



ELECTRICCANADIAN.COM
AGRICULTURE & WILDLIFE
ARTICLES
BETH'S FAMILY TREE
BOOKS
BUSINESS
CHILDREN'S STORIES
CLANS & FAMILIES

CULTURE & LANGUAGE
DONNA'S PAGE
ELECTRICSCOTLAND.NET
FAMOUS SCOTS
FAMILYTREE
FORUMS
FOOD & DRINK
GAMES

GAZETTEER
GENEALOGY
HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORY
HUMOR
JOHN'S PAGE
KIDS
LIFESTYLE
MUSIC

NEWSLETTER
PICTURES
POETRY
POSTCARDS
RELIGION
ROBERT BURNS
SCOTS IRISH
SCOTS REGIMENTS
SERVICES

SHOPPING
SONGS
SPORT
SCOTS DIASPORA
TARTANS
TRAVEL
TRIVIA
VIDEOS
WHATS NEW

HELP TERMS OF USE CONTACT US

Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for May 27th, 2016

To see what we've added to the Electric Scotland site view our What's New page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/whatsnew.htm>

To see what we've added to the Electric Canadian site view our What's New page at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/whatsnew.htm>

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/>

Electric Scotland News

I have been saying for a while now that Scotland needs a new political party and to that end I note the SDA is looking to launch their vision for Scotland. They are also actively seeking new members to join their ranks and help build a new vision for Scotland. To that end I thought I'd provide a copy of their manifesto for you to read...

Scottish Democratic Alliance (SDA) Our Manifesto

About the SDA

The Scottish Democratic Alliance (SDA) is a political party and think tank dedicated to researching and evolving the future governance of Scotland. We want to see grass roots democracy in Scotland – a Scotland where the ultimate power of decision rests with the Scottish people. We apply the same principle to the SDA's members, who have a full say on policies and all party matters.

The Big Picture

The SDA supports the idea that sovereignty and independence are inseparable. It therefore stands for constitutional independence for Scotland within a confederal relationship with Scotland's neighbours, including the Republic of Ireland. There will still be many issues that will have to be agreed by consensus across the entire archipelago. This Friends and Neighbours policy has its roots in both domestic and international conditions, for we live in an era of upheaval, of drastic change, and the ongoing need to manage local cross-border functions through cooperation between individual sovereign states.

We must adapt to the times, and the present method of governing our country, even after devolution, is not providing us with adequate means to do so. We have to work within a system of European and global cooperation, including cooperation within the archipelago of the British Isles, but we still need the full and ultimate power of decision making on our own affairs in the light of the conditions that prevail within Scotland, and in the world surrounding us.

Geographically and climatically, Scotland is a distinctively Scandinavian country located on the north-eastern Atlantic seaboard, a factor that has a wide-ranging influence on economic, social and other government policies. It cannot be adequately governed by a set of rules devised in the first instance for the very different conditions of southern England or central Europe.

The SDA, while recognising the need to work within the new and expanding framework in which regional and global processes are managed, is determined that Scotland's needs and interests are going to be upheld and protected internationally, and that the concerns of ordinary citizens are not going to be submerged or ignored within the new international political and economic system.

The SDA Strategy

The SDA's statement of its policies on its website is presented in two forms: firstly a succinct summary intended for the general reader (Our Vision); and then an in-depth presentation (Policies) aimed at those readers who require more detailed and specific

information on the lines of policy the SDA proposes to follow.

We do not indulge in empty slogans and wild generalisations, but our policies are always subject to updating in the light of changed circumstances, and in some cases are still in the course of initial development. There is still work to be done, and plenty of scope for new expert talent among our membership.

The SDA offers a vision of a Scotland quite distinct from its current persona. In old-fashioned political parlance, the SDA promotes policies, some of which could be termed 'right' and others that could be seen as 'left'. In doing so it offers the chance of a second Enlightenment to Scots with the imagination to consider new ways of governing a modern community as an organic whole unencumbered by the 300 years of feudal society and privilege that is now rapidly destroying the United Kingdom.

Since we live in an already globalised world, the SDA has the necessary know-how and experience to integrate Scotland into what is now, of necessity, a closely interdependent worldwide political and economic community, and generally to further Scottish interests internationally.

We are very conscious, however, that the primary interests of the Scottish people lie much nearer home, and that these demand efficient administration at the most local level that is compatible with efficiency. We are firmly against unnecessary centralisation at any level.

The SDA is committed to upholding the welfare state, to the provision of competently run health, education and other basic services, and to the care of those citizens who have fallen by the wayside. There are also certain vital infrastructural services that are best kept under state administration or control. These services are not luxuries, but basic necessities that together constitute the takeoff platform for outgoing enterprise in all its forms.

There is, however, little chance of accomplishing any of this in the absence of a thriving and innovative entrepreneurial system of wealth creation, especially manufacturing industry. Not everything can or should be organised by the state, but the state can materially assist or hinder the unfolding of enterprise. The SDA is therefore not out to trumpet all the great things it is going to do for Scotland, for our aim is rather to create a Scotland in which the Scots can do great things for themselves.

No state or community is an island today, in the metaphorical sense. We are all part of an interlinked and interdependent global community, while retaining our national characteristics, our magnificent Scottish national culture, our highly developed sense of community, and our unique identity that makes us distinct in the world. It is a great thing to be a Scot nowadays and able to play a role in the service of our fellow men and women worldwide. The SDA proposes to enhance and extend Scotland's international presence, participation and status to the mutual benefit of ourselves and our fellow human beings everywhere.

It is clear that the administration of a modern state with such an agenda will increasingly make demands on the abilities of decision makers that far exceed those that would have been imaginable just a few years ago. They must be equal to the job – a job that nowadays presents an unprecedented intellectual challenge over a vast field of variegated human activity that must nonetheless be viewed as a whole. The task calls for exceptional personal qualities, and mediocrity is not a valid qualification.

Therefore, when it comes to the selection of Scottish parliamentary candidates, the SDA will exercise a preference for persons of commitment to Scotland, its institutions and culture, with relevant personal and educational qualifications and a breadth of real life experience, rather than the currently emergent style of professional politicians of restricted general experience who know little or nothing of the working world outside of politics. We will also endeavour to ensure that those elected at national and local level will act as representatives of the people who elect them, and not primarily of a political party.

An Invitation

The presence of the SDA at the first election for an independent Scottish Government will give the electorate the chance to vote for a thoroughly researched vision for Scotland, with the expectation that the SDA's sensible and workable approach to government, economic development, security and social wellbeing will cause other parties to reconsider and modify their policies in response.

The SDA's appearance on the Scottish political landscape is of primary importance at a time when the political future of the country is teetering in the balance. On no account can we afford to permit the emergence of another one-party state in Scotland, especially since the memory of Labour's stranglehold on Scotland for half a century is still fresh in our memories. This is especially vital at a time when the foundations that are being laid for the future will dominate Scotland's public life for generations to come.

The Scottish Democratic Alliance, with its roots in the [Scotland-UN Committee](#) that brought about the restoration of the Scottish Parliament and Government through its command of international diplomacy, has already acquired a wealth of relevant experience for the establishment of a mainstream political institution designed for the age in which we live, and not for the past.

This must now be translated into detailed SDA policy, a task that is already well under way in respect of a draft national constitution for Scotland and many other aspects of policy, but must now be constantly reviewed and updated in the light of future developments. The SDA is already present, with deep roots in Scottish politics, proven experience and a comprehensive programme, ready to take the stage when the moment is right.

It does, however, need a constant infusion of new blood to carry on the work and provide the future leadership of the SDA as it advances towards its role as one of Scotland's mainstream institutions – a role for which it has been designed from the very beginning.

This is obviously a field of prime excellence for a younger generation of Scots who desire to play a significant role in their country's future. The SDA welcomes new members as it expands towards the goals it has set itself.

It guarantees them active participation in the planning of the steps that will be necessary to establish and consolidate Scotland's future role as a nation grounded on pluralist democracy, firmly anchored in the rule of law, committed to the guardianship of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and playing a mutually beneficial role within the worldwide fellowship of nations.

Donald Trump

I note in the news today Donald Trump has obtained the required number of delegates to get the Republican nomination for President. I thought I'd post up a small biography of him and his Scottish mother. You can read this at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/men/trump_donald.htm

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our ScotNews feed on our index page...

Ex-SNP council leader Ewan Dow will rejoin party if it becomes more democratic

Ewan Dow, who was once the most powerful elected Nationalist in Scotland, said in an online post Nicola Sturgeon's supporters now resemble a cult with selfies.

Read more at:

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-politics/180212/ex-snp-council-leader-ewan-dow-will-rejoin-party-becomes-democratic/>

Award for Beechgrove Garden star Jim McColl

Veteran broadcaster Jim McColl, of The Beechgrove Garden, has been honoured with the Royal Television Society Scotland Award 2016.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-36381748>

North Sea receipts hit record low

The UK government has incurred a loss from North Sea oil and gas production for the first time since records began nearly 50 years ago.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-36388621>

Education secretary pledges to reduce teacher workload

Scotland's new education secretary has pledged to reduce teacher workload in the government's bid to improve attainment in schools.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-36389370>

Ex-military officers fighting for EU exit

EU policies are undermining the UK's combat effectiveness, a dozen former senior military officers have warned.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36371104>

A short history of the Debatable Lands and Border Reivers

THE history of these small but important territories is one of bloody warfare and constant dispute.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/a-short-history-of-the-debatable-lands-and-border-reivers-1-4137552>

Archbishop of Canterbury in Church of Scotland General Assembly first

The Most Reverend Justin Welby was speaking as the Kirk approved a closer working relationship with the Church of England.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36373874>

Scotland now a nation of home drinkers

NHS Health Scotland said the trend was mainly owing to more alcohol being bought in supermarkets and off-licences - particularly beer and wine.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36369507>

Kenny MacAskill explains why he released Lockerbie bomber

The only person ever convicted for the Lockerbie bombing was released from prison on compassionate grounds.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36367858>

BBC Women's Footballer of the Year: Kim Little wins award

Scotland midfielder Kim Little has been voted the BBC Women's Footballer of the Year 2016.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/football/36366924>

Plant which grows tomatoes and potatoes on sale in Scotland

The TomTato plant that grows tomatoes and potatoes together from the one plant.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/plant-which-grows-tomatoes-and-potatoes-on-sale-in-scotland-1-4135780>

Foreign investment boost for Scotland

The figure represented a 51% increase on the previous year, compared with 20% for the UK as a whole.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36365689>

Most Scots against indyref2 if Britain leaves EU - poll

MOST Scots believe Nicola Sturgeon should not call a second Scottish independence referendum if Scotland is dragged out of the EU

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/most-scots-against-indyref2-if-britain-leaves-eu-poll-1-4134751>

South Uist in the 1950s

We had a croft and 10 acres, there were always jobs to do

Read more at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/20/south-uist-1950s-croft-john-maclellan-paul-strand>

Chief of ancient Highland clan leaves £18m to family

Angus MacDonald Lockhart, the head of the Lockhart clan, passed away with his family by his side at his Lanarkshire estate.

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/more-heritage/chief-of-ancient-highland-clan-leaves-18m-to-family-1-4134317>

A history of the Scottish Highland Games

THEY channel a style of Scottishness expressed in tartan, bagpipes and brute strength

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/a-history-of-the-scottish-highland-games-1-4132939>

Jesus speaks from heart but are his days numbered?

CHRISTIANITY'S traditional certainties have been eroded by too many shades of grey laments Jim Duffy

Read more at:

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/jim-duffy-jesus-speaks-from-heart-but-are-his-days-numbered-1-4133201>

Electric Canadian

Afar in the Forest

Pictures of Life and Scenery of the Wilds of Canada by Mrs. Traill

WE have much pleasure in placing before our readers a New and Revised Edition of a book which was formerly popular under the title of "Lady Mary and her Nurse". The present edition has been considerably improved, so as to increase its attractions for the young. It contains much pleasant information, and many interesting anecdotes respecting the plants and animals of our great Canadian Colony, and not a few lively details of the habits and customs of the Indians, now fast disappearing before the encroachments of European civilization. Both girl and boy may find amusement and instruction in these pages, whose perusal will advantageously occupy a leisure hour, and store their minds with many useful facts about the wild animals and natural curiosities of North America.

You can download this book at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/afar.htm>

The Tragically Hip

A couple of videos from this Canadian Rock n Roll band which you can watch at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/whatsnew.htm>

Fort McMurray wildfire ash reaches all the way to Spain

Fallout from the fire could leave large swaths of Greenland's ice sheet at risk of increased melting

Read this article at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fort-mcmurray-fire-smoke-greenland-europe-1.3599812>

Did Canuck the crow swoop off with a knife from a Vancouver crime scene?

Crow in question appears to be the notorious Canuck

Read this article at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/crow-knife-crime-scene-1.3600299>

Electric Scotland

Dictionary of National Biography

Added some more entries on names from this publication. The links can be found at the foot of the appropriate pages. I must confess that I am finding some great people which is making me try and find out more about them.

Ballantyne <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/nation/ballantyne.htm>

Barclay <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/nation/barclay.htm>

The Book of Hours of James IV, King of Scots

Its story, and how the facsimile edition came to be made by James Wilkie and you can read this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/bookofhours.pdf>

Some thoughts on why we shouldn't be in the EU

Three interesting articles which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/EUnot.htm>

Some Mini Biographies

Balmyle or Balmule, Nicholas De, Chancellor of Scotland and Bishop of Dunblane at

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/balmyle.htm>

Baltroddi, Walter De, Bishop of Caithness, at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/baltroddi_walter.htm

Bannerman, Anne, Scottish poetical writer at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/bannerman_anne.htm

Baron, Robert, Divine, at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/baron_robert.htm

James Barry, Inspector general of the Army Medical Department, a woman who passed through life as a man at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/barry_james.htm

Bassendyne, Thomas, Printer of the earliest translation of the New Testament published in Scotland, at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/bassendyne_thomas.htm

Bayne, Alexander, First tenant of the chair of Scots law in the university of Edinburgh, at:

http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/bayne_alexander.htm

History of Scots Affairs

By James Gordon in three volumes.

I discovered this set of three volumes in a small biography of Robert Baron and so found a copy and have now made these available below.

You can read them at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/other/scotsaffairs.htm>

Glasgow in 1901

By James Hamilton Muir. Added a link to this book towards the foot of our Rambles Round Glasgow page at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/glasgow/>

Highland Second Sight

With Prophecies of Coinneach Odhar and the Seer of Petty and Numerous other Examples

I added a link to this book at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/hiStory/brahan/index.htm>

A History and Genealogy of the Family of Baillie

Of North of Ireland in part including the Parish of Duneane, Ireland, and Barony (Parish) of Dunain, Scotland by George Alexander Baillie (1902)

You can read this at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/nation/baillie.htm>

Clan Newlands

Got in an account of this clan which you can read at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/ntor/newlands2.htm>

THE STORY

Powers of a Chief under the Clan System

A LOW scale of rent was a necessary part of the old system in the Highlands. Lord Selkirk observed: "The sacrifice of pecuniary interest was of very inferior importance, and was not a matter of choice; for any proprietor who should have acted on contrary principles, losing the attachment of his people, would have been left a prey to the violence of his neighbours." This is undoubtedly true in the main; but this writer goes too far when he says the Highland gentlemen never ventured to raise their rents.

Amongst the MSS. in the possession of the British Museum, there is one entitled, "Some Remarks on the Highland Clans, and Methods proposed for Civilization." The writer investigates the "trew and genuine reasons why theft and depredations which above all things cherish the spirit of Jacobitism and rebellion are more luxuriant of growth amongst the Highland clans than some of their neighbours." He draws his information, he says, from the "honestest sort of natives." The first reason, he mentions, is the exorbitant lawless power exercised by the gentry over the commoners. He proceeds to describe the tenure by which the gentry held their lands: — "Their holdings of land are either free or leases, so much for ordinary as can accommodate themselves and great numbers of their tribes and dependants, generally bad people entirely devoted to their service. Some of them have mortgages in the lands they have a lease of, yet this, till of late, did not hinder the chief to remove from one possession to another, or quite out of the land, if any way disobedient to his irresistible orders and decrees—the unhappy situation of the poor people at all times under the chief and inferior gentry, so that the inferior gentry, as well as the commoners, were constantly kept in a state of slavery and dependance, which they bore with equal constancy. . . . The commoners are cunning, lazy, and vindictive as the gentry are. They never get leases, but constantly depending on the good pleasure of their masters, who thereby have it in their power to fleece them, as they do their sheep, and keep them in the most abject state of slavery and dependance. I have asked many of them why they did not choose to have better houses, and the answer I had was commonly much the same: that the building of good houses or making any other improvement was a sure way to get themselves removed; as for a shilling or two more rent, the master would give the preference to

the first that offered, so that it seems every kind of industry was studiously discouraged, and that laziness, that delusive mother of vice, and source of dependancy, were the chief things aimed at." [This MS. bears no date, but, from internal evidence, it appears to have been written about 1718.]

Captain Burt painted vividly the lights as well as the shadows of the clan system. He tells us of chiefs freeing the necessitous from arrears of rent, and maintaining the decayed. He tells us that if the tribe increased, and there was in consequence a want of land, farms were split up, "because all must be somehow provided for." He records a curious instance of an agrarian outrage, when a minister's hut was fired into because he had taken a small farm—an outrage which, he says, arose from the "dread of innovations, and the notion they entertain that they have a kind of hereditary right to their farms, and that none of them are to be dispossessed, unless for some great transgression against their chief, in which case every individual would consent to their expulsion."

This passage has attracted much attention. It has been regarded as "the solitary contemporaneous testimony to a custom unknown to the Statute book, but which may have been practically embodied in the reciprocal necessities and affections of chief and clansmen, as long as those relations remained a reality." [Report of the recent Royal Commission.]

But a curious confirmation of Burt's testimony is to be found in the first page of Spalding's account of the Troubles in which allusion is made to the Revolt of the Clan Chattan in 1624.

"After the death and burial of Angus M'Intosh of Auld Tirlie, alias Angus Williamson (which was a little before Whitsunday in the year of God 1624), his kin and friends of Clanchattan, whom he in his time held under rule and in peace by his power and policy, began to call to mind how James, Earl of Murray, their master, had casten them out of their kindly possessions, whilk past memory of man, their predecessors and they had kept for small duty, but for their faithful service, and planted in their places, for payment of a greater duty, a number of strangers and feeble persons, unhabile to serve the Earl their master, as they could have done, by which means those gentlemen were brought through necessity to great misery, and therewith considering their young chief, the laird of M'Intosh was but a bairn, who (according to the common band) might not be answerable to their misdeeds; and thinking and calling to mind how oft and how humbly they had craved their kindly possessions from the said Earl, but could not be heard, nor find favour, which grieved them in the highest degree; they therefore finding the time proper, partly through infancy of their young chief, and partly through the death of this worthy chieftain (who, by his wit and policy, held them still under awe and obedience), desperately resolve by force of arms, either to recover their own kindly possessions, or otherwise cast the samen waste, and none should labour the ground or pay any duty to the Earl; and to that effect, about the said feast of Whitsunday 1624 there brake out in arms about the number of two hundred of the principal gentlemen of that race and lineage of Clanchattan under the leading of Lachlan M'Intosh, alias Lachlan Oyle (uncle to this now laird of M'Intosh), and Lachlan M'Intosh or Lachlan Angusson (eldest son to the said umquhile Angus Williamson) their captains. They kepted the fields in their Highland weed upon foot, with swords, bows, arrows, targets, hag-butts, pistols, and other Highland arms, and first began to rob and spuilzie the Earl's tenants, who laboured their possessions, of their hail goods, gear, insight plenishing, horse, holt, sheep, cows, and cattle, and left them nothing that they could get within their bounds, syne fell in sorning throughout Murray, Stratherick, Urquhart, Ross, Sutherland, Brae of Mar, and divers other parts, taking their meat and food per force where they could get it willingly, frae friends as well as frae their foes, yet still kept themselves from shedding of innocent blood. Thus they lived as outlaws, oppressing the country, besides the casting of the Earl's land waste, and openly avowed they had taken this course to get their own possessions again, or then hold the country waking. The Earl of Murray, mightily grieved at the Clanchattan to break out in such disorder, himself being dwelling in Murray, sends shortly and brings out of Monteith and Balquidder about three hundred Highlandmen armed after their own custom. This people, with the Earl himself, came through Murray to Inverness in battle rank; they stayed there that night, and the Earl was, with his good brother the Earl of Enzie, in the castle well entertained. This people stayed a while in the country upon the Earl's great expences, without seeing or seeking the Clanchattan; therefore the Earl sent them all back the gate they came; always the Earl returned frae Inverness back to Elgin, and provided another company to go against the Clanchattan; but they also did little service, and so returned without finding of the enemy first or last, albeit they made a pretext of seeking them through the country.

"But the Clanchattan, nothing dismayed, became more furious and enraged, to rob and spoil every man's goods, wherever they came, whether friend or foe, to the great hurt and skaith of the King's lieges. The Earl, seeing he could hardly get them suppressed by force of arms, resolves upon another course to bear them down, which was, he goes down to London to King James, and humbly shews the rising of their Clanchattan, and that he could not get them overcome and subdued without an lieutenantry in the North, which the King graciously granted to him for some few years, and to sit, cognosce, and decern upon some capital points allenarly, specially set down thereintill. The Earl returns home, causes proclaim his lieu-tenantry (whereat it was thought the house of Huntly was somewhat offended, thinking none should be lieutenant in the North but themselves, albeit he was his own goodson who had gotten it, to wit, the Marquis's son-in-law, who had married his eldest daughter), proclaims letters of intercom-muning against the Clanchattan at the head burghs of sundry shires, that none should receipt, supply, or intercommune with them, under great pains and peril. After publication of which letters, the Clanchattan's kin and friends who had privately promised them assistance before their breaking out, begins now to grow cold, fearing their estates, of whom sundry was wealthy in lands and goods, and simpliciter refused them help, receipt, or supply, for fear of the laws.

"The Clanchattan seeing this, by expectation begin now to repent their breaking out, and seek the Earl's peace, whilk, by intercession

of friends, was granted, provided they should the Earl information who did receipt or supply them after publication of the letters of intercommuning, and to give up their names and prove the same. Upon this condition the Earl forgives them and takes them by the hand, and shortly begins to hold justice courts within the burgh of Elgin. Some slight lowns, followers of the Clanchattan, were execute, but the principal outbreakers and malefactors were spared and never troubled." [See also Shaw's "Historical Memoirs of the Clan," vol. ii. p. 303.]

We are not told that the Clan Chattan were restored to their "kindly possessions," and the argument deducible from the facts related by Spalding obviously cuts both ways. They consist with a notion of hereditary right in the people, but cannot be cited in proof that arbitrary eviction was unknown during the period when the clan system was in vigorous operation.

But there are passages in Burt which could not have been penned had he not too been deeply impressed with the arbitrary powers of the chief. He was personally acquainted with a chief who, he says, systematically impoverished the people. "This chief does not think the present abject disposition of his clan towards him to be sufficient; but entertains that tyrannical and detestable maxim, that to render them poor will double the tye of their obedience, and accordingly he makes use of all oppressive means to that end. To prevent any diminution of the number of those who do not offend him, he dissuades from their purpose all such as show an inclination to traffic. . . . This he does (when downright authority fails) by telling them how their ancestors chose to live sparingly and be accounted a martial people, rather than submit themselves to low and mercenary employments like the Lowlanders. ... It may for aught I know be suitable to clanish power, but in general it seems quite contrary to reason, justice, and nature, that any one person from the mere accident of his birth, should have the prerogative to oppress a whole community for the gratification of his own selfish views and inclinations; and I cannot but think the concerted poverty of a people is, of all oppressions, the strongest instigation to sedition, rebellion, and plunder."

Burt relates that on one occasion he had employed labourers at sixteenpence a day. The same men were required by the chief to work at sixpence a day, and complained that they lost by it. "I very well remember," says Burt, "he then told me that if any of those people had formerly said as much to their chief, they would have been carried to the next rock and precipitated." This writer says the advantage of enclosing was a "mighty topick" with the Highlanders, but he asks, "Where is the Highland tenant that can lay out ten shillings for that purpose? And what would he be gainer by it in the end, but to have his rent raised or his farm divided with some other?" Other passages might be quoted from Burt's letters to show the "arbitrary authority" exercised by the chief.

And that's it for this week and hope you all enjoy your weekend.

Alastair