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Selections.

TRIAL OF THE WESLEYAN PREACHERS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

DEAR BRO. LEE: As there will doubtless be an anxiety on the part of your patrons to hear from the above-written trial, I send you a synopsis thereof. You have been advised of our arrest under charge of Misdemeanor, for giving the TEN COMMANDMENTS to a little girl in Liberty, a village on the suburbs of Salem, capital of Forsyth County.

To answer the above charge, accompanied by Bro. Bacon, Bro. McBride and the writer made our way to Salem on the 7th inst. This is a Moravian town, of a population of from two to three thousand—rather a beautiful place for this country. The inhabitants are generally of Dutch descent. Though the Moravians, and even this church, have been very opposed to the peculiar institution of the South, many members of Salem Church are slaveholders. We had not been in the place long, but a short time ere the news took the wings of electricity, and flew through the entire town. "The preachers have come!! The abolitionists are here!!!" Great was the excitement among the people. Some said, "They ought to be lynched!" others, "They ought to be hung!" and other some, "No attorney ought to appear for them." &c. &c.

Perhaps it would be interesting to the reader to have an introduction to his Honor, the judge who presided, and the lawyers who plead at the trial.

The judge (Manly) is of medium size, elegant form, slightly round-shouldered, perhaps about forty-five years of age, bright keen eyes, large intellectual faculties, has great self-possession, and presides with dignity. From his decisions and charges to the jury, &c., the reader is left to infer his sense of justice.

Messrs. Gilmer and Waddell were employed on the part of the State; the prosecuting attorney, Mr. Pondexter, did nothing but assist in managing.

Mr. Gilmer is about five feet seven inches in height, rather corpulent, straight, plump figure, dark complexion, mechanical, perceptive and reflective faculties large; a strong man—like Bonaparte, unyielding in his undertakings, and is a popular lawyer.

Mr. Waddell is of tall, slender form, temperaments highly nervous and sanguine, talents rather brilliant, and sensibilities very acute.

Mr. Pondexter is a large, noble looking, and strong man.

The defendants employed two attorneys—Messrs. Morehead and Mendenhall—the largest slaveholders in Guilford county. Mr. Morehead is brother to Governor Morehead, of N. C., and is rising six feet in height, a very giant-like man; full brain, gigantic mind, great courage, and is said to be the best judge of law in the State.

Mr. Mendenhall is a little over six feet, well proportioned, very straight, has a round, high head, light auburn hair, intellectual face, and his intellectual powers large; is a good reasoner, and quite gentlemanly in his manners.

Bro. McBride was well described by Bro. Matlack, in the Wesleyan, about a year since.

Just here, I will say that I have been informed that Northern men have generally made it a point of some person or persons of wealth became responsible for the cost; whereupon Messrs. Belo, Freeze, and Lash, prominent men in Salem, assumed the responsibility.

The case was called on Thursday, the 10th; but as the original bill of indictment was remodeled, in order, no doubt, to make it more strongly against wanted time to investigate it in its new form, we had it postponed until the following day. At 11 o'clock, A. M., the Judge declared himself in readiness, and the defendants urging no cause for continuance, the trial commenced.

THE INDICTMENT.

Contains two specifications. The first charges "Jesse McBride and Adam Crook" of, with force and arms, knowingly, wickedly, and unlawfully, with intention to excite insurrection, conspiracy, and resistance in the slaves or free negroes and persons of color within the State, bringing into the State with intent to circulate, a printed pamphlet, the same and styled the "Liberty Party Paper," the evident tendency of which pamphlet would be and is to excite insurrection, conspiracy, and resistance in the slaves or free negroes and persons of color within the State, containing, with others, the following incendiary clauses: (Here are inserted some extracts from the pamphlet.) Contrary to the Act of Assembly, &c.* . . . and against the peace and dignity of the State.

The second specification charges the said "Jesse McBride and Adam Crook" of, with force and arms, wickedly, endeviously, knowingly, and intentionally circulating said pamphlet within the State, with an intent to excite insurrection, conspiracy, and resistance in the slaves or free negroes and persons of color within the State; which pamphlet, with other seditious teachings, and doctrines, inculcates the following: (Then follow various extracts from the pamphlet) which taken separately, or with the balance and other parts, are an evident tendency to excite, &c. . . . against the Act of Assembly, &c., and against the peace and dignity of the State.

WITNESSES

On the part of the State (the defendants had no witnesses) sworn, and testify the following:

Washington Kenedy. That defendants stayed over night at my house in Liberty. I left early in the morning; returned in the evening and found the pamphlet at my house. They behaved like ministers.

Lora Kenedy. McBride gave me the pamphlet in the absence of my father. He was sitting by me when he gave it. I think this is the one he gave me; I put no mark on it by which to distinguish it from any other pamphlet. He said it was a good book (a bath School); there are no colored persons at school or at home.

Just here, by permission from the Judge, Waddell read the pamphlet in open court. This was done to identify it.

Mr. Shore. I saw this book at my house. I do not know who brought it. I did not read it or mark it. James Kenedy came to my house one morning and got it. I think this is the same.

James W. Kenedy. I believe McBride gave a little book to my sister Lora. I was in the yard. Crooks was not in the house. My father sent me to Mr. Shores after it. I heard McBride preach.

Edward Belo. I got this book of James W. Kenedy. It is the same; I put my name on it.

Henry Isaac. I heard McBride preach at ——. He said he was not in favor of amalgamation or insurrection; was opposed to war of all kinds; would not have the slaves take swords and guns and murder their masters; he was a friend both of the slave and his master. And he invited us to come to his trial at Salem; he was indicted for giving a little white girl the 10 commandments.

David Idle. Never had got a book, pamphlet, or extract from either McBride or Crooks.

Smith's testimony about the same as Marshall's.

George Fulk knew nothing definite.

Newel Sap. Heard McBride say he would preach the truth independently, and Crooks that he would suffer his right arm to be cut off rather than withhold the truth.

*Witnesses through; go to dinner; return; pleading commences.

MR. MOREHEAD.

In behalf of the defendants, commenced his luminous plea by raising the following point of law. Though the indictment charges us of Misdemeanor, the statute makes it a Felony. Now we contend that all are principles, but this is one of those felonies which admits of accessories. On this ground I demand an acquittal. I cite you to the case of Stanton, him as an accessary, you must not only prove that he was in company at the time the pamphlet was given, but also that he was employed in advising or assisting to give it; but the very contrary is proven. This is necessary to make him an accessory, but he is charged of being a principal. But, gentlemen of the jury, the State has made a complete failure in point of sufficient evidence to convict McBride. It has been proven that the pamphlet was brought into the State by McBride, so that it is impossible to convict him on the first charge.

I now institute a question. It is this: What constitutes a violation of the Act? I maintain the pamphlet must have been given with a wicked intent. If this is not so, then the lawyers, etc., who have been reading this pamphlet to and fro to each other are every one subject to indictment. The jury can not convict McBride, unless it is in testimony that he gave it with an *intent* to bring about the evils which the law is intended to prevent. This prove this I refer you to the very familiar case of the law in England as to bloodletting. The law required that every man who let blood in the streets of London, should be hung. Now, though the design of that law is plain, that it was to prevent murder in the streets, yet it was contended that it was not there were actually three physicians hung for letting blood in the street in order to save the lives of persons who were thrown into fits of apoplexy. This led to a change of the law, so that it required a compound offence, or the overt act with a criminal intent, to violate the law. I hold that this case is precisely parallel. Now, what is the evidence that McBride gave the pamphlet with a wicked intent? It was about going to the Gospel Grand State, or where there were slaves. Lora Kenedy did not go to school where there were slaves; no slaves or colored persons about. McBride did not advise Lora to make an insurrection. He did not.

But again: if the pamphlet is an exposition of the ten commandments, then, sirs, the defendants are innocent. All Christians have an absolute right to publish their sentiments to the world. The pamphlet is not addressed to slaves, but their masters and freemen. (Here the speaker's manner grew quite animated.) The Constitution of the United States, and of this State, secures to every man the right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of his own conscience. All the Churches but one of which I have any knowledge are, or profess to be, opposed to slave-dealing—some more, some less, but where is the lawyer who will dare to tolerate all others and proscribe this? He showed, in a strong and happy light peculiar to himself, the glorious advantages of free discussion; said it had saved our necks from the galling yoke of the Church of Rome. Without free discussion we have no *Protestant Church*; we have no *America*.

The Ten Commandments is innocent in a political point of view. The liberty of speech and of the press are and ought to be tolerated. Upon this point he spoke with an eloquence that thousands in concourse who were listening with mouth and ears. (Br. McBride at my side, whispered, "What a pity he is not a good man!")

Mr. M. said witnesses were brought as a kind of key to show the intent of the circulation of the pamphlet, and they all show Br. McBride to be innocent. Lora testifies that he gave it to her. Mr. Shore testifies that McBride gave him the pamphlet, and they all show Br. McBride to be innocent. Isaac testifies that McBride gave him the pamphlet, and they all show Br. McBride to be innocent. Smith testifies that McBride gave him the pamphlet, and they all show Br. McBride to be innocent. Newel Sap testifies that McBride said he would preach the truth independently, and Crooks that he would suffer his right arm to be cut off rather than withhold the truth.

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MR. W. G. SENDENHALL

Arose with a countenance and speaking mingled feelings of a profound sense of responsibility, and a deep determination to discharge his duty with firmness and integrity. He said he was a stranger, and even prejudice against the defendants—even counsel is denounced within this bar, for sympathizing with them. Said Mr. W. (with great emphasis—God forbid that the time should ever come that a man, an *American*, arraigned before a court, have his feelings wounded, or of course neither be cause an man at the bar will open his mouth for him. The man who has license in his pocket, or who has a license in his heart, dare not open his mouth in behalf of a criminal, and demand the court to show cause why he should be convicted, ought to be ashamed of himself everywhere, and scouted from the North Carolina bar.

In the discharge of my duty as an Attorney, I appear to see that these men have a full, fair trial, and I will say, that I do not feel disposed, nor will I make half a plea. Said Mr. M: Even this jury has been threatened, provided they did not convict these men, they would be lynched! Gentlemen of the jury, you clear them, you may see the day you will bitterly regret it. It has been charged upon them that they have come into our midst to stir up strife. Why, does not that gentleman know they are here agreeable ministers of the Gospel? that they were sent for by your own citizens; that one has been here before, and preached to a crowded house? That preach against intemperance, and the Moravians ought not to oppose them on this ground; and moreover, they have not come into our midst. The Quakers from whom I sprung protest, and have for a hundred years, against *Slavery*.

For doing nothing more, these men must be dragged up before this court as felons, and compared with Nat. Turner. I am sorry that a man (alluding to Waddell) who represents the State, and who has as Webster's Dictionary before this court, to teach us the meaning of words—and we acknowledge the obligation—should have so little to know about modern history than not to know the defendants are ministers of a church organized in 1843. Here was given a short history of the Wesleyan Church.

Is it in testimony that these men have at any time interfered with slaves? Where is the man who gave such evidence? Let us look at the intention of giving the pamphlet. By raking and scraping their Camp-Meetings, and McBride's meeting at Bethlehem, &c., not one word has been brought to show that they have any sympathy with insurrection, but right to the contrary. Is it in testimony that the pamphlet was circulated with an intent to stir up strife among us, or in the hands of slaves? No such advice was given the little girl, who was herself a white girl; her father held no slaves, and care was taken that no slaves (if there had been a right to use means to gain proselytes; and believing, as they do, that Slavery is sinful, they have a right to circulate tracts against it, and that it is wrong. Mr. Waddell says, "such a hellish firebrand as the Ten Commandments was never circulated in this State." Let us look at the intention of the Methodist ministers and circulated things as had as this little pamphlet, and that every intelligent Methodist minister and circulated things as had as this little pamphlet, and that every intelligent Methodist minister and circulated things as had as this little pamphlet, and that every intelligent Methodist minister

his name with immortality through the establishment of some great institution of charity, education or science, and we trust that he has in this manner obliterated from the memories of the people the recollection of the many bad and severe qualities which were exhibited by him.

The *New Orleans Picayune* of the 28th ult. adds the following particulars respecting Mr. McDonogh's bequests, &c.:

Mr. McDonogh was buried yesterday afternoon in the cemetery erected by him in himself near his residence as McDonoghville, for his negroes. It was his wish that he should be buried among them. The funeral was plain and unostentatious. Prayers and a short sermon were delivered in the small church attached to the house, built for the negroes, and where the deceased himself often prayed with them. A very large number of persons, white and colored, were present. The coffin was placed in the plain wooden tomb usual here.

On Saturday evening, C. Roselius, Esq. for 15 years the legal adviser of the deceased, appeared before Judge Buchanan, at the Probate Court, and informed him that Mr. McDonogh had left an olographic will, which was deposited either in the Louisiana State Bank or the Bank of Louisiana, or the Union Bank. An order of Court was issued, in consequence, for any of the Cashiers of said Banks to bring the will into the Fifth District Court this morning at 10 o'clock.

Accordingly, at the above hour, the Cashier of the Union Bank Mr. Frey, appeared, having a in box containing a duplicate copy of the will, with a portfolio containing memoranda for executors, notes, &c. Another copy of the will is in the possession of Mr. Joseph Montgomery, of this city. The court room was crowded. Mr. Roselius presented the will, which was proved by Messrs Grymes, Frey, and Lopez, the will is of course, written entirely in the testator's own handwriting. Judge Buchanan unsealed, opened, and read it, commencing in so doing some hours. He then read the will and codicil, and ordered property in Baltimore to his sister and her children, the deceased bequeathed his entire estate, of which he gives no aggregate amount, to the Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens of New Orleans and Baltimore, half to each city, for the purpose of establishing here a free School for poor children of all classes and colors, and there for the poor, the Protestant Male Orphan Asylum of this city he gives $400,000 in yearly installments. The two other charitable bequests are also in yearly installments.

A school farm is to be established in Baltimore and an asylum for the poor. The school farm for the education of the poor children is to be of 14 years of age, of Baltimore first, and the other large maritime cities of the Union. They are to be taught the pursuits of agriculture and the principles of religion. A common English education to be given in all the schools, here and at Baltimore, and the Bible to be their principal class book. The immense fund for poor asylum is to defray, so far as possible, the expenses of these institutions so far as their own labor can go. The cultivation of the mulberry tree and making of silk in these asylums is recommended. To the school farm at Baltimore the sum of $3,000,000 is bequeathed in yearly installments.

The estate, after the sensitive slaves are emancipated and are paid, and a number of negroes, named, are freed and sent to Africa, to be managed by a certain number of commissioners appointed by this city and Baltimore; no commissioner to be a member of any council, to serve more than twelve months, or twice in succession. The two cities are to act as a check on each other. None of the property ever to be sold, but to remain forever as a fund for the above charitable purposes.

The large sum bequeathed to the American Colonization Society at Washington. After all these bequests are settled, which the donor expects will be in twenty years from now, the entire estate is to be divided between the States of Louisiana and Maryland, and the legislatures to carry out the objects prescribed. If the commissioners do not carry the instructions, the estate to fall immediately to the two States. Every precaution is taken to prevent the noble bequests from being diverted from their original purpose. The instructions to carry them out are full and minute.

TRIAL FOR HARBORING AND AIDING FUGITIVE SLAVES.

An important trial has occupied for several days the attention of the U. S. Circuit Court now in session in this city, with Judge Grier upon the bench. It is a suit brought by Cecilia Oliver, Ellen B. Oliver and Catharine Oliver, against Philander Chase Jr. and Oliver, by their next friend Eli Stoke, against Stephen Weekly, Daniel Kaufman and Phillip Breckbill, to recover damages for twelve fugitive slaves belonging to the plaintiffs, which escaped from the plaintiffs three years ago, and which it was alleged were harbored and aided by the defendants in Cumberland county. The facts as set forth in Judge Grier's charge to the jury, are that Ephraim B. Oliver with his family and slaves emigrated from Maryland to Arkansas, where he died in February 1848. In the settlement of the estate, twelve slaves were allotted to the widow, in May 1848, another returned to Williamsport, Maryland, taking with her the plaintiffs, her children, and their slaves. On their way they passed through Pennsylvania, on the national road between Wheeling and Cumberland. In October, 1848, from Ohio to Canada these slaves left by their case into the United States Court the plaintiffs include Stephen Weekley and Phillip Breckbill is their indictment.

To this indictment in every particular the defendants pleaded not guilty, and demanded a trial by jury. 1st. That the negroes found in Kaufman's barn, were the alleged slaves. 2d. That the defendants had any notice or knowledge that the slaves were there; and 3d. If they were—that either Kaufman or the other defendants had any agency in placing them there or in aiding them to escape. They also raised the following very important points of law upon the evidence:

First, that the law of Pennsylvania, of March, 1847, passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature, repeals a former act passed in 1780, permitting owners of slaves to bring them into this State, and allowing them to remain here for six months. The defendants contend that the plaintiffs, by bringing their slaves to this State in May, 1847, during the passage from Arkansas to Maryland, thereby freed them from the bonds of Slavery, and that in consequence the alleged slaves were free men.

Second, That the law of Maryland forbid the importation of slaves into that State, and that slaves brought into other States are free when they return. They contend that the plaintiffs, by bringing the slaves from Arkansas, made them free by the law of Maryland, and that they had a right to leave Maryland.

Judge Grier said that the above points were too important to be decided at Nisi Prius; that he would reserve them in such manner that they should render a special verdict if they thought the plaintiffs entitled to recover, on the general issue. He then proceeded to read the plaintiffs the very important points submitted by the defendants could then be considered and decided upon.

Some difficulty occurred in empanelling the jury. One Jurynman, s Mr. McElroy, stated that he had conscientious scruples against bringing a verdict against the defendants, and requested to be excused. The Judge asked him if he could take the oath scruples after taking the oath; and finding, frequently to his surprise, that Mr McElroy's conscience was not pliable enough to enable him to take an oath to do what he would require him to aid in the punishment of a deed of mercy, Judge Grier dismissed him, with a virtual reprimand for harboring such conscientious scruples and illegal.

Twelve men having been found who had no scruples against inflicting penalties upon obedience to the golden rule and the law of love, and the jury completed, the case was opened on Friday the 18th, Henry M. Watts and C. B. Penrose acting as counsel for the plaintiffs, and T. Stevens and Wm. B. Reed as counsel for the defendants. The testimony occupied the court until Tuesday morning, much that was offered by the plaintiffs, and that was received by Judge Hepburn in the former trial, was contested by the defendants' counsel and ruled out by the Judge.

We were not present during the pleadings of the counsel, but are informed by several intelligent and reliable auditors, that the counsel for the plaintiffs, Mr. Pearson especially, pled in the most eloquent manner to the prejudices of the Jury, denouncing the defendants as "Abolitionists," fanatics, the associates of slave-stealers, and enemies to the Union, and as being engaged in the negro business of decoying off and secreting the "property" of Southern widows and orphans. A bold and ludicrous effort was made to excite the sympathies of the jury for these "poor fatherless" slaveholding "orphans," by employing Mrs. Oliver, under instructions no doubt, to attend the court, and sit by all the five days, very days of the trial. The lady's part of the performance was executed with a commendable and martyr-like perseverance, and it was seen and felt by every spectator that her efforts were so poorly appreciated by those hard-hearted jurymen, that on the close of her five days sit of weeping and the pathetic appeals of the eloquent counsel for "the widow and orphans," still remained unmoved and unmoved. The jury disagreed.

The speeches of Messrs Stevens and Reed, are spoken of in terms of high praise for their clearness, eloquence and power. The former gentleman, in his the unambiguous compliment of new vituperation and abuse from the *Philadelphianism* and some kindred papers, has a fresh claim to our respect and gratitude.

Incidentally, in the course of his plea, he alluded to the pro-slavery defiance of the Constitution as "baleful compromises," adding that they were the *lure* of the land, though he was "ashamed to acknowledge it," and was now ready, and had long had, not the will, but to disregard them. This passing remark though quite cool and harmless enough, has proved an explosive, sufficient to blow up the Union, and the *Pennsylvanian* and the *News*, (the Cooper organ) are in a panic for the safety of the Union. The remark has been generally seized upon, torn from its connection, exaggerated and distorted, and sent abroad in every direction as Abolitionist, Disunionist, &c. The opposition counsel made a frightful bugbear of it, the Judge pronounced sentence against it, and even Mr. Stevens' colleague, Mr Reed, felt compelled to disclaim the Court proceedings of regret that Mr. S. had incautiously used it.

The charge of the Judge, while it was as impartial as could be expected in the statement of the law, was well fitted to stimulate the prejudices of the jury against the defendants.

Leaving the subject before him with as little justice as good taste, he launched forth into a harangue against "fanatics" and "abolitionists" as "evils to the stability of the Union," and "conventions for plotting disunion, which would be certainly followed by civil war and bloodshed." He spoke of "the rare and malignant memories of the Patriots of the Revolution, for civilian and military officers, the servants of the government and those who support and uphold our institutions," and against the "incendiary doctrine" inculcated in pulpits, from the pulpit, he supposed he meant "the condition of the laws. These "unhappy agitators," he told the jury, "who infest other portions of the Union, have come, and are now among us, trying the rain," will meet with little success among the order-loving people of Pennsylvania, adding that "the mind of the jury must be pure and the jury-box will be contaminated by men whose moral perceptions are so perverted by a fanatical zeal, that they can see no wrong and malignant memories of the Patriots of the Revolution, for civilian and military officers, the servants of the government and those who support and uphold our institutions," and against the "incendiary doctrine" inculcated in pulpits, from the pulpit, he supposed he meant "the condition of the laws. These "unhappy agitators," he told the jury, "who infest other portions of the Union, have come, and are now among us, trying the rain," will meet with little success among the order-loving people of Pennsylvania, adding that "the mind of the jury must be pure and the jury-box will be contaminated by men whose moral perceptions are so perverted by a fanatical zeal, that they can see no wrong and malignant

The speech declamation following the inflammatory appeals of the plaintiff's counsel, was well calculated to make both law and fact bend to passion and prejudice in the hands of a skillful Judge. The verdict of jury after hearing that they had nothing to do with the "peculiar opinions" of the defendants might serve in some minds to save the Union, yet it was in the judge, the law and facts they had to do the defendants. No just and impartial judge, careful to remove all unjust prejudices from the mind of the jury would have given such an appeal to such a tribunal. It was both unjust and uncalled for, and will be remembered by every impartial and discreditable to his reputation as a man and as a judge.

As to what constitutes a "notice" in the eye of the law, Judge Grier decides that the word notice "is not confined to actual knowledge; that it is not necessary that a specific, written, printed, or verbal notice from the owner, be given to the defendants; but that it is sufficient if the evidence show that he knew the person he harbored or concealed, was a fugitive from labor."

The "harboring" prohibited by the act is not simply concealment, but any *entertainment* with an intention to aid the fugitive to escape. If the fugitive, though it does not prohibit common charity to a stranger

He says:—

"It is neither improperty in the conduct of the person giving the entertainment or shelter, in consequence of some imputation on the character of the person who comes to his house, or who he entertains, to refuse to lets and strangers, not to *harbor* them, but may he secrete them in some secret place, to the alarm of the master and he calculated to attain the object."

"On Friday morning the jury returned and reported that they could not agree. The jury then discharged the court. Thus the shareholders are defeated in their attempt to strip orphan and immune men of their property, the result only gratifying; though we believe that nothing less than a full acquittal was demanded by the law and justice.

In conclusion we will say that we have good reason to believe that this suit has been prosecuted by a company of men, who have been organized to crush three honest and worthy citizens of our State, and intimidate others from hospitality to the stranger and the suffering, and also that the expenses of these prejudiced and vexatious suits which have already amounted to some $1,000 will be paid by the defendants, who are respectable farmers in moderate circumstances. If the case should finally go against them it will strike terrible blows at

majority of the parliamentary boroughs of the United Kingdom.

Now, you may be disposed to ask, does this come to pass? Are the men I have described worse than other men? Is there any thing in the air they breathe, or the occupations which they follow, of a corrupting quality? Are they incapable of becoming men who could feel a pure and patriotic interest in the result of an election? I answer, No. Their characters are formed by the system under which they live. It is our system which has made these men the mean, slavish, servile, corrupt creatures which we find them. It is the system which has made them pet in his feudal castle, and the millionaire in his modern mansion, lords over the lives and fortunes of the electors of the United Kingdom.

It is the system that has put in the power of the London merchant, or wealthy banker, to go down into our constituencies and bribe with his gold Scotch mercenaries and electioneering pimps to buy and debauch his way into Parliament.

It is the system that has elevated into consequence and power the small solicitor in the country town, and has enabled him to become the recognized conveyancer of the Borough.

It is the system that has enabled Parliamentary agents in the Metropolis to become the recognized wire-drawers of the Boroughs in the country, and to become, through their provincial confederates, the wholesale dealers in the purchase and sale of Senators.

A system of mock representation could hardly be invented more directly calculated to the worst consequences—to place the Electors the power of trafficking their votes, or to raise up a host of political Doustersweils, then the system under which the Reformed House of Commons is at this time elected.

Our system is a fetid dunghill, out of which springs, with fright ful rapidity, all the vermin the warm sun of every general election, all kinds of rank weeds and poisonous plants. It is a reservoir of pestilent vapors, which, issuing from year to year every pernicious exhalation, and all sorts of noxious reptiles to find their way at every point into the regions of purity, virtue, and dignity, and which are always to be traced by the slimy slime they leave behind them.

Such is our system. We are now trying to abolish, and in place of it to have one that shall give to every man with a local habitation and a name, the right of representation to population—shall shorten the duration of Parliaments—shall give the secret, the shelter and the security of the Ballot—shall shall get rid of the present monical qualification for a seat in the Legislature. In lieu of this shall there be a new Reform Bill, which shall give it a House of Commons that shall actually and nominally be the creation of the people;

That shall really and not in name only represent the people;

That shall not be a control *upon* the people, but a control *for* the people;

That shall continually feel its responsibility to the people;

That, by being periodically resolved into the mass from whence it arose, shall be a truthful reflection of the mind and will of the people at any one period;

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Such a house we think would not be reluctant or slow to revise the Civil List of the Crown and purge it of its follies and corruptions.

Such a house we think would apply the pruning knife to the Pension List and save the people's pocket by striking off the names of sundry political paupers who live the lives of splendid mediocrity upon the hard earnings of the industrious people.

Such a house we think would not be startled at the proposals of Mr. Hume or Mr. Gibson, to reduce the number of our ever-increasing civil navy, and save the productive classes the expense of keeping in mechanical and demoralizing idleness, men who are not required for the defence of the country.

Such a house we think would listen to the demands of the Colonies for collectively and nationally relieve our dependeeies from some of those official pensioners who are appointed less with a view to the public good than to fellow-subjects under, and with a view to the relief of the pockets of their friends at home.

Such a house we think would find some other way of governing Ireland than by means of curfew laws, arrest acts, Crown and Government security bills—the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act—the banishment to penal settlements of those who have advocated the rights of their countrymen.

Such a house would we think not be afraid to look the Irish Church in the face, nor reluctant to obliterate the sickening episode of pensioning bishops, paid out of the property of the people, preaching contentment and subordination to the church-ridden victims of hunger, the spectacle of lordly prelates in fine linen, and their wives and families in silk and satin.

Such a house would we think be ready to listen to the demands of the people for a more equitable distribution

Miscellany.

A HEROINE OF BURNS.

THE peasant poet of Scotland had many lovers, and among them all there is none which has held forth such images of purity and tenderness as his attachment to one on whom he has himself conferred the poetic appellative of Highland Mary. The love of the poet for this young woman was broken off by the error of her sudden death. She also appears less in the character of a warm-hearted, clinging creature, than as a pure and a man with generous love." He adds: "After a pretty long tract of the most ardent reciprocal attachment, we part by appointment, on the next Sunday of May, in a sequestered spot by the banks of the Ayr, where we spend the day in taking farewell, before she should embark for the Western Highlands, to remain unknown among her friends for our projected change of life. At the close of the autumn following she crossed the sea to meet me at Greenock, where she had scarcely landed, when she was seized with a malignant fever, which hurried my dear girl to the grave in a few days, before I could even hear of her illness." This is the bulk of her story. Mr. Cromek, who published "Reliques of Burns," had learned some more minute particulars. "The mother," he says, "was performed with all those simple and striking ceremonials which rustic sentiment has devised to prolong tender emotions and inspire awe. The lover stood on each side of a small parting brook: they laved their hands in the stream, and, holding a Bible between them, pronounced their vows to be faithful to each other. They parted—never to meet again.

There are, however, no memorials of this parting comparable to the verse in which Burns has recorded it. For example:

"Wi' mony a vow and lock'd embrace,
Our parting was full tender;
And pledging aft to meet again,
We wore ourselves asunder.
But, oh, fell death's untimely frost,
That nipt my flower sae early!
Now green's the sod and cauld the clay
That wraps my Highland Mary!

"Oh, pale, pale now those rosy lips
I aft have kiss'd sae fondly!
And closed for aye the sparkling glance
That dwelt on me sae kindly;
And mouldering now in silent dust
That heart that loed me dearly?
But still within my bosom's core
Shall live my Highland Mary."

Or the still more affectionate verses, "To Mary in Heaven," which he composed several years after the death of their subject, under remarkable circumstances. Burns was now a farmer on the banks of the Nith—a husband and the father of several children. He had passed through scenes of gay and elegant life in Edinburgh, and indulged in many passionate, though temporary attachments. Still, under all circumstances, the image of the simple Highland girl had remained deep in his heart, and he fondly never recall her untimely fate without a pang. One harvest evening, in the year 1789, after he had been busy all day with his reapers, his wife observed him grow more pensive than usual. He had remembered that it was the anniversary of the death of Mary. "He at length wandered out into the barnyard, to which his wife, in her anxiety for his health, followed him, and found him in rain to observe that the frost had set in, and to return to the fire-side. On being again and again reprieved to do so, he at last gently remonstrated—but still remained where he was, striding up and down slowly, and contemplating the sky, which was singularly clear and cold. At last he and Burns found him stretched on a mass of straw with his eyes fixed on a beautiful planet "that shone like another moon," and prevailed on him to leave the sublime and pathetic verses:

"Thou lingering star, with lessening ray,
That lov'st to greet the early morn,
Again thou usher'st in the day
My Mary from my soul was torn.
Oh, Mary! dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid!
Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast?"

"That sacred hour can I forget—
Can I forget the hallowed grove,
Where by the winding Ayr we met,
To live one day of parting love?
Eternity will not efface
Those records dear to transports past;
Thy image in our last embrace,
Ah! little thought we 't was our last!

"Ayr, gurgling, kissed his pebbled shore,
O'erhung with wild woods, thick'ning green;
The fragrant birk, and hawthorn hoar
Twined amicous round the raptured scene.
The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
The birds sang love on every spray
Till too, too soon, the glowing west
Proclaimed the speed of winged day.

"Still ye'r these scenes my memory wakes,
And fondly broods with miser care!
Time hut th' impression stronger makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear.
My Mary, dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid!
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It was impossible for any one to be the theme of such verses without becoming an object of profound interest to all who are capable of appreciating them. Accordingly, it is not surprising that, in later times, particularly, everything which could be readily learned regarding Highland Mary has been brought before the public. It, after all, amounted to little, apart from the love of Burns, was commonplace enough. It was learned, for instance, that he thought she was a sailor belonging to a revenue cutter stationed at Campbelltown—that her relations lived at Greenock, where her mother died in poverty in 1828—and, strange to say, that her friends had entertained so strong a prejudice against her lover, as to burn his letters, and employ a priest to read the Bible. One memorial, however, of the love of Burns and Mary made its appearance not long after the man's death, and was heard of with a thrill of interest all over Scotland. This was a little Bible which the poet had given to his mistress on the day of their parting. Passing to Canada, in the possession of a collateral relative of Mary, it was there redeemed for a large sum by some enthusiastic Scotsmen, and sent home to be deposited in the poet's monument at Ayr. It was a plain and somewhat worn copy, in two volumes, containing the poet's name on a blank leaf of either, together with two texts marking the feeling of Burns on the memorable Sunday of May—"And ye shall swear by my name falsely—I am the Lord." Lev. xix. 12. "Thou shalt not forswear thyself but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths." Mat. v.33. This relic, it is needless to say, has been preserved with great care, and is, during the travelling season, viewed with deep emotion by thousands.

It was strange, all this time, that no biographer of Burns had undertaken to assign a date to the affair of Mary Campbell. Mr. Cromek had called her "the first object of the youthful poet's love," and Professor Wilson, in his beautiful, generous "Essay on the Genius and Character of Burns," also spoke of the attachment as occuring at an early period of the poet's life. Burns himself, in sending a song written shortly after to Mr. Thomson, had said, "In my very early years, when I was thinking on going to the West Indies, I took the following farewell of a dear girl:" the song was one beginning—

"Will you go to the Indies, my Mary,
And leave auld Scotia's shore?
Will you go to the Indies, my Mary,
And can I forget you?
Language, by-the-by, which does not look very like a farewell to a sweetheart. He had said of still another song on the same person—one entitled "The Highland Lassie"—"This was a composition of mine in my early life, before I was known at all in the world." These expressions, with the very character of the whole affair—invented, it seemed to be, with a purity bespeaking the unsullied morn of life—led all alike, writers and readers, to rest quietly in the assumption that Burns had courted Mary at some early period of his career, when contemplating a voyage to the West Indies to push his fortune when matters bore notice on the deep could have pointed to in his life, or any letter or other document connected with him, anterior to the summer of 1786 when matters bore notice on which deep could have him and Jean Armour, his future wife, that he did arrange for such a voyage. Item which, indeed, he had published by the success of his poems, published at that crisis.

The mystery thus attached to the story of Mary Campbell remained, in the minds of Burns's lovers, whose name had hitherto been unconnected with the history and works of the Ayrshire bard. It occurred to Dr. William Douglas, of Edinburgh, that the idea of its being a juvenile attachment of Burns had hitherto been too easily acquiesced in. "The Bible form on its title page the date 1783, when Burns was in his twenty-fourth year. It must have been later than that time. After the poet's name was inscribed that of his residence, 'Mossgiel.' It is not the little fully strong hand of 1784: it must have also been later than that time. more particularly as Burns was most unlikely to be thinking of any thing of the kind, when, from the square upon a new farm, the fortunes of which were all to be proved. Mr. Douglas was less forcible in his objections to Mary Campbell being the person intended as settling the event as not earlier than the spring of 1786, on the mere showing that Burns up to that time was accustomed to spell his name in the Bible inscriptions—he cause the spelling of names is, in some degree, a matter of caprice, and it is certain that a lover other than Mary, in the year 1786 and before 1786—and indeed, it is entered in the register of his birth. It was nevertheless, remarkable that we should be forced upon 1786 as the time when the poems could not end as very youthful and brought into a period of his life of which the details are comparatively well known, and which, in many respects, are strongly authoritative trace of Mary. In 1785, Burns was devotedly attached to Jean Armour. It was a year of great and high literary excitement, being that in which the bulk of his poems was composed. There is no room here for the contemplated voyage to the West Indies, or the love of Highland Mary, in 1786, as has been supposed. Burns was brought by evil fortune to prepare for such a voyage; but then his other circumstances were such as, at first sight, to preclude an attachment to Mary. He had been avowed a private marriage in spring—not a moment too early, one would have said, for the young lady's peace; Burns, at the time, was by her father bound to her to disclaim Burns as her husband, infinitely to the grief and resentment of the unhappy poet.—In 1786 was that Burns found his Jean Armour; he could not be in any later time—that was quite clear for Burns had no need to think of exile from his native land after October, 1786, when his success as a poet was decisive. Mossgiel was shown why it could not be earlier. Not without some hesitation, Mr Douglas became convinced that, think what we might of it, it was not in 1786 or 1787, little more than a month after he had been thrown off by Jean Armour, that he took that tender farewell of the Highland Mary, which he could never, in fact, to know her thenceforth no more as a living woman, but as an image of beauty, and tenderness, and truth, resting in his bosom forever.

Mr. Douglas's theory before a learned society in Edinburgh, the ingenuity and acuteness of his arguments were acknowledged; and many had expected that the Mary of the poet's heart would be found in the same category, that of 1786 was the true date. On that occasion a member said that, if such should prove to be the case, as seemed to be, it would be a very sad thing to affect our feelings regarding either Burns or the story of this attachment. The vacillating pulses of the poet's heart would be shown, as he was wont, all too well, to have rendered half frantic in consequence of his reputation by Jean. At such a crisis his soul would rush to a compression in the affections of Mary, and he would have shown himself, not only unlikely, he had felt favorably disposed toward that other person before. A month or six weeks at a long time, for Burns to have been so fickle as to a Solway-tided heart like that of Burns. It often happens that, under a disappointment or rejection from one, the mind turns with a sudden and rapid impetus to and marry another. Some other persons spoke on the occasion, but generally expressed themselves as inclined to regard the point as still greatly doubtful.

In a new biography of Burns which Mr. Robert Chambers is preparing, upon a plan which will include his correspondence, and a minute and accuracy and greater detail than any preceding one it has been necessary of course to treat this question again, it appears that Mr. Chambers, in his plan, author made some personal investigations which resulted in bringing such powerful documentary evidence in favor of Douglas's theory, that he felt himself entitled to introduce the affair of Mary as occurring in 1785. The present paper may best be completed by an extract from the work.

"Mary, we have seen, from the narration of the poet, had proceeded immediately after their parting, to Campbelltown, where her parents then resided. Bible bore the summer there; but whether she had taken any steps for arranging matters for a union with Burns seems doubtful, as it is the report of a very intelligent person, that it is ally that her mother used to speak as if she had never been consulted on the subject. Another report in the family is, that while Mary resided with her parents, Burns had addressed to her a pretty long letter weekly from one whom they heard spoken of as 'a strange character,' and 'a great scoffer at women.' Mary was the second of her family, and lived her with a smile, and thereafter was allowed to continue receiving his letters.

"A sister of Mary's mother was the wife of one Peter Macpherson, a ship-carpenter at Greenock. It being determined that her younger brother Robert should be sent to Greenock to learn the trade of a ship-carpenter, Mary accompanied him. For this step on Mary's part we can well surmise the motive, and it is probable that the latter lady has expressly said that she crossed the sea (the Firth of Clyde) to meet her. There was what is called a 'sweetheart' of Mary's in Greenock, in the shipbuilding trade, and it is the distinct recollection of a daughter of Macpherson still living, that Mary was accustomed to serve in the company. Next morning, according to the same person's recollection, the boy was indisposed so as to be unable to go to his work. When Macpherson came home to breakfast, he asked what had detained him from the yard, and was told that the young man was very poorly. Mary jocularly observed that he had probably taken a little too much of the supper last night; and Macpherson, in a similar spirit of badinage, said, 'Oh, then it is just as well that we have not to wait for him for breakfast!' Mary purchase that lair in the kirk-yard '—referring to a place of sepulture which he had just secured for his family—'we must not let him know that it is there for yet.' Then no resting-place for the remains of those who did not possess such property, except the corner assigned to strangers and paupers, or a grave obtained by the purchase of a lair.

"The young man's illness proved more serious than was at first supposed, and Mary attended him with great kindness and assiduity. In a few days Robert began to recover, but at the same time Mary dropped, and became seriously unwell. Her friends believed that she had caught the fever from her attendance on the sick man, and recommended her father to go to a cross burn—that is a place where two burns meet—and select some water from the channel, boil them with new milk for a certain time, and then give her the milk to drink. It must be remarked that these were Highland people, and Highlanders are fond of the use of the most fanciful notions. The drink was duly prepared, as had been recommended, and given to Mary; but her illness was soon ended by death. It is a fact, a peculiar species then prevalent in the town, and in a few days the poor girl died. She was buried in the lair purchased by her mother's relations, being the first of the family who was placed in it.

"Such are the particulars derived from Macpherson's daughter, who was then a member of the family,[2] who has often conversed on the subject with Mary's mother. There seems to be no good reason for doubting them, or any of them. The only point which this story is defective is the date, a matter regarding which the memory is apt to be less faithful than with respect to events. There is, unluckily, no register of deaths or funerals for this period in Greenock. The only thing which we have to rain the date of Mary's death, I met for some time with little success. On a visit to the town for the purpose of making inquiries, the very first interview was given to Mary's grave. It is in the burial-ground of the West Church of Greenock, the original and principal parish of the town—a melancholy and half-deserted precinct, so close to the Firth that a stone could be thrown into it from the passing steamers. The ground is covered with flat stones, recording the ancestors of the illustrious James Watt. Near the west end is the little plot where Mary's grave is, with a small stone, bearing the letter. Shading it from the setting sun, is a tall, elegant structure which a few admirers of Burns have erected for the commemoration of her whom he loved. It consists of a sculpture representing the parting of the lovers, while a ship in another compartment hints a different part of the story. At the foot of this lofty structure, beside the original Bible *Sandstone* of Macpherson. In its seminar upper compartment are carved the tools of a carpenter. On the back of the monument, in the square body of the stone, is the legend—'This Burying-Place belongs to Peter Macpherson, ship-carpenter in Greenock, and his heirs, and his heirs, and their children. 1767.' There was an uncertainty here. The stone might have been erected in 1760, or any other year, the intermediate figures, from which no bad inherited it; and, notwithstanding the legend and second date, Mary might have been buried there at any time from 1760 downward. I observed, however, that the legend and second date are inscribed upon a surface half an inch or so *inward* from that on which the tools were carved, as if an original inscription had been obliterated, and that the stone had undergone a renovation in 1787. If that was to be regarded as a doing of Macpherson and his family, it would be in 1787 that the date of the evidence might be said to be in favor of a late rather than an early date for the death of Mary. Still, the matter was left in an unsatisfactory point.

"At this stage of the inquiry, it was brought to mind that there was a Register of Lairs, in which it might be discovered when the Macpherson lair was chase was entered. A wretched tattered old volume was found buried in a mass of similar rubbish, in the possession of Mr. Tinlon, superintendent of the burying-grounds of Greenock. It was in a state of nature, with no small difficulty, an entry was at length found to the following effect:

	feet
"Jany 14. Duncan Robinson, carpenter,	£ 20 9 0
"1786	
"Oct. 12. This lair is this day transferred to Peter MacPherson, ship-carpenter in Greenock."	

There could not, of course, be the slightest doubt that the ground which contains the ashes of Highland Mary was purchased by her father at the time when Robert Burns designed to sail from Greenock for the West Indies. Macpherson, exactly as he had conjectured, had succeeded in a storm, which he had renovated, preserving only the sculpture of his predecessor's emblems of trade, because these were equally suitable for himself. Unless, then, we are to reject the family story entirely, and suppose it possible that Mary was buried here, while Duncan Robertson possessed the ground, which, I am informed, is a supposition of which the intelligent reader to the last degree improbable, we must admit that her death took place in the latter part of 1786—consequently, that the Highlander had been earlier in match with Jean Armour; in short, the piteous tale of the Highland Lassie comes in as one of several instances, which, however, cheapened the main attachment of Burns life—that which terminated in making him at length a husband.

"Mary's parents and other near relations, who after some years settled in Greenock, were of such a grade of mind and strain of sentiment as to skrink for many years from all acknowledgment of Burns as their relative. It cannot be doubted that they would think of administering a decoction of pebbles as a cure for his daughter's illness, was narrowness of mind, and that they would be inclined and forbid his names to be mentioned in the family. The mother who was a good. kind-hearted creature, and was accustomed to have learned to sing the song of the 'Highland Lassie' to her grandchildren, had hitherto been too easily acquiesced in. "The Bible form on its title page the date 1783, when Burns was in his twenty-fourth year. It must have been later than that time. After the poet's name was inscribed that of his residence, 'Mossgiel.' It is not the little fully strong hand of 1784: it must have also been later than that time. more particularly as Burns was most unlikely to be thinking of any thing of the kind, when, from the square upon a new farm, the fortunes of which were all to be proved. Mr. Douglas was less forcible in his objections to Mary Campbell being the person intended as settling the event as not earlier than the spring of 1786, on the mere showing that Burns up to that time was accustomed to spell his name in the Bible inscriptions—he cause the spelling of names is, in some degree, a matter of caprice, and it is certain that a lover other than Mary, in the year 1786 and before 1786—and indeed, it is entered in the register of his birth. It was nevertheless, remarkable that we should be forced upon 1786 as the time when the poems could not end as very youthful and brought into a period of his life of which the details are comparatively well known, and which, in many respects, are strongly authoritative trace of Mary. In 1785, Burns was devotedly attached to Jean Armour. It was a year of great and high literary excitement, being that in which the bulk of his poems was composed. There is no room here for the contemplated voyage to the West Indies, or the love of Highland Mary, in 1786, as has been supposed. Burns was brought by evil fortune to prepare for such a voyage; but then his other circumstances were such as, at first sight, to preclude an attachment to Mary. He had been avowed a private marriage in spring—not a moment too early, one would have said, for the young lady's peace; Burns, at the time, was by her father bound to her to disclaim Burns as her husband, infinitely to the grief and resentment of the unhappy poet.—In 1786 was that Burns found his Jean Armour; he could not be in any later time—that was quite clear for Burns had no need to think of exile from his native land after October, 1786, when his success as a poet was decisive. Mossgiel was shown why it could not be earlier. Not without some hesitation, Mr Douglas became convinced that, think what we might of it, it was not in 1786 or 1787, little more than a month after he had been thrown off by Jean Armour, that he took that tender farewell of the Highland Mary, which he could never, in fact, to know her thenceforth no more as a living woman, but as an image of beauty, and tenderness, and truth, resting in his bosom forever.

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[2] Mr. R. Chambers takes this opportunity of stating that he will receive such discussions as papers written by or respecting Burns. He pledges himself to take the greatest care of any which may be forwarded to him, and to return them carefully. In a subject so obscured and confused, even a date may sometimes be of consequence. He would, therefore entreat that persons possessing documents, and willing to entrust them with them, will not be too ready to think them unlikely to be useful.

[1] Letter of John Kerr, Esq., of Glasgow, in the *Scots Times* newspaper, Nov. 7, 1829.

[2] Mr. J. C. Douglass, clothier, Greenock.

* The surviving sister of Burns.

ADVENTURES OF A TRANSLATION.

MOST English people acquainted with modern German literature have heard of Bettina Brentano (Frau Von Arnim,) a name familiar known in Germany, through her publication of "Goethe's Correspondence with a Child." In 1835, in Berlin this singular production of a most enthusiastic imagination issued from the press. The idolised Poet had been been pleased to say, that every line of Bettina's letters contained materials for a poem; he had read them daily; and, as every thing that threw light, or promised to throw light, on angle answer of Goethe was eagerly sought for and cherished by his countrymen, this work was eagerly caught at, and universally read throughout Germany.

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"Mary's parents and other near relations, who after some years settled in Greenock, were of such a grade of mind and strain of sentiment as to skrink for many years from all acknowledgment of Burns as their relative. It cannot be doubted that they would think of administering a decoction of pebbles as a cure for his daughter's illness, was narrowness of mind, and that they would be inclined and forbid his names to be mentioned in the family. The mother who was a good. kind-hearted creature, and was accustomed to have learned to sing the song of the 'Highland Lassie' to her grandchildren, had hitherto been too easily acquiesced in. "The Bible form on its title page the date 1783, when Burns was in his twenty-fourth year. It must have been later than that time. After the poet's name was inscribed that of his residence, 'Mossgiel.' It is not the little fully strong hand of 1784: it must have also been later than that time. more particularly as Burns was most unlikely to be thinking of any thing of the kind, when, from the square upon a new farm, the fortunes of which were all to be proved. Mr. Douglas was less forcible in his objections to Mary Campbell being the person intended as settling the event as not earlier than the spring of 1786, on the mere showing that Burns up to that time was accustomed to spell his name in the Bible inscriptions—he cause the spelling of names is, in some degree, a matter of caprice, and it is certain that a lover other than Mary, in the year 1786 and before 1786—and indeed, it is entered in the register of his birth. It was nevertheless, remarkable that we should be forced upon 1786 as the time when the poems could not end as very youthful and brought into a period of his life of which the details are comparatively well known, and which, in many respects, are strongly authoritative trace of Mary. In 1785, Burns was devotedly attached to Jean Armour. It was a year of great and high literary excitement, being that in which the bulk of his poems was composed. There is no room here for the contemplated voyage to the West Indies, or the love of Highland Mary, in 1786, as has been supposed. Burns was brought by evil fortune to prepare for such a voyage; but then his other circumstances were such as, at first sight, to preclude an attachment to Mary. He had been avowed a private marriage in spring—not a moment too early, one would have said, for the young lady's peace; Burns, at the time, was by her father bound to her to disclaim Burns as her husband, infinitely to the grief and resentment of the unhappy poet.—In 1786 was that Burns found his Jean Armour; he could not be in any later time—that was quite clear for Burns had no need to think of exile from his native land after October, 1786, when his success as a poet was decisive. Mossgiel was shown why it could not be earlier. Not without some hesitation, Mr Douglas became convinced that, think what we might of it, it was not in 1786 or 1787, little more than a month after he had been thrown off by Jean Armour, that he took that tender farewell of the Highland Mary, which he could never, in fact, to know her thenceforth no more as a living woman, but as an image of beauty, and tenderness, and truth, resting in his bosom forever.

Mr. Douglas's theory before a learned society in Edinburgh, the ingenuity and acuteness of his arguments were acknowledge; and many had expected that the Mary of the poet's heart would be found in the same category, that of 1786 was the true date. On that occasion a member said that, if such should prove to be the case, as seemed to be, it would be a very sad thing to affect our feelings regarding either Burns or the story of this attachment. The vacillating pulses of the poet's heart would be shown, as he was wont, all too well, to have rendered half frantic in consequence of his reputation by Jean. At such a crisis his soul would rush to a compression in the affections of Mary, and he would have shown himself, not only unlikely, he had felt favorably disposed toward that other person before. A month or six weeks at a long time, for Burns to have been so fickle as to a Solway-tided heart like that of Burns. It often happens that, under a disappointment or rejection from one, the mind turns with a sudden and rapid impetus to and marry another. Some other persons spoke on the occasion, but generally expressed themselves as inclined to regard the point as still greatly doubtful.

In a new biography of Burns which Mr. Robert Chambers is preparing, upon a plan which will include his correspondence, and a minute and accuracy and greater detail than any preceding one it has been necessary of course to treat this question again, it appears that Mr. Chambers, in his plan, author made some personal investigations which resulted in bringing such powerful documentary evidence in favor of Douglas's theory, that he felt himself entitled to introduce the affair of Mary as occurring in 1785. The present paper may best be completed by an extract from the work.

"Mary, we have seen, from the narration of the poet, had proceeded immediately after their parting, to Campbelltown, where her parents then resided. Bible bore the summer there; but whether she had taken any steps for arranging matters for a union with Burns seems doubtful, as it is the report of a very intelligent person, that it is ally that her mother used to speak as if she had never been consulted on the subject. Another report in the family is, that while Mary resided with her parents, Burns had addressed to her a pretty long letter weekly from one whom they heard spoken of as 'a strange character,' and 'a great scoffer at women.' Mary was the second of her family, and lived her with a smile, and thereafter was allowed to continue receiving his letters.

"A sister of Mary's mother was the wife of one Peter Macpherson, a ship-carpenter at Greenock. It being determined that her younger brother Robert should be sent to Greenock to learn the trade of a ship-carpenter, Mary accompanied him. For this step on Mary's part we can well surmise the motive, and it is probable that the latter lady has expressly said that she crossed the sea (the Firth of Clyde) to meet her. There was what is called a 'sweetheart' of Mary's in Greenock, in the shipbuilding trade, and it is the distinct recollection of a daughter of Macpherson still living, that Mary was accustomed to serve in the company. Next morning, according to the same person's recollection, the boy was indisposed so as to be unable to go to his work. When Macpherson came home to breakfast, he asked what had detained him from the yard, and was told that the young man was very poorly. Mary jocularly observed that he had probably taken a little too much of the supper last night; and Macpherson, in a similar spirit of badinage, said, 'Oh, then it is just as well that we have not to wait for him for breakfast!' Mary purchase that lair in the kirk-yard '—referring to a place of sepulture which he had just secured for his family—'we must not let him know that it is there for yet.' Then no resting-place for the remains of those who did not possess such property, except the corner assigned to strangers and paupers, or a grave obtained by the purchase of a lair.

"The young man's illness proved more serious than was at first supposed, and Mary attended him with great kindness and assiduity. In a few days Robert began to recover, but at the same time Mary dropped, and became seriously unwell. Her friends believed that she had caught the fever from her attendance on the sick man, and recommended her father to go to a cross burn—that is a place where two burns meet—and select some water from the channel, boil them with new milk for a certain time, and then give her the milk to drink. It must be remarked that these were Highland people, and Highlanders are fond of the use of the most fanciful notions. The drink was duly prepared, as had been recommended, and given to Mary; but her illness was soon ended by death. It is a fact, a peculiar species then prevalent in the town, and in a few days the poor girl died. She was buried in the *lair* purchased by her mother's relations, being the first of the family who was placed in it.

"Such are the particulars derived from Macpherson's daughter, who was then a member of the family,[2] who has often conversed on the subject with Mary's mother. There seems to be no good reason for doubting them, or any of them. The only point

[1] Letter of John Kerr, Esq., of Glasgow, in the *Scots Times* newspaper, Nov. 7, 1829.

[2] Mr. J. C. Douglass, clothier, Greenock.

* The surviving sister of Burns.

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