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Query

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he knows French, so that I do not translate. 'Un de ses (du Prof. Rhys) disciples . . . va même dans un appendice impayable (p. 617-641) jusqu'à rapprocher la syntaxe du gallois de celle de l'égyptien. Cette syntaxe pré-aryenne se serait reflétée dans la langue des Celtes insulaires. Laissons ces folies.' In passing, and to make everything quite clear, I may say that Ferdinand Lot is not Joseph Loth. So, Teres is not Tereus, according to Thucydides. 'They have not even the same name.' When I wrote that in every language the verb is naturally and rightly put first, I should have said 'mentally "by the speaker," and, perhaps, generally, "by the hearer."' The soul of the sentence is the verb. This is what I wished to convey. Again, 'accidental' meant, for me, 'appertaining to accidentence.' In each case, I confess to an obscurity of diction worthy of R. Browning or of Heraclitus (may their shades commend or forgive me!). In the former of the two expressions, over-attention to Welsh and Arabic verb-'protagonism' affected the form of my (undue) generalisation. *Attebodd Job*, 'Job answered,' is better Welsh than the *Job a uttebodd*, 'It is Job who answered,' of the Bible translators. Yet these latter, take them all in all, even to-day would be hard to improve on; even, for instance, 'the sons of the prophets' of Bala themselves, who are understood to ask a new translation, would find they could not satisfy their own demand.

The reverend gentleman will pardon a Biblical *cheville*. He will also, I trust, allow me to thank him for his Aristophanic telescope-word, and to express my sorrow at his lying 'under the spell of Celto-Semitism.' Is this not as the sin of witchcraft? To me, the enormity of those who made hangings, or curtains, for Tammuz is, by contrast, perfectly venial. 'Hebrew and Gaelic' correspond! Gracious Heavens!! that in these days of refreshing, the Twentieth Century, we should still see these words 'in cold print'!!! But 'it is with fear and trembling' that Mr. MacLennan says that Hebrew and Gaelic 'correspondences' charm him. And, while I had rather this sorcery had not claimed him for its own, yet his awe promises penitence philological. So, in the sure hope of yet seeing him an anti-Semite Celt, I leave the reverend and courteous gentleman.

H. H. JOHNSON.

## QUERY

### Troit Fair at Alyth

The pre-Reformation Church of Alyth in Perthshire had St. Moluag of Lismore as patron, and in its cemetery stood a Chapel dedicated to St. Ninian. The writer of the parish article in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland* (Perth, p. 1125) remarks: 'There are six annual fairs held at Alyth, but two of these, St. Malogue's, and another about Christmas, known by the unaccountable name of *Troit* Fair, have fallen into disuse, and are now merely nominal.' Perhaps some reader of the *Celtic Review* can explain the origin of *Troit*?

J. M. MACKINLAY.