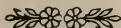


. . . GLASGOW . . .
SUTHERLANDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SIXTY-FIFTH
ANNUAL REUNION.



COMPLIMENTARY DINNER
TO
REV. ADAM GUNN, M.A., D.D.,
DURNES.



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LAURISTON CASTLE
LIBRARY ACCESSION



Rev. Dr. ADAM GUNN, Durness, with Mr THOS. G. BANNERMAN, President of the Glasgow Sutherlandshire Association, and Mrs BANNERMAN, his hosts during part of his stay in Glasgow on the occasion of this visit,

GLASGOW SUTHERLANDSHIRE REUNION, 1921.

Of the Glasgow Sutherlandshire Association it can truly be said that "age does not wither, nor custom stale" the enthusiasm and the virility which are distinctive features of its annual Gathering; rather, indeed, does the zeal of its office-bearers and members become more intensified the older the Society grows, if we base our estimate on the success that has attended its annual Gatherings in recent years. That the Association should be in a position to attract to this "event of the year" an audience of Sutherlandshire natives and their friends, in numbers close upon one-quarter the estimated population of the whole county, as was the case in the premier hall of the City of Glasgow on the evening of Thursday last, on the occasion of the sixty-fifth "Annual," is an achievement upon which those responsible for the organisation of the function merit congratulation.

The Chairman—An Honoured Minister.

An attractive programme of music and song, which included two Mòd medallists of the Comunn Gaidhealeach, Mr Dugald Mackay, the celebrated Strathnaver violinist and composer, and other popular exponents of the melody dear to Highland hearts, no doubt in large measure contributed towards the success which crowned the committee's efforts, coupled with the opportunity for exchange of fraternal and friendly greetings which the meeting provided; but, in connection with this year's Gathering in especial there were other factors that undoubtedly exercised an influence of magnetism in drawing together so many sons and daughters of Sutherlandshire and their friends in Glasgow. The name of Rev. Adam Gunn, M.A., D.D., the esteemed United Free Church minister of Durness, is a household one not only among natives of the county, in whatsoever quarter of

the globe they are to be found, but—if we may be permitted to use the phrase—his “fame is spread abroad” among Highlanders over a very wide circle, and for many reasons. We need only refer to the esteem in which he is held as a minister of the U.F.Church, in which sphere the zeal and earnestness of his labours have been recognised by the distinction of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him recently; to his yeoman service in the educational realm of his native county, in connection with which he fills with ability the onerous position of vice-chairman of the Education Authority; and to his labour of love in the publication of a volume of great interest to Sutherlandshire folk, “Sutherland and the Reay Country,” to show that the halo of appreciation which surrounds the name of this reverend gentleman abundantly disproves in his case the old adage that “a prophet hath no honour in his own country.” For these and other reasons, the Committee of “An Comunn Catach” rightly interpreted the sentiments of its members when, by their invitation to him to occupy the presidential chair on Thursday last week, they conferred on Dr Gunn the highest honour it is in the province of the Association to bestow. Added to this interesting circumstance was the patronage bestowed on the Association by many prominent citizens of Glasgow—pleasing testimony of the City’s regard and esteem for the warm bond of fellowship and friendship between natives resident in the county and those who have made the Vale of Clyde their habitation, which the Association typifies.

The Dinner Party.

Following the admirable custom of affording the chairman of their Gatherings more extended opportunity for social converse with members and friends than is possible from the “official” platform of a public assembly, Dr Gunn was the guest of the Association at a complimentary dinner in the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, prior to the gathering in St. Andrew’s Halls. At this happy function there was a large and representative company of ladies and gentlemen, the president of the Association, Mr Thomas G. Bannerman, occupying the chair with his customary tact, geniality and good fellowship.

"All went merry as a marriage bell" is a comprehensive and accurate description of this part of the proceedings.

The guest of the evening occupied the seat on the right of the chairman; Lady Pettigrew that on the left; and among those whose presence testified their desire to join in showing honour to Dr Gunn were:—

The President, Mr Thomas G. Bannerman, and Mrs Bannerman; Mr Wm. Bannerman, Sir A. H. Pettigrew and Lady Pettigrew; Bailie and Mr James A. Stewart; Bailie J. H. Allan; Councillor and Mrs Armstrong; Rev. George W. Mackay, Killin (president, An Comunn Gaidhealeach); Rev. A. Boyd Scott, M.C., B.D., of Lansdowne Church, Glasgow, and Mrs Boyd Scott; Captain D. Macaskill, M.M., R.D.; Captain C. H. Brown, F.R.S.G.S., Glasgow; Hew Morrison, LL.D., Edinburgh; Evander Mackay, F.E.I.S., Edinburgh; Mr Alex. Ross, do.; Mr A. M. Mackay, do.; Mr Donald Mackay, Seton Place, do.; Mr John Simpson, ex-president; Mr J. D. Smith, ex-president; Mr J. P. Mackay, vice-president, and Mrs Mackay; Mr G. M. Campbell, do., and Mrs Campbell; Mr John Maclean, vice-president; Mr Dugald Mackay, Strathnaver; Mr G. S. Mackay, vice-president; Mrs Wm. Ridout; Mr and Mrs Hugh Miller; Mr John G. Ross; Mr J. K. Simpson and Miss Mary Simpson; Mr Hugh Munro; Dr R. A. and Mrs Macleod; Mr and Mrs T. Ingram Craig; Mr R. F. Hislop; Mr W. B. Maxwell; Mrs Maxwell; Mr J. R. Fenton Robb, president, Inverness-shire Association, and Mrs Robb; Major Andrew Gow, D.S.O., and Mrs Gow, do.; Mr Peter Grant, do.; Mr and Mrs W. Hendry, do.; Mr and Mrs J. H. Sinclair; Mrs J. G. Ross; Mr Tom Lloyd and Mrs Lloyd; Miss Edna Lloyd, Langside; Miss Nancy Bannerman, Cambuslang; Mr Alfred Jones, Bearsden; Mr Neil M. Macleod (Godred Crovan); Mr John Mackay, Preston Street, Edinburgh; Miss Chrissie Macleod, Glasgow; Mrs B. Monteith, do.; Mr Geo. Forbes; Mr Wm. Forbes; Mr John Mackay, S.S.C., Edinburgh; Mr and Mrs Don Ross; Mr John C. Macleod, 411 Crown Street; Mr R. MacKimmie, Beechwood Drive; Supt. S. Mackay, Helensburgh; Mr D. S. Macrae; Mr Frank and Mrs Munro, 84 Paisley Road; Mr Archibald Morton, Ibrox; Mr and Mrs Hugh Hair; Mr Donald Macdonald, York Drive, and Mrs Macdonald; Mr A. L. Firth, Dumbreck; Mr W. A. Main, Rutherglen; Mr Alastair Bannerman, convener; Mr Geo. M. Morrison, secretary; and Mr John F. Smith, Cathedral Street.

The Toast List.

After a sumptuous repast, served with commendable smartness by the hotel staff, the toast list was entered upon, during the course of which

felicitous speeches, characterised by eloquence and literary charm, were delivered by the gentlemen entrusted with the duty of submitting or acknowledging the various "toasts." That of His Majesty the King and the Royal Family was given from the chair, and right loyally responded to, amid cheers, with the singing of a verse of the National Anthem.

In the regretted absence of Sir John Lindsay, Town Clerk of Glasgow, from whom a letter of apology was read by the chairman, in which Sir John paid a high tribute to the position of the Association among Highland Societies in the city, Rev. Geo. Mackay, Killin, proposed the toast of the Imperial Forces. In calling upon Mr Mackay, the chairman emphasised the fact that his name was known throughout the Gaelic-speaking world as that of a man the value of whose services to the grand old language could not be over-stated. (Loud applause.)

The Imperial Forces.

Rev. Mr Mackay said he felt almost overwhelmed at being asked to undertake the duty of proposing that toast, but, as a gentleman in close proximity to him during the evening had reminded him that a Mackay was the originator of the Royal Scots, that made him feel the less diffident on so important an occasion. (Applause.) If he might digress for a moment, he would like to express the very great pleasure it afforded him to be present to do honour to his esteemed fellow-student —(loud applause)— to that most distinguished son of Sutherland, Rev. Adam Gunn, minister of Durness. (Prolonged applause.) Coming back to the toast, he remarked that the Imperial Forces had done their duty nobly and well; and so far as the Gaidheal-teachd—the Highlands—was concerned they had no need to hide their heads when it came to a question of duty. (Applause.) The Highlands had given, in the Camerons, Seaforth's, Black Watch, and other Regiments, thousands of soldiers from every part, including Lewis and the other islands. (Hear, hear, and applause.) They had helped to maintain for us freedom, liberty, humanity, civilisation. When they remembered the thousands of thousands of white crosses marking the graves of gallant Highlanders in France and Flanders and in the other theatres

of war, it ought to fill them with pride that their country had produced men capable of such heroism and sacrifice. (Applause.) He coupled the toast with the name of Captain Charles S. Brown, and with that of one of their best known Glasgow ministers, Rev. Mr Boyd Scott, M.C., B.D., chaplain to the 5th Seaforths. (Loud applause.)

The Sailor—Most Romantic of Men.

Captain Brown, F.R.S.G.S., responding to the toast, expressed his appreciation of the kindly sentiments uttered by Rev. Mr Mackay. It was a pity, he thought, that sailors did not, owing to the nature of their business, get to know oftener of the kindly thoughts and earnest prayers so frequently expressed for their safe return from their arduous, though in a sense obscure, duties. On occasions such as that it might sometimes be convenient to divide the population into two classes—those who went to sea and those who did not. The seaman saw much of life in many lands; the mere landsman knew really little of the conditions under which seamen pursued their calling. The sea undoubtedly had had attractions for most people, whether they only sat by the sea-side and gazed out over the broad expanse of ocean, wondering what was beyond the horizon, or whether they sat by a cosy ingle-neuk with the winds whistling around the gable end. The sailor seldom talked about his job in a sentimental way, although happy was the man who could bring to bear on his business the wealth of imagination and romantic spirit that surrounded that of the sailor. While the sailor took what came as part of the day's work, he thought he was the most romantic of men. This spirit of romance was not only a part of the sailor's active life, but it remained with him in the evening of his days, and he loved to relate his experiences and adventures, with just the necessary embellishment and poetic licence with which romancists loved to "turn a story." (Laughter and applause.) Still, it was in his sea-going days that the sailor lived in an atmosphere of romance, although he might be himself the last to recognise it. Did he not call his ship "she"—an indication that "Jack loves a lass"? Another reason why the sailor attributed sex to his ship was, the speaker thought, that no two ships behaved in exactly the same way, nor did the

same ship do the same thing twice in the same way. (Laughter.) A ship was as capricious as a woman—uncertain in fair weather, but steadfast and patient in foul. (Loud applause.) Alluding to the Mercantile Marine, Captain Brown humorously compared this branch of the service and that of the Navy proper to a husband and wife, who scarcely realised how much they owed to each other until trouble arose. In the atmosphere of turmoil and difficulty they realised how much they meant to each other, and how much mutual help and sympathy had tided them over difficult days. He sincerely thanked the Glasgow-Sutherlandshire Association for the kind words of appreciation expressed for “the men who live on the sea.” (Prolonged applause.)

A Lowlander on the Highlanders.

Replying on behalf of the Land Forces, Rev. A. Boyd Scott, M.C., B.D., at the outset of his remarks, observed that he had never heard the toast of the Navy so admirably replied to as on that occasion. (Applause.) That made it all the more difficult for a mere parson to presume to reply for His Majesty’s Land Forces. Captain Brown had divided mankind into two classes, those who went to sea and those who did not; but there was a third class of which he (Mr Boyd Scott) was an outstanding example, and that was the people who “are at sea.” (Laughter.) It might be thought strange that a mere minister—a man of peace—should be asked to respond to that toast; but he supposed the explanation was that he had had the inestimable privilege and honour of serving, during a part of his period of service in France, with the 5th Seaforths. (Applause.) And whatever honours might come to a man, there was none that he could esteem so highly as the privilege which he (Mr Boyd Scott) had had in serving—in battle and out of battle—with the fellow-countrymen of the members of the Glasgow-Sutherland Association. (Loud applause.) He himself belonged to the finest county in Scotland—(“Question”)—if they excepted the county of Sutherland—(laughter)—that was the county of Ayr, and the task which a Lowlander like himself had to face in serving with men of Sutherland was not one to be lightly taken. Still, the best kind of affection was that which developed through

their trying to understand one another. He could not pretend to follow the previous speaker in his analogies between ships and the fair sex, but he could say that the best kind of match was the love match that had difficulties to encounter, and overcame these difficulties. That was the most durable kind of affection, and such was the tie that formed itself between his comrades and himself during the war. Never did braver, dourer, more courageous, more patient men go into battle than those with whom he had the privilege of being associated—(applause)—among them many from the straths and villages of Sutherland. (Hear, hear). He had seen them go into battle on several occasions, but chiefly his memory recalled that great November day when the 5th and 6th Seaforths and one or two brigades forming the 51st Division, which in front of Beaumont Hamel got a job to do which no one in the higher command ever expected them to fulfil. The battle was to develop to the right and left successively; the 51st Division, with the 5th Seaforths in front of it, were to attack the enemy in an impregnable position on Beaumont Hamel, and the only part where the battle had been carried to a more than successful issue was the bit the 5th Seaforths were in. (Loud applause.) He remembered, but with very poignant memories, the great fight on the 31st of July, 1917, when those lads went up through unspeakable mud and rain in front of Ypres. Three days afterwards, when they came out, the whole brigade was not more in appearance than a battalion's strength, and when the General came round and spoke simple words of praise, saying that no brigade had ever done more glorious things in war, one felt that the very least of truth had been said. Mr Mackay had spoken of those many graves in France and Flanders; in his (Mr Boyd Scott's) own experience, it was almost a relief when the higher powers promoted him to another Division. He had become so attached to those dear lads that it was more than one could bear to see them withering away in battle after battle; and when we spoke of the glory of Regiments—of the Highland Regiments in particular—the heart welled up at the thought of how many of them left their bones amid those awful plains. He counted himself fortunate, and felt uplifted, to be associated

with people in whose veins coursed the same blood as that of those brave fellows with whom he had been privileged to serve. Alluding to the numbers of Irishmen and English attached to the Highland Regiments, Mr Boyd Scott recalled with eloquent pride that the splendid esprit de corps of the Army was pleasingly observable in the fact that the chief aim and ambition of those Irish and English was to become "Highlanders" as speedily as they possibly could. (Applause.) He had spoken of the 5th Seaforths and the Highland troops specially because of his personal association with them; after all, the pick of the British Army was the Scottish troops, and possibly the pick of the Scottish troops were the Highland Regiments. (Hear, hear.) These soldiers of ours, declared Mr Boyd Scott in conclusion, deserved everything that could be said about them in laudatory fashion. (Applause.) The work they had done in France had not even yet been fully appreciated; they went through dangers and endured sufferings that defied the skill of artist or author to portray or describe. He desired to thank the members of the Association for the great honour they had done him in having him as their guest that afternoon. (Loud applause.)

At this stage the Chairman read a letter of apology from Lord Provost Paxton, expressing his keen regret at being unable to carry out his intention of being present at the dinner. Bailie James Stewart, however, had kindly agreed to deputise for the civic head of the community. (Applause.) The next toast on the list was that of the Corporation of the city of Glasgow, and he had pleasure in calling upon one of the foremost citizens of Glasgow to propose it. (Loud applause.)

Sir Andrew Pettigrew on Glasgow's Development.

Responding to the call of the chair, Sir Andrew H. Pettigrew, who had a cordial reception, alluded in humorous vein to the flattering compliment paid him by Mr Bannerman. Chairmen, he said, were generally considered to be allowed a little poetic licence; but he wished to say that he took it as a great compliment to be again a guest of the Association and to have

the privilege of proposing the toast of the Corporation. In describing his native Ayrshire as the supreme county of Scotland, Mr Boyd Scott had very wisely put in a reservation for Sutherlandshire; it occurred to him (Sir Andrew) that he might venture to suggest a place in the van should be found for the county of the city of Glasgow, and he thought he could put up a plea on its behalf which would have the approval of all present—even of Mr Boyd Scott. (Laughter and applause.) His plea was this: that Glasgow was made up very largely of men and women who had come to it from the straths and glens of Sutherland, of Ross, and similar counties—(renewed applause)—from the uplands of Ayr and Argyll, and his own native county of Lanark. He had no doubt that it was due to the contributions made to it from those external sources that Glasgow was enabled to stand in the very forefront of the cities of the world. (Applause.) These contributions were essential for the replacement of the burning away, so to speak, of human material in the turmoil and strife of the arduous tasks of a city life. He regretted that they were denied the pleasure and honour of the company of Sir John Lindsay and the Lord Provost—Mr Paxton—but he welcomed the fact that an able representative had been found in his friend, Bailie Stewart, a man who had rendered yeoman service to the community, and would be able to speak with authority. (Applause.) We had, ne continued, a great inheritance in the city of Glasgow at the present day. If we cast our eyes back for a hundred years we found a comparatively small city, but a city full of enterprise, as proved by the fact that the city's commerce and trade reached to the furthest corners of the world through the development that had followed that enterprise and foresight. (Loud applause.) In recalling a vision of the marvellous expansion of the city during the past hundred years, his desire was to attribute to the right quarter the credit for that development, with the view of helping them to realise the perilous position in which the city stood to-day. When the question of deepening and widening the Clyde came before the Corporation, and was successfully carried out, was that not due to the fact that they had men of great will, of far-reaching vision, of highest probity and of strong character at the head of

affairs? We had to remember in the days in which we now lived, that we had come through periods of tremendous expansion, when undertakings that were now entered on with a light heart could not be even dreamt of a hundred years ago, for want of capital and of experience if for nothing else. How great were the achievements of the past, won in the face of tremendous discouragement, was seen in the fact that the greatest ships ever produced not only were able to reach the centre of the city, but they were actually able to build and launch them on that same river within a mile of the spot that was fordable a hundred years ago. (Applause.) Let them just think what the position of Glasgow would be if that had not been achieved. Another great achievement that had done more than anything else to contribute to the success and the welfare of the people of Glasgow was the introduction of Loch Katrine water; let them think what it meant to their health, happiness and general well-being. (Applause.) And yet that scheme had to contend with enormous opposition. He instanced those two great schemes as illustrations of that far-seeing imagination that was necessary then, and was still necessary to-day—for the world was still young—in order that the community might still continue to extend, and grow and develop along the paths of progress, of happiness, and of material and spiritual welfare. (Applause.)

Glasgow's Labour Coterie.

To-day Glasgow was faced with a problem such as it had never had to face before; he did not know whether it was an outcome of the war or not, but the fact remained that at the last municipal election in November an organised and concerted attack was made by one section of the people to secure control of the municipal machine; he referred to Labour. There was no one more sympathetic towards Labour than he (Sir Andrew) was, no one more ready to help Labour in reaching its ideals, and he was quite sure every Christian man and woman in that room would agree with him that the ideals of Labour were Christian in so far as they concerned the uplifting of the community into a higher social and physical condition than

in the past; he sincerely hoped they would be able to attain a higher spiritual condition. What he found fault with was not the ideals aimed at, but the manner in which it was proposed to reach them. His objection was that Labour's concerted and organised attack was in favour of one section of the community only; and that every candidate who contested a seat was pledged to obey and to vote according to the dictates of a coterie of Labour that controlled and led them. He claimed that any man who aspired to a seat in the Town Council of Glasgow should go there unpledged to any coterie or faction or any sectional interest—(applause)—determined to exercise his free and unfettered judgment on any question, thinking only of one thing — how best to serve, with unprejudiced view, the best interests of the community as a whole. (Loud applause.) In November we turned that perilous corner of safety, but with little to spare, because out of the 113 seats 47 were now occupied by Labour men; he made no objection to them as Labour men, it was the previously concerted opposition, directed towards sectional advantage, he objected to. (Applause.) The peril was all the greater at last election in respect that the whole Council came out for re-election. In the future of course only one-third fell to retire, but steps ought, in his opinion, to be taken to secure that for all the constituencies men of business experience and known high character, of the highest motives, and above all unpledged to any section of the community, should come forward to represent the interests of the city. He desired to emphasise the urgency and importance of the matter, because it must not be left to hazard; and he appealed to everyone who had the interests of Glasgow at heart to help to their utmost in making sure that the freedom and the liberty of the Town Council might be maintained. (Applause.) He regretted the absence of the Lord Provost, who was "the right man in the right place." "I give you," said Sir Andrew in conclusion, "the Corporation of the City of Glasgow, coupled with the name of Bailie James Stewart." (Loud applause.)

Bailie Stewart's Eloquent Reply.

The toast having been enthusiastically pledged, Bailie Stewart had a most cordial greeting on rising to respond. Referring to the absence of the Lord Provost, the worthy Bailie said that he had had a talk more than once with the civic head concerning that function, and he assured them it was with sincere regret that the Lord Provost found himself, on account of official engagements, unable to be present with them. Whether his Lordship's speech, had he been present, would have reference to the roads of Sutherlandshire, over which he had recently travelled, he (the Bailie) did not know—(laughter)—but he was quite sure they would have heard something of practical interest. (Applause.) The privilege of replying for the Corporation was a great honour, and that honour was enhanced by the enthusiasm with which the toast had been received, and the fine words in which Sir Andrew Pettigrew had proposed it. (Applause.) No matter how elementary might be the knowledge of the man who had such a duty to perform as was allotted to him, one could not help feeling impressed with the historical vision brought before them by the proposer of the toast. A hundred years ago this great city was but a scattered hamlet somewhere in the vicinity of the Rottenrow, close on the banks of the Molendinar Burn, its clear waters running to the Clyde in the shadow of the city's magnificent Cathedral where the Friars of that day were wont to chant their vespers, little dreaming that they were laying the foundation of a city that should rise to be the Second City of this our glorious Empire. (Loud applause.) The spirit of industry, the integrity of the soul of commerce, that inspired our citizens in the past, had enabled our ships to carry the city's goods, and its good name—(applause)—to the uttermost ends of the earth where markets were to be found. The Magistrates and Council were the reflection of the minds of the citizens; they were really what the citizens made them. (Hear, hear.) Sir Andrew's reference to the water question recalled to his (the Bailie's) mind that when the works were nearing completion an election took place, and not one single man out for re-election

who had urged on the water scheme had been returned. ("Shame.") Was it not a fact that history repeated itself? They had all come out for re-election in November, and some of the strongest, the best, the soundest Councillors they had in the Council were turned away. They had now the most peculiar Town Council Glasgow ever had—(laughter)—but the Town Council represented the spirit that animated the city, and the turbulent spirit throughout the country. He could say much on this subject, but time was passing, and he therefore, in name of the Corporation, thanked them for so cordially honouring the toast. (Loud applause.)

"Our Guest."

The toast of "Our Guest" was submitted by Dr Hew Morrison, J.P., LL.D., Edinburgh, in a speech of felicity and eloquence. He commended the laudable practice of the Association in getting outstanding persons in the county to preside at these gatherings; this tradition was splendidly maintained in the honour conferred upon his friend Dr Gunn. (Applause.) The introduction of the ministerial element was a step in the right direction. (Applause.) Dr Gunn was the most distinguished man in his profession, in his native county, all of whom, however, discharged the duties of their several spheres with ability and diligence. (Applause.) He welcomed the disappearance of the old differences that had too long separated the people from each other; might these differences be soon buried in the grave of forgetfulness. (Laughter and applause.) He recollected travelling on the coach to Tongue on one occasion, long ago, when a fellow-passenger broke the silence that held him for several miles by grasping his (Dr Morrison's) arm and, pointing to a cottage near by, exclaiming—"That's the house where Adam Gunn was born." (Applause.) That was a great compliment to the distinction "Our Guest" had attained at a very early stage in his career. The University of his student days had done a worthy act when they conferred on Dr Gunn the highest honour in their power. (Applause.) In the realm of education they had no sounder man in the north of Scotland; advanced men like him might always expect

opposition, but wisdom came into her own in the end. (Renewed applause.) From being the leading pupil in the school of his native district, Dr Gunn had risen to the foremost place in Church and Educational circles in that county, and because of that they all felt proud of him. (Loud applause.) Few persons of his (Dr Morrison's) acquaintance had impressed him more than did Dr Gunn, whose personality was in all respects grand. The attachment formed between the reverend Doctor and his people must be truly great, because it was within the speaker's knowledge that Dr Gunn's name had been mentioned in connection with important vacancies in the Church both south and north; they who had the interests of Sutherlandshire at heart extended to Dr Gunn heartfelt thanks for his self-denial and his attachment to his own native county and people. (Applause.) Referring to the people of Durness, Dr Morrison warmly eulogised their good-heartedness and love of fair play, characteristics that their good fortune in having a long line of more than ordinarily able and distinguished ministers must have done much to mould on the right lines. Dr Morrison then made fitting reference to those of Dr Gunn's predecessors whom he had personally known, and whose gifts he had warm memories of, and in their guest of the evening Durness had a worthy successor to those eminent men. (Applause.) He was both minister and man; of great strength of mind and character, always contending for right against might. (Loud applause.) Dr Gunn had rendered many services to Church and community; the service he was doing for the Association that evening was one of many for which they would all remember him with gratitude and affection. (Loud applause.) Might he long be spared to go in and out among his devoted people among whom he had served so long and so well, and might he often in future be able to visit them in Glasgow. (Prolonged applause, the audience uprising and singing lustily "For he's a jolly good fellow.")

Dr. Gunn's Reply.

Rising amid enthusiastic cheering, Dr Gunn expressed his sense of the honour they had just done to him; he appreciated it, and the kind

words of his friend, Dr Hew Morrison, more than he could say. Their invitation to come and preside at the 65th annual Gathering had come to him as a great surprise. He recalled how, when he was a member of the Edinburgh Sutherland Association, they used to look around for a man to fill the chair who had won honour and fame abroad; he (Dr Gunn) was a man who had never left the county of his birth, and for over thirty years he had ministered in the same Presbytery where he had been born and reared. (Applause.) All promptings he may have had to leave Durness or Sutherlandshire he had always met in the words of the Shunammite woman of old—"I dwell among mine own people." (Loud applause.) Even here in Glasgow he still dwelt among his own people, and he was at that moment addressing his own countrymen and women. Hospitality was a well-known characteristic of Highlanders, but he did not know any county that had raised it to the eminence of a virtue of Christianity in the way Sutherland did. (Renewed applause.) The saying used to be ascribed to their celebrated Bard of Sutherland, Rob Donn—

"'S tric bhitheas starraidhnean miafor anns na
Croisdinghean còir,
Ach an crìon-pheacadh biasdal cha robh e
riamh anns an t-seorsa."

(Of course other grave faults show themselves on Christians' good; but the sin of selfish niggardliness—never in the breed.) (Prolonged applause.) They were hospitable to one another wherever they met, and of that he had delightful evidence since coming to Glasgow—the right hand of fellowship extended by the son of an old colleague of his own, and the hospitality of house and home lavished on him in a manner that showed clearly that the same virtues that characterised his ancestors characterised their worthy chairman, Mr Bannerman. (Loud applause.) Highlanders were wont to pride themselves on being eloquent in Gaelic, but "ma conscience, when I heard those Glasgow Bailies," observed Dr Gunn, amid hearty laughter, "I felt I was not in it." It delighted him to see that the Sutherland contingent in Glasgow were able to bring to that gathering men like Sir Andrew Pettigrew and the other prominent

citizens he had the pleasure of meeting. (Applause.) It showed that Sutherland natives in Glasgow were good living citizens, prosperous and industrious, and that the citizens were anxious to recognise their helpful services to the community. (Applause.) Specially glad was he to hear the kindly reference made to Lady Pettigrew — (renewed applause) — whom they were proud of as a type of Sutherland's splendid woman-kind. He likened the influx of Sutherland people to Glasgow to the Highland streams that brought down from the hills fertility to the plains and valleys below; and if they as Highlanders owed a great deal to Glasgow, well, Glasgow on the other hand owed a good deal to them. (Applause and laughter.) Right glad, too, was he to see his brethren, Rev. George Mackay and Rev. Mr Boyd Scott, present among them. In a humorous reference to Mr Boyd Scott's claim for Ayrshire, Dr Gunn emphasised the fact that the two counties had in common the fact that they had produced National Bards—Sutherland its Rob Donn, Ayr its Robbie Burns. (Loud applause.) There was much he would like to say, but he must not detain them; their chairman was a little afraid of Highland ministers, knowing how they prolonged their sermons. (Laughter.) "Well," said the reverend Doctor in conclusion, "I respect his advice to be brief, and anything further I have to say I shall reserve for the larger Gathering. Once again I thank you all most sincerely for your exceedingly kind welcome." (Loud applause.)

At this stage of the proceedings the chairman announced the interesting news that Dr Gunn had accepted an invitation to preach on Sunday in the Highlanders' Memorial Church in both Gaelic and English.

The Toast of the Association.

The Glasgow Sutherlandshire Association was proposed by Councillor Matthew Armstrong in an interesting and witty speech. He recalled the instance of a young cleric who had been appointed to a certain parish, and who during his first visitation among the people had been asked by an old lady if he was keeping better; on replying that he had not been ailing, and enquiring what was reported to have been the matter, he was somewhat disconcerted at being

told by his interviewer that it was current talk throughout the parish that he suffered from "swalled heid." (Laughter.) After the eloquent speeches he had listened to he was afraid he would go from that meeting with a similar complaint. (Renewed laughter.) He was a unit of that body which the worthy Bailie had described as "the strangest Town Council in history." The object of the Association was mainly, he understood, that of helping men and women who came from Sutherland to the city, where they would find friends in whose veins ran the same blood and who would extend that hospitality which to young people coming to a strange city meant so much in their lives. (Applause.) As a young member of the Council he felt honoured to be in so distinguished a company. He hoped the Association might long continue its lofty ideals of, if he might so put it, "helping a lame dog over the stile," and helping especially the young men to take their places in the great work of their City. (Loud applause.)

The toast having been cordially pledged, was replied to by Mr John Simpson, a veteran ex-president of the Association. They owed much to Mr Thomas Gunn, one of the original members, and who, he believed, was the only surviving original member. He regretted the absence of the Civic Chief, and of their learned Town Clerk, and their good ladies. (Applause.) The Highlanders, he thought, deserved all that had been said about them; what, he asked, would Glasgow have done without them? (Laughter.) In a word he thanked them for their kind reference to the Society and its work, and for the warm way in which the toast had been received. (Applause.)

"The Chairman."

The concluding toast on the list—that of "The Chairman"—was given by Mr Tom Lloyd in a racy and interesting speech that brought repeated applause. His acquaintance with their esteemed chairman and president extended to over twenty years; and the longer one knew him the better one liked him. (Applause.) The success of all gatherings akin to that one depended on having the right man in the chair.

Its occupant that afternoon brought to bear on the position an intimate knowledge of Sutherland and its people, and an equally broad knowledge of business life in that great city, and all present would agree with him (Mr Lloyd) that Mr Bannerman had discharged the duties of the chair in a manner that deserved their warmest thanks. Every good object destined to help the Highlands found in him a warm and enthusiastic supporter; and for these and other reasons he asked them to join in drinking jolly good health to the chairman, to his esteemed better half, and to his fireside. (Prolonged applause, the audience joining in singing "For they are jolly good fellows.")

Acknowledging the compliment in a few happy sentences, Mr Bannerman remarked that Mr Lloyd was endowed with abundance of the milk of human kindness; on that occasion he had undoubtedly "churned it into butter." (Laughter and applause.) He thanked the meeting sincerely for their mark of esteem to himself and his household.

The Gathering in St. Andrew's Halls.

A RECORD REUNION.

The dinner company then adjourned to St. Andrew's Halls, where there was a large gathering awaiting the chairman and the platform party, the latter being played in by the pipers to the strains of a stirring welcome.

The Platform Party.

Rev. Adam Gunn, M.A., D.D., of Durness (chairman); Mr Thomas G. Bannerman, president, and Mrs Bannerman; Sir Andrew H. Pettigrew and Lady Pettigrew; Bailie James A. Stewart and Mrs Stewart; Bailie Allan; Captain D. Macaskill, M.M.R.D., Scourie; Captain Charles H. Brown, F.R.S.G.S., Royal Technical College; Mr J. D. Smith, ex-president; Mr G. S. Mackay, vice-president; Mr Donald Mackay, solicitor; Mr Donald Mackay, Caithness Society; Mr John H. Sinclair, do.; Mr Alex. Mowat, president, do.; Mr W. D. Baikie, secretary, do., and Mrs Baikie; Mrs J. H. Sinclair, do.; Mr Kenneth Macdonald, Skye Association; Mr J. A. Nicolson, do.; Mr John (Kaid) Maclean, do.; Miss Margaret M. Shaw

and Miss Macarthur, Jura Association; Major Andrew Gow, D.S.O., and Mrs Gow, Inverness-shire Association; Mr J. R. Fenton Robb, president, do., and Mrs Robb; Mr and Mrs William Hendry, do., and Miss Hendry; Mr John Macintosh, Skye Association; Mr and Mrs J. B. Morrison, Clan Morrison Society; Mr Alex. Gunn, Sutherland Association; Lieut.-Colonel R. Clarke, Glasgow; Mr Alistair T. Bannerman, convener, and Mr Geo. M. Morrison, secretary, Sutherland Association; Mr Arch. Macdonald, Clan Macdonald Society; Mr Angus Macdonald, do.; Mr John D. Macdonald, secretary, do., and Mrs Macdonald; Mr John Mackay, S.S.C., Edinburgh; Mr Andrew Calder, do.; Mr A. Ross, Register Hotel, do.; Mr J. G. Abrach Mackay, Leith; Miss Margaret Macdonald, Assynt; Miss Bessie Campbell, Falconcliff, Dornie; Mr and Mrs D. S. Macrae, Kinlochbervie; Rev. Walter Shaw, Glasgow; Rev. A. Boyd Scott, M.C., B.D., Glasgow (chaplain, 5th Seaforth); Mr R. P. Thomson, Bearsden; Miss K. B. Mollins, Dumfries; Mr and Mrs M. Lamont, India Street; Mr and Mrs Hugh M. Macmillan, Stepps Road; Mr C. M. and Miss Jessie Hourston, Glasgow; Miss Dorothy Clare, Strathbungo; Mr John and Miss M. Wright, Crosshill; Mr and Mrs Thomas Gunn, Garnethill; Miss Grieve, Duncruin Street; Mr D. N. MacLennan, president, Ross-shire Society, and Mrs MacLennan; Mr and Mrs W. Fraser, Atholl and Breadalbane Society; Mr Colin A. Campbell, Whiteinch; Mr R. McKimmie, Jordanhill; Mr George Macleod, Crosshill; Mr and Mrs Lachlan Macpherson, Dennistoun; Mr and Mrs Macgregor, do.; Mr W. M. Maclean, Australia; Miss C. Macgregor, Loch Merkland; Mr J. R. Colquhoun, Gaelic Musical Society; Miss Phemie Marquis, do.; Mr A. Macphail, secretary, Mull and Iona Society; Miss Nancy Bannerman, Miss Jeanie Forrest, and Miss Marie Grant, Cambuslang; Mr and Mrs Gregor Grant, Cambuslang; Master Tom G. Bannerman, Cambuslang; Mr Jas. W. Bannerman, Hillhead; Mr Neil Shaw, An Comun Gaidhealeach; Rev. Geo. W. Mackay, Killin, president of do.; Mr A. M. Mackay, Edinburgh; Mr Robert Mackay, do.; Mr and Mrs John Roy, Glasgow; Mr and Mrs W. McConochie, Drumchapel; Miss Monteith, Dundee; Mr and Mrs G. M. Campbell, Jordanhill; Mr, Mrs, Master and Miss Ingram Craig, Crosshill; Mr and Mrs W. Sutherland, Broomhill; N. Mackenzie, Glasgow; Dr and Mrs R. A. Macleod, Cathcart; Mrs D. Macleod, Crown Circus; Mrs A. D. Mackenzie, Athole Gardens; Mr and Mrs James H. Loudon, Craigmore Terrace; Mr and Mrs Macfarlane Stevenson, Scotstoun; Superintendent S. Mackay, Helensburgh; Mr and Mrs John Maclean, Partick; Miss and Master Maclean, do.; Mr John and Miss Young, Partickhill; Mr and Mrs John Cameron, Pollokshields; Mr John Macleod, do.; Mrs W. Ridout, Hillhead; Mr H. Miller, Shawlands; Mr and Mrs Tom Lloyd; Miss J. M. Arthur, Strathbungo; Mr R. B. McCall, Glasgow; Mr Peter Grant, Inverness Association; Mr and Mrs John

Irvine, Dennistoun; Mr John R. Murray, Springburn; Mr and Mrs John Murray, Dennistoun; Mr and Mrs James Mair, Springburn; Mrs Munro, Paisley Road, W.; Mr and Mrs John G. Ross, Shawlands; Mr and Mrs H. Hair, Glasgow; Mr and Mrs Frank Munro, do.; Mr Wm. T. Ross, Howard Street; Mr John W. Fraser, Sandyford; Mr A. Morton, Ibrox; Mr and Mrs Hugh Miller, Kenilworth Avenue; Miss Craig, and Miss Annie Mackenzie, Paisley; Mr W. Murray, Springburn; Mr Geo. Allan, Paisley Road; Mr Alan Ford, Queen's Park; Mr J. M. Rae, Athole Association; Mr and Mrs G. Mackay, Langside; Mr and Mrs Macleod, Charing Cross; Mr G. Mackenzie-Smitton, Glasgow; Mr B. Morrison, Kent Road; Miss Alice Beaton; Mr John and Miss Meta Gunn, Onslow Drive; Miss Nora Stevenson, Edinburgh; Mr R. J. Macmillan, Cowan Street; Mr Geo. Calder, Argyle Street; Mr Geo. and Mr Wm. Forbes, New City Road; Mr and Mrs Macaskill, Henderson Street; Mr and Mrs W. Mackay, Dumbarton; Mr James Cowen, do.; Mr J. W. Spence, Glasgow; Mr A. Ewing, do.; Mr, Mrs and Misses Newton, Broomhill; Miss Craig, Milngavie; Miss Jean Ritchie, Shawlands; Miss Macleod, Broomhill; Mrs Neil Mackenzie, Glasgow; Mr K. Macrae, do.; Mr and Mrs A. Macrae, New City Road; Mr and Mrs John C. and Mr Geo. Macleod, Crown Street; Mr and Mrs Robt. Macmillan, Pollokshaws; Mr and Mrs J. P. Mackay, Wallace Street; Mrs D. C. Kennedy; Misses Lottie G., Janet S. M. and Mr James Campbell, Partick; Miss M. Macrae, Hinshaw Street; Miss I. M. Maclean, Skye Society; Mr, Mrs and Miss Macalpine, Garnethill; Miss Nettie Stewart, India Street; Mr Hugh Mackay, Anniesland; Mr William Mackay, Anniesland; Mr John Mackay, do.; Mr Peter Mackay, do.; Mr William Mackay, Partick; Mr William Morrison, New City Road; Mr Donald Mackay, Clydebank; Mr Neil M. Macleod, Barrington Drive; and others.

The Chairman's Address.

On rising to deliver his address from the chair, Dr Gunn had quite an ovation, and it was evident that he was much touched by the warmth of the welcome accorded to him. In a word of acknowledgement, Dr Gunn said they were accustomed to read of men who had won fame and renown in distant parts of the world being accorded a reception such as had so kindly been extended to him in that great gathering; in his case the welcome was all the more appreciated in that it was given to one who had never left the county of his birth. (Applause.) Considering that he had been preaching to the same congregation, in the same Presbytery, for about 30 years, he looked upon the honour the Association had conferred upon him as an honour to the

shire; to those, might he say, who stayed at home and "kept the home fires burning." Some of them must remain in the county to carry on, however great the attractions that spheres further afield might have for many of them. He happened to be one of those who, as he had just been telling them at another happy meeting, like the Shunammite woman of old "dwell among my own people." He rejoiced heartily to see so many men and women of his native county present there to meet him and greet him. (Renewed applause.) Looking over the reports of the Association's work for the long period of over sixty years, he knew of no body or society that more deserved commendation than they did. It was something to be proud of that they had a long record of having helped their county men and women during all those years. Surveying the work of the Association, he observed that in the social region nothing could be better than the opportunity which the Society afforded young men and women coming to that great city from the far North. (Applause.) There was no solitude like that of the solitude of a stranger in the heart of a thronging city. Those who had experience of that feeling could corroborate the words of their bard who had so eloquently said—

"Ged tha mise air a Ghalldachd,
Tha mo chridhe 's an Taobh-tuath;
Tir mo bhreth is m' arach
Tir mo chairdean 's mo shluagh:
Tir nam beanntaichean corrach,
Tir nan lochan 's nam bruach,
Tir nan cailleagan boidheach
Tir nan oigearan suaire." (Loud applause.)

To have the hand of friendship extended to one in such circumstances was something to value and to honour. While he had kept up his connection with the Edinburgh Sutherland Society, among whose members his great friend Dr Hew Morrison was an outstanding example—(applause)—he had not come into direct contact with the Glasgow Association until that visit, and although he had a certain feeling of being a stranger, it quite left him from the moment he stepped on to the platform at the station and received the hearty Highland greeting and welcome of their worthy president, Mr Bannerman—(renewed applause)—the son of an old and valued friend of mine; and I was proud to see



him following so splendidly in his father's footsteps in maintaining the best traditions of his native county. Other members whom I have met are also following with commendable zeal the traditions bequeathed them by their ancestors, and right pleased was I to meet them and shake them by the hand. (Applause.) I cannot appeal too strongly to every native of the county who may be resident in Glasgow, said Dr Gunn, with eloquence, to join the Association if they are not already members, a sentiment that brought warm applause. They would be doing a wrong to their county and to themselves by remaining aloof. Let them not think that they had done their duty by merely coming once a year to hear Roderick Macleod or Dugald Mackay. (Laughter.) They should attend the monthly meetings and show the office-bearers their practical interest in the good work that was being carried on. (Applause.) By so doing they would be keeping in touch with each other and with the county of their birth.

Touching on the benevolent side of the Association's work, Dr Gunn reminded the audience of the command that they should "bear one another's burdens." It would not be to their credit as a race and as Highlanders if they neglected the observance of that command. (Applause.)

The Gaelic Language.

Dr Gunn next dealt with the educational aspect of the work of the Association and of the country generally. They were all interested in the cultivation of the Gaelic language; and it might be said that it was about the only thing in which they were advancing educationally. That was due partly to the Education Authority, but it was due mainly—and it was right that the fact should be acknowledged—to a visit from the president of An Comun Gaidhealach, Rev. George Mackay, of Killin, and Mr Neil Shaw, the energetic secretary of that body, who had come to Sutherlandshire and "set the heather on fire"—(applause)—with the result that they had established organisations in every district of the county. Much interest had been roused by the visit of these gentlemen; it constituted quite a revival in the study of the grand old Gaelic language. He recalled, and commended

to them, what had been advised by the late Neil Livingstone: "Two things I commend to you, attend Divine service in the Highland Churches in Glasgow, and read the Gaelic bards, if you would be prepared for the life that now is and the life that is to come." (Applause.) Dr Gunn here related the disconsolate plight of a widowed woman whose greatest lamentation was that her husband had passed into the unknown without a word of Gaelic; the loss of the husband she could endure; the thought of his ignorance of Gaelic in the realm beyond was more than she could bear. (Laughter and applause.) It behoved us to do our best to keep the old language alive. Some people objected it was of no commercial value, but, asked the reverend Doctor with spirited emphasis, are we to measure everything in life by £ s d? A knowledge of the literature and lore of his native country was one of the best assets a Highlander could possess, and that was to be gained through the study and cultivation of the grand old language which they should do their best to preserve and perpetuate. (Applause.) Dr Gunn concluded with a humorous reference to the horror with which music was in old days looked upon in certain ecclesiastical circles; but (looking at the opening item on the concert programme) he concluded, "Highland minister though I be, I must ask for a Strathspey and Reel of Tulloch." (Prolonged applause.)

THE CONCERT.

As indicated above, the first item on a musical programme of all-round excellence was a selection of stirring airs by the piper to the Association, Mr James MacIver, and his company of pipers. Miss Flora MacNeil, Mòd Medallist of 1919, followed, with an excellent rendering of "An teid thu leum a ribhinn og"; the same artiste appeared along with Lieut. Colin Macleod (another Medallist) in a duet "My heart's in the Highlands," and later her interpretation of "An cluinn thu leannain" fairly brought down the house, an encore, much to the disappointment of the audience, not being permissible owing to the lateness of the hour. Miss Dorothy Pugh, favourite soprano of the "Orpheus Club," delighted the gathering with the "Jewel Song" from Faust, and "Down in the Forest"; and Miss Mary Macgregor was warmly applauded for her fine contributions which included "The

Flowers o' the Forest," and "Wi' a Hundred Pipers." Mr Robert Watson, the celebrated Scottish baritone, was heard to great advantage in the ever popular "Come to the Fair," and "Beloved, it is morn," the latter with organ accompaniment. In the rôle of comedian Mr J. L. Lawrence kept the audience in continual merriment during his "turns" on the platform. So far as the vocal part of the programme was concerned, universal approbation would award the palm to Lieut. Colin Macleod's singing of "Duthaich nan Cracbh," sung as an encore to "Cait an caidil an ribhinn"—a recall which the audience would not be denied. Another item by the Lieutenant, whose appearances are now so welcome a feature at Highland Gatherings, was "Cumha MhicCriomainn," also with organ accompaniment. The exposition of dancing by the Murray Troupe was an enjoyable item of the programme. Mr Dugald Mackay, the celebrated Strathnaver violinist and composer, made his first appearance before a Glasgow audience, and his skilful performances brought most enthusiastic applause, recalls being insisted on with cheers of acclamation. A Highlander who has attained such proficiency as Mr Mackay showed himself to be possessed of can always count on a warm welcome from Highland audiences in the great city on the Clyde. Taken all round, the concert was a thorough success, and the artistes well deserved the hearty thanks accorded them by the large gathering.

At an interval in the programme, Bailie Allan, deputising for the Lord Provost, said he felt sure there was one subject upon which the Lord Provost would have spoken, and that was the question of unemployment, from which so many people at the present time, through no fault of their own, were suffering much hardship. The Council had already voted £20,000 for relief, but they felt that they dare not further encroach on the citizens' money; and the Lord Provost was therefore issuing an appeal to help those unfortunate people. That appeal the Bailie commended to their best help, and he felt sure the appeal would not be in vain. (Applause.) Concerning their Society, he continued, it was both a pleasure and a privilege to hear of the good work it was doing; the feature that specially appealed to him was the benevolent side of their

work. He sincerely wished the Sutherland Association continued success and prosperity in the days to come. (Loud applause.)

Thanks to Dr. Gunn.

A pleasing duty fell to the lot of Sir Andrew Pettigrew, J.P.—the moving of a vote of thanks to Dr Gunn for presiding. They were all pleased to tell Dr Gunn how delighted they were to have him there, and what an honour it was that he had undertaken such a long journey as that from Durness. (Applause.) He had no doubt it was a pleasure for Dr Gunn to come; all the more was it a pleasure to them. (Renewed applause.) Great centres of population like Glasgow had much need of men of the calibre of Dr Gunn; but he resisted all temptations which the glamour of central and wider circles might offer, and had chosen to stay in the land of his birth, to minister, as he so ably did, to the spiritual and moral welfare of the people among whom he had been born and bred. (Applause.) For the courteous, capable and genial manner in which Dr Gunn had filled the chair that evening, he asked the audience to testify their gratitude by according him the heartiest thanks. (Prolonged applause.)

Dr Gunn expressed his thanks for this mark of appreciation and esteem in feeling terms. If his presence had given them half the pleasure which he himself experienced he was more than rewarded for his long journey. (Applause.) In the words of Dr Walter C. Smith:—

“Not in the sunshine, not in the rain,
Not in the night of the stars untold,
Shall we ever all meet again,
Or be as we were in the days of old;
But like ships that pass and more cheerily go,
Having ‘changed tidings upon the sea,
So I am richer by you, I know,
And you are no poorer, I trust, by me.”

(Loud applause.)

THE DANCE ASSEMBLY.

The dance which followed was one of the most successful ever held in the long annals of the Society; in fact the attendance was so large that Glasgow’s most spacious hall was found too limited to admit of all the dancers “tripping the light fantastic” at the same time. The scene in the ball-room was one of exceptional brilliance

and beauty, and if only Rob Donn could have witnessed the scene it is safe to say that the result would have been an ode full of admiration and eulogy rivalling anything ever called forth from his storehouse of poetry by the majestic mountains and lovely lochs of his beloved county. The feature of outstanding interest during the dance assembly was a special "Eightsome Reel," the sets being composed of representatives of the various Highland Societies and Clan Societies in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The combination, with the variegated tartans, and the wealth of gorgeous apparel worn by the fair sex, was a picture that charmed every Highland heart, ay, and overwhelmed the Lowlander as he gazed on with admiration.

It is safe to say that there never was held in Glasgow's premier halls a dance under the auspices of any Highland Society where so many gentlemen dressed in full Highland costume took part. The genial and honoured president, Mr Thos. G. Bannerman, and his only daughter, Miss Nancy Bannerman, led off the Grand March amid the enthusiastic applause of the hundreds of spectators on the platform and in the galleries.

The ladies and gentlemen comprising the Sutherlandshire Eightsome Reel Set were:—

The President—Mr Thos. G. Bannerman and Miss Nancy Bannerman, Mr George M. Morrison and Miss B. Monteith, Mr Hugh Mackay and Miss N. Dawson, Mr William Mackay and Miss C. Munroe.

The Glasgow Caithness Benevolent Association—Mr W. Andrew and Miss Sinclair, Mr Macdonald and Mrs Macdonald, Mr Sinclair Rosie and Mrs Sinclair Rosie, Mr W. D. Baikie and Miss Jessie Sinclair.

The Glasgow Inverness-shire Association—Mr J. S. W. Henderson and Miss N. B. Robb, Mr Macgregor and Miss C. M. Henderson, Mr J. W. Grant and Miss Philip, Mr E. E. Henderson and Miss Macdonald.

Other Societies represented were:—The Glasgow Skye Association, the Atholl and Breadalbane Association, the Edinburgh Sutherlandshire Association, Clan Macdonald, Clan Morrison, Clan Macrae, the Glasgow Highland Club, and other Societies in Glasgow and south west of Scotland.

Mr Alex. Fraser, as master of ceremonies, carried out his duties in a way worthy of the highest commendation.

Until well on into the morning hours the dance was kept up with zest, and enjoyed by everyone present.

Gatherings such as that of last Thursday are not carried out without infinite attention to detail, and only those "behind the scenes" have any idea of the amount of time and trouble it involves. How assiduously these details were attended to was reflected in the success which crowned this great Gathering, and president, convener and committee alike are to be warmly congratulated on the happy result of their excellent organisation. Pleasing testimony of appreciation is manifested in the following letter received by the president on the day following the Gathering, from Rev. Mr Boyd Scott, M.C., B.D.—

"DEAR MR BANNERMAN,—I must write, however briefly, to tell you how greatly I appreciated the honour you did my wife and myself in having us to your great festival yesterday. It was a splendid success, and deservedly so, when one realises the amount of loving work you and your Committee must have put into it all. Afternoon and evening will remain one of my happiest memories, and I am very grateful to you for giving us such a pleasure. With kindest regards, yours very sincerely,

A. BOYD SCOTT."

To maintain in the future the high standard of the sixty-fifth "Annual" will call for the zealous efforts of the Association; but the belief may be confidently expressed that their enthusiasm will be equal to the task.

Supplementary.

HIGHLANDERS' MEMORIAL CHURCH, GLASGOW.

REV. DR GUNN, DURNESS, ON "THE TRUE TEST OF CHRISTIANITY."

(From the *John O'Groat Journal*, February 25, 1921.)

As mentioned in our issue of last week, Rev. Adam Gunn, M.A., D.D., of Durness, Sutherland, who was on a visit to Glasgow presiding at the annual Gathering of the Sutherlandshire Association, preached in the afternoon and evening to large congregations in the Highlanders' Memorial Church, an ecclesiastical edifice that is of outstanding interest in the city, embellished as it now is with many emblems of remembrance of Highlanders who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. In the congregation were a large proportion of members of the Sutherlandshire Association, including the president, Mr Thos. Bannerman, Capt. Macaskill, M.M.R.D., and others.

The afternoon service was in Gaelic, Dr Gunn preaching an eloquent and impressive sermon in the ancient language for the cultivation of which he made so strong an appeal at the Association's Gathering.

Dying for Others.

The theme of a profoundly impressive sermon in the evening was "The True Test of Christianity," the preacher selecting as his text I. John iii., 16, in which the Apostle counselled the "laying down of life for the brethren" in testimony of their faith in the great example of the Saviour of mankind. Some critics of Scripture, Dr Gunn observed, sought to maintain that Divine Love was revealed only in the New Testament; such criticism they need not seriously take to heart, for the student of the Old Testament found abundant revelation of it there. He need only instance, as beautiful illustrations,

the 103rd Psalm; the Sweet Singer of Israel often tuned his harp to the theme, and it was echoed in every prophetic utterance. The full meaning of the words of his text was difficult fully to realise, and often the attempt to fathom its deep significance might well send men away with a feeling akin to despair. But if that were so, it was because the perfect standard which it set up was so far above that which mankind could hope to attain. What was its real meaning—"We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren?" Was it a call to martyrdom? Doubtless it breathed the martyr spirit, but he questioned very much if the writer of those words had the thought of martyrdom in his mind when he penned the words of the text, if by that they understood one supreme act of self-sacrifice by martyrdom. No doubt sometimes men were called upon, by supreme act of self-surrender, literally to "lay down their lives for the brethren"; they had evidence of that all around them that evening, for what was the meaning of that Memorial Church but a church consecrated to the memory of those who in very truth "laid down their lives for the brethren"; and we should thank God that our nation was equal to the task of such a call of self-sacrifice and self-surrender.

Living for Others.

But their text had a different meaning from that of dying in one's stead; instead of dying for others we should strive to live for others. Moses "laid down his life for the brethren" when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; John Cairns "laid down his life for the brethren" when he refused to be called the Principal of Edinburgh University, choosing rather to minister to a few ploughmen in a country district than accept the great honour conferred upon him. Many a Highland girl and young man "lay down their lives for the brethren," who refused to listen to the city's call, and preferred to remain in a lonely hamlet by the Northern Sea to attend to their aged parents than come to the great city of Glasgow where their pleasures would be ministered to. The call of the Gospel which came to us in the words of the text was a call to self-denial. According as we responded to that call did we manifest the real and supreme test of Christianity.

A Christian Nation.

What was a Christian nation? A Christian nation surely was a nation that had God in its constitution, the Bible in its schools, and recognition of a Divine Being made by the nation at large. The true test of a Christian nation was the measure of that nation's service for the uplifting of all mankind. We had good cause to thank God that our Christianity was able to survive the great test it was exposed to during the last war. A test might come in the future that would be even more difficult; but the nation that loved righteousness was the nation that would prevail in the end. The nation that had righteousness as its basis could stand all tests; a nation that sought safety in brute force could stand no true Christian test. By seeking to follow the counsel of the writer of the text they would be enabled, in the words of a writer of Christian song, to "stand upon the mount of God," and hear the thunders roll and the storm rage in the valleys beneath, calm and undisturbed in the knowledge that God's purpose will ultimately prevail among those who serve God and their fellow men.

If only men and nations paid heed to the Divine command to love one another and serve one another, we should hear less rumour about threatened strikes and unrest. The result would be the transformation of this world from a cage of wild beasts tearing each other to pieces to become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ; and, by the manifestation of such a spirit of self-denial and self-sacrifice, certain it was that the Guiding Hand that led us "through life's long day, and death's dark night," would reward our obedience with abundant entry into that everlasting Kingdom which was the inheritance of the Christian who had withstood the test—who had "laid down his life for the brethren."

The service of praise was selected from Psalms, Paraphrase, and Hymns appropriate to the theme of Dr Gunn's impressive and learned discourse.

Good-bye.

At the conclusion of the evening service, several friends from Sutherlandshire foregathered 'n the vestry to bid "good-bye" to the reverend doctor ere he left for the North; and the hope

was fervently and unanimously expressed that ere long the great city of Glasgow might again be privileged to have a visit from this distinguished son of Sutherlandshire, bringing with him radiant memories from that beautiful domain of mountain and moor and loch, to many sons and daughters of his native county who can literally and truthfully utter from the depths of their Highland hearts those grand sentiments quoted by Dr Gunn at the Sutherlandshire Gathering—

“Ged tha mise air a Ghalldachd
Tha mo chridhe 's an Taobh-tuath;
Tir mo bhreth is m' arach
Tir mo chairdean 's mo sluagh;
Tir nam beanntaichean corrach,
Tir nan lochan 's nam bruach,
Tir nan cailleagan boidheach
Tir nan oigearan suairc.”

For the benefit of readers unacquainted with the ancient language, the above quotation may be freely translated thus:—

“Though in Lowlands I am,
My heart's in the North;
The land of my kinsfolk,
My upbringing and birth:
The land of great mountains,
Of braes and of loch,
Land of maidens so winsome
And of young men of worth.”

