

Honorary members of 1869

**Charles Kingsley, Henry Kingsley,
Sir Norman Macleod, P Hately Waddell,
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, General Giuseppe Garibaldi**

1869 Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

Charles Kingsley, English clergyman, novelist and poet, became curate of Eversley in 1842 and retained that living of Eversley during his later career, becoming professor of modern history at Cambridge 1860-69, canon of Chester in 1869, and of Westminster in 1873.

His many publications included poetry, sermons, and historical novels (eg 'Westward Ho!' in 1855). His works powerfully expressed his opinions of the social and economic questions of the time. He also greatly admired Darwin and Huxley, maintaining that science (particularly the Darwinian theory) and theology were quite compatible.

His younger brother Henry was also elected an honorary member of Irvine Burns Club. It is possible that Henry's Scottish connections (refer to his entry) were the prompt to nominate Charles.

Kingsley's 'Westward Ho!' was the first noteworthy success of Macmillan & Co., the publishing firm founded in 1843 (and so named in 1850) by brothers Daniel and Alexander, from Irvine.

His "The Water Babies" was written as a serial for Macmillan's Magazine in 1862-63, then at once published in its entirety - extremely popular in its day, it was a mainstay of British literature through to the 1920s.

Letter of acceptance, written from Eversley Rectory, Winchfield (Hants), on Feb. 20th, 1869

Dear Sir

Your letter, & the valuable lithograph facsimile accompanying it, have only just reached me, as I have been away from home, & wandering about. So I beg to thank you & I beg you to present all thanks to the Members of the Irvine Burns Club - (Which I know well by name) for the honour which they have done me in electing me a member.

Should I ever be in your part of Scotland, it would give me great pleasure to look at the M.s.s. of one whose noble handwriting I know so well - & for whose genius I have so profound a respect - as well as for his magnificent humanity.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
Yours faithfully & obliged
C. Kingsley

Notes:

His address is embossed on the writing paper, so does not show up in photocopies.

1869 Henry Kingsley (1830-1876)

An English novelist, brother of Charles Kingsley, who also accepted honorary membership in 1869. The youngest of the five brothers, Henry enjoyed mixing in literary circles. Although talented, he was a spendthrift and of considerable mixed fortunes. Having socialised rather than studied at Oxford, he used a legacy to go to Australia for five years, cutting himself off from his family. Two books published there in 1859 and 1862 were well received. Returning to England, he married and his entertaining of literary friends drained his finite resources.

The year of his nomination by Irvine Burns Club saw him move to Edinburgh, taking on the editorship of the 'Daily Review' and writing the novel 'Stretton', set in Shropshire and India, the eighth of his thirteen main works. His move to Kentish Town in 1873 was followed by the death of his mother, of his brother Charles, and of himself, with throat cancer, in 1876.

Letter of acceptance, written from Wargrave, Henley on Thames, on February 7th, 1869

My dear Sir

Would you be so kind as to convey to the members of the Irvine Burns Club, my sense of the high renown they have done me, in electing me a member of their body. I speak no mere compliment, (I never do that to any one,) when I say that I am extremely flattered and gratified. Had I even written in praise of your glorious poet, I could have understood the honour you have done me, but as I have never, at all events in adequate terms, expressed my intense admiration for him, I take this election as a very high and unsought compliment.

I say "your poet": but he is as much ours as yours. We love him as you do; See the Burns festival of 1858. Scotch and English arms have been linked together so long now, that nothing will untwine them.

In my case, of course, the language of Burns is as familiar as that of Devonshire, which is as much marked off from ordinary English as is Scottish. But it has often puzzled me, why so many Englishmen, who will not take the trouble to master the English of Chaucer, should take the trouble to master the Scottish of Burns. My answer to this is, that Burns, of all great poets is Lord and Master of the most gentle beautiful and humanizing side of the Scottish and English Character, their extreme and true tenderness: a quality which these nations possess only in common with the Scandinavian and Teutonic races. This opinion is of course open to Cavil from those who like the sentimentality of the Latin races, which never seems to me to ring true.

My opinion of Burns as a poet, would be as absurd for me to give, as it would be ridiculous for you to value: save that you must know him even better than myself. His versification is always so perfect that it strikes one with amazement. For his wit! - who can analyse that?, for who can analyse wit? One can only say, that one man's opinion is, "Burns next after Shakespear was our greatest wit. Thackeray and Dickens must be vilipended by no man, I only say, following Shakespear.

If an Englishman may speak and live, I should say that the culminating point of Burns wit (I have given up the distinction between Wit and Humour - they are either identical qualities or inseparable accidents) is the "Address to the Deil" and in that wonderful lyric the wittiest line to me is,

"Ayont the Dyke She heard you bummin"

I frankly confess that out of Shakespear I know of nothing so outrageously quaint as that line. It would take a long essay by Charles Lamb to point out the concealed fun in it. His method would be, "What was the Devil doing beyond the ditch at that time of night? No good, of course, but what? It all came to nothing, he was unsuccessful as usual, the old lady gave the alarm, and he flew away. She heard him however. A man with the tender delicate wit of Charles Lamb would turn that single line over and over until he made an immortal essay out of it.

Thanking you once more for the Compliment you have paid me.

I remain dear Sir,

Yours very truly

Henry Kingsley

P.S. Many thanks for the facsimiles. I hope that the Member for Irvine, Ayr, Campbeltown, Inverary, and Oban, is a sound Liberal. But these new details bother me sadly. Mr Finnie is now member for North Ayr. And Crawford for Ayr. I suppose he is in the burghs.

Notes:

'1858' - Kingsley here refers to the many special events of the Burns centenary in early 1859. Shakespeare's name here has no final 'e'.

The Burns line is usually appears as: "Aft yont the Dyke she's heard you bummin."

Kingsley twice fails to close quotation marks, so we leave you to decide where he intended them.

Notes on the P.S.:

- 1) From 1832 to 1950, Irvine, along with the four other burghs named in the PS, formed the Ayr Burghs parliamentary seat, and elected Edward Craufurd (sic), a Liberal, from 1852 to 1874. The 1867 Reform Act extended the franchise to £10 householders (increasing the number of electors in Irvine from 271 to 611), and in 1868, the Ayrshire county seat was split into North and South Ayrshire and William Finnie of Newfield, Dundonald, served as Liberal MP for North Ayrshire until 1874. We do not know what new details bothered Kingsley.
- 2) Inverary is nowadays spelled Inveraray.

1869 Rev. Norman Macleod (1812-1872)

The editor and founder of 'Good Works' had begun his ministry at Loudoun in Ayrshire in 1838; there, as one with Conservative leanings, he gloried in arguing politics with the red-hot Radical weavers of Newmilns. His father was Rev. Norman Macleod (1783-1862), known for his successful advocacy of a Highland Education scheme to teach people to read in their native Gaelic. His grandfather, also Rev. Norman Macleod (1745-1824) was minister of the parish of Morven in Argyll.

Studying at Glasgow University, Norman Macleod enjoyed good discussions, enlivening social gatherings with an apt quotation, a ready story, improvised rhymes and song, displaying a "wondrous versatility, originality and brilliancy of mind". He studied theology at Edinburgh, then visited Weimar, renowned for its stimulating society (imbued with the spirit of the recently-departed Goethe), its theatre, its opera, and the ad lib music of its public gardens and cafes; from there he visited Vienna and Prague.

In the parish of Loudoun, his energetic approach and kindly nature swelled the church congregation. He moved to Dalkeith in 1843; his "missionary labour among the lapsed classes of Dalkeith formed useful training for his future work in Glasgow" (his brother's comment). In 1845, he was one of three members of a deputation to North America.

In 1851, he was inducted minister of Barony parish in Glasgow, and, in the same year, was married (until then his sister Jane had kept house). His energetic and enthusiastic manner again brought him many friends. He tried to meet many more than simply the spiritual needs of the parish. He initiated adult evening classes, many in basic literacy; he founded the first Congregational Penny Savings Bank in Glasgow; he established a temperance Refreshment-room so that workmen could get cheap and well-cooked food and have a comfortable reading room; he took many steps, with the full involvement of his Kirk Session and parishioners, to promote education, social improvement, and recreational facilities, and his ideas led to similar projects elsewhere in the city. Another innovation was evening services for the poor, open only to people in their everyday working clothes, thus removing the barrier of respectability which dissuaded attendance. His brother wrote: "Many hundreds were reclaimed from lawless habits, some of the more ignorant were educated, and a large number became communicants". He worked tirelessly on behalf of the huge population of what was then perhaps the poorest slum parish in the city.

In 1860, he took on the editorship of "Good Works", this literary effort possibly being the prompt to his nomination as an honorary member. He also presided over the India Mission of the Church. When he visited Palestine in 1864, it was said that "every new event gave him fresh pleasure; every memorable spot, from Malta to Constantinople, stirred his enthusiasm". After his return from a visit to India in 1867, the 1868 General Assembly took him by surprise with an "enthusiastic outburst of welcome". Later, in 1869, Dr Macleod was appointed Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a position held, 33 years earlier, in 1836, by his father, Rev. Norman Macleod (then of the parish of St Columba in Glasgow).

Letter of acceptance, written from Adelaide Place, Glasgow, on 1 Feb

Dear Sirs

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks your kind note and its very interesting addition and edition of the famous Poem.

When I again visit Irvine I shall have peculiar pleasure in availing myself of your kind offers to show me the original M.S. of the Poet.

I beg also to thank the office bearers of the Club for making me one of its honorary members.

I remain

Yours truly

N Macleod

Notes:

He lived at 204 Bath Street, a section of the street named Adelaide Place. Adelaide Place Baptist Church is at no. 209.

1869 P Hately Waddell (1816-1891)

Born at Slamannan, Stirling in 1816 (not 1817 of Wikipedia), Peter Hately Waddell was nominated soon after his publication, in 1867 at Glasgow, of "The Life and Works of Robert Burns", of which a revised version appeared in 1870; he restored to the original many alterations made by previous editors. An exceptional orator, he was an independent preacher in Glasgow. Before this, in 1859, the centenary of the poet's birth, he had presided at the meeting held in Burns Cottage on 25th January, and had there delivered an impassioned eulogy on Burns.

After the Disruption of 1843, at which time he was a student of divinity, he joined the Free Church, first at Rhynie in Aberdeenshire, then at Girvan, Ayrshire. Leaving that church, he founded, at Girvan, the independent chapel styled 'The Church of the Future'. Going to Glasgow in 1862, he gathered a large congregation, but later joined the established church in 1888.

In 1871 he published an edition of the Psalms translated from Hebrew into Scots.

[This honorary member is not to be confused with his son, also P Hately Waddell (1854-1922), minister of Whitekirk in East Lothian 1879-1904 (retiring, to North Berwick, due to ill health), awarded a D.D. in 1901 in recognition of the value of his writings, and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.]

Letter of acceptance, written from Elmgrove Place, Glasgow, on Jan'y 30th 1869, addressed to James Dickie, Esq., Honorary Secy. Burns' Club, Irvine

Sir,

Your communication of the 25th instant, conveying to me information of the honour that had been unanimously conferred on me by them that evening, in electing me an honorary member, was received last night; and it is with sentiments of the highest respect and gratitude I now acknowledge that compliment.

I esteem it a special honour that I should have been thus elected to your fellowship when personally unknown to you, and by a society who are the fortunate and privileged possessors of literary treasures so precious as the original Manuscripts of Robert Burns. I have to thank you also for the beautiful facsimile which accompanies the Minute of Election, and which together with that document I shall preserve with grateful care.

If I have done anything by recent study and investigation to illustrate the life and works of our immortal fellow-countryman - which, by the distinction conferred upon me by your Club, I am warranted to believe is their opinion - I can only say that the highest reward, next to the good opinion of my readers, I can hope to enjoy for that labour is the satisfaction of having so far contributed to verify or explain his existence. I have learned more lessons already of faith, of patience, of humility, and of charity from the study of that life, than I ever expected to learn from the study of any mere mortal history. Surely God was there.

Do me the favour, Sir, to convey to the Irvine Burns' Club the assurance of my highest respect and gratitude for the honour conferred upon me, and believe me Yours most respectfully and Sincerely,

P. Haty Waddell LL.D.

1869 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

We do not know why the Directors of Irvine Burns Club elected Longfellow in 1869, but it is interesting to speculate on possible connections. One is that, like Karl Blind (an honorary member in the following year), Longfellow was acquainted with the German poet Ferdinand Freiligrath. A second, perhaps more likely, coincidence is that Longfellow had called on the great Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle (honorary member 1863) in London in 1835. Carlyle was at the time finishing his epic history of the French Revolution, and Longfellow followed Carlyle's career in later years. A third possible connection is that the Glasgow auctioneer Robert McTear, a friend of the Irvine Burns Club, visited Italy in 1868 or 1869 and may have met Longfellow there. All three possibilities remain only that for the time being.

His best known works include "Paul Revere's Ride", The Song of Hiawatha, and "Evangeline", all published before his nomination as an honorary member. He was also the first American to translate Dante Alighieri's The Divine Comedy (published later, in 1871) and was one of the five 'Fireside Poets'. He was the most popular American poet of his day; by 1874, he was earning \$3,000 per poem; his 70th birthday in 1877 took on the air of a national holiday, with parades, speeches, and the reading of his poetry. His pleasant poem titled 'Robert Burns' was published in 1880, some years after his honorary membership.

Letter of acceptance, written from Rome, on Feb. 23, 1869

My Dear Sir,

Your letter and the facsimile of Burns's "Cottar's Saturday Night" have been forwarded to me at this place, and for both I beg you to accept my cordial thoughts. I am also much obliged to the Members of the Burns Club for the honor they have done me, and beg you to express to them the pleasure I feel in accepting this mark of their considerations.

I remain, my Dear Sir, with great regard

Yours truly

Henry W Longfellow

1869 General Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882)

General Giuseppe Garibaldi, the great Italian patriot, was described by the historian AJP Taylor as "the only wholly admirable figure in modern history". One of the four major nationalist leaders in Europe at the time (see our entry for Karl Blind), additional reasons for his nomination to honorary membership included his links with Scotland, with Freemasonry, and with the Burns Club of London. The link between Irvine and Garibaldi was through Robert McTear of Glasgow. That McTear visited Garibaldi in 1869 is indicated by the March 1870 lecture he gave on his return.

In 1834, at 27, as a supporter of Mazzini's Young Italy Movement, he took refuge in South America and there commanded the troops defending Montevideo. Returning to Italy in 1848, he commanded the defence of the Roman Republic against the French, but was again driven into exile, staying in New York City between 1851 and 1853. In 1859 he led guerillas against

the Austrians in the region of the Italian lakes. In 1860, he sailed from Genoa in two ships with a thousand 'redshirts'; and conquered Naples and Sicily, forming the nucleus of a united Italy. He then joined forces with Cavour. In 1861, he was offered the position of a major-general in the American Army but refused, wishing a commander's role, and seeking a guaranteed end to slavery. From retirement in Caprera, he made two unsuccessful attempts to capture Rome (1862, 1867) and led volunteers in the Franco-Prussian War.

Scotland had given Garibaldi significant support - a concert in May 1860 raised funds for his cause. Scottish volunteers ('Garibaldi Excursionists') went to Italy and fought for unification. Working men in Glasgow gave up one afternoon a week to manufacture munitions for Garibaldi's campaign. Reform societies and masonic lodges collected huge sums of money to send to the 'redshirts'. A Scottish cattle-ship, 'The City of Aberdeen', carried (Genoese) reinforcements to meet up with Garibaldi's 'Thousand' at Palermo. Scots joined other nations in the fight against the Royalists in Sicily and on to the mainland of Italy to get rid of the Bourbon tyranny, much as, 84 years later in 1944, Scottish soldiers were among the liberating forces there. When Garibaldi came to thank his British supporters in 1864, a million people thronged the streets of London, but the Duke of Sutherland derailed his planned visit to Glasgow, and the 200,000 applicants for tickets to Garibaldi meetings in Glasgow were, of course, very disappointed.

Garibaldi was the first honorary member of the Burns Club of London - nominated by his personal friend, Ray Brown of Kensington, who conducted many of its meetings. Like Robert Burns and many members of the Burns Clubs of the time, he was a Freemason - openly deprecating the esoteric and ritual trimmings, he saw the masonic organisation as a network able to unite the otherwise dispersed forces of the Italian renewal, encouraging its new leaders to look beyond the petty struggles for power and placing them in an intellectual circuit of worldwide humanity.

Letter of acceptance, written from Caprera on 2nd March 1869

Stimatissimo Signore Dickie,

Grazie, per l' onorevole titolo di membro onorario, con cui l' Irvine Burns Club ha voluto fregiare il mio nome; e per il fac-simile litografato, manuscritto, del grande poeta scozzese.

Sono con gratitudine

Vostro

G Garibaldi

Translation:

Most esteemed Mr Dickie,

Thank you, for the distinguished title of honorary member with which the Irvine Burns Club has been pleased to dignify my name; and for the lithographic facsimile, of the manuscript, of the great Scottish poet.

I am, with gratitude, Yours, G Garibaldi

Notes:

'to dignify my name': 'fregiare': literally: to adorn, as on a frieze

Caprera, to which Garibaldi retired (1855-82), is a small island off the coast of Sardinia.