

1926
WITH THE EXILES.

The Colonial Society bussin' which was held in the Picture House, was one of the most successful in the history of the Society. The attendance was almost a record one for the Society, and when the chairman, Dr J. S. Muir, rose to address the audience, practically every seat in the hall was occupied. The platform party was a distinguished one, and there were many returned exiles at the gathering. The size of the audience very clearly showed the warm place which the Colonials occupy in Souther hearts. For Southers in far lands the old grey town ever occupies a niche in their memories, and a warm place in their thoughts, but at the Common Riding the most fanatical Moslem has no more reverence for Mecca than has the Souther for Selkirk. The memory of this bussin' will live for long with the exiles when once more they leave the vale of Ettrick, and will provide a glowing, happy picture to console them when once more a heaving waste of waters and the breadth of continents separate them from Scotland.

"FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE."

The Chairman having apologised for the absence of the Countess of Minto, who was unable to be present, said he must apologise for himself. There was, he said, seated on his right a gentleman who had for the past four years filled the chair at this bussin' to the satisfaction of every one, but this year the committee had seen fit to ask him (Dr Muir) to preside, and now that they had him they must take him, as was said in marriage ceremonies, for better, for worse. The occasion that brought them there to-night differed somewhat from those other gatherings that were regarded as analogous with it. They were not present as representing any guild or incorporation. They were there, he took it, in a large measure to welcome a number of returning exiles. These Southers might or might not belong to these incorporations; he had mentioned, but were present essentially as returning Southers. They had come from far countries over the sea to the auld town on the brae, to see their dear old relatives and friends, and to revisit the scenes of their childhood.

They welcomed these returning exiles. At present they were particularly glad to see them, as everyone was just a wee bit depressed because of the dark cloud in the industrial sky. But these exiles brought a new spirit, and he was sure the old town would respond to it. He thought they could not better express themselves than by a poem, "The Exiles," by Mr D. Mackie, editor of "The Southern Reporter."

The Chairman recited the poem, which appeared in last week's issue of "The Southern Reporter."

THE BUSSIN' CEREMONY.

The colours were busied by Mrs Muir, wife of Mr George Muir, the Society's standard-bearer for the year, and the lady busser having declared the flag duly busied, the chairman invested him with the sash of office.

The Standard-Bearer was received with acclamation, the whole company joining in singing "He's a jolly good fellow."

Mr Muir expressed his appreciation of the honour that had been bestowed on him. He would, he said, endeavour to do his best on the morrow, and to be a worthy representative of the many southers living abroad. It was a real pleasure to get back to see the old faces, many looking a lot younger.

In the course of the evening the bussin' was visited by Provost Crichton; the Burgh Standard-Bearer, Mr W. H. Lawrie, and his supporters, accompanied by the Hawick and Lauder Cornets. The party received a great ovation.