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No. 14.

# THE TRANSACTIONS

AND

# JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY

# Natural History and Antiquarian Society

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1862.

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## SESSION 1897-98.

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# PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY

# NATURAL HISTORY & ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

## SESSION 1897-98.

*22nd October*, 1897.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

Mr Robert Murray, V.P., in the Chair.

*New Members.*—Mr James Clark, M.A., rector, Dumfries Academy; Rev. Wallace M'Cubbin, Wendover; Rev. Joseph Hunter, M.A, F.S.A. Scot., Cockburnspath, Dunbar; Mr J. M'Gavin Sloan, editor, *Dumfries Courier and Herald;* Mr Miles Leighton; Provost Glover; and Mr Hope Bell of Morrington.

*Donations and Exchanges.*—The following were laid on the table:—Fourteenth and Fifteenth Annual Reports of the Bureau of Ethnology, U.S.A.; Report of Smithsonian Institute for 1895; Year-Book of U.S. Department of Agriculture for 1896; Proceedings of Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, Vol. VI., 1895-6; Transactions of the N.Y. Academy of Sciences, January, 1897; Proceedings of Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Part III., 1896, and Part I., 1897; Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society for 1896, Parts I. and II.; Proceedings of Canadian Institute, February, 1897; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin, No. 54; Some Common Birds in their relation to Agriculture, by F. E. Beal, assistant ornithologist; Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of Staten Islands, Vol. VI., Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8; Ulster Journal of Archæology, Vol. III., Part 4; Proceedings of Belfast Naturalists' Field Club for 1896-97; Report of the Marlborough College Natural History Society for 1896-97;

Stirling Natural History and Archæological Society's Transactions, 1896-97; Transactions of Manchester Microscopical Society for 1896; Korean Interviews by Edward S. Morse (presented by the author); Papers from the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland on Excavations at Birrens and Roman Roads in Dumfriesshire, by Dr James Macdonald; Bulletin of the Geological Institution of the University of Upsala, Vol. III., Part I., 1896, No. 5. Dr Martin, Holywood, presented papers by Sir William Dawson on the Great Ice Age, *Eozno Canadense*, and a number of other subjects.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Interim Secretary (Dr J. Maxwell Ross) then read the Annual Report. At last annual meeting the membership was 185, 17 being honorary. Since then two members have died and seven new members have been elected. The present membership is thus 190, of whom 17 are honorary. The Society has sustained a severe loss in the deaths of Mr James Shaw, Tynron, and Mr William Galloway, Whithorn. The former was an enthusiastic and highly respected member of over thirty years standing, the latter an honorary member, well known as an antiquarian, and more especially for his researches at Whithorn. Both were valued contributors to the Transactions. The active services of two office-bearers have also been lost through the removal of Mr Philip Sulley and Dr Chinnock from Dumfries. Mr Sulley was an enthusiastic antiquarian, and filled the post of vice-president with much acceptance. Dr Chinnock was for several years secretary, and on his retirement was unanimously and cordially elected an honorory member, besides being presented with a tangible recognition of the Society's appreciation of his labours.

Eight monthly and two field meetings were held. One of the monthly meetings was an open one, the paper for that evening being of the nature of a lecture by Mr Richard Bell of Castle O'er on the keeping and breeding of the Ostrich and Emu in Dumfriesshire. Including this paper, twenty-one were submitted to the Society, of which four pertained to natural history, one to meteorology, two to folk-lore, and fourteen were historical or antiquarian. Four specimens were exhibited, being two celts, found at Kells, Southwick; a stone supposed to be a bullet-mould, found at Woodside, Kirkbean; a stone hammer, found in Glencairn; and a Massachusetts shilling of date 1746. Presen-

tations of three Dumfries broadsheets of 1863 65, and volume of Transactions for 1876-1880, were made by Mr J. G. H. Starke of Troqueer Holm.

The Field Meetings were to Kirkcudbright and Burnfoot, Langholm. At the latter members enjoyed the hospitality of Mr Malcolm, and had afterwards an opportunity of examining the many interesting specimens in his private museum.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer (Mr J. A. Moodie) read his Annual Report, from the 1st October, 1896, to the 30th September, 1897:—

*CHARGE.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subscriptions from 154 Members at 5s each ... | £38 5 0 | | |
| Do. ,, 8 ,, 2s 6d ,, ... | 1 0 0 | | |
| | | £39 | 5 0 |
| Entrance Fees from 13 New Members ... .. ... ... | | 1 | 12 6 |
| Life Subscription from Mr Samuel Smith, M.P.... ... ... | | 2 | 2 0 |
| Arrears of Subscriptions paid ... ... ... ... ... | | 1 | 10 0 |
| Copies of Transactions sold... ... ... ... ... | | 2 | 3 0 |
| Interest on Bank Account ... ... ... ... ... ... | | 0 | 3 1 |
| Balance due to Treasurer ... ... ... ... | £15 11 8 | | |
| *Less* Balance in Savings Bank ... ... ... | 1 7 0 | | |
| | | 14 | 4 8 |
| | | £61 | 0 3 |

*DISCHARGE.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Balance due to Treasurer at close of last Account.. | £2 11 3 | | |
| *Less* Balance in Savings Bank... ... ... ... | 1 3 7 | | |
| | | £1 | 7 8 |
| Paid Salary of Keeper of Rooms and additional Allowance for Heating Rooms during winter months ... ... ... | | 2 | 12 6 |
| Paid for Stationery, Printing, &c.... .. ... ... ... | | 1 | 8 3 |
| Paid for Periodicals and Books ... ... ... ... ... | | 2 | 11 3 |
| Paid for Coals and Gas ... ... ... ... ... ... | | 0 | 12 6 |
| Paid Fire Insurance Premium ... ... ... ... .. | | 0 | 4 6 |
| Paid for Repairs to Building ... .. ... ... ... | | 0 | 16 4 |
| Paid Expenses of calling Meetings as follows:— | | | |
| Post Cards ... ... ... ... ... | £4 0 0 | | |
| Addressing same ... ... ... ... | 1 0 0 | | |
| Printing same ... ... ... ... | 1 4 0 | | |
| | | 6 | 4 0 |
| Paid Expenses of publishing Transactions for last year, as follows:— | | | |
| *Dumfries Standard* for printing Transactions ... ... ... ... ... | £29 13 6 | | |
| Carry forward ... ... ... | £29 13 6 | £15 | 17 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brought forward ... ... ... | £29 | 13 | 6 | £15 | 17 | 0 |
| T. & R. Annan & Sons, Photographers, Glasgow, for Photographs of Stones from Excavations at Birrens ... | 3 | 10 | 6 | | | |
| George Waterston & Sons, Lithographers, Edinburgh, for Plates of Birrens ... | 3 | 8 | 6 | | | |
| George Waterston & Sons, Lithographers, for Plates of Kenmure Burial Aisle | 2 | 0 | 3 | | | |
| Neill & Co., Engravers, Edinburgh ... | 0 | 9 | 3 | | | |
| Postages of Transactions ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | 40 | 3 | 6 |
| Paid Secretary's Postages and Outlays ... ... | | | ... | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Paid Treasurer's Postages and Outlays ... | | | ... | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| Miscellaneous Payments ... ... ... ... | | | ... | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| | | | | £61 | 0 | 3 |

*Statement as to the Cost of Publication of "Birrens and its Antiquities."*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paid *Dumfries Standard* for printing 400 Copies, and Binding, &c. ... ... ... ... | £19 | 17 | 0 | | | |
| Paid *Dumfries Standard* for Circulars ... ... | 0 | 14 | 6 | | | |
| Paid T. & R. Annan & Sons, Photographers, Glasgow, account for Photographs of Stones from Excavations ... ... ... ... | 3 | 10 | 6 | | | |
| Paid T. & R. Annan & Sons for Block of Plan ... | 0 | 6 | 6 | | | |
| Paid George Waterston & Sons, Lithographers, Edinburgh, for Plates ... ... ... ... | 3 | 8 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | £27 | 17 | 0 |
| *Less* Copies sold to 30th September, 1897— | | | | | | |
| 35 at 3s 6d ... ... ... ... ... | £6 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| 32 at 3s ... ... ... ... ... | 4 | 16 | 0 | | | |
| 9 at 2s 11d... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | 12 | 4 | 9 |
| Balance due to Treasurer... ... ... | | | | £15 | 12 | 3 |

DUMFRIES, *31st December, 1897.*—I have examined the foregoing Accounts and the Cash Book of the Society, compared them with the Vouchers, and find the Balances stated to be due to the Treasurer to be correct.

JOHN NEILSON.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The following were then elected Office-Bearers for the ensuing year :—Hon. President, Rev. Sir Emilius Laurie, Bart. of Maxwelton ; Vice-Presidents, Mr James Barbour, Mr Maxwell of Terraughtie, Mr Robert Murray, and Provost Glover ; Secretary, Dr J. Maxwell Ross ; Treasurer, Mr John Moodie ; Librarians and Curators of Museum, Rev. Mr Andson

and Mr James Lennox; Curators of Herbarium, Mr Scott-Elliot and the Misses Hannay; Members of Council, Rev. John Cairns, M.A., Mr James Davidson, F.I.C., Mr William Dickie, Mr M. Jamieson, Mr George H. Robb, M.A., Mr James S. Thomson, Rev. Robert W. Weir, Mrs Thomson, Miss Hannay, and Miss M. Carlyle Aitken. Mr Neilson was re-appointed auditor.

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## 12th November, 1897.

Mr Robert Murray, V.P., in the Chair.

*New Member.*—Mr William M'Gowan, M.A., Lochmaben.

*Donations and Exchanges.*—The Secretary laid the following on the table:—Report of Norwich Science Gossip Club; Proceedings of Natural Science Association of Staten Island, Vol. VI., No. 10; Anales de Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires, Tonro v (Ser 2°t 11); Report on Bats, family of Vespertilionidæ, North American Fauna, No. 13, from U.S. Department of Agriculture; Kough Vitterhets Historie och Antiqvitets Akademiens Manadsblad, 1887-1893; Antiqvarist Lidskrift der Svenge.

### Communications.

1. *Botanical Notes for* 1897.

By Mr James MacAndrew, New-Galloway.

In giving a few botanical notes for 1897, I may say that my records of new plants for this season is almost *nil.* Nevertheless, my botanical work for the summer has not, I consider, been altogether unproductive.

*Kirkcudbrightshire.*—A fortnight spent at Auchencairn enabled me to clear up some doubtful points in the botany of that neighbourhood. Through the kindness of Mr Mackie of Auchencairn House and Mr Robinson Douglas of Orchardton House, I had full permission to wander on their estates where I chose. In Auchencairn Bay I found *Poterium officinale*, Hook.; *Sagina maritima*, Don.; the most common restharrow was *Ononis spinosa*, Linn.; *Galium cruciatum*, Scop.; *Juncus maritimus*, Lam.; *Juncus glaucus*, Leers.; *Scirpus maritimus*, Linn. A patch of

Lily of the Valley grows among the rocks on the east side of the bay. In Redhaven Bay I gathered *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, R. Br.; *Filago minima*, Fr.; *Filago germanica*, Linn.; *Erodium cicutarium*, L'Hérit. In the Collin Burn there is abundance of *Mimulus luteus*, Linn.; on the Tennis Lawn, *Plantago media*, Linn.; and on the hilly pastures west of Auchencairn, plenty of *Briza media*, Linn., and *Habenaria viridis*, R. Br. At the back of Bay View the two rarest plants I found were *Lepturus filiformis*, Trim., and *Blysmus caricis*, Retz. *Lepturus* is in plenty along the mouth of the Collin Burn, and also along the banks of the river Urr, south of Palnackie. This *Blysmus* is very rare in Kirkcudbrightshire, though I found it last year north of the mouth of the Kirkbean Burn. Going along the west side of Auchencairn Bay and as far as Balcary Point, some very interesting plants can be gathered, as *Carex extensa*, *vulpina*,; *muricata*, *disticha*, and *sylvatica*; *Milium effusum*, Linn. *Zostera marina*, Linn. About the Fish-house I gathered *Trisetum pratense*, Pers. (= *Avena flavescens*), *Doronicum pardalianches*, Linn. (an outcast or escape), *Allium scorodroprasum*, Linn, and *Rumex hydrolapathum*, Huds. Of this *Rumex* I saw only one plant here, but in South Glen Bay I was fortunate in finding it in plenty. The only station I formerly knew for this Dock was on the side of the Lovers' Walk, on the east side of Carlingwark Loch, Castle-Douglas. South of the Fish-house in Balcary grew *Datura stramonium*, Linn., and *Impatiens parviflora*, D. C. (both outcasts or escapes), and on a wall at Balcary, *Cotyledon umbilicus*, Linn. (another outcast or escape), and *Veronica persica*, Poir, *Crambe maritima*, Linn, and *Listera ovata*, R. Br. *Thalictrum flavum*, Linn., has disappeared from the east side of Auchencairn Bay, but I found it along the Barlocco shore near the cave. *Rhynchospora fusca*, Roem. and Schult., which I discovered in Auchencairn Moss in 1882, is still to be found in fair quantity about the middle of the moss. Here also *Andromeda polifolia*, Linn., is frequent. The Rev. G. Maconachie informed me that *Paris quadrifolia*, Linn., was in plenty in one spot near Dundrennan Village. There are very few rare plants on Screel Hill, but I saw Oak, Beech, and Parsley Ferns; *Lycopodium clavatum*, Linn.; *Sagina subulata*, Presl.; *Corydalis claviculata*, Pers., &c. I never anywhere else saw such an extent of both *Statice limonium*, Linn., and *Statice rariflora*, Drej., growing in company as is to be seen at the head of

Orchardton Bay. At Palnackie I gathered *Papaver dubium*, Linn., and *Senebiera coronopus*, Poir. Mr F. R. Coles once found a single plant of the latter at the mouth of the river Dee at Kirkcudbright, but was unsuccessful in finding any more when afterwards looked for. It grows about Palnackie harbour in fair quantity, and I have no doubt of its being both at Kirkcudbright and Dalbeattie harbours also. This, however, undoubtedly confirms this plant for Kirkcudbrightshire. About Rascarrel Bay I gathered *Carlina vulgaris*, Linn.; *Juncus obtusiflorus*, Erh.; *Verbascum thapsus*, Linn.; *Sagina Subulata*, Presl.; *Radiola linoides*, Roth, &c. Among other plants in the neighbourhood of Auchencairn are *Genista tinctoria*, Linn.; *Hypericum elodes*, Linn.; *Lycopus europæus*, Linn.; *Viburnum opulus*, Linn.; *Bromus giganteus*, var. *triflora*, Syme; *Ranunculus sceleratus*, Linn.; *Conium maculatum*, Linn.; *Galium mollugo*, Linn.; *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Linn, &c.

At the north end of Carlingwark Loch, Castle-Douglas, I saw *Callitriche autumnalis*, Linn.; *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, Linn.; *obtusifolius*, Mert. and Koch.; *crispus*, Linn; *Scutellaria galericulata*, Linn.; *Conium maculatum*, Linn.; *Rumex hydrolapathum*, Huds. (the fourth station for this Dock); *Lysimachia nummularia*, Linn. (an outcast); *Nasturtium sylvestre*, R. Br.; and *palustre*, D. C.; *Glyceria aquatica*, Sm.; and *Cicuta virosa*, Linn., &c. From the neighbourhood of Castle-Douglas was sent to me for identification *Allium carinatum*, Linn., thus making at least three stations for this rare plant in the Stewartry.

At Creetown Station I gathered *Sagina apetala*, Linn., and *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, var. *glutinosa*, Koch., both new records for Kirkcudbrightshire.

True *Polygala oxyptera*, Reich., grows in abundance in Kenmure Holms, New-Galloway.

*Wigtownshire.*—At Portpatrick I found another station for the very rare grass *Calamagrostis epigeios*, Roth., on the side of Craigoch Burn. In the Garliestown Curling Pond grow in abundance *Carex Goodenowii*, var. *juncella*, T. M. Fries (a new record), and *Carex filiformis*, Linn. The Rev. James Gorrie, F.C. Manse, Sorbie, was fortunate in adding other two new records for Wigtownshire in *Stellaria palustris*, Retz., near Newton-Stewart, and *Dipsacus sylvestris*, Huds., in Galloway House Woods. He also found *Scabiosa arvenis*, Linn., at

Barglass. Excursionists from Glasgow found *Isoetes lacustris*, Linn., in Loch Ochiltree.

*Mosses and Hepaticæ.*—Chiefly through the kindness of Mr James Murray, Hamilton, and formerly of Dumfries, I have been able to add a few more mosses to my local list. Those gathered by Mr Murray are *Bryum pendulum*, Cluden Mills; *Rhynchostegium murale*, Irongray and Drumlanrig; *Fissidens exilis*, Drumlanrig; *Racomitrium protensum*, Loch Trool, and abundant in the Glenkens; *Hypnum aduncum*, sparingly by the side of Loch Ken; *Orthothecium intricatum*, very rare in Holme Glen, New-Galloway; *Hypnum molluscum*, var. *condensatum*, Crummypark Burn, New-Galloway. To these I have myself added *Racomitrium aciculare*, var. *denticulatum*, side of Loch Ken; *Orthotrichum affine*, var. *rivale*, Kenmure Holms, New-Galloway; *Thuidium recognitum*, abundant in the Glenkens and also in Screel Burn. I have also gathered *Hypnum Schreberi* in fruit (which is very rare) in Crummypark Glen, and I find *Hypnum eugyrium* in fruit frequently in the district. At Portpatrick I gathered the Hepatic *Lophozia bicrenata*.

2. *On Words.* By Mr A. Skirving, Croys.

To go deep into the history of words would involve the writing of a book on the origin of language, and for such a task I am unfit. For untutored savages few words are necessary, words increasing with the wants they are required to express. I only aim at pointing out that languages we think foreign are not so foreign after all, and the differences of the languages of nations are often not much greater than the provincial differences of the language of the same country. At the root of the difficulty that is experienced in learning a kindred tongue lies the overlooking of the interchangeable letters, some nations preferring the one and others the other. Thus I enterchanges with J, so the German says Iohann when the Englishman says John. B interchanges with V, so the German says hab and the Englishman have. F interchanges with P, so the German says schiff and the Englishman ship. G interchanges with Y, so the German says sag and the Englishman say. D interchanges with Th, so the German says heide and the Englishman heath. Then the guttural is a difficulty to the Englishman, so for buch he says book and for mack make. In each of these cases scores of words

will follow the same rule, and a little attention to these rules would save a deal of study. But, indeed, we need not go so far from home for instances, for the Scotchman says ierk or yerk when the Englishman says jerk. He calls the gable of a house the gavel. He calls a gate a yett, and a smithy a smiddy. The withy or willow rope, which preceded the use of hemp for capital punishment, he calls a wuddy, and so on. We are a very mixed people, but the lowland Scotchman is probably, on the whole, more of a Norseman than anything else. When Jamieson was compiling his Scotch Dictionary he met with a learned Icelander who said he had found four hundred Icelandic words in broad Scotch. Dumfriesshire is entitled to its share, for Worsaae, the Danish antiquarian, who visited Great Britain and Ireland half a century ago for the express purpose of tracing the settlements of the Danes, includes it along with the north of England in their territory, one of the infallible proofs being the prevalence of place names ending in by or bie, such as Lockerby, Lamonby, Denbie, Gotterby, &c., &c., the by signifying the home of the Dane, as ham, heim, or hame does that of the Saxon. Garth is another mark. The meaning of it is enclosed land. In fact, it seems to be the same as yard, with the letters interchanged. The word by may probably have some connection with the common phrase of oot bye or in bye. From the old intimacy between France and Scotland, it is not surprising that French words in a more or less corrupted state abound in broad Scotch. Old French words which now terminate in eau terminated in el, so that couteau, a knife, was coutel, and this the Scotchman makes whuttle. Hardware came mostly from Flanders. The town of Liege was famous for cutlery, so a large clasp knife was called in Scotland a Jockteleg or Jacques de Leige. Mons Meg was simply made at Mons in Flanders, though Galloway people like the fable of its local manufacture. No country blacksmith could have made such a gun. A well-known kind of shortbread in Edinburgh used to be called petticoat tails, the real name being petits gatels, or little cakes. They threw the slops over tha windows with a shout of gardyloo, meaning gardez l'eau, or beware of the water. Jigot of mutton on an ashet is, as is well known, all French together. When a drunk man is said to be fou he is not full. Fou in French means mad. A queer shaver is not a barber, he is a chevre, a goat. When a mason puts up a chimney-piece he puts it on the jambs, or legs in French. A

plumber is a plombier, because he works in lead. Many other foreign words are among us in Great Britain in a corrupted state. The old Scotch sword called an Andrew Ferrara was made by Andrea, of Ferrara, in Italy. A shoemaker sometimes calls himself a cordwainer. The Moors of Cordova, like their brethren in Morocco, were famous for leather, which was called cordovan—hence cordovanner. Some words lose their meaning. A villain is not a bad character, but simply a man of low rank. A knave in old English is merely a fellow; in fact, it is the German knabe, a boy. A ruffian probably dates from the days when Moorish pirates were a terror to mariners. The pirates of the Riff coast of Barbary are still called Riffians. A beefeater is simply a buffetier, or one who attends the buffet or sideboard. Punch and Judy is a corruption of Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea, the play being a very old one. A footman was really a footman, when he ran with a pole in his hand before the old lumbering coach to be ready to assist when it upset in the almost impassable roads. One might go on for ever on such a subject. We are daily speaking Greek and Latin and know it not. These have long been the languages of learning and science, and now are applied to every new invention from a telegraph to a bicycle or a motor car. Our very advertisements are of excelsior soaps and eureka boots. A few centuries can make a language almost unintelligible, as anyone will find who reads Barbour's "Bruce" or Chaucer's "Canterbury Pilgrims." But every new invader leaves his mark, and it is interesting to know who has been there, Briton, Roman, Saxon, or Norseman, not to speak of the Gaelic-speaking wild Scots of Galloway whose place names sound familiar to any Highlander at the present day. Galloway, too, abounds in Macs, many of them added on to the names of English who had settled among them, such as M'George, M'William, &c., which contrast curiously with the native M'Lellans, M'Cullochs, M'Cubbins, M'Guffogs, M'Turks, and M'Gowans. The Norseman is much less in evidence than in Dumfriesshire, though a good many hills are called fells, and along the coast we have a good many unmistakable Norse names, as might be expected, when they held the whole west coast, including the coasts of Ireland and the Isle of Man. Mr Worsaae finds the Mac added on to Norse names, giving as instances M'Kittrick, the son of Hittrick, and M'Manus, the son of Magnus. If there is anything that strikes a stranger in the

anguage of the modern Galloway man it is his contractions. A thing on the top of the house is "i' tap i' hoose"; or at the back of the dyke, "i' back i' dyke." On this side of any place is "athist," and to go to bed is "gae lie." There may be some words not in use in other districts. The branches of a tree are "grains," and smaller ones "rice." A "stake and rice fence" is a fence of posts with branches wattled between them. There used to be old people who called gooseberries grosets. The word "eveet" (French evite) is sometimes used for avoid. A man or beast of weak constitution and easily knocked up is said to be "cashy," no doubt from the French cassé. The word horrid is made to do as much as the young lady's awful. Crops are "horrid geud," and lasses "horrid bonny." Strangers are sometimes called "fremit folk." In one thing most Scotchmen agree. They have a rooted dislike to the letter L. Wall is wa', call is ca', boll is bow, roll is row, and even salve is sa'. The Frenchman rather shirks the same letter too, but both he and the Scotchman rejoice in R, which the Englishman rather dislikes. The question of the hard C and the soft one makes some difference in languages, though the hard C has of late been getting the best of it with schoolmen. The French chevalier and the Spanish cavalier are one and the same, both meaning a man on horseback, who was generally a greater man than one on foot. A Celt is not a selt, he is a kelt; and a cist is not sist, it is a kist. The German avoids all confusion by taking to K. His Emperor is not Seezer, but Kaiser. In some cases, too, the letter S is pronounced sh. Many of the Germans prefer this form of it, and in Gaelic it is the same, such a word as shee, a fairy, being sith.

### 3. *Note on the occurrence of Limestone Nodules containing Cementstone Fossils, near Moffat.*

By Mr J. T. Johnstone, Moffat.

In the spring of 1877, when excavating for sand at Ellerslie Villa, then in course of erection, I observed certain small nodules of a dark brown colour and of a semi-pasty consistence in the deposit pierced during the excavation. On carefully extracting some of these nodules I observed that casts of fossils were quite apparent in some of them. These, after being dried, were seen

by Mr Peach and Mr Macconachie, of the Geological Survey of Scotland, who pronounced them to be decomposed limestones.

A doubt having since arisen as to the exact nature of the deposit in which these nodules were found, it was deemed advisable to make fresh excavations last autumn to set the matter at rest. The point in dispute was whether it might be a true glacial deposit or merely the Permian breccia decomposing in situ, which is abundant in the locality. [See essay Geology of Dumfriesshire in Mr Scott-Elliot's *Flora of the County*, page xxxv.]

In this neighbourhood the Permian breccias and sandstones are the prevailing rocks underlying the till on the east side of the valley, and sections are seen in all the tributaries of the Annan on that side. These beds are also exposed on several places on the adjoining hillsides. On the west side of the valley near Moffat no exposures of this formation have been noted except one patch in a small burn nearly opposite the centre of the town. The formation extends southwards along the east side of the valley for a distance of seven miles from Moffat. In the Lockerbie basin, which is disconnected from that of Moffat, it reaches a greater development. This breccia has not the appearance of having been much disturbed. In some of the sections it is lying nearly horizontal, in others at a very small angle, and in the cutting at the back of the Hydropathic establishment the inclination is about 20 degrees. The pebbles embedded in the breccia are composed mainly of Silurian grits and greywackes, like those occurring so abundantly in the neighbourhood of Moffat. Fragments of black shale are also to be seen in it. The pebbles are of various sizes, and are generally sub-angular. The nearest visible exposure of this breccia is about 250 yards distant from the locality yielding the fossiliferous pebbles. No notes were made regarding the original excavations, but writing from memory I might state that the excavation would be about 8 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 3 feet deep, but the original surface had been previously excavated to a depth of 3 feet. The nodules were found lying near the bottom, and would be in the proportion of three to the superficial yard. The new sections were made on the 26th and 27th November, 1896, and were taken at different places, but in immediate proximity to the original place.

No. 1 cutting was 5 feet long, 7 feet deep, and 2 feet wide.

This cutting was made in a field which had its original surface undisturbed, hence the extra depth of cutting. After the surface soil was taken off, the whole cutting was made through a sandy till, striated stones being found from the surface down to the very bottom of cutting. These striated stones were lying with their long axis parallel to the valley with a dip downwards of 10 degrees. Small portions of the material excavated could be recognised as being fragments of the breccia, but no limestone nodules were found in this cutting.

No. 2 cutting was 3 feet long, 2 feet 6 inches deep, and 2 feet 6 inches wide. This cutting had the advantage of having been previously excavated and removed to a depth of 3 feet from the level of its original surface, and hence the small depth of the excavations as compared with No. 1. The stones in this cutting were all striated as in No. 1 section, the description of which will apply equally to No. 2. In the latter cutting we observed two nodules, one in the very bottom and one in the side. One of the striated stones measured 10 inches in length and 5 across. The nodules themselves varied in size from a hen's egg to blocks about 5 inches by 3 inches. None of the cuttings was deep enough to reach the rock, but the evidence of the striated stones may be held as proving that the material in which they occur is a glacial deposit, although the material of which it is composed is principally derived from the destruction of the permian sandstones and breccias.

I have examined the breccia where exposures of it are seen, notably at the site of the Hydropathic establishment, but have never detected any limestone nodules in it. Since the first discovery of these nodules I have examined nearly all the excavations that have been made for building purposes or otherwise in the immediate neighbourhood, and have found these nodules in nearly everyone of them from Ellerslie Villa down to where the till on this section of the Annan vale tails out at the Moffat Academy, a distance of nearly half a mile in length by about 100 yards wide. In excavations observed south from the Academy no nodules have been observed, although the material excavated has been a red sandy till likewise. Mr Peach informs me that the fossils occurring in these nodules are *Camerophoria crumena* and *Naticopsis plicistria*, forms which are characteristic of the lower marine lands of the cementstone series of the south of Scotland.

4. A short note by Mr HYSLOP, Langholm, was read, giving reasons for the belief that the remains of an old bridge across the Wauchope, near Langholm Manse, is of Roman origin.

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## 10th December, 1897.

Provost GLOVER in the Chair.

*New Members.*—Dr Alexander Dall MacDonald; Mr James Blacklock, solicitor; Lord Balvaird (life member).

*Exhibits.*

1. The Secretary showed for Mr George Irving, Corbridge-on-Tyne, two sealing-wax impressions (1) of an Onyx Intaglio of Roman date, found at Corbridge, and now in possession of Mr T. Blandford, of that place; and (2) of a Cornelian, found at South Shields, and now in possession of Mr Robert Blair, secretary to the Newcastle Society of Antiquarians—also of Roman date.

2. Mr Moodie, the hon. treasurer, exhibited a singularly interesting sasine, the property of Mr Murray of Murraythwaite, in which it is stated that Andrew Wilkin, bailie of the burgh of Annan, granted heritable possession to an ancestor of Mr Murray of the 40 shilling lands of Ednemland. Mr Moodie pointed out that the fact of a bailie being mentioned in the sasine showed that Annan was a royal burgh before 1539, the date of the old document being 16th July, 1532. The oldest existing charter of the burgh of Annan, he stated, was that granted in 1539, in the reign of James V.; and Mr Moodie quoted from a paper on "Old Annan," contained in the Society's *Transactions* for 1894-95, by Mr George Neilson, of Glasgow, evidence corroborative of that given by Mr Murray's sasine in support of the tradition that Annan had been a burgh long prior to 1539, James V. merely restoring a lost honour to the town at that date. Mr Neilson stated in his paper that he had never known of any provost or bailie of Annan being mentioned before the 17th century. Mr Murray's sasine also possessed, said Mr Moodie, an element of human interest in the names of persons who are mentioned

therein. There is, first, his (Mr Murray's) ancestor, John Murray of Morewhat, who is infeft in the 40s lands of Ednemland. Then there is the name of the first known bailie of Annan, Andrew Wilkin. The names of the witnesses—six in number—are of great interest as showing that the names of worthy burghers three centuries ago are the same familiar names of later times. They are John Carruthers of Holmend, Archibald Carruthers, William Irving, Herbert Irving, Edward Irving, and Nicholas Richardson. Very interesting is it that the name Edward Irving is three centuries later made famous by being borne by one of Annan's most famous sons. Then there is the name of the writer of the sasine, Thomas Connelsonne (another form of M'Connell), a Notary Public and a priest of the Diocese of Glasgow. Before the Reformation all notaries were priests or monks, and were appointed to the office of "Notar" by ecclesiastical authority. Before the Reformation also the year of the Pontificate of the reigning Pope was inserted, in place of the year of the reign of the Sovereign of the Realm, as was afterwards enacted. Accordingly this sasine was executed in the ninth year of the Pontificate of Clement VII., "by the divine providence Pope."

The following are a Transcript and Translation of the Sasine referred to, kindly done by Mr George Neilson, who is widely recognised as an expert in the translation of ancient MSS. :—

*I. Transcript.*

*The Land of Moriquht Sesing of xl. s. Land.*

In dei nomine amen per hoc presens publicum instrumentum cunctis pateat evidenter et sit notum quod anno incarnacionis Domini millesimo quingentesimo xxxij$^{do.}$ mensis vero Julij die xvj$^{mo.}$ indictione quinta pontificatusque sanctissimi in Christo patris et domini nostri Domini Clementis divina providencia pape septimi anno nono In mei notarij publici et testium subscriptorum presentia personaliter constitutut Andrea Wilkin ballivus pro tempore burgi de Annand accessis ad quadraginta solidatas terrarum Johannis Murray de Morethuat vocatas Ednemlandis jacentes infra territorium dicti burgi et ibidem ipse ballivus virtute sui officij ballivatus statum hereditarium* possessionem corporalem et sasinam omnium et

* The MS. has "hereditariam," which is contrary to the usual construction.

singuloorum predictarum quadraginta solidatarum terrarum de Ednemlandis cum singulis suis bondis et pertinenciis ac cum tenementis earundem per donacionem et deliberacionem terre et lapidis ut moris est in burgo prefato Johanni Murray de Morethuat heredibus suis et assignatis tradidit contulit et deliberavit in feodo et hereditate in perpetuum Super quibus omnibus et singulis premissis actis factis gestis et recitatis ipse Johannes Murray de Morethuat a me notario publico subscripto sibi fieri petiit publicum instrumentum Acta erant hec super fundum dictarum terrarum et tenementorum eorundem hora quasi prima post meridiam presentibus ibidem Johanne Carrutheris de Holmendis Archibaldo Carrutheris Willelmo Irving Harberto Irving Eduardo Irving et Nicholao Richartsonne testibus ad premissa vocatis et specialiter rogatis.

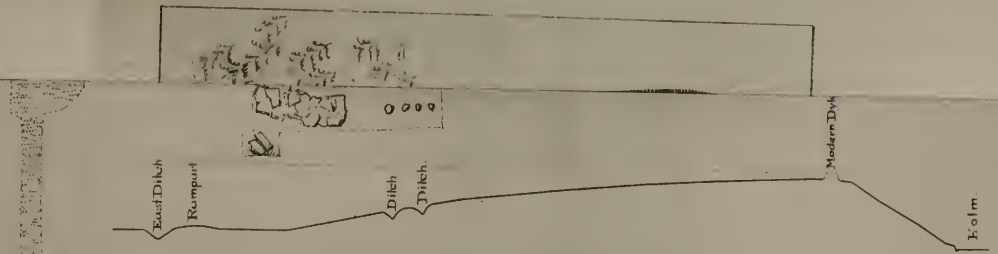
Et ego Thomas Connelsonne presbiter Glasguensis diocesis publius auctoritatibus apostolica et imperiali notarius quia premissis omnibus et singulis dum sic ut premittitur ferent dicerentur et agerentur unacum prenominatis testibus presens personaliter interfici eaque omnia et singula premissa sic fieri scivi vidi et audivi ac in notam cepi unde hoc presens publicum instrumentum manu mea scriptum confeci et publicavi signoque et nomine meis solitis et consuetis signavi in fidem premissorum rogatus et requisitus.

*II. Translation.*

*The Land of Moriquhat Sesing of xl. s. Land.*

In the name of God Amen By this present public instrument be it made obvious and known to all that in the year of the Incarnation of the Lord one thousand five hundred and xxxii on the xvith day of July, in the fifth indiction, and in the ninth year of the pontificate of the most holy father in Christ our Lord the Lord Clement the Seventh by the divine providence Pope: In presence of me Notary Public and the witnesses underwritten, personally present Andrew Wilkin, bailie for the time of the burgh of Annand, proceeded to the fortyshilling lands of John Murray of Morethuat called Ednem landis lying within the territory of the said burgh; and there the said bailie by virtue of his office of bailie gave granted and delivered heritable state corporal possession and seisin of all and sundry the foresaid fortyshilling lands of Ednemlandis with their several bounds and pertinents and with the tenements thereof by

# RAEBURNFOOT ROMAN-CAMP, ESKDALEMUIR.

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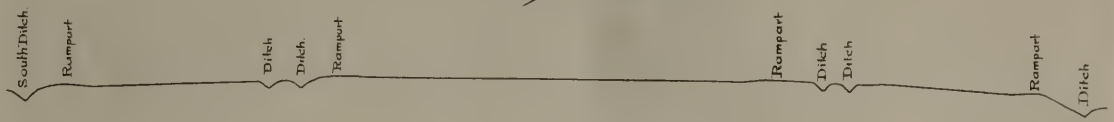
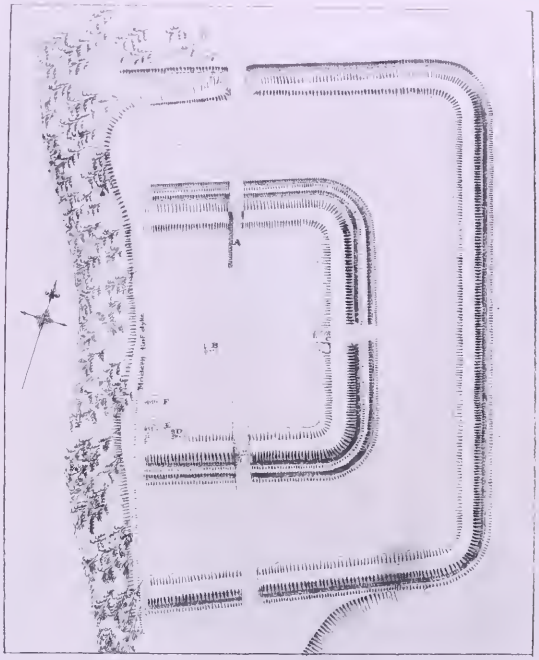



SECTION J K.

RAEBURNFOOT ROMAN-CAMP.
ESKDALEMUIR

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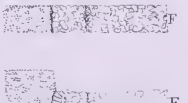
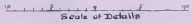
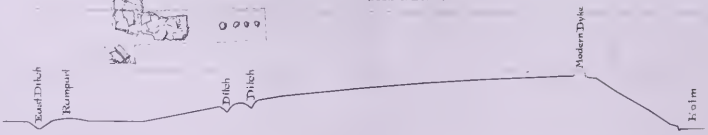



Section of E and F.

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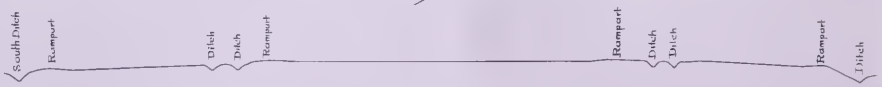
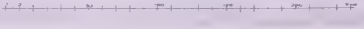



SECTION J K.



the giving and delivering of earth and stone, as use is in burgh, to the foresaid John Murray of Morethuat his heirs and assignees in fee and heritage forever: Upon which all and sundry the premises acted done performed and recited the said John Murray of Morethuat from me Notary Public underwritten asked a public instrument to be made for him: These things were done on the ground of the said lands and tenements of the same about the first hour afternoon. Present there John Carrutheris of Holmendis Archibald Carrutheris William Irving Herbert Irving Edward Irving and Nicholas Richartsonne witnesses to the premises called and specially required.

And I Thomas Connelsonne priest of the Glasgow diocese Notary Public by apostolic and imperial authority because I was personally present together with the aforenamed witnesses in all and sundry the premises whilst as above set forth they were so done said and performed and because I knew saw and heard all and sundry these things so done I took a note from which I have made this present public instrument written with my hand and have published it and signed it with my sign and name used and wont in attestation of the premises as I was asked and required.

*Note.*—Mr Neilson sends an interesting note relative to the Notary mentioned in the Charter. He says—"The Notary, Thomas Connelsonne, appears as one of the Notaries to a Deed of Protest at Dumfries on 22nd November, 1535, printed in the *Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis*, p. 550. In 1532 he was designed as Capellanus ac Notarius publicus (Registrum Magni Sigilli—III.—1513-1546, Charter 1198), but I cannot at present say where he was Chaplain. He witnessed a Charter at Dumfries on 30th July, 1546 (Reg. Mag. Sig, at supra No. 3284)."

3. Mr James Barbour showed two old church tokens presented to the Society by Mrs Dick, Eskdalemuir, and marked "S. K.," initials which might stand for "Skelmorlie Kirk."

## Communication.

### 1. *Excavations at Raeburnfoot, Eskdalemuir.*

By Mr James Barbour.

The important historical results obtained by excavations carried out at Birrens Roman Station, Middlebie, in the year 1895, by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, naturally stimulated similar research in the district. At a field meeting of this Society held in September the same year at the before-mentioned station,

Dr Macdonald referred to Raeburnfoot Camp, Eskdale, as described by its discoverer in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, as having not a few of the characteristics of a Roman Camp or Fort, and the *Transactions* of the Society, 1895-96, page 172, show that at a field meeting held on 30th May, 1896, at Eskdalemuir, the Camp was visited and examined. The experts present were of opinion that the probability was in favour of its having been a Roman Camp; but, in the absence of any positive evidence such as would be furnished by excavations and the discovery of relics of Roman occupation, they hesitated to decide the matter absolutely.

Thereafter the Council of the Society resolved, so soon as their funds would permit, to endeavour to overtake exploratory works sufficient to allow of a more definite opinion being arrived at.

The treasurer's report submitted at the opening of the present session being unfavourable to the prospect of carrying out the contemplated work, Mr Murray, V.P., obtained the sanction of the Council to raise a small sum for the purpose by subscription; and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements and see to the excavations being carried through, the outlay to be limited to £10. Mr Beattie of Davington; Mr Murray, V.P.; Mr James Lennox, F.S.A., librarian; Dr Maxwell Ross, hon. secretary; and myself were the committee. The fund required was promptly obtained, and the consent of the proprietor and the tenant of the land on which the Camp is situated being readily granted, operations were commenced at the Camp on Monday, 1st November last.

*The Camp before operations began.*

The Camp is shown, but only in outline, on the Ordnance Survey Map. It is situated in an angle at the junction of the Raeburn with the Esk, and occupies a sort of antlier, rising from an irregular basin surrounded by hills. The river Esk, now at some distance, formerly skirted its base on the west, and the Raeburn, also a little way off, after touching the south-east corner, flowed to the Esk in a south-westerly direction, leaving a small triangular tongue of land projecting at the south end of the Camp.

The Camp rises abruptly 40 feet above the level of the holm intervening between it and the Esk, on the west, and falls eastwards with a rounded section until it reaches low marshy ground.

The tongue of projecting land at the south also springs from the level of the holm with a steep ascent, and the ground continues rising gently northwards to the centre of the Camp, and falls thence in the same way to the north end, where an abrupt depression isolates the Camp from a hill which begins to rise at the side above it.

Approximately the altitude above sea level is 650 feet, and although lying low as compared with the surrounding hills, the position of the Camp is a commanding one, from which the valley of the Esk and considerable stretches of hill country, including the approaches of the Camp, are visible.

The plan is an oblong, but not quite rectangular, for the north-east shoulder is high, and the south end slants downwards towards the west. The chief peculiarity it exhibits is an inner enclosure on the west side, and midway between the north end and the south. It resembles a fort, and this term will for convenience be used in making reference to it. The direction of the major axis of the Camp is N.N.W.

The fortifications, which consist of earth-works, have suffered greatly by disturbance, but their lines nevertheless are yet mostly traceable. The precipitous natural bank protected the west side. The outer defences on the other three sides were a single rampart and a ditch. The rampart at the north end, owing to the depression of the ground outside, shows an upstanding front. It is well defined along the east side, and, although almost levelled at the south end, its site remains sufficiently distinct. The ditch is still open at the north end, although not of full depth. Along the east side there is now no trace of it, and at the south its site is marked only by a slight depression of the surface and the growth of rushes.

No indications exist of east or west gateways, but depressions in the rampart at the north and south mark where the entrances were at these points.

The defences of the central fort seem to have been more elaborate, for there are indications showing that it had been enclosed on three of its sides with a rampart and two ditches, while the fourth side rested on the precipitous west bank, which had probably, as regards the fort, been crowned with an artificial rampart; of this, however, no very certain trace is left. On the east and partly on the north its rampart and ditches are obli-

terated. Elsewhere the ditches are marked by surface depressions, and the rampart by slightly elevated mounds.

*History of the Camp.*

Of the history of the Camp not much can be said. It seems to have remained unknown until discovered by Dr Brown, late minister of the parish. In the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, Dr Brown, referring to it, says—"In my former account I mentioned Castle O'er or Overbie as a supposed Roman Camp, communicating with Middlebie and Netherbie. I am now convinced it is of Saxon origin, and that the true Roman Camp of Overbie is on the farm of Raeburnfoot, about a mile above the church. It is situated on a tongue of land between the houses of Raeburnfoot and the Esk, inclining gently towards the east, and about 40 feet above the level of the river. I stumbled upon it accidentally in the summer of 1810, and am inclined to believe that I have been fortunate enough to discover the true Roman Station in the head of Eskdale." After a full description, with dimensions of the Camp as taken by actual measurement at the time, Dr Brown observes—"The above Camp remained from 1810, when it was first discovered, till a few years ago, just as I have described it, and was visited by many, but I regret to add that it is now much injured by the proprietor having allowed it to be ploughed up in order to obtain a few crops previous to its being laid down in pasture."

Dr Brown speaks of injury arising only through the use of the plough, but evidently the pick and spade had likewise been in requisition, and on more occasions than one. The fact of the Camp being unobserved and unknown is proof that, long before 1810, it had been much defaced. Dr Brown's account shows that the ditch along the east side had already at that time been filled up, and of the east defences of the fort then, as now, no trace was visible. The other ditches now closed were probably filled up after 1810; but at what time, or times, the ramparts were reduced there is nothing to show.

It may be well to appreciate the injury spoken to by Dr Brown. Preparation for a rotation of crops is implied, and the land would therefore be turned over at least five times, and repeatedly dressed on the surface. Having regard to the circumstance that the soil is not generally of greater depth than is usually reached by the plough, it will be readily realised how

completely any vestiges escaping previous spoliations would, in this process, be uprooted and destroyed. The area has been drained also; and as stones are not easily got in the district, any material of this description the Camp might yield would be too serviceable to be allowed to remain there.

*The Exploratory Works and their Results.*

The objects in view in carrying on the excavations were to ascertain more fully and accurately than had hitherto been possible the plan and dimensions of the Camp; to discover the nature of the fortifications, and other structural parts; and to obtain relics and other evidences of occupation. The last were sought for only in excavations made for other purposes.

As before stated, the works were commenced on 1st November last. Three workmen were employed, who proceeded, as directed, to open the ground at numerous points where investigations seemed desirable, and as the weather was exceptionally favourable, not an hour being lost on that account, and the workmen were diligent, rapid progress was made with the operations.

An almost continuous trench was cut from the north end of the Camp to the south end, near the west side, which revealed the position and profile of the several ditches crossed, and the structure, and approximately the widths of the ramparts; and the same ditches and ramparts were again sectioned at a point further east. These ditches, it was found, had been filled with peat-moss transported from the exterior of the Camp, and consequently they were well defined and easily followed. The east defences of the Camp were likewise sectioned, and the ditch, which had been filled up, was discovered without difficulty owing to its position alongside the rampart. The filling, in this case, had been done with earth of another kind, distinguishing the work as probably an earlier operation. The east ditches of the central fort, of which no trace remained in 1810, were difficult to discover. After a number of cuttings had been made in search of them, one only could be found, and it appeared as if, on account of the steepness of the ground there, the two might be drawn together on either side and merge into one. The point was too important to be left in doubt, and the workmen were instructed to follow the well-defined ditches of the north side round to the east side by cutting cross trenches at short intervals. In this way the second ditch was discovered; and while the earth with which it and the one alongside had been filled resembled the

undisturbed till of the sides, black soil found at the bottom gave certain evidence of the trench being formerly open and of filling in. Excavations were likewise carried out with the view of disclosing the gateways and streets and remains of such buildings and other structures as existed.

At the end of the week the committee visited the spot, when, after consultation, it was agreed that as the aims in view had in a fair measure been accomplished, and it did not appear likely that a continuation of the search would result in any important discovery, the excavations should be brought to a close and the work of restoring the ground be proceeded with. This course was followed accordingly; and the filling of the trenches and restoring the sward, together with a little further excavations afterwards thought desirable, occupied another week, and completed the operations.

Information, not unimportant, concerning the structure and plan of the Camp and its occupation was obtained, and with the aid of the accompanying drawings I will now set out the details.

The ditches are almost V-shaped, but the sides appear to be slightly convex in some cases. The outer one, extending on three sides of the Camp, measures 15 feet in width and 5 feet in depth. Those of the central fort are each 10 feet wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ deep, and 16 to 18 feet apart between the centres of one and the other. The mound separating them is of a rounded section.

The outer rampart, which was probably about 30 feet in width at the base, appears, as far as can be judged of by the remains, to have been built of the soil taken out of the ditch with the addition of other similar earth, applied without method. The rampart of the fort, the width of which at the base appears to have been about 35 feet, is differently constructed. It exhibits stratification, the layers being earth and clay; the latter is plentiful, and it enters largely into the composition of the structure.

Regarding the gateways, it did not seem probable, considering the height and steepness of the natural bank forming the west side of the Camp, that one would exist there, and no remains of such were discovered.

Dr Brown describes the position of what he took to be the east gateway. On search being made at the spot indicated nothing corroborative of its existence there could be discovered; and several other places opened on this side gave similar results.

The central fort was probably provided with a gateway on the east side, as will appear later on.

The south gateway shows a roadway of gravel level with the Camp, but nothing remains to mark its width. The one at the north is similar, but the gravel surfacing is wanting, and was probably dug up in order to improve the gradient, this being the only cart entrance to the area of the Camp.

At the south entrance of the central fort a good deal of cobble pavement surfacing is found, but in a disturbed state, and several larger stones, disposed as if intended for edging, remain; the width of the gateway is uncertain. This description applies likewise to the corresponding gateway at the north.

Only the one street or roadway has been discovered. It extends in a straight line or nearly from the north end of the Camp to the south end, passing through the four gateways described. It is surfaced with gravel; the width is uncertain.

During the search no certain vestiges of buildings were disclosed, but several pieces of stonework, more or less regularly disposed, presented themselves, which it will be proper to notice. Of this kind is a fragment of a drain, which extends southwards from the north gateway of the central fort along the west margin of the street, about 60 feet in length, at the point marked A on the accompanying plan. The interior opening is 8 inches wide and 10 high. The sub-soil forms the bottom, the sides are composed of undressed whinstone, of which also are the covers. Having regard to the width of the opening bridged, the latter are of unusual dimensions, being from 24 to 30 inches long. They are placed across the drain so as to fit closely together, and the top of the work, which is level with the street, has the appearance of a broad and well-set edging.

A number of stones met with near the centre of the fort at B on the plan, showing an approach to order, seem to be the remains of a structure of some kind, possibly a building.

At the east side of the fort, where the tail of the rampart would be, and nearly midway from north to south, marked C on the plan, a structural piece of work remains. It is composed of roundish whinstones, something like 6 to 9 inches in diameter, and clay, put together in such a way as to have some resemblance to a mass of concrete. The outline is irregular, but the surface is straight like a floor, and hard. It measures about 10 feet from north to south, by 14 from east to west, and the substance

is 2 feet thick or more. Immediately to the north is a breadth of spread stones, and to the west are fragments of cobble paving; also a few stones put together like a fragment of walling about a yard long and 9 inches in height, curved inwards on plan.

The spread stones are suggestive of a roadway, and it seems likely that the east gateway of the fort stood here, in which case the main structure described might have been a platform for the reception of an engine to be used in defence of the gate. "In time of war," says Hyginus, as quoted by General Roy, "care should be taken that proper steps or ascents are made to the ramparts, and that platforms are constructed for the engines near the gates."

Another fragment of stonework lies under the tail of the south rampart of the fort, near the west side, at D on the plan. It is arranged in the form of the letter L reversed, and consists of a single layer of flat stones fitted together; and opposite the centre of the lower limb, eastwards, are four comparatively small stones, placed in a row, and at almost equal distances.

I have mentioned that no very certain evidence of a west rampart exists, but structural remains on that side at the south-west corner of the fort, marked E and F on the plan, favour the idea that the plan as regards the fort originally embraced such a rampart. A return, facing the west, was found, but no trace of its continuation northwards. The construction of the return is peculiar. A cobble pavement foundation underlies the piece of rampart, which is built partly of earth and partly stone. The rear portion is composed of a mass of stones and clay like the material of the platform before described. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high at the west side and level, 4 feet wide like a path, and at the east side of the path is a stage or step, whence the stonework slopes eastwards to the level of the fort. The front, which is of earth, was probably carried higher than the level of the pathway as a breastwork. The stonework agrees with the steps or ascents which Hyginus says should be made to the ramparts. The cobble pavement is found not only under the west return but also under the south rampart; how far it extends, however, has not been ascertained. Whin, undressed, is the only description of stone met with.

Regarding the further elucidation of the plan, few well-defined lines available for tracing it with accuracy exist. The centres of the ditches, where the two sides almost meet at the bottom, are,

however, sufficiently exact for the purpose, and have, after ascertaining the widths of the ditches and ramparts as nearly as possible, been adopted for the skeleton lines on which to construct the plan.

On the west bank, as a base, the Camp projects eastwards in the form of the letter D with the loop flattened; and within this, on the same base, is the central fort, forming a smaller but similar loop. The margin of the Camp not covered by the fort is of equal breadth on three sides—the north, south, and east; and the north-east and south-east corners of both lines of defence are rounded off, so as the ramparts and ditches in each case follow one another in concentric curves.

The four gates are opposite one another, and the street, which extends in a straight line from north to south, passing through them, would, supposing there was a west rampart as conjectured, divide the fort equally in two.

The following are the principal dimensions:—Including the ramparts and ditches the length of the Camp measures 605 feet at the east side, and 625 at the west; the average is 615 feet. The width cannot be ascertained very closely, but approximately it would measure about 400 feet. The Camp, including the fortifications, extends to over $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and the interior area, including the fort, contains rather less than 4 acres. The interior of the fort itself measures 220 feet by about 185, and contains an acre nearly.

The relics found in the excavations are comparatively few, but in judging of their importance in this respect regard must be had to the limited extent of the operations as well as to the probable disappearance of nearly everything of the kind, consequent on the cultivation of the soil. They are chiefly fragments of pottery. The ware is of the same character as that got at Birrens, and Dr Anderson, to whom specimens were submitted, considers it to be of Romano-British type. It consists of a number of pieces of thick, coarse yellowish ware, the fragments of vessels of large size, one being part of the handle of such a vessel; a great many small fragments of a finer and thinner ware of light yellow colour and light weight; and a few pieces of fine, thin bluish-grey ware, parts of a vessel with a turned over and moulded brim of good design. More expressive than these larger fragments is a handful shivers, an inch in size and under, picked out of the soil. They are suggestive of how much must have

been lost by breaking up and disintegration. Charcoal in small pieces is widely distributed, and some pieces of glass and iron were found. I should not omit to mention that part of a socket-stone lay near the south gateway of the fort.

Having stated the facts appearing on the surface, and discovered in the course of the excavations, I will, in conclusion, briefly notice their significance.

The Camp presents several points of resemblance to the Roman Station of Birrens. Like Birrens, it occupies a bluff rising in a hollow part of the country, and skirted on two of its sides by running streams. The interior dimensions correspond—it may be accidentally, but more likely of design. The given number of men to be encamped would doubtless govern the space to be embraced within the fortifications, and its form would be determined by the manner in which it was customary they should be disposed. The structural details have much in common also; and, although probably only a coincidence, it is yet worth mention that this Camp and Birrens incline to the same point of the compass, N.N.W., and conform to the Vitruvian rule for guarding against noxious winds.

The plan is geometrical and symmetrical, suggestive of strict discipline and adherence to established rule. In this way the small tongue of land at the south end, which is high and defensible and level with the Camp, is, for the purpose of regularity, cut off by ditch and rampart; and for the same reason the east ditch and rampart, instead of following the higher ground, have been carried across a low marshy place in a straight line. The rounding off of the corners is a characteristic common to all works of the kind.

From what has been said the Camp will be readily recognised as of Roman origin; and the proofs of occupation, although not numerous, are yet, the conditions being taken into account, sufficient.

It is not a station like Birrens, but a Camp of inferior importance—another interesting memento, nevertheless, of the footsteps of the Romans in the county of Dumfries.

I should add that the thanks of the Society are due to the proprietor of Raeburnfoot for the ready permission granted for the examination of the Camp, and particularly to Mr Cartner, the tenant, who gave freely every facility and assistance in his power. The Rev. Mr Dick and Mrs Dick also gave active help.

In proposing a very special vote of thanks to Mr Barbour, Provost Glover made eloquent allusion to his (Mr Barbour's) long service to the community in the field of antiquarian studies, describing him as a thorough-paced conservative—not in a political sense—but in the sense of bringing to light and conserving all of good that might be captured from the hand of oblivion.

Mr Murray, George Street, in seconding, related the story of Mr Barbour's week at Raeburnfoot, and declared the identity of the Camp as Roman to have been proved beyond any possible doubt, speaking with approval of Dr Macdonald's confidence in Mr Barbour's judgment, and of his expression, in the last of the Rhind lectures, of willingness to accept Mr Barbour's evidence and inferences.

At Mr Murray's suggestion, the thanks of the Society were also voted with much enthusiasm to Mr Cartner, of Moodlaw; Mr Beattie, of Davington; the Rev. Mr Dick; and to the proprietor of the land at Raeburnfoot for generous assistance in carrying out the excavations.

Mr W. Dickie supported the motion, laying emphasis upon the week of valuable professional time which Mr Barbour had most generously given up to this enterprise.

The resolution was passed with acclamation, the meeting being large and representative.

In responding, Mr Barbour mentioned that he had submitted the paper to Dr Macdonald, who, in returning it, expressed general concurrence with the views it set out.

Rev. Mr Cairns interpolated with a query as to the position of the other side, but Mr Murray assured him that no argument had yet been adduced anywise calculated to invalidate Mr Barbour's hypothesis.

## 2. *Recent Antiquarian Operations and Finds in Upper Nithsdale.*

By Mr J. R. Wilson, Sanquhar.

### *I. Operations.*

The desire to perpetuate interesting relics of the past is becoming deeply rooted in the minds of the community. Within recent years active steps have taken place, and the purpose of this paper is partly to draw together and give a brief account of

these operations, and also to indicate that more work of this nature lies ready to be entered upon.

The late Mr Donaldson, minister of Kirkconnel, was chiefly instrumental in causing a substantial freestone cross to be erected on Glenwharry Hill at the traditional grave of St. Connel, the patron saint of the church. A rude block of freestone formerly marked the place, but in erecting a wire fence on the Ayrshire boundary it was broken into pieces by the fencers for socket stones for iron straining posts. St. Connel flourished early in the seventh century, and has in this district left several place-names to commemorate his name and work, such as "Kirkconnel" in Tynron, the site of St. Connel's chapel on the farm of Kirkcudbright, in Glencairn; "Connelpark" in New Cumnock, "Connelbush" and "Connelbuie" in Sanquhar, and the name of the parish and church in Kirkconnel.

Mr Donaldson was also the moving spirit in placing in the south wall of the church at Kirkconnel an elegant slab in memory of the Rev. Peter Rae, minister of the parish, clerk to the Presbytery of Penpont, and the historian of the rebellion of 1715. He was translated in 1737 from Kirkbride, an extinct parish in Nithsdale now embraced in the parishes of Durisdeer and Sanquhar, and was a person of note in his day. In turn Mr Donaldson's classic and manly face, which many of you will remember, has been represented inside the church where he laboured so long by the erection of a marble medallion by his devoted parishioners and friends. And very recently the present minister of the parish, Mr MacVicker, has placed in the church a massive font stone, bearing some ancient ornamentation and mouldings. For a long period it formed the side of a "lunkie hole" in the northern boundary wall of the glebe, and no doubt many a poor sheep had derived immediate benefit from it as a "rubbing stone." In the cavity of the font there has been placed a beautiful silver basin for use at baptisms in the church, with the names of all the ministers of the parish from Peter Rae's time inscribed thereon. The Scriptural injunction against removing the ancient landmarks which our fathers had set up may have been set at defiance by removing this stone to the church, but as we know time changes all things both in form and use.

At Sanquhar kindred work has been going on for some years. The foundations of the old church of Sanquhar have been built

up to the level of the ground so far as not covered by the present building, and covered with picked freestone. This was done by the Marquess of Bute with consent of the heritors. The old church was of great antiquity, and had several altars and figures of freestone within its walls. One of these figures, traditionally known as the "Bishop of Sanquhar," was removed to Friars' Carse about the end of last century by the celebrated antiquarian, Captain Riddel, and long lay in the railed enclosure adjoining the Hermitage there. I exhibit two photographs of the figure taken from different views as it lay in the enclosure. It has now been restored to its former habitation by the Marquess, and placed on an elegant slab of Dumfriesshire red sandstone, set on pillars with ornamental wrought iron railing around the open sides. An inscription on the plinth narrates its history, and states that it was placed there by the Marquess as 14th Baron Crichton of Sanquhar, in 1897.

The figure is believed to commemorate William Crichton, who was Rector of Sanquhar in the reign of James V., and if this assumption is correct it would further embellish the church and gives additional interest to the figure to place in the west wall the slab at Blackaddie (the old manse of Sanquhar) with black letter inscription commemorating his erection of the manse. It may, however, be suggested that the slab at Blackaddie may have been removed from the church when the figure was picked up by Riddel and built into the manse for preservation.

Captain Riddel raided the whole district for antiquities. The font stone of Morton Old Church is at Friars' Carse, correctly labelled, and I believe a movement is on foot to have it restored to the present church of Morton.

The most extensive work of the nature in this district is in progress at Sanquhar Castle. Works of restoration and preservation are being rapidly pushed forward, and the members of this society could not do better than visit in the coming summer the ancient residence of the Crichtons and take notes for themselves. I would have given a full description of the work at present accomplished, had it not been that the *Dumfries Standard* a few weeks ago gave an accurate account of all that has been so well done under Lord Bute's directions.

It must also be mentioned that Morton Castle, in the parish of Morton, has been dealt with by the Duke of Buccleuch by way of pointing and filling up of gaps so as to preserve the

existing remains. The work has been executed with great care by Mr Gibson, who has also the work at Sanquhar Castle in hand, and the stately ruins should now be proof against time's destroying finger for a long period of years.

## *II. Finds.*

I will now give some account of the various finds in the district which have come under my notice. The loan exhibition in Sanquhar a few years ago revealed many objects of interest not before heard of except by the possessors of them. At that time I was unsuccessful in seeing a large bronze sword or spear found in the course of drainage operations in a meadow on Kirkland farm, Kirkconnel. It got into the hands of some children, who soon broke it into pieces and destroyed its interest. This beautiful whetstone was got about the same time on the farm of Carco, Kirkconnel, in a drain at a depth of two feet. It resembles the one figured in the catalogue of the National Museum of Scotland on page 51, found near the Cathedral of Lismore, but is more entire. Here is another whetstone found on Carcomains, Kirkconnel, but more modern in appearance. Very likely this is one of the "rags" used in the days when clenched back reaping hooks were in use. However, there is one in the museum in Thornhill very like it in size and general appearance which was found at the lake-dwelling on Sanquhar moor. Another from the bed of the Nith at Sanquhar is a natural flake which has seen service as a whetstone.

A beautiful celt or stone axe was exhibited at Sanquhar by the late Mr Brown, Bennan. Lately I got it from his son, Mr Stephen Brown, and it is now in the museum at Thornhill. I exhibit two photographs of it, one of which shows it to have been slightly adze-shaped. The ticket attached to it in the museum bears that it was found at Bennan ; weight, 3 lbs. 6 oz. ; length, 9 inches ; breadth, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Its use when I got it was most degenerate—for striking matches upon.

A very fine bronze axe is in the possession of Mr Hewitson, Auchenbainzie, and was found on his lands. It is ornamented with oblique lines radiating from the rib to each side, and is in excellent preservation. Captain Steuart, Castle-Gilmour, has in his possession a stone axe or hammer found on the adjoining farm of Auchentaggart. It is about eight inches in length, and

perforated at the hammer end. It is of a type common to Nithsdale.

Last year when some repairs were being executed at Eliock there was found by a mason in the centre of one of the walls a nice specimen of celt or axe perfectly entire. It is about three inches in length, and appears to be formed of a flinty-like material. The same mason shortly after found a hammer-shaped axe in digging the foundation of a house at Moor, in the parish of Carsphairn.

At the loan exhibition in Sanquhar a very beautiful bead was exhibited by Miss Weir, Kirkconnel, and labelled as an "Adder Stone." It was of dark glass ornamented with white oblique lines, and she stated that it had long been in the possession of her family, who looked upon it as an omen, that while they had it they would never be in want. Of the same type was the bead obtained by the late Mr Shaw, Tynron, at Cairneycroft, in that parish. As to these being adder stones and formed according to the myth or legend known to all, there is no proof either in written record or in natural or scientific laws. It is well established that they have been personal ornaments, and have been frequently found associated with ancient burials in cairns and mounds. I remember when a boy seeing a so-called "Adder Stone" in the possession of a female servant, who delighted in recounting the exploded myth. She was nonplussed when we told her it was calm-stone from Crossgeliock, the same as we used every day at school for slate pencils. The article was a common whorl made to be fitted on to the wooden spindle so as to increase and maintain the rotatory motion given to it by the twirl from the finger and thumb in spinning from the distaff. They are very common, and have been found in or around every ancient habitation. Here is a rude one found recently in my own garden. If we credit the song of "the Gaberlunzie Man," they seem to have been hawked about the country for sale. He in persuading the daughter of the guidwife to share his fortune, says :

> "Wi' caulk and keel I'll win your bread,
> And spin'les and whorles for them wha need,
> Whilk is a gentle trade indeed
> To carry the Gaberlunzie on."

Mr Borland, Auchencairn, and Mr Smith, Townhead, Closeburn, have both made considerable finds in recent years. The

former enumerates four stone whorls of different types, and two dressed flat circular stones. He believes the latter to have been used as stone weights, and we know that stones of various shapes were often used as weights throughout the whole district, and some of the larger stone weights are in use still at several farms in Nithsdale. Mr Borland and Mr Sulley spent considerable time in investigating the cairns and tumuli in Closeburn parish, and the result of their operations was duly communicated to the Dumfries newspapers at the time, and attracted considerable meritorious notice from antiquarians. Mr Smith discovered several stones of an ovoid form of the type shewn at page 53 of the catalogue of the National Museum. This is one I picked up on the side of the Nith at Sanquhar in a "children's house" on the Washing-Green. You will observe it is slightly hollowed on both sides, which indicates that it has been used as a hammer-stone, the cavities being supposed to give a better hold for the fingers and thumb.

At Potholm in Eskdale I recently saw water-worn cup-like stones found in the Esk in use in a stable as pots for oil used in cleaning harness. This is certainly taking advantage of the caprices of water as a potter. Almost a similar case occurs at Old Kelloside, Kirkconnel, where a large water-worn block of whinstone of basin-like shape has been used as a pig trough.

I have often looked for something unique on the sweys in farm kitchens, but not until a few days ago did I find anything of interest. Here is a crook, bearing at the lower end, on which pots and pans are suspended, a zigzag extended device, while round the circle of the loop are incised lines. It may not be ancient, but certainly the maker has had in his mind ornamentation of a kindred nature. I remember seeing at Auchencloigh, Ochiltree, the spindle of a distaff in black oak similarly ornamented.

It may not be out of place to record that about twenty years ago a farm labourer was employed to remove some stumps of wood from a meadow on the farm of Kelloside, Kirkconnel, in order to clear the surface for a mowing machine. He removed a large number of stakes, about three feet in length and six inches in diameter. They had evidently been placed upright in a trench and secured by wattles driven through mortice holes about one foot from the bottom of each stake, and the earth packed around them. In the mossy ground the stakes were quite fresh, but in

following the circle of the stockade into the hard ground no vestige of the wood remained. The area embraced in the stockade would be about half an acre, and at one time when the Nith ran at a higher level the stockade may have been partly surrounded on the lower side with water. The stakes in appearance and morticing were exactly similar to those in the stockade around the lake dwelling in Sanquhar moor.

Besides recovering the minute book of the Sanquhar Lodge of Freemasons, dating from 1738, and the second charter of the lodge, dated 1778, I have lately got from Canada the minute book of the incorporated trades of Sanquhar, beginning in 1726.

In examining the progress of the titles of a house in Sanquhar I found a charter in law Latin by John, Earl of Mortone, Lord of Dalkeith, and of the Barony of Mortone, in favour of Robert of Dawlzele and Florentine of Douglas, his spouse, of the lands of Belliboucht in the Barony of Mortone and Sheriffdom of Dumfries, dated at the Earl's Castle of Dalkeitht, 8th October, 1493. These lands afterwards passed into the hands of Douglas of Coshogle, and from him to Douglas of Drumlanrig. They form part of the farm of Burn in Morton parish, and embrace the prominent hill on which you see at a great distance the remains of the "Picts' or Deil's Dyke." This is a photograph of the charter by Mr Fingland, of Thornhill, and I produce a synopsis kindly obtained for me by Mr Alexander Anderson of the Edinburgh University Library.

These facts exhaust in some degree my knowledge of the antiquities in Upper Nithsdale which have been dealt with or found during the last few years, and I hope they have been of some interest to you. It is gratifying that there exists an increasing liking for preserving local antiquities, and the example set will, I am sure, lead to still more being done in the future to preserve not only the antiquities of the district but also the history and the traditions of the past. The antiquities of Niths dale are far from being exhausted, and a rich harvest is in store for those who have time and inclination to investigate its lake dwellings and stockades, territorial division dykes, drove roads, moats, cairns, camps, and tumuli.

Cordial thanks were voted to Mr Wilson on the motion of the Rev. W. Andson, seconded by Mr James Barbour.

## 14th January, 1898.

Mr JAMES BARBOUR, V.P., in the Chair.

*New Members.*—Mr D. M'Jerrow, town-clerk, Lockerbie; Mr Walter Scott, Redcastle, Dalbeattie.

*Donations and Exchanges.*—Sixteenth Annual Report of Bureau of Ethnology; Smithsonian Reports, 1893 and 1894; Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Part II., 1897; Proceedings of Natural Science Association of Staten Island.

*Exhibit.*—Mrs Brown, Barnkin of Craigs, showed a stone with a figure of Esculapius cut on it. The authorities at the British Museum had given the opinion that its age would be about 250 B.C., and that it was pure Greek. Mrs Brown also showed two other stones, a sardonyx and an emerald, both obtained in Syria.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

#### 1. *Natural History Notes.*

By Mr W. J. MAXWELL, Terregles Banks.

Having dwelt all my life in this part, except about five years, and having always been fond of natural history, some of my observations on that subject may interest those of like tastes, though I fear many of them are not new. During my boyhood I collected butterflies and moths in a small way, and have ever since taken much interest in that branch of animal life, although my knowledge is small indeed compared to that of an older member of this society, Mr Lennon. Many changes have taken place among the butterflies. According to my recollection the Peacock butterfly was one of the commonest till about 1860, when it vanished suddenly and completely. I am afraid the Orange Tip has also disappeared of late years or become very rare. On the other hand, the Clouded Yellow butterfly, a rare prize in my collecting days, appeared in large numbers about 1875 and the immediately following years. During the last few years, it appears to me, butterflies of all kinds have become scarcer. One of the pleasures to me of a trip abroad is to meet again the beautiful insects I knew here of old and also to see rarer species, which I then longed to capture, such as the

Camberwell Beauty, the Apollo butterfly, and the Purple Emperor seen in hundreds in the sunny glades of the Black Forest. Some of the mountain slopes of Dauphiny, blue with wild Lavender, struck me as especially rich in butterflies, many of them being species quite new to me. The mountains and valleys of Dauphiny offer a grand field for the botanist, the flora seeming even richer than that of Switzerland. At Bouquéron, near Grénoble, I noticed two or three of the species of butterfly known in Britain as the Rare Swallow-tail *(Papilio Podalirius)* flitting about the double scarlet flowers of the pomegranate bushes, and so tame that one lit on my straw hat and remained while I removed it and held it in my hand.

Bird life is sadly wanting in many parts of France and Germany I have visited. In some parts of Switzerland the copses still ring with the nightingale's song, but in the endless woods of the Black Forest, which one would expect to be full of life, one may walk from morning to night and never hear the chirp of a bird nor see the flicker of a wing. All was silent thus to me, though others whose hearing takes in acute insect sounds complained of the din of the tree crickets. In this country we are more fortunate, but some old acquaintances have left us. Most people of about my age or older must remember the magpie as a very common bird here. I have seen as many as six in a row on the fence of the field in front of my house. The keepers have killed them out, as they are now exterminating the hawks of all kinds—a deplorable fact. I am convinced this is not necessary for the preservation of game. Some two and twenty years ago the buzzard was pretty common, as also the peregrine, the sparrow hawk, and the kestrel ; and I think game was as plentiful then as now. I remember four or five buzzards being killed on one grouse moor in the Stewartry, one of the best, and that moor was as well stocked with grouse before as since. Hawks and magpies are no doubt somewhat destructive to game, but a small number of them, such as used to exist when they were let alone, would do far less injury than the hordes of rats with which the country is now overrun, thanks to the destruction of stoats and weasels, or than the rooks which are allowed to increase and multiply almost unchecked. The rook is a most destructive enemy not of game only but of all the smaller birds. Now that the nobler birds of prey are banished, the rooks make a very good attempt at filling their place, so far as other occupa-

tions permit. They have their agricultural pursuits. At the proper season the young turnips have to be pulled up and the roots inspected for grub and wire-worm ; tithe of the grain and potato crop must be secured ; and those places where the enemy has sown the tares have to be visited early in the morning, before he is out with his gun. But besides all this the rook finds time to attend to the chicken and duckling department, and successfully acts the part of a low-class predatory bird. I have seen them destroy a whole family of starlings, dragging the young birds from the nest one by one, and tearing them limb from limb before the eyes of their shrieking parents. Quite lately I saw no less than four at a time fly over my fields, each carrying a hen egg in its beak. In the interests of game-preserving, and farming as well, more should be done to reduce the number of the rooks.

The hedgehog is another much persecuted animal, and though destructive to game I think he deserves better treatment for the good he does by destroying slugs, which I have known to develop into a serious pest on some farms. Slugs are the usual food of the hedgehog, eggs and game being only occasional luxuries. A year or two ago I saw a hedgehog family flitting, which is more, I think, than most people can say. The nest having been exposed by the cutting of some long grass near my house, the young were removed one by one to some brushwood about a hundred yards off. In some cases the young were coaxed to follow the parent hedgehog, whose anxiety was very visible. The others had to be carried, the mother holding them in her mouth by the loose skin of the region of the stomach, which is free from prickles.

If let alone, I think it would not be long before our lost birds of prey would reappear. Very uncommon species often appear suddenly, where any unusual abundance of their favourite food is to be found. For example, the vole plague brought the short-eared owl. After the decline of the voles the woods about Terregles were full of these owls, noticeable by their habit of flying by day. Many years ago I remember a similar invasion of king-fishers when the Cargen was temporarily diverted from its course for deepening operations, the small fry left in pools in the bed of the stream being the attraction. The plague of goose-berry caterpillars brought that shy bird, the cuckoo, to my garden in considerable numbers. The severe frost a few years ago was thought to have killed or banished all the herons from this

district. Doubtless many starved to death, but the following winter I put up no less than nine one afternoon from the Kirkland meadow, Terregles. Observations at Heligoland show that many birds not generally regarded as migratory, such as hawks, crows, &c., do cross the sea in immense numbers, and probably even very rare species are constantly passing over our district unknown to the keenest observer. Favourable conditions would make them stay. The black-headed gull has now ceased to nest at Collochan, Terregles. Some years ago they bred there in hundreds on the floating islands and in the reeds round the edge of the loch. The gales of late years have driven these islands to the sides, and it is thought by some that the risk of attacks from the land has thus caused the gulls to quit. Another cause has been suggested to me. There are a good many coots on the loch, and they have developed a taste for eggs. The tenant of Collochan tells me that he has often seen them eating the eggs of the gulls, and that he caught them robbing a turkey's nest some way from the loch. It is good news to hear that the jay is being seen at many places in Dumfriesshire, probably the result of Sir Herbert Maxwell's importation of several into Western Galloway. I heard of one being seen by some friends of mine about three miles from Dumfries in Troqueer parish. From the description there is no doubt in my mind that the bird seen was a jay.

A fact about fish culture may be interesting. The late Captain Maxwell introduced a few roach and dace fry into the ponds at Terregles some fifteen years ago, with the idea that they would be food for the trout with which the ponds are stocked. After the lapse of ten or twelve years, however, it was found that the roach had increased amazingly, in place of having been eaten as was meant. They devoured all the food put in for the trout, and to get rid of them the water was run off, so that they were easily caught. Upwards of half a ton of roach were taken out, packed in huge tubs and baskets from the laundry, and carted round the parish for distribution. Being caught at the right season they were good eating, though rather bony, and for three days the whole parish of Terregles smelt of fried fish. I kept some alive, and put them into the moat at Carlaverock Castle and Collochan Loch, and some other places not suitable for trout.

I have for some years kept as a pet an animal not often seen in this country, a Chinese mongoose. It is a thoroughly domesticated animal, and enjoys complete liberty, spending the

whole day in the garden in summer looking for toads and bumble bees, which are favourite delicacies, but always coming home to sleep in the house at night. It is gentle with human beings, but jealous and spiteful with dogs and cats, which it regards as rivals whose attempts to occupy positions on the hearthrug must be resisted at all hazards. In India, I understand, the mongoose is often kept about houses to kill snakes and rats, &c., but they are seldom quite gentle. My own, which came from China, is as tame as a cat. Some years ago there was a large importation of so-called mummy cats from Egypt. As every one knows, the Egyptians had a great respect for cats, embalmed them, and made cases for their mummies, which are exact images of the domestic pussy cat of our own day, but the only specimen I saw of these mummy cats imported to Liverpool was not a cat but a mongoose. There are several different species of mongoose at the London Zoological Gardens, but being shut up in cages, of course little is seen of their interesting ways. I have had many queer pets in my time, a weasel and a racoon among others, and would like well to mention some of the unexpected talents and peculiarities which they revealed when thoroughly familiar with their surroundings, but I fear I have already taken up too much time and must conclude my remarks.

Mr Rutherford of Jardington said this was just such a paper as should come before a natural history society, being a record of personal observations. He confirmed from his own observation Mr Maxwell's notes regarding the butterflies. With regard to the crows, he questioned whether it would be wise to destroy them. They did mischief certainly, but it was as nothing in comparison with the good which they did. They were of incalculable service in destroying grub. They were always at work, always seeking and always finding. Living on the banks of a river he had every opportunity of observing the king-fisher. In some seasons he would see half-a-dozen day after day, one after another; then they disappeared for a time, and they had them now just as plentiful as when he came to Jardington. He had exceeding pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Maxwell for his very valuable, concise paper, and a paper containing observations which he had made himself instead of collecting his information from books. He considered it a model paper.

Rev. Mr Andson seconded the vote of thanks. He had, he said, had a conversation with Mr Day, bird-stuffer, from whom he learned that two rare birds, the Spotted Craik and the Grey Phalarope, had come into his hands this season—the former found at Carnsalloch, the latter (a migrating bird, about the size of a thrush) at Barncleuch in Irongray. He had also received two jays, and the king-fisher he saw often along the river banks.

The vote was conveyed in complimentary terms by the Chairman (Mr Barbour). Mr Maxwell, in acknowledging it, made reference to the great destruction of eggs of the nightingale in England by bird collectors. In one district of Norfolk he had heard of some persons collecting as many as two or three hundred. If it was possible to exterminate a bird which was only a summer visitor, the nightingale would have been exterminated long ago by the egg collectors.

## 2. *The Meteorology of Dumfries for* 1897.

By Rev. Wm. Andson.

*Barometrical Observations.*—The highest reading of the barometer in 1897 occurred on the 20th and 22nd November, when it rose to 30·650 inches. The lowest was on the 3rd March, when it fell to 28·745 inches, giving an annual range of 1·905 inch. Besides the month of March there were other two months in which readings under 29 inches were recorded, viz., once in the end of November and four times in December. The months in which the lowest means of barometrical pressure occurred were March, August, and December, ranging from 29·500 inches in March to 29·744 inches in December; and these were the months in which cyclones were most prevalent, and which were marked by the heaviest rainfalls. The last week of December in particular was characterised by a succession of cyclonic storms and an abnormally heavy rainfall, which caused the flooding of the river Nith and of the low-lying lands along its banks to an extent seldom experienced. On the 27th the gauge at the New Bridge showed a mean depth of nine feet, and on the 30th of eleven feet, while the Whitesands and the Dock Park were flooded with water, which surrounded the Hoddom Castle Inn and extended some way up the foot of the Vennel and Nith Place. The months which had the highest

## Report of Meteorologial Observations taken at Dumfries during the year 1897.

Lat., 55° 4′ N. ; Long., 3° 36′ W. ; Elevation above sea level, 60 ft. ; Distance from sea, 9 miles.

| Months. | Barometer. | | | | Self-Registering Thermometer. In Shade, 4 ft. above grass. | | | | | | Rainfall. | | | Hygrometer. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Highest in Month. | Lowest in Month. | Monthly Range. | Mean for Month. | Highest in Month. | Lowest in Month. | Monthly Range. | Mean Maximum. | Mean Minimum. | Mean Temperature of Month | Heaviest in 24 Hours. | Amount for Month. | Days on which it fell. | Mean Dry. | Mean Wet. | Temperature of Dew-point. | Relative Humidity. (Sat=100) |
| | Inches. | Inches. | Inches. | Inches. | Degs. | Degs. | Degs. | Degs. | Degs. | Degs. | In. | In. | | Degs. | Degs. | Degs. | |
| Jan. | 30·396 | 29·253 | 1·143 | 29·925 | 49·2 | 15 8 | 33·4 | 39·1 | 29·3 | 34·4 | 0·29 | 1·39 | 14 | 35·7 | 34·3 | 32·1 | 86 |
| Feb. | 30·513 | 29·263 | 1·250 | 29·979 | 55 | 25·2 | 29·8 | 45·7 | 36·3 | 41 | 0·68 | 2 93 | 21 | 40·4 | 39·1 | 37·4 | 90 |
| March | 30·073 | 28·745 | 1·328 | 29·500 | 55·3 | 24·3 | 31 | 48 | 36·5 | 42·3 | 0·68 | 5·51 | 26 | 40·7 | 39 | 36·9 | 86 |
| April | 30·325 | 29·224 | 1·101 | 29·832 | 63 | 25·2 | 37·8 | 52 | 35·4 | 43·7 | 0·68 | 3·08 | 15 | 43 1 | 40·2 | 36·8 | 77 |
| May | 30·505 | 29·261 | 1·241 | 29·986 | 71 | 32 3 | 38·7 | 59·3 | 40·1 | 49·8 | 0·72 | 1·95 | 16 | 49·3 | 45·2 | 40·8 | 72 |
| June | 30 248 | 29·287 | 0·961 | 29·996 | 79 | 38·6 | 40·4 | 65·8 | 49·6 | 57·7 | 0·81 | 2·86 | 17 | 56 | 52·8 | 49·8 | 79 |
| July | 30·470 | 29·536 | 0·934 | 30·044 | 86 | 43 | 43 | 70·5 | 50·9 | 60·7 | 0·32 | 1·56 | 12 | 60 | 55·9 | 52·3 | 76 |
| August | 30·273 | 29·313 | 0 960 | 29·708 | 85·6 | 41·7 | 43·9 | 69·6 | 53·2 | 61·4 | 0·61 | 5·75 | 25 | 60·2 | 57 | 54·1 | 80 |
| Sept. | 30·570 | 29·326 | 1·244 | 29·926 | 74 2 | 34·7 | 39·5 | 61·7 | 44·2 | 53 | 0·60 | 3·43 | 17 | 51·6 | 49·3 | 47·1 | 84 |
| Oct. | 30·613 | 29·296 | 1·317 | 30·117 | 66 | 25 | 41 | 58·2 | 41·9 | 50 | 0·67 | 2·36 | 12 | 48·2 | 46·4 | 44 6 | 87 |
| Nov. | 30·650 | 28·895 | 1·755 | 30·123 | 61·7 | 26·7 | 35 | 50·1 | 40·4 | 45·3 | 0·85 | 3·60 | 18 | 44·6 | 43·3 | 42 | 90 |
| Dec. | 30·633 | 28·761 | 1·872 | 29·744 | 53 | 21 5 | 31·5 | 44·4 | 34·1 | 39·2 | 1·29 | 8·39 | 22 | 40·7 | 39·2 | 37·2 | 88 |
| Year | 30·650 | 28·745 | 1·905 | 29·906 | 86 | 15 8 | 70·2 | 55·4 | 40·9 | 48·2 | 1·29 | 42·81 | 215 | 47·5 | 45·1 | 42·6 | 83 |

WINDS—

| N. | N.E. | E. | S.E. | S. | S.W. | W. | N.W. | Var. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 24 | 61½ | 33½ | 54 | 81½ | 47½ | 32 | 14 |

mean pressure—above 30 inches—were July, October, and November, and in these the weather was more settled; while in May and September it was also favourable on the whole. The mean barometrical pressure for the year was 29·906 inches, which is just about the average of the last ten years.

*Temperature.*—The highest single day temperature of the year, as shown by the sheltered thermometer in shade, 4 feet above the grass, was recorded on 15th July, when it rose to 86 deg. The lowest was on the 18th January, when it fell to 15·8 deg., thus giving an annual range of 70·2 deg. The warmest month was August, with a mean temperature of 61·4 deg.; but July fell very little short of it with a mean of 60·7 deg. These months were both above the average of the last ten years by 2 to 3½ deg. There were seven months in which the mean temperature was in excess of the normal, viz., February by 2·5 deg., March by 1·3 deg., July by 2·1 deg., August by 3·6 deg., October by 3·1 deg., November by 3 deg., and December by 1·4 deg., the aggregate excess amounting to 15 deg. On the other months the means were below the average, January having a deficiency of 2·9 deg., April of 2·3 deg., May of 2·7 deg., June of 0·2 deg., September of 1·6 deg.; aggregate deficiency, 9·7 deg. As might be expected from this comparison, the mean temperature of the year taken as a whole was above the mean, viz., 48·2 deg., as compared with an average of 47·5 deg. There were 60 nights on which the temperature fell to and below the freezing point, viz., 21 in January, with an aggregate of 113 degs. of frost; 7 in February, with an aggregate of 18·7 deg.; 7 in March, with an aggregate of 13·2 deg.; 8 in April, with an aggregate of 26·2 deg.; 2 in October, with an aggregate of 12·2 deg.; 4 in November, with an aggregate of 10·9 deg.; and 11 in December, with an aggregate of 54·3 deg. Total, 60 nights, with an aggregate of 248 degs. of frost. As this statement shows, January was by much the coldest month. March was a stormy month, with a good deal of rain and some snow, but with a temperature somewhat above the average. In April and May there was a deficiency of warmth. But in June, July, and August there was rather more than the usual number of warm and sunny days, with a maximum temperature of 70 deg. and above. There were 12 in June, 16 in July, of which 4 were from 80 deg. to 86 deg., and 11 in August, of which 4 were above 80 deg., and 2 in September. The warmest period of the year was between the

11th of July and the 10th of August, during which the mean of the maximum or highest day readings was 75 deg., and the mean of all the readings, maximum and minimum, was 64·7 deg. This was peculiarly favourable to the growth of the crops, and made the harvest earlier than with a wet March and a cold April and May it had threatened to be.

*Rainfall.*—The total rainfall of the year amounted to 42·81 in. Only once during the last ten years has the rainfall exceeded this amount, viz., in 1891, when it was 42·92 in. And the only other year which approached it was 1894, when it was 42·01 in. The average amount for these years was 37 in., so that the past year was in excess of the normal by 5·81 in. The wettest month was December, with a total of 8·39 in., which is fully double the average for that month, and of the 8·39 fully 5 in. fell in the last week, which was an extraordinary period of southerly and south-westerly storms, with correspondingly heavy rains. On the 26th and the 29th the amount for each day exceeded an inch and a quarter, and these were the only occasions during the year when the fall reached an inch. It is worthy of note that the amount for that week very nearly accounts for the excess of the year above the annual average. While December was the wettest month, there were other two months in which the average was considerably exceeded. These were March, with 5·51 in., as compared with an average of 2·12 in., and August, with 5·75 in., as compared with 3·92 in. After the 10th of August there was rain almost every day until the 7th September, a circumstance which interfered seriously with harvest work, and caused a considerable amount of damage to the corn crops. But the remaining part of September and October as a whole were drier than usual, and greatly favoured the ingathering of the harvest in the later districts of the country. The number of days on which rain or snow fell was 215 (rain, 205; snow, 10). The average of ten years is 177 days, and 1897 shows the largest number since observations were begun at this station. The next to it was 208 in 1894, when the annual fall was also over 42 in. Curiously enough, the driest month was January, with only 1·39 in. But May and July had each a record under 2 in., while October also was considerably under average. March had 26 days of rainfall, August 25, and December 22, while July and October had only 12, and January 14, six of which were in the

form of snow or sleet. The weather of the year was on the whole of a changeable character, and there was no protracted period of drought such as was experienced in the previous year between the 16th April and the 4th June, when less than an inch of rain fell. The driest periods were eleven days between the 8th and 24th of May, and again between the 9th July and the 3rd of August, during which only three-quarters of an inch fell. From the 18th October to the 10th November was also a dry period, with only one day on which rain fell to the amount of 0·13 in.

*Hygrometer.*—The mean of the dry bulb thermometer for the year was 47·5 deg.; wet bulb, 45·1 deg.; temperature of the dew point, 42·6 deg.; relative humidity (saturation = 100), 83; which is about the average for the ten years of observation. The monthly means of humidity ranged from 72 in May to 90 in February and November.

Thunderstorms were rather more frequent than usual, but, with the exception of one on the 4th and 5th August and one in December, were not severe or protracted. Besides these there were three in June, one in July, and three in August. Hail fell eight times as far as I observed, and lunar halos were seen seven times.

*Wind.*—With regard to the wind directions, the south-westerly was as usual most prevalent. It blew 81½ days out of the 365. The next most frequent was the easterly, which is down for 61½ days; southerly, 54; westerly, 47½; south-easterly, 33½; north-westerly, 32; north-easterly, 24; northerly, 17; and calm or variable, 14.

Mr Andson said he observed from the Cargen record that the number of days in which rain fell there was given as considerably less than the number in his observations; the respective figures being 168 and 215. This was unusual, as the rainfall as a whole was heavier at Cargen than in Dumfries; but he was disposed to think that the rain gauge in use there must be one which did not measure hundredths or thousandths of an inch. The number of days on which the amount of rainfall did not exceed one-hundredth of an inch was 34, and on 13 days it did not exceed two-hundredths of an inch. This made 47 days, which if added to 168 would bring up the number to 215. Of course this did not cause any difference in the aggregate amount of rainfall, as the very small quantities not registered separately would be

included in the next measurement. He further explained that the high humidity in November was occasioned by fog rather than by rain.

*Floods on the Nith.*

Mr James Lennox moved a vote of thanks to Mr Andson for his valuable paper, remarking that it was the result of a whole year of constant watching. Alluding to the floods, he mentioned that notwithstanding the continued heavy rain in the last week of December, a mark in the boathouse showed that the river Nith had on a previous occasion risen 2 feet 3 inches higher than it did on any day in December.

Mr Rutherford said he had known the water to rise higher than in December half-a-dozen times, he should say, since he went to live at Jardington. The highest flood during that period would, he thought, be about eighteen years ago.

Mrs Brown, Barnkin of Craigs—It was either 1881 or 1882, I think. I marked it on a tree higher up the valley, at a point which it had never been known to reach before.

Mr Rutherford said he had frequently seen floods higher by a foot at least than those of December. The records of the rainfall taken at Maxwelton House, by Mr Andson, and by himself were all different; but differences were easily accounted for, as heavy showers sometimes passed over one place and did not touch another. For December Mr Andson's record was 8·39 inches; his was 7·7 inches. That was the highest record of any month since he began to keep the record except February, 1894, when it was 8·37 inches.

Mr Maxwell, Terregles Banks, said while he recollected the Nith being higher on previous occasions, he thought we never had within the memory of the oldest inhabitant a period when the country as a whole was so much flooded. He never remembered, for example, so much water in the meadows at Cargen as there was this winter.

Mr Lennox said there was water in the boathouse in December for four days together, a thing which never before occurred within his memory. It generally disappeared in three hours.

Mr Watson said the Chairman (Mr Barbour) would be old enough to recollect a time when the floods on the Nith were not only longer continued but higher. The explanation given for the change was the surface drainage of the land, the water now passing off more rapidly to the river, and the river getting away

with it more quickly. He could remember a time when the Nith used to reach once or twice in the winter to about the Blue Bell in Friars' Vennel. He had seen it some distance above that point. He once saw a coal wherry grounded opposite to Burns's House in Bank Street. That would be some thirty-five years ago. He remembered, too, quite distinctly the flood referred to by Mr Lennox. He compared the rise this winter to what it was then by looking across from his house to the fisher's lodge on the other side. The flood referred to by Mr Lennox reached half way up the window of that hut. On this occasion it was below the window sill.

*Comparative Rainfall.*

Dr Maxwell Ross said he had a letter from the honorary president of the society, Sir Emilius Laurie, giving a record of the rainfall of the past year at Maxwelton, Glencrosh, Holm of Dalquhairn, and at Folkestone as a contrast to these. For Holm of Dalquhairn (in Carsphairn) the fall was the largest of which he had obtained any record for the year, being 67·9 in. The record for Ericstane (Moffat) was 67·85. Curiously there was a great difference in the December record of these places. At Holm of Dalquhairn it was 13·15 in.; at Ericstane, 19 in. There was a curious illustration of the differences in observations referred to by Mr Andson. Sir Emilius Laurie gave the number of wet days at Maxwelton House as 205; at Glencrosh, not far away and exactly on the same level (400 feet above sea level), it was given at 160, a difference of 45 days, which approached very closely to the difference of 47 days which Mr Andson had indicated between Dumfries and Cargen. The average rainfall at Maxwelton House for ten years was 45·5 in.; this year it was 53·01 in., being 7½ above average. At Folkestone the rainfall differed very extraordinarily from our experience in this part of the country, the total for the year there being 25·81 in., some five inches below the average. Sir Emilius noted that there were six days on which there was over an inch of rain, and the total at Maxwelton for the last week in December was 5·75 in. He had obtained a record of the rainfall from eight stations, seven of them in the county of Dumfries and Holm of Dalquhairn just outside the county. It varied from 42 in. at Drumlanrig to 67·9 in. at Holm of Dalquhairn. At Ewes (in Eskdale) in the observation sent by Mr Lyall, the schoolmaster, there was a curious difference from

what they found at other stations. December was not the wettest month in Ewes, but August. For December it was 9·7 in.; for August, 10·7 in.

*The Weather and Disease.*

Dr Ross proceeded to offer some observations on the relation between the seasonal prevalence of disease and the meteorology of the year. Although Mr Andson had noted that last year was a somewhat changeable one, it had not affected the health of the county seriously, for we had one of the lowest death-rates in the landward portion of the county which had been recorded since he had had to make up the register. It was 15·147 per thousand for the year. If they added the seven burghs (Dumfries, Annan, Lochmaben, Sanquhar, Lockerbie, Moffat, and Langholm), the death-rate of the whole county for the year amounted to 16·6 per thousand. In making the calculation, he explained, he excluded deaths which occurred in the Infirmary and in the Crichton Royal Institution of patients who had been brought from places outside the county. Although the weather was changeable, up till December there were no very marked extremes of weather. The highest death-rates were in March and April; the lowest in September. In both March and April the excess of deaths was due to zymotic causes. With regard to infectious diseases throughout the county, we had had a very favourable year compared with some others. If we deducted measles, we had under three hundred cases reported during the year all over the county landward. There had been less scarlet fever, and on the whole less diphtheria and less typhoid fever than in past years. Scarlet fever was at its maximum in January and November, but that was due rather to local than to seasonal causes. During the past year scarlet fever had been at its maximum prevalence in the district around Dumfries; yet during the third quarter we had a considerable number of cases of diphtheria. There were during that quarter only five or six cases of scarlet fever, but there were eighteen of diphtheria. The cases were very mild, contrasting very favourably with our experience in 1896, when there were eight deaths out of 29 cases. In connection with this prevalence of diphtheria there was a question which he ventured to suggest to observers. During the past autumn we had an exuberance of fungus growths; at least of mushroom growth. The question arose, had the seasonal or

climatic influences which produced the exuberant growth of these fungi the same effect in producing a larger number of the smaller organisms which produce the disease that we know as diphtheria, or was the occurrence of the two things a mere coincidence? He thought there was more than a mere coincidence in it. Dr Michael Taylor, of Penrith, who was a very careful observer, published a paper a good many years ago in which he attributed diphtheria to growth of fungi in houses in which diphtheria cases occurred. He thought that writer went to an extreme in attributing it to that cause, for with greater extension of our knowledge we were unable to do so. But during the present season he had seen fungoid growths in damp houses, and he thought there was between that circumstance and the prevalence of diphtheria more than a coincidence. He did not say there was a casual connection; but the same influences might operate to cause both: the same conditions which favoured the growth of these fungi favoured also the growth of the diphtheria organism in the human subject.

Mr Lennox inquired whether, to adjust the balance, Dr Ross added the deaths of Dumfries people who might die in prisons, asylums, or infirmaries outside the county?

Dr Ross replied that he thought no Dumfries people would die in prisons—(laughter)—and the number who died in other institutions outside the county would be so small as to affect the calculations only to an infinitesimal extent. It was only where you had large institutions, such as the Crichton or the Infirmary, that the question became really important; and he explained that the deaths occurring there of all patients belonging to any part of the county were credited to their proper districts. In reply to a question by Mr Rutherford, Dr Ross said the life history of the diphtheria bacillus was not fully known; and it was a curious fact that it had been found in the throats of perfectly healthy people.

## 11th February, 1898.

Mr R. Murray, V.P., in the Chair.

*New Members.*—Mrs Brown, Barnkin of Craigs; Mr John Bryce Duncan of Newlands; Mr Walter Johnstone, Merchant; Rev. George Ure; Mr Alexander Taylor, Dumfries Academy.

*Donations.*—Nithsdale Illustrated, by Mr Peter Gray; On Primary Conditions of Tropical Production, by Mr Scott-Elliot.

*Exchange.*—Proceedings of Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, vol. xv., 1894-5.

### Communications.

1. *A Century's Changes in a Pastoral Parish.*

By Rev. Thomas Rain, Hutton.

So far as known to me the parish of Hutton and Corrie does not present a promising field to the researches of the antiquary. Few remains of the past such as he is interested in—old earth and stone works, old battlefields, old traditions and customs—are to be traced within it. Whatever the legends and folklore were in bygone days, they have come to be of the scantiest and most commonplace kind now. There are the remains of a small Roman encampment at Carterton; which, according to the map, would be almost bisected by a bee-line running from Birrenswark to the encampment at Raeburnfoot, Eskdalemuir, lately explored by the members of this Society. It is situated at the southern extremity of a tongue-shaped bluff of land lying between two deep burns, or cleuchs, which would form a natural protection to the east and west. The ramparts are still quite traceable, though they have been defaced in some places by the plough, which was first driven over this camp about forty years ago, when many cartloads of stones, forming no doubt the roadways, were taken out of it. A son of the tenant of Carterton at that time distinctly remembers the operation, which was necessary, he said, to prepare the way for the plough. By peeling off the turf, at some points traces of the stone facing of the inside ramparts may still be discovered. The camp is narrower at the south end than at the north, but this would be necessitated by the conformation of the ground, which is tongue-shaped, I have

said, and tapers towards the south. Its extreme length from outer rampart to outer rampart is about 120 yards, its inside length is about the half; a gap that would form the north doorway, I suppose, remains. Might a clump of rushes on the centre line inside the camp towards the north indicate the existence at the time of occupation of a well? The remainder of the ground is hard and dry.

After the Romans had disappeared Carterton seems to have attracted some attention from the church, for there still lives the tradition of a chapel having been here, evidence of which is to be found in numbers of hewn stones built into the steading, and in a field adjoining the house being called Chapel Park. The stones are of a coarse white sandstone, of which there is no quarry nor any natural traces in the vicinity, and it has been suggested to me that they could not have been brought from a point nearer than Canonbie. One of these stones, carved into what appears to be a head, surmounts the present barn door, but it has been so obliterated by the wear and tear of time that the lines of it cannot be traced. Presumably it was of an ecclesiastical character. I notice the other day that the Scottish Society of Antiquaries in their recent excavations at Ardoch have found the remains of a mediæval chapel inside the ramparts there. It is said that a castle also existed at Carterton, but of this I can offer no evidence further than the tradition. But these traditions, and the testimonies of the stones, and of the Roman camp, suggest that in bygone times Carterton was, in this upland, rather wild district, a place of some importance, a centre.

A conspicuous object to a traveller up Dryfe Valley is Hutton Moat, standing on an eminence to the right, its bold, well preserved, conical outline showing clear against the sky. The most inexperienced eye would detect at once that the hand of man had reared it, so bolt upright does it rise, like a miniature pyramid, on the green hill top. A writer has said of moats or "motes" "that they have attracted so little attention that the word is altogether ignored in the Encyclopædia Brittanica, and that history is silent respecting their use." It has been thought by those who have given some attention to the subject that they are of two kinds—those constructed for defence, and those constructed for the administration of justice, announcing the laws to a rude people living out of doors, and putting them in

execution. The latter is more properly called moothill than moat. From the absence of any traces of defence at Hutton—trench or stonework—it probably was of the latter class; and we can picture the rude inhabitants of the valley gathering to it somewhat as Freeman in the opening chapter of his "Growth of the English Constitution" has pictured the inhabitants of Uri in Switzerland gathering to their moothill once a year to the present day, and as the people of the Isle of Man gather to their moothill also.

A more modern relic, further up Dryfe, is the tower, or castle, of the Grahams, rising sheer out of the water, of which only the stone and lime foundations, and the fosse that protected it on the landward side, remain. A notable Border exploit, related in the ballad of "Christie's Will," which Sir Walter Scott has included in his collection, is associated with this tower. Here in brief is the epic. In Charles I.'s reign Lord Traquair of that day had got into a lawsuit, and he discovered in the course of it that the judgment was likely to go against him. Moreover, that it would depend on the voice of the presiding judge, who, in the case of an equality of opinion among his brethren, has a casting vote. But Traquair was determined, and his resources when he found himself in the difficulty were of the true Border character. He engaged a famous Border reiver, Armstrong of Gilnockie, in the parish of Canonbie, to carry off the man of law, Lord Durie, till the trouble might be past. It was a job after Armstrong's heart, and he accomplished it with the most creditable despatch, as one used to such doings might accomplish it. He found Lord Durie taking his afternoon ride on Leith Sands, unaccompanied by an attendant, seized him, bound him, muffled him in a cloak, and brought him quickly across country to the tower of the Grahams.

"Willie he hied to the tower o' Græme,
He took auld Durie on his back,
He shot him down to the dungeon deep,
Which garred his auld banes gae mony a crack.
For nineteen days and nineteen nights
Of sun or moon or midnight stern,
Auld Durie never saw a blink,
The lodging was so dark and dern."

And after his liberation he never knew where he had been confined till one day, travelling in Annandale, he heard a shepherd calling "Batty" to his dog, and an old woman crying "Maudge"

to her cat; these were the only sounds that had ever reached his ear in his dungeon. So saith the legend. The event has also been made the subject of one of Wilson's "Tales of the Border," where it is treated pretty much on the lines laid down by the ballad.

The belief that there is treasure hidden near this tower —a belief that has attached itself to so many old castles, and which so readily affects the popular imagination—has not altogether died out. Perhaps it ought not to die, perhaps it is founded on fact. Treasure hiding was frequently resorted to in the "good old days," when those who possessed the treasure found themselves in trouble. However it be, a labourer in this parish told me that, in his younger days, he and other two had set about digging for Graham's treasure, when stern fate appeared in the form of the "Laird," and warned them off. Higher up among the hills, a mile to the north, more of Graham's treasure—"a sheepskinful of gold," it seems—lies under the earth. Tradition has handed down the whereabouts of this gold with a precision it has not observed in the case of that nearer home. It lies in the hillside exactly on a level with Macmaa chimney top, and a line run straight from the old tower to the said Macmaa would pass over the spot. No information could be more satisfactorily full. A native of this parish, who is not dead more than a generation ago, saw this precious spot one night three times in his dreams; on three consecutive occasions the sweet vision broke in upon him. And what could be a more distinct leading of Providence than that? Accordingly he rose early in the morning, equipped himself with a pick and spade, and went away quietly among the hills. We can imagine him digging with the breathless intensity of a man who loves gold in his heart, and who believes that he has come to its hiding-place at last. But the precious sheepskinful still sleeps under the grass. Failing the acquisition of gold by this means he took to getting it by another means that is also romantic—smuggling. He set up his still, and conducted his operations, in a cleugh or gill not far from the place where he toiled for the gold. So that this part of the parish may be said to be historic, or, if you like the word better, classic ground; the glamour of a kind of romance hangs over it. Here at least, if at no other point, human nature is known to have exhibited some of its most marked, most persistent characteristics. For what

has so persisted in man all through his history, and what so persists in him still, as his love of money? His love of woman alone can take rank beside it. Our smuggler carried samples of his "stuff" about with him in a bladder, and he sometimes boasted that he had sold of it to the best "quality" in Annandale. At all events, he got into possession of money by his sales—more money than his lawful occupation could have yielded to him. The present blacksmith here is in possession of his "worm." I have seen it, as A. K. H. B. might say, "with these eyes."

A hundred years ago there were bad times for the poor. There was not the same statutory provision for supporting then as there is now; and their staple food, oatmeal, was dear. In 1795, when there was a bad crop, "a general meeting of the Freeholders, Justices of the Peace, and Commissioners of Supply for the County was held in Dumfries, being desirous to adopt some general rule to secure a sufficient quantity of oatmeal for the support of the manufacturers and labouring classes of this county;" and the parish ministers seem to have been requested to take steps for having the objects of the meeting carried out. The minister of Hutton, Dr Nisbet, got a letter from the Clerk of the Commissioners, asking him "to convene the whole heritors and tenants within the parish to ascertain as nearly as possible the quantity of meal that will be necessary to supply the above description of people till Michaelmas next. And to ascertain further whether the heritors and tenants would be willing to raise the sum necessary to make up the deficiency, either in money or meal, in the option of the contributors." There is no record whether the suggestion of the Commissioners was carried out in this parish; but that they probably were may be inferred from the fact that in 1800 a heritors' meeting was called "to inquire into the state of the poor, and to consider the proper and necessary measures to be taken for their relief at the present time, when the indispensable article of oatmeal is come to the highest price ever known in this and other counties of Scotland." And in 1817, another dear year, the heritors expended £162 odd in buying meal and barley for the poor. "They were brought from Edinburgh and Dalkeith, the farmers in the parish having no grain to sell, and the public markets in the neighbouring villages being almost equally deficient." The meal was sold at a reduction of from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per stone, which left the Committee in a deficiency of £53,

made up by £33 of voluntary subscriptions and £20 in which "the heritors voluntarily assessed themselves." This illustrates the sort of times the labouring population of the parish was passing through at the beginning of the century. There were many dear years then, caused by bad seasons and the war; it would have been hard to find a cheap year. In 1800 oats were 39s 6d per quarter; in 1809, 36s 9d, falling for some reason in 1802 to 20s 9d, but rising again in 1808 to 33s 8d, and in 1812 to the enormous figure of 44s 1d, to be succeeded by 39s 3d in 1813. These figures are taken from the *Dumfries and Galloway Herald* of 1838. And at this time, according to the "Old Statistical Account," labourers in the parish were receiving from 1s to 1s 4d per day in summer and harvest, and 10d in winter. The yearly wage of men ran from £7 to £8, and that of women from £3 to £4. In his account book for the year 1801 the laird of Shaw enters—"To my Mother to pay the 2 house servants' wages £3." The regular poor, as distinguished from the occasional, what would now be called paupers, were likewise assisted by the heritors and by donations of money from the Kirk-session; and the principal mode of assistance seems to have been grants of oatmeal. A widow left with a family, *e.g.*, gets 50 stones of oatmeal, which, with an occasional donation from the session and the charity of her neighbours, would form her living; a male pauper, an imbecile, is boarded out for 50 stones oatmeal, with a small addition of money for clothing and the like. The money for these donations was obtained by the Kirk-session from the Sunday collections, charges for proclamations, for regular marriages of persons in their own houses, the use of the mortcloth, baptism, and from fines for irregular marriages and other delinquencies. In 1762 there is the following entry in the Session book:—"Received from Robert Manderson in Balstack on account of Mr Barclay's (the minister) coming home to marry him as per act of Kirk Session to be paid by every couple married in their own houses 2s." In September 1760 a pair of people, A. B. and C. D., "appeared before the congregation for their irregular marriage and paid their fine, 10s." In a similar case, presumably that of poor persons, the sum is modified to 3s 4d. Another source of revenue which the Session had was as money-lenders, employing in this capacity the funds that had accumulated in the poor's box. As an illustration.—"Feb. 21, 1764. The which day the Session of Hutton lent to Mr Thomas

Kirkpatrick of Fenton £20 sterling of the poor's money, and took his bill payable to the Kirk Treasurer for the same at £4 per cent. per annum interest." The sum in the poor's box in bills and cash at this date was £34 5s 11d. A notable feature is the base coin that was found put into the collection boxes, and which the Kirk-session sold from time to time when it had accumulated. In 1751, *e.g.*, they sold 7s 6d worth at 1s 7½d, and another occasion, in 1747, "The one pound (evidently sterling) bad money that was in the poor's box, weighing six pounds and one half, was sold at 8d per pound, which comes to 4s 4d, was put into the poor's box." On another occasion there is the following entry, the date 1762:—"Total bad copper 18s 2½d. The Session appoint Mr Barclay, James Jardine, and George Bell, Elders, to dispose of the Bad Copper to the best advantage."

Coming into the present century, within the memory of persons still living, this official mode of assisting the poor was supplemented by voluntary effort, mostly, I understand, by the lower classes of the people. It was a case of the poor coming to the aid of the poor. These voluntary efforts sometimes took the form of what was called a "drinking," and at other times it would be a raffle. The word would go round that Annie Ferguson, *e.g.*, an old woman who lived in a thatched cottage at the mill, was in need of a "Drinking." Whereupon young men would set out among the farms, and collect for her doles of meal, cheese, butter, ham, and such like, which they brought to Newton Inn, their rendezvous. They met again there after handing over their spoils, and spent an hour or two in dancing and conviviality. Hence the term a "drinking." This Annie Ferguson had a peculiar gift of being able to lick motes out of people's eyes, and chaff "pickles" out of cattle's, with her tongue, and her gift in both capacities was not unfrequently made use of.

I have been led away from the Kirk-Session by consideration of the poor; but take an illustration of the Session discharging its duties as guardian of the religion and morals of the parish:—"17 Sept. 1756. The which day Samuel Reid in Nr. Borlands went down the water the length of Barnsdale and did shear some sheaves of corn before he was told his Error by a woman in the neighbourhood that came to him, and his wife Margaret Smith preparing to follow him to shear was prevented by her neigh-

bours informing her it was the Lord's day. The Session ordered their Officer to cite them to their next meeting."

It is a remarkable fact that at the beginning of this century a schoolhouse had never been built in Hutton parish. The children received what education they got, which appears to have been but little, in the church. But that building was in so ruinous a condition that the parishioners complained of its unhealthiness to the heritors, who set about remedying this condition of things. In the year 1796 there is the following entry in their minute book :—"It being complained by the inhabitants of the parish that the church, where the school is presently taught, is cold for the children and dangerous for their health, the meeting agree that a house shall be rented for one year at a rent not exceeding 15s; and it being informed that the house of David Mundal near this place (Nether Boreland) is now to let the meeting authorise the said John Halliday to agree for and take the same, and to proportion the rent in the same manner with the sallary and collect it from the heritors."

It was not till two years after this that they took thought of putting up a regular schoolhouse. "Finding that no schoolhouse has ever been built at Hutton the meeting agree," it is said, "that one will be built and estimates got in so that the work may be got executed in spring. Meantime the meeting agree to put a temporary window in Mundal's house and make it water-tight." This new schoolhouse was to be 45 feet long, 15 feet wide, and was to include some accommodation for the teacher; the "timber was to be of oak or foreign," and it was "to be covered with flags from Corncockle." But unhappily for progress in educational matters when the estimates, £130 in full, came in, and were considered next July, it was found to be "considerably above what was proposed to be done," so that the plan was altered, and the tradesmen directed to estimate anew. I can find no trace of this new plan, nor of the cost of it; but that it was executed is proved by the fact that in June next year the heritors inspected the new schoolhouse, and ordered "the master's apartment to be lathed and plastered." The teacher's salary at this period was £8 6s 8d, increased from £5 a few years before, and he was appointed yearly, and removable at the will of the heritors. Corrie was better off, having been endowed in 1727 with £280 for educational purposes, and having been twice endowed since.

We cannot wonder in the circumstances described that from 1786 till 1803 no less than five teachers held office in Hutton. One of these voluntarily demitted office, and another was turned away "for closing the school three or four months during hay and harvest." His excuse for doing so was that "the salary did not give him encouragement to attend school for a longer portion of the year." It is also no wonder that delinquents before the Kirk-session, on being interrogated whether they could sign their names, often answered "no." There has been an emphatic advance from then till now. But it has been said that there is no unmixed good; and has not the growth of education by turning the people's minds on other subjects caused them to forget their old legendary lore, their fine old superstitions, their old saws, the old nursery rhymes their mothers sang to them, old world stories of fierce love and strife, and the ghost stories they told to each other by the evening fire till their flesh crept and sleep fled their pillows. There is always loss where there is gain. The scientific spirit is spreading among the very children. A child in this parish asked his aunt one day, "Who made the flowers?" "Ye must ask the minister that," she said, speaking solemnly, but his younger brother was by, and, equal to the occasion, the minister's services were not required. "Howt, man, they grow!" he cried decisively, and, one can think, with the air of a philosopher. This rationalist was about five years old—the youngest I ever knew. I doubt if a single person in this parish to-day believes in a *bona-fide* ghost. Yet not long ago I came upon a fragment of the old philosophy—who will have the courage to rise up and condemn it? An aged man heard a "rap" on his door the night before his son died—the same as Adam Bede heard while he was making the coffin, and his father was drowning in the brook—and knew what it meant. Again, his daughters heard a sudden crack in their bedroom "like the breaking of sticks," and next morning Jenny Graham, their neighbour, was dead. My old friend has cast overboard his belief in ghosts as unscientific, but he still retains his faith in "raps," for which, I am sure, all right-minded persons will thank him.

We have seen that at the beginning of the century the parishioners of Hutton and Corrie, like other people throughout Scotland I suppose, were living principally on oatmeal, and had a hard struggle to get it. At that time the oatmeal barrel held the

place of honour in and was regarded as the "treasure chest" of the poor man's dwelling; to keep it well plenished was the object of his life. An acquaintance of my youth, a single woman, stalwart and independent, used to say that she sometimes would give a tramp "a piece," but she never allowed him to come between her and the barrel. It was to have always something in it that she bent her back, and straddled among the furrows, and tore through the yellow harvest, and brought the sweat on her sun-browned face through the toilsome days. Another acquaintance of mine once said, "The 'Quality' may tak' tea if they like, but workin' folk maun hae porridge." It used to be told by Carlyle that James Mill, the utilitarian philosopher, father of the more famous John, and by birth an Aberdonian, took a craving in his old days for oatmeal. This, in London, where the said James was living, was ill to obtain. It occurred to him that Carlyle, who was then also living in London, and who had a supreme contempt for Mill's philosophy, might have it, so he sent to enquire. The meal was forthcoming, with the remark, kindly but grimly made, "It's a gran' thing to see an auld man returning to the foundation o' his being."

Now the old-fashioned "treasure chest" has been pushed into the background in a great measure by the flour bag and the teapot. Fifty or sixty years ago Jess Henderson, who also ran post, brought up most of the "loaf bread" that was used on the Hutton side of the parish on her back once a week. Now it takes five bakers' vans to bring it, and the population has decreased. When "Old Macmaa," one of the famous characters of Hutton, about whom a predecessor of mine, Mr Wright, wrote a ballad, was on his last legs (it was in the twenties, and Macmaa was near a hundred), he was in the habit of getting a glass of toddy and half a slice of bread as a cordial. Sometimes he would leave a morsel of the bread, and his grandchildren would rush for it as for the rarest dainty. But it is allowable to question whether here, as in educational matters, there has not been loss as well as gain. The old school of French peasantry, I believe, are finding out that the better living and better education which their sons enjoy unsteady them at the plough; and one can understand well enough how it may be so. For man is affected fundamentally, even in his moral nature, by the amount and quality of his food supply; he is influenced probably far more than we imagine through the

palate. An American man of genius has written :—"I have been thrilled to think that I owed a mental perception to the commonly gross sense of taste (a *mental perception* mind), that I have been inspired through the palate, that some berries which I had eaten on a hillside has fed my genius." Therefore it is to be hoped that some learned member of this Society will write a paper on the philosophy of foods—we have already got the science of foods; we now want the philosophy. The subject is a vast one, and, so far as I know, it has the advantage—a great one to a writer—of being as yet untouched.

No change during the century has been more marked here—as, of course, elsewhere—than that in the means of locomotion. Less than a hundred years ago everybody in the parish walked or rode, except a favoured few, ladies mostly, who were taken about the country in covered carts. The late shoemaker, Archibald Sanders, walked twice a year over the hills to Carlisle, carrying money in his pocket to pay his leather merchant. The Rev. Mr Wright, of the Manse here, referred to already, kept such a cart, and it used to go on long journeys on the long summer days to the north of England, where his wife's relations lived. Now the multitude drives; it is the favoured few who walk. The first gig came into this parish in 1825, from Edinburgh, to Mr Graham of Shaw, and his Edinburgh friend writing to him about it says :—"I received your letter yesterday, and I have now closed a bargain for the gig complete at £50. The maker warrants it for six months, so that if anything goes wrong with it during that period let me know, and I shall be at him." When I came to the parish, twenty years ago, the era of walking had not quite closed. Shepherds and ploughmen—shepherds especially—and their families all did their journeys on foot. But now (I speak of the Hutton side of the parish) waggonettes come up for them once a week, and on fair days, and term days, and holidays, and all days, in short, on which there is a stir. Is it not an illustration in a small way of a process which some philosophers say is going on everywhere, in so many forms, yet so unthought of, called "the arrest of the body"—a step in the natural evolution of man? In connection with it one is tempted to ask, "Will human legs be as serviceable at the end of next century as they are at the end of this one?"

The peat harvest, which used to be a kind of carnival in the spring days here, has also departed. In these days the mosses

became populous with busy workers, and at the dinner hour I have been told, when "the piece" had been eaten or the milk and sowens supped, there was sometimes a good deal of "daffin'." The old Laird of Shaw, the man who bought the first gig, told a worker, Jean of Barnsdale, one day that her peats were ill shaped, whereupon Jean was at the pains to instruct him, "Theyr'e no cuissen for their shape, laird; theyr'e cuissen to burn." Coals were to be got no nearer than Annan, and it was only the lairds and better class of farmers who ever thought of burning them. Smithy coals were brought from so far away a place as Carlisle by the farmers in turn, as part payment of their accounts. Another form of payment to the blacksmith was that of giving corn—"sharping corn," as it was called—five stooks for keeping the plough irons of a pair of horses going for a year. Our present blacksmith's father had it to the last. He died 33 years ago; he was probably the last blacksmith in Scotland who received this form of payment. It is one of the innumerable illustrations, which are quickly being forgotten, of the former scarcity of money.

There has also been a great change and improvement in the farming of land. There is an old couplet that runs—

> There lies in Corriehill between the wet and the dry
> As much gold as Corrie parish could buy.

The author of that interesting volume "The Bard and the Belted Knight" calls attention to this, and he says the gold has been discovered. The late Mr Jardine of Corrie and his factor, Mr Glover, discovered it in the form of a rich layer of clay, and took it up, and turned it into tiles, with which they dried the land. There has, finally, been a change in the dwellings of the people, a change which may be described generally as that from thatch to slate. The cottages are for the most part well built; and inside, for order, brightness, comfort, and good taste, they stand second to none in Scotland.

As this is no antiquarian paper in the proper sense of the word, no distinct contribution to antiquarian knowledge, I may be pardoned for finishing with a bit of poetry. It touches in its great way upon what I have been touching on in my small way, change:—

> Nothing can be as it has been before;
> Better, so call it, only not the same.
> To draw one beauty into our heart's core,

And keep it changeless ! such our claim ;
So answered—Never more !

Simple ? Why this is the old woe o' the world ;
Tune, to whose rise and fall we live and die,
Rise with it, then ! Rejoice that man is hurled
From change to change unceasingly,
His soul's wings never furled !

Mr J. A. Moodie moved a vote of thanks to Mr Rain for his exceedingly interesting and very fresh and able paper, which bristled with good things. He thought that Mr Rain seemed to somewhat regret the disappearance of some of the surroundings, habits, and customs of the people of the beginning of the century, but the paper itself showed that the changes, especially in education, had been entirely for the benefit of the people.

Mr W. Dickie seconded the vote of thanks, and said that the high prices of oats, &c., must be regarded as exceptional, occurring as they did during the years of the great war. He related the experience of an old lady whom he knew, now over 100 years of age, who in her girlhood had purchased a stone of oatmeal for 10s 6d, and so scarce was it that she found it difficult to procure it even at that price.

Mr J. S. Thomson called attention to the statement of a church having existed within the camp at Carterton, and said it might indicate that the camp was not Roman, but Romano-British.

Dr Maxwell Ross pointed out that the church referred to by Mr Rain was mediæval, and later than the camp.

Mr Barbour stated that the church found at Ardoch, which was undoubtedly a Roman camp, was much later than the camp, being 13th century, and in all probability the camp and church at Carterton would be similarly related, the church being built on a part of the camp site. He also referred to the state of the poor and vagrancy in the early part of the century, and pointed out that many vagrants were welcomed at farm houses because of the news they brought.

The Chairman, in closing the discussion, regretted the rapid loss of tradition and folklore, due to the removals of old tenant farmers and shepherds.

2. *Description of an Underground Dwelling, commonly called a Pict's House, at Pitcur, near Cupar-Angus.*

By Rev. Wm. Andson.

By way of introduction to this paper, I may mention the occasion which led to its being written. Last summer I went to the town of Blairgowrie, in Perthshire, during the holiday season, and spent a fortnight there. One of the ministers in the town, the Rev. Malcolm White, who takes a great interest in antiquarian research, kindly invited me to accompany him on a visit to some places in the neighbourhood where there were objects of this kind to be seen. Among other places he took me to what he called a cave-dwelling at Pitcur, about two miles or so from Cupar-Angus, and a little off the road between that town and Dundee. In order to reach the place we had to cross a turnip field, on the farther side of which there was a part slightly raised above the level of the field and covered with turf. On arriving at the spot we came upon an opening at a lower level, on entering which we found ourselves in a regularly built gallery constructed of large blocks or boulders of undressed and uncemented stone, about six feet wide at the bottom or floor and half-way up, but narrowing towards the roof, and not less than six feet high. The roof was formed by large slabs of stone laid across. The side walls were vertical for the first three feet from the floor, and then inclined inwards with a curve by the gradual overlapping of the stones towards the centre, so that the width at the top where the roofing stones were placed would not be more than about four feet. There was no regular arch. The arch seems to have been unknown to the constructors of these dwellings, but a kind of rude and imperfect arch formed in the way I have described. On the right hand wall at the entrance there was a recess cut into the stone about six or seven inches deep, and about two feet wide, and two feet or a little higher. What the design of this was my friend could not say. It could not be a fireplace, for there was no opening for smoke to escape by, and it was too small for a press or repository of any kind. My own opinion, after reading the descriptions of several similar buildings in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, is that it must have been intended to receive the slab which closed the entrance to the gallery when it was opened for the admission of those to whom the structure belonged. But in

that case the entrance, or door as we may call it, must have been of very limited dimensions, as it usually was, indeed, in buildings of the kind, and probably concealed, being six or seven feet below the level of the ground. But there was this difference between the building at Pitcur and a good many others which have been figured and described, that the gallery was not low in height for a certain distance from the entrance, and only gradually increased as you advanced inwards, but as soon as entrance was obtained you could stand upright and walk along with a height of fully six feet. As far as I could judge, the entrance was in the south side, and the gallery extended from west, or a little to the north of west, not in a straight line towards east, but by a gentle curve towards south-east and south. This is one of the peculiarities in buildings of the kind that have been explored, that they hardly ever proceed in a straight line, but are almost invariably curved, and for the most part terminate in chambers of greater width and height than the galleries which lead to them, and in some cases have smaller chambers branching off from the sides. In the one at Pitcur, however, I did not observe any arrangement of this kind, and whether it widened out towards the extreme end could not be ascertained, as it had not been fully opened up. There was no perceptible widening as far as we were able to proceed, which would be a distance of 40 or 45 feet. There was another peculiarity of which notice should be taken. One of the large boulders on the left-hand side, which constituted part of the wall of the gallery, was found to be covered with the cup and ring markings which are not uncommon on the boulders of stone circles, or other earth-fast boulders, or on the face of rocks. These cup and ring markings, the origin and purpose of which constitute one of the unsolved problems of archæology, are of frequent occurrence in this country, and are not confined to Britain, but are found also in Scandinavia, in France, in Switzerland, and in Germany. There was no evidence to show whether the markings on the one found in the subterranean building at Pitcur had been made upon it after it was built into the structure or whether they existed upon it before it was used for this purpose. The latter, I think, is the more probable conjecture, inasmuch as there is reason to believe that the cup and ring markings are of greater antiquity than the earth houses of which the one at Pitcur is an example. Dr Anderson, of the

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, in his book on Scotland in Pagan times, gives it as his opinion that they appear on the continent in associations which refer them to the bronze age at least, which means, of course, that they may possibly be older; while he says at the same time that they also occur in associations which show that the custom survived to the late iron age, and even in a modified form to Christian times. Old customs are often very persistent, and not unfrequently are found to survive long after their origin and design have been forgotten or lost sight of. At all events, in our modern times we seem to have been left without any clue to the purpose or significance of these cup and ring markings.

I inquired whether any relics had been found in the Pitcur gallery which would tend to show to what age or period it belonged, and for what purpose or purposes it had been used. But as far as I could ascertain the only relics found in it were some fragments of the red lustrous ware commonly called Samian, which are frequently found on the sites of Roman settlements, and the presence of which is held to indicate some degree of contact with the effects of Roman occupation. It is to be remembered, however, that the subterranean building in question had not been fully opened up. If this had been done it is not improbable, to say the least, that it might have been found, like most of the other buildings of a similar kind, to terminate in a wider chamber, and that other relics of occupation might have been discovered tending to throw light both on the period to which it belonged and on the uses to which it was put. In order, therefore, to get some fuller information on these points it is necessary to refer to other examples of similar underground buildings which have been fully explored, and to the relics which were found in them. The area in which they are found, according to Dr Anderson, of the Scottish Society, extends from Berwickshire to the Shetland Islands, but they are most numerous north of the Forth and on the eastern side of the country, as in Forfarshire, Aberdeenshire, Sutherland, and Caithness. This was the region understood to have been occupied by the Picts, and hence they are traditionally called Picts' houses, and are so named in the Ordnance Survey maps.

The name Picts seems to have come from the Romans, and is supposed to have been applied by them to the ancient inhabitants of Britain generally, as descriptive of their habit of tattooing

their bodies or of painting them with a dye extracted from wood. But in proportion as the Roman occupation led to the disuse of this practice in Southern Britain and in the southern portions of Scotland which came under its influence, it came to be applied more specially to the inhabitants beyond the northern wall which were never thoroughly conquered by the Romans. It may be questioned whether the northern tribes called themselves by this name. Indeed it does not seem the least likely that they would call themselves painted people. But it is constantly used by Latin writers in subsequent times to describe them, and in this way came to be the cognomen by which they were known. There is another explanation, however, which is not without probability. There is a book in our library—presented two or three years ago by the author, Mr D. Macritchie—called the "Testimony of Tradition," in which he maintains that the proper name of these people is Pechts or Pehts, which means dwarfs or little men. And he traces the name of the Pentland Hills south of Edinburgh, and of the Pentland Firth, which divides the mainland from the Orkney Islands, to these people, Pentland being simply a corruption of Pecht or Pehtland. And Professor Rhys, in his book on Celtic Britain, expresses the same opinion. This suggests a different explanation of the origin of the name given to these tribes by the Romans. It may have been only a Latinised form of the name they gave themselves—Pechti or Picti. Dr Anderson, in his book on "Scotland in Pagan Times," does not acquiesce in the propriety of the name of Picts' houses being given to the kind of buildings we are considering on the ground that there is nothing about them to connect them with any particular race; but that they ought to be called "earth houses," as descriptive of their peculiarity as buildings under the surface of the ground. But there is perhaps something to be said in favour of the name they have commonly received when it is remembered that they are chiefly, if not exclusively, found in the region which was known to have been occupied by the Picts.

Passing from this point, I shall now refer to the kind of remains that have been found in other buildings of the kind which have been discovered and explored, and here I take my information from Dr Anderson's book on "Scotland in Pagan Times," in which a good many of them are figured and described. In almost all of them there were relics of occupation in the form of calcined ashes and fragments of the bones of animals, chiefly

of the domestic kind, and in some cases of deer (evidences of cooking), and in a good many there were, in addition, querns, whorls, stone cups, coarse pottery, sometimes, but more rarely as at Pitcur, a fragment of Samian ware, and in a good many cases articles of bronze and fragments of iron, so corroded as hardly to show the purpose for which they were used. From these indications Dr Anderson infers that the period to which they belong is that of the iron age, and subsequent to the Roman occupation; but still in Pagan times, none of them having yielded any indications of the influence of Christianity. He is of opinion also that they were adjuncts of houses on the surface of the ground, of which there is some evidence in a few cases, although for the most part these upper houses, built probably of very frail materials, have entirely disappeared through the lapse of time and the progress of cultivation. That they were occupied at times as dwellings is apparent from the remains that have been found in them, although from the lack of light and ventilation they seem little adapted for this purpose. But it by no means follows from this that they were constantly occupied, or that they were the only or permanent dwellings of the people. The most probable conclusion is that they were used as refuges or hiding places in times of danger from the invasion of foes, or from the assaults of plundering marauders in the rude and troublesome times to which they belonged, or what is not less likely, for the concealment and protection of their stores of provisions or other valuables. Dr Anderson adds that they occasionally occur in groups, as at Airlie, in Forfarshire, where there is a group of five. And there is a still more remarkable group spread over a space of a mile in diameter at Kildrummie, in Aberdeenshire. These were brought under the notice of the Society of Antiquaries in 1816 by Professor Stuart, of Aberdeen, who says that the only opening to them was between two large stones placed in a sloping direction at one end, and about 18 inches asunder. Through this narrow opening one must slide down to the depth of 5 or 6 feet, when he comes to a vault, generally about 6 feet high, 30 feet long, and 8 or 9 feet wide, and resembling in other respects the examples of similar structures. But I mention this one in particular because, as Professor Stuart goes on to say, many of them were detected by the existence close to them of a square space 10 to 15 paces each way, dug a foot or more deep, with the earth

thrown outwards, which he conjectures, rightly I think, to have been the sites of the huts of the people on the surface of the ground, while the underground places were the refuges to which they retreated in times of danger, or when circumstances were such as to render such protection or shelter necessary or desirable. Dr Anderson follows up this instance by saying that it would not be difficult to find in other parts of Scotland, and especially in Aberdeenshire, groups of similar structures, which, though not so numerous or so closely aggregated, are so distributed over wide districts as to show that the custom of constructing them was general and prevalent. Most of the known ones have been discovered accidentally by the plough striking one of the large stones which form the roof. And from this I think it may reasonably be inferred that many more exist, especially in the north-eastern districts, which have never been brought to light. But enough has been discovered to give us an interesting glimpse into the customs and habits of our remote ancestors in the Scotland of Pagan times, which I thought it was not inappropriate to bring under the notice of such a society as ours.

Another example of the name given by the Romans having become the recognised name not of a people but of a place or places, quite different from the names used by the original inhabitants, is to be found in the name of the site of a great battle fought by the Romans against the Picts and Caledonians, who combined to resist the Roman invasion of their territory in the time of Agricola. In the Agricola of Tacitus, this battle is said to have been fought *ad Montem Grampium.* But no such name seems to have been known to the natives. The mountain range, which forms the backbone, as it were, of Scotland, was known in its western part as Drumalbin, and that portion of it which stretches in a north-easterly direction towards Aberdeenshire was known as the Mont or Mount. And it was only after the revival of classical learning that the name of the Grampians began to be given to it on the authority, it is supposed, of Tacitus. And curiously enough a German scholar of comparatively recent times has questioned the accuracy of the reading of *Grampium* in Tacitus, and maintains that it ought to have been *ad montem Graupium.* The authority of Tacitus, however, has been sufficient to perpetuate the name of the Grampians to the range in question, although it was utterly unknown to the Scottish people themselves.

Mr Barbour, architect, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Andson for his interesting paper, which was also illustrated by drawings.

Mr J. S. Thomson, in seconding the motion, expressed the opinion that too little attention had been paid to the existing remains which might throw light on the mode of life of the aboriginal inhabitants of this country, and referred to evidences of earth-dwellings belonging to a remote period which had been discovered in our own district. On one of the hills on Queensberry range there were turned up some years ago hearths and other evidences of rude building under a deposit of some three feet of earth. Then near New-Galloway station two earth-dwellings, of the bee-hive form, were discovered. There was also in Mabie Moss a spot known as the Picts' Knowe; and near Thornhill, on the farm of Burn, he was informed by Mr Robert Service, there was a mound which, if opened, might probably afford valuable information regarding the early inhabitants of the country.

Mr Andson sends us the following note with regard to the concluding paragraph of his paper: Mr Clark, rector of Dumfries Academy, informs me that the later editions of Tacitus have adopted the reading of "Montem Graupium," instead of "Montem Grampium."

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## 11th March, 1898.

Mr James Barbour, V.P., in the Chair.

*New Members.*—Mr A. Ligertwood, Kirkbean; Mr Wallace, Terreglestown.

*Donations.*—(1) By Dr Chinnock, a photograph of the late Mr Galloway, hon. member of the Society; (2) by Rev. Wm. Andson, Celtic Britain, by Ernest Rhys.

*Exhibits.*—Mrs Brown, Barnkin of Craigs, showed *(a)* two original tricolour rosettes of the French Revolution; *(b)* one paper assignat of ten sous value; *(c)* an autograph letter of the Duke of Wellington dated Nov. 3, 1810; *(d)* an autograph letter from Lord Edward Hill dated Sept. 26, 1810.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### 1. *The Wild Animals of Palestine.*

By Mrs BROWN, Barnkin of Craigs.

The wild animals of Palestine are not of a formidable character, neither climate nor condition of the country being suitable for the most dangerous classes. Hyænas were probably the fiercest, but we oftener heard than saw them, for they are almost wholly nocturnal animals. When spending the summer months, as we always did, encamped at some distance from Jerusalem, we often at night heard that strange sound called the hyæna's laugh, and a careful watch was considered necessary over the horses, as hyænas are credited with a love of horse flesh. Wolves were oftener seen by day, but though they would have been well able to give account of themselves if driven to bay, they were not otherwise dangerous. Foxes were common, also jackals. The jackals were really useful. They used to creep into the city at night, through the water courses under the walls, and aid the troops of dogs, which infest all Turkish towns, in their most valuable work as scavengers. What the Jerusalem of those days would have been without the dogs and jackals it is appalling to contemplate. There were also porcupines, though I do not remember ever to have seen one; but we often found their quills lying about. Gazelles were fairly plentiful, and, though extremely shy, not difficult to tame. To a certain point their grace and beauty make them charming pets, but there are drawbacks. We had one which, for a short time, was an immense favourite, but after he had one day breakfasted on a large piece of one of my mother's finest damask tablecloths, and lunched on a packet of important business letters, which my father had placed on a chair while sorting, he was voted a nuisance, and sent away. While I am on the subject of gazelles, I may perhaps be allowed to stray into the frivolity of a sporting story. It is not a Baron Münchhausen, though it has a dramatic completeness worthy of that renowned raconteur. In a country where meat is of execrable quality, a gazelle was a welcome addition to the larder, but a difficult one to secure, the intense clearness of the air, almost abolishing distance, and absence of cover rendering it very difficult to get within range of animals whose senses are so extremely keen. A Roumanian man

servant of ours was very anxious to achieve the distinction of shooting a gazelle, so went out from one of our encampments to try for one. He shrewedly reflected that as it was very difficult to go to the gazelles, it might be better to wait until they came to him. He accordingly chose a convenient olive tree, climbed into it, and sat down to meditate and wait. After a while the gazelles did come, and began to pick up some scanty herbage under this very tree, but the Roumanian's meditations had ended in profound slumber. Meantime another occupant of the camp had also gone out after gazelles, a Turk, who was an excellent shot, and oftener brought one home than anyone else. He had been stalking this very herd, and when they paused under the olive tree was just getting within range. But at that critical moment the slumbering sportsman lost his balance and descended flat on his back among the gazelles he had been so anxiously awaiting. His gun remained in the tree; he consequently could not fire at the flying game, and the Turk could not, because the Roumanian was exactly in the line of fire. But the story had a sequel. The Turk retired in disgust, unobserved; the Roumanian went off in search of better luck, which he met in the shape of some arabs who had shot a gazelle. From them he bought it, and returned to the camp with the airs of a mighty nimrod, graphically describing his long wait, and the arrival of the gazelles, and his successful shot. But just as he was telling his tale the Turk appeared with his version of the story, and the unfortunate Roumanian found himself in the unpleasant position of an exposed imposter.

### *Reptiles.*

It was the reptile and insect class which rendered life in Palestine full of interest, the reptiles especially making camp life exciting. Snakes in Palestine are not dangerous, the larger ones sometimes attained a length of 8 or 9 feet, but were harmless, as also were the smaller ones, which were more objectionable from a tendency they have to creep into beds if they can get a chance. I do not believe anyone knows how quickly he can get out of bed until he has got in to find a lively snake already in possession. We never thought in camp of getting into bed without the clothes being completely thrown back to be sure no reptile was ensconced. Scorpions were plentiful, but not very dangerous. The only case of scorpion sting I ever knew was

that of a lady being stung on the shoulder while dressing. She applied Ipecuanha powder instantly, and though her shoulder was stiff and painful for a day or two she suffered no constitutional disturbance. Scorpions had a way sometimes of getting into your slippers, but you were all right if you remembered to give them a good shake before you put them on. Centipedes were far uglier reptiles, black and yellow atrocities, often 8 to 10 inches long, and, including their countless legs, about the breadth of the blade of a small dinner knife. As to the exact nature of their venom I cannot positively speak. The Arabs declared that if one was on you, and you irritated it, it stuck all its hundred claws into you, and could only then be torn off piecemeal, unless you had patience to wait for a piece of heated metal to run along the back, when it would involuntarily draw back all its claws. But then Arab stories have to be received with caution, as the Arab always tries to tell you something he thinks will interest you, and invents something on the spot if he has nothing true on hand. Lizards abounded in Palestine from the large horney scaled ones of, I believe, the Iguana or Monitor species down to the small ones often seen in this country. Those which I think are foreign to us were geckos and chameleons. The geckos, though harmless, are objectionable, because they infest the houses, and the suckers with which their feet are provided enable them to run about on the ceilings, which always gives you the impression they are going to drop on your head. The chameleons are the most interesting of all the lizard tribe, with their marvellous power of taking the colour of any substance they are on. This is, of course, their special protection, for they are exceedingly slow in movement. The change is not instantaneous, but very complete. One which lived for a long time in a pomegranate tree in our court was bright green, or dark brown, according to whether he was among the foliage or on the trunk of the tree. But the most remarkable change I ever remember seeing was in one we found when out walking, and carried into the city tied up in a white handkerchief. When the handkerchief was opened there was the most ghastly, dirty white creature imaginable, looking as though all his blood had been sucked by a vampire.

*Insects.*

A great many of the insects of Palestine were those familiar to ourselves, such as spiders, beetles, &c. One of the most curious of those not common to us is what is known as the praying mantis, belonging, I believe, to the locust tribe. The way in which it partially sits up on end, and folds its forceps together, exactly like hands clasped in praying, is very curious. The genuine and dreaded locusts were occasional visitors, and when they came in full force it is no exaggeration to say the air was darkened by them. When, during the cloudless summer days of that country, we saw what looked like a long straight bank of cloud lying along the horizon we knew what was before us. The destructiveness of their visitation depended a good deal on the time of year. If they came when the corn was green it was fatal. They would settle down upon a field of rich green corn, and leave it in a few days as brown as though just ploughed. The foliage of fig trees, vines, almond trees, &c., all perished to a greater or lesser extent. The olive alone escaped. They never touched the olive leaves. They would settle down for a few days, sometimes as long as for a week, and then, as if by some preconcerted signal, suddenly rise and depart. Another small insect of the grasshopper tribe abounded. I forget, if I ever knew, its British name. We always used the Italian one "Cicala," that little grasshopper, which in very hot countries keeps up a perpetual humming noise in the trees during the heat of the day—a more drowsy sound it would be impossible to imagine. If any human being can resist the soporific influences of a comfortable hammock slung from the boughs of a thick foliaged tree, the noontide heat, and the monotonous hum of the cicalas all around, his insomnia must be of appalling character. Tarantulas we sometime saw, but not often, and I never heard of anyone being bitten by one. I believe the extent of their venomous capacity has been greatly exaggerated; that it really is not greater than that of a wasp. Flies, of course, were in swarms, and were certainly useful scavengers, but they need not be described. We know what they are. You have only to imagine every common house-fly in Dumfries multiplied by about 10,000, and you have a fair idea of what they are in Palestine. So with mosquitos. Multiply the common midge by about 20,000, his size and

ferocity by about 20, and picture him as lively indoors by night, as without, by day, in Scotland, and you have a very good notion of the mosquito. No human being, at least European, dreamed of sleeping without a net thrown completely over the bed, and carefully tucked in. Woe be to you if a single strand of the net was broken. Although a net fastened to the canopy of the bed, and thrown completely over it, was a pretty wide stretch of country for a mosquito to hunt, he would find that broken strand, and squeeze himself through the small aperture with unerring certainty. After mosquitos come a class of insects of which I positively dread to speak, although they probably score a deeper and more lasting mark on the memory of European visitors to Palestine than all the rest put together. Dismal realities, to which one has become inured in early childhood, soon get their edge blunted, and I might try your nerves too severely. I could tell you facts which would, I am sure, send you shuddering home to sleepless couches haunted by horrible nightmares. There are light and agile insects which are as an arrow that flieth by day. There are others, more dreaded of cleanly British housekeepers, which are a pestilence that walketh in darkness. I will only say that with care you may keep your houses fairly free from the intruder. Were houses there similar to ours, with wooden floors and skirting boards, wall papers, carpets, heavy hangings, &c., I believe your bones would be picked. But in our house, one of the ordinary ones, there was not, I think, a particle of woodwork beyond doors and window-frames. Roofs and floors were of stone or cement, the walls were all whitewashed, floors covered with matting, and upholstery all of light material, with little plaiting or folding. In the summer the bedsteads, all of iron, were taken down every week and laid out for a few hours in the sunlight, at the hottest part of the day. Then all joints and screws were carefully poisoned before they were put up again. In this way a fair amount of freedom from discomfort was secured, and for the rest, as with snakes, scorpions, and other similar inflictions, it is wonderful to see how soon people learn to face an evil they know to be inevitable with a very fair amount of mental tranquility.

## 2. *The Kindly Tenants of the Four Towns of Lochmaben.*

By Rev. J. H. Thomson, Hightae.

The four towns of Lochmaben (said the essayist) are Hightae, the Heck, Greenhill, and Smallholm. They form a large part of the south of the parish. Their occupants are the kindlie tenants of Robert the Bruce. The tradition of the district is that their ancestors were originally the followers who kept by King Robert the Bruce during his long struggles against the English invader until after the battle of Bannockburn, and that the lands of the Four Towns were conferred upon them by him as a reward for their faithful services.

"Kindly," or "kindlie tenants," is explained by Jamieson in his dictionary as a designation given to those tenants whose ancestors have long resided on the same lands; but this explanation does not tell why "kindlie" rather than some other epithet more descriptive of their long services should not have been used. Jamieson has "kindlie" not only as an adjective but as a substantive, and his explanation is—"A man is said to have been kindlie to a farm or possession which his ancestors have held, and which he has himself long tenanted."

Since Jamieson's time it has been held that "kindlie" is allied to our Anglo-Saxon word "kin," and that it denotes a relation by consanguinity or affinity to the person that first gave the land; thus the kindlie tenants would be the far-off or the poorer relations of King Robert the Bruce. But of this relationship we have no positive evidence.

There is no manner of doubt, however, that the ancestors of the kindly tenants have held their lands from a remote period. What was the original number of the kindly tenants there are no written documents to tell. About the beginning of the century, it is said, there were upwards of seventy of them, but originally they must have been far more numerous in order to have given the effective service that the grant of the lands supposes them to have rendered. In the present day their number is not more than forty.

Sir Walter Scott, in his "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border," first published in 1802, has a note to the ballad of the Lochmaben Harper in which he gives an account of the kindlie tenants. He had evidently taken pains to inform himself about

the matter. He gives as his main authority the MSS. of Mr Syme, Writer to the Signet, but the whole note looks like as if he had, according to his practice before writing his novels, visited and made himself well acquainted with the whole district. And it must be remembered that Sir Walter Scott was a learned lawyer. The note is therefore of special interest:—"I cannot leave the subject of Lochmaben without noticing an extraordinary and anomalous class of landed proprietors who dwell in the neighbourhood of that burgh. These are the inhabitants of four small villages, near the ancient castle, called the Four Towns of Lochmaben. They themselves are termed the King's rentallers, or kindly tenants, under which denomination each of them has a right of an allodial nature to a small piece of ground. It is said that these people are the descendants of Robert Bruce's menials, to whom he assigned, in reward of their faithful service, these portions of land, burdened only with the payment of certain quit rents and grassums, or fines upon the entry of a new tenant. The right of the rentallers is in essence a right of property, but in form only a right of lease, of which they appeal for the foundation to the rent-rolls of the lord of the castle and manor. This possession by rental, or by simple entry upon the rent-roll, was anciently a common and peculiarly sacred species of property, granted by a chief to his faithful followers, the connection of landlord and tenant being esteemed of a nature too necessary to be formal where there was honour on the one side and gratitude upon the other. But, in the case of subjects granting a right of this kind, it was held to expire with the life of the granter, unless his heir chose to renew it, and also upon the death of the rentaller himself, unless especially granted to his heirs, by which only his first was understood. Hence in modern days the kindly tenants have entirely disappeared from the land. Fortunately for the inhabitants of the Four Towns of Lochmaben, the maxim, that the King can never die, prevents their right of of property from reverting to the Crown."

Sir Walter Scott says that the tradition is that the kindlie tenants are the descendants of King Robert the Bruce's menials. I have not heard of this tradition in the district, but I certainly have heard that they were the followers. And this form of the tradition is more likely to be true from the large number that there must at first have been of the kindly tenants. As might be expected, the right of the kindly tenants to occupy their lands

has been repeatedly contested. The keepers of the Castle of Lochmaben from at least the sixteenth century down to the Earl of Mansfield in 1810 have made various attempts to dispossess them of their lands or infringe upon their rights, but the rentallers by appeal to the King or by the decision of the Court of Session have ultimately succeeded in maintaining their position and privileges as the King's kindlie tenants of the Four Towns of Lochmaben.

I should now give some account of these attempts and their successful resistance. Perhaps the best way to do so is to read a part of a paper submitted to the Court of Session in the early part of last century, in which the Four Towns were defenders against Viscount Stormont :—

"The lands of Hitae, Smalholm, Heck, and Greenhill, commonly called the Four Towns of Lochmaben, in county Dumfries, being part of the property of the Crown, have been time out of mind possessed by the respondents and their ancestors, as kindly, irremovable tenants; and they have been acknowledged as such by the Crown in ancient times, and in different reigns by the Parliament itself, both in a legislative and judicative capacity, and by the former constables or keepers of his Majesty's Castle of Lochmaben, who under that title only, and not as proprietors, levied the rents of the lands in question, which were appropriated for the support of the Castle. The keepers of this Castle did early impose hardships and endeavour to levy exactions upon the tenants which gave rise to several complaints to the Crown. By a petition and complaint to King James the Sixth of Scotland, the tenants of said lands complained that, notwithstanding of their being kindly tenants and occupiers of his Majesty's farm lands, and tenandry assigned to his Majesty's house of Lochmaben, they were wracked and spoiled by thieves and extortioned by the constable of the Castle of Lochmaben, &c. Whereupon his Majesty by his sign manual (12th June, 1592) ordered the keeper of the Castle of Lochmaben to desist and cease from molesting, troubling, or using of any violence against those his tenants, and to suffer and permit them peaceably to occupy their possession, as they the keepers should answer to his Majesty upon their disobedience. By another sign manual, bearing that his Majesty, understanding that his poor tenantry of his proper lands of Hitae, &c., are and had been greatly oppressed, and particularly by the constables and keepers

of the Castle of Lochmaben, and compelled to pay several duties and do services which they and their predecessors were never in use to pay or do in time past; therefore his Majesty strictly commands the constables of the said Castle, present and to come, that they in no manner of way burden or charge his said tenants and inhabitants of his said proper towns and lands to pay any duty, or do any service, further than they and their predecessors were in use to pay or do in time past."

Here there is a blank in the paper that would have held about a dozen of lines. All that remains is the opening line, which shows that it was intended to give an account of an attempt made to dispossess the kindly tenants after the restoration of King Charles II. In the Inventory of Writes pertaining to the King's kindly tenants of the Four towns left 2nd Dec., 1735, in the hands of William Johnstone, writer in Edinburgh, to defend the said tenants against a process at the instance of the magistrates of Lochmaben in the Court of Session, there is said to be "Signature by King Charles the 2nd in favours of the saids kindly tenants dated the last of June, 1664, ratifying the above signed manuals. This is superscribed by the King, and a doquet signed by his Majesty's Secretary, the Earl of Lauderdale." These "writes," as they are called, are now in the safe keeping of the Register House, Edinburgh. The paper proceeds—

"That the Earl of Annandale, keeper of the said castle, having settled the rents of the said lands in way of jointure to his lady, which, without consent of the Crown, he could not lawfully have done, she and the Viscount of Stormont, her second husband, applied to Parliament, and obtained an order or decree, decreeting the tenants to pay their rents to her (A.D., 1667)."

A new valuation was made in the lands in the county of Dumfries by the Commissioners of the land tax, whereby the respondents' interest, which had never been taxed before, was rated on account of their being kindly tenants and irremovable at one-fourth more than the appellant's, viz., at 2400 merks, and the appellant's only at 1800 merks.

From that time downward to the year 1692, the respondents and their ancestors, to prevent distress upon their lands, paid the whole land tax, and got allowance of the appellant's proportion in discharge of their rents; but from that period the appellant's father refused to make the respondents such allowance, and threatened to remove them from their possessions if they did

not submit to the payment of the whole, which at last obliged the respondents to bring their action before the Court of Session against the appellant's father to recover payment of his part of the land tax so paid by them—in the first place for declaring their immunity from paying his proportion of that tax for the future, and that they were the Crown's irremovable tenants.

Pending this suit the appellant's father brought cross action for removing the respondents from their possessions, and having it declared that they were removable at pleasure.

The respondents insisted that they were the Crown's irremovable tenants properly to the lands, that they could not be removed, and might dispone their right to extraneous persons, subject only to pay their rents to the appellant, according to ancient usage, that they had possessed immemorably, that their right has been acknowledged by the several orders from the Crown above recited, and that their ancestors and purchasers from them had been from time to time admitted and enrolled in the Court books of the appellant, and of those under whose rights he claims.

The Court of Session decreed that the appellant should relieve the respondents of his proportion of the land tax from the time this suit was commenced, but absolved him from prior payments in regard the respondents had voluntarily submitted to them. And upon the question of right (24th Nov., 1726, 1st interlocutor appealed against) the Lords by their interlocutor found that the pursuers of the said declarator (*i.e.*, the respondents' plaintiffs in the action of declarator) had such a right.

Against this interlocutor the appellant's father preferred a petition, and the respondents put in answers (27th Dec., 1726, 2nd interlocutor appealed against).

The Lords by their interlocutor found that the pursuers of the declarator have such a right in the lands that they cannot be removed, and may dispone their right to extraneous persons.

Against which interlocutor this appeal is brought, but the respondents humbly hope the same shall be affirmed for this amongst other reasons :—

1st. For that the respondents and their ancestors have enjoyed their possessions by this tenure of kindly, irremovable tenants of the Crown, time out of mind, and long before charters or feoffments were in use in Scotland.

2nd. For that their right to possess their lands without being removed has been constantly acknowledged by the Crown.

3rd. For that the respondents' ancestors and purchasers from them have always been admitted and enrolled in the Court books of the manor without the least objection to their title.

4th. For that on account of their being irremovable tenants they have been rated to the land tax, which could not have been done if they had been ordinary movable tenants.

*Objection 1st.*—That all rights of property in Scotland are constituted either by charter, infeoffment, or leases, at least by some title in writing, whereas the respondents have no such title under which they can claim.

*Answer.*—Here the appellant seems to mistake the point of law. In the earliest times proprietors of lands had no titles in writing, but their rights were known and ascertained by their possessions and enrolment in the King's Courts, or in the Courts of the other over Lords, and when the estate descended to an heir, or was transmitted to a purchaser, the title of the ancestor or author was cognosced by a jury, and the verdict of that jury gave them a full right. That although since the feudal law was fully adopted into the law of Scotland, titles have generally been constituted by writings. It affords no objection against the respondents, whose right is more ancient than that period of the law of Scotland, and there yet remain other ancient rights of the same kind, such as the udal rights in Orkney, where there are no titles in writing, but lands are by possession only transmitted from father to son ; the titles of the tenants or rentallers of the Bishopric of Glasgow, of the Monastery of Paisley, and of those who hold under the keepers of the King's Castles of Dumbarton and Stirling, were of the same nature till of late ; and several of the Bishop's tythes are held and enjoyed upon no other foot to this day.

*Objection 2nd.*—That the property of the lands in question belonged to the Lord Maxwell, and, by his forfeiture, did return to the Crown ; were afterward dissolved from the Crown and granted to George, Earl of Dunbar, who surrendered the same in favour of the Earl of Annandale, from whom the appellant's title proceeds.

*Answer.*—It is denied that the lands in question ever belonged in property to Lord Maxwell, or that they came to the Crown by his forfeiture. They remained perpetually with the Crown, as the Crown's own property, and the respondents' ancestors continued still the Crown's kindly, irremovable tenants. The

heritable right of keeping the castle did indeed belong to Lord Maxwell's family, and by his forfeiture did return to the Crown, and was afterward granted to the Earl of Annandale, which appears by the appellant's own title. Particularly by the Lord Maxwell service as heir to the ancestors, by which he is retoured heritable keeper of the castle, but not proprietor of the lands in question.

*Objection 3rd.*—That the Earl of Annandale, the appellant, obtained a decree of removing against some of the tenants in question, *anno* 1613, and another decree of the same kind, *anno* 1634, which is an evidence that the tenants were not irremovable.

*Answer.*—These decrees were obtained in absence, and by default against some inhabitants of the town of Lochmaben, the nature of whose rights and possessions is not known. But against none of the respondents' ancestors; and as these decrees were obtained only in default, they never took any effect; and they were part of the encroachments which gave rise to the several complaints made to the Crown.

*Objection 4th.*—That the appellant's father obtained another decree of removing against several of the tenants, *anno* 1665, to which action they appeared by their counsel.

*Answer.*—This appears to have been only a collusive action brought by the Viscount of Stormont to turn the Earl of Annandale out of possession of the rents, for although at first there was an appearance of arguing for some of the tenants, yet so soon as the Earl of Annandale made himself party to the suit, the counsel, who pretended to appear for the tenants, withdrew their appearance, and desired that judgment might be given as in default; and immediately after, the Viscount, to quiet them, granted an obligation to the tenants never to remove them or their heirs, and so this decree took no further effect, and is now barred by prescription. Nor has any decree obtained in default the least effect, after the parties appear and plead upon their rights, as the respondents have now done.

*Objection 5th*—That by Act of Parliament James VI. par. 11, chap. 69 (Scots Acts, p. 569), it is declared that rentals set by the King of Lands belonging to him in property, excepting feu rentals set to them and their heirs, shall be of no further effect than a naked life-rent, and that after the rentaller's death the King may dispose of their possession.

*Answer.*—The Act of Parliament has no relation to this case.

It concerns rentals or written leases intended to be granted by the Crown after that to rentallers without expressing heirs. These are declared to be only rights for life; but the respondents' tenures are much more ancient. The right of the heirs has been acknowledged by the Crown in the several deeds above recited, and particularly by the sign-manual, *anno* 1664, and though the appellant pretends this sign-manual was stopt in Exchequer, that does no way appear, nor could it possibly be true, seeing such a sign-manual is not a writing of that nature which required its being passed in Exchequer, but had its full effect by the King's subscription. That as late as the year 1692, when a question arose between the appellant's father and the respondents concerning their being subject to the land tax, the appellants insisted that they were irremovable tenants, and ought to be taxed on that account, whereby he acknowledged them to be such as they now plead.

*Objection 6th.*—That *anno* 1690 the tenants obtained an order of Parliament directing the commissioners of the land tax to take off their assessment because they were only tenants, and if that order has had no effect the respondents have themselves to blame.

*Answer*—The order was just notwithstanding of there being irremovable tenants, since it is not the tenants but the proprietors who are to pay the land tax. Nevertheless that order has had no effect, but the tenants have still been assessed; the appellant's father insisted they should be assessed, and he prevailed, for by that decree it is adjudged that they should bear a proportion of the land tax, according to the assessment made in *anno* 1667.

This able defence prevailed with the Court, and the case was decided in favour of the Four Towns. Since this decision their position as kindly irremovable tenants has been uncontested. In 1810 the Earl of Mansfield raised an action in the Court of Session to secure that the different tenants, when they divided their land into smaller pieces, should have each of these pieces entered in his roll book, but he did not dispute their right to divide their land and transfer its different portions to others.

Sir Walter Scott, in the close of his note already quoted from, says—"The kindly tenants of Lochmaben live, or at least lived till lately, much sequestered from their neighbours, marry among themselves according to the ancient Border custom. You meet

among their writings with such names as John Outbye, Will Inbye, White-fish, Red-fish. . . . Their lands are, in general, neatly enclosed and well cultivated, and they form a contented and industrious little community." What Sir Walter Scott here says of the sequestered state of the kindly tenants and their strange distinctive names is very much a thing of the past. At the beginning of the century handloom weaving was largely the occupation of the people, and it suited very well the possessor of a small piece of land, for in the intervals between one web and another, the plot could be cultivated, but machinery has put an end to handloom weaving, and railways and the increasing attractions of great cities have drawn away not a few of the once kindly tenants, and their portions have been readily bought at the market value by one or other of the surrounding landed proprietors, and Hightae and Greenhill and Smallholm are now much smaller villages than they were in the beginning of the century, when Sir Walter Scott wrote.

In closing I must not omit to notice a privilege of the kindlie tenants —the ease with which their portions may pass from one to another. The seller and the buyer have but to agree about the price, and the buyer pay over the price, and a visit be made to the factor requesting him to put out the seller's name and enter the buyer's name as proprietor in his roll of the kindly tenants, and on a small payment being made, I believe a shilling, the transaction is closed.

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## 15th April, 1898.

Mr Robert Murray, V.P., in the Chair.

*Donations and Exchanges.*—Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, London, 1897; Transactions of the Edinburgh Geological Society, Vol. VII., part 3; Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Vol. IX., part 3; the Scottish Beochs, a Theory of their Destruction, by James Cursiter.

*Exhibit.*—Rev. Mr Andson showed a token of Closeburn Church of date about 1721 marked C K.

## Communication.

### *The Church Bells of Holywood and Kirkmahoe, and the Church and Municipal Bells of Lochmaben. Part 1.*

By Mr James Barbour.

In Dumfriesshire and Galloway, as in nearly every district of Scotland, bell-lore has been neglected, and whether few or many ancient or otherwise interesting bells exist is hardly known. There is danger that valuable material may be lost through delay in promoting appreciation of the subject. In this connection the case of Newabbey may be mentioned. A short time ago a small bell occupied a cleft over the lichgate of the Abbey. The cleft is now vacant; what has become of the bell? Clergymen are generally alive to the desirableness of preserving the old bells of their churches, and it is to be hoped they will endeavour to contribute information to this Society regarding them to be put on record.

In a former communication some account was given of the bells belonging to the town of Dumfries. In the present paper it is proposed to notice those of the adjacent parishes of Holywood, Kirkmahoe, and Lochmaben. Some of these are pre-Reformation bells, others are modern. Of the latter class are the present bell of Kirkmahoe Church and the municipal bell of Lochmaben. The others, consisting of two in Holywood and Lochmaben Churches respectively, belong to the former class; and, besides, these two old bells, now lost, were in use formerly in the church of Kirkmahoe, as evidence to be submitted will show.

Before proceeding to deal with the bells singly I will refer to those of mediæval origin in group, and it will be of advantage to include the two Dumfries bells of the class, one of which, it will be remembered, is extant, but not in use, while the other continues in use in the church, after being recast twice and enlarged, the original inscription being always preserved.

Thus we have in evidence no less than eight mediæval bells in the four parishes, and the first circumstance in connection with them calling for remark relates to their distribution. Invariably the churches had two bells. How far this was the rule in Scotland I do not know, but a number of ancient churches exhibit

double bell-cotes, such as Crossraguel and Jedburgh Abbeys and Rosslyn Chapel, showing that it obtained widely.

In *A Book about Bells*, by the Rev. Geo. S. Tyack, just published, referring to England generally, it is said—"The inventories of Church goods compiled during the reign of Edward VI. prove that three bells at least were the rule even in small parish churches. Two are sometimes found, but scarcely anywhere was there one only." In the border county of Cumberland it was different. That two bells obtained in the churches there, is expressly spoken to by the late Rev. Mr Whitehead, vicar of Lanercost. Referring to the inventories of Church goods before mentioned, he says few Cumberland churches had in 1552 either more or less than two bells. Cumberland and this part of Dumfriesshire therefore show a common practice, and the rule probably prevailed widely in Scotland.

Regarding the constitution of the pairs of bells, I have not observed any reference in the books and papers I perused, and it is fortunate that in the absence of information those of Holywood and Lochmaben remain to illustrate the principles involved. A definite method is exhibited in securing the tuning of the bells to accord one with the other. In each case the bells are equal in weight and in the thickness of the metal. It is the shape apparently which accounts for the variation of the notes given out. One bell is long-waisted ; the other is short in the waist. Illustration is also afforded of the practice of inscribing and otherwise marking the bells of this period. Inscribing appears to have prevailed, as only one blank occurs in the group under notice, and being one of a pair the inscription on its companion may have been intended to apply to both. The inscriptions in three instances include dates ; in three instances they show that the bells were donated and who the donors were, and in a like number of cases the dedication is indicated. The Carliel bell of Dumfries bears the stamp of the founder together with his name, which, however, remains undeciphered. John Adam, whose name encircles one of the Lochmaben bells, stands out in connection with the bells under notice as the solitary ascertained representative of the mediæval bell founder.

Before leaving this part of the subject, reference may appropriately be made to an interesting charter in *The Book of Lincluden* showing the manner of ringing the bells. It was granted by the Provost and Chapter of the Collegiate Church in

favour of Cuthbert Kar of certain lands, "To hold," as it is expressed, "of the said Mr Cuthbert Kar, his heirs and assignees, in few ferme, heritably, of the granters and their successors, for the yearly rent of 6s 8d, payable to them; and also 10s yearly to the prebendars or chaplains of the said church at the two usual terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas, by equal portions, for causing the bell to be rung nightly about the eighth hour, for the space of one quarter of an hour, or thereby, vulgarly called 'the aucht houris bell,' in all time coming, with three strokes at the end, so that between each stroke there may be said a Pater Noster, Ave Maria, and Credo in Deum, for the souls of all and sundry predecessors, founders, and all others dead and living."

*Holywood Bells.*

These originally belonged to the ancient Abbey of Holywood, the chancel of which remained standing in the south-east corner of the present churchyard, serving as the Parish Church until 1788, when it was taken down to furnish material for the erection of the existing fabric. The Riddle MS. contains a drawing of it, and an engraving appears in Cardonell's *Antiquities of Scotland.* A double belfry is represented surmounting the east gable, and supporting the bells, one in each bay. After transference to the new building, if tradition is to be relied on, the bells, with the then belfry surmounting the church tower, were wrecked during a storm. For a long time they have occupied the present bell-chamber, one being used as the call bell for summoning the congregation, the other, sometimes called the "dead bell," is rung at funerals.

The former is a short-waisted bell measuring 17½ inches in diameter at the mouth and 10 at the shoulder, 14 inches in height, and 1¼ inch thick at the sound-bow; estimated weight, 1 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lbs.; note, A flat; a good bell of ordinary design, and inscribed round the shoulder. The latter bell is long-waisted, and measures 16½ inches in diameter at the mouth and 10 at the shoulder, 15 inches in height, and 1¼ inch thick at the sound-bow; estimated weight, 1 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lbs.; note, C; the design is peculiar, showing an assemblage of five broad, flat, rounded beads under the shoulder and three similar beads over the sound-bow, which, with its elongated shape, gives the bell a quaint and ancient appearance; under the shoulder beading is a shield flanked with initial letters.

The inscription on one bell and the shield and flanking letters on the other are, in relation to their history, of the first importance. Drawings of these, supplied by Dr Claperton, of Lochmaben, without description however, appear in the Riddle MS., but as there represented the inscription is imperfect and the forms of the letters are not given with reliable accuracy. The earliest mention of the bells is contained in Sir John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*, 1791, where it is said—"The present church has two fine bells taken out of the old building, one of which, by an inscription and date on it, appears to have been consecrated by the Abbot John Wrich in the year 1154." This is the reading which has been accepted for upwards of a hundred years. From the first, however, it seems to have been felt to be unsatisfactory, as in an appendix to the *Statistical Account* it is suggested with reference to the Abbot's name, Wrich, that it might be a corruption of Wright. The date also cannot readily be accepted, considering that the oldest dated bell known to exist in England is marked 1296.

In proceeding to decipher the inscription the first stage was to ascertain whether any part of it had become broken or obliterated. It was found to be perfect. The letters may be described as late Lombardic capitals, and the words are separated by spaces, but without punctuation. The inscription, which is prefixed by a Maltese cross, extends quite round the bell, and for want of space probably some of the words are much contracted. To such contractions and peculiarities which some of the letters exhibit is due any difficulties in ascertaining the meaning of the inscription. Of the Abbot's surname the second letter is peculiar, being small old English, and the difference of character as compared with the other letters interfere with a ready recognition of its meaning. It is a well-formed and distinct enough "e." The third letter at first sight appears to resemble the initial "I," but on closer examination it is found to differ in being a little longer, and in having a cleft top. Other peculiarities occurring in the formation of the letters do not raise any difficulty. The inscription runs—+ I WELCH ABBAS SACR[INEMORE] ME FIERI FECIT A D [MILLESIMO] QUI[N]GE[NTESIM]O V. (I. Welch Abbot of Holywod caused me to be made in the year of Our Lord [One thousand] Five Hundred and Five.)

The shield and flanking letters on the long-waisted bell I at first thought might be the bell-founder's stamp and initials of his

name, but after more mature consideration a different conclusion was reached. The shield is charged with a sheveron between three crosses fitchée, the Kennedy arms, and it seemed probable that the flanking letters V. K. might be the initials of William Kennedy. After search I found in the charters of the Abbey of Crossraguel, contained in the Ayrshire and Galloway Archæological Association's publication, mention of William Kennedy, who is described as Abbot of Crossraguel and perpetual commendator of the monastery of Holywood. He was elected Abbot of Crossraguel in 1520, and continued in office until his death in 1547. At what time he became commendator of Holywood is uncertain, but he held the office in 1527. This William Kennedy would appear to be the donor of the Holywood bell bearing his arms and initials.

These bells of Holywood, although not very ancient, are interesting in themselves and in their associations. The Welshes were a prominent Dumfriesshire family, of whom were the celebrated John Welsh of Ayr, and John Welsh of Irongray ; also Jane Welsh of Craigenputtock. Of William Kennedy the editor of the Crossraguel Charters says :—"He had spent it (his life) well in the service of his monastery, his country, his Sovereign, and his Church ; and, in an age when the lives of all the Scottish prelates were not perhaps emblems of perfection, it is notable that not a breath of slander sullied the blameless life of William Kennedy."

Councillor Lennox observed that in Dumfriesshire they were unfortunate in having practically no church antiquities. They had the Ruthwell Cross and a few bells, but these were all, and they might say, as had been said about Lochmaben, "There are no Christians in Dumfriesshire." It seemed as if the men had all been of the fighting strain. They had plenty castle remains and ancient earth works. There were plenty of bells in Kirkcudbrightshire, on the other side of the Border, and in Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, and Berwickshire, but in Dumfriesshire the church architect was extinct. It was important to have the little which remained brought to light, and he hoped Mr Barbour would add to his research and bring notices of other bells before them. (Applause.) He moved a vote of thanks to Mr Barbour.

Rev. Mr Andson, in seconding the motion, stated that they were much obliged to Mr Barbour for his paper, and the very

curious information he had placed before them. It was to be hoped that Mr Barbour would give them the remainder of the information regarding other bells that had not been taken up that night.

The Chairman conveyed the Society's appreciation to Mr Barbour for his valuable contribution, and asked him to prosecute the subject still further at his own convenience, and favour the Society with more information.

Mr Barbour, in returning thanks, remarked that the subject was a large one, and the information regarding it was widely scattered. He would like to see many members of the Society engaged in the work, because otherwise it would not be adequately accomplished. Taking the whole of the bells of Dumfriesshire and Galloway, in all probability there would be a large number very interesting. He thought the clergymen of every parish might do much regarding the expiscation of this subject. He knew that there were many interesting bells in Dumfriesshire and Galloway, and, although some might be termed modern, they had their historical associations. In England this subject had been dealt with in a thorough manner, and many books and papers prepared on them. In the Cumberland and Westmorland Society during the past two years no less than twelve papers had been read on this subject. So far as he knew, only one district of Scotland had been taken up, and consequently he did not think the Society would be doing right to let this matter lie over.

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## 13th May, 1898.

Rev. Mr Andson, V.P., in the Chair.

*New Member.*—Mr James Biggar, Chapelton.

*Donations.*—Memorials of Argyllshire and Chronicles of the Abbey of Elstow, by Mrs Brown, Barnkin of Craigs.

*Exchanges.*—Antiqarisk Tidskrift für Sverige xvi. 4; Kongl. Vitterhets Historie och Antiqitets Akademiens Mänadsblad, 1894; Report of Marlborough College Nat. Hist. Society for 1897; Thirty-first Report of Peabody Museum, Harvard University.

*Exhibits.*—1. Mr T. Hope Bell of Morrinton showed a large and interesting collection of pebbles collected chiefly in Forfar-

shire and Devonshire. 2. Mr James Barbour showed a sheet of the insignia of the town of Dumfries.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

*1. Echoes of the 18th Century.* By Mrs BROWN, Barnkin of Craigs.

These echoes of the 18th century are some of the spoils of an old cupboard in which lie heaped in confusion a mass of papers and letters gathered from the chambers of two lawyers—Mr William Veitch, Writer to the Signet, practising in Edinburgh early in the 18th century; and his son, Mr James Veitch, advocate, better known (at least in legal circles) as Lord Eliock, one of the most distinguished Judges of the latter part of the century. Mr William Veitch was extensively connected with the management of the forfeited estates, after the rising on behalf of the exiled Stuarts in 1715, and was thus brought into close connection with Dumfriesshire and Galloway. It is only necessary to run over the list of names of those taken prisoner, on the surrender of Preston to see how terrible was the havoc worked in this part of Scotland by the failure of that ill-managed enterprise. Among them we find—Lords Nithsdale and Kenmure, Hamilton of Baldoon, Grierson of Lagg, Riddel of Glen Riddel, Maxwell of Steilston, Maxwell of Carnsalloch, Maxwell of Munches, Maxwell of Cowhill, &c. Another name which then disappeared for ever from the list of Dumfriesshire landed proprietors was that of Lord Carnwath, who had inherited the estate of Eliock through, I believe, the marriage of an ancestor with the sister of the Admirable Crichton. Mr Wm. Veitch acted for both Lord Carnwath and his only sister, the heroic wife of Lord Kenmure. Some of their letters to him are very pathetic, telling of the ruin brought upon them by their devotion to the ill-fated House of Stuart. In 1723 Eliock became the property of Mr William Veitch, and on the 10th of September in that year Lord Carnwath writes to him as follows from London :—

Dear William,—I have now had both yours with respect to the sale of my estates, and your descret management of that affair pleases me much, and I am very thankful that you have done that favour for me. I design to leave this place as next

Saturday, and take journey for Scotland upon my own horses, so that I shall soon be in Edinburgh to support what you have done as well as I can. I hope God and a good Providence will assist me to extricate my poor family out of my great difficulties; but such is the situation of my affairs here just now as that I can neither command money nor credit to help any transaction forward, so that I am obliged to draw a bill upon you, three weeks after date (which is this day), which I was unavoidably forced to take here for defraying charges, &c., at Bath, and to carry me down to Scotland. But this I dare venture to say that now three months will make a turn in Colonel Urquhart's affairs, which will make you and me both easy as to all this. I am to be with Mr Walpole to-morrow morning, where I hope to be able to receive some satisfaction upon this subject, so shall say no more till we meet.—I am, dear Sir, your most affectionate humble servant,

Carnwath.

Lady Kenmure, after the death of her husband on Tower Hill, in February, 1716, returned to Scotland. With the aid of friends she succeeded in buying back his estates, and set herself unflinchingly to the task of paying off the debts. In this undertaking she so thoroughly succeeded that when her eldest son came of age she was able to hand them over to him unencumbered. But it must have been a weary struggle, for the following letter to Mr Veitch is only one of many, written in a very clear and beautiful hand, telling the same sad story of perpetual difficulty and anxiety :—

Kenmure, Jany. 9, 1734.

Sir,—I have yours informing me of the balance due to Mr Jolly, which does very far exceed my reckoning, but no doubt it is all as you write, and my mistake must proceed from the arrears, which it was impossible for me to calculate. Demands come so thick upon me that I cannot for my heart tell you when I shall be able to clear the balance, but for his present relief shall do my best to pay him the odd money, being £398 13s 4d, a week or two hence, so till then beg you'll make him easy. As to Risco, I allwise told you that I am entirely to be directed by you in that affair, and I'm persuaded your motive must be good for allowing him to push it a little, likewise I know you'll prudently take it up before you see me too far defeat by him, for

that you know would give encouragement to other enemys. At long run I'll engage he'll thankfully accept of £300, if not less money; but sooner or later I do fear we must knock under. Please write me if you have any view of ending with John Gordon, of Kirkconnel, and Mr William Camp; the price of these lands, which the last got, would do me service at this juncture, when, to be free with you, I scarce know what hand to turn me to; but in all circumstances you are ever to believe me to be, Sir, your very much obliged humble sevt.,

MARY KENMURE.

Amid all her struggles and difficulties, Lady Kenmure seems to have found means to help others; for there is a deed, signed on May 21st, 1729, in which Lord Carnwath acknowledges a loan from "Mary, Viscountess of Kenmure, my sister," of £405 17s 6d. She outlived all her anxieties, however, saw many another ancient Scottish house go down in the Rising of 1745, and died, I believe, at Terregles in 1776. In that musty old cupboard I also found another short but very suggestive note to Mr Veitch from the titular Duchess of Perth:—

Drummond Castle, 12th June, 1744.

Sir,—A friend of mine in Edinburgh will deliver to you this letter, with the twenty-five pounds sterling Mr Stewart borrowed from you in my name in July last, and eleven months' annual rent. You will give the bearer Mr Stewart's receipt for the money, which I will return him when I account with him. I am much obliged to you for the lon *(sic)* of the money, who am, Sir, your servant.

JEAN PERTH.

Twenty-five pounds was a larger sum at that date than at the present day, but the inability of a woman of such rank to pay it under eleven months is very significant.

The old cupboard, however, produced something more than communications only too common in lawyers' offices. Lord Eliock was less careful in destroying his letters than might have been expected from a lawyer; consequently, more than a century after date, a curious society episode comes to light, in which he was mixed up; a somewhat remarkable specimen of social tactics in high-class Edinburgh society nearly 140 years ago. Lord

Eliock was not only a distinguished lawyer, he was also an accomplished scholar and linguist, and of such commanding appearance that Frederick the Great had been very urgent with him, when he was at the Prussian Court, to enter his famous regiment of Guards. It was on the 6th of March, 1760, he took his seat on the bench as Lord Eliock, so the romantic incident set forth in the letters I am about to read must have occurred immediately previous to that event, when he had passed his half century of life. His sister, Miss Mary Veitch, kept house for him. From Edinburgh she writes to him as follows, he being then in London :—

Edinburgh, 16th February, 1760.

Dear Jamie,—I am about to write you the oddest story, with a good deal of reluctance, but I thought myself obliged to do it, so take it as follows. No doubt you'll remember Lady Harriott Gordon, Lord Aberdeen's sister. You'll also, perhaps, remember that I told you of an old courtship between her and Mr Gordon of Whitely, which is long over, and him railing against her to everybody, particularly her own relations, writing the ill-treatment he had received from her to her mother and brother, and notwithstanding of which they are of the same degree of intimacy with him, and he is as frequently with them as ever, except her. She rails at him in her turn, and runs out of a room as he comes in. Friday night, before you set out this winter for London, she arrived from Glasgow, where she had been keeping her Christmas. She called at our house on the Saturday night, where Miss Craik was. I got none of her history that night. Miss Craik and she tried who should set the other out, but Miss Craik got the better, and Mrs Baillie and Lady Harriott went away. I tell you all this previous to the main story that you may understand it the better. There is a man of the name of Gordon, his title Halhead, who has an estate near Haddo House. This man was born in Scotland, but has got his education somewhere in France, and has been there, and sometimes in Italy, since he was a boy—that is to say he has been 16 years abroad, and is 26 or 28 years old. He came from Nice last harvest, took London and Edinburgh on his way to the north, where his estate is, from thence he returned to Edinburgh, about the time Lady Harriott returned from Glasgow as above, at least she did not see him till some time after. He soon, I understand, became her suitor for

marriage. She so far accepted of his proposal as to tell her brother she would marry him, and desired him to write to Valleyford and acquaint her mother of it. Her brother argued with her against it, setting forth his bad state of health, it being thought he was dying in a consumption, and wasted to a skeleton. But all was to no purpose. Lady Aberdeen came to town in the greatest rage against it, just this day week, for it has been on the carpet only a fortnight. Her mother said it would be a most ridiculous marriage, the man's want of health, his having a strict entail on his estate which would not admit of anything for younger children, his having been so long abroad made him unknown to everybody, that she was well informed he was in debt, that could he have raised £200 he would not have sought her or anybody, but gone directly again to Nice to Gen. Paterson, who is his relation, and in short abused her for thinking of it. All this conversation passed before Lady Halkerton, who told me Lady Harriott's answers. In the first place she told my lady that he was a gentleman as good as themselves, that he had £500 a year, and that if he could not give her £200 a year of fortune she would be content with the interest of her own money, which is £2000, which bears interest, and £500 my Lord is obliged to give her for wedding clothes. That if he could not give a provision to younger children they would not be quality, and so could work for their bread; and if he was in a straight for a little ready money she had £200 in her pocket, which she had just got from Lord Aberdeen for byegone interest, and he should have that. As it is to be imagined, my Lady Aberdeen was exceedingly angry with her. She left Lady Halkerton's, went immediately on the Sunday to Valleyford, and the next day to Prestonhall, and has not seen her daughter or desired to see her since. In the meantime Lord Aberdeen arrives in town. She told him the same she had told her mother. He went off for London. In the meantime she wanted to employ lawyers to look into Gordon's character and entails. My Lord Aberdeen desired her, if she was for that, to employ his man Fraser, the writer, so she took him and Mr Millar, the solicitor. Mr Gordon took Mr Ferguson of Tilgour, and one Scot, a writer, so the papers are lying before these gentlemen now. During the time these transactions are going on her brother told her he had heard she had had a courtship with Mr Veitch, that had she employed him to transact a marriage with him he would have

been more ready, and besides he knew she would have had the consent of all her friends. She told him she never had a courtship with Mr Veitch, that she liked Mr Veitch much better than the man who was seeking her, and were he on the place, and would take her yet, she would marry him and not Gordon. All this was told to me by Lady Halkerton and Mrs Baillie; Mrs Baillie adding, as of herself, that she wished you was on the place, it would be in your power to put a stop to the marriage with Gordon. I told her she had many times given me such hints about Lady Harriott in former times, and that I thought it very improper to take notice of it, that Lady Harriott deserved a better match and a younger man; that for my own part I wished Lady Harriott very well, and if my brother and her had been pleased, I should have been pleased also. Mrs Baillie then expatiated on her good qualities, how well Lady Harriott loved you; that she was sure, were you here, she would instantly marry you without conditions, and let you make them yourself afterwards. I told her I had never spoke in particular with my brother with regard to Lady Harriott, and could not tell what you thought of her; but I thought you and she was not well enough acquainted to go so rashly into a marriage, and that your circumstances had not been what would have been felt suitable for the lady. This and every objection I could make, such as her coqueting and hanging on every fellow she met with. Mrs Baillie made light of it, and said it was through the innocence of her heart, and for sport, that she diverted herself with these sort of folk. This conversation only happened on Thursday. Yesterday I went to dine with Miss Preston. I came home at six at night, when Mrs Baillie was in the house almost as soon as myself, and fell immediately on the story, all of which I answered as before. But how was I surprised in about half an hour to see Lady Harriott come in, as it seems it had been concocted between them. She had not mentioned her story to me, but now she fell to it directly, insomuch that I was quite ashamed of her. She repeated all Mrs Baillie had said before, and asked if I thought you would accept of her? She would allow me to write you the story, and would put delays to the other till Wednesday week, which was the return of this post; and if you should refuse her, she would then go on with the other. Did you ever hear such a story, and how am I to put it to be civil and not tell her my mind? However, I did the best I could, and told her if

such a thing had ever been suggested before, and I had talked to you of it, I would have told her what had passed; but as I had never had any conversation with you on that head, I could not tell what you would answer, but that I would write, to be sure. At last Mrs Baillie went away, and then she made a clean breast of it. She told me her brother had just come from a meeting of the lawyers, that they had given him their opinion in writing of what settlements Gordon's affairs would permit of, but that he was not satisfied that it was sufficient for her; but that her and him would go to-day to Prestonhall and talk to the old Duchess and Lady Aberdeen about it. That he had somehow let Mr Millar the solicitor know of her regard to Mr Veitch, that Mr Millar had said if that could be brought about it would make him vastly happy. He was so pleased at the thought he would write to Mr Veitch himself, for that no one was more fit to recommend Lady Harriott than himself. To this her brother said she had one to write for her which would do better, meaning me. Well, I promise to write, and she goes away. This morning again she comes and tells me her brother advises I should write two copies of the letter to you, for fear of miscarriage, and desired you should be punctual to write with the return of the post, and then, as she told me, says he, "Harriott, if that does not take place, I shall immediately make out the other for you." So away she goes, and then she saw the man Gordon and wrote me a note, telling me to put off writing to you till Tuesday's post. I thought I never got such a relief, because I am determined to be off with them, will keep myself out of their sight, and if there is to be any writing to you, let them do it themselves. As it is, I had no occasion to mention the affair at all, but I have no certainty for their conduct, nor do I understand such base ways of doing. They are either mad, or think other people very foolish. This genuine account will perhaps be of use, and prepare you for a defence in case you are attacked from another quarter, and I'll write on Tuesday, when I hope to be more composed. In the meantime, I am, your affectionate sister,

MARY VEITCH.

Two days later, that is on Monday, February 18, Miss Veitch received the following remarkable effusion from Lady Harriott Gordon herself. It can hardly be said to bear out the contention

that as letter-writers our predecessors of the 18th century were greatly our superiors :—

My Dear Madam,—The many obligations I have received ever since I had the happiness of being of the number of your acquaintances makes me regret when I think of now being deprived in a short time of that usual pleasure I had in being allowed at all times to have the pleasure of being admitted whenever I did myself the pleasure of calling, and am sorry to say I did not imbrass *(sic)* it so often as my inclination would have had me, from auquardness *(sic)*, being sensible of my own weakness, and not having the least prospect of its ever having my desird efect ; and am now still more at a loss than ever for words to express my gratitude and true sentiments for the late and unspeakable favour you was so kind as to make me understand you would have had the condisention *(sic)* to have mentioned to one I must own I have had an unmoved warm side to for some time past, and shall for ever regard and esteem, tho', alas, I have now no more in my power, nor never had to my knowledge, or none else should have had my hand, I must confess, but it was too delicate an afair for me to let be known, as I knew one of so good sense would have rather shun'd than made up after, and the prospect of being for ever debarrd from the pleasure of waiting of you, and of being in the horrid situation of refused, was a thing I could never once let myself think of ; but in spite of this I still hope you will alow me to wait of you err *(sic)*. I leave town, and when I return, if ever, will you be so kind as do me the favour of a visit. At whatever place or time, I assure you, it will be doing me an unspeakable favour, and ever am, my dear Madam, your most obedient and obliged humble servant, Harriott Gordon.

Lord Eliock's reply to his sister's letter is unhappily not forthcoming. That he did reply is certain from a letter written by Miss Veitch a fortnight later :—

Edinburgh, March 1, 1760.

Dear Jamie,—I wrote you by last post that I had received yours of the 23rd. Though I had known your sentiments sooner, it would not have prevented me from writing as I did this day fortnight, for from all their proceedings, which was minutely as I informed you, and a great deal more, the dread of their applying to you by some other hand was not till now out of my head ;

had their been any more attacks I think I could now have been bold, but I think that I may now with some reason assure you that neither you nor I will have any further trouble. . . On the Monday I got the letter I enclosed on the 19th, and as I grasped at that for a giving up of the project, and wrote my letter so as she would understand it so. . . . She sent her friend on the Tuesday night . . . to importune me to write, as of myself, without her knowing it; this method, I suspect, her elder friends had suggested to her, but which I positively refused. Be it as it will, the man Gordon complained to his friend, Mrs Baillie, that he could not understand their meaning that when they had seen Lord Aberdeen a few days before, they now put him off for a fortnight until letters should be wrote and answers received from Lord Aberdeen. I am informed to-morrow is the day fixed for the marriage. It is the subject of conversation to the whole town. Some people who knew the man abroad speak well of him, and he is by no means as ill-looking as was represented to me. He was pointed out to me on the street. You see I have nothing to do now but sit still and be civil when she calls, which I suppose she will do, for she is always rambling, she has been little off the streets this fortnight past. I suppose she will follow this practice elsewhere, and will be met with in all the odd corners in and about London, but that's none of my business now. . . I forgot to tell you that two days before she went to the country this week she called, with an intention to make a long visit, and have some conversation, as I was told afterwards, but the Miss Prestons and some others were with me, and she sat near ½ an hour, and went off, so have not seen her since. She left orders with Mrs Baillie to make me acquainted with the man, but I excused myself.—I am, dear Jamie, your affect. sister, MARY VEITCH.

Whether the marriage with Gordon of Hallhead ever really came off does not appear. Lord Eliock certainly escaped these and any other similar snares that may have been set for him, for he died unmarried in 1793. But I think anyone looking at his portrait by Raeburn would probably come to the conclusion it was just as well for such an erratic personage as Lady Harriott Gordon that her impetuous wooing was not successful.

On the motion of Mr Jamieson, seconded by Mr Murray, Mrs Brown was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

## *2. The Church Bells of Holywood and Kirkmahoe, and the Church and Municipal Bells of Lochmaben. Part 2.*

By Mr James Barbour.

### *Kirkmahoe Church Bells.*

The present bell occupying the church tower is inscribed on the waist, T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1822. The date corresponds with the period when the church was built. It is a good bell, and may be regarded as a recast and enlargement of one more ancient which, with another forming a pair, seem to have been in use in the older church. The bell is negligently hung.

The two old bells before mentioned, as well as the present one, are referred to in the heritors' minutes relating to the rebuilding and furnishing of the church. Unfortunately the minutes, which were drawn up not at the meetings but subsequently and from recollection by the Rev. Dr Wightman, are not on all points so explicit as could be desired. In four of them reference is made to the church bells :—

21st March, 1822. The committee request Mr Newall [the architect] to get a new bell made for the church, and that he shall send the two old bells to the founder in part payment.

1st July, 1822. The meeting considering that sundry incidental expenses will be necessarily incurred in the clothing of the pulpit, the painting of the stone-work of the windows inside and out, a christening bowl and bracket, and the hanging of the old bell, agreed to an additional assessment of £30.

20th Nov. 1823. The meeting considering that the old bell is of no use came to the resolution of selling it, and Mr M'Gowan, the builder, being present, stated that he would undertake to get it sold to the bellfounder in Dumfries without any expense of consequence.

7th April, 1825. To amount of the price of the old bell sold by Mr M'Gowan by order of the meeting of heritors, £6 3s. By paid for the new bell, £37 3s 2d.

The first minute before quoted, it will be observed, mentions *two* old bells, the other minutes speak of one. It can hardly be doubted, I think, considering the explicit statement of the fact in the first-quoted minute, that there were two old bells to begin with. Subsequently it seems to have been found desirable,

instead of carrying out in full the instruction to send these up to London in part payment of the new bell, that one of them should be retained for use to call the congregation together, in the interval of completing the new church, for one of them was so retained, and to it the later minutes no doubt refer.

At the time of which we are speaking, a house in which to meet for worship was not considered so essential as it is now thought to be, and the parishioners being mostly descendants of the hill-men, field preaching yet maintained a degree of popularity in the parish. When therefore the old church was removed to make room for the new one the weekly services were continued out of doors. The churchyard was the chosen spot, and here on a neighbouring tree the old bell, in a way seemingly more essential than the church, was suspended to sound for the gathering in the usual way. I am indebted for information regarding this circumstance to Mr Dinwoodie, the heritors' clerk. Writing me in 1893, he stated that he had met an old gentleman, then in his 88th year, who had himself attended the open-air service, and remembered the bell hanging on the tree being rung at preachings and funerals.

Another local instance of suspending the church bell on a tree in similar circumstances was mentioned to me by Mr Barbour of Glendarroch. He recollected, he said, when Dalry Church was in course of rebuilding, the services were held in the churchyard, and the bell was hung on a tree for the purpose of summoning the congregation to worship.

The heritors' minutes show that a bellfounder at this time exercised his calling in Dumfries. Considering the price obtained for the bell sold to him, amounting to £6 3s, it may be estimated that the two old bells were approximately of the same dimensions as those of Holywood. The minutes give no clue to the characteristics of the bells, or whether they were inscribed. Utility, which is excellent, but not everything, is the only guiding principle present in them, and so the pair of old bells belonging to the Church of St. Quintin, of Kirkmahoe, were disposed of and lost.

*Lochmaben Bells.*

Lochmaben possesses the most important bells of the mediæval class extant in the district. They are larger and probably more ancient than any of the others, besides being the only twin bells. The old Gothic Church dedicated to Mary Magdalene, of which

no remains are now visible, stood within the present churchyard. From thence the bells were transferred to the new fabric on its completion in 1819. As at Holywood, one of the bells is long-waisted, and the other is short in the waist. The first measures 19 inches in diameter at the mouth and 12 at the shoulder, $20\frac{3}{4}$ in height, and 2 in thickness at the soundbow; estimated weight, 2 cwts. 1 qr.; note, G; inscribed. The latter measures 22 inches in diameter at the mouth and 12 at the shoulder, $18\frac{1}{4}$ in height, and 2 in thickness at the soundbow; estimated weight, 2 cwts. 1 qr.; note, E flat; uninscribed.

The shoulder of the long bell is inscribed + JOHANNES ADAM ME FECIT +, and over the soundbow fancifully arranged in couplets of letters at the four cardinal points of the compass is the Angelic Salutation and dedication IA AV O AR EM The letters are moulded Lombardic capitals on slightly raised square plates; and it is a peculiarity that the inscriptions and the letters composing them are reversed so as to read from right to left. To account for this it may be suggested that the inscriptions had been omitted to be provided for on the "thickness" at the proper stage in preparing the mould, and as the only way of rectifying the omission the letters were impressed on the interior of the "cope," with the result of reproducing them on the bell reversed.

Both bells are peculiar as to shape. The short one shows little swell on the upper part of the waist, but the lower part sweeps outwards, forming a wide mouth, with an unusually quick and deep curve. The long bell may be regarded as notable in this respect, being probably longer in proportion to its width than any other in Britain. A bell at Mitford in Northumberland is mentioned in *A Book about Bells* as of very elongated proportions, whose height is equal to the width. Lochmaben bell surpasses this, for its height measures almost two inches in excess of the diameter at the mouth.

The marks connecting the pair are numerous. It has been seen that the bells are of equal weight, breadth of shoulder, and thickness of soundbow; the musical notes are in accord, the lip and shoulder mouldings agree, and both bells are flat on the top. The most impressive characteristic, however, common to both is the peculiar design of the cannons, showing a rope-like twist. The conclusion seems unavoidable that the bells were designed to

serve as a pair, and were cast by the same founder; and it is satisfactory and not a little surprising, considering the troubles and conflicts of the times, that the relationship should have remained undisturbed during so many centuries.

Regarding the antiquity of the bells, tradition has it that the one inscribed was presented by the Pope to King Robert the Bruce. It cannot be said that the character of the letters or the characteristics of the bell are inconsistent with this view, but another is possible. The Church of Lochmaben, as we have seen, was dedicated to Mary Magdalene; the bells to the Virgin Mary. In the fifteenth century the bailies of the burgh endowed a chapel within the Church of Lochmaben, under the tutelage of the Virgin, and it may be thought that the parallel dedication of this chapel and the bells suggest or imply a common origin.

Tradition also avers that the short-waisted bell was stolen by the townsmen from a neighbour, or the "auld enemy," but this is inconsistent with the fact that it is the companion of another which admittedly was honestly come by. What Lochmaben people seem to have done was to recover their own bell from thieves who had stolen it—a version in harmony with the teaching of the bells and creditable to the inhabitants of the ancient burgh, which, it is hoped, will be accepted in all time coming.

The Municipal bell, weighing 2 cwt., is inscribed on the waist, EX DONO NOBILISS IMI CAROLI DUCIS QUENSBERRY ET DOVER, 1757; and below WM EVANS FECIT. The note is G.

In conclusion, I have to recall a few of the more important conclusions arrived at:—Two bells were common in pre-Reformation churches here. These were assorted with a view to musical accord, and it is curions that, as regards the two pairs described, the variation of the notes in each case should be just a minor third. The method followed to attain harmony consisted in varying the proportions of the bells, making them long or short, without, however, varying the weight or the thickness of the metal.

A new and greatly altered reading of the inscription and date of the short bell of Holywood has been arrived at; and a connection has been traced between the other bell and the name of one of the commendators of the Abbey, thereby also approximating its date. It has been shown that formerly there were two ancient bells in the church of Kirkmahoe, and how they were dis-

posed of. And in regard to the church bells of Lochmaben, their characteristics and the relationship of one to the other has been amplified.

Mr Barbour was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting and instructive paper.

# FIELD MEETINGS.

## First Field Meeting—June 11.

The following report of the meeting is taken from the *Dumfries Standard* :—

The members of Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society had their first field meeting of the summer session on Saturday, when they spent the afternoon in a round of interesting visits at Sanquhar and Eliock. A party of nineteen journeyed from Dumfries, and at Sanquhar they were joined by Mr Wilson, banker ; the Rev. James Hay Scott, of the North United Presbyterian Church ; the Rev. James Wood, of the Parish Church ; and Mr Salmon, teacher. They proceeded first to the Parish Church, where they were shown the mason work, indicating the wall-lines of the pre-Reformation building, which have been revealed and permanently marked at the cost of the Marquis of Bute with consent of the heritors ; and in the church itself the stone figure which is believed to be that of Mr William Crichton, rector of Sanquhar. A number of curious stones in the churchyard also engaged attention. There is one centenarian commemorated—William Crichton, of the same family as the famous Provost Abraham Crichton, his age being given at 103 years. On a flat and much worn stone is a single letter, the remnant of a black letter inscription ; and beside it a well-sculptured hand holding some object between finger and thumb. The singular name " Gliver " also appears on the stone. Against the churchyard wall there has been set up a long slab, with the date 1674, in memory of John Broun in Gateside and Janet Dalyell his spouse ; and below the names is some florid lettering, apparently their monograms. Another stone in the same neighbourhood is ornamented with a bold device of a winged head, and is dated 1738.

Part of the company proceeded from the churchyard to the Manse, where Mr Wood exhibited his extensive collection of old

Scottish communion tokens. Within a comparatively few years he has obtained some eight hundred specimens, all belonging to Established Churches. In some cases, of course, the same parish is represented by a number of specimens, as in the case of Dunscore, from which there are five. Among the oldest is a Brechin token of date 1678. There are in the collection Portmoak tokens belonging to the period when Erskine was minister of the parish; an Abernethy token of Alexander Pitcairn's time; and many others interesting from their association with particular individuals. In most instances the token is simply a piece of lead, with the name or initial of the parish, and sometimes the initials of the minister, rudely stamped upon it. The most primitive of all, from Campbeltown, is a small piece of tin with no other marking than a cross made of two simple lines indented with a chisel. For purposes of distinction apparently a liberty has sometimes been taken with the name of the parish, as in the case of Sanquhar, which on one is designated "S Q." A good number, however, bear more elaborate devices. There is, for example, the north-country parish of Grange, which has the legend "Prov. iv., 23" worked round a heart. The words of the text indicated are, "Keep thy heart with all diligence." On another, from Cumbernauld, is the familiar device of the burning bush, with the unfamiliar rendering of the accompanying motto—"Unec nec feret."

Later in the day a hurried visit was paid to Mr Scott's manse, where there is quite a remarkable collection both of coins and communion tokens. Of British coins Mr Scott has an all but complete series from the year 1603 up till the present date, all most carefully arranged in chronological order. There are perfect sets of the jubilee issue and of the 1896 issue, embracing the gold, silver, and copper pieces. Mr Scott has also very interesting cases of Papal and Oriental coins. His safe is indeed a storehouse of treasures for the student of numismatics. Of church tokens he has a thousand specimens, the oldest being of date 1661, and belonging to the parish of Scoone. The lettering is: "D.I.M. Skone token, 1661." Many of the others are doubly interesting on account of their rarity.

In passing through Sanquhar Mr Wilson pointed out the iron bar and ring at the Town Hall to which the "jougs" were attached at the time when evil-doers were exposed to public scorn wearing the iron necklet. Nearly opposite the Town Hall

is a stone with the date 1621 built into a new house, occupying the site of "the Gairland Great House," in which the unfortunate Lord Kilmarnock was confined when he was taken prisoner by the Sanquhar Volunteers in 1715. A call was made at Mr Wilson's residence, the Royal Bank House, where there is an extensive collection of local antiquities. The locality also has its historical association, for in this quarter stood the ancient town house of Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, in which Queen Mary spent the night following the battle of Langside, as she was hurrying to the Border under the escort of Lord Herries and other nobles.

Mr Wilson had obtained special permission from the Marquis of Bute, through his factor, Mr Charles G. Shaw, of Ayr, for the party to visit Sanquhar Castle, which is in course of being to a large extent restored by his lordship. Mr Samuel Gibson, contractor for the work, was also in attendance, and the staircases were open, so that visitors had an opportunity of climbing to the top of Wallace's Tower, as the square one is named, enjoying the magnificent prospect which it commands up and down the valley of the Nith and away to the Lowthers about Wanlockhead and Leadhills. One of the features of the castle disclosed in course of the excavations is a built draw-well with a depth of 42 feet.

A visit to Eliock House, to which the party had been invited by the Rev. H. G. J. Veitch and Mrs Veitch, was one of the chief pleasures of the day. The fine old mansion-house stands amid a wealth of stately timber on the right bank of the Nith, a conspicuous object to the traveller by the Glasgow and South-Western railway some two miles and a half below Sanquhar. The visitors first directed their attention to the woods, to which they were accompanied by Mr Laidlaw, the land steward. A row of seventeen great silver firs claimed special notice. They are believed to be about two centuries old. There were originally twenty of them. The largest in 1872 was reported to be 156 inches in girth. A measurement taken on Saturday three feet from the surface gave a girth of 183 inches, shewing an increase of 27 inches in 26 years, if the tree is the same; but of that there is a doubt, as one of the largest, if not the monarch of the grove, fell a victim to one of the great gales in the eighties. An immense larch, one of a group brought as saplings by Lord Eliock from Blair Athol, grows near to the house. Measure-

ments taken of it in 1872 gave a girth of fourteen feet at the ground and of nine feet at a height of eight feet. Corresponding measurements made on Saturday were 16 feet 9 inches, an increase of 2 ft. 9 in.; and 10 ft. 6 in., an increase of 1 ft. 6 in.

The house, which is picturesquely quaint, consists of three distinct portions, evidently built at different periods—a square block in the centre, with a round tower at the west front; and an oblong on either side and projecting in both directions beyond the central portion of the building. A vaulted chamber still survives, which had apparently formed the ground storey of an old square keep that preceded the present building. Eliock was at one time a possession of a cadet branch of the Crichtons, Lords of Sanquhar, and it is believed to have been the birthplace of the Admirable Crichton, the sixteenth century prodigy of learning and chivalry about whose name time has gathered many legends. The reputed natal chamber is now partly incorporated in a bedroom adjoining the study and partly in the passage. Mr Veitch's father, who was also in holy orders, filled for a long time an ecclesiastical position in Jerusalem, and the house contains many memorials of the family's residence in the Holy Land. One of the most interesting is the apple of Sodom, which from its tempting but deceptive appearance has supplied a figurative phrase to describe a course of vicious pleasure. Mr Veitch has also a small archæological collection. The gem of it is a Jacobite snuff-box. This particular form of mull was so contrived as to enable adherents of the Stewart family outwardly to conform to the loyal customs of the day without doing violence to their political conscience. It is mounted with silver. On a band just under the lid is the motto, "Suum cuique," "To every man his own." On the silver lining of the lid is a device of crossed swords with the letters J.R., and the figure 8 worked into it, meaning Jacobus Rex viii. On the top of the lid is a pictorial representation of a stream. Holding this snuff-box in his left hand, the old Jacobite could quite honestly join in the toast of "The King," for before raising the glass to his lips he passed it above the box; the gesture in conjunction with the picture supplied the qualification "over the water;" and he drank to the health not of William but of the Old Pretender. There has recently been added to the collection a celt which was got in the foundation of a cottage on the estate when an addition was being made to it. Another recent acquisi-

tion obtained from a Dumfries dealer is a flint lock of last century, with a little case for the flints ingeniously formed in the butt of the musket. The arm was formerly the property of the late John Brodie, who used to assert that it had belonged to Burns.

In the dining-room are a number of striking family portraits. Two of them represent Sir James Veitch, Lord Eliock, a judge of the Court of Session, regarding whose impetuous wooing by a north-country lady a curious tale was told at a recent meeting of the society. One of the portraits—a full length—is by Raeburn. Another of the portraits, that of Colonel Veitch, grand-uncle of the present proprietor of the estate, is by Sir John Gordon Watson. The very handsome gifts made to Mr and Mrs Veitch by the parishioners of Kilmersdon, Somersetshire, of which he was for thirty-three years the respected rector, were also shown to the visitors.

Eliock was acquired by the family in whose hands it now is soon after the rising of 1745, being part of the forfeited estate of the Earl of Carnwath. They belonged to Peeblesshire, and in the grounds is a sun dial, of very perfect construction, which bears the family arms and the name and date—"Veitch de Glen, 1722."

Before quitting the house, in which they were hospitably entertained to afternoon tea, Mr Murray, George Street, voiced the thanks of the company to Mr and Mrs Veitch for their kindness. They then walked up the side of the Garpel Burn, where the oak, the beech, and the shield ferns grow luxuriantly, to a picturesque waterfall. Tradition represents a Covenanter as hiding in a cavity in the side of this linn and receiving intelligence concerning the movements of the military of the district from a well affected domestic in the Eliock household, who would steal out in the evening and affect to deliver a soliloquy, full of palpable hints, under a large oak that grew by the side of the stream. A member of the party had another tale to tell of the Garpel. Some time in last century the village of Kirkconnel was the residence of a noted wool dealer. At that time the wool was carried there on pack horses by the ordinary hill tracks, and the farmer of Auchenhessnane, in Tynron, was conveying his wool on a pack horse to Kirkconnel, and in passing over Garpel Burn, on the lands of Eliock, the pack of wool got displaced, fell into the burn, and was much wet. Adjusting his

pack he arrived at Kirkconnel, and after settling with the wool dealer returned home well mellowed with the liquor of the country. Humming to himself as he went along, and overjoyed at selling water for wool, he was heard to ejaculate—"Fair fa' ye, Garpel! Fourteen stane at Auchenhessnane and sixteen at Kirkconnel!"

Returning to Sanquhar, the company had tea together in the Queensberry Arms Hotel; and Dr Maxwell Ross embraced the opportunity to tender thanks to the gentlemen who had placed their local knowledge at their service during the day.

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## Second Field Meeting—July 23rd.

The following report of the meeting is taken from the *Dumfries Courier and Herald*:—

An outing with the antiquarians is reckoned by most people too heavy a summer treat to be greedily sought after, the intellectual strain involved in recollecting whatever one believed himself to have complacently forgotten concerning the places visited cancelling the otiose relaxation craved on a hot Saturday in the dog-days. Hence, perhaps, the small, however eminently select, company that gathered at the call of the indefatigable secretary of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society on purpose to visit under his genial guidance the treasures not less of natural beauty than of historical and modern interest in the rich lands of the Kirtle valley. We got there, to be sure, by train to Annan, thence behind a pair of hired horses. Despite dull and threatening skies, the drive towards Kirkpatrick-Fleming (could no genius invent a shorter name, or drop some of the consonants?) afforded a wide and exhilarating view of the Solway as spanned by the viaduct to Silloth, while darksome in the distance rose the summits of the Cumberland lake mountains, and at least one tall chimney could be discovered by strong eyes as an index on the horizon to the whereabouts of "merry Carlisle." Stapleton Towers soon stimulated the antiquarian mind, and mention of the Edward Irving, by whom the Tower was built, recalled the associations of the district with his descendant, the genius of the

pulpit three generations ago and the trusty friend of Thomas Carlyle, who with him made Annandale famous in literary history. Passing the neat village of Fairy Row, where the peasants know how to gratify wandering fairies with roses of fairest bloom, we reached the church, graveyard, and manse of Kirkpatrick-Fleming. This modest old edifice is beautiful for situation, and it was good to remember there how the father of Dr Currie, first biographer and editor of Robert Burns, was minister early in last century, a rare scholar—so his grandson tells us in his *Life* of Dr Currie—an eloquent preacher, and as a man universally beloved.

Antiquarians, whether amateurs or otherwise, are not always found arguing the former times better than these, not always engaged scraping the unoffending lichens from hoary monuments or unearthing bones. Touched by the spirit of modern industrialism, we turned aside on the Kirtle from scenes and objects reminiscent of antiquity to examine the commercial enterprise known as the Cove Quarries. There we were heartily welcomed by Mr Lamb, manager, a gentleman with brains *plus* the knack of using them, who could make two potatoes grow in room of the laggard one anywhere. These quarries present certain unique features. From the standpoint of profitable commerce, proximity to the Caledonian Railway line counts for much, but the situation otherwise is singularly sequestered and picturesque. The main quarry has been formed on the precipitous remote bank of the Kirtle, whose clear waters murmur far below, their music lost amid the combined clamour of locomotives, steam cranes, picks, and hammers. The Cove Company have been at work now for two and a half years, and already an immense slice has been cut out of the red sandstone bank, indicative of very rapid prosperity from the start. Before showing us round, however, Mr Lamb, like the good host he was, spread his table with tempting refreshments in the appetising Kirtle air, little soiled by smoke from the quarries, with a lavish hand. Thereafter we caught a glimpse at least of the 300 employees at work, producing on the average 220 tons of stone per day, mostly for the markets of Edinburgh and Glasgow. The manager considers the day bad that does not despatch 30 waggons of dressed stone mainly, and the wage bill amounts to fully £1000 per month. Seven steam cranes were operating on the heights, clearing away roots and surface soil from the rock, lifting blocks into the waggons, &c.,

and the workmen, probably because it was Saturday, looked bright and happy at their laborious tasks. Not a solitary horse was in evidence, the entire haulage evidently being accomplished by means of rails and locomotives. Seated in a rude truck in genuine Bohemian order, we enjoyed a short journey on a natural switchback from the quarry to the large shed in which the hewing and sawing processes are executed, and the necessary workshops centralised. Here Mr Lamb took admirable pains to describe to the antiquarians the secrets of the electric plant now in course of adoption by this enterprising Company. Already an electrical engineer is employed, and the machinery in the shed driven by electricity from dynamos of American origin, and with a measure of economy in the matter of generating fuel, which, as compared with steam, might well give the Company's happy shareholders a hint of coming riches "beyond the dreams of avarice." We were shown with what startling convenience and economy the electric motor-force may be detached, conveyed, stored. The portable crane used inside the great shed is worked by an electric motor, and it was easy to anticipate the best results every way from this departure. Mr Lamb's courtesy, his intelligence, his earnest desire to gratify the visitors were much appreciated.

In common with the country all over nowadays, the Kirtle valley suggests the contrast between successful modern industrialism and the romance of antiquity. Leaving the former at the Cove Quarries, we passed into the heart of the latter on our way to Springkell, and this in the brilliant sunshine of a recovered day. The towers of Woodhouse and Bonshaw interested us rising out of the hospitably wooded lands of the Irvings, and we passed the Merkland Cross, associated in Border history with the foul murder towards the close of the fifteenth century of one of the Caerlaverock Maxwells, killed from a motive of revenge by his own vassal, one Gass of Cummertrees. We did not stay to examine this pathetic monumental reminiscence of mediæval Border manners, which looked an elegant stone as it stood on a grassy slope not many yards from the road, and surrounded by green bushes. Kirtlebridge Junction recalled the antiquarian mind again to modern comforts, and the thriving village of Eaglesfield suggested thoughts of the competence and peace accessible to such small rural communities, where each householder, whether he should read Barrie and Ian Maclaren, or not, may sing—

There grows a bonnie briar bush in our kailyard.

We were soon screened from Sol's hot beams by the stately trees in the policies of Springkell. Signs of the costly activity of Mr Johnson-Ferguson, M.P., abounded from the entrance gate throughout. In truth, we felt for the rest of the afternoon as if we were in dreamland, and on a visit to Tennyson's *Palace of Art*. Springkell, we understand, has always been famed for its trees. Every variety in arboriculture seems to be represented there by first-class specimens, the whole crowned by a giant silver fir in the lawn. Of modified Grecian architecture, the house is an exquisite harmony in stone, and the present owner has vastly improved the frontage by walling off a portion of the lawn and filling it with *parterres*.

Met at Springkell by Mr Johnson-Ferguson in person, who had just returned from Parliament and the Vaccination Bill, we were conducted by him through umbrageous walks odorous with flowers, and by the banks of the Kirtle, to the ancient Kirkconnell graveyard. On reaching the gate, we observed the notice anent applying for admission at the estate office, also two pencillings, the one telling the public to "Take no heed of this board," the other declaring with genuine wrathful Border emphasis—"This board should be taken down and burned at once." We looked, sorrowing that the peace and loveliness of those Kirtle solitudes should be disturbed by this *contretemps*. Mr Johnson-Ferguson was not long resident in Springkell before he enforced the present regulations. He changed his policy at the graveyard, he informed us, in consequence of a nervous shock received last autumn by Mrs Ferguson and some lady visitors, from observing a skull exposed there still covered more or less with skin and hair! The matter is *sub judice* for the present, but it was manifest to us that all who are interested in the improvement, preservation, and sanctity of Kirkconnel Churchyard, whether they know it or not, have a friend in the laird of Springkell. We meditated, of course, at the coupled graves of Helen and Adam, whose pathetic story descends from age to age in the ballad *Where Helen Lies*; we also saw much more of antiquarian interest, including a curious old epitaph which tells how somebody "died by a fall from a horse in which both were killed." On leaving the romantic graveyard, we were shown a rude cross marking the spot to which Adam carried the dying Helen after the tragedy, also the thorn on Kirtle's pleasant banks where the lovers were

so fatally assailed by the infuriate rival. We visited, too, "Fair Helen's Bower"—a comfortable shade and shelter—in the deep dell beyond, and returned by way of the gardens to Springkell, where our host and hostess received us at home, provided a most ample afternoon tea, and exhibited the rare treasures of art and antiquity with which the house is stored with a gush of hospitality not soon to be forgotten by the company. Antiquarians speak of men and things as they find them, and dare not allow the judgment in anything to be biassed by the prejudices of the fleeting hour.

Mr Johnson-Ferguson has apparently inherited the taste for all that is best in art as well as the treasures of some of his ancestors who were distinguished collectors. The result at Springkell is an exceedingly interesting and valuable collection of works of art, ranging from oil-paintings by some of the older Dutch and Italian masters to a complete gallery of Reynolds engravings, to specimens of Turner and other moderns as well in oil as in water-colour drawings, while the portrait of Mrs Johnson-Ferguson, exhibited by Luke Fildes in the Royal Academy of 1895, occupies on its merits a central place on the line—in itself one of the masterpieces of contemporary portrait-painting. We observed one quaint little picture of local interest, drawn and engraved by W. Matthews, Oxford, entitled *Gretna Green, or the Red-hot Marriage.* The blacksmith is there in approved smithy costume, with his hands clasped over an open Bible which lies on the anvil, while a lady and a gentleman in travelling garb, attended by a postilion, are standing between the anvil and the door. Under this sketch these doggerel lines are inscribed :—

> Oh ! Mr Blacksmith, ease our pains,
> And tie us fast in wedlock's chains.

The Secretary having conveyed the exuberant thanks of the party to the most generous host and hostess, our drive was resumed, and with the long level back of Burnswark behind us and the Solway shores beckoning us homewards, we negotiated pleasantly the journey back to Annan, more than delighted with a day on the Kirtle.

## Third Field Meeting—September 3rd.

THIS was held at Birrenswark, where the members who attended were shown over the excavations being made for the Scottish Society of Antiquaries under the supervision of Mr James Barbour. An account of these excavations will appear in a future volume of the Transactions.

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