

THE BURIAL OF GINGER JAMES.

A spell I had to wait Outside the herring gate, For Ginger James was slain out as I was passin in.

ALASTAIR'S CROSS.

"Rise up and come out now; it's a bonny night for us indeed—and for the work that's afoot, Ian Ban."

above the elbows. Two stout ropes held him by the shoulders and went over his body, crossing on the breast, and these were drawn so tightly that Alastair, after enduring with clinched teeth for a minute, was forced to cry out.

"I am safe now," Alastair said, smiling, as they drew back from him for a minute. "Your knots are fast, Macdonald, and so are—ah!"

"Naked limbs—the sea has need of," Alastair whispered presently. "Does the sea want me any more than the land does, I wonder? Oh, but it's cold, cold!"

"The fish will be plenty next cast, I'm thinking," Alastair gasped as he tried to shake the drenched hair from his eyes.

"This is good, this is better," he whispered, "than the open sea, and still this will not hurt my own folk for this rock is not Ronaldshay."

At long last fishermen from the island of Eday found him, still bound to his cross.

Though they were afraid to take the drowned lad aboard their boat, lest they should suffer in their herring harvests, they towed cross and all ashore with them and buried cross and all in their windy hill graveyard, where he those few men of Eday that the sea has not drowned.

And the story of Cross Alastair is a woeiful story in the North isles to this day.—Black and White.

Protection and Calicoes.

In 1760, by 11 & 12 Will. III. c. 10, it was enacted that from and after Sept. 29, 1761, not only "all wrought silks" of the manufacture of Persia, China or East India, but "all calicoes, painted, dyed, printed or stained there, which are or shall be imported into this kingdom, shall not be worn or otherwise used within this kingdom."

etc. This was the first blow against the wearing of chintzes or printed calicoes, but it was not absolutely prohibitive, the avowed object of the statute being "the more effectual employing the poor, by encouraging the manufactures of this kingdom."

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Grant and Porter.

Admiral Porter was forever running into print, and his penchant for this kind of thing was a source of great annoyance to Grant, who was his staunch friend.

"What do you think of Porter as an admiral?" was asked of the general on one occasion.

"Why," replied Grant, with a quiet smile, "he would be the greatest admiral since Nelson if he had never learned to write."—Exchange.

The Future of Travel.

"What is rapid transit, Uncle Chris?"

"Rapid transit? Why, it is electric cars which have to run so fast that they never stop to take on passengers."—Detroit Free Press.

A Trio of Bulls.

The following remark is by a highland clergyman. In his sermon preached in a small church in Strathpey, after inveighing against slothfulness, he said in closing, "Do you think Adam and Eve went about the garden of Eden with their hands in their pockets?"

Last year, in the north of Ireland, the following came under my observation. In a hotel the porter, for my information and dutifully in furtherance of the interests of his employers, remarked, "If you want a drive, sir, you needn't go out of the hotel," meaning, of course, that carriages formed part of the establishment.

An Irish friend of mine was describing a dinner party he had been at. It was a great success, as two noted talkers were present, each of whom was talking so fast that neither could get in a word.—Spectator.

a mountain of Sulphur.

The "Soufriere," or sulphurous mountain, is considered to be the greatest natural curiosity of St. Lucia, and, in fact, of the West Indies. It is situated about half an hour's ride from the town of Soufriere, to which it has given its name, and nearly two miles to the east of the Pitons, and is at the foot of two small hills, both of which are quite bare of vegetation on the sides facing the crater.

It covers a space of about three acres and is crusted over with sulphur and alum. There are several caldrons in a perpetual state of ebullition. The water is quite black in the larger ones and boils up to the height of two or three feet, but in the smaller ones it is quite clear.

Visitors never fail to boil some eggs in one of the smaller caldrons, obtaining them from one of the creole guides, who keep a snail on hand on purpose.

Tobacco in England.

In regard to the suggestion which is sometimes made that one way to relieve agricultural depression in this country would be for the government to allow and even to encourage the growth of tobacco, it may be interesting to note how long the prohibition has lasted and how sternly it has been enforced. This may be gathered from the following extract:

"Cornet Wakefield with a party of horse marching out of Gloucester upon the last of July to Winchcombe and Cheltenham to destroy the Tobacco plant in those parts, the Country did rise against them in a great body, to the number of 5 or 600, giving them very reviling and threatening speeches, even to kill them horse and man, if that he and his Soldiers did come on, inso much that the tuncit being so great, he was constrained to draw off and nothing more done" (Mercurius Politicus, 25 July-5 Aug. 1655).—Notes and Queries.

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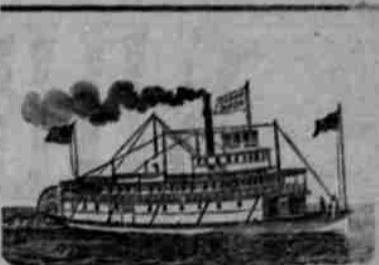
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