

THE DEPOPULATED HIGHLANDS.

The Homes of Famous Chieftains Deserted by Their Descendants.

There are few Highland glens that do not contain traces of the banished population. In Lochaber, along the shores of Loch Arkaig, the home of the Clan Cameron, the remains of what were once extensive townships may yet be seen. The celebrated Glencoe formerly teemed with a hardy population. Famous Glengarry is sheep-walk, and the powerful Clan Macdonnell are now in Canada. Round Fort Augustus and far into the country of the Clan Fraser is naught but desolation. In hundreds of straths in Ross-shire the wild heather has not even yet obliterated the green pastures and the cultivated fields that once belonged to the MacKenzies and Munroes, and from whence the different battalions of the gallant Ross-shire Buffs marched to conquer at Maia, at Seringapatam, at Assaye, and Argaum. So late as 1849, when the present Prime Minister had already obtained political eminence, Hugh Miller attempted, but fruitlessly, to draw the attention of the British public to the work of destruction that was going on. He eloquently proclaimed that "while the law is banishing its tens for terms of seven and fourteen years, the penalty of deep-dyed crimes, irresponsible and infatuated power is banishing its thousands for life for no crime whatever." A large number of the dispossessed tenantry were sent to America; the remainder settled on the seashore, where they were cramped into small holdings, and have since lived. The tourist steaming along the wild coast of the western Highlands and islands may see perched on every cliff, in the most exposed situations and subject to the fury of Atlantic gales, the wretched hamlets that now contain the remnants of the Highland clans. Probably he will wonder how a population can at all manage to exist under such conditions. But there they are, elbowed to the very verge of their country. For large tracts of that country the proprietors even now can show no scrap of document, their claim to possession resting solely on the fact that it has never been contested. Created and looked upon, like the foxes, as mere vermin that interfere with sport, discouraged and thwarted in every direction, these people, notwithstanding their poverty and the hardships of their lot, have maintained unimpaired the noblest attributes of their race. Crime of any kind is almost unknown among them. Their moral standard is the highest in Britain, contrasting in that respect most remarkably with their lowland neighbors; and not a few of the leading British statesmen, lawyers, divines, and soldiers of the past eighty years first saw the light in these crofters' huts. Far behind the strip of inhabited littoral stretch the Blue Mountains, the snug and often fertile glens from whence the clans were banished, now turned into silent wildernesses, inhabited only by sheep and deer and an occasional shepherd or keeper. There are the vast tracts rented by the American, Mr. Winans, as a hunting ground, to be visited by that alien for two or three months, and abandoned to solitude for the remainder of the year, where not even a native of the soil may plant his foot.—Nineteenth Century.

A Reminiscence of Burr.

Aaron Burr from various romantic associations, chiefly from his moral contrast to some of his better contemporaries, has retained place as perhaps the most romantic character in American politics. Some time ago I visited his grave, at Princeton, N. J. He died in the second-story room of a hotel on Staten Island. The hotel is still standing, and I had the quaint satisfaction a few years ago of sleeping in it, a bed being made at my request there.

When Burr died at this place it was supposed that he was seeking out some of his kin who lived there on Staten Island within sight of their mutual birth-place, Elizabeth, in New Jersey. The probabilities are that Burr had borrowed from his kin to that extent that he could get no more. He reached this hotel and went to bed there, was taken with a fever and died. I have perhaps related in your columns before a singular reminiscence of my own.

About the time I slept in this room I was in search of some material about Cornelius Vanderbilt, father of the present magnate, and was recommended to go and see an old man named Clute, who published a newspaper on Staten Island, and was writing its history. He did not know much about Vanderbilt, but when I asked him about Aaron Burr he said, with almost a flash of pride: "Sir, you have before you the man who signed Aaron Burr's name with Burr's own hand for the last time in his life." Mr. Clute continued: "I was the notary down here, and Mr. Edwards, a relative of Burr, came to me and said: 'There is a man sick at the hotel at Port Richmond who wants to swear to an application for a pension as a soldier of the revolutionary war.' I went around, and there I saw on the bed Col. Aaron Burr. He was a poor ruck of little bones, without a sign of the great man of former days, muttering to himself and knowing nothing. I said: 'Mr. Edwards, this man is not fit to swear to anything now.' 'Well,' said he, 'come around in the afternoon when he gets easier.' I went around then," said Mr. Clute, "and I knew him well, for I had seen the boys throw stones at him in Albany, and seen men deliberately cut him when he proposed to be introduced. He had stood every insult a proud man could stand. I made his application and committed it to paper, read it to him, and then I took his hand in mine," said Mr. Clute, "to guide it while he signed his name as feebly sat up in bed, hardly knowing what he was about, and as I held that hand I thought to myself, this is the hand that killed Hamilton." —Gath.

Miss AMELIA B. EDWARDS, the English woman who combines the somewhat incongruous character of archaeologist and novelist, began, when a child, to compose poems and stories before she knew how to write. She first appeared in print at 7 years old with a poem called the "Knights of Old." When she was 14 she sent to a magazine edited by George Cruikshank

a story, on the back of which she had scribbled caricatures of the personages appearing therein. The drawings were so clever that Cruikshank went impulsively to call upon his unknown contributor, and finding to his astonishment that his contributor was a little girl, offered immediately to take her as an artless pupil and train her up to his work. This offer was declined; and putting aside pen and pencil Miss Edwards devoted herself for seven years to music, and became not only an accomplished performer but a composer. Then happening, during a summer holiday, to write a successful story, she turned to authorship again, and has ever since been known as one of the cleverest English women novelists. Miss Edwards has a handsome head, and a face pretty, gentle, and expressive.

Draft Horses.

The following is a synopsis of a lengthy article which appeared in the Chicago Tribune, consisting of interviews of its reporters with the leading draft-horse dealers of America. It was headed as follows:

Breeding of Draft Horses—One of the Important Industries of the Day—Experience of Dealers who Handle 40,000 Horses Annually—Relative Merits of Percheron, Clydesdale and English Horses—Opinions of All Leading Dealers in New York and Chicago—They are unanimous in preferring the French Breeds over all Others, as they are more enduring, best dispossed, stand the pavements best, and bring higher prices.

The Tribune reporters were instructed to procure opinions as to the relative merits of the different breeds of draft horses being raised in this country and sold in their markets. The experience of dealers who sell perhaps 40,000 horses annually directly to those who buy them to wear out was thus obtained. This information is of immense value to those engaged in breeding horses.

Mr. I. H. Dahlman, of New York City, said: "I handle between 9,000 and 10,000 horses annually. Of the draft horses I handle, the greater proportion—nearly all—are Norman-Percherons. These horses are docile, intelligent, easily broken, steady in harness, powerful and compactly built. They are short in the back, deep in the body and broad in the chest. They have the best feet of any horses in America. I do not want it understood that all Norman horses have these good qualities. I have seen some imported that were as badly shaped as could be found. Long in the back, narrow-waisted and not worth their freight from France here. That class of horses is only imported by people who buy them to sell and not to breed."

In regard to the Clydesdale horses, Mr. Dahlman said: "I will give you no criticism. I buy very few of them. I prefer to pass their stable and say nothing about them. From what I have said the Tribune readers, I think, will understand what breed of horses I would recommend them to raise."

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