THE SKYE CROFTERS.

A Correspondent Tells How They Live.

I will describe a typical Idrigil house, which is occupied by the aged daughter and three grown-up grandchildren of a fisherman named John Macdonald, who has been dead for many years. The croft upon which it stands slopes outward toward the bay of Uig, and is one of some 350 that belong to Major Frazer, of Kilmuir. It is about two and a half acres in extent, and pays a nominal rental of rather more than £5; a temporary reduction of 25 per cent. of that sum having, however, been conceded during the last two or three years by the proprietor. Near the centre of the croft is a sea of sticky mud; and amid the slough are two very small stacks of corn, each about nine feet high by six in diameter, carefully thatched, and covered with old nets to prevent their being scattered to the winds. Close at hand is the house—a building of rough unmortared stone, measuring, perhaps, ten feet by twenty, and very thickly roofed; first with "divits" of turf, then with a close thatch of heather, and finally with fragments of coarse netting weighted with lumps of gray trap. The door is broken, and will not shut properly; there is no chimney; and the sole window, consisting of a single pane of glass, has an area of not more than three square feet. From the doorway, and from a small hole in the low roof, volumes of peat smoke escape; and when I entered the hut, I could not, for several minutes distinguish anything within, owing to the dense fumes that rose from a scanty fire smouldering on the floor in the middle of the gloomy room. At last my eyes became accustomed to the semi-darkness, and I was able to make out the forms of the inmates of the hovel. They sat huddled on a low black settle, warming themselves, and greedily watching a battered pot that, suspended from an improvised tripod above the fire, contained a quantity of thin broth; the main ingredients of which were, as I afterwards discovered, potatoes and fish. I shared the poor people's meal of broth and oaten cake, while the smoke curled upwards and hung beneath the roof in an impenetrable cloud; the whole making, with the festooned fishing-nets and the tattered oilskins on the walls, an interior which Tenier would have delighted to paint, if there had been any jollity in the scene. There was no table, but at one end of the room there was a shaky dresser, on which was arranged a poor display of cracked crockery and rusty tins. The Inside of the house was divided, by means of rotten partitions about six feet in height, into three small chambers; one being the living-room, a second a bedroom, and the third a lumber or store room. In the bedroom the clothes were simply old rags and sacking, barely sufficient to cover poor humanity; and the floor throughout was formed, so far as I could see, of the hard earth. Yet this house of Macdonalds was a palace in comparison with some of the huts I visited elsewhere. One had neither door nor window. I crawled into it through an irregular aperture less than three feet high, and found myself among some ducks that were picking up scraps from amid the garbage with which the damp floor was littered. The sole tenant of this hovel was an old woman who had a hacking cough. In another hut the rain-water dripped from the broken roof and flooded the only room, in which seven people sat crouching.

One might reasonably expect to find that the people who live in such wretchedness are stunted and ill-looking. But they are not. They are a thick-set intelligent race; and some of the girls are models of buxomness, although before middle age all the women become withered. They are long-lived too. Their faults are that they are idle and saturated with superstition and prejudice. In only one out of at least a score of crofters' houses which I entered did I see any sign that the inmates regularly devoted themselves to any remunerative home employment. In that one two women were weaving home-spun tweed, and capital cloth they made on their awkward loom. I am glad to be able to say that most of the Skye landlords wear this tweed when they can get it; but if there was a wider demand there would be a larger supply, and the islanders would be proportionately benefitted. Until quite recently there were weavers in almost every township, and the art might easily be revived. The crofters can now get cheaper material for themselves from Manchester, and it is almost exclusively the richer classes who use the tweed of the island.—[St. James' Gazette.

An Infernal Machine.

A box containing an infernal machine was brought by a boy to the American Tract Society's office, 150 Nassau street, New York recently. It is believed the intention of the sender was to kill Anthony Comstock, special agent of the Society for the Prevention of Crime. The boy said a man, whose description he gave, had paid him 10c. at the corner of Leroy and Hudson streets to deliver the package. The machine consisted of a spring, parts of matches, broken glass 4 oz. bottle of powder and a phial of nitric acid. The package was addressed, "Bookstore, 150 Nassau street." Comstock said he did not think it was designed to reach him. He inclined to the belief that it was of infidel origin designed to harm the American Tract Society and Bible Society. When the box was brought in Comstock was called and took charge of it. The box had formerly contained collars, but had been altered into a modern infernal machine of the most approved pattern. Comstock removed the cover from the box, creating a stampede in the store, and then took the box and boy to the police station. Two policemen were detailed to accompany the boy to the place where he said the package had been given to him,

Vanderbilt's Gold.

Vanderbilt is worth $200,000,000, of which $50,000,000 are in United States bonds and can be turned into gold at any time, and the rest is made up of stocks and bonds, the bulk of which are above par. Vanderbilt's wealth, therefore represents so much gold. The ordinary mind can get no sort of notion of such a stupendous pyramid of gold as $200,000,000. Put it into a pyramid of Egypt, what a monument it would make in the desert for its owner! Vanderbilt's capital of gold is greater than all there was in the world-conquering Rome in the glittering reign of Augustus Cæsar. It is greater than the whole amount of gold and silver there was in the civilized world in 1492, at the time of the discovery of America. It is more than the entire product for the past hundred years of the great gold mines of the Czar of Russia. It is more than the whole product for two years of all the gold mines of the world. It is nearly twice as much as all the precious metals produced thus far in in the gold and silver-bearing State of Colorado. Counting this vast fortune dollar by dollar at the rate of sixty per minute, it would take six years to accomplish the act. Placed one after another it would make a string of dollars from New York to St. Louis.

The weight of all this gold is 350 tons. How many freight cars would be required to carry it? Ten, you'll say at a jump But stop; ten tons is about the maximum weight that is carried by a freight car, consequently, at that allowance, we should have a train of thirty-five freight cars. And what a train for the robbers to loot at! How many Jumbos would it take to draw this amount of gold from the subtreasury? Of the African or Indian variety seventy could walk off with it, giving five tons to each. And what a show they would make—seventy Jumbos

Turn the gold into ten-dollar coins, lay them in a circle with their edges touching, and what would be the circumference of that circle? It would be so great that it would take Maud S., going at the rate of a mile in 2:10, twelve hours and forty minutes to get around it.

Two hundred millions of gold, run into a square bar a foot thick, said bar would be how long, do you think? One hundred feet, eh? Well, friend, you would get badly left if you sold it "unsight, unseen," for a 300 foot bar—left by 250 feet. To shoulder this tremendous bar of gold how many men would be required at 100 pounds each? Seven thousand, reader. What a procession they would make! Fifty men giving the dollars away at the rate of 1,000 a day, would have to stand there eleven years before their work was done.

With it he could buy up and own all the 11,314 newspapers in the United States, running them to suit himself as a manufacturer of public opinion on a gigantic scale.

With it he could raise an army of 100,000 men and keep them in the field for a year at an expense of $200 a head, which is about the cost of a soldier in Bismarck's German army.

A CANADA BEAR FIGHT.

An Exciting Adventure of Two New Yorkers in the Wilds of the Dominion.

Enfield Stout of Tioga county returned to Elmira, N. Y., recently from a two weeks hunt in Frontenac county, Canada. He relates a thrilling adventure Thomas DeWitt and George Pearson, two young men from one of Hudson River counties, had with a wounded bear in the Canadian wilds while he was hunting with them. They had been hunting at White Lake, in Frontenac county, and toward evening rowed from one side of the lake to the other on their way to camp. As they were about to step from the boat they heard a loud crash in the thicket a few yards away. On looking around the young men saw a well-grown she bear with two cubs come from behind a fallen tree. Pearson instantly fired, and the old bear fell to the ground. The hunter ran to the spot, expecting to find her shot through the head, and was confronted by her standing on her hind legs and savagely approaching him. The fierceness of her appearance was increased by her lower jaw having been carried away by the rifle ball.

The bear threw herself upon Pearson before he could defend himself, and hunter and bear fell together on the ground. Pearson's cries brought DeWitt to the scene, but he did not dare to fire for fear of hitting his companion, so closely was he held by the bear as they struggled on the ground. The bear could not do Pearson any injury with her mouth, and he seized her long hair in his teeth and buried his face in her fur, thus keeping it away from her sharp claws. Seeing that he could not be of service to his friend with his gun, DeWitt picked up a heavy club and beat the bear across the back and head. The second blow stunned her, and Pearson sprang to his feet; but the bear quickly recovered herself and sprang upon the hunter, receiving his hunting knife in her breast. The furious animal struck Pearson a blow with one of her paws on the shoulder, and hurled him several feet away. He fell against a stump, breaking two of his ribs.

The bear then rushed upon DeWitt, who is a giant in size and strength. He dodged to one side and seized the bear around the body, and threw her over his left shoulder, and then shouted to Pearson to place his gun against her head and blow her brains out. Before this could be done the bear had stripped the clothing nearly off DeWitt's body, and lacerated his flesh badly. Pearson sent a bullet through her head, and De Witt held her, bleeding and struggling, on his shoulder until she died. Pearson was injured the worst of the two men, and reached camp with difficulty. The two young bears escaped to the woods while the struggle between the old one and the hunters was going on. The dead bear weighed nearly 200 pounds.

Despise Not the Day of Small Things.

Little things may help a man to rise—a bent pin in an easy chair for instance. Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets" are small things, pleasant to take, and they cure sick-headaches, relieve torpid livers and do wonders. Being purely vegetable they cannot harm any one. All druggists.

I don't understand what our Sunday school teacher was telling us about a camel going through the eye of a needle. Shouldn't you think his hump would stop him? Small brother of the average American type: No, sis; he'd have to hump himself to get through.

. . . Pile tumors cured in ten days, rupture in four weeks. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

Intelligent non-professional people who do not belong to the English-speaking races have queer notions about the celebrities of England and America. Daniel Webster is still known to many folks as the author of a dictionary, and now the London *Athenæum* tells of a brilliant Spaniard who has confused ideas about Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood. He stood before the facade of London University, and after gazing at it long and thoughtfully pointed out the statue of Harvey to a friend who acted as his guide. "Just like you practical English," he said, "to erect a statue to a man because he invented a sauce."

There Shall be no Alps.

When Napoleon talked of invading Italy one of his officers said: "But, sire, remember the Alps," To an ordinary man these would have seemed simply insurmountable, but Napoleon responded eagerly: "There shall be no Alps." So the famous Simplon pass was made. Disease, like a mountain, stands in the way of fame, fortune and honor to many who by Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" might be healed and so the mountain would disappear. It is specific for all blood, chronic, lung and liver diseases, such as consumption (which is scrofula of the lungs), pimples, blotches, eruptions, tumors, swellings, fever-sores and kindred complaints.

Travellers out on the red hills, says a California paper, have often shuddered at the sight of horned toads, which are numerous as black birds. The ugly creatures are as much dreaded as rattlesnakes, but a Chinaman spent all summer and fall gathering them. Recently he made a shipment of two thousand of the toads to San Francisco, from which place they will be sent to China. The toads are there converted into various kinds of medicines, which sell very high. For the cure of chills and fever they are said to be the finest thing known. A toad is placed in a flask of whiskey for several weeks, and then the stuff is sold as a tonic.

All tobaccos except the best Virginia have a pungent effect upon the tongue and will smart it if the smoking is long continued. Some of them even will blister it, or at least destroy its outer skin at the point where the smoke impinges upon it. The "Myrtle Navy" is entirely free from this defect, which, together with its fine full flavor makes it a great favorite with smokers.

How quickly is it possible for a man's legs, in health, to increase their bulk by half? A pair of trousers were made by a Chicago tailor so tardily that six weeks elapsed between the measurement and the delivery. They proved too tight. The maker sued for pay, and testified that the dimensions were in accordance with the size of the legs at the time he took the figures; while the defendant will introduce expert testimony to prove that he did not fatten so rapidly as such a conclusion would imply.

Nothing Hunts out Corns

Like tight boots. Corns are very small affairs, but apply to them a pair of tight boots and all other concerns of life sink into insignificance. Tight boots and Putnam's Corn Extractor (the great and only sure cure for corns) may go together and comfort will be their partner; but don't fail to use Putnam's Corn Extractor. Frauds, cheap, poisonous and dangerous substitutes are in the market Beware of them. Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Polson & Co, proprietors, Kingston.

At Havana, when a distinguished stranger visits the tobacco factory of Senor Cabana or Partagas, the custom is to offer him an "obsequio" by fashioning a new brand of cigars in his honor. To this we owe the excellent cigars known as the Serrano and the Henry Clay. The London tobacco manufacturers elected to pay Charles Dickens the Cuban compliment. A neat little cigar, costing only two cents, was devised, and was christened "The Pickwick," which still retains its popularity in England.

The New Pain King.

Polson's Nerviline cures flatulence, chills, spasms, and cramps.

Nerviline cures promptly the worst cases of neuralgia, toothache, lumbago, and sciatica.

Nerviline is death to all pain, whether external, internal, or local.

Nerviline may be tested at the small cost of 10 cents. Buy at once a 10 cent bottle of Nerviline, the great pain remedy. Sold by druggists and country dealers.

Elisha Gray, now wealthy through the invention of electric instruments, used to be a very unsuccessful farmer at Oberlin, Ohio. He spent most of his time for several years in experimenting, and came to be regarded as a crank. His own family were inclined to take that view of him; and when one day he excitedly declared that he had devised "a self-adjusting helix,', his uninformed wife hastily consulted with a physician about putting him under constraint.

Dr. Carson's Pulmonary Cough Drops should be used in almost every family in Canada; it is one of the best and safest cough remedies known. In large bottles at 50 cents.

Catarrh—A New Treatment.

Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon Treatment of catarrh. Out of 2,000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefitted, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished the catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure, the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King-street West, Toronto, Canada, and enclose stamp for their treatise on catarrh.—*Montreal Star*

The building fund of the African Methodist Church at Grand Rapids, was lost at faro by two of the trustees.

Yes, you can get something to stop that cough "Pectoria" will do it in no time. Try Pectoria. It never fails. The great 25 cent Cough and Cold Cure.

There are 80,000 widows in India from three to five years of age who will never be married. In that country as soon as a child is born a match is made by the parents. If the boy dies the girl becomes a widow, and must wear mourning for her intended as long as she lives.

Young Men!—Read This.

The Voltaic Belt Co., of Marshall, Mich. offer to send their celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belt, and other Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days, to men (young or old) afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality, and all kindred troubles. Also for rheumatism, neuralgia paralysis, and many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred as thirty days trial is allowed. Write them at once for illustrated pamphlet free.

The greatest miser in Indiana put his savings into life insurance policies, and denied himsels all luxuries and most comforts in order to pay the premiums, though his heirs were distant relatives, for whom he seemed to care nothing They will get, now that he is dead, about $24,000.

Important.

When you visit or leave New York City, save Baggage Expressage and Carriage Hire, and stop at the Grand Union Hotel, opposite Grand Central Depot. 600 elegant rooms fitted up at a cost of one million dollars, $1 and upwards per day. European plan. Elevator. Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse cars, stages and elevated railroads to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union Hotel than at any other first-class hotel in the City.

According to the United States Surgeon-General's annual report, the death rate for colored troops has, for the first time since their organization, fallen below that for white troops. Their mortality from respiratory affections—usually pneumonia—is more than four times as great as that of white troops.

Cold feet and hands are certain indications of imperfect circulation of the Blood. Dr Carson's Stomach Bitters promotes the circulation keeps the bowels regular and induces good health. Large bottles at 50c.

The *Indiana Pharmacist* says that a woman, who has her letters directed to the New York Post Office claims to cure cancer by means of a direct revelation from her "dear Lord." Her circular winds up with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; four-ounce bottles, $5; eight-ounce, $°. The editor says: "It will be seen that the financial part of the business is the big end of the log."

A.P 210.

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