## Round-the-World Pictures

THE OLDEST INHABITED HOUSE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The most ancient of inhabited buildings in Great Britain is Dunvegan (astle, in the Isle of S ye. Older castles there may be, but they are in roins.

Dunvegan is to this day a beautiful home-more beautiful than two hundred years ago, when the Hanging Wood Hill at the back was in full swing, The Mac-Leud of MacLeud doing rough juste on marauder or tiresome retainer alike. More beautiful than when for The MacLeod to meet The MacDonald, the other Lord of the Isle. meant bloodshed. That such meetings were frequent the innumerable heaps of commemorative stones scattered over the island attest. Some changes have, of course, taken place. The castle once stood on an island; now a causeway joins it to the main lind, the water has receded, and the watergate is high and dry. Its outlief ungeon in which prisoners were confined and forgotten, still remains, but untenanted: the nine feet thick walls conceal many a secret recess. Yet these massive walls have proved unequal to the pacific requirements of the day. So crannied and riddled is the old mortar with age that an outer conting of dashing has been found necessary to excluse the mountain mists. on marauder or tiresome retainer alike.

ing has been count necessary to execute the mountain mists.

Outwardly, the castle is stubbornly rectangular. There is an outer court round which runs a rampart. It is in this outer court that the St. Kilda sheeo round which runs a rampart. It is in this outer court that the St. Kilda sheed—a member of that mysterious bred which comes by its brown wood no one knows how—is shown knee-deep in the snow. Contrast this picture with that of the waterfall. Of course, the one is of summer, the other of winter. But even so, the contrast is remarkable. for the waterfall is within four minutes' walk of the castle, and its song lulls t'c inmates of the castle and its song lulls t'c of the MacLeod line to take up his abode at Dunvegan was Leod, son of Olave the Red. King of Man and the Isles. The present chief is the 23rd of this line. Between the first chief and the 23rd have intervened some chiefs of interest: two were of gigantic stature. interest: two were of gigantic stature, a third fell in fair fight, a fourth fell in foul. The eighth, Alexander, known as Crotach or the Hunchback, died in 1553. He was an alchemist, and built the Fairy Tower, which he is sold till to haunt that he may practise his art. With the 20th chief the line became more domesticated. He condes ended to his own hurt. The 22nd saved Sye to his own hurt. There was in 1847 a failure of the potato crop which meant starvation to the whole of the population. The current MacLeod rose the poession. He unfurled again the to the occasion. He unfurled again the "Fairy Flag." an ancient relic still care-Frity Flag.' an ancient relic still carefully preserved, to be unfolded only in moments of direct distress; but it should use its power for good. Unfortunately for himself he also unfurled his banknotes, to the extent of many thousands, to provide the crofters with new seed and other necessaries, and to facilitate their migration. He also planted the isles with trees. In these ways he so impoverished himself that it was feared that he would have to bring his ances-tral possessions under the hammer. That calamity was averted. The place

tral possessions under the hammer. That calmity was averted. The place was let, and The MacLeod accepted a post in the Science and Art Department of the South Kensington Museum. He was also appointed Sergeant-at-Arms in Queen Victoria's househeld. Queen Victoria, who made a tour of Scotland in 1847, the year of famine, though she did not land at Skye, was greatly touched by his self-sacrifice, and remarked that if all lairds behaved likehim distress in the Highlands would be unknown. Fortunately such a state of things cannot now recur. Many of the crofters still live in low little cabins of stones roofed with reeds, with a hole at one end for them to creep in and out by, and another hole at the other for the smoke to go out. But

served in the 74th Highlanders from 1858 to 1872, and from 1863 to 1865 was A.D.C. to General Sir Hope Grant. Commander-in-Chief at Madras. In 1 73 Commander-in-Chief at Madras. In 1 73 he accompanied the British expeditis n sent out to South Africa to crush (etc-wayo, and in 1879, having raised 2000 Swazis, he conducted the attack on Neukuni. He retired from the service some years previous to his succeeding his father in 1893, and has travelled much, having explored and shot be game in India. Africa, and America. Homarried in 1881 Emily, daughter of Nir Charles Ishum, Bart. He has two dau h ters, the heir presumptive being the son of his youngest brother.

## Heroines in Fiction.

(By Priscilla Wakefield.)

Novel-, if well chosen, may be very useful reading, for they show life as it is. The characters need not be models. Much may be learned of

must be based on judgment or selection. The novels which crowd the shelves of a circulating library confuse you unless you learn to reject and to choose. It is a mistake to be alway in search of new novet, new sensations, or to think you must be in the tide of new excitements in reading.

In your favourite books you learn to love persons. A girl whose face lights up with intelligent pleasure when she talks of her favourite beroines and her reasons for liking them is one who will learn much from novels by good writers.

vels by good writers.

A knowledge of characters in fiction is nece sary in general conversation. You need to understand allusions to them, or you will be voted ignorant.

them, or you will be voted ignorant.
But you must go deeper than 'his if you wish to find pleasure and benefit in reading fiction. The author who helps to quicken your sympathies, to make you love what is noble, pure and good, to pity what is weak, to de pise what is false and bad, who helps you to wish to do what is right, will point the war to a righ sweat life. the way to a rich, sweet life.



THE WATERFALL, DUNVEGAN, IN SUMMER.

THE ALCHEMIST'S TOWER.

they are no longer wholly dependent on

they are no longer wholly derendent on the potato crop, since they can earn a living by stocking-knitting, handloom weaving, and fish curing. Indeed, their rent is commonly taken in cl-th. Mention of the "Fairy Flag" reminds us of other heir-looms. By the side of the glass case in which lies the flag stands a most ancient Irish cun of silver, the workmanshin of which is exceedingly rare and fine. Tradition has it that the cun was brought into the family when a MacLeod married a fairy in very ancient days. And the family portraits include a very fine Rachuranow reproduced, we believe for the first time. It may be discerned langing on time. It may be discerned langing on the wall in the nicture of the dining-room. The lady is the grand-notice of the present chief. Norman Magnus Mac-Leod. C.M.G. He was born in 1839 and what to avoid in life or conduct by the very faults you discover in the characters in a book. Motives of conduct, results of actions, may teach a strong lesson. Novels should be chosen, says an eminen critic, "not for their freedom from evil, but for their possession of good. The chance and scattered evil that may here and there haunt, or hide itself in a powerful book, never does any harm to a noble girl; but the emptiness of the author oppresses her, and his amiable folly degrades her."

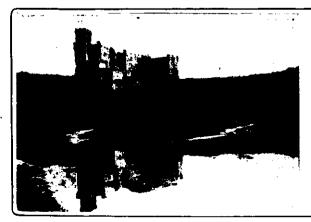
grades her."

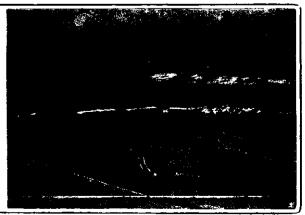
Novels which are sensational, overstrained, unreal are dangerous. By their excitement they lead you to be discontented with ordinary life, or to form false impressions of life.

Indiscriminate novel reading is an injury to good taste, for all reading

"It seems to me," said a girl friend of mine, "that the ideals of this world are low enough, without an author filling the minds of young reader, with thoughts that raise questions in their minds and tend to rob them of their innocence. Rather let as author write pure, healthful books that create high ideals in the reader and foster the growth of those one has. This. Loui a May Alcott has done. What book could be better for a young girl to form her ideals by than "Rose in Bloom"? Who that has read "Little Women" does not love the picture of the home, the abiding place of Meg. Jo. Beth. and Amy?"

Coming from a real girl these thoughts are well worth quoting. And just because in "Rose in Bloom" there is no moral intended in the story, the





DUNVEGAN CASTLE.

DUNVEGAN IN WINTER.