# FROM THE LAND O' CAKES.

## SOME LATE ITEMS OF NEWS FROM SCOTTISH BRAES.

**New Signal Cabin at Waverley and its Equipment—Prince of Wales Disappoints Glasgow People.**

The new signal cabin of the Waverley station, Edinburgh, contains the largest apparatus of the kind in the world, having 200 interlocking levers in one continuous frame. At present the levers in use number 157, and more will be brought into service as the work advances. To attend to the traffic there will be four men on each shift, which is eight hours long; while youths are employed to record the times of the trains, wor khitherto done by the signalmen themselves. The large cabin has been rendered necessary by the extent of the traffic to be dealt with, there being no fewer than 500 trains passing the cabin during the 24 hours and of these 300 are passenger trains, in addition there are the shunting operations—an extensive branch at the Waverley station—to be controlled from this cabin The most modern improvements have been introduced into the working of the levers and other apparatus; while the cabin is lighted with electricity, and with gas in case of the failure of the electric light.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow intimates that the Prince and Princess of Wales who were asked to visit Glasgow on September 9, to lay the foundation stone of the Art Gallery and to formally open Cessnock Dock, cannot find it convenient to do so. However, the Duke and Duchess of York will travel to Glasgow and perform the double ceremony. The Cessnock Dock is the largest in Scotland, and took twelve years to construct. After opening the docks their Royal Highness will attend luncheon in the City Chambers, at which the freedom of the city will probably be presented to the Duke and subsequently lay the foundation stone of the Art Galleries. In the evening the Royal party will leave the city for Dalmeny, where they are to be the guests of the Earl of Rosebery.

The French-Scottish Society that has this year been holding its annual meetings in Edinburgh, paid a visit to St. Andrews, where they were the guests of the University. At a special graduation ceremonial the Senatus conferred the honourary degree of L.L.D. on M. le Comte de Franqueville, M. Croiset and M. Melon, and also on a lady, Miss Eugenie Selliers. The latter is the first lady t oreceive the degree at St. Andrews, and the fact was very suitably commented upon by Principal Donaldson. He pointed out that as the University of St. Andrews has now opened its doors to lady students, it cannot consistently reserve its honourary degrees for men, but must be ready to confer them upon women who have distinguished themselves in science or scholarship.

A policeman's sense of humour quelled a disturbance at Burntisland last week, and the delinquents' sense of humour saved them from the vengeance of the law. The case stood thus: A female tramp and her two sons were making too much noise, and vexing the lieges. They resisted all attempts to soothe them. One of the sons is a piper and a policeman suggested that he should play the party to the lockup. The man was tickled with the idea, and did as he was told. While the officer fumbled for the keys of the cells, the prisoners kept marking time. "In consideration of the humour of their behaviour," the Bailie dismissed them with an admonition.

"Seven school children," says the Athenaeum, "of Golspie, in Sutherland, once wrote down for Mr. Nicholson, Bodley's librarian, all they knew of the superstitions and legends of the neighbourhood, the description of their own games, the rhymes sung in them, and much else. This, without altering a word, Mr. Nicholson had edited, adding the music of the game-rhymes, and an introduction to the history of the place, its prehistoric and other antiquities, and its population. Mr. Nutt is about to publish the work, which is plentifully illustrated."

By command of the Queen a supper and a ball were held at Balmoral Castle on July 23rd in honour of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. The celebrations had been postponed on account of the death of Mrs. Macdonald, one of her Majesty's dressers. All the tenantry on the Balmoral, Abergeldie and Birkhall estates, together with their wives and families were present, and the royal tradesmen in Aberdeen were also invited.

The memorial stone of a mortuary chapel which has been gifted to the Northern Infirmary, Inverness by the Dowager Lady Tweedmouth, in memory of the late Lord Tweedmouth, was laid by her Ladyship a few days ago, in presence of a representative gathering of clergymen and citizens. Her Ladyship's party included the Countess of Aberdeen and Lady Marjorie, daughter of the Countess.

A rather strange freak of nature has just been seen in a house in the upper part of Crieff, where a cat was suckling a kitten and a rat. The cat, a stranger to the house, brought the kitten and the rat along with it, and the three apparently lived happily together, the latter being nursed by "pussy." The kitten seemed to be more timid than the rat, while the rat was inclined to be frolicsome.

Sir Hugh Muir Nelson, K.C., M.G., Premier of Queensland, accompanied by Lady Nelson, recently visited Kilmarnock, his native town, and had conferred upon him the freedom of the burgh. The principal thoroughfares and council buildings were decorated with flags and streamers in honour of the distinguished visitor. A banquet took place later in the day.

Musselburgh was recently the scene of an extraordinary deluge. A thunderstorm burst over the town, and in twenty minutes the chief streets, at a point where it is forty yards wide was knee deep in water. Houses and shops were inundated. Fortunately, the storm was of momentary duration, but considerable damage was done.

Charles Dickens, a ticket-of-leave man, has been sent to jail for 60 days and to serve out his suspended life sentence at Glasgow for having a burglar's kit in his possession. He made a living while out of jail by writing prison stories for magazines, and by figuring on his prison experiences.

A number of bottle-nosed whales recently found their way into Lock Eli and as the entrance is very narrow they were unable to get out again. Within a few days over a dozen stranded on the shores and died. They measured from 15 to 20 feet in length.

According to report the smithy at Melrose in which Armourer-Sergeant Scott, the winner of the silver medal at Bisley works, has been in the possession of his forefathers for seven hundred years.

# YOUNG FOLKS.

## A LITTLE GIRL'S DOLLS.

My dollies are many,
There's curly-haired Jennie,
And Topsy so black,
And white-haired old Jack,
There's Robbie, the soldier,
Than whom none is bolder;
There's the Stick-of-Wood Polly.
And the Japanese dolly;
But the latest and best,
In silken robes dressed,
With a vest of pearls bright,
All set in rows white,
Is Dolly Sweet-Corn,
Who this summer was born,
On a tasselled corn-stalk,
Near the old garden walk,
In a field of bright green,
With a changeable sheen.

## QUEEN VICTORIA'S HORSES.

The Queen of England has large stables attached to all her palaces. They are not nearly so grand as some that have been built in this country, but it is a great pleasure to go through them, for they are so beautifully kept, and the animals are such noble, intelligent creatures.

The rooms, for the divisions of the stables are really rooms, are bright, sunny oftentimes, and the floors and stalls are as sweet and clean, nay, cleaner than many a kitchen. To add to the picture of comfort, in nearly every apartment there is a big, sleek gray cat who sits and sleeps by the stalls as if she were keeping guard.

The queen has all kinds of horses—saddle-horses, many of them presents from other sovereigns; carriage-horses for state occasions and for private use; horses for work about the palace grounds, and draught horses. These last are magnificent fellows, English thoroughbreds. The English draught horse is much larger than any in America. He is not only higher, but much more heavily built and has great tufts of hair falling over his heavy hoofs.

The most beautiful horses which the queen owns are what is known as cream color, but you can guess the color better by being told that it is like that lovely brown which is on a dainty meringue. Their manes reach almost to their knees, and their tails sweep the ground. They are gentle creatures, and will let a stranger pat their glossy sides. There are eight of them, and it took several years to find those which nearly matched. They were sent from all parts of England.

The queen's carriage is not driven by a coachman. It has no box seat. The horses are guided by men who ride them and who are called "outriders." They make a pretty picture with their scarlet coats and jocky caps.

When the queen is in the country at Balmoral or on the Isle of Wight she often goes about in a wicker chair drawn by a donkey just such a chair and just such a donkey as you may have read about in that charming little story, "Jackanapes." It must be slow riding, but the queen is an old lady and likes to take things easily. So will you, perhaps, when you get to be a great-grandmother.

## AN OLD-FASHIONED GENTLEMAN

Teddy Hammond was visiting hi great-aunt. There was nothing h liked better than to hear stories of his great-uncle who died long before, and who stood in the aunt's memory at the tip-top of everything. Teddy was longing to be a man.

"Be more than a man, Teddy," aunt Lucretia would say, "be an old-fashioned gentleman. When we were married—" then Teddy settled himself in great content, for that meant something very nice. "When we were married, my mother lived with us. She was feeble and only came out to dinner. When that was served, your uncle always knocked at her door and said, 'May I take you out to dinner, mother?' Then he offered his arm—the left arm, mind you, that was what courtesy required— and escorted her to her chair. How noble he looked, bending over her white head! Not many such men in these days!" Aunt Lucretia sighed, and the boy waited in vain for more.

Now, Teddy meant to be quite as much a gentleman as that famous old uncle, and he really lost half a morning's play hanging around, for fear he wouldn't be on hand at dinner-time. Would Aunt Lucretia be in her room? That was another puzzler. By good luck, she was.

He knocked solemnly at her door and said, "May—may I— will you come to your dinner, auntie?" Then he looked at her tall height and his own shortness. 'I can't offer my arm, nor bend over you. I can't reach, but may I lead you?" He put out his left band, Aunt Lucretia was touched.

"You're doing your very best," she said, "and the finest gentleman in the land couldn't do more."

Helen A. Hawley.

# THE HOME.

## EMBROIDERED LINEN.

We believe every dainty housewife likes to have a supply of embroidered doilies, centerpieces, tray cloths, sideboard covers, and many other things made of linen. One need not know how to sketch the designs, for perforated patterns are so inexpensive that any one can afford them, and many of the designs are beautiful. Centerpieces and carving cloths not only look well on the table, but are a genuine saving in the wear of the tablecloths, and the amount of washing required to keep them clean

The most popular shapes for centerpieces are oblong, square, and round, and the edges are usually hemstitched, scalloped, or fringed. It is not as difficult to fringe the round doilies as it would seem. Get a large plate and mark a circle on the linen first. Three or four inches inside this circle draw another, and run several rows of machine stitching around it as close together as possible. The threads can then be drawn for the fringe. If the fringe thus made does not seem heavy enough knot three or four threads of cotton into the edge of the doily at short intervals.

A beautiful centerpiece and set of six doilies seen recently were round, with fringed edges, and a wreath of lilies of the valley and leaves embroidered with white and green Asiatic filo floss. Such work needs to be put in a frame or hoops to keep it smooth while working. In embroidering flowers solidly, make the stitches of different lengths, leaving a regular edge. Leaves should always be commenced at the point, and worked from midvein outward.

Another handsome set of round doilies made of fine white linen, are bordered with a design of grape leaves, so arranged that the edges of the leaves form scallops and are done in buttonhole stitch. The remainder of the leaf wtih delicate irregular veins, is done in outline.

Many of the square table pieces are finished with hemstitched hems from one to three inches in width, while others are buttonholed in large shallow scallops, each one being composed of three or more smaller and shallower scallops. One very pretty centerpiece is an oblong piece of linen, thirty inches long and eighteen inches wide, with a hem two inches wide, hemstitched around it. There is a bunch of mignonette and leaves in each corner, embroidered with Roman floss. In spite of the diminutive size of the blossoms this design can be made to look very natural. Use only pale, delicate tints, and if you have a bunch of natural flowers to study while you work, you will be more apt to get just the right tone. Small conventionalized designs are often used in the corners of the square pieces others have three or four-inch squares of drawn work. They are simple and pretty, and do not require much time to make them. Another very pretty set of doilies has a border of apple blossoms done with several shades of pink, shading almost to white. The scalloped edges are buttonholed with white Boston art silk. A basket of flowers embroidered in each corner of a square doily is a pretty finish.

A handsome scarf for a sideboard is made of butcher's linen, just as wide as the top of the sideboard, and long enough to hang over the ends ten or twelve inches. The hems were hemstitched, and the ends finished with fringe. Three inches from the fringe was a border of Roman embroidery, about eight inches wide. After the pattern was stamped, it was outlined with coarse cotton thread to give firmness, then worked in buttonhole stitch with yellow Asiatic twisted embroidery silk. The linen was cut out around the design,l eaving a beautiful openwork pattern. As the linen and silk were of the best quality, this piece of work will last a lifetime.

## TABLE LINEN.

In table linen for next season the preference appears to be for floral designs, and the figures are larger and more pronounced than ever. Instead of the single bud or medium sized blossom with an occasional leaf or sprig of foliage found on table linen heretofore, the damasks for the coming season display entire plants or huge branches laden with both leaves and flowers.

The newest and most stylish cloths have plain centres, not satin damask, but plain linen, with deep floraal borders, extending from the hem. In one design of this sort, which is especially artistic and beautiful, great bunches of poppies apparently pulled up by the roots spring from their bed of leaves and grasses just above the hem and extend toward the centre of the cloth, covering it with blossoms and buds on their own graceful stems. The napkins and doilies to match this cloth have a border intertwined long-stemmed poppies with an uprooted blossoming plant in the centre.

All table linens, when not lace-trimmed, must be marked with embroidered initials. For napkins the letters should be 1 1-4 inches long, while for cloths the accepted size is 2 1-2 inches. These initials should be intertwined, but should not be in the old-fashioned monogram.

For lace-trimmed table linen, which will be even more fashionable than last season, there are three new laces. One is a French lace which is very like elaborate patterns of heavy linen torchon, another is a Russian lace that has close meshes and clumsey-looking figures, and a third is a fine duchess lace. The last is the finest lace ever used for table decoration. It is combined with linen so sheer as to almost resemble muslin, and is used principally for tea and luncheon cloths and for centre pieces and tray covers. Of course, there are always plate and fingerbowl doilies to match.

Battenburg and Renaissance laces will still be fashionable if combined with linen; but silk and satin for the table are tabooed though the linens used with these laces are so smooth and glossy as to impress a casual observer that they are made of silk. Fayal drawn work is the latest for bordering small cloths, napkins and doilies. It is made of the finest linen and more than anything else, resembles beautiful needlework. Even under the closest inspection there is not the slightest resemblance to the old-fashioned drawn or Mexican work. There are reither blocks nor wheels. All the threads running one way being drawn, elaborate and graceful designs are worked with the needle. The old-fashioned drawn work will be sold next season for less than half its former price. The reason for the reduction, according to the dealers, is not so much because it has ceased to be fashionable as because the work is now done in Japan.

Satin and silk scarfs have had their day, and in their places for those housekeepers fond of displaying their own handiwork on their tables, have come crochet mats, centrepieces and plate and finger bowl doilies. These may be solid pieces of crocheted or linen centres with crochet borders more or less elaborate to suit the taste of the owner.

Afternoon tea cloths with a touch of color are a pretty change. One seen recenty appeared to be embroidered in fuchsias of gold and silver, the white silk giving a luminous silvery effect. Very pretty and lacy in effect were the afternoon tea cloths in a pattern of ivy leaves, each leaf formed of transparent drawn threads; others, more perfect still, have corners of drawn threads forming squares more lovely than lace insertion.

## FOR ORNAMENT AND USE.

Cut from stiff cardboard a perfectly circular piece five or six inches in diameter. From smooth. white, gray, brown, or any plain paper cut another circular piece the same size, and cut a half circle of sand or emery paper, only making it crescent shaped. Procure a pretty child's head from a picture card or scrap and have it about two inches in diameter. Paste this head on the cardboard almost in the center. Make a hole in the white paper at the same place, and tear it sufficiently large to show the picture. Paste this paper smoothly, over the cardboard, leaving the torn edges irregular, just as if the head had been thrust through it. Now firmly paste the emery paper crescent over this, being careful to have the outside edges even. Put it to one side or beneath the head. With gilt paint or pen and ink sketch these words over the picture along the edge of the paper; "Looking for Light." Paste a loop of ribbon or something else at the top to hang by, and you have an ornamental match scratcher to hang near the match receptacle.

## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

**In His Youth Gladstone Wanted to Be an Actor, But Changed His Plans.**

Few are aware that, not only has Mr. Gladstone figured as a playwright, but that, also, he was to such an extent stage-struck in his youth that he actually consulted the famous actor, Macready, respecting his chances of success in the theatrical profession. The tragedian is reported to have accorded a favorable opinion, but, subsequently, Mr. Gladstone was induced to abandon his intentions, in that direction by the advice of his friend, Lord Stanley, afterward fourteenth earl of Derby, so celebrated as prime minister, and as the most successful translator of the works of Homer.

Of course the entreaties of Mr. Gladstone's own relatives, likewise weighed in the balance in persuading him to change his plans, and thus the British stage was deprived of a star that would certainly have proved its more brilliant ornament. There certainly is no man on the English-speaking stage to-day, or, indeed, who has been during the present century, who has been possessed of so exquisitely melodious voice or of such perfect diction. The course of English history during the last fifty years might have been different had Mr. Gladstone become an actor.

With regard to his career as a playwright, it was both brief and inglorious. It is just sixty years ago, that he wrote a play, making its theme the retreat of the famous "ten thousand" under Xenophon, the leading part in which was intended for Kean or for Young. The drama, however, was rejected by every London and provincial manager of the day. It is doubtful whether a play written by the Grand Old Man nowadays would meet with so particularly sorry a fate.

## GOLD IS EVERYWHERE.

**Found in Small Quantities in all Parts of the World.**

Gold exists in larger or small quantities in every portion of the world. It has been found in almost every state of the United States; in Devonshire, Cornwall, Wales and Scotland, in Great Britain; on the sands of the Rhine, the Reuss, the Rhone and the Aar; at Salzburg, in the Tyrol, and at Zell; in the valleys of Toppa, Sesia, and Novard, in Piedmont; at Percheria in Lombardy; on the Tagus, in Spain; in the rivers of Provence; in southern and eastern Siberia; in fourteen of the nineteen provinces of China; in the island of Yesso, in Japan; in odd spots in India; Thibet, and the islands of Ceylon and Borneo; in Abyssinia, Kordofan, and the Soudan generally, in North Africa, and the region watered by the Zambesi and Limpopo, in South Africa; in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. But as a general rule the precious metal is found in such small quantities that it will not pay to work the mines or placers. It is only now and then that it is found in isolated localities in abundance.

# NEWS OF MERRY ENGLAND

## INTERESTING ITEMS OF NEWS FROM THE OLD LAND.

**Gossipy Paragraphs of Happenings all Over the Tight Little Island—A Practical Joke With Bad Results.**

John Richardson, "one of the Six Hundred" in the famous light cavalry charge at Balaclava, died in Manchester a few days ago. He was given a public funeral.

A postage stamp exhibition, which is said to be the most scientific and elaborate ever gotten, up, is now open in London. The exhibits are valued at $1,250,000.

Remains of what seems to be a Roman basilica, with columns three feet in diameter, have been found in tearing down a shop in the centre of the city of Chester.

All of the alphabet as far as the word "foister" of the Oxford (Murray) English dictionary is now completed, and much work has been done on the letters G, H and K.

St. James churchyard, Pentonville, in which were buried Joe Grimaldi, the clown, and Tom Didbin, the nautical song writer, has been turned into a public playground.

At Newcastle-on-Tyne a boy named Thompson, who earned his livelihood by selling newspapers in the streets, has come into the fortune of £15,000 through the death of a rich uncle near Hexham.

A strange incident happened on a recent Sunday morning in the old church at Felmersham, Bedfordshire. During the service a swarm of bees appeared inside the building, forcing the service to an abrupt close.

Out of about 1,200 pictures exhibited this year at the Royal Academy, 180 have been sold for about $82,000. The highest prices obtained were $6,000 each for Mr. Boughton's "After Midnight Mass," and Mr. Napier Henry's "Pilchards."

A specimen of the Great Auk's egg, slightly cracked, realized 100 guineas in London the other day, the purchaser being proprietor of a well known public house in the north of London, who is already the owner of two eggs of this extinct bird. Only seventy eggs of the great auk are known to be in existence.

There is living at North-side, Birtley Fell, Durham a lady named Miss Winnifred Long, who has attained the great age of 107 years. Although almost totally blind, Miss Long speaks well, and her memory and hearing are good. Her eldest sister died not very long since at the age of 109, and it is asserted that a brother was also a centenarian.

A singular accident occurred recently near Scarborough. A number of beehives were being carted through the streets, when the horse stumbled, causing one of the hives to fall on it. The bees swarmed on the animal's back, stinging it so severely that it bolted, and dashing into a wall killed itself. The driver and a boy were also severely stung.

There is some surprise that no Jubilee honours were bestowed upon the distinguished English publisher, George Smith, who has produced on his own responsibility and at vest expense to himself the prodigious "Dictionary of National Biography," the greatest national reference book ever produced in England. He gave a dinner the other day to the many contributors to his huge work, and there was a notable display of distinguished men present.

A remarkable tragedy took place the other day at Stanford le Hope, Essex. As a funeral party was leaving the parish church a woman was seen to fall from the top of the church tower, a distance of over 80 feet. She proved to be Miss Frances Bewers, aged 40, the daughter of a well-known butcher at Stanford. At the inquest it was stated that the unfortunate lady had been despondent and ill for some time. She climbed the tower during the service.

A singular ceremony was witnessed by a large congregation at All Souls' church, Harlesden, one day recently, when the Rev. F. H. Vogt united Mr. Ralph Clegg, a Manchester engineer, and Miss Martha Ann Topping, a Harlesden lady in marriage, both being deaf mutes. The clergyman carried out the service in an ingenious way, holding the prayer book upside down and pointing to the words of the service as he went through it. Knowing the service by heart he was thus enabled to perform the ceremony, the bride and bridegroom nodding their heads in assent at the proper part of the service.

A practical joke has lately succeeded in driving out of her mind and eventually killing a poor young woman named Pay, of 26 years, living at Sandwich, in East Kent. Some time ago this victim was a happy and useful maid-servant in a good situation near to Pegwell Bay. She was of a nervous disposition, and much afraid of being alone in the dark. This was enough to suggest to one of her fellow domestics the idea of "frightening Mary out of her life" with a bogey. Accordingly the fellow-servant wrapped herself in a sheet from head to foot, and, concealing herself in a cupboard of the bedroom, waited until the timid one was about to sleep, and then sprang out upon her with arms extended and spectral cries and groans. The shock was too severe for the terrified maid, whose nerves were so shattered by the unexpected apparition that she then and there became hopelessly affected in her mind, losing sleep and self-command, and becoming so completely insane that she had to be placed in an asylum. Recovering a little—after a while—she was taken back to her home and lived there for a week or two, but always in the same melancholy and terrified condition. A short time ago she suddenly disappeared from the house and drowned herself.