

readers' letters

Distinguished guests

Sir,

Readers of CLANSMAN may be interested to know that during the *Kinnaird Castle's* recent stay in Genoa, the vessel was visited by two very distinguished guests.

The first guest was His Excellency J. I. H. Flemming, governor general of the Tristan Da Cunha group of islands in the South Atlantic. The governor visited the vessel on the afternoon of March 19, at the request of the British consul. The next day the governor returned for lunch on board, during which he gave us a very descriptive idea as to what life was like on the remote islands. Governor Flemming was on his way to Scotland for leave. He has a home in Perthshire.

The second distinguished visitor was His Reverence the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and his wife. On March 24, accompanied by W. Lyall, the British consular general and his wife, Reverend D. Sherrard and his wife, they joined us for lunch on board. Throughout the time the Moderator was on board he kept everyone entertained with his many witty stories.

The purpose of the Moderator's visit to Genoa, was to open the newly decorated Sailors' Rest Mission which is run by the Church of Scotland. The dedication service in the new chapel (which incidentally had been painted out by the cadet unit from the *Kinnaird Castle*), was attended by officers and their wives from the ship, being followed by a very pleasant evening in the mission's recreation room.

The Moderator and his wife left for Rome the next day. They had plans to visit countries in the Eastern Mediterranean.

CAPT. B. S. BIGGS,
Kinnaird Castle.

Not a mailship

Sir,

In CLANSMAN No. 13 your reference (page 14) to a postcard dated August 10, 1911, despatched by the late R. P. M. White, was interesting. Those were the days when our postal services were cheap, speedy and most efficient.

You mention, incidentally, that the card "carries a picture of the mail steamer *Galician*." May I politely point out that the *Galician* was never a mail steamer but was an intermediate steamer—one of the famous "G's", as the Union Line intermediates were known. There were ten in all.

The *Galician* was completed after the Union-Castle amalgamation and was sister



■ On board the *Kinnaird Castle* at Genoa, Capt. B. S. Biggs and his wife (centre) with His Reverence, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland A. Herran and his wife.

to the *Galeka* and *German*. She was renamed *Glenart Castle* in 1914. While acting as a hospital ship in the first world war she was torpedoed and sunk in 1918.

ERIC V. GOODMAN,
7 Painters Field,
Hubert Road,
St. Cross, Winchester, Hants.

NYK memories

Sir,

I was particularly interested in the article on page two of CLANSMAN No. 12 regarding the Japanese container vessel *Kamakura Maru*. The circumstances are quite unusual. I suppose I was about eight years old when I spent a day or so on board the earlier *Kamakura Maru* in one of the London docks with my uncle, who was chief engineer of the vessel. I think his last ship was the *Miyazaki Maru*. My uncle was a long time with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line, retiring on April 6, 1912.

I have a cutting from a Japanese shipping paper dated June 18, 1918 showing him in full uniform with some details of his career. For instance he was on transport duty during the Sino-Japanese war 1894-5 and the Russo-Japanese war 1904-5 and was decorated with the Sixth Order of the Sacred Treasure and the Fifth Order of the Rising Sun.

He made his home with his Japanese wife Seki at Kitagata Mahi at Yokohama; he spoke Japanese and she spoke English quite well and often she would write lengthy letters to my folk in Dover.

L. S. PEVERLEY,
23 The Avenue,
Gravesend, Kent.

Thanks, everyone

Sir,

At a small staff gathering at Rotherwick House on April 5, Bernard Cayzer very kindly presented me, on behalf of the staff, with a cheque on the occasion of my retirement after 48 years' service with the company. It was obvious from the magnitude of the cheque that a great number of people must have contributed and as it is impossible for me to thank them all personally I would be grateful if you would allow me, through the columns of your magazine, to express my gratitude to all those who so generously contributed but who were unable to be present at the function.

I intend to use the cheque for the purchase of a tape unit which will allow me to record programmes, particularly musical ones, of outstanding interest, and play them back through my hi-fi equipment at leisure. This will provide me with many hours of enjoyment and will serve as a perpetual reminder of the happy time I have spent with Union-Castle and of all the friendships I have made there.

E. J. WARMAN,
27 Garden Close,
Wallington, Surrey.

Whisky Macmaster

Sir,

It was with interest that I read of the *Clan Macmaster* being wrecked on the Isle of Man (in Len Harvey's letter in No. 13 issue of CLANSMAN).

In 1952 I was master of the *Clan Maclean* and left in October of that year suffering from cancer of the lung, eventually landing up in Midhurst at King Edward VII Sanatorium where much of my right lung was removed. One of the medical staff there was a Manxman. I remember his telling me how as a boy, he and others had explored the wreck of the *Macmaster*.

I cannot recall his saying anything about sewing machines, but he had vivid memories of cases of whisky floating around.

B. A. HARDINGE,
Chotagore,
6 Laleham Close,
Eastbourne, Sussex.

Cricketers named

Several readers, including W. J. Stokes, A. H. Gurr, W. D. J. Macrae and J. T. Fenn, have written to identify the cricketers in the photograph published on page 28 of the previous issue.

They were, from left to right, W. R. Micklewaite, Sir Nicholas Cayzer, W. D. J. Macrae, Laurie Woolf, George Leckie, Jock Connal, Arthur Garreau, Dick Coleman (umpire), Tommy Witheridge and W. J. Stokes.

The picture was taken by Freddie Cross. Apparently the match was never started which probably accounts for the two missing faces who (our readers suggest) might have gone home.

(continued at foot of col. 3, p. 28)