The Aberdonian Abroad.[1]—I.

HE Aberdonian—including in that term the man of the shire as well as him of the city—the Aberdonian is ubiquitous. He is to be found nearly everywhere—often occupying a distinctive position, conspicuous in the field of business or the arena of administration, or prominent in public service of some kind or other. This Aberdonian of the wider world, too, wherever he goes, generally carries with him the characteristics which we are fond of reckoning essentially Aberdonian—physical stamina, grit and grip, power of hard work and endurance, intellectual keenness and perception, mental capacity and resource.[2]

I.

THE UBIQUITY OF THE ABERDONIAN.

The wandering nature of the Aberdonian was piquantly revealed in the following advertisement which appeared in the local newspapers a little over a year ago:—

> "David Ronald, who left Marywell Street, Aberdeen, 1867, to join the ship 'Golden Sheaf' at London, and sailed from there bound for Buenos Aires. He left at that port, and is desirous to hear of any of his relations. Any communication to be sent to Captain Buchan, Coupar Angus."

What may we not conjure up from this ingenuous advertisement?—the romance of travel, adventures in foreign lands, the acquisition of fortune, perhaps also its loss, and with its loss the loss of friends, and, finally, that curious innate disposition to revert in old age to one's relatives and one's early associations. It would be interesting to know what was the result of this truly pathetic appeal.

Other instances of the wandering Aberdonian are to be constantly found in the same source. Quite recently, an advertisement appeared requesting information regarding descendants or relatives of James and Alexander Cock, who left Aberdeen early in the 'Sixties and were engaged in the tea trade at Shanghai and died there; and the Aberdonian abroad figures frequently—

[1] Lecture delivered to the Aberdeen Philosophical Society, 18 November, 1920.

[2] Lord Meston, in a recent speech, referring to the special qualities of the Aberdeen graduate abroad which contributed to his success, added to his physical endurance and intellectual industry—(1) the habit of suffering fools, "if not altogether gladly, at least decorously"; (2) the real democratic spirit inculcated at Aberdeen—"no nonsense, no snobbishness, but taking things at their face value"; and (3) in spite of that real democracy of mind, "a great gift of reverence and respect for the real good things of life" (See REVIEW, viii, 168).

one might almost say continuously—in the news columns. The attention thus paid to sons of the city and the shire located in foreign parts is sometimes ridiculed by outsiders as petty and parochial, but the spirit which dictates it is nevertheless commendable as the manifestation of a very proper sense of provincial pride and of continuous interest in the careers of former townsmen. A few samples of this laudable newspaper work, noted within the past twelve months, may be cited. Mention was made of the deaths of George Barrack, a native of Aberdeen, who was one of the pioneers of gold mining in Alaska; George Johnstone, born at Moreseat, Cruden, one of the early sugar planters in Natal, latterly engaged in gold mining at Johannesburg; and John Nicol, C.M.G., born at Ramstone, Monymusk, a prominent builder and contractor in Durban, and at one time Mayor of the city. Even the deaths of people at home serve to show how widely spread their children become. A recent notice of the death of Mr. Alexander Rae, Burnbank, Tipperty, Logie-Buchan, informed us that one son had an engineering business in New Zealand, a second was a warehouseman in the United States, and a third was chief inspector of the Anglo-South American Bank, Buenos Aires.

Nearly every churchyard in the country testifies to the world-wide dispersion of country folk. I have in my mind's eye a tombstone in the old Walla Kirkyard at Glass—that of the family of a former minister of the parish. One son, a doctor in the East India Company's service, died at sea between Suez and Bombay. Another, a surgeon in the Bombay Army, died near Murzee, on the Indus. A third was a member of the Legislative Council, Cape Coast Castle, and died at Lisbon. A fourth was in the Civil Service of Victoria, Australia.

> Their graves are sever'd far and wide,
> By mount, and stream, and sea.

Similar examples could be readily multiplied by an analysis of Mr. John A. Henderson's valuable book on "Aberdeenshire Epitaphs."

"Next to the Germans," says Viscount Bryce, in his work on "South America," "the most ubiquitous people in the world are the Aberdonians," adding that, accordingly, he was not surprised to meet one at Oruro, in the highlands of Bolivia, some 12,000 feet above sea level, in the person of the principal doctor of the place,[1] with whom he had a talk "about our friends on the banks of the far-distant Dee." The Principal has a delightful story that, at the conclusion of one of his addresses in the course of his "objects of the war" mission in the United States, a voice from the gallery rang out—"Weel deen, Aiberdeen!" The late Mr. Alexander Mackie told me that, in the course of his lecturing tour in Canada, in almost every city and town he visited he had to hold an informal reception at the end of his lecture to exchange greetings with self-expatriated Aberdonians who rushed up to welcome him. Fully twenty years earlier, and long before emigration to Canada became the common thing it is to-day, a brother of mine, while engaged on an irrigation enterprise in an uncultivated and little-peopled region of the Dominion, discovered in the occupant of a rude "shack" a woman who had attended the Porthill Sunday School and still treasured the hymn-book she got there. On another occasion, while transacting some business in a bank office in a little town practically in "the wilds," his attention was arrested by

[1] Presumably, Dr. James R. Smith (M.A., 1892; M.B., 1896).

the accent of the clerk serving him, and he instantly exclaimed—"You come from Buchan!" The youth admitted the soft impeachment.[1]

A journalist friend of mine, while touring in Australia, visited a public park in Brisbane and got into conversation with one of the gardeners, and discovered that he hailed from Aberdeen. Another journalist friend was for several years a reporter in Kobe, Japan, and on my suggesting that he had probably encountered Aberdonians in Japan, he wrote me:—

> "Yes, in Kobe alone, with a 'foreign' (European and American) community of about 500 men, women, and children, there were in my time five or six grown-up Aberdonians, two of them at least settled there, and both since dead. One was Alexander C. Sim, a brother of George Sim, the naturalist. I knew him quite well. I think it would be right to say that he was the leading athlete of Japan for quite twenty years or so. He had a chemist's shop in Kobe, and died in 1900 or 1901; and he is probably the only 'foreigner' who has a memorial in Japan outside a cemetery. It was put up to him on the Kobe recreation ground, symbolizing his quite catholic enthusiasm for outdoor sports. In my time, his day was over, but he was still a big man at the recurring sports events.
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> "I have an idea that a notable Aberdeen graduate settled in Japan was one Murdoch, who while I was there published quite a considerable history of Medieval Japan. I rather think he was a sort of professor in Tokyo, and had adopted, as I understood, a completely Japanese mode of life—including a Japanese wife, I think—a somewhat pale shadow, perhaps, of the celebrated Lafcadio Hearn. When I was at Kobe, we used to hear of him as dwelling away somewhere in the Japanese hinterland—quite lost to the customs and conventions of his own countrymen."

The person thus alluded to is, I believe, Mr. James Murdoch, who graduated at Aberdeen University in 1879, and is the author of what I have seen described as a "great" "History of Japan," the third volume of which was published in 1911. Only a few days ago, an Aberdeen lady lent me two interesting works—the life of a botanist explorer in Hawaii and the journal of another explorer written 128 years ago. They were compiled and published by her brother, Mr. W. F. Wilson, one of three sons of the late Mr. George Washington Wilson, the well-known photographer, who are now settled in the Hawaiian Islands.[2]

[1] Quite recently my brother wrote me that in the Legislative Chamber at Edmonton, Alberta, he was introduced to Mr. Alexander Ross, a leading Labour member. "You come from Aberdeen?" my brother guessed. "Aye, frae Gartly!" was the rather surprising answer.

[2] The Aberdeen papers of 30 August, 1921, contained reports of a "Mutch Picnic" held on 6 August at the shore of Mr. David Mutch, Mt. Herbert, Prince Edward Island, Canada. It was a "grand re-union" of the descendants of Alexander Mutch, who emigrated from Aberdeenshire over 150 years ago. There were 75 Mutches present, besides 50 or more people descended maternally from Alexander Mutch; and a paper on Alexander Mutch, the progenitor of the Mutches of Prince Edward Island, was read by Mr. J. Robert Mutch, of Mt. Herbert, a great-great-grandson. Alexander Mutch and his brother John enlisted in the British army in the American revolutionary war; they were in the same regiment, and fought at the battle of Bunker Hill, 1775. John is supposed to have been killed in the battle, but Alexander survived the campaign and in 1786 he emigrated to Prince Edward Island.

I may be pardoned adding a personal experience of my own in illustration of this ubiquity of the Aberdonian.

On my first visit to Colorado, now many years ago, I made a railway journey with my brother to one of the passes through the Rocky Mountains. We alighted at a junction called Salida, about 6 o'clock in the evening, intending to join a return train at 9. We arranged to order supper at 8, and in the interval to have a walk through the town—a very small town then, mostly of frame (or wooden) houses; when I last saw it, it had grown immensely. The hotel entered from the station platform, the hotel office being a sort of lounge for railway passengers waiting for trains. You have to register at all American hotels, even the humblest, and even for a single meal, and I duly entered my name, giving my address, of course, as Aberdeen. When we returned from our walk, the office clerk informed us that in the interval inquiry had been made for the gentleman from Aberdeen. We could only surmise that some one belonging to Aberdeen on a passing train, having to wait for a little time, had been scanning the hotel register—a very common practice in a country where inquisitiveness is a universal trait—and, noticing my address, had, not unnaturally, been desirous of greeting a fellow-Aberdonian. In the circumstances, the greeting, had it been given, could only have been of the nature of "Hail and Farewell". The incident strongly impressed me at the time, being in its way so reminiscent of Longfellow's lines :—

> Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing;
> Only a signal shown, and a distant voice in the darkness.
> So, on the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another;
> Only a look and a voice, then darkness again and silence.

II.

WHENCE THIS UBIQUITY?

Whence this ubiquity of the Aberdonian—this evident propensity to travel and to settle and work in other lands? I am not to maintain that he has a monopoly of the wandering spirit—it is to a large degree characteristic of "Moray loons" as well, and Scotsmen generally, whatever the county of their origin, have ever been roamers. But the propensity is very conspicuously marked in the case of the Aberdonian, and its existence presents a problem which is somewhat difficult of solution. Probably, the tendency of the Aberdonian to seek a career abroad is in large measure attributable, like the development of his special characteristics, to his environment. John Hill Burton, in his "Scot Abroad," suggested that granite and east wind had a good deal to do with the making of some noted Aberdeenshire men. The theory, of course, is that the rearing of men under harsh and unpromising circumstances—a rigorous climate, lack of adequate means, absolute or comparative poverty—develops energy, trains character, and stimulates ambition, the ambition to rise above one's surroundings and carve out a career of distinction. An easy deduction is that, in the circumscribed area of a small provincial town, the "lad o' pairts" can only find elsewhere an outlet for his energy and abilities—for his ambition, if you will. Possibly this does not quite solve our psychological puzzle. Perhaps something should be allowed —in past generations, and particularly in our own—for the restlessness of youth, its impatience under home restrictions, its desire for individual and

independent life. I am content, however, to accept the theory in a general way, and would point out how signally its soundness was demonstrated in the case of the late Sir William MacGregor, one of the most distinguished of Colonial Governors. He was a native of Towie, the son of a farm labourer, and educated himself by a severe struggle. He spent forty years in the Colonial service, first as a doctor, then as an administrator, and he became successively Governor of New Guinea, of Lagos, of Newfoundland, and of Queensland. Professor Reid sketched his life—which was fruitful in labours for the many communities he served—in the ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY REVIEW,[1] and he concluded his article with the following noticeable appreciation of Sir William MacGregor by "a great surgeon who knew him well from his student days":—

> "He was a great block of rough, unhewn granite, but recognized to be of sterling character and possessed of excellent, indeed unusual, ability, although I am sure no one could have predicted then that he would rise to the great position he ultimately occupied in the service of his country. As iron sharpeneth iron, so his intercourse with all sorts of men in so many parts of the Empire, hewed and polished his roughness of manner, until he became the polite and courteous man of later life. But even that did not remove all his angles. He maintained to the last an independent reticence and a stubborn opinionativeness, which were the result no doubt of a life which had fought its own way through a hard fight to a position of great eminence. I am sure, that if there had been a Carnegie Trust in his day, and all his fees had been paid for him, he would never have been the Governor of Newfoundland and Queensland. To bear loneliness and poverty in youth and to despise them and struggle on in spite of them, is to get an original impetus, which no obstacles in after years can wholly withstand. To the man who has conquered such initial difficulties, anything seems to be possible."

My purpose at present, however, is not to discuss how the Aberdonian is made or why he goes abroad, but, accepting the fact that he does go abroad, to see what he makes of himself. Such a survey of the Aberdonian abroad can be only of a very general and limited nature, with rather scrappy results. The work to be properly done would require to be undertaken by a Commission of local experts, whose labours and researches might be prolonged for years. But as the outcome of some desultory reading and a little observation, I have gathered a few notes which may warrant me in essaying this paper, though, in preparing it, I have made the lamentable discovery that the reading might have been more extensive and the notes much fuller.

III.

THE ABERDONIAN AS A TRADER.

The wandering Aberdonian first presents himself to us, naturally, as a trader with foreign countries. Aberdeen has been associated with foreign trading from quite an early date, and though few details of this early foreign trade can now be gleaned, numerous allusions in the municipal records indicate that the commercial intercourse of the town with other towns overseas

[1] Vol. VII, 1-14.

was of no insignificant dimensions, considering the times. It is certain, at any rate, that by the fifteenth century, and possibly long before, trading relations had been established between Aberdeen and Flanders, Denmark, and ports in the Baltic. Like other towns on the east coast of Scotland, Aberdeen, by its situation and its proximity to the mainland of Europe, was favourably placed for the establishment and development of such relations. The trading seems at first to have been conducted solely by Flemings, but it was not long before Aberdonians were found enterprising enough to take part in it. As early as 1449 the trade with Flanders must have assumed respectable dimensions, for in that year the Aberdeen magistrates ordained that every merchant sending goods to Bruges should contribute to the repair of the parish church of St. Nicholas, the contribution or levy being in fixed proportions on the goods shipped—4 groats (a groat being fourpence) for every sack of wool, 4 groats for every parcel of skins, 1 groat for every barrel (of kippered fish or pork), and 1 groat for every "dacre" of hides. Seven years later, in 1456, mention is made in the Town Council records of the appointment of Lawrence Pomstrat as "host and receiver" of Scotsmen at Flushing—a certain indication that Aberdeen merchants were in the way of trading at that port.[1]

From an early period, too, Aberdeen enjoyed with other east coast towns the privilege of dealing with the "Staple" port in the Netherlands. The Staple, which originated in the fifteenth century, was an organization for conducting Scottish commerce with the Netherlands by which the merchants in royal burghs secured a monopoly in foreign trading, to the exclusion of "unfree burghs" and "unfreemen". The organization was controlled and directed by the Convention of Royal Burghs, and for about 300 years and down even to the eighteenth century, a great deal of the Scottish foreign trade was conducted through the agency of the Staple. Bruges and Middelburg were in turn the staple or market port, and both these towns, and Antwerp as well, competed for the Scottish trade; and Aberdeen had dealings with all three. The staple was ultimately transferred to Campvere and business was concentrated there. With Campvere Aberdeen had for many years exceedingly close and intimate business relations; "the merchants of Aberdeen," it has been said, "long boasted that they were the most faithful frequenters of Campvere." Aberdeen men even settled in the town and several of them, "members of burgess families—Skenes, Gordons, Gregorys, Lumsdens, and Allardeses—held from time to time, or in continuous succession, the coveted and lucrative office of factor to the Staple," while Sir Alexander Cumming of Culter acted as Conservator for a brief period in 1709. The staple trade consisted principally of the export from Scotland of hides, wool, and salted fish, and the import of wine, spiceries, and corn; later, cloth was added to the exports. Aberdeen eventually came to do a large business in the export of pickled pork to Campvere, where an extensive market for it was found, particularly for the victualling of Danish ships.[2]

The foreign trade of Aberdeen in early days was by no means confined to the Low Countries, however. The political alliance which so long subsisted between Scotland and France had its complement in a commercial intercourse which, if not so distinctive, contributed none the less to the maintenance of

[1] "Extracts from the Burgh Records of Aberdeen, 1398-1570," Spalding Club.

[2] See "The Scottish Staple at Veere," by John Davidson and Alexander Gray, 1909.

friendly relations between the people of the two countries. A large trade was carried on between Scottish and French ports, the commodities exchanged being much the same as those already specified; and in this trade Aberdeen actively participated, vessels plying between it and Bordeaux and Rochelle. But a much more special feature of Aberdeen's foreign trade was that conducted with Baltic ports, particularly with Danzig and Königsberg. The Baltic trade, like that with the Low Countries, also dates from a very early period, for there is a record in 1487 of a communication sent by the Aberdeen magistrates to Danzig deploring the fact that ships of that town sailed to more remote parts of Scotland—Dundee and Leith, to wit. Nearly a century later, in 1566, a special duty was imposed on all goods from Danzig for the expense of "the great light on the gable of St. Ninian's Chapel" on the Castle Hill, which had become part of the equipment of the port of Aberdeen. The Baltic trade speedily developed, becoming so extensive that in the course of the sixteenth century it was reckoned almost as important as the trade with the Low Countries. It is evident that by this time the foreign trade of the town had come to be relatively of considerable importance, for as late as 1583 Aberdeen occupied the third place among the Scottish burghs in respect of the amount of export duties imposed, being exceeded only by Edinburgh and Dundee. Conspicuous among the exports to Danzig were lambskins, one Aberdeen merchant (according to Alexander Skene's "Succinct Survey," published in 1685) exporting as many as 30,000 in one year. Stockings and other knitted woollen goods were also exported.

In the seventeenth century the bulk of the internal trade in Poland—which then bordered on the Baltic, Danzig being indeed a Polish town—was conducted by Scottish merchants, prominent among whom were men from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. These Scottish traders were practically packmen or pedlars travelling through the country—"whilk is a trade to which our native subjects of Scotland are specially addicted," as King James is made to say in "The Fortunes of Nigel"—the wares they disposed of including tin utensils, woollen cloth, and "linen kerchiefs". They kept, besides, small shops in the towns and had booths at the fairs, at which they sold scissors, knives, and other iron goods, and also cloths. As John Hill Burton puts it—"The Scot discovered in the seventeenth century a good investment for his skill, sagacity, and endurance in Poland, Russia, and other territories occupied by tribes inapt at business and affairs". Or, as a modern writer phrases it—"Nothing could be wider than the difference between the plodding, matter-of-fact temperaments of the Chalmers, Davidsons, Tamsens, Thors, Gerns, and Rosses, and the people they came to live with, people who despised trade, and kept their rich, corn-bearing country by the strength of their swords alone."[1] The opportunities thus afforded were eagerly seized by adventurous Aberdonians whose prospects of engaging in trade or in any way "getting on" at home were doubtless very limited, and numbers of them not only prosecuted general trade in Poland, but, as in the similar case of Campvere, settled in Danzig.[2] They were generally successful, and not a few of them amassed fortunes, and, returning to their native country, purchased estates in Aberdeenshire and became the founders of leading families in the city and county.

[1] Miss Beatrice Baskerville in "The Scots in Poland," ed. by A. Francis Steuart, Scottish History Society, 1915.

[2] See lists of Scotsmen who became burgesses of Danzig and other documents in "The Scots in Eastern and Western Prussia," by Th. A. Fischer, 1903.

A conspicuous example was Robert Gordon, who, however, remaining a bachelor, instead of raising a family founded a hospital for boys, leaving the money he accumulated as a merchant in Danzig for the establishment and maintenance of Robert Gordon's Hospital (now College). "Leslies and Farquhars, sons and other relatives of the Covenanter Provosts," says Mr. William Watt, in his history of the county, "with Chalmerses, Couttses, Burnetts and Barclays, Mores, Blacks and Abercrombies, are among the other Aberdeenshire names connected with the trade in Poland." "Numbers of Aberdonians and other Scotsmen," he adds, "were settled at Cracow, Posen, Kulm, Thorn, Plock, Lipno, and all centres of population." So considerable, indeed, became the Aberdeen "colony" in Poland that in 1699 the Principal and Regents of Marischal College addressed to them a special "Supplication" for donations towards the rebuilding of the College—an appeal which produced fairly gratifying results. A document preserved in the University archives gives the names of fifty-four Aberdonians resident in Königsberg and twenty-one in Warsaw who contributed.[1] Some of the Aberdeen merchants who settled in Poland also founded families there, and the personal names of these families still survive, though commonly in modified form. John Johnston, an eminent Polish naturalist, was descended from an Aberdeenshire merchant at Danzig.

The development of trade with the West Indies in the beginning of the eighteenth century opened a new field of enterprise of which Aberdeen took advantage. A street in the harbour quarter still bears the name of Sugarhouse Lane, reminiscent of the time when sugar was directly imported into the city; and many men belonging to both city and county were connected with the West Indies as merchants and planters or as medical practitioners and clergymen. "It is surprising," says Mr. Watt, "how many landed estates in Aberdeenshire and the adjacent counties were purchased by means of fortunes acquired in the trade of the West Indies." In particular, members of the numerous Gordon families in Aberdeenshire owned many of the plantations and were identified with the colonization of the islands. Details are given in a brochure on "The Making of the West Indies: The Gordons as Colonists," by Mr. John Malcolm Bulloch. He mentions, for instance, James Gordon, laird of Knockespock (died 1768), who owned several estates in the West Indies, to which he went out as a young man; Robert Gordon, Governor of Berbice (died 1814), a younger son of Robert Gordon of Hallhead, in Leochel-Cushnie, and grandfather of Adam Lindsay Gordon, the Australian poet; and several Gordons of less pretentious ancestry, who simply "hailed from Aberdeen".

IV.

THE ABERDONIAN AS WANDERING SCHOLAR.

The foreign trade of Aberdeen to-day is not the outstanding feature of the city's commercial life it once was. It has been cynically said of Aberdeen in these latter days that it has only two articles of export—granite and brains: the cynic, to be accurate, ought to have added—in pre-war times at least—

[1] See "Records of Marischal College and University," ed. by P. J. Anderson; New Spalding Club, I., 357-60.

herrings, while perhaps he would be obliged to cancel the allusion to granite, seeing that Aberdeen has now taken to importing it. Undoubtedly, however, there is—and always has been—a considerable trade in the export of brains: Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire scholars are sent abroad in every direction. Those who have read John Buchan's delightful story, "Prester John," may remember that the hero (a southern Scot), on his voyage to South Africa, discovered a man on board the ship who "turned out to be a Mr. Wardlaw from Aberdeen, who was going out [to a place in the far north of the Transvaal] to be a schoolmaster. He was a man of good education, who had taken a University degree, and had taught for some years as an under-master in a school in his native town. But the east winds had damaged his lungs, and he had been glad to take the chance of a poorly-paid country school in the veld." At a critical moment in one of the thrilling adventures of the hero, Wardlaw sends him by a Kaffir a message in Latin, "which was not a bad cipher," the hero says. "Wardlaw's message," he continues, "gave me information of tremendous value. I repented that I had ever underrated the schoolmaster's sense. *He did not come out of Aberdeen for nothing.*" The incident may be purely fanciful, of course, but none the less we must feel flattered by the compliment paid to us Aberdonians. At any rate, fanciful or not, the allusion to Wardlaw is illustrative of the wandering tendencies of our scholars as well as of our traders.

In the early days of learning, many an Aberdeen youth became a peripatetic or wandering scholar, ultimately finding his vocation in the schools and colleges of Europe, and, by his teaching and his published works, exercising considerable influence in the creation of the culture of the Continent. Dr. Joseph Robertson, in his "Book of Bon-Accord," and Mr. William Watt in his "County History," have given us accounts of the more outstanding of these scholars, and these accounts have been largely supplemented in recent years, particularly by Mr. Kellas Johnstone in the article on "The Aberdeen University Educator" which he contributed to the Quatercentenary volume of "Studies in the History of the University of Aberdeen," and by Mr. William Keith Leask in the introduction he furnished to the third of the New Spalding Club's volumes on "Musa Latina Aberdonensis".[1] Mr. Leask asserts emphatically—and I am not in the leats disposed to dissent—that "The output of Aberdonians abroad, the result of two Universities in a little town on the North Sea, is nothing other than a phenomenon, to be best felt by those who can trace and estimate it in detail". I cannot do better than cite a few of the more illustrious names mentioned in these two works, with the accompanying particulars of their achievements.

> The earliest of our local wandering scholars of whom there is record was Peter Davidson, Peter the Scot, one of "three learned men" called from Germany to inaugurate the studies in the University of Copenhagen, founded in 1479; he was born either in the town or in the diocese of Aberdeen.
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> The first Aberdonian to see a book of his own in print was James Liddell, a Professor in Paris, who published, about 1493, a guide to the

[1] See also Mr. Leask's article on "The Bibliography of Aberdeen" in the last number of the Review (viii, 219).

literary disputations upon appointed theses which formed part of the academic course of the period.

Gilbert Crab, a member of the family whose name is linked with the Crabstone and Craibstone Street, was Regent of the Burgundian College at Paris somewhere about 1503; his works, along with those of Liddell, "form the earliest known bibliographical items in the annals of Aberdeen".

Alexander Scot, a graduate of King's College, settled at Carpentras, near Avignon, and practised as advocate and judge (died 1615); his greatest work was a famous annotated edition of the "Commentaries of Cujas," a great French lawyer, "which is still used as a book of reference and quoted authoritatively by French lawyers."

James Cadenhead (died 1679) was Professor of Logic at Padua, in Italy.

Alexander Anderson—a cousin of the famous "Davie do a' thing"—located in Paris in the early part of the seventeenth century, was one of the greatest mathematicians of his time.

The wandering scholar, however, was not always a professor or preceptor, a writer of books, a disseminator of learning and culture. The Continent was visited by men studying medicine, mainly because instruction in medicine was then purely scholastic and was bound up with the course in arts and philosophy. Thus many of the eminent Aberdeen doctors of the olden times gained a reputation abroad before settling down to practice in their native city. Here, again, we can only glance at a few of our distinguished doctors who flourished in the seventeenth century.

Dr. William Barclay, who restored the Well of Spa and proclaimed its healing powers in a well-known local work, "Callirhoe, or the Nymph of Aberdene Resuscitat" (first published 1615), spent many years at Louvain and Paris.

Dr. Duncan Liddell of Pitmedden (1561-1613), who left that estate and 6000 merks to found the Mathematical Chair in Marischal College, along with several bursaries and prizes, was first physician to the Court of Brunswick and the chief support of the medical school of the University of Helmstadt.

His pupil, Gilbert Jack, a professor at Leyden, wrote "Institutiones Medicæ," which, published at Leyden, in 1624, was long held in repute on the Continent.

Dr. Thomas Forbes was Professor of Medicine in the University of Pisa, 1658-62.

Dr. James Cargill studied at Basle and became a botanist of repute, his name being given to a genus of plants, the *Cargillia;* he was the founder of the Cargill bursaries at Marischal College.

Another notable botanist was Dr. Robert Morison (1620-83), a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Marischal College. A zealous Royalist, he was obliged to take refuge in France, and was appointed by the Duke of Orleans Keeper of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Blois. After the Restoration he became Professor of Botany at Oxford. The plants named *Morisonia* were called after him.

William Davidson, a graduate of Aberdeen, was the first Professor of Chemistry at Paris (1647-51), and was also Director of the Jardin des Plantes. He was subsequently physician to the King of Poland.

Several of our early "mediciners," by the way, gained distinction at the Court of England, which we may perhaps reckon as "abroad" in those days. Arthur Johnston, the celebrated Latin poet, was Physician-in-Ordinary to Charles I. Sir Alexander Fraser of Durris was one of Charles II.'s physicians: he was wont to compare the air of Durris to that of Windsor, considered the finest in England. And Dr. Thomas Burnet is said to have been physician to Charles II., James II., William III., and Queen Anne in turn, which is just possible, as only fifty-three years separated the reign of the first of these monarchs from that of the last of them.

To proceed further with the enumeration of the list of distinguished wandering scholars associated with Aberdeen would be to unduly prolong this paper. "It is a remarkable list," says Mr. Keith Leask, "and is probably unequalled by that of any other city in Scotland at the time. Every European country, with the exception of Turkey, has been familiar with the Aberdeen Wanderer." He goes on to show how these scholars were spread all over Europe, and concludes by saying—"These names are but a few out of the crowds of wandering scholars, the remarkable output of the little city by the Don and Dee, who garrisoned the Protestant colleges of France and the German universities round the Baltic."

The shire, as will have been seen, contributed its quota as well as the city. The Buchan district in particular has a notable contingent of its own, as was properly recalled by the late Dr. James Middleton of Peterhead in an article contributed by him to "The Book of Buchan". I may cite two or three of the wandering scholars mentioned by him.

> First and foremost comes Thomas Dempster, born in 1579 at Cleftbog, son of the laird of Muiresk. "We find him," says Dr. Middleton, "drifting across the Continent as pupil, professor, tutor; in Belgium, in France, in Spain, in Italy." He was for three years Professor of Civil Law in the University of Pisa, and afterwards Professor of the humanities at Bologna: he had knighthood conferred on him by Pope Urban VIII.
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> James Cheyne, son of the laird of Arnage, taught philosophy at St. Barbe in Paris, and was afterwards Rector of the Scots College at Douay.
>
> George Con or Conn, of the family of Con of Auchry, near Turriff, was educated at Douay, at the Scots College at Paris, and at Rome. A Catholic, he filled several important ecclesiastical positions, and was selected to be papal agent at Queen Henrietta's English Court in 1636.
>
> John Johnstone, one of the group of Latin poets belonging to Aberdeenshire who flourished in the sixteenth century, was a native of Crimond. He made the usual pilgrimage of the Continental Universities and is found at Helmstadt and Geneva. He subsequently became the colleague of Andrew Melville at St. Andrews and ably assisted Melville in his resistance to King James's efforts to introduce Episcopacy.

ROBERT ANDERSON.

(*To be continued.*)

The Aberdonian Abroad—II.

V.

THE ABERDONIAN AS TEACHER IN THE NEW WORLD.

HE wanderings of the Aberdeen scholar were not confined to Europe—he found his way to the New World as well. One of the early pioneers of education in America was Rev. Patrick Copland, a native of Aberdeen —born there in 1572, and educated at the Grammar School and Marischal College. His wanderings were many and diverse. He was for several years a chaplain to the East India Company, and while in its service made two vogages to India, returning from one of them by way of Japan. About 1621 he conceived the plan of establishing a church and school in Virginia and collected money for the purpose. He received a grant of land from the Virginia Company, was appointed one of the Council of State of the colony, and was chosen as Rector of the Henrico College, to which his proposed school was to be affiliated. His intention of going out to Virginia, however, was frustrated by a massacre by Indians, which put an end to the project. Copland's interest in colonization and the Christian education of the American natives continued unabated, nevertheless; and, receiving a legacy of £300 from a friend to establish an Indian School on the Somers Islands (the Bermudas), he proceeded thither, about 1626, to set the school in operation. He remained there for twenty years, actively prosecuting the work of a missionary and educationalist. This work was finally interrupted by ecclesiastical feuds, and Copland, owing to his Puritanism, was imprisoned for some time. In 1648 he sailed to Eleuthera, one of the Bahama group, and he died there, probably between 1651 and 1655, when he was about or possibly over eighty years of age. He founded the Professorship of Divinity in Marischal College in 1617 by a mortification of 2000 merks, which he subsequently increased to 6000 merks.

The College at Philadelphia, which developed into the University of Pennsylvania, was founded in 1755 by Dr. William Smith, a native of the parish of Slains, who studied at King's College, 1743-47. He went to America in 1751, and attracted the attention of Benjamin Franklin by the publication of a scheme of university education. He was the first Provost of the Philadelphia College. Leaving Philadelphia in 1780 for Chestertown, Maryland, he there instituted the seminary which is now Washington College. His scheme of University education was practically identical with that prevailing in Aberdeen at the time, and it formed the basis of the curriculum adopted in all American Universities—quite a unique distinction, which Aberdeen owes to one of its wandering scholars.[1]

[1] See "Aberdeen Influence on American Universities," by P. J. Anderson, in ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY REVIEW, v., 27-31.

The founder of Trinity University, Toronto, was John Strachan, M.A., King's College, 1797; and St. John's College, Rupertsland, was founded by John M'Callum, who graduated at King's College in 1832.

Many Aberdeen graduates have been professors in American and Canadian Colleges. Henry Hopper Miles, M.A., King's College, 1839, was for many years Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and ultimately became Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction in Canada: he was the author of the histories of Canada used in the elementary schools of the Dominion.

VI.

OUR MODERN "EXPORT OF BRAINS".

The export of brains still continues. I took the trouble one evening recently to run over two dozen pages of the list of graduates given in the University "Calendar"—barely a fifth of the total—and note the present occupation and location of the various men. There were professors, lecturers, College instructors and teachers in Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and India, not a few of the teachers being ladies; medical men all over the world, even in such remote places as Raratonga, New Guinea, and Klondike; clergymen and medical missionaries in China, India, Nyasaland, Nigeria, and the New Hebrides, including a Bishop, the Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak, in the person of a son of the late Dean Danson; members of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Forestry Service, and of the Consular and Customs services abroad; rubber planters in the Malay States, a barrister in Australia, a solicitor in Edmonton, Canada, a banker in Mexico, a mining engineer in Johannesburg, a stockbroker in Pretoria, a farmer in the Argentine, and another in Saskatchewan, who has named his holding "Bennachie"—which reminds me that an Aberdeen friend of mine who settled in the sunny clime and fruitful land of California dubbed his farm, so he said, "Pech nae mair". In this connection I may mention incidentally that in the course of the past two years no fewer than eighteen graduates of Aberdeen University have been appointed to Professorships at home and abroad.[1]

Buchan—selecting this district of the shire again merely as a sample—is not behind in its contribution to the export of Aberdeenshire brains in modern times. I hope I may be excused referring to the two last pages of my own edition of Pratt's "Buchan," where an enumeration was given of some of the more distinguished of then contemporary scholars hailing from the district. They included Charles Niven, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Aberdeen University; his brother, Sir William D. Niven, Director of Studies at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich; Dr. Peter Giles, now Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Professor A. F. Murison, London University; Principal Cook, Government College, Bangalore, India; and Thomas Davidson, a native of Fetterangus, probably the most brilliant scholar that Buchan—or Aberdeenshire, for the matter of that—ever produced. He emigrated to America and acquired a high reputation by his philosophical and educational

[1] See REVIEW, vii, 81-82, 164, 178-79, 274-75.

writings. When he died (in 1900) the *Spectator* eulogized him as "one of the most gifted and remarkable men of the latter half of this century," "one of the dozen most learned men on this planet". At the date of the publication of that edition of Pratt (1901), Buchan was most worthily represented in theology by Dr. A. B. Davidson, Professor of Hebrew, New College, Edinburgh (a native of Ellon); in divinity by Rev. Dr. William Mair, Earlston (native of Savoch), Moderator of Assembly, 1897; in law by Mr. James Ferguson of Kinmundy, Sheriff of Argyll and later of Forfarshire; and in medicine by Sir James Reid (of Ellon), and by Dr. Charles Creighton (of Peterhead), author of "A History of Epidemics in Britain".

Mr. Keith Leask bears striking testimony to what he terms "the roving propensities of the Aberdonian" in that exceedingly interesting and most entertaining book of his, "Interamna Borealis". Writing on the record of the Grammar School Class of 1807, he points out that members of it found their way to Valparaiso, Lima, Java, Montreal, Charleston, China, and Jersey, etc. And writing on the University Arts Class of 1884-88 he says—

> "One medical man, an unsuccessful candidate for the Yukon Territory in the Canadian Parliament, has made things lively in Dominion circles. Another doctor has travelled over Uganda and explored the uninhabited plains between Lake Victoria Nyanza and Kilima-Njaro, Rhodesia, and the ancient ruins of Matabeleland. Two in the Class have died at sea. Their outward-bound sails have long left the pier of Aberdeen far behind, and the wanderers are found in every quarter of the globe. They range from St. Kilda, 'plac'd far amid the melancholy main,' to China. Canada, America, Cape Colony, and the Hudson Bay Territory have all taken toll. The globe has been circumnavigated by at least two. Lately we noticed in 'Round the World on a Wheel' how three cyclists, breaking down in the interior of China, were succoured by a member of the Class."

VII.

THE ABERDONIAN AS SOLDIER.

Something ought, perhaps, to be said of the Aberdonian as soldier, but, frankly, it is a field I have not investigated, and I am somewhat doubtful if the investigation would yield any profitable results. It would be interesting, of course, to be assured that Aberdonians—limiting the term for the moment to men of the city—were to be found in the famous Scots Guard of France, best known to most of us, I suppose, by the account of it given in "Quentin Durward," and the history of which and of the ancient league between France and Scotland has been so well delineated by Burton in his "Scot Abroad". It would be equally interesting to know positively that Aberdeen furnished some of the Scots troopers who fought indiscriminately on any side in the Thirty Years' War in Germany (1618-48), of whom the typical representative is Sir Walter Scott's Dugald Dalgetty of Drumthwacket, on the estate of Banchory-Devenick.[1] I am afraid, however, that the Aberdonian of the olden days was not a fighting man, but was more concerned in pursuing

[1] See "Marischal's Most Martial Alumnus," by J. D. Symon; REVIEW, iii. 13-26.

peaceful trade at home than in serving as a trooper abroad; and this opinion is strengthened by an incidental remark of Dr. Fischer—"The most influential Scotsmen settled in Germany were merchants. . . . Whilst in France we hear of nothing but of the heroisms of Scottish warriors, it was the Scottish trader in Germany who chiefly left his imprints upon the country of his adoption."[1] Such Aberdonians as took part in Continental campaigns seem mainly to have belonged to the county and to have been younger sons of impecunious lairds, who enrolled in foreign armies, impelled thereto either by love of adventure or by dire necessity, the paternal acres being insufficient to maintain them as idlers at home, or because, as in some cases, proscribed for their political or religious views and the persistent and troublesome proclamation thereof. Three notable and well-known instances in illustration are furnished in the chaper on "The Soldier" in "The Scot Abroad".[2] Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries, in Cruden, after serving in the Swedish and Polish armies, had a brilliant career in the Russian service, and Burton expresses the opinion that, "after his friend and master Peter the Great, it may be questioned if any other one man did so much for the early consolidation of the Russian empire as Patrick Gordon". James Francis Keith, of the once powerful and historic Buchan family of Keiths, forced to leave the country after the '15 and the attempted Jacobite rising in Glenshiel four years later, won much distinction in the Russian army, and, transferring his services to Prussia, ultimately became one of Frederick the Great's most trusted generals. And with him is associated his elder brother, the last Earl Marischal, who, however, was more a diplomat and an administrator than a soldier, a man of culture, the friend of Voltaire, and one of the literary circle with which Frederick surrounded himself.

Much the same remark—that the Aberdeen soldier was generally an offshoot of a county family and not at all a city man—falls to be made from a perusal of that colossal work, brilliantly executed—in many respects, a remarkable *tour de force*—the volume on "Gordons Under Arms" by Mrs. Skelton and Mr. John Malcolm Bulloch, as well as of Mr. Bulloch's many individual contributions to the history of the Gordons. The gallant and heroic Gordons, and the turbulent and discreditable ones of them as well—please to note that the familiar descriptive epithet should be "The Gey Gordons" and not as metamorphosed by latter-day journalists "The Gay Gordons," and I do not need to tell an Aberdeen audience the meaning that attaches to "gey"—the Gordons were mostly members of county families, and arms and battles and raids and fighting were to them a sort of natural heritage. On the other hand, trading in all its ramifications was more congenial to the douce burghers of Aberdeen; the ellwand was their favourite weapon, not the sword. We are all proud, of course, of the worthy part played in the recent war by Aberdeen men, who showed, just as their ancestors did many times, that they could fight when the occasion arose; still, it is very noticeable that in the recent war Aberdeen produced only one man of high military rank—General Sir George F. Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., the Commander-in-Chief of the Salonika force, son of a George Milne, who was the agent of the Commercial Bank in King Street and occupant for several years of the house at Queen's

[1] "The Scots in Eastern and Western Prussia."

[2] See also the section on "The Army" in "The Scots in Germany," by Th. A. Fischer, 1902.

Cross which is now the Convent of the Sacred Heart.[1] We must not forget, too, that Aberdeen men "did their bit" quite as valiantly in the Peninsular War, at Waterloo, and in the many campaigns of the century that followed—in the Crimea, the Indian Mutiny, Afghanistan, the Sudan, South Africa, and so on, not overlooking the famous charge up the heights of Dargai to the inspiring strains of the bagpipes played by Piper Findlater, a Turriff man, though what precisely was the tune he played still remains matter of controversy. After all, however, the deeds of such of these Aberdeen men as displayed conspicuous bravery are more properly part of the history of the regiments to which they belonged, and can hardly be classed with the individual achievements of Aberdonians abroad which we are now considering.

VIII.

THE ABERDONIAN AS COLONIST AND ADMINISTRATOR.

Finally, let us glance for a moment at the Aberdonian as a colonist and a settler. If the direct intercourse of Aberdeen with foreign countries resulting from trade connections has ceased to be so marked as it was in past centuries, it has been replaced in some measure by the inter-communication which has followed upon the emigration of Aberdonians to the various colonies and dominions and to the United States of America. Large numbers of Aberdonians have from time to time exchanged existence in their native city for life in lands of more sunshine and better prospects of "getting on". They have engaged in the pioneer work of settlement in all parts of the world; and in the remarkable exodus to Canada from Scotland, organized and directed by the Canadian authorities, which took place in the first dozen years of the present century, numerous contingents were furnished by Aberdeen and the adjacent counties. During the height of this exodus, Mr. J. M. Gibbon, an Aberdonian, who is now the Publicity Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, contributed to the *Aberdeen Daily Journal* a series of articles (subsequently reprinted) on "The Scot in Canada," descriptive of "a run through the Dominion". At a place named Indian Head, near Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, "it was natural to find some Indians," he wrote, "but what surprised me was to see an Indian woman wearing a fine plaid of the Gordon tartan". Asking whether any Scot was farming in the neighbourhood, he was advised to go and see John Murray—"he is the best man we have round here," he was told. He discovered that John came from Banchory-Devenick, where he had once been a blacksmith, that he still spoke the rich Doric, and that he owned a splendid farm. Digging up potatoes for their mid-day meal, John remarked—"Ye dinna grow tatties like yon in Banchory-Devenick. If they saw me owning soil like yon in Aberdeen, they'd a' tak' their hats aff to me!" Mr. Edward W. Watt, of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, who attended the Imperial Press Conference at Ottawa this year (1920) and participated in the

[1] Another could be named, perhaps—Major-General Sir William Edmund Ironside, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces at Archangel, 1918-19, and Divisional Commander in Mesopotamia from 1920. He is described in "Burke" as a son of the late Surgeon-Major W. Ironside, R.H.A., of Ironside, co. Aberdeen; but I must confess I am ignorant of where Ironside is. Sir William is understood to be connected with the Dingwall-Fordyces of Brucklay.

accompanying tour through Canada, in the course of an address to the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, said :—

> "The trail of the Scot is all over Canada. From Sydney to Vancouver he is in evidence, proud of his native land, and, in many cases, even prouder of the land of his adoption. I had many inquiries about Aberdeen from exiled Aberdonians, and it was a pleasure to meet several men who had fought during the Great War in the ranks of our own Territorial regiment. An incident which occurred one night as we were travelling down the Pacific slope quaintly illustrated the ubiquity of the Aberdonian. When the train stopped somewhere about one o'clock in the morning, I woke and heard some hammering outside and then a voice said 'Are ye a' deen noo, boys? Ca awa'.' The accent was unmistakable."

Many of the men who have migrated to the new lands of the earth have displayed both energy and ability, and have not only proved successful in various walks of life, but have won for themselves much distinction in their respective localities, particularly in the field of politics and administration, and in such departments of business and affairs as call for the exercise of superior mental faculties. "Look to India and the Colonies and every country with which we are connected," Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff once said, "and you will find that Aberdeen men are doing hard intellectual work all over the world". India in particular has been an exceedingly fruitful field for the display of the administrative capacity of the Aberdonian. I doubt if we can over-estimate the possession by the Aberdonian of this essential quality of "efficiency"—it has been so abundantly demonstrated. A few years ago, three of the permanent heads of great departments of State were Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire men—Sir Edward Troup, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, a native of Huntly (a nephew of George MacDonald, by the way); Sir John Anderson, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office, born at Gartly; and Sir Robert Bruce, Controller of the London Postal Service, a graduate of Aberdeen. Sir John Anderson is now dead, and Sir Robert Bruce has retired.

Aberdeen's contribution to the Indian Civil Service has been enormous.[1] I will content myself with citing the names of a few living men only. The first that occurs, and the foremost, on account of many and important services rendered and still being rendered, is that of Sir James (now Lord) Meston, son of a well-known Registrar of Births, etc., in the city, who recently resigned the very high post of Finance Minister of India (held a few years ago by another Aberdonian, Sir James Westland, son of a former manager of the North of Scotland Bank). Lord Meston was called to London to assist the Indian Secretary in piloting the Indian Home Rule Bill through Parliament. Then we have Mr. G. F. Shirras, the Director of the Department of Statistics in India; Sir George Carmichael, member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay; Sir Alexander Henderson Diack, Senior Financial Commissioner of the Punjab (recently retired); and Sir James Walker, Commissioner of the Nerbudda Division of the Central Provinces—all Aberdeen men; and Sir Harvey Adamson, late Lieutenant-Governor of Burma—a native of Turriff. Lord Meston, by the way, was formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Agra and

[1] See "Aberdeen and the Indian Civil Service," in REVIEW, ii., 250-53.

Oudh, and in March, 1916, he laid the foundation-stone of a Hospital at Cawnpore, the gift of Sir Alexander M'Robert of Douneside, Tarland, who is, I think, president of the Cawnpore Woollen Mills Company. A notable thing was that, in addition to Sir Alexander M'Robert, other five Aberdonians were present at the ceremony, these including Mr. (now Sir) Leslie Watson, formerly of the Stoneywood Works, and the Hon. George Gall Sim, Chairman of the Municipal Board of Cawnpore.[1]

The Aberdonian abroad figures not infrequently as a politician. Not many years ago the Speaker of the United States Congress was a Mr. David Bremner Henderson, who hailed from Old Deer. When I was last in America I introduced myself, in a railway train, to Mr. John D. Stephen, the Republican candidate for the Governorship of Colorado—a State, by the way, larger than Great Britain. He was by birth an Aberdonian. A prominent South African politician is the Hon. Sir William Bisset Berry, a son of the late Baillie James Berry, the optician. He is a doctor, and has represented Queenstown, Cape Province, in the Legislative Assembly, with a short interval, since 1894, and was Speaker of the old Cape House of Assembly from 1898 to 1907. The Right Hon. W. A. Watt, son of an Aberdeen man, was formerly Premier of Victoria, and was appointed Treasurer in the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1918. He resigned, however, in May, 1920, while in this country representing Australia at the International Conference on Finance. As allied to politics, we may include Mr. B. C. Forbes, of whom we have been hearing lately. A native of Fedderate, New Deer, be began life as a compositor on the *Peterhead Sentinel*. He budded forth as a reporter, went to South Africa, and then to the United States. There he specialized in financial journalism, and ultimately became financial editor of the *New York Journal of Commerce*. Three years ago he started the *Forbes Magazine*, an American fortnightly for business men. Nor should mention be omitted of the late Senator Gibson, of Ontario, who belonged, I think, to Peterhead: he dubbed his Canadian home "Inverugie" at any rate.

Not infrequently, as I have already indicated, the Aberdonian turns up in the most unlikely places and occupying the most surprising positions. A few instances may be cited. General Hugh Mercer, who commanded the American troops at the battle of Princeton in 1777, was born in Aberdeen and was educated at Marischal College: he was a second cousin of a Major James Mercer, who built Sunnybank House. Dr. Charles Smart, an Aberdeen man, a medical graduate of the University, served as a surgeon in the Federal army during the American Civil War, and retired with the rank of Brigadier-General. The first Governor of Pennsylvania was Patrick Gordon, an Aberdeen man, son of John Gordon, Aberdeen, who was the son of John Gordon, a merchant in Poland. John Mair, a noted "apostle of temperance" in North America, was born in Aberdeen in 1788. Henry Farquharson, who took a leading part in organizing the Russian Navy, entered Marischal College in 1691. Francis Masson, the pioneer of botanical science in South Africa, was an Aberdonian. Dr. Adam Thom, a Canadian judge, and Mr. Angus Mackay, a Minister of Education in the New South Wales Government, were both

[1] See speech of Lord Meston at the dinner of the Aberdeen University Edinburgh Association in REVIEW for March, 1921, p. 167. "There was no corner of the world," said his lordship, "where the Aberdeen graduate was not known and welcomed. Truly, they were citizens of the world."

Aberdonians; and half a century ago the Town Clerk of Sydney was Mr. John Rae, the son of an Aberdeen town's officer.

This enumeration reminds me of a story told by Rev. Mr. M'William of Foveran in his little book, "Scottish Life in Light and Shadow". He says he once asked a typical Aberdonian, semi-sarcastically, whether he did not think that, taking Scotsmen generally, an Aberdeenshire man was "just the pick of the lot". The Aberdonian, insensible to the irony implied, simply gave a pleased little laugh and said—"Noo, that's rale true!"

Apart from individual illustrations of the Aberdonian abroad which could be multiplied indefinitely—it is no unusual thing to find something like an "Aberdeen colony" in many European settlements in foreign countries, in such places, for example, as Hong-Kong and Singapore. Contingents of Aberdonians were to be found in Ceylon in the early days of coffee-planting, and, later, when tea-planting superseded coffee-planting; Aberdonians in numbers are to be met with to-day in Assam and other tea-planting districts of Upper India; and I am sure that by now all the rubber-growing districts of the East and of South America have their contingents of men hailing from the Granite City or from the county. A very large number of quarry-workers from Aberdeen and the neighbourhood are located at Barre, the chief seat of the granite industry in Vermont. There is a flourishing Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardineshire Association in Winnipeg, which held its tenth annual meeting last September. One of its vice-presidents is an Ellon man, two of its secretaries hail from Fraserburgh, and a third from Lonmay. Among the early Governors of Fiji was Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon (afterwards Lord Stanmore), an uncle of the Marquis of Aberdeen. He interested himself in the development of the islands, especially in the cultivation of sugar-cane, and not a few of the sugar-planters hailed from Aberdeenshire, particularly from the Haddo House estates. A later administrative official of Fiji was another Aberdeenshire man—Sir William L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G., son of the late Colonel James Allardyce of Culquoich. He was Deputy-Governor of the colony, 1901-02; and Colonial Secretary, 1902-04.

The name "Aberdeen" itself has also acquired a certain degree of ubiquity. Eight towns at least in the United States are so called, and towns of the name are to be found in New South Wales, Queensland, and the Cape Province. Aberdeen is the name of a parish in New Brunswick, in a district where a "colony" of emigrants, mainly from Aberdeenshire and Glasgow, settled in 1861. There is an Aberdeen Lake in Keewatin, Canada—probably named, however, after Lord Aberdeen, when he was Governor-General of the Dominion; and "Aberdeen Island" off Hong-Kong possesses an "Aberdeen harbour". The choice of the designation "Aberdeen" in so many and such various places could hardly have been haphazard, but must have been determined presumably by a predominance of Aberdonians in the locality, or selected in deference to the wish—or in honour—of some official or influential resident who came from Aberdeen. Either way, the choice of the name demonstrates—what is abundantly demonstrated otherwise—the immense capacity of the Aberdonian for "peaceful penetration".

Much more, very much more, could be said of the Aberdonian abroad, both in the past and in the present day. I have been obliged to leave many phases of the subject unexplored. There is the large field of missionary enterprise, for instance, in which Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire men and women

have taken—and are still taking—a prominent and honourable part; the names will readily occur of Mackay of Uganda, Dr. Robert Laws, Dr. Hedderwick, Mary Slessor, and Rev. Dr. James Shepherd. Cognate to missionary work, there is the very remarkable share that Aberdonians have had in the compilation of dictionaries of native languages—quite extraordinary, I am assured. Nor have I so much as mentioned Aberdeen's participation in the building and sailing of the once famous clipper ships, and in the annual ocean-racing from China with the new season's teas, or referred to the great number of Aberdonians who man the engine-rooms of the liners that have supplanted the clippers. Kipling, by the way, has put one of his toughest yarns into the mouth of a chief engineer whose speech was "the speech of Aberdeen". I have said enough, however, I hope, to show that the Aberdonian ranges far and wide, playing no unimportant part in the world's work. So extensive is that range that we might well employ the classic phrase, *Quae regio in terris nostri non plena laboris?*

There is a temptation—not unnatural, I fancy, and certainly not easily resisted—to indulge in a little self-glorification, in the manner of the familiar Scottish "sentiment"—"Here's to oorsel's; wha's like us?" Perhaps I have been indulging in it all through, indirectly if not directly. For fear of the implied laudation being too excessive, and to obviate any danger of our becoming too conceited, I shall end with the warning conveyed in a delicious story furnished by Rev. Mr. Cowan, late of Banchory. During the war he acted as a chaplain to the forces, and was stationed at Malta, where a large military hospital was established. Writing home one time, he said he had two soldiers in hospital lying side by side, one a Welshman, the other an Aberdonian. He went in with some newspapers one day. The Welshman said, "It's a good thing you've come. That'll keep him quiet for a time. He's continually lecturing us all on the unsurpassable glories of Aberdeen." "Well," said the Aberdonian, "Aberdeen is——." The Welshman, in a tone of mingled weariness and disgust, instantly interrupted—"There he goes again!"

ROBERT ANDERSON.