the same time, by no means blind to the beauty of their fair compatriots. With a spirit of gallantry worthy of imitation by other brotherhoods of the community, the Gaelic Club gave their first ball and supper on the 7th March, 1792, when there appears to have been present twenty-nine members, ten stranger gentlemen, and forty-five ladies—making a party in all of eighty-four individuals. The company were invited to meet at seven o'clock, and were provided with tea, coffee, and cards. Dancing immediately succeeded, to the stirring music of “M'Lachlan and his Bass,” the best and only orchestra of the City for such parties. As a regular hot supper was put on the table precisely at ten o'clock, and as this could only be done in the large room devoted to the dance, it was after this ball resolved, in the event of any future entertainment being given of the same kind, “that a collation should be laid out in an adjoining room, whither the company might retire *in sets*, or small parties, in the course of the evening, leaving to all the liberty of quitting the ball-room and going decently home at any time one might think fit.” The fact was, the formal supper, conducted as it had been on this occasion, was found to have been attended with great delay, and moreover “exposed the company to cold *while*

* The original *Reicindan Dhu*, or “Black Watch,” was a corps of provincial militia, whose duty it was to protect the lives and properties of the Scottish people from distant plunderers. The corps was wholly composed of Highlanders, and was supported by an impost, which, if not sanctioned by Act of Parliament, was at least levied by custom and local institution. It was, however, ex-torted in a manner no less compulsory than the more private contribution of “black mail.” The independent companies of this said “Black Watch,” about the year 1730, from the celebrity they acquired, became

regular troops, receiving regular pay, and were the origin of the gallant 42d Regiment, which was known for a long time as the “Highland Watch.” At the period of their being made regular soldiers, many of them were of a higher station in society than that from which soldiers in general are raised, being cadets of gentlemen's families, sons of gentlemen-farmers and tacksmen; and in addition to the advantages derived from their superior rank of life, they possessed, in an eminent degree, that of a commanding external deportment.

the table was covering." How refreshing to modern hearts to think of the simplicity of our grandfathers and grandmothers, who thus, in the same apartment, wound up the reel and the country dance with a wing or leg of a warm roasted turkey, or some equally substantial restorative; and when the whole, too, was washed down with hearty libations of mulled port and hot toddy! The alteration proposed to take place was also urged on the score of the company getting more quickly home than they seem to have been able to do, when, rising all at once from the table, they could not find sufficient sedan chairs, the then only practical mode of transit for a lady from one part of the town to another.* What a change has taken place, in this respect, since the first Gælic ball, and especially since the first *noddy* was launched by M'Intosh in Dunlop-street! And what an insight does this fashionable party give us into the less showy, but mayhap more friendly, manners and habits of the Glasgow beau monde, during the last decade of the last century, compared with the present late hours and their heartless accompaniments!

Up to the year 1798, the Gælic Club appears to have held its monthly and anniversary meetings under the roof-tree of several hostelries in the City. After leaving Mrs Scheid's, where it is supposed the Celtic tongue was alone generally spoken, it seems to have next gone to Mrs M'Donald's, and there continued till 1794, when it removed its sittings to Hemming's Hotel. It was in the Star Hotel that the anniversary of 1798 took place; and it was at this meeting, of the 7th March, that the old Gælic Club was formally dissolved, and a new one organised, with amended rules and regulations, making it a preliminary step to membership that each person admitted must be a member of the Highland Society of Glasgow.† It

* In olden times sedan chairs were very numerous. Their bearers wore blue cloaks and carried lanterns, ladies having no other means of being conveyed in wet weather to church, or, when in full dress, to assemblies, concerts, theatres, and dinner or supper parties.

† The Glasgow Highland Society was first established in 1727; and in 1750 the regulations for conducting its affairs were approved of by the Magistrates and Council. The exclusive object of this very benevolent institution is the education and clothing of Highland boys and girls, and putting them

was also a rule that all future meetings should take place in the Black Bull Inn, that being the property of the Highland Society; and that, in the election of members, two black balls should exclude an applicant.

The Club thus newly constituted held its first meeting on the 11th July, 1798, on which occasion a splendid turtle, presented to the Club by Mr Alexander Campbell of Hallyards, attracted a powerful assemblage of the fraternity around the comfortable board of the Black Bull Inn.* By the new Club there was also elected a new piper, who, it appears, required other *considerations* on taking office than the mere salary and Highland toggery formerly given; for, according to the minute of Angus Mackay's election, we find this important piece of good fortune prepared for the piper, "that the married men present promised to recommend him to their ladies as a good grocer!" And well they might do so, for not very long after his appointment, Angus became one of the most marked and celebrated characters of the fraternity. In port and appearance he was the very beau-ideal of a Highland piper; to his artistic talent of pressing the bag and fingering the chanter, he united the bold bearing of an ancient chieftain, and a strutting pace which spoke aloud of conscious supremacy over all musical mortals, especially when marching around the board of the Gaelic Club! Long did this happy interpreter of Celtic strains continue his vocation, but at length, one evening after fulfilling

out to trades. The number of children at school in January 1854 was 703 day scholars, exclusive of evening scholars, both making a total little short of one thousand.

* Mr Alexander Campbell, like many others of the same name who have "come out of the Highlands," was the architect of his own fortune; having, through unwearied activity, high probity, and great mercantile ability, raised himself to the head of one of those leading West India houses which were at that period in the ascendant in Glasgow. At the time he presided at the entertainment alluded to, he was justly regarded as one of

the leaders of the then dominant sugar aristocracy, which has in its turn resigned the supremacy to other more modern enterprises. To individualize the many *Campbells* who belonged even to the Gaelic Club was no easy matter, and many forms of doing so were adopted. One was called after his sire's property, another after his own, a third after his father's farm; others according to the colour of their hair, or the peculiarity of their form; while a worthy gentleman received his sobriquet from the circumstance of having at one time exhibited so anxious a desire to dispose of a ship as to have put up the common sale emblem not upon *one* but on *two* masts!

his usual duties, he left the Club-room with his pipes under his arm, and before he reached the end of the adjoining corridor he expired! Angus Mackay may be truly said, therefore, to have died in harness—the last breath which he ever emitted having been poured into his bagpipe!*

Into the newly-organised management of the Club, an increasing love of good eating and good fellowship appears to have entered. Turtle feasts followed each other in regular succession; the most remarkable being that given on the 18th July, 1799, when no fewer than thirty-five, including many distinguished strangers, sat down to their calipee and calipash, and did not rise from table till the whole was washed down with many hours' uninterrupted flow of that universal beverage yecept "Glasgow punch," manufactured of the best rum, with lemons or limes, and by one of the most experienced makers of the day. The party which encircled the board of the Gaelic Club on that occasion may be said to have been the elite of Glasgow society, and gave a prestige to its position, as a social fraternity, which rendered its future membership particularly desirable. In 1800 the members belonging to the Gaelic Club numbered forty-one; but as years ran on, the numbers became more and more restricted, till in 1805 they were reduced to thirty.

With the commencement of the new century, a novelty appears to have been introduced, in the dress to be worn by the members of the Club on their days of meeting; for, by a resolution adopted in 1802, it was decreed that henceforward the dress should be a short tartan coat of

* Angus Mackay was piper to the Glasgow Highland Volunteers; and when that corps was sent on permanent duty to Linlithgow, he so enamoured the authorities with the music of his chanter, that he soon after became the town piper of that burgh, and continued to perform the regular municipal duties of the office till his death, coming only to Glasgow at the meetings of the Gaelic Club. He was a great favourite with all strangers who during his time encircled the Gaelic table; and it is stated that he particu-

larly took the fancy of the late lamented Colonel L. Maule, when, as Captain of the 79th, and a guest of the fraternity, he encountered the piper. The truth is, Angus Mackay became so much petted, and, as it were, so much a part and portion of the club, by having so long contributed to its amusement, that the members got the likeness of the piper taken in the full paraphernalia of his office, and which effigy has ever since ornamented the wall of the Gaelic Club-room.

the plaid of the 42d Regiment, with a green velvet collar, and gilt buttons, and the inscription "*Cormin nan Gael.*" The coat, too, was to be cut to a particular shape, as shown by a model chosen by Mr M'Gilvra. With the coat was to be worn a plain white Marseilles quilting or kerseymer waistcoat, while the lower integuments were to be either tartan trews or a kilt, with the usual accompaniments of the hose and sporan. A fine of half-a-crown was imposed on every member who appeared at any meeting without this uniform.

During the stirring period of our national history which intervened between the short peace of Amiens and the close of the French war, when Glasgow had its barracks filled with troops, who had either learned or were learning the art of war, the Gaelic Club was ever and anon showing their hospitality to the sons of Mars, and particularly to those who boasted the philabeg and plaid.* Among the most celebrated of these entertainments, we may mention a splendid turtle feast, given by the brotherhood, on the 3d September, 1803, to Colonel M'Alister, on his taking the command of the Glasgow Highland Volunteers, which was presided over by Mr George M'Intosh, and honoured by the presence of the then Lord Provost Craigie. Another was given on 20th January, 1804, to the Duke of Montrose, when commanding in, Glasgow, the Stirlingshire Militia, on which occasion several of the members danced the Highland fling to the music of the pipes, and showed "a dexterity and grace that even astonished the Highland nobleman!" Again, on the 13th February, 1805, the Club entertained the officers of the 5th North British Militia, then commanded by the Earl of Caithness, whose daughter was soon after married in Glasgow, and became the leader of all fashionable parties in

* I shall never forget the fun which, during my boyhood, my companions and myself had in witnessing the daily drilling of the new-caught Highlanders on the low Green, or the pity we felt for the cruel usage of the poor fellows by the cane-wielding sergeants or corporals who were putting them through their facings. No doubt some of them were

stupid enough, and what was worse, it was their misfortune to comprehend but indifferently the English word of command, so much so that it was found absolutely necessary to chalk their left feet, and instead of crying out, when marching, "left—right," the common call was "*caukit foot foremost!*"

the City. But by far the most celebrated *mangiare* ever given by the Club—and it is the last to which we would refer—was that given on the 11th November, 1816, to the officers of the 42d Highlanders, being the second pledge of hospitality offered by the Celtic fraternity to this distinguished corps. During the four-and-twenty years which had elapsed since the Highland Watch had joined in bumpers to the “Horn, corn, wool, and yarn” Gaelic toast, at the hospitable board of the Club, the regiment had been engaged in many a bloody and glorious conflict. In Egypt they had testified to the *vincibility* of the French *Invincibles*; in the Peninsula they had gained many honourable *clasps*; and in the summer of the preceding year they had, at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, won imperishable honours. No wonder, therefore, that we find it to have been the unanimous opinion of the members of the Gaelic Club, that a more than ordinary mark of respect was due to “the Standard of the Royal Highlanders, in acknowledgment of their national attachment, and of the high sense which each member entertained of the military glory early acquired and maintained by a series of gallant achievements, down to the last most brilliant service at Waterloo.” On this resolution and opinion, the dinner was given, and £20 out of the general fund voted to supplement the amount to be paid by the members present. The chair was filled by Mr Kirkman Finlay, the then Member of Parliament; and although this well-known gentleman bore no Celtic name, yet, from having become the laird of Toward, in Argyleshire, he had the best of all titles for presiding over the Gaelic Club, and his qualifications for the office were of no ordinary kind. Perhaps no man, in mercantile Glasgow, ever possessed so many of the characteristics of a first-class merchant. His intimate knowledge of all matters connected with the proper management of home as well as foreign transactions, placed him in the front rank of his western contemporaries in trade, and on a level with those of the most distinguished in the British metropolis. He was, in fact, an acknowledged authority in all commercial matters in Glasgow, and was not unfrequently consulted by the Government

itself.* Under his presidency, twenty members turned out to welcome the gallant soldiers who had been invited, of whom twenty-three were present, with the addition of Colonel Campbell of the 40th. The dinner seems to have gone off with great éclat, and with a spirit worthy of the object which the entertainers had in view. After each had quaffed from his own *slige-chreachainn* a fair quantum of the generous juice of the vine, the glorious punch-bowl, redolent of everything exciting, was introduced, and oft and again was its voluminous interior replenished. To add to the hilarity with which the delicious libations dedicated to every possible sentiment of loyalty and patriotism that could be dreamed of were given, the band of the regiment, alternately with the Club piper, took up the martial theme; and although at first the former seemed to have been decidedly preferred, still, as the night wore on, and as the glasses became emptied, it was plain that long before the *deoch-an-doruis* was pledged, the bagpipes had become the favourite.†

* Mr Kirkman Finlay was born in Glasgow about the year 1772, and for half a century was known throughout the commercial world as one of the most enterprising and active of British merchants. Endowed with peculiar personal activity, and a well-cultivated and well-balanced mind, he, on the breaking up of the old tobacco trade, at once extended the name and commerce of Glasgow to the farthest corners of the civilised globe. No individual certainly did more to destroy the monopoly of the East India Company; and no sooner was the trade with the East opened up to free competition than he despatched a vessel of 600 tons to Calcutta, being the first ship ever sent direct from Scotland to India. Mr Finlay's opinions on matters of trade were entitled to the highest consideration, and were frequently quoted by his friend Mr Huskisson in the House of Commons. In 1812 he was elected Lord Provost of the City, and in a few days thereafter was chosen Member of Parliament for the Clyde district of burghs. His return was a very popular one, and, amid many enthusiastic rejoicings at his success, he was drawn by his fellow-

citizens in an open carriage from the Town Hall to his house in Queen-street. In a subsequent Parliament he sat for the burgh of Malmesbury; and in 1819 he was elected Lord Rector of the Glasgow University. With almost every one of the charitable and public institutions of Glasgow, Mr Finlay was connected; and it may be truly affirmed, that for a long series of years he lent his helping hand actively and personally to every well-digested scheme for the improvement of the City. After thus pursuing a most energetic and useful life, he died on the 6th March, 1842, at Castle-Toward, which he had built on the estate purchased with the fruits of his industry. A marble statue of Mr Finlay, by Gibson, has been placed on the staircase leading to the Merchants' Hall, Hutcheson-street.

† That this was the fact appears certain from the following extract from the Club Minutes:—"While the band appeared at first to be decidedly preferred, still, as *judgment ripens* by experience, intrinsic worth is seldom permitted to remain long unnoticed, for, *late in the evening*, the bagpipe became the favourite."

If the history of this Club is one of constant hospitality to military strangers, it is also certain that it has proved itself the no less kind caterer for the amusement of the ladies of Glasgow. We have already hinted at the first ball which was given by the fraternity, in 1792, and which, perhaps, more than anything else, gives an insight into the precise condition of the past society of Glasgow. At the commencement of a new century, however, the efforts of the brotherhood to offer amusement to their fair countrywomen seem to have been increasing. A grand ball was given on 7th March, 1806, the anniversary of the Club, when the company, amounting to 110 ladies and gentlemen, assembled in the Tontine Hotel, not as now at the late hour of ten o'clock, but at the more reasonable hour of seven. At this seasonable hour the dance was opened with the reel of Tullochgorum; and, with reel and country dance, the floor was never left vacant till midnight chimed from the adjoining Cross steeple, when—with a *skirl* as loud as ever roused the Sassanach from his slumbers—the piper, with the highest pressure on his bag, announced that an elegant entertainment—consisting of all the delicacies of the season, the choicest fruits and confectionery which could then be obtained from “Baxter’s Italian Warehouse,” and wines worthy of the cellars of the Duke of Importance or of Provost Hamilton—was laid out in the Coffee-room, which was splendidly decorated and lighted for the occasion. At the roast-beef pibroch from the pipes, the whole party left the dancing-hall and proceeded to the refectory, where, after the accustomed clang of knives and forks, the usual Highland toasts were given with the usual Highland accompaniments; these finished, the dancing recommenced and continued till early dawn.

Another ball was given on 9th March, 1812, in the Assembly-rooms, the numbers being increased to 160; and what is more noticeable, the hour of meeting had stretched out to nine o'clock, showing what even six short years could do towards changing the fashionable habits of a city. Of the other splendid balls which have been successively given by the Club, it is only necessary to say, that each surpassed its predecessor in numbers

and brilliance; while the last—which took place on 24th January, 1841, and at which, being a fancy ball, there were consequently displayed the costumes of all nations—has ever been remembered and talked of, as the most splendid that ever took place in the western metropolis.* The only regret expressed by those who really love the joyous hilarity of the dance, is the fear that the Gaelic Club may have adopted the too prevalent idea of the present day in Glasgow—that the conduct of David, King of Israel, in the eyes of Michal, was a sin!

So much for the hospitality and kindness of the fraternity whose history we have been attempting thus slightly to sketch.† Let us now for a moment allude to the heartfelt interest which the members took in each other's welfare. Nowhere has a brotherhood been united to each other by more friendly ties, or felt greater sorrow when these ties were snapped by death. It is, alas! too true, that clubs, like communities, are, in the course of years, subject to many changes; but, although the Celtic brotherhood was established as early as 1780, it does not appear that it lost any one of its members by death till 12th November, 1800, when the minutes mention that the brethren attended that meeting with a black crape round the left arm, as a mark of respect for the memory of Mr James Campbell and Mr Alexander M'Pherson, who had just paid the debt of nature. On the anniversary dinner, too, of 7th March, 1804, the Club appeared in full mourning, as a token of respect towards the memory of Mr M'Gilvra, the father of the Club. On this occasion, the meeting appears to have been both numerous and highly respectable—the chair being occupied by Mr Kirkman Finlay, who, with deep feeling, proposed the memory of their departed brother and friend. After each

* The following are the dates of the balls which were given by the Club since 1831:—

24th April, 1831.....	160 persons present.
25th March, 1835.....	250 “
7th March, 1838.....	275 “
24th March, 1841.....	300 “

† We must not forget to mention, that the

Club did not restrict itself to mere tokens of hospitality, but opened its purse for other objects; the latest instance of its generous benevolence being the gift of one hundred pounds to the Glasgow contribution of £18,000 raised for the widows and orphans of our brave army now in the Crimea.

member had quaffed his glass in solemn silence, and the Club piper had poured out a solemn lament, Mr George M'Intosh, the old and intimate friend of the deceased, rose, and after saying a few words in testimony of the singularly amiable character of his departed companion, concluded his touching oration in the following rather remarkable words:—"The father of the Club—the oldest in years—the gayest in all juvenile and innocent amusements—the first in the dance—the last to part with a social friend. His venerable countenance and grey locks created respect, while his cheerful good humour diffused mirth. In all his dealings and conversation he was strictly just and honourable; in religion and piety sincere. We have lost one of our best members, and many poor Highlanders their best friend." With those concluding sentiments, he proposed the following toast:—

"May we all live in health and comfort to the age of *Calum*;
And when we cease to be members, may we be regretted like *Calum*."

Among many others, whose decease, during the long career of this remarkable Club, called forth tokens of sorrow on the part of the members, we shall only allude to Mr George M'Intosh, one of the originators of the Club. On the Sunday immediately following the demise of that highly-esteemed gentleman and citizen, the Club, as a body, went in deep mourning to St Andrew's church, accompanied by the Magistrates and the Directors of the Highland Society, and preceded by the charity boys belonging to the Society, to hear a funeral sermon preached by Dr William Ritchie; who, on that solemn occasion, in the just and tasteful panegyric which he pronounced on the character of the departed Celt, found a sympathetic echo in every listener's breast.*

* Mr George M'Intosh, the chief founder of the Gaelic Club, was born at Newmore, in Ross-shire, in the year 1737. Being the fourth son of a farmer in that northern county, he cannot be supposed to have been, in his earlier years, in the possession of much wealth or of very brilliant prospects; and we accordingly find that, on his removal

to Glasgow, he, as a very young man, was employed as a clerk in a concern known by the name of the "Glasgow Tan-work Company." In 1773 he separated himself from this company, and soon became a formidable rival in one branch of its business, viz. shoe-making, employing nearly 500 men. About this time, Mr M'Intosh was engaged in a

Among the many topics of interest which from time to time attracted the attention of the Gælic Club, peculiarly connected with the native language and mountain manners of Caledonia, there appears to have been none that excited more discussion and more difference of opinion than the Gælic toast of "Horn, corn, wool, and yarn." As a means of better clearing up the difficulties which surrounded this rather occult subject, the late Mr Robert Dennistoun—then a zealous member of the brotherhood—drew out a statement which, in a great measure, set the matter at rest, and by which he won for himself not a little fame. In this document, which is given at full length in the minutes of the Club, his accurate acquaintance with the niceties of the Gælic tongue is at once illustrated and proved; while there is displayed throughout the paper a highly critical appreciation of the genius of that difficult language. To

glass-making concern, and in the West India trade. In 1777 he commenced the manufacture of a dye-stuff called "cudbear," which he carried on to a great extent. In 1785 he, with Mr David Dale, established, under the direction of M. Papillon of Rouen, a Turkey-red dye-work, at Dalmarnock on the Clyde; and here the first Turkey-red was dyed in Great Britain. The copartnery continued till 1803, when the works were disposed of to other parties. In 1797, when apprehensions were entertained of a French invasion, Mr M'Intosh made an offer to the Magistrates of Glasgow to raise a volunteer corps of Highlanders. The Magistrates voted him thanks, but declined his offer, seemingly under the impression that it might, if accepted, interfere with the formation of the 2d Regiment of Glasgow Volunteers, then being raised. In 1791 Mr M'Intosh established a cotton-mill and a weaving-factory on the Frith of Dornoch, in Sutherlandshire. In 1803 these works contained about 6000 spindles; and from 80 to 100 weavers were located in the village. Want of success obliged the concern to dispose of the works, which were soon thereafter destroyed by fire. While Mr M'Intosh was thus employing his time as an ener-

getic merchant and manufacturer, we find that about the year 1794 he embarked with extraordinary zeal and success in raising recruits in Glasgow for the king's service; and in this respect he was very instrumental in filling the ranks of the Gordon Highlanders, and of the 133d (then commanded by Colonel Simon Fraser), of the 78th, and of the North Lowland Fencibles. After the peace of Amiens, and when war again broke out with France, Mr M'Intosh was once more at his post, and was speedily successful in raising a battalion, 700 strong, called the "Glasgow Highland Volunteers," but which, from never having been in the army, he declined to command. In 1804 the Canadian Fencibles, when stationed in Glasgow, having mutinied, General Wemyss made application to Mr M'Intosh to interfere; and he having hastened among the soldiery, and addressed them in their native tongue, the soldiers, electrified by his Gælic address, instantly returned to their quarters and resumed their duty. Mr M'Intosh, about this period, took a deep interest in City affairs, and became the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; but while thus busied in mercantile pursuits and many benevolent objects, he was called

the lovers of Celtic literature, its perusal cannot fail to be both pleasing and instructive. But, in spite of all the enthusiasm displayed by those who have attempted, or may still attempt, to perpetuate the tongue of Ossian, it is to be feared that all future exertions on this score are destined to prove a failure. Against the steam-boat, penetrating every Highland loch, and carrying along with it the language and manners of the Sassenach, it is vain for the modern Celt to contend; and although we are far from discountenancing, but would rather encourage national characteristics, as a means of inspiring and keeping alive the spirit of emulation among the mixed tribes of which this and many other nations are made up, still, it is to be dreaded that ere the lapse of this daily-changing century, the Scottish Gaelic may have shared the same fate as that of the Cornish or Waldensian!

Patient reader! we have now attempted to give thee a few of the

to make a journey to England, in the summer of 1807, on returning from which he was seized at Moffat with inflammation, and there expired on the 26th July of that year. Among the men to whom Glasgow is indebted for its onward progress, there are few who have surpassed Mr George M'Intosh in activity, public spirit, and beneficence. The acts of his life showed that business, carried on for the acquisition of wealth, is perfectly consistent with beneficence; and that commerce, conducted by a liberal mind, capable of applying science to the practical purposes of life, opens a field for exhibiting with advantage all that is virtuous and worthy of praise. He was pious, without ostentation and without fanaticism. In the eloquent words of Dr Ritchie, we may add that "the bigotry of prejudice, the gloom of superstition, the contempt of those who adopted modes of worship different from him, never disgraced his creed, never soured his temper, never polluted his conversation. In him, piety was combined with charity, and the love of God with the love of his neighbour." Mr M'Intosh, at an early age, married Miss Mary Moore, daughter of the Rev. Charles Moore, and sister of Dr

John Moore, the author of "Zeluco," and consequently the aunt of Sir John Moore. His son, Mr Charles M'Intosh, who was born in Glasgow in 1776—an equally worthy member of the Gaelic Club—did also much for the manufactures of his native City. In 1796 he introduced the making of sugar-of-lead; and in 1797 established the first alum-work in Scotland at Hurler, and thereafter at Campsie. In 1799 he patented, with Mr Charles Tennant, the chloride of lime, which the latter had discovered, and which they carried on, as a manufacture, with great success. He discovered the process for rendering any sort of fabric waterproof, and which has since been carried on, particularly at Manchester, to a great extent; and, in fine, in 1823, among many other valuable improvements, he discovered a process for converting iron into steel, by submitting it in a close vessel to the action of carbonated hydrogen gas. For Mr M'Intosh's services to science, the Royal Society of London elected him a Fellow in 1823. His son George, four years after his father's death, which took place in 1843, printed and privately distributed a limited number of copies of memoirs of his life.

more striking points in the history of a fraternity, which has stood the test of a seventy years' existence, with honour to itself and with benefit to the community. For, while the Gaelic Club has exhibited in its onward course the evidence of a well-conducted and highly respectable knot of Highland gentlemen, proud of their lineage, of their Alpine country, and of their Highland usages, it, at the same time, has shown a degree of hospitality and kindness towards their brave countrymen and fair friends unexampled by any other of the many social brotherhoods of Glasgow.*

Long may the Club continue their sittings, whether in philabeg or trews, either for their own special gratification, or for that of those on whom they bestow so much hearty kindness! And, while we say this for themselves and their encouragement, we would likewise, in the name of the fair girls of Glasgow, earnestly plead for such another ball as that which, in 1841, displayed so much grace and beauty, and excited such general satisfaction.

With these cordial wishes would we now—under fear of encroaching any longer on thy patience, kind reader, take the advice of our old friend, the author of "Whistlebinkie," as we would also advise the Gaelic Club to do when the Club-room is small—"put the pipes in the poek!"

* One of the members was so proud of his Celtic origin, that, on one occasion, he exclaimed, in the hearing of the fraternity, "I thank God that there is not a single drop of

Lowland blood in my veins!" On hearing which, Mr Samuel Hunter, who happened to be present, at once rejoined, "You are certainly thankful for sma' mercies!"