

TODAY'S NEWS

Have I got old news for you?

Certificate of the Sufficiency of the Kirk according to Contract

1860

On **Sabbath afternoon** past, a considerable sensation was excited in the vicinity of this village by seeing two persons of considerable respectability in a helpless state of **inebriation**. In process of time large numbers convened. On being **recognised** by one of their well wishers, they were conveyed to a farmhouse out of the public gaze.

1860

On **Sabbath evening** last, a young man from Johnstone, who came under **serious impressions** during the recent revivals, addressed an open air meeting at Factory Close. The attendance was good, and marked **attention** and **decorum** pervaded the assembly. Several meetings have been held here by converts from Johnstone, and others are announced. Earnestness and seriousness are prominent characteristics of those addresses.

We, James Baird, mason in Paisley, and Robert Kirkwood, mason in Sunnyacre, being called and desired by the patron and heritors of Lochwinnoch Parish, in a meeting this day, to inspect the Parish Kirk, which is lately rebuilt, and compare the same with the undertakers' contract, and give in our condescendence thereafter - accordingly, after meeting and inspecting, we find the whole kirk to be built conforming to the whole dimensions in the said contract, and that the whole stone and timber work is sufficient, and that in place of the arched window in the south isle, the same is placed on the south side of the east end of the kirk. Also, we find, over and above the articles contained in the said contract, that the bell-house and deall-place is better than Kilbarchan; also, the south isle door is raised two foot, together with the two laigh windows there, and the stair of the said isle repaired, and the steps of the stair of the west door, which is not contained in the contract.

In witness thereof, these points, written by John McDougall, servant to Colonel McDowall of Castlesemple, we have subscribed these presents, at Lochwinnoch, the second of February, seventeen hundred and thirty-one years, before these witnesses, James Orr, wright at Lochwinnoch, and the said John McDougall.

1873

The Lands of **Boghead**, in the Parish of Lochwinnoch, were exposed on Tuesday last for **sale** by public **roup** by Mr. James Thomson, Glasgow, as trustee on a sequestrated estate, and were purchased at the **upset** price.

Roup: auction **Upset price:** Reserve

1846

Serious Accident.

On Tuesday, last week, a boy about **eight years of age**, who was herding cows on the banks of the Calder, at Little Cloak, above Lochwinnoch, made an attempt to **separate** two of them which were fighting with each other, when one of the infuriated animals ran at the little herdsman, and with its horns **tossed** him over the Raven's Craig, a remarkable precipice, from 60 to 80 feet high. Fortunately the fall of the boy was broken by the trees on the bank, but he was found **insensible** and severely injured. Dr. Carswell, of Lochwinnoch, having been speedily sent for, found the skull severely fractured, and the head seriously cut. The usual remedies were applied, and the unfortunate youth was restored to sensibility, and it is hoped he is beyond danger from the wound.



Raven's Craig

Francis Semple - Poet

A letter to the Stirling Observer 1944 Re Auld Lang Syne

Frequently referred to as the National Anthem of Scotland, this now is almost universally recognised song for winding up all social Gatherings, so often, however, inaccurately rendered, even in Scotland, was not originally the work of Robert Burns, as is so generally but quite erroneously supposed, for it was actually first composed by Francis Semple, the youngest of four generations of that distinguished Renfrewshire family the Semples of Beltrees, who resided in the parish of Lochwinnoch, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, all four generations being also gifted, if minor, poets. But while it is quite true that this world famed Scottish song does appear in all editions of the works of Burns, and is usually accepted as being his work, the fact remains, and "facts are chiefls that winna ding," that Auld Lang Syne is but one of the many others which the National Bard merely revised and adopted, or, to use the words of Dr. J. Clark Murry, it "grew, through subsequent revisions, into the imperishable song of Burns"

Yours, etc., H. TERRELL