

N.S. Vol. XXIV.



THE TRANSACTIONS

AND

Journal of Proceedings

OF THE

DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY

Natural History and Antiquarian Society

FOUNDED NOVEMBER, 1862.

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SESSION 1911-1912.

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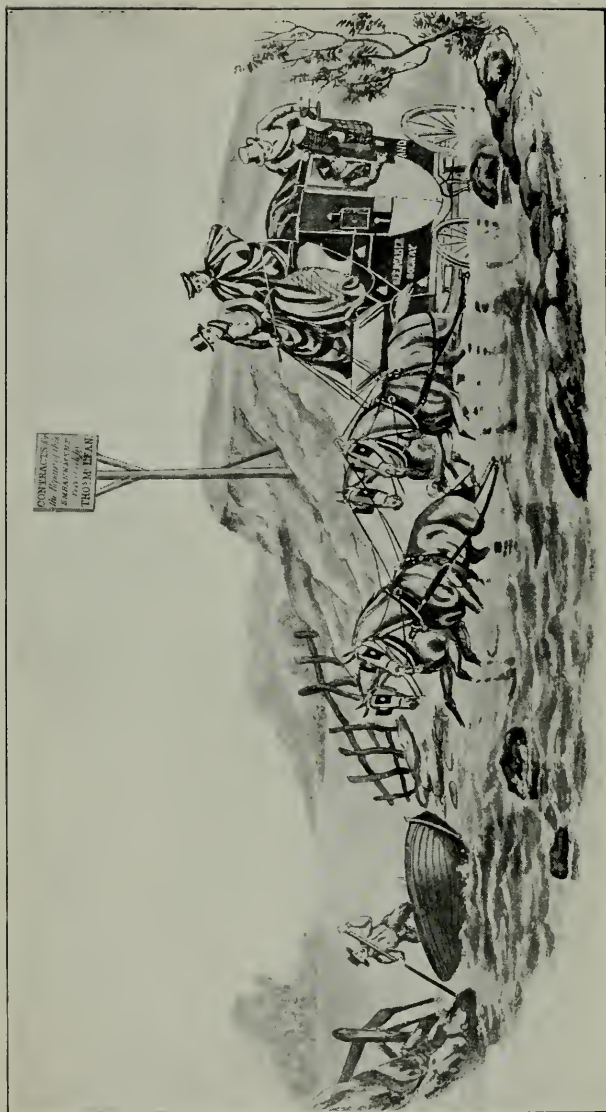
DUMFRIES:

Published by the Council of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural  
History and Antiquarian Society, Dumfries and Maxwelltown  
Ewart Public Library.

1912







A ROAD SCENE IN THE DAYS OF GEORGE IV.

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## PREFACE.

It is intended that this volume, being the Transactions of the 49th year of the Society, should form the last volume of the New or Second Series. It will be followed by an Index of both Series in one volume. It is not a complete record of the session's work inasmuch as it does not cover the summer months. It has been found desirable to publish the Transactions at the close of the Winter Session, and it is intended that in future the summer work should appear in the volume of the succeeding session. For the same reason no Treasurer's Accounts are included in this volume.

It must be understood that as each contributor has seen a proof of his paper, the editor does not hold himself responsible for the accuracy of the scientific, personal, and place names or for the dates that are given therein.

I acknowledge my indebtedness to Miss Harkness for typing the Index, and to the Editors of "The Dumfries and Galloway Standard," "Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald," and "The Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser" for reports of meetings. Mr W. A. Mackinnell has kindly photographed the Leadwork from the old Blue Bell Hotel, and Mr A. Coldwell, the Plan of Glenluce Abbey.

I shall be glad to hear from members working on Local Natural History and Archæological subjects. Papers may be submitted at any time. Preference is always given to original work on local subjects.

Enquiries regarding purchase of Transactions and payment of Subscriptions should be made to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr M. H. M'Kerrow, 43 Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.

Exchanges, Presentations, and Exhibits should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Ewart Public Library, Dumfries.

G. W. S.





PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
Dumfriesshire and Galloway  
Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

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SESSION 1911-12.

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*20th October, 1911.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the Chair.

The Secretary and Treasurer submitted their annual reports, which met with approval.

On the motion of the Treasurer, seconded by Mr Simon Scott, it was agreed to advertise the meetings in the local papers instead of sending out post-cards.

On the nomination of the Council the Office-bearers were appointed for the Session. (Vide p. 3.)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. By H. S. GLADSTONE, Esq. of  
Capenoch, M.A., F.Z.S., F.R.S.E.

I have again to thank you for having elected me your President for the coming session; and though I feel that an apology is due from me for not having been a more regular attendant at the meetings of our Society during the past twelve months, I would remind you that I warned you a year ago how this would be. You know that the serious work of our Society is done in committee, and that the records of these committee meetings do not

appear in our printed Transactions. I am not conscious of having missed such a committee meeting during the past year; and therefore my guilt, although I know how few of our Society's meetings and excursions I have attended, does not appear to me so enormous. To be present on such occasions is surely more of a pleasure than a task, and it is only the awkward distance at which I live from Dumfries which has prevented my attendance as often as might be expected. As regards the past year, I think we may claim to have had a good season. Our ordinary membership, numbering 268, is at high-water mark; but there is no reason why this number should not be increased. In view of the fact that we may expect some extra-ordinary expenditure in connection with our jubilee, to be celebrated next year, it is very desirable that our membership should be added to as far as ever possible. It is a somewhat remarkable fact that some 17 per cent. of our present members are in arrear of their annual subscriptions. We have, of course, to mourn the death of several of our members during the past session. By the death of Mr Robert Service our Society has lost one of its keenest members, and Scotland one of her most trustworthy zoologists. The names of Dr Chinnock and Mr J. Carlyle Aitken also occur to me. You have this session duly received the volume of our Transactions as usual, and you will shortly receive another volume. This publication of two volumes during but one session has been undertaken so as to avoid the delay, previously experienced, by which the papers read before us were not in our hands till twelve months or more after we had heard them. I am sure this plan will be approved, and I trust that in the future the publications of our Transactions will be kept more up to date than in the past. You will notice when this, the 23rd volume N.S. of our Transactions, comes to your hands that nearly all the papers have a local bearing. In a Society such as ours this is most desirable. The range of subjects covered in the 300 odd pages is satisfactorily diversified, but I should have been glad to have been able to see more attention paid to photography; and some of our members will regret that so little has been done during the past season in philately. As regards our finances, I am glad to be able to announce a credit balance of £7 2s 9d. I may here mention that the sum of £170, which it was remitted to a sub-committee last year to invest, has been placed in heritable security at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per

cent. There remains an important venture to chronicle which, I am glad to say, has proved justifiable. I refer to the publication by the Society of a book on Communion Tokens by one of its members, the Rev. H. A. Whitelaw. It may be thought that in doing so the Society has created a dangerous precedent, and I so far agree in that I am sure that all similar publications in the future should be carefully scrutinised by an able sub-committee of our Society before being undertaken. An issue of similar character will shortly be published on the Dumfries Post Office, by Mr J. M. Corrie. We should welcome, this coming year, the fact that the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments is going to commence operations in Dumfriesshire. It has already surveyed Kirkcudbright, and many other counties in Scotland. There are several of our members who are well qualified to help the Commissioners in their work, and the names of Messrs Barbour, Lennox, and Mackinnell particularly occur to me. Last year I referred to the proposed publication of a MS. History of Dumfries. Mr R. C. Reid has, I am glad to say, been very successful in getting subscribers to this, and I hope we may shortly see his book on our bookshelves. Such, ladies and gentlemen, is a very brief review of what has gone on during the past session, and in all the innovations and improvements I can see the hand of our honorary secretary, Mr G. W. Shirley. Our secretaries in the past have always been whole-hearted in their desire to promote the welfare of our Society, and, profiting by their good example, Mr Shirley is proving himself to be as energetic as the best of them. Our honorary treasurer continues to carry on his duties most scrupulously, and he would probably be only too glad to have far larger funds to administer. Why should we not try to please him in this respect by each endeavouring to increase our membership? It is now only twelve months before we celebrate the jubilee of our Society, and you will remember that a year ago you remitted to a sub-committee to consider how this occasion could most suitably be honoured. It has been decided—and, in fact, steps have already been taken—to do so by publishing an alphabetical index to all our past Transactions. This has already proved, and will prove an even greater, labour to our secretary. He, however, is impressed with the desirability of such a work, and we trust that its publication will be acceptable to a wider circle than that of our members. It is also hoped

to publish a list of all the members of our Society since its foundation in 1862, and a catalogue of all the books, manuscripts, and specimens in the possession of the Society. Possibly the inclusion of these in the index volume already referred to may be impracticable, on account of the great space they will take up; but this is a matter which I would ask you to leave in the hands of the sub-committee you appointed last year. As regards the conduct of the fiftieth anniversary meeting on November 20th, 1912, there are several details to be considered, which I think it would be well to refer also to this sub-committee. When we consider that among our past presidents we can claim such illustrious men as the present Lord Chancellor, Sir Herbert E. Maxwell, Sir James Crichton-Browne, and Professor Scott Elliot, it would certainly seem ideal could we persuade them to be present on that occasion. We must, however, remember that from their very attainments their services are much in request, and for this reason they may be unable to take the active part in our jubilee, which I trust will meet with the co-operation of all the members of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. It is indeed, something to be proud of that here, in the South-West of Scotland, a Society such as ours has flourished for close on fifty years. In each address which I have had the honour of delivering to you as president, I have hitherto always tried to impress upon you, that the welfare of our Society depends on the efforts of each individual member. You will forgive my repeating a truism as true to-day as when I first told it to you two years ago. With these brief remarks, again thanking you for the honour you have done me in re-electing me to this chair, and sincerely hoping that the coming session will be as profitable as any of its predecessors, I shall read a paper which I hope may be deemed worthy of publication in our Transactions.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA TO THE "BIRDS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE."

By HUGH S. GLADSTONE, M.A., F.R.S.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Since the publication of my book on *The Birds of Dumfriesshire* in June, 1910, I have received a good deal of additional information on the subject. I have also become aware of several errors which I now propose to correct, though I shall not point out corrections in spelling or punctuation, except where such are important. The page references throughout are to *The Birds of Dumfriesshire*.

Going through the book *seriatim* there are the following remarks to be made on the section dealing with

THE ORNITHOLOGISTS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.

William MacGillivray's name should be spelt with a capital G (p. xxv.): a rule not generally followed, but which I have ascertained to be correct by the recent perusal of some of his autograph letters: letters not only rare but beautiful on account of their calligraphy.

The epitaph on Dr. George Archbald's tombstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries, runs *Clarus in arte fuit medica*, and so on. In my book the word *medica* appears *emdica*, which is nonsense. (p. xxvii.)

Since the publication of my book I have learnt that I, and others, have been wrong in describing Dr. John Stevenson Bushnan as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He wrote Vol. XXVII., published in 1840 (not Vol. II.), of the first edition of Jardine's Naturalist's Library. (p. xxviii.)

It was in 1830 that William Thomas Carruthers of Dormont sent Sir William Jardine a small collection of birds from Madeira. (p. xxix.)

William Hastings, the taxidermist, is described as being "in a good way of business from 1860-1885." (p. xxxi.) He, however, in a paper read to the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society on January 6th, 1863, states that he had then been a preserver of birds for thirty years.

Sir William Jardine's collection of birds, nine thousand skins in all, sold by Messrs Puttick & Simpson on June 17th, 1886, realised £358. His collection of British birds, which he had sold ten years previously to the Edinburgh Museum, comprised four hundred and thirty-two specimens. (p. xxxiii.)

Rev. William Little was a native of Jedburgh. (p. xxxiv.)

Sir John Richardson, the intrepid Arctic explorer, is buried at Grasmere, Westmoreland. (p. xxxviii.)

We have to add here the name of the late Robert Service, than whom no one has done more to elucidate the Fauna of the Solway Area.

SERVICE, ROBERT, b. May 23rd, 1854, at Netherplace, near Mauchline, Ayrshire, came to Maxwelltown at an early age. Educated at the old Free Kirk School, he in due course entered his father's business as a nurseryman. A keen field-observer, all his spare time was spent in the study of the fauna and flora of the Solway Area. In 1876 he was the principal of those who re-organised the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, and was elected Secretary. In 1882 he was offered the appointment of naturalist to an expedition undertaking the exploration of Eastern Africa, which, however, he declined for private reasons. In 1892 and 1895 he gave valuable evidence to the Royal Commissions appointed respectively to investigate the vole plague in Scotland, and the salmon fisheries of the Solway. On the death of his father in 1901 the conduct of his business devolved almost entirely on himself, but in 1903 he was induced to act as honorary secretary and curator of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Museum. His work was more than one man could overcome, and in 1910 he was stricken with paralysis; his recovery was but partial, and he died on May 8th, 1911. His knowledge of the local fauna and flora was unsurpassed, and though his observations never took a more concrete form, upwards of two hundred valuable papers by him on these subjects are to be found in the scientific magazines of his day. Personally, I may say that without his generous assistance my book on *The Birds of Dumfriesshire* could never have been written.

I think there should be included a short notice of

STRICKLAND, MRS CATHARINE DORCAS MAULE, 2nd daughter of Sir William Jardine, 7th Bart. of Applegarth (*q. v.* p. xxxii.), b. June 22nd, 1825; m. July 23rd, 1845, Hugh Edwin Strickland, the celebrated naturalist. Upwards of forty of the one hundred and one illustrations in her father's

*Contributions to Ornithology*, 1848-1852, were drawn by her; as well as several illustrations in her husband's book, *The Dodo and its Kindred*, 1848. While pursuing geological studies, he was knocked down and killed by an express train on September 14th, 1853. After his death, she and Sir William Jardine edited his *Ornithological Synonyms*, Vol. I. *Accipitres*, 1855. She eventually gave her husband's natural history collection to Cambridge University in 1867. She d. *s.p.* August 6th, 1888.

The next section is the

### LIST OF CORRESPONDENTS.

I can offer no excuse for my omission of the name of Mr. William Evans, F.R.S.E., M.B.O.U., of Edinburgh, who wrote me several helpful letters during the compilation of my book. Mr. George Russell, of Dumfries, is another correspondent whose name I should have included.

Many of my original correspondents have sent me additional information since my book was published, and I have to thank the following new correspondents for their assistance:—

Bedford, Her Grace the Duchess of.  
 Blackwood, G. G., Edinburgh.  
 Calder, T. M., Auldgirth.  
 Dickson, Walter S., Moniaive.  
 Dixie, Sir Beaumont, Bart., Annan.  
 Goldie-Scot, A., Moniaive.  
 Greaves, A. R., Tynron.  
 Home, J. H. Milne, Canonbie.  
 Robson, George H., Dumfries.  
 Tweedie, A., Annan.  
 Wilson, George B., Canonbie.

As regards the

### BIBLIOGRAPHY,

it would be tedious to enumerate the various magazines that have been read so as to keep my book up to date.

A topographical work, published in 1910 by Mr. John Corrie, entitled *Glencairn (Dumfriesshire): The Annals of an Inland*



*Parish*, contains on pp. 180-185 a list of local birds, and should be included.

Mr. William Evans, to the omission of whose name from my list of correspondents I have already alluded, has written many papers which I gratefully perused. Perhaps the most useful of these has been "Our Present Knowledge of the Fauna of the Forth Area."<sup>1</sup> His many contributions to *The Annals of Scottish Natural History* have also been of much assistance.

The *Catalogue of Dr. Grierson's Museum, Thornhill, 1894*, is a publication which I should have included.

The *Catalogue of the Birds contained in the Collection of Sir W. Jardine*, is dated with a query [? July, 1847]. This catalogue is of great rarity. I only know of one copy containing a title page, and this was given me quite recently by Lady Hooker, Sir William's second wife. I have learnt that the catalogue was drawn up by Sir William and his secretary, Miss Kent, just before he died. In fact, the proof sheets were not passed till a month after his death, and it was never rightly published; though two hundred and fifty copies were delivered at Jardine Hall. These, I believe, were all subsequently destroyed. The date that I have given [? July, 1847] is therefore clearly wrong, and should read 1874. (p. lv.)

The references to the various volumes of Jardine's *Naturalist's Library* refer to the first edition and to the ornithological section of that work. (p. lvi.) This observation should, of course, be remembered throughout the book wherever such references occur.

I have been wrong in stating that Sir William Jardine's "Note of Rare Birds that have occurred in Dumfriesshire and Galloway" appeared in the *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, of May 5th, 1868. I should have referred to this as 1871, p. 39. (p. lvi.)

The correct title of the *Kirkcudbright Advertiser* is the *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*. (p. lvi.)

It is interesting to know that Alexander Goodman More (p. lviii.) was (*circa* 1861) supplied with a list of birds breeding in Dumfriesshire by Sir William Jardine.

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edin., Vol. xvii., pp. 1-64d.



The following papers by the late Robert Service should be added, as containing useful information regarding local birds:—

"Bird Notes," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, March 20th, 1908.

"The British Skuas, with special reference to their local occurrence," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, November 6th, 1908.

"Notes on the British Starling," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, January 28th, 1910.

"Rare Birds of recent occurrence," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, February 19th, 1909.

Robert Service's paper on "The Waders of Solway" appeared in the *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc., Glasg.*, 1905-06, Vol. VIII., pp. 46-60; and not in the *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, (p. lxi.).

As regards the

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CLIMATE

I am able to add the meteorological observations taken at Cargen, Kirkcudbrightshire, for the year 1910.

BAROMETER.			THERMOMETER.			RAIN.	
Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Days.	Inches.
29·759	Oct. 14th 30·580	Feb. 20th 28·326	47·38	July 12th 81·5	Jan. 26th 10	161	56·21

WIND.							
N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
49	22	34	32½	19	61	89	58½

The rainfall of the year exceeded the mean of the preceding fifty years by upwards of twelve inches and by over twenty-seven per cent. In nine months the average rainfall was exceeded, and it was the wettest August ever recorded at this station. Fortunately, September and October were exceptionally dry, and fine harvest weather was followed by a splendid seed time.

Although corn crops were somewhat light, the year on the whole was not unfavourable to agriculturists. On thirteen days upwards of one inch of rain fell in the twenty-four hours, an unprecedented record. The coldest month of the year was November—mean temperature nearly six degrees below the fifty years average.

Records for this year (1911) are not yet due; but the drought and heat of the past summer is not likely to be soon forgotten, and I believe that such a period has not been experienced since 1826, though as early harvests were carried in 1893 and 1899 in the parish of Langholm.

When writing of our

### “FLIGHT - NETS”

I have quoted (p. lxxxv.) H. A. Macpherson's statement, from p. 466 of his *History of Fowling*, where he says Irving Murray was “a Crimean veteran.” This, I have since learnt, is not the case; though Murray may have been engaged in transporting troops to the Black Sea during the war. He had often been in Constantinople, and knew the eastern Mediterranean well.

The section entitled

### PROTECTION

is rendered out of date by the Wild Birds Protection (County of Dumfries) Order, 1911, which is here appended:—

#### THE WILD BIRDS PROTECTION (COUNTY OF DUMFRIES) ORDER, 1911.

Whereas the WILD BIRDS PROTECTION (COUNTY OF DUMFRIES) ORDER, 1908, will expire on the 28th day of February, 1911:

And whereas it is expedient to RENEW the said ORDER:

Now, therefore, I, the undersigned, His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880 to 1908, and upon application by the Joint Committee of the County and Burghs of Dumfries (to whom the administration of the said Acts has been delegated by the County Council of Dumfries, in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, do hereby make the following Order:—

1. This Order shall apply within the County of Dumfries.

2. The "Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880," shall apply to the following Wild Birds, as if they had been included in the Schedule to the said Act, viz. :—

Blackcap.	Hawfinch.	Pied Flycatcher.
Bullfinch.	Jay.	Quail.
Buzzard.	Kestrel.	Raven.
Crossbill.	Merlin.	Redstart.
Dipper.	Osprey.	Siskin.
Garden Warbler.	Peregrine Falcon.	Tufted Duck.
Goosander.		

3. The taking or killing of any of the following Wild Birds is hereby prohibited throughout the whole year, viz. :—

Bittern.	Grebe, Great-crested.	Owl, Short-eared.
Buzzard.	Grebe, Slavonian.	Owl, Tawny.
Chough.	Kestrel.	Peregrine Falcon.
Dotterel.	Kingfisher.	Sheld Duck.
Eagle, Golden.	Kite.	Shrike.
Eagle, White-tailed or Sea Eagle.	Merlin.	Siskin.
Goldfinch.	Osprey.	Titmouse, Long-tailed.
Grebe, Little.	Owl, Barn.	Woodpecker, Great
	Owl, Long-eared.	Spotted.

4. The taking or killing of the Woodcock is hereby prohibited between the first day of February and the first day of October in each year.

5. The taking or killing of any Wild Bird and the taking or destroying of the eggs of any Wild Bird are hereby prohibited on all Sundays throughout the whole year.

6. The taking or destroying the eggs of the following Wild Birds is hereby prohibited, viz. :—

Bittern.	Kestrel.	Redstart.
Blackcap.	Kingfisher.	Sheld Duck.
Bullfinch.	Kite.	Shoveller.
Buzzard.	Mallard.	Shrike.
Chough.	Merlin.	Siskin.
Crossbill.	Nightjar.	Skylark.
Dipper.	Osprey.	Snipe.
Dotterel.	Owl, Barn.	Teal.
Eagle, Golden.	Owl, Long-eared.	Tern, Arctic.
Eagle, White-tailed or Sea Eagle.	Owl, Short-eared.	Tern, Common.
	Owl, Tawny.	Tern, Little.

Eider Duck.	Oyster Catcher.	Tern, Sandwich.
Garden Warbler.	Peregrine Falcon.	Titmouse, Long-tailed.
Goldfinch.	Pied Flycatcher.	Tufted Duck.
Grebe, Great-crested.	Plover, Golden.	Wigeon.
Grebe, Little.	Plover, Ringed.	Woodcock.
Gull, Common.	Pochard.	Woodpecker, Great
Hawfinch.	Quail.	Spotted.
Jay.	Raven.	

7. The taking or destroying the eggs of the Lapwing is hereby prohibited after the 15th day of April in each year.

8. This Order, which may be cited as "The Wild Birds Protection (County of Dumfries) Order, 1911," shall remain in force until the Twenty-eighth day of February, 1914.

Given under my hand and Seal of Office at Whitehall this 21st day of February, 1911.



(Signed) PENTLAND,  
His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland.

In terms of the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880 to 1908, the Joint Committee of the County of Dumfries and Burghs hereby give public notice of above Order by the Secretary for Scotland.

JOHN ROBSON, Clerk of the Committee.

County Buildings,

Dumfries, 23rd February, 1911.

Several birds have, I am glad to say, been added to the Schedule; but the most beneficial clause is that prohibiting the taking of any wild birds or their eggs on all Sundays throughout the whole year.

I recently heard a

### LOCAL MISNOMER

which roused my excitement. I was told the "Bittern" had nested in 1911 near Closeburn, but investigations revealed the fact that this was but another name for the Common Snipe.

The table showing the

### NUMBER OF SPECIES

known to have occurred locally, requires a little alteration:—

Those "[of doubtful occurrence]" should be [30] instead of "[29]," since on farther consideration I doubt whether the Red-Backed Shrike should be included otherwise than such. This change alters the number of "occasional Visitors" to 29, but the occurrence recently of the Ibis replaces these former figures. The total therefore remains 218, to which must be added [40], not "[39] [Introduced Species]" and those "[of doubtful occurrence]." (p. xcvii.)

The following notes refer to

## THE BIRDS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.

**THE MISTLE-THRUSH.** A nest of this species was found (1910) so early as March 20th near Thornhill (Morton).

**THE BLACKBIRD.** A white variety was seen at Closeburn in 1911 for the fourth year in succession. I saw a bird of the year this spring at Capenoch (Keir), which, though white with pale coloured legs and beak, had normally coloured eyes.

**THE RING-OUZEL.** This species first made its appearance locally in 1910, on April 10th; a somewhat early date.

[**THE BLACK REDSTART.** My correspondent, Mr. William Evans, has in his possession the nest and white eggs of the Yellow Bunting found by Mr. R. Service at Duncow, near Dumfries, on June 16th, 1886, which helped to disprove the previous allegation that the Black Redstart had nested in that neighbourhood.] (p. 14.)

[**THE NIGHTINGALE.** It is interesting to note that the first specimen recorded in Scotland was obtained on the Isle of May on May 9th, 1911.<sup>2</sup>]

**THE WOOD-WREN.** Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown, in his *Fauna of the North-West Highlands and Skye*, points out that Yarrell stated in 1843 and 1845, that "not one record exists" of this species in Scotland. As it was regarded as a Scottish bird both by MacGillivray and Sir William Jardine, it is indeed difficult to say why Yarrell should have disregarded these competent ornithologists. At any rate I am prepared to abide by

<sup>2</sup> Ann. Scott. Nat. Hist., 1911, p. 132.

their decision as to its presence here in the early part of the nineteenth century.

An albino Wood-Wren was caught at the end of July, 1910, near Drumlanrig (Durisdeer).

[THE REED WARBLER. This species has now occurred more than once in Scotland; but only on migration.] (p. 30.)

THE GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER was heard and seen in the Cairn valley on several occasions last spring.

THE BRITISH DIPPER nested in its accustomed haunt on Capel Burn in 1909, 1910, and 1911, so that this nesting-site has now been resorted to annually for one hundred and twenty-six years by a pair of Dippers. (p. 36.)

THE BRITISH MARSH-TITMOUSE. It now seems probable that my records under this head should apply to the BRITISH WILLOW-TITMOUSE (*Parus atricapillus Kleinschmidt*). The only specimen that I have actually examined in the flesh was shot near Clonrae (Tynron) on July 20th, 1911. It was sent to Mr. H. F. Witherby, who identified it as a juvenile British Willow-Titmouse. This species differs from the British Marsh-Titmouse in having a brownish-black, not glossy blue-black, head; a more graduated tail, and brown edgings to the secondaries. (pp. 40-42.)

THE GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One was obtained near Dumfries in the winter of 1907. One was seen in Canonbie parish not far from Scotch Dyke, on February 24th and March 1st, 1911, as I am informed by Mr. George B. Wilson.

[THE RED-BACKED SHRIKE. This species would perhaps have been better placed within square brackets. It has not "been known to breed occasionally in south-east Scotland," though it has been supposed to have done so.] (pp. 56-57.)

THE WAXWING. The specimen found in a cupboard at Capenoch (Keir) has been ascertained to have been sent home from Russia in 1854. (p. 58).

THE SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. I have recently seen a letter from Sir William Jardine to an English correspondent,

dated 1840, in which he refers to the comparative rarity of this species in Scotland at that date. (p. 58).

**THE SWALLOW.** The first Swallows were seen locally in 1911 on April 19th, near Capenoch (Keir). On October 28th, 1911, six or seven Swallows were observed skimming about the surface of the water on the Annan close to the Town.<sup>3</sup>

**THE MARTIN.** A white Martin is recorded as hatched near Ecclefechan (Hoddum) in the spring of 1911.<sup>4</sup>

**THE BRITISH GOLDFINCH.** I am certain that this species is on the increase throughout the county.

**THE HOUSE SPARROW.** A cream-coloured individual was reported to me by Mr. J. Corrie as seen near Moniaive (Glencairn) in June, 1911.

**THE CHAFFINCH.** A "Shelfie wholly white with the exception of a small brown bar across one of the wings" was recorded as frequenting Cleughbrae Mill farm, near Ecclefechan, (Hoddum) during the winter of 1910-1911.<sup>5</sup> It mated the following spring, but none of its progeny were white.

**THE COMMON CROSSBILL.** A small flock was seen at Craigdarroch (Glencairn) on November 9th, 1911.

**THE TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL.** A record of the occurrence of this species in 1882 near Rothiemurchus, Inverness-shire,<sup>6</sup> would (if good?) make the Dumfriesshire record the third, and not the second, of its occurrence in Scotland. (p. 99.)

**THE YELLOW BUNTING.** In explanation of the rhymes current locally as regards the connection of this species with his Satanic majesty, "Chambers says that this bird (called Devil's bird in the North of Scotland) is the subject of an unaccountable superstition on the part of the peasantry, who

<sup>3</sup> Dumfries Courier and Herald, Nov. 8th, 1911.

<sup>4</sup> Dumfries Courier and Herald, Sept. 9th, 1911.

<sup>5</sup> *Op. ci.*, Feb. 11th, 1911.

<sup>6</sup> British Birds (Mag.), Vol. v., pp. 24, 25.

believe that it drinks a drop, some say three drops, of the devil's blood each May morning, some say each Monday morning.''<sup>7</sup>

The white eggs of the Yellow Bunting with the nest found in 1886 are now in the possession of Mr. William Evans. (pp. 101-102.)

**THE STARLING.** A white specimen, a male, with pale yellow beak, pink legs and feet, but normally coloured eyes, was shot at Kirkland (Tynron) on June 10th, 1911. In 1911 Starlings proved a great pest at the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries. They nested in the ventilators of the houses, and it was estimated that fully a half of these, or some one hundred and eighty, were thus utilised. The noise of the parent birds when feeding their young greatly annoyed the patients, and the mess they made was so disgusting that it was thought necessary by the Board of Directors to put up copper-wire screens at a total cost of £12 to £15, in front of each of the three hundred and sixty ventilators, to prevent the birds from repeating the nuisance the following spring.

**THE BRITISH JAY.** I have several records of this species nesting in 1910 and 1911 in the littoral parishes.

**THE JACKDAW.** Mr. George H. Robson informs me that he shot a pied Jackdaw in 1904 near Dumfries, and he kindly sent me one obtained on October 22nd, 1910, which had five white primaries in each wing. (p. 117.)

**THE RAVEN.** This species nested in several of its old haunts last spring.

**THE HOODED CROW.** One, a female, which I shot at Auchenhessnane (Tynron) on December 8th, 1910, was the first that had been seen in that parish.

**THE ROOK.** An albino, a bird of the year, was shot near Lockerbie House (Dryfesdale) on May 15th, 1911.

It was estimated in 1827, that the damage done by Rooks

<sup>7</sup> Prov. Names Brit. Birds, 1885, pp. 70, 71.



to seed-wheat in Kirkmahoe parish amounted to £350 annually, besides injury to the potato crops.

A rookery of about twenty nests existed close to Capenoch House (Keir) in 1847.

Recently when going through a quantity of letters to Sir William Jardine I came across several references to this species. The following are perhaps the most interesting:—

The damage done by Rooks to crops is referred to in an Act of Parliament of James I. of Scotland (May, 1424).

A list of rookeries in the following parishes was drawn up in 1844:—

Dalton Hook, Halldykes, Oldwalls, Corriellaw, Drysdale (*sic*).

Balgray,\* Jardine Hall,\* Dinwoodie (Applegarth).

Shaw\* (Hutton).

Raehills (Johnstone).

Park Woods (Kirkpatrick).

Leitherhall, Miln,\* Gerthland\* (Wamphray).

Craigieburn\* (Moffat).

Those marked \* were in existence in 1908; and possibly others now to be seen were known by other names in 1844.

On March 22nd, 1844, the members of the Lockerby (*sic*) Farmers' Club, on account of "the great amount of damage done annually to Turnips and other Crops by Rooks and Wood-pigeons" requested proprietors in the district to reduce the number of the former as far as practicable, and "to kill Wood-pigeons wherever they are to be found."

In 1858 the following rookeries are mentioned:—Amisfield, partly cut down; Raehills, destroyed by hurricane of 1857; Woodcockair, partially destroyed by the same cause; Halleaths, partially destroyed by some of the trees being cut down.

Throughout his life Sir William Jardine seems to have been in favour of checking, but not of exterminating, the Rook.

The rookery at Jardine Hall (Applegarth) (p. 130) is known to have been in existence in 1844; and about 1870, people used to come there from Liverpool and other parts of Lancashire for the rook-shooting in spring.

The following is the list of Rooks killed in Dumfriesshire in 1911, under the auspices of the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association:—

Estate.	No. of birds killed.			
Auchencastle ... ..	...	...	...	72
Balgray, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	533
Burnfoot ... ..	...	...	...	560
Castlemilk ... ..	...	...	...	515
Comlongon ... ..	...	...	...	350
Dinwoodie ... ..	...	...	...	240
Dumcrieff ... ..	...	...	...	400
Gillesbie ... ..	...	...	...	420
Halleaths ... ..	...	...	...	676
Hoddum ... ..	...	...	...	805
Jardine ... ..	...	...	...	400
Kinmount ... ..	...	...	...	130
Kirkwood ... ..	...	...	...	1,200
Mount Annan ... ..	...	...	...	721
Murraythwaite ... ..	...	...	...	260
Raehills ... ..	...	...	...	107
Wamphray ... ..	...	...	...	560
Total ... ..				7,949

THE SWIFT. A bird of this species was seen on August 13th, 1911, at Capenoch (Keir). Those, however, that were bred under the roof of that house left apparently some three days earlier.

THE BRITISH GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER. This species, which is certainly increasing locally, I have heard called the Black and White Spotted Woodpecker and the Black and White Woodpecker. Individuals were seen in the autumn and winter of 1910 at Carnsalloch (Kirkmahoe) and Auchengibbert Wood (Tynron). In the spring of 1911, I received reports of birds being seen near Closeburn Hall (Closeburn), Denbie (Dalton), Raehills (Johnstone), Capenoch (Keir), and Auchengibbert Wood (Tynron). At the latter place they nested in the same decaying tree as in 1910. (p. 160.)

THE ROLLER has occurred on three occasions in the county, not twice (p. 165). Firstly, prior to 1839. Secondly, near Bankhead (Tinwald), October, 1864. Thirdly, near Auchenbrac (Tynron), June 23rd, 1910. The contents of the stomach of

this latter specimen were identified for me by the late Robert Service as follows:—“(1) Nine specimens of the Dipteron, *Anthomyia pluvialis* (?), or a nearly allied species. (2) A quantity of Beetle remains, all of them being Geadephagous, and not less than sixteen individuals. (3) One ant, *Formica curricularia*. (4) One (head only) of the beetle *Carabus nemoralis*. (5) One specimen of *Broscus cephalotes*. (6) One specimen of *Aphodius rufescens*. (7) Numerous vegetable fibres. All of these could have been picked up in some woodland path at the time of year the bird was shot.”

**THE CUCKOO.** Although reported as “heard at Glenmaid (Kirkmahoe) on Friday, March 31st, 1911,<sup>8</sup> I very much suspect some mistake here. Personally, I did not see this spring migrant locally till April 30th.

**THE BARN OWL.** I understand that this species is not considered uncommon near Denbie (Dalton). In August, 1911, an owl (of what species is not recorded) is stated to have flown against and smashed the thick glass look-out window of the cab of a locomotive engine, which was travelling at express speed between Kilmarnock and Carlisle.<sup>9</sup>

**THE COMMON BUZZARD.** One was seen at close quarters near Capenoch (Keir) on November 5th, 1910. I saw another near Chanlock (Penpont) on Nov. 8th, 1911.

**THE PEREGRINE FALCON** nested in several of its accustomed haunts in the spring of 1911; and I knew of an eyrie in a new locality this year. The two eggs were, however, taken after they had been laid three weeks.

**THE MERLIN.** In 1910 I knew of a case where the female of a pair of breeding birds was shot from its nest on the ground. The survivor found a mate, and the old nest of a Carrion-Crow was utilised for the second matrimonial venture. In 1911 a pair of Merlins bred in the old nest of a Carrion-Crow in a Scots fir, some thirty or forty feet from the ground, near Kilmark (Tynron). The fact that this species does not uncommonly

<sup>8</sup> Dumfries Courier and Herald, April 5th, 1911.

<sup>9</sup> Thornhill News, August 14th, 1911.

breed locally in trees in disused nests of other species has already been recorded. (pp. 216, 217.)

THE COMMON HERON. There was a heronry at Jardine Hall (Applegarth) in 1870, but not a large one. (p. 228.)

The number of nests at Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe) was only three in 1910 and in 1911.

THE GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis falcinellus* (Linnæus). On July 26th, 1911, a man employed to scare Rooks at Crurie (Eskdalemuir) shot an Ibis from a flock of four. It was seen in the flesh by Mr. A. Hay Borthwick, who had often seen the species in Egypt, and who at once informed me of the occurrence.

The Ibis is but an irregular visitor north of the Alpine range of Central Europe, and only some sixteen records of its visiting Scotland have hitherto been recorded.

[THE SPOONBILL. Mr. John Harkness has informed me that about 1865 a bird believed to have been a Spoonbill, and identified as such by Irving Murray who had become familiar with the species while employed in the Eastern Mediterranean, was shot at Priestside (Cummertrees).]

THE BARNACLE-GOOSE. One was shot on January 1st, 1895, near Shieldhill (Tinwald), some twelve miles from the sea.

THE BRENT GOOSE. One was seen on the river Scaur, near Capenoch (Keir), some eighteen miles from the sea, on October 5th, 1910.

THE WHOOPER SWAN. A flock of twenty-three Swans, believed by my informant Mr A. Goldie-Scot, to have been of this species, were seen on Loch Urr (Glencairn) on November 9th, 1911.

The ominous appearance of "The White Swan" on the loch at Closeburn, within twenty-four hours of which it is alleged that the heir of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick (second Baronet of Closeburn) died, may be hazarded as 1686. (p. 258.)

**THE MALLARD.** The best night's "fighting" that I have heard of being obtained locally, was got near Shieldhill (Tinvale) in the winter of 1894-1895, when forty-six mallard were obtained in one evening.

**THE PINTAIL.** In February, 1911, I saw a lot of upwards of a hundred in the estuary of the Nith, opposite Carsethorn, Kirkcudbrightshire. I was informed that they are seen there in increasing numbers annually.

**THE AMERICAN BLUE-WINGED TEAL.** The specimen now in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, and which is recognised as the bird obtained locally in 1858, is not a male (p. 276) as has been generally accepted, but a female. The illustration in my book is sufficient evidence of this, and Mr. Eagle Clarke has also carefully examined the bird at my request.

**THE WIGEON.** It is interesting to note that Sir William Jardine, when on a tour in Sutherlandshire in the summer of 1834, was the first to ascertain that this species nested in Great Britain.

The Wigeon has been found nesting in Roxburghshire within five miles of Dumfriesshire, so that records of its breeding locally may be expected any spring.

A female was shot out of a flock of seven or eight at Crawfordton Loch (Glencairn) on October 13th, 1910.

**THE GOLDENEYE.** Males of this species in full plumage are comparatively so rarely seen, that it is worthy of record that I flushed one off a small loch near Capenoch (Keir) on November 5th, 1910; another was seen on the same loch on November 14th, 1911.

**THE RING-DOVE.** On March 22nd, 1844, the members of the Lockerby (*sic*) Farmers' Club urged the local proprietors "to kill Woodpigeons wherever they are to be found, on account of the great amount of damage done annually by them to Turnips and other Crops."

In October and November, 1910, this species was locally more than usually numerous. On different occasions I counted

from the dining-room window at Capenoch (Keir) one hundred, ninety-two, seventy-seven, and seventy-two feeding beneath the oak trees. On October 31st I shot forty-four under the same trees with the aid of decoys.

**THE TURTLE-DOVE.** One of a pair was shot by J. Anderson at Horseclose Wood (Ruthwell) on May 24th, 1909. An immature female was shot near Rockhall (Mouswald) by Mr Jardine Paterson in October, 1910.

**THE CAPERCAILLIE.** A report that a bird of this species was seen near Comlongon (Ruthwell) in October, 1911, is not confirmed.

**THE BLACK GROUSE.** In the autumn of 1843 some living Blackgame were sent under the charge of John Shaw, head gamekeeper at Drumlanrig, to Prince Albert for turning down on Bagshot heath.

The season of 1910 proved an exceptionally good one. Ninety-five Blackgame were killed at Langholm on October 11th; and one hundred and fourteen at Auchenbrac (Tynron) on October 25th, 1910.

The curious variety of a Greyhen, which I have recorded as shot "by Sir Sydney Beckwith on the moors above Beattock Bridge in Annandale," was obtained on August 21st, 1828. (p. 324.)

**THE RED GROUSE.** The shooting season of 1910 was an excellent one in some parts of the county. At Langholm, where the moors are particularly well studied from a sporting point of view, the remarkable total of over ten thousand Grouse, shot between August 12th and October 5th, was obtained. The best day's bag was one thousand one hundred and ninety, killed off Middlemoss (Ewes). The year 1911 proved even better on the Langholm moors, where upwards of twenty thousand five hundred Grouse were shot before the end of October. Some of these moors extend into Roxburghshire, and the bag of two thousand five hundred and twenty-three, killed by eight guns at Roanfell on August 30th, cannot be claimed as a Dumfriesshire record. On Middlemoss (Ewes) one thousand three hundred and thirteen were shot on September 4th, 1911, beating the

record of the previous year by one hundred and twenty-three birds.

The eagerly awaited Final Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Grouse Disease was published in August, 1911, and is far too valuable a publication to pass by unnoticed. It would be impossible here to attempt to show how exhaustively this monograph has been compiled. "Grouse disease" has been found to be due to the ravages of a threadworm, *Trichostrongylus pergracilis*, which infests the cæca. It is obviously difficult to cope with diseases of wild birds, but it is demonstrated clearly how important it is to keep moors in good condition by considerate and systematic burning; and also, how dangerous it is to attempt to keep more Grouse on a moor than the ground will carry in early spring, at which period the food supply is likely to be at its lowest. The variety of plumage in the Red Grouse is dealt with fully in the Committee's Report. In Dumfriesshire the males would appear to be for the most part of the red form, though the white-spotted form is occasionally met with. Of the females, the commonest form is the buff-spotted, though the red form is at times found.

**THE PHEASANT.** In Scotland the pheasant does not appear to have been preserved at a very early period. Robert Gray writes:—"The first mention of the Pheasant in old Scotch Acts is in one dated 8th June, 1594, in which year a keen sportsman occupied the Scottish throne."<sup>10</sup> Sir William Jardine considered that "upon the Scottish border and high Cheviot range they must have been early abundant; for in the old ballad of the field of Otterburn we have:—

"The roo full rekeles there sche rinnes,  
To make the game and glee;  
The Fawken and the *Fesaunt* both,  
Among the haltes on hee."<sup>11</sup>

The battle of Otterburn was fought on August 19th, 1388, and the ballad may be regarded as belonging to the fifteenth century. We have, however, no definite evidence of the existence of the Pheasant in Dumfriesshire till a much later date. There can be

<sup>10</sup> Birds of West Scotland, 1871, p. 226.

<sup>11</sup> Nat. Lib., Vol. IV. (Ornith.), 1834, pp. 191, 192.



no doubt that the species of recent years has been turned down in increasing numbers, and that it has thriven exceedingly. Personally, I am inclined to think that this increase has had something to do with the general decrease of Blackgame and Partridges locally. I have lately often been shocked to see Pheasants on ground which should belong exclusively to Red Grouse. I flushed a cock and hen Pheasant near Langshawburn (Eskdalemuir) in the spring of 1911; and have seen others at Loch Ettrick (Closeburn), Loch Urr (Glencairn), Shinnelhead (Tynron), and Polgowan (Penpont). What were these birds doing there? and if this species is going to take to the moors will it not be detrimental to the Red Grouse? These are questions I cannot answer authoritatively; but I know what I think, and I strongly believe that Pheasants should be kept strictly in their place, and not allowed to compete for existence with our indigenous species.

Females assuming the plumage of the male occur far more often than is generally supposed. In the autumn and winter of 1910, I obtained specimens from Capenoch (Keir) and Auchenhessnane (Tynron).

Pheasants are well known to stray widely from where they are reared. Birds which were hand-reared and ringed at Capenoch were shot three and four miles from where they were turned down.

On December 3rd, 1910, I shot and winged a hen Pheasant, which took refuge in a rabbit hole. It was necessary to dig down three feet before recovering it.

**THE QUAIL.** Sir Emilius Laurie of Maxwellton tells me that it was about 1870, and not in 1838, that he shot a Quail on Braco farm (Keir). (p. 345.)

A pair are said to have been seen near Braehead (Torthorwald) in July, 1910; but I was not able personally to verify this report.

**THE LAND-RAIL.** Two nests with eggs were found in 1910 on August 8th and 9th, in a hayfield, near Beattock (Kirkpatrick-Juxta).<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist., 1911, p. 145.



**THE SPOTTED CRAKE.** One, which had killed itself by flying against the telegraph wires, was picked up in Holywood village on August 24th, 1910.

**THE WATER-RAIL.** I saw a bird of this species near Byreholm (Keir) on February 4th, 1911.

**THE LAPWING.** The flock of "at least 50,000 birds" seen "near Maxwelltown" in 1900, were on the farm of Garrol, Kirkcudbrightshire. (p. 371.)

On August 1st, 1911, I shot a Lapwing at Capenoch (Keir), whose feet had become entangled in sheeps' wool. One foot had been completely worn off, and the other was pitifully distorted and swollen. The bird was in an emaciated condition.

On August 8th, 1911, I found a young Lapwing which had not yet gained its power of flight, and which must therefore have been hatched at an unusually late date.

**THE OYSTER-CATCHER.** I saw a pair of these birds at Loch Urr (Glencairn) on May 22nd, 1911. I could find no nest, but quite possibly this had been destroyed along with many of the more accessible nests of the Black-headed Gulls.

An Oyster-catcher was seen at Auchanstroan (Glencairn) early in September, 1911.

**THE WOODCOCK.** A Woodcock with white primaries was shot in Capenoch Big Wood (Keir) about 1880.

A light lavender-coloured Woodcock was shot near Sanguhar on December 3rd, 1910, and is now in my collection, thanks to the generosity of Mr. A. R. Greaves.

The winter of 1910 proved a good season; and I heard of thirty-three Woodcocks being killed in one day at Langholm in November; twenty-eight in the same month at Springkell (Kirkpatrick-Fleming); and twenty-two near Drumlanrig on November 29th, 1910.

The following spring more Woodcock than usual nested locally, and over fifty birds were picked up and ringed "B.Q." near Langholm. I was informed of a nest with four

eggs so late as June 29th, 1911, at Craigmuir, Kirkcudbrightshire.

**THE COMMON SNIPE.** It has recently come to my knowledge that in some parts of the county this species in spring is known as "the Bittern."

Before 1870, bags of from thirty to forty couple of Snipe were not infrequently obtained on Lochar Moss; and I have been told that sixty-one couple were shot there by three guns one autumn day in 1868 or 1869.

Mr. Cecil Laurie and I shot thirteen and a half couple on Braco farm (Keir) on August 8th, 1910.

A Snipe ringed "1908 H." was shot at Springkell (Kirkpatrick-Fleming) in October, 1910; but it has not yet been ascertained where this bird came from.

**THE DUNLIN.** In the spring of 1911 I saw several of these birds, obviously on their breeding grounds, near Loch Urr (Glencairn), and also near Langshawburn (Eskdalemuir).

**THE RUFF.** One was shot near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in September, 1911. This species has recently been described as "getting quite common" in that district: but the statement that a pair nested there in 1910 and 1911 is so unexpected as to need farther evidence.<sup>13</sup>

**THE COMMON SANDPIPER.** I have never seen this species inland locally as late as in 1910; when, on August 18th, I shot one on the river Scaur near Capenoch (Keir).

**THE GREEN SANDPIPER.** A pair of these birds were seen at Morton Loch (Morton) on August 8th, 1911, by my friend Mr. Henry Birkbeck who is intimately acquainted with this species in Norfolk.

**THE REDSHANK.** I saw a pair near Waterside (Keir) on March 15th, 1911, which is an early date for their appearance so far inland. I am informed by Mr. J. Bartholomew, that Redshanks nested for the first time on Kinnelhead farm

<sup>13</sup> Dumfries Courier and Herald, Oct. 4th, 1911.

(altitude, about 1,200 feet), in Kirkpatrick-Juxta parish, in 1911. I saw one near Langshawburn farm (Eskdalemuir) on May 24th, 1911.

**THE COMMON CURLEW.** It is hardly correct to say that "the curious rippling crescendo note of the Curlew in spring is reserved for those who know the bird at its breeding-haunt," (p. 417), for I have heard this note when on the Solway mud-flats in spring. Doubtless, however, it is best known to those who are familiar with the bird at its breeding-haunt among the hills.

The white Curlew, which has been known to visit the head of Shinnel water annually in spring since 1904 (p. 419), was seen there again in 1911.

Curlews were first seen in 1911, at their inland breeding-haunts in Keir on 20th, and in Tynron parish on 25th February.

On June 12th, 1911, I spent an amusing half-hour watching a pair of Curlews buffeting an old blackfaced ewe, which was taking much too close an interest, as they thought, in their progeny.

**THE WHIMBREL** is not known to nest in the Outer Hebrides, as I have stated. (p. 421.)

**THE COMMON TERN.** On August 4th, 1910, three Terns flew over my head while near Low Lann (Tynron). I was unable to ascertain to which species they belonged, but the appearance of any Tern twenty miles inland and far from any known breeding place during fine summer weather, is remarkable.

**THE BLACK-HEADED GULL.** Langshawburn Loch (Eskdalemuir), where there was a "gullery" of some two hundred nests in 1908, should be named Moodlaw Loch. (p. 432.)

In the spring of 1911 I counted about one thousand nests at Loch Urr (Glencairn), and about eight hundred at the Dhu Loch (Penpont).

The following Black-headed Gulls ringed locally, under the auspices of the Editor of the *British Birds* Magazine, have been recovered as under:—

No. on Ring.	Ringed at	On	Recovered at	On	Approximately
9,473	Cleughhead Loch (Durisdeer)	June 29th, 1910.	Paisley.	August 1st, 1910.	40 miles NNW. from place of ringing.
9,469	"	June 26th, 1910.	Croft Spa, Darlington.	Feby. 7th, 1911.	110 miles SE. from place of ringing.
9,489	"	June 29th, 1910.	Perth.	August 1st, 1910.	80 miles N. from place of ringing.
22,767	Dhu Loch (Penpont)	June 28th, 1911.	Kirkmichael.	July 20th, 1911.	14 miles SE. from place of ringing.
22,754	"	"	Near Dumfries.	July 17th, 1911.	15 miles SSE. from place of ringing.

THE COMMON GULL. As regards a complaint in 1852 of the damage done to the turnip crops in Berwickshire by this species, Sir William Jardine wrote:—"In our own district, at a distance in a direct line of about twelve miles from the sea, the Common Gull, since we can remember, during winter and spring, daily wends its way inland considerably farther than our locality, and as regularly may be seen returning toward evening in its wedge-formed groups. These during the forenoon frequent the fallows, and often follow the plough; but their chief resort is the pasture land, and their chief, almost only food is worms or snails, etc. We have never heard of or suspected their attacking turnips or other vegetable produce."<sup>14</sup>

THE POMATORHINE SKUA. The two specimens "obtained in Gretna parish in 1892" (p. 444) are now in Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.<sup>15</sup>

THE BLACK GUILLEMOT. My statement that this species nests in "precipitous cliffs" (p. 452) is misleading. It nests in some places on low rocky islands, but is not known to breed within the limits of Dumfriesshire.

<sup>14</sup> Contributions to Ornithology, 1852, p. 40.

<sup>15</sup> Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc., Nov. 6th, 1908.

THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE. Several pairs nested in the Lochmaben Lochs in 1911; and I had the pleasure of seeing one there on the Castle Loch on June 6th.

THE RED-NECKED GREBE. The *Catalogue of the Birds contained in the collection of Sir William Jardine* was printed in 1874, not 1847, as indicated. (p. 461.)

THE SLAVONIAN GREBE attempted to breed in Inverness-shire in 1908 and 1909, not in "Argyllshire" as I have stated (p. 463), and would probably have done so had not the birds been persecuted.<sup>16</sup>

LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL. The specimen recorded as picked up "by Mr. John Jardine" (p. 469), was found by him on November 16th, 1830, about three miles north of Jardine Hall (Applegarth) "after one of the most violent storms of thunder, wind, and rain that had for many years visited Dumfriesshire."<sup>17</sup>

A Leach's Fork-tailed Petrel was found on the road between Cummertrees and Annan on November 15th, 1911, having killed itself by flying against the telegraph wires.

As regards

## THE INDEX,

the following local names should be added:—

Bittern for the Common Snipe (p. 389).

Brown Hawk for the Kestrel (p. 217).

Glead or Gled, formerly, for the Kite (p. 209).

Woodpecker, Black and White, and Woodpecker, Black and White Spotted, for the Woodpecker, British Great Spotted (p. 157).

Finally, it may be pointed out that in

## THE MAP

the darker of the two shades of blue, used to denote the sea, indicates the water below low-water mark.

<sup>16</sup> Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist., 1910, p. 211.

<sup>17</sup> Edinburgh Journal of Nat. and Geog. Science, 1830, Vol. III., p. 46.

In conclusion, I wish to state that I propose to make known any farther Addenda and Corrigenda, which may occur from time to time, to my Book on *The Birds of Dumfriesshire*, through the medium of the *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*.

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**2nd November, 1911.**

Chairman—Mr JOSEPH SWAN.

THE DUMFRIES POST OFFICE, 1642-1910. A RECORD OF  
PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT. By Mr JOHN M. CORRIE.

PREFACE.

In sketching the general history of the Post Office (Section I.) free use has been made of the well-known works by Joyce and by Hyde. The subsequent chapters embody the results of personal research among Public Records, original documents, and other authentic sources.

To G. W. Shirley, Esq., Librarian of the Ewart Public Library, Dumfries, the writer is indebted for extracts, letters, and documents from the Burgh Records of Dumfries, for some early postmarks, and for seeing the work through the press. Grateful acknowledgments are tendered to Sir E. P. W. Redford, C.B., Secretary to the Post Office in Scotland, for arranging for permission to reproduce the postmarks; to the Town Clerk and Town Council of Dumfries for kind permission to examine and to take extracts from the Burgh Records; to the Proprietors and Editor of the "Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald" for affording opportunities of consulting the files of their paper and for the use of a block; and to Major Threshie of Barnbarroch, Dalbeattie, for permission to reproduce the valuable and interesting portrait of Robert Threshie.

His acknowledgments are likewise due to J. W. Gulland, Esq., M.P.; C. S. Chapman, Esq., late Postmaster of Dumfries; W. Carmichael, Esq., Postmaster of Dumfries; R. C. Reid, Esq., Mouswald; W. McMath, Esq., F.S.A.Scot., Edinburgh; John Kirk, Esq., Poolhouses, Lockerbie; James Davidson, Esq., F.C.S.; S. Arnott, Esq., F.R.H.S.; A. Coldwell, Esq.,



POST OFFICE, BUCCLEUCH STREET, DUMFRIES, OPENED 1889.





A.R.C.O. ; W. L. Blackie, Esq. ; W. Allan, Esq. ; J. G. Drummond, Esq. ; and J. Thomson, Esq., Hole i' th' Wa' Inn, Dumfries, for assistance in various ways.

In the preparation of these pages the writer has found a pleasant relaxation from the severer duties of a subordinate position in the postal service. If the work should prove of interest to his former colleagues in the Dumfries Office and help, even in a small measure, towards a complete history of the Post Office in Scotland, his labours will not have been in vain.

## 1.—INTRODUCTORY AND GENERAL HISTORY.

Like all institutions whose origin dates back to early times, the first establishment of a postal system is somewhat obscure.

What may be regarded as the initial step in the postal development of our country is recorded during the reign of Edward II., when we learn that private individuals kept horses for hire so that a messenger might travel "post," *i.e.*, by relays.

It is not, however, clear that at this early date the post was established as a public institution. In all probability it would be used as occasion might demand and as soon as the requirements of the moment had been satisfied the system would be allowed to fall into disuse.

Again, in the reign of Edward IV., it is recorded that when at war with Scotland in 1481 he established a system of posts of 20 miles distance, so that he might receive early news of the progress of his army, and in 1482 Parliamentary sanction was obtained for the establishment of a public post to be paid out of the Treasury.<sup>0</sup>

These posts were controlled from the King's Household, and an officer, known as the Master of the Posts, was appointed to direct them.<sup>1</sup>

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, about the year 1543, some kind of regular system of posts was adopted, but it would appear to have met with only a varying amount of success, as we find that although letters were conveyed from London to Edinburgh in four days (a rate of transportation exceedingly rapid for the period) the arrangement was abandoned after a very short time.

0. Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. I., p. 278.

1. The Post Office: An Historical Summary. Published by order of the Postmaster-General, 1911.

That the idea of a postal system was not altogether lost sight of, however, is abundantly evidenced by the fact that a patent granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1590 to John Stanhope as Master of the Posts was surrendered to James I. in 1607, and, with a view, no doubt, of securing the succession to Stanhope's son, a new patent was granted to Stanhope, now Lord Stanhope of Harrington, and to Charles his son and heir-apparent.

The appointment was as "Master of the Messengers and Runners commonly called the King's Post as well within the kingdom as in parts beyond the seas, within the King's dominions."

Although not specially empowered by his patent to send or work posts in foreign parts, out of the King's dominions, it appears to have been Stanhope's practice to do so, no doubt, with considerable profit to himself.

The King, James I., ever quick to detect a means of raising money, took advantage of this opening in Stanhope's patent, and, by the recital of a patent bearing date the 30th April, 1631, we learn that "the King appointed that there should be an office or place called Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts, being out of the King's dominions; that the office should be a sole office by itself and not member or part of any other office or place of Postmaster whatsoever; and that there should be one sufficient person or persons, to be by the King from time to time nominated and appointed, who should be called the Postmaster or Postmasters of England for Foreign Parts, being out of the King's dominions, and, for the considerations therein mentioned, the King appointed Matthew De Quester, and Matthew De Quester, his son, to the said office; to hold to them the said Matthew De Quester, the father, and Matthew De Quester, the son, as well by themselves or either of them as by their or either of their sufficient deputy or deputies, during the natural lives of Matthew De Quester, the father, and Matthew De Quester, the son, the said office of Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts, being out of the King's dominions, for their natural lives and the life of the survivor, etc."

Thus until the year 1632 there were two distinct Masters of the Posts. Stanhope filled the one office and the De Questers the other.

On the death of the younger De Quester, and the elder De

Quester "being stricken in age," the office of Postmaster of England for Foreign parts was, by the recital of a patent dated 15th March, 1632, made to devolve upon Wm. Frizell and Thomas Witherings as deputies of the elder De Quester.

Nothing of note is afterwards heard regarding William Frizell, but Thomas Witherings soon proved himself a man of marked ability, keen in business, and shrewd in organisation.

The success that attended these foreign posts under his able and energetic management would seem to have awakened a desire for a regular and more efficient service by the inland posts, for we find Thomas Witherings appointed to manage a system of public posts to be grafted under the chain of deputy postmasters already existing upon the roads and under the direction of Stanhope.

By this appointment a third control of the Posts was introduced, and it is not, therefore, a surprise to find that such complex arrangements did not work smoothly. The controversies to which they gave rise resulted finally in Stanhope being driven from office.

As soon as Witherings was legally secure in his place he seems to have set himself assiduously to the task of reorganising a system of inland posts. In less than a year he had established a regular service of postal communication between London and Edinburgh "to go thither and come back again in six days; and to take with them all such letters as shall be directed to any post town in the said road; and the posts to be placed in several places out of the road to run and bring and carry out of the said roads the letters as there shall be occasion, and to pay 2d for every single letter under fourscore miles; and if 140 miles 4d; and if above then 6d; and to any part of Scotland then 8d."

The system would appear to have been successful, for steps were speedily taken to monopolise the service, and in 1637 it was further ordered by proclamation that no other messengers or foot posts were to carry letters except those employed by the King's Postmaster-General, unless it was to places not touched by the King's posts, and with the exception of common known carriers or persons carrying a letter to a friend or messengers sent on purpose.

It is not to be imagined that the formation of this monopoly took place without opposition. On the contrary, it gave rise to general dissatisfaction, as a result of which a Committee of the

House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the matter, but it was not until the Common Council of London endeavoured to set up a rival post that the question was finally settled, for the Commons, although they had loudly denounced the formation of the Crown monopoly, now promptly put down this infringement, and from that time the carriage of letters has remained, as a monopoly, in the hands of the Government.

As far as Scotland is concerned it is largely to the wisdom and foresight of Oliver Cromwell that we are indebted for the establishment of the Post Office on a business footing. Changes in its constitution there have been, it is true, but in every case the object in view has been increased efficiency.

## II.—THE DUMFRIES POST OFFICE—EARLY HISTORY.

Coming now to deal with local developments, we find the earliest record of a post in a Proclamation of Summons made at the Market Cross of Dumfries in 1592.

As the person summoned had fled, the messenger, Nicoll Newall, had drafted an Instrument stating that he had performed his duty as aforesaid. The document, which was witnessed by John Finlayson "callit the Post," and John Aitken in Kirkgait, was then (presumably) sent to the Clerk of Parliament.<sup>2</sup>

At a later date we have mention of another post in the Minutes of Dumfries Town Council.

"At Drumfreis the twentie ane day of marche 1622.—The qlk day George Ramsey post to the burrowes resaut fra Johne craik thesaurer of the said burghe in name of the provest and bailleis thair of the sowme of fourtie markis money and that for his paines and trubell in carrieing the missive letteris throw the heed burrowes of Scotland for ane generall convention to be halden in Drumfreis the secund day of July nixt and thairupon the provest and baillies decernit act."

Again, in the Burgh Treasurer's Accounts for the year 1635, we have the following entry:—

"Itm to Georg ramsay the burrowes post, 48 sh."

This was not a local post. At an earlier date George Ramsay

2. Acts of Parl. Scot, Vol. III., pp. 529 and 535, in H.M. Register House, Edinr.

had been appointed by the Commissioners of Royal Burghs to be "thair common post."<sup>3</sup>

It was not until some years later that regular postal communication, under Government control, was established in the district.

Under date 15 Feb., 1642, we read:—"The Lords of Privie Counsell recommends to the Earle of Cassills, the Lord Angus, Justice Clerk and shireff of Teviotdail, to thinke upon the best wayes and meanes for establisheing of posts betwix Portpatrick and Carlil, and to call before theme suche persons as know the bounds and to try the most comodious places quhair the post stages may be established and to report."

At a later date it is recorded:—"The Lords of Privie Counsell, for the good of his Majesties service and the better keeping of intelligence betwix Ireland and this, and dispatche of pacquets, thinks fit and ordans that post stages be provydit and established at Blaikburne [? Broxburn], Hamilton, Newmilne, Air, Girvane, Ballintrae, and Portpatrick, and that fiftie pundis sterline be allowed as a fee for everie post maister yeerlie, and that half a yeeres fee be advanced to thame for furnisheing of horses, they first findeing caution for keeping three sufficient and able post horses for the service forsaid; and recommends to the Lord Chancellor and Treasurer Deput to deale with Sir William Seaton or anie other gentlemen in the bounds abone-written for setling and establisheing the saids post-stages in the places abone-written or at anie other places as sall be most convenient and make speedieest dispatch for the service."

In the case of the post stages between Carlisle and Portpatrick the same arrangements also to take effect.

Again in a Supplication, by the postmasters between Portpatrick and Carlill, of date 27 Sept., 1642, we are informed:—

"In the month of [ ] last order was given by the Parliament of England 'for establishing post stages betwix Edinburgh

3. Haddington, 9 Jnly, 1619.—Vnderstanding the abilitie and qualificationn of George Ramsaye and of his guid servise done and to be done be him to the saids commissioners of borrowis, thayrfore they admitt and ressave the said George Ramsay to be thair common post, and ordanis him to be imployit in making of all thair warnings.—Records of the Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland, 1615-1676; Vol. III., p. 9.

and Portpatrick and Portpatrick and Carlill,' 'and the doing so was laid by some of the Commissioners at Court upon Robert Glencors merchant burges of Dumfreis,' as a person who knew best to saddle post stages betwix Carlill and Portpatrick, and who was also fittest person to be postmaster at Dumfreis; who did thereupon represent the mater to the Scottish Commissioners at London and to the English Commissioners for the affaires of Ireland, who directed him to Mr Burlimakie, maister of the letter office, for agreement anent this service, and so the said Robert was established postmaister betwix Annand and Drumfreis, 12 myle, and Mark Cook<sup>4</sup> betwix Carlill and Annand, 12 myle; Andro M'Min betwix Dumfreis and the Steps of Or, 12 myle; Ninian Mure betwix the Steps of Or and Gaithous of Fleit, 12 myle; and George Bell from thence to the Pethhous, elleven myles, and John Baillie from thence to the Kirk of Glenluce, 13 myle; and John M'Aig from that to the Port, ten myles . . . which persons are the onelie men fitt for that employment, as being in-keepers and of approved honestie in these parts, who have done also acceptable service to the Parliament of England since the month of May that they entered to that service, and ar to be payed be them for the same, as by thair orders may appeare and by some letters written to the said Robert Glencors from the said Mr Burlimakie, Sir John Cotworthie, and others, and this service wes found so neccessar that even in time of peace the same wes thought fitting for keeping intelligence with Ireland but stayed be the late Earle of Stafford, and since the supplicants have so long served with the good lyking of England and they wer also established by motioun of some of the Scottish Commissioners humblie desiring therefore the saids Lords to ratifie this employment and to allow the said John M'Aig postmaster at Port Patrick.'"

"The Lords finding the desire of the supplicants reasonable and the imployment and service forsaid to be much conducing for intelligence betwix England and Ireland therefore they have allowed and be thir presents allowes of the saids supplicants thair imployments forsaid and of ane post bark to the said John M'Aig, their fees always being paid to them be the Parliament of England."<sup>5</sup>

4. Not "Loch," as given by M'Dowall.—History of Dumfries, p. 418 (3rd Ed., 1906).

5. Privy Council Records.



It was not, however, until the year 1664 that direct postal communication was established between Dumfries and the capital. On the "5 Dec," of that year "the counsall considering the tounes prejudice by want of constant correspondence with the toun of Edr and by wanting occasioun to get letrs conveyed to and from Edr about the inhabitants particular affairs for remedy yroff they haif appoynted the pnt magistrats Stephen Irving lait baillie the conveinar and Jon Martein four of ym to establish a constant foot poast to go weikly Betwixt this and Edr. To appoint his sallarie and to consider qt sall be payit for the post of lres and to every thing yranent qch may mak the same speci ally effectuall for the weill of the burgh and to report yr Diligence the next Counsall"<sup>6</sup>

No report in regard to this matter is recorded in the Burgh Records, but there can be little doubt that the instructions were duly carried into effect.

Under date 19th February, 1677, we learn, "The qlk day the counsell ordeans and appoynts the thesr to pay to Wm. ffigas ane of the pnt baillies of this burgh the soume of ffyve libs Sterling the one half therof at lambes to come and the uther half therof at the last of March thereafter in the year 1678 for his incouragement to maintean a post from this burgh to Edgr weekly for a year efter the last of March in this instant year and in caice the sd Wm. doe not agree wt the gnall postmaster for the liberty therof then ther pnts to be null etc."

Again under date 4th November, 1678, "The councill ordeans the thssr to pay to Wm. ffigas baillie the sowme of ffyve pund Sterling the one halfe at Martimmes nixt to come and the uther half at Witsunday nixt for his incuragment to mantean ane post from this burgh to Edgr weekly for a year qlk begun at March the last day theirof bypast and ends at Apryle nixt."

"20 Nov., 1679.—The councill continewis Wm ffigas baillie his cellary for the post office as formerly and ordeans the thesr to make payment yrof for this year commencing from Apryle last."<sup>7</sup>

Thus in the earliest days of local postal arrangements those employed in the conveyance and delivery of letters were not

6. Dumfries Town Council Minutes.

7. Dumfries Town Council Minutes.

always in the pay of the Post Office or under its control, and it is of interest to obtain records of appreciation in respect of these "Council Posts" as they were then designated. In the Burgess Roll of Dumfries Town Council under date 1st December, 1684, we find the following entry: "Johne Fisher post ffor his bygone service as post to the burgh is admitted burgess and freeman . . . given gratis." On later dates, March 26, 1689, and 3rd July, 1689, we find the names of Wm. Irving and Wm. M'Goune as posts to the burgh.<sup>8</sup>

As safeguarding the public property and interests, and possibly also with a view to imparting dignity to the position of Council Post, a badge of office was provided.

Under date 14 Feb., 1676,<sup>9</sup> "The Counsall ordeans Wm. ffigass to caus mak tua badges for the tounes posts qlk they will ordean to be payit by the ther upon ane accompt."

This instruction was duly carried out, and under date 10 March, 1676, it is recorded, "The qlk day the Councill appoynts the toun thesr to receave from Balive Bishop two Silver Badges for ther two posts and to deliver the samyn to Wm. ffigas Postmaster qo is to be furth command to the toun for them qn they sall be callit for and ordeans the thesr to pay to Balive Bishop twentie leb Scotts qch he had peyit out for the Silver and workmanship therof."

Again under date 2 Dec., 1700, we read:—"The sd day the clerk produced to the counsell the touns post badge or Blazone which he got from the late post for whom he was catione and in

#### 8. Dumfries Burgh Records.

9. In an old Post Office notice, dated June 15th, 1728, in the possession of W. V. Morten, Esq., Manager, P.O. Telephones, Leeds, we read that, . . . "It is ordered by the Postmaster Generall that every letter carrier whose walk is within London, Westminster, or Southwark, shall, as a badge of his employment, wear a brass ticket upon some (the most visible) part of his clothing, with the King's Arms upon it, which ticket he is always to wear whilst he is upon duty. And all persons who shall discover any Letter Carrier, Porter, or other person whatsoever, delivering letters which should have passed through the General Post Office, without such Badge or Ticket upon the most visible part of their clothing are desired to give information thereof to the Postmaster General, that the offenders may be prosecuted according to Law, and for such information they shall meet with all fitting encouragement.

Joseph Godman, Secretary."



respect the theasre is not here the same is continued in his hand till it be delyvered in face of counsell."

It is greatly to be regretted that these "badges or Blazones" have now disappeared.

Notwithstanding such precautionary measures references expressing mistrust in the posts are frequently met with, and the following examples from local records are of peculiar interest:—

"Drumfries, Aug. 15, 1694.—The Clerk is appoynted to wryte to Mr Black Minister of Gratney to gett all the intelligence he can find annent Jannett Maire."

"Drumfries, Oct. 8, 1694.—In regard the Clerk could not gett a sure bearer to carie a letter to Mr Black Minr of Gratney anent informatione about Jannot Maire, the appoyntment is yet continued upon him."<sup>10</sup>

Again, in a letter from James Armstrong, Moderator of the Presbytery of Middlebee, to Mr Wm. Dunlop, Principall of the Glasgow Colledge, dated Oct., 1696, we find the following:—"If ye send your answeare by Drumfries it will readily miscarry."

In contrast we quote the following extract from a letter dated from Drumfries, 14 April, 1762, and addressed to Mr Gilbert Grierson, Chamberlain to the Duke of Buccleuch at Dalkeith:—"I could not get a bill upon Edinr for £30 I wanted to remit you so I shall be obliged to send it in the posts pocket upon Monday."

It can scarcely be said that this mistrust was not warranted for, on occasion, liberties were taken with the correspondence of the individual.

In the minutes of Dumfries Town Council, under date 3rd June, 1689, we find it deliberately recorded:—"The sd day the Magistrates and Cowncill takeing to their consideration the present troubles of the tymes and that Correspondence may be suspected to be kept by dissafected persons in prejudice of the present governemint and for acuseing of the people. Therffore appoyntes and ordaines the post Master of this burgh to bring the poist letters to the Clerkes Chamber (dureing ther pleasr) that the directions of the lers may be read and any suspect lrs broken up and considered before sealling of the bag. And that at Sealling yrof the seall of any ane of the Magistrates be also put upon the same And att the returne of letters fra Edgr the poist

bring the bag before brekeawn yrof to the Clerkes Chamber to the effect forsd And further Impowers any of the Magistrats as they shall find cause to take the poistMr aith and his servants lers enent abstracting of lres or keeping up the same And to doe every uther thing requisit enent the premisses."

The only other reference to the postal affairs of this period that we have been able to discover occurs under date 3 July of the same year.<sup>11</sup>

"The whilk day in presence of Robert Johnstone ane of the baillies of Drumfries compeired personallie William M'Goune toun post and enacted himself that he shall cary and behave himself in all time comeing peicebilie as becomes, acting nothing prejudiciall to the protestant intrest Neither by word nor deid nor yet asperse lyes of the pnt government under the pain of ffiftie pundis Scots of liquidat penaltie in caice of failzie. By and attour whet uther punishment the mag. Shall be pleased to inflict upon him."

Until the year 1715, according to various historians of the post office, there were no horse posts in Scotland except those which plied betwixt Berwick and Edinburgh, and from thence to Port Patrick for the sake of the Irish packets.<sup>12</sup> There must, however, have been earlier attempts to establish such a service. We are able to supply authentic information in respect of a London horse post passing through Dumfries in 1690. Thus in a document preserved among the Records of Dumfries Town Council and entitled, "Petitione, John M'Gillter to the toun counsall of Drumfries 1690," we read as follows:—

"Unto the right Honll the  
provost Baillies Conveiner  
and toun counsall of Drumfries  
the petition of John M'Gillter  
prisoner in the burgh pledge-hous.

Sheweth

that qr the petitioner being in this toun upon wedensday the 2d aprylle instant And being exceedinglie drunk Did strike att

11. Dumfries Town Council Minutes.

12. Joyce's History, p. 118. Lang's Hist. Summary of the P.O. in Scotd., p. 9.

the London posts horss that wes coming ryding through this toun with the packit that efternoone which occasioned the man and horss baith to fall upon the hie street And true it is your Worships may easilie consider that if their petitioner had not bene a drunken beast he had not medled with the post Wheiras he is verie sensible that the doing thereoff was more nor the petitioner dare answer for And he yet admires when your Worships put him in prisone that ye did not loaden him with irons or made him a spectackle to the haill toun for such a gross fact however their petitioner is exceedinglie sorie for what he did and trusts that he sall be more sober for the tyme to come. And wishes that all good people wold take example be him And now the truth is the petitioner has a great charge of a poor familie and the bestiall at home are in a starving conditione And the crop which hes sown will undoubtedlie goe to ruine without he be set at libertie to oversee it himself.

May it tharefore please your  
Worships in consideration of the  
haill premisses to set the  
petitioner att libertie and he  
sall be very willing to  
undergoe what punishment  
your Worships shall be pleasit  
to inflict upon him And hopes  
that this shall be a rebeuk  
for him to walk more soberlie  
for the future And your Worships  
anshr.

John M'Gillter."

In a marginal note, dated 7 Aprylle 1690, the document is endorsed:—"The magistrats and counsall pnt continues to give anshr till this day aught days."

That the duties of the Town Council were, in other ways, closely linked with the Post Office of this period is shown by numerous entries in the Council Minutes and Treasurer's Accounts, of which the following are typical examples:—

"2 June 1684.—The sd day the counsell thinks fitt that there be correspondence for news keepit betwixt this burgh and the cittie of Cairlyle weiklie They therefore appoint the bailzies to

wryte to the postmaister of Cairlyle or Bernard Ross at Sark brig for sending in what news comes there weiklie and appoynts the same to be sent to the thessrs Shop and him to pay weiklie yrfore twentie four shillings Scots whilk shall be allowed in his accompts and appoynts the news lres to be red ilk counsell day att the meeting yrof."

"9 March 1685.—The sd day the counsell ordaines the thessr to pay to Thomas Irving merd in name of Bernard Ross the sowme of thritie pound Scots for news sent be him to the mag. from Cairlyle and the same to be allowed in his accompts."

"30 Aug. 1697.

The qlk day the Counsell appoynts the above Comettee to revyse Robert Johnstoune postmaster his accompts of the news Letters and other letters relating to the toun and what is dew to give precept therefore."

"6 Sept. 1697.

The qlk day the Counsell having received in and considered ane accompt of the post Letters dew to Robert Johnstoune postmaster for the soume of one pond sixteen shillings and four pence sterling money finds the same just and dew."

"27 Janry, 1701.

The qlk day the counsell considering the lose they are at throw not getting forraigne and domestick news dewlie and tymeouslie sent ym and considering yr provost being at Edr can best settle the same for the behoove of the burgh. Thairfore they all in on voice recommend to the provost to agree wt the generall post master for news lers forraign and domestick for ane year after Candlemas nixt. Wheranent this act shall be ane sufficient warrand and commissione as also to endeavour to get the post dayes altered. And if possible to get the post to com of Edr upon Saturday and be hear upon Munday so as he may goe away upon Tuesday efternoon and what agreement the sd provost may make that he gett in the bargain the newes packet free of postage heir."

The council's instructions were duly carried out and the result of the negotiations is recorded in the Town Council Minutes as follows:—

"17 March, 1701.

The qlk day the provost reported to the counsell that whyle he was at Edr attending the parliat He had agreed with the

generall postmr for forrayne and domestick news from candle-mass last to candlemes nixt weeklie for five ginneis free of postage whereof the counsell approves and by this present act declair the sam the tounes debt and disburdeins the provost yrof."

In further illustration of the Council's dealings with the Post Office in regard to the supply of News Letters and Newspapers "for the touns behoove" we quote the following additional extracts from the Council Minutes:—

"16 March, 1702.

And the provost further reported That in respect the postmr was deed he knew not who represented him and therefore could not pay the composition made for news letters for the last year but withall reported that he has agreed with Mr Simpson deput postmaster to Mr George Main<sup>13</sup> for the news letters for a year after the first of Febry last for six pound sterling. Whereof the Council likewise approves and which is payable quarterly And because the sd post Mr deput charges ane exorbitant rate for the English votes of parliament The Councell recommends to the Provost to write to the sd Mr Simpson discharging the same. The aforsd Discharge and Recept and accompt all mentioned in this act is delivered to John Brown present thessr to be kepted by him until they be called for to be put up in the charter chest."

"20th Apr. 1702.

Accompt due by the Toun to George Main Postmr Generall of Two pounds Twelve shillings and one pence sterline for news furnished by him to ym with ane bill subjoin'd to the sd accompt Desiring peyt of the accompt to Rob. Johnstoun postmr in this burgh."

"Monday last of May, 1703.

The Councill considering yt the news sent by George Main to the Magistrats are not so satisfying to the toun as might been expected Therefore they think fitt to give precept for what is resting him and to discharge the sending ym in time coming and Recommends to the Provost to write to Provost Johnston to settle wt some carefull man to send in the Scots Gazetts and minute of Parliament and Recomends to Bailie Robert Corbett to write to

13. Farmer of the Post Office in Scotland.

Carlile for settling ane Correspondence yr for the news or to Samuel Gordon surveyor at Allasonbank<sup>14</sup> as he thinks fitt."

Notwithstanding the Council's finding in regard to Mr Main's supply and the instructions to Baillie Corbet as to a new arrangement it is curious to find the first system reverted to.

"25 Oct. 1703.

The web day John Crosbie Bailie reported to the Councell that conform to their direction when last at Edr he had agreed with George Main, generall postmaster for the news viz two London Gazetts, three flying posts and Postscripts and two Edr gazetts weekly for six pound sterling for the ensuing year after Hallow day nixt to be payed quarterly being thirty shillings each quarter. . . ."

Entries in the Dumfries Burgh Treasurer's Accounts for 1708-9 and later, under the heading "Accompt of John Gilhaggies Disbursements for the Burgh of Drumfries from Michaelmas 1710 to Michaelmas 1711" show that this arrangement was adhered to for a considerable time and even after the control of the local service had passed into the hands of John Johnston as successor to the aforementioned Robert Johnstone in the office of Postmaster.

Novr 8, 1708.

Itt payed to George Main by Councells apoyntment signed by the provost for 18 00 00

Feb. 21, 1709.

Itt payed to Jo. Johnston upon accompt of George Main by the Councells apoyntment signed by Ball. Barkley for 29 04 06

May 16, 1709.

Itt payed to Jo. Johnston upon the accompt of George Main by the Councells apoyntment signed by Ball. Barkley for 18 00 00

Nov. 27, 1709.

To John Johnston for a quarters news preceeding the first of Novr. etc. £18 0 0

14. An Inn in the parish of Graitney, about half-a-mile south of the church where the King's Custome was of use to be uplifted before the Union.—Macfarlane's Geo. Coll., Vol. I., p. 384.

May 8, 1710.

To Mrs Johnston, Robert Johnstone postmr Relict for a quarters news due the first of May 1710 p Mr Mains precept—the Councils precept and her receipt

£18 0 0

August 1st, 1710.

To John Johnston postmr for a quarters news due at Lambas 1710 p. Mr Mains precept, the Councils Precept and John Johnstons receipt.

£18 0 0

Nov. 13, 1710.

To John Johnston Postmaster for a quarters newspapers furnished by Mr Main to the Town viz. from August 1, 1710, to 1 Nov., 1710, per the Councils precept upon the back of Mr Main's receipt yrof to John Johnston and the sd John Johnstons Receipt.

18lib. 0s 0d

Nov. 29, 1710.

To John Johnston postmaster for 3 weeks newspapers furnished by Mr Main to the Town viz. from 1 Novr to 21 ditto per the provosts precept on Mr Mains Receipt yrof to John Johnston

4lib. 10s 0d

About this time, dissatisfaction appears to have again arisen and the supply of news was therefore obtained from Carlisle. The entry in the Treasurer's Accounts in reference to this is as follows:—

Feb. 8, 1711.

By the provosts order to Mr Parker of Carlisle for newspapers sent formerly by him to the Town

6lib. 0s 0d

Under date June 20, 1711, we find the following entry, which seems to indicate that the original arrangement had again been reverted to:—

To John Johnston postmaster for news p. the Councils precept and his receipt

11lib. 10s 0d

At the Union of 1707 the Post Office in Scotland was united with that of England and it appears to have been found necessary to discontinue the post between Carlisle and Dumfries.

Much correspondence in regard to this matter passed between the Magistrates and Council of Dumfries and the authorities in London, and the following letters, preserved among the Records of Dumfries Town Council, enable us to ascertain the steps taken to meet the difficulty.



- (1) "Scroll Letter sent to Doctor Hutton.<sup>15</sup> 1709.

Sir

Yours to the Rd Mr Vetch our minister hes been communicated to the Magistrats and councill we all have a very gratefull sense of this token amongst others of your favour and respect to this toun and its wellfare and wish we may have occassione to show our gratitude to you. After deliberation on your letter anent this matter of a post from Carlile to this toun the Magistrats and Councill having agreed to the draught of the letter to Sir Thomas Frankland have sent to him the inclosed letter and left it open for your own perusall efter which we desire you to seall and deliver it. We have recommended one John Johnstone who is deputy postmr heir for the postmr Generall of North Brittain as fitt and qualified for this Imploy to whom we desire you will give your assistance and favourable commendation with Sir Thomas Frankland for we know him to be very honest and carefull in whats entrusted to him as you have offered your good offices in this affair so we desire ye will continue the sam which with our humble dutie and respects to you is all in name of the Magistrats and councill from."

- (2) Letter from Sir Thomas Frankland Generall-postmaster of Great-Britain. 1709.

London, Mar. 24th, 1708/9.

Gentlemen

My very good friend Dr Hutton having given me your letter of the 9th instant, relating to the continuing the Post from Carlisle to Drumfries, I take the liberty in answer thereto to acquaint you that at present wee are not sufficiently impowered to make any settlement of Posts in North Brittain but hope before the end of this sessions of Parliamt to pass such an act to consolidate the Offices in both parts of the United Kingdome under one directione as will enable us to make such regulations as may be most for the benefit of the Trade and correspondence of the whole Iseland. I am very sensible that your letters to and from this place passing throu Edinburg must render your intercourse

15. Founder of the Hutton Trust. Physician to William and Mary.



very delatory, and that it may be very fit to redress this inconvenience when we can enter upon the consideration of those affairs.

I am, Gentlemen, Your most humble servant,

Tho. ffrankland.

(3) Letter from Dr Hutton to Provost John Crosbie Att  
Drumfriese.

Whitehall, May 21st, 1709.

Honoured Sr.

I take this opportunity to assure you that I shall not neglect any occasion, whereby I shall find myself capable to serve your good town in generall or your own interests in particular. The inclosed will inform your friends and you what was indeavoured to be don, and what is intended shall be don in time convenient; I Hope before this time Mr Somervell Has laid before you the summe of that affair. our freshest publick news, are contained in ye inclosed print. Sr Thomas franckland says you nead not writ to nor trouble any man about the post, because it is soly and only His proper business and He most Have the powers neadfull by an act of parliament: if you can agree to employ a carrier for ye summer time, you will in a few mothes be able to judge off the advantage, please yr command with freedom att any time what may be in the power off

Honored Sr

Your most fathfull Humble Srt. Jo. Hutton.

(4) Letter from Dr Hutton For The Much Honoured Provost John Crosbie, Baylie Alexr Barkly, And Baylie John Martin present Magistrats of Drumfriess.

Whitehall, May 21st, 1709.

Gentlemen

I Had Last night the favour off your Letter from Drumfries, but without date. Att the Riseing of the parliament near a month agoe I was carefull to send for you a particular account off what Had past, and How, with Relation to your affair, and lest it Has not been Laid before you, it was in substance viz: In a few dayes After That Sr Thomas Franckland Had Recived and answered your Letter, Haveing His clause Ready He fell sick off a Fever, joynd with gout, and a mighty cold which tyd Him to His bed and chamber all ye whyle the parliament satt. His son, with other frinds, members of the House who He employed to

perform what He intended in our affair finding That the debates ware Long, and very warm for three or four weeks, on the subject of the Act of Traison which is the Act, called the Act for improving of the union &c. (in which was intended to Have the clause inserted) was Like to be Thrown by, for this seasson; it was Thought fitt to prepare and offer a short Act by itself to impower the post masters To Transact whatever should be for the interest off the Crown and the ease of Her Majestyes good subjects. This was made Ready but the Heats between partyes, and particularly betwixt the Scoth and English on the said bill of Traison, and all publick bussiness being finished, it was with deliberation thought better to defferr Sr Thomass bill Than offer it to the house, when Her Majesty was to prorogue it As she thought fitt to doe in a weeks time After. I waited on Sr Thomas nixt day after the parlmt was up who told me He was as sorry as I was for our disappointment, but that the Heats and angry debates in parliament and his own great and dangerous illness ware unforeseen accidents; these were indeed our misfortun, but not our fault. He gave me Leave to tell you that you may be assured and Rest satisfied that if it please god He Live till nixt session off parliament He will take care to serve the Quen and ease and please you in this matter And therefore nead give yourselves no trouble on the subject till the begining of nixt winter when you may Renew your Requist to put Him in mind of what He said in His letter to you. in the mean time He owns and allowes, that He nor no man, can or will Reasonably be displeased, if you your selves will think fitt, to employ your own carrier for serveing your own good Town, and nighbours, for goeing to, and Returning from Carleisle till such time as the post be settled. by this method you may save time and charges, and by so doing you will form the best Argument can be adduced to settle the Affair; this is the summe of what I wrot before And please perswad your selves That I continue with great Respect.

Gentlemen,

Your most fathfull Humble Srt.,

Jo. Hutton.

By the Act of 1711 the Post Office, all over the country, was placed on a somewhat better footing, and Dumfries in common with other districts of Scotland shared in the benefits of the new administration.

Of the thirty-four Postmasters, who at this period existed in Scotland, twelve only were paid by salary, the remaining twenty-two being allowed, as their remuneration, a certain portion of the postage on inland letters. The Postmaster of Dumfries was one of the twelve who were paid by salary, the amount of which was £12 per annum.<sup>16</sup> Runners, who performed the full journey from town to town, were maintained at fixed charges, and it may be of interest to record that the earliest "Runners" of this class known to us, are Archibald Frazer, Post,<sup>16\*</sup> Dumfries (1740), and Robert Slowan, the Drumfries to Sanquhar and Kirkconnell post (1741-1745).<sup>17</sup>

In addition to these appointed "Runners" we find numerous instances of special messengers being used in cases of urgency and importance. At a time when the facilities of the post were limited such instances must have been of frequent occurrence, and the following records of "Expresses" from the Dumfries Burgh Treasurer's Accounts are of peculiar interest.

	lib.	s.	d.
1641-42.—Itm. to Jon Edger offier for carieing of tua paketis of lres to Lochmaben ... ..	00	12	00
6 Maurch, 1655.—Itm for ane poist to Wigtoun ... ..	02	08	00
23 May, 1655.—Itm to Thoas Symsons to go to portpaytrek ... ..	03	00	00
5 day of Januar, 1657.—Given to Wm Carruthers for carring of ane letter to saunt Monngo to try about the sikness ... ..	00	12	00
Dec. 26, 1688.—Itt to Thomas Ramsay and two posts to Carlyle ... ..	16	04	00
Aprile 18, 1708.—Itt payed to Will Sturgine for caring a letter to Apellgirth ... ..	00	06	00
Oct. 29, 1709.—Itt payed to William Creary for going twise to Carlyle to times to fetch news by Ballie Gilcrists order ... ..	03	00	00
Novr. 8, 1710.—To Thomas Jarding by the Pro- vost's order for going to Carlile express about the toun's affairs ... ..	1	10	0

16. Joyce's History, p. 118.

16\*. Register of Baptisms (Dumfries), in H.M. Reg. House, Edinburgh.

17. Ardwall House papers.

	lib.	s.	d.
Aug. 21, 1711.—To Robert Selchrig for going express for the Toun to Edr with Letters anent Carnsalloch's plea ... ..	5	4	0
17th Oct., 1715.—To Bailley Paterson which he gave to Wm Weems for going to Drumlanrik for the bagg of ye post... ..	0	1	0
25th Oct., 1715.—To Bailley Paterson for two expresses to hayik and to the Langham ...	0	12	0
To dito for ane express to the Sanquor ...	0	3	0
Nov. 7th, 1715.—To James Davison express from Edinburgh that was stript by the way—by the provosts order ... ..	0	7	6
14th Nov., 1715.—To ane express from Kirkcubrik by the provost's order ... ..	0	0	4
Sept. 11th, 1745.—To Cash pd Willm M'Lellan goeing Express to Edinr p. order of the Councill ... ..	0	16	0
28th Mar., 1746.—To Cash pd an Express goeing to Annandale p. B.W.C. ... ..	0	1	0
By Expenses on bringing the Millitary from Edinr on accott of the Riots, viz. :—			
March 2, 1771.—Paid John Wallace going express to Edinr p. prec. ... ..	1	5	0
Aprile 1, 1771.—Paid an express to Lochmaben p. order ... ..	0	3	0
Aprile 2, 1771.—Paid J. Glendining an express to Hodom p. do. ... ..	0	5	0
Aprile 3, 1771.—Paid Henry Dickson going express to Edinr p. do.... ..	1	5	0

We have been unable to secure any authentic record of the location of the Dumfries Post Office during the earliest years of the service, but we have reason to believe that during Robert Johnstone's and John Johnston's tenures of the office of Post-master (1695-1737) it was established in an old thatch-roofed house with front stairs situated on the north-west side of Lochmabengate Street.<sup>18</sup>

18. Rental Books, Dumfries Burgh Records.—“ 27 Oct. 1698.—Lochmabengait Quarter,—Robert Johnstone, Post Master, his free

The rebellion of 1715 helped to awaken the public mind to the necessity for improved postal facilities, and we have evidence to show that in Dumfriesshire and Galloway the matter received careful consideration.

In the Records of the Convention of Royal Burghs it is recorded<sup>19</sup>:—"Edinburgh, 10 July, 1717.—The convention upon a memorial from Sir Robert Adair, baronet, craving that the convention would concur with severall of the noblemen of the kingdom in their requeist to the commissioners of the general post office for settling of five stages betwixt Dumfries and Port Patrick for establishing a correspondence betwixt Brittain and Ireland the convention granted their concurrence to the said request in so far as the same was not prejudicial to any of the posts already settled."

About this time also, the Government, probably as a result of this request, evinced great concern about the Irish correspondence and ordered Mr Anderson, Deputy Postmaster General of Scotland, to visit Port Patrick, and examine the harbours, with a view to selecting the one most convenient for the Mail Packets.

In the beginning of 1737 John Johnston, Postmaster at Dumfries, died, and steps were immediately taken by the Council to secure a competent successor.

We learn from the Council Minutes of date 21st Feby., 1737, that "The Said Day the Magistrats and Councill Considering that the office of Postmaster of this Burgh is become Vacant by the death of John Johnstone late Bailly formerly Postmaster, and that it is of very considerable moment for the Burgh and Country that the said office be suplyed with a Sufficient, well-qualified person, And haveing full proof of the fidelity and ability of James Gilchrist one of the present Bailys for Dischargeing that trust They Appoint the Provost to write in yr name to the

stocke means to be above 1000 m. and below 5000 m." "Janet Glessell Relict of Robt Johnstone Mercht for the forestaire to the tenet in Lochmabengate sometime Rott Glessells 0 9 0. for the Step nixt to the Street to the Sd Stair in Augmentation 0 2 0." Ibid (circa 1709) "John Johnstone post master his houses where he dwells 36 lib. his house in Lochmabengate 50 lib and his barn and yeard yr 10 lib." Vide also "Council Minutes of 3rd June, 1799, anent Ruinous Houses."

19. Vol. V., p. 182.

General Postmasters Rekomending the sd James Gilchrist to the forsd office of Postmaster of this Burgh."

No further mention of the matter appears in the Council Minutes, but from the following extract from the Burgh Treasurer's Accounts and the subsequent extract from the Council Minutes regarding local postal facilities in 1745, we obtain strong presumptive evidence of the confirmation of the appointment:—

Nov. 28th, 1745.—To Cash pd Baillie James

Gilchrist An Accott of Newspapers p. precipt

29th Augt.     ...     ...     ...     ...     2     0     7

In the autumn of 1745 local postal arrangements again engaged the attention of the Council. Under date 5th Augt. of that year we read—

"The said Day the Magistrats and Councell Recommend to and appoynt the Magistrats with Provost Crosbie and Provost Ewart and *Baily James Gilchrist* to meet and concurr with the Justices of Peace of this Shyre in applying to the Postmaster Generall to have the Post comeing from Carlisle to come by Mousewall instead of Bankend and to have the Post to go from this upon tuesday night instead of wednesday, and to come in upon wednesday night instead of thursday."<sup>20</sup>

As far as we have been able to ascertain no report as to the result of these deliberations was given. It is not improbable that the rebellion of 1745 interfered with the proposed arrangements.

Although the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 seem, for a time at least, to have retarded postal progress in some respects they were the means of considerable improvements in the roads and consequent extension of the posts. Thus the mails began to be carried from stage to stage by different post-boys, and in 1765 the posts between Edinburgh and the chief towns of Scotland were extended in frequency from three to six days a week, Dumfries being described as on the G.M. (i.e., The Galloway and Moffat) post.

At this time one of the principal post offices between Edinburgh and Dumfries was at Annanholm in Wamphray. From that office two riders or postboys were despatched, each with pistols in his belt, the one carrying the letters to and from Dum-

20. The existing arrangements were still in force on 2nd Sept., 1745. Vide Corrie's "Annals of Glencairn," p. 96.

fries ; the other journeying to Bield o' Tweed with the Edinburgh letters and receiving the south country letters in return.<sup>21</sup>

This interesting picture of early postal methods recalls the well-known lines by the poet Cowper :—

Hark ! 'tis the twanging horn o'er yonder bridge  
That with its wearisome but needful length  
Bestrides the wintry flood in which the moon  
Sees her unwrinkled face reflected bright :  
He comes, the herald of a noisy world,  
With spattered boots, strapped waist, and frozen locks ;  
News from all nations lumbering at his back.  
True to his charge, the close-packed load behind :  
Yet careless what he brings, his one concern  
Is to conduct it to the destined inn ;  
And having dropt the expected bag, pass on.  
He whistles as he goes, light-hearted wretch !  
Cold and yet cheerful ; messenger of grief  
Perhaps to thousands, and of joy to some .  
To him indifferent whether grief or joy.  
Houses in ashes and the fall of stocks,  
Births, deaths, and marriages, epistles wet  
With tears that trickled down the writer's cheeks  
Fast as the periods from his fluent quill,  
Or charged with amorous sighs of absent swains  
Or nymphs responsive, equally affect  
His horse and him, unconscious of them all.

### III.—THE DUMFRIES POST OFFICE—THE PERIOD OF THE MAIL COACH.

The introduction of the mail coach by John Palmer in 1784 marks one of the most important events in the history of the Post Office. Until that time the mails had been carried either on foot or by post-boys on horseback, at an average speed, including stoppages, of from three to four miles an hour. Palmer's own description, submitted to Mr Pitt in 1783 when making claim to the advantages of a mail coach system, conveys perhaps the truest conception of the condition of postal facilities at that period.

21. Paterson's "Wamphray."



He says: "The Post at present, instead of being the swiftest, is almost the slowest, conveyance in the country; and though, from the great improvement in our roads, other carriers have proportionately mended their speed, the post is as slow as ever. It is likewise very unsafe, as the frequent robberies of it testify, and to avoid a loss of this nature people generally cut bank bills or bills at sight in two and send the bills by different posts. The mails are generally intrusted to some idle boy, without character, mounted on a worn-out hack, and who, so far from being able to defend himself or escape from a robber, is much more likely to be in league with him."

Although the advantages accruing to such a system as Palmer suggested must have been apparent to many it met with considerable opposition from the postal authorities, and had it not been that its merits were recognised by Mr Pitt, under whose guidance the Act of Parliament authorising its adoption was passed, it is doubtful if Palmer, at that time, would have succeeded in his efforts. The success that attended the new system exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The speed of the mails was almost doubled, still greater acceleration being subsequently effected.

It was not, however, until the summer of 1786 that a mail-coach was established in Scotland on what was known as the Great North Road. Two years later (7th July, 1788) direct mail-coach connection was established between London and Glasgow, and additional coaches were shortly afterwards arranged for from Edinburgh and Carlisle to Dumfries and Port Patrick.<sup>22</sup>

Dr Burnside, in his valuable MS. History of Dumfries, written in the year 1791, refers to the mail coaches in the following terms:—"We have at present an English, Irish, and Edinburgh mail coach out and in every day of the week. When our new bridge is built and a road open that is now framing by Muirkirk we are in hopes of having the Glasgow mail coach this way likewise. The country in that direction is more populous, and the road more level and nearly as short as by the tract in which it at present runs." (p. 72.)

22. The writer of the General Observations for the New Statistical Account of the County of Wigtown is in error when he states (p. 223) that the mail coach was first introduced into Galloway in 1804.



Two years later (in 1793) the same author writes as follows for Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland:—"The London mail coach passes through Dumfries every day of the week, and a daily post between Edinburgh and Port Patrick." (Vol. 5, p. 126.)

The two extracts appear to be at variance, but each of them is correct for its own period. From the Old Statistical Account of Scotland (1792), Moffat Parish, we learn that "a mail coach from Dumfries to Edinburgh was lately set on foot, but has been given up. When that road is completely repaired it will probably be re-established." That this was really done is evidenced by the following notice of Provost Staig, published in the Dumfries Magazine shortly after his death on the 21st of October, 1826:—"He was a main pillar in the building and organising of the Dumfries Academy;" and, "after unwearied exertions and correspondence with the Postmaster-General," he established a mail coach communication between Edinburgh, Dumfries, and Port Patrick in 1805.

A curious account of this coach is furnished in Will Caesar's poetical description of "A Jaunt to Edinburgh."

Ye neighbours a', wha e'er ye be,  
That travel here or 'yont the sea,  
Come hither now, give ear to me,  
I'll tell ye a'  
That I mysell did lately see,  
When far awa'.

I took the mail on Tuesday's morn,  
A blyther man was never born;  
The horse were fleet—weel fed wi' corn—  
We scoured away;  
The guard employed his bugle horn  
Right oft that day.

We got fresh horse at Bourance Rig,  
Were soon in view o' Saint Ann's brig,  
And saw Raehills, sae braw and trig,  
Stand up the glen;  
And mony a tree and bonny twig  
Adorn the fen.

The Craiglands next came in our sight—  
 The Beattock inn is on the right,  
 Where mony a weary travelling wight  
     Has gotten rest  
 And entertainment, day and night,  
     O' Wilson's best.

We hied us on to Moffat town,  
 Saw Annan water rinnin' down,  
 And Granton standing up aboun  
     Near the Beef-tub,  
 Named for the devil, filthy loun,  
     Vile Beelzebub.

.....  
 We now to M'Intosh's<sup>23</sup> went,  
 Got meat and drink to our content,  
 Then baith prepared to tak' the bent.  
     At Amisfield Town  
 They had me safe, or e'er I ken't,  
     And set me down.

Now to my kind friend, Mr Fraser,  
 And the Contractors, I wi' pleasure  
 Give grateful thanks, while I'm Will Caesar;  
     I shall not fail  
 To wish them life, and health, and treasure,  
     And mony a mail.

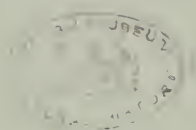
But yet, I hope, they'll understan'  
 The Dumfries still maun hae comman',  
 For she's weel worth 't in ony lan',  
     Where mails are seen.  
 Yes, war' there hundreds in a ban',  
     She wad be queen.

We have already indicated that for a considerable time prior to the re-establishment of the Edinburgh, Dumfries, and Port Patrick line of communication a coach existed on the Dumfries and Port Patrick and Dumfries and Carlisle roads. Thus we are

23. The mail coach guard.



MAIL BAG LABELS.



able to determine in what way Dumfries was first brought into direct touch with the mail-coach system.

A very precise account of the method of sending mails by the coaches is furnished by Mr Baines in his "Forty Years at the Post Office." In that work the mail-coach arrangements from London to Dumfries and Port Patrick are described in the following terms:—"There was yet another route to the border. The Manchester coach, which ran through Barnet and Derby, was continued by a second coach to Carlisle, and by a third to Port Patrick, and carried the North of Ireland Mails. Leaving London at 8 p.m., it was at Manchester (187 miles) at three o'clock in the afternoon of the second day, only 7 minutes, by the way, before the coaches for Glasgow and Edinburgh were timed to leave, so that one would suppose that letters from Lancashire for Scotland generally, must more than once have missed the junction. It passed through Gretna Green at 6.35 a.m.—not too early probably for the blacksmith.

"And while the 35 miles 5 furlongs from Carlisle to Dumfries were cantered over at 9 miles an hour by four horses, there was a sad come-down for the Port Patrick mail from the south as soon as Dumfries was passed. A pair-horse coach struggled through Kirkcudbrightshire at 7 miles 4 furlongs an hour; and if for the 85 miles it was paid 5d a mile, or £646 a year in all, it certainly got as much as was fair. The coach was due at Port Patrick at 9.22 p.m. Thus the journey of 424 miles from London (the greatest distance, by the way, traversed by any mail coach) to the Irish Sea was accomplished in a little more than two days. The mails for Ireland passed on by packet to Donaghadee."

In addition to the foregoing particulars, we have ascertained that the mail-coach called at the Queensberry Arms, Annan, every morning at seven, and reached the King's Arms, Dumfries, at 9 a.m.; while the return coach left the King's Arms, Dumfries, at 1.30 p.m. and reached the Queensberry Arms, Annan, at 3.30 p.m.

To return to the Edinburgh, Dumfries, and Port Patrick mail-coach, we learn that the Royal Mail for Dumfries left the Black Bull, Catherine Street, and 10 Princes Street (Edinburgh) at a quarter past nine every evening. It called at the Spur Inn, Moffat, at 4 a.m., and reached the King's Arms, Dumfries, at

twenty minutes past six. Here a halt was made to await the arrival of the Carlisle coach with the North of Ireland mails. Thence it proceeded to Portpatrick, leaving Dumfries at 9.15 a.m. every morning, and journeying by way of Castle-Douglas, Gatehouse, Newton-Stewart, Glenluce, and Stranraer.<sup>24</sup> The return journey was performed by a second coach, leaving Port Patrick at six o'clock in the evening, reached the King's Arms, Dumfries, at 26 minutes past five in the morning, and departed thence for Edinburgh at 26 minutes past six, calling at the Spur Inn, Moffat, shortly after 9 a.m., and proceeding by way of Noblehouse. The two coaches met at Gatehouse-of-Fleet, in the parish of Girthon.

The foregoing hours of departure and arrival were, of course, subject to periodical alteration. The purpose of mentioning them is to show the time occupied on the various stages of the journey.

It was at one time contemplated to run the Edinburgh to Dumfries mail-coach via Lochmaben, but the road trustees objected on account of the expense of building a bridge across the Æ and of making a few miles of new road. A proposal to discontinue the coach on the 6th June, 1828, was strenuously opposed by the inhabitants of the district, and the coach continued to run for many years after. The incident has been celebrated in verse by Will Caesar in an addendum to his "Jaunt to Edinburgh." A further attempt to discontinue this coach appears to have been made in the beginning of the year 1847, but the Town Council of Dumfries petitioned against its withdrawal, and they appear to have been successful.

So much for the mail-coaches. What of the men who had charge of them?

We are told that, on the whole, the guards and mail-coach drivers were extremely conscientious in the discharge of their duty. Those in charge of the various mail-coaches passing to and from Dumfries seem to have maintained the high reputation of their class. Exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and always, perhaps, setting out with a lurking fear of accident or robbery,

24. On the opening of the new road in 1800 the coach was transferred to it and travelled backward and forward daily through that part, taking the villages of Crocketford and Springholm by the way. —Frew's "The Parish of Urr," p. 61.

it can well be imagined that their duties were at times performed under most exacting circumstances.

In a print of a local coach which, through the courtesy of the Editor of "The Motor," we are able to reproduce, the artist has depicted what must have been a common experience in early coaching days.

From the Diary of William Grierson, father of Dr T. B. Grierson, of Thornhill, and from other sources of information we gather that delays were of frequent occurrence. Thus we read:—

"Sunday, 10th Feb., 1799.—The mails have been very much past their usual time of coming in by reason of the snow. In many places the roads are totally blocked up. The London Mail that should have come in on Friday night only came in this day about one o'clock." (p. 13.)

"Thursday, 26th Jany., 1809.—Last night and this morning a heavy fall of snow. Partly frost and partly thaw during the day; the roads blocked up. The mail-coaches did not arrive, but the mail was brought in on horseback." (p. 21.)

Again, in a report of a storm on 7th January, 1839, it is recorded:—"We learn from Mr Corson, guard of the mail on the Dumfries and Portpatrick line of road, that when he reached Castle-Douglas about one o'clock that morning matters looked most gloomy. From that hour till its arrival in Dumfries the storm raged with increased fury, accompanied with the terrific peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning, along with which torrents fell, while the winds continued greatly to increase. Altogether, Mr Corson says, in all his experience such a night of storm he never witnessed. Mr M'Intosh, the Edinburgh mail guard, states to us that the storm commenced in Edinburgh on Friday. The snow began to fall as he left Moffat, and continued all the way to Edinburgh—within five miles of which it was so deep that the mail had to be dug out; in consequence of which she was two hours behind her time. All the other mails were also late. On Mr M'Intosh's return he had to leave the road at the same place, but with the assistance of additional leaders they reached Broughton, when the wind at eight o'clock continued to increase till his arrival in Dumfries an hour and a half behind the usual time. The night was truly gloomy and the storm appalling."

But even these instances are eclipsed. The heroic example

of James M'George and John Goodfellow, the guard and driver of the Dumfries and Edinburgh Mail-coach, will long be remembered in the district. The story of the mail-coach disaster near Tweedshaws in the snowstorm of February, 1831, has been fully described in "The Gallovidian."<sup>24\*</sup> Here we purpose giving no more than an epitome of the story detailing the circumstances under which these loyal servants of the Post Office heroically sacrificed their lives through devotion to duty.

On the morning of Tuesday, 1st February, 1831, they set out from Dumfries for Edinburgh at 7 a.m.,<sup>25</sup> and in spite of a blinding snowstorm manfully fought their way to Moffat, where they secured the services of two additional horses, and proceeded on their journey, accompanied by Marchbanks, the Moffat roadman, who had volunteered to help in case of accident.

About a mile and a half from Moffat the coach stuck fast, and they were compelled to leave it. After directing the passengers to return to Moffat they attempted to proceed with the mails on horseback, but in this they were unsuccessful, and the horses were set at liberty, M'George, the guard, stating they must try what they could do on foot. Goodfellow and Marchbanks endeavoured to dissuade him, but his resolution was fixed. Goodfellow, seeing this, determined to accompany him, and, after persuading Marchbanks to return, M'George and he set out together. It was their last journey. The following day the mails were discovered hanging on a snow-post about five miles



M'GEORGE'S HORN.

*Found beside him after the disaster. Now in the possession of Mr Kirk, Poolhouses, Lockerbie.*

24\*. No. 36, Vol. IX.

25. Another account says 10.30 a.m.



and three-quarters beyond Moffat. Five days later the bodies of the two men were found, and conveyed to Tweedshaws to await interment.

Even in the face of death their thoughts had been of duty, their purpose having evidently been to leave the mails where they would readily be found.

There were other sources of danger, viz., accident and robbery. Although the coaches to and from Dumfries seem to have escaped the attentions of the highwayman, they were by no means immune from accident.

On one occasion, on the morning of the 14th April, 1806, the mail-coach was obstructed in coming out of Dumfries by some evil-disposed persons placing boughs or branches of trees across the turnpike road, by which the lives of the passengers were put in peril and the mail much delayed.<sup>26</sup>

From the "Dumfries Journal" for September 17th, 1811, we learn that:—"On Tuesday afternoon the mail-coach betwixt Port Patrick and this town was overset near Tarf Bridge. It seems that immediately after delivering the mail there the horses went off at full speed, and before they could be checked the accident happened. We are sorry to add that several of the passengers were severely hurt. Mr Gordon, innkeeper at Port Patrick, and his wife were considerably bruised and cut, and James Davidson, of the same place, had his leg broken; a gentleman from Whitehaven got his shoulder dislocated, and his daughter, who was in the inside, was much cut with glass. Both the guard and driver also received injury."

Again, from the "Dumfries Courier" of date November 13th, 1827, we extract the following:—"An accident bad enough in itself, and which might have been attended with more serious consequences, happened to the Galloway mail on the night of Wednesday last at 7 o'clock. When about 4 miles to the west of Castle-Douglas, the horses took fright at something on the road, and rushed or rather leapt to the one side. By this sudden and unexpected movement the poor driver was pitched from his seat, and dashed with such violence on the stony ground that his arm was fractured and his body otherwise seriously bruised. When freed from all control the horses set off at full speed and

26. Hyde's "Royal Mail," p. 35.

continued careering at the same pace until they had passed the village of Twynholm. Here the guard, Hunter, much to his credit, and at the imminent hazard, we believe, of his life, passed over the vehicle to the back of the wheelers, and both by restraining and soothing these succeeded in checking the fury of the leaders. The Kirkcudbright postman, while waiting at Tarf Bridge, observed the coach pass without stopping, and not choosing to be cheated out of his usual burden, and suspecting moreover that all was not right, he immediately galloped after the truant mail. From the darkness of the night, no one could observe the absence of the driver, and it was fortunate the man possessed so much presence of mind; and from the state of the reins it required both the guard and the postman to pilot the horses to the burgh of Gatehouse. The high mettled steeds, before they were stopped, had galloped a distance of 4 miles, and passed in their course Red Lion Village, Meiklewood toll bar, and two bridges, one of which from its narrowness and the awkward way in which it angles with the road requires careful driving even in daylight. It so happened that there were no passengers either in or on the mail, and the only sufferer is the poor driver, who, on recovering from the stunning effects of his fall, got to a house, where he now lies in a critical, though not, it is hoped, in a dangerous way."<sup>27</sup>

"On Saturday, 25th January, 1840, the Dumfries Mail was upset when about eight miles on this side of Edinburgh. The axletree all of a sudden gave way, and pitched the coach on its beam ends to the great alarm, although very fortunately not to the serious detriment, of the passengers. The guard in particular was thrown from his seat to some little distance, and in falling sustained a few slight bruises. But wayfarers such as him care little for scratches, and although a relay might easily have been found he still continues in the performance of his duty. As no help happened to be at hand to repair the axletree the driver was despatched to Edinburgh for another coach, the passengers meanwhile locating themselves as they best could in the neighbouring houses; and the accident altogether detained the Mail fully six hours beyond the proper time."<sup>28</sup>

27. "Courier," Nov. 13th, 1827.

28. "Dumfries Courier," Wed., Jan. 29th, 1840.

Another incident, illustrative of the trying experiences of the guards and drivers of the mail coaches, is recorded by M'Diarmid in his "Picture of Dumfries."

"We were roused from our beds on Friday morning, February 6, 1829," he says, "by a messenger who stated that the miscreant Hare had arrived in Dumfries. At first we could hardly credit the intelligence, . . . but on repairing to the coach office at the King's Arms Inn, a little after eight o'clock, we discovered that the news was too true. By this time a considerable crowd had collected, and every moment added to its density. . . . Nearly the whole of the high-street was one continued mass of people, so closely wedged, that you might have almost walked over their heads, while Buccleuch-street was much in the same state; and, to express much in few words, the one, as far as numbers went, reminded us of a great fair, when the country empties itself of its population, and the other of what takes place at an execution. The numbers of the people are variously estimated, but the best judges are of opinion that they could not be under 8000. As it was known that Hare was bound to Portpatrick, the mob everywhere evinced the greatest anxiety to see him pass by, and pay their respects to him in their *own way*. But in the interim of more than four hours that elapses between the arrival of the Edinburgh and the departure of the Galloway or Portpatrick mail hundreds, if not thousands, were admitted to see him. . . . The Edinburgh mail arrived at about 20 minutes before seven, and as the crowd was soon on the *qui vive*, it became necessary to secrete Hare in the tap-room attached to the King's Arms, . . . where crowds continued to visit him, almost up to the hour (eleven o'clock) when the Galloway mail was expected to start. With a view to this, the Inn yard was cleared not without difficulty, the horses yoked, and the coach brought out; but the mob, who, Argus-like, and with far more than *his* eye, anxiously watched every operation, had previously formed their plans almost by instinct, and their aspect appeared so truly threatening that it was deemed impossible to drive the mail along the High-street, if Hare was either out or inside, with safety to any person connected with it. In these circumstances, and while two passengers were sent forward a few miles in gigs, the coach started perfectly empty, if we except the guard and driver, and one of Bailie Fraser's sons, who seemed

anxious to protect his father's property. The crowd opened and recoiled so far, and the tremendous rush—the appalling waves on waves of people—far exceeded in magnitude and intensity anything we ever witnessed in Dumfries before. When near the Post Office the coach was surrounded, the doors opened, and the interior exposed; and though this proceeding served to allay suspicion, the cry soon resounded far and wide that the miscreant, who was known to be a small man, had managed to squeeze himself into the boot. We have said that the mob had concocted a plan, and from all we can learn, their resolution was to stop the mail at the middle of the bridge and precipitate Hare over its goodly parapet into the river. Failing this, they had fully determined to way-lay the coach at Cassylands toll-bar, and subject him to some other species of punishment; and in proof of this we need only state that they had forcibly barricaded the gates. But when it became obvious that Hare was neither in nor on the mail, the guard and driver were allowed to proceed.”

Hare was not allowed to go by the mail, and it was only by the strategy of the inmates of the King's Arms that he was enabled to escape by a back entrance and obtain a temporary shelter within the walls of the old jail in Buccleuch Street.

At the beginning of last century the conveyance of news was an important feature of our coaching system, and the interesting custom of discharging firearms, adopted by the guards of the various mail coaches to announce the arrival of important news, seems to have been observed in our district.

“Thursday, 5th September, 1799.—This night the mail coach guard fired when the coach came in on account of the news of taking the Dutch fleet.

Sunday, 4th September, 1808.—This night the news of an important victory having been gained by Sir A. Wellesley in Portugal, the mail coach guard fired in consequence when he came in.

Saturday, 17th September, 1808.—The news of the surrender of Junott and the Russian fleet arrived this night. The guard of the mail coach fired.”<sup>29</sup>

29. Diary of William Grierson, father of Dr T. B. Grierson, Thornhill, pp. 13 and 21.

We are indebted to the issue of the "Dumfries Courier" for May 10, 1841, for yet another reference to mail-coach arrangements in our district:—

"We learn from good authority that an application was made within these few days to Mr Maberly, in London for an acceleration of the Galloway mail and that the application was met by an announcement of the intention of Government to give up both the Mail and the Port and send all the Irish bags by Glasgow. It is the further apprehension of our informant that Mails twice a day accelerated to the utmost are to be established and that, from that line as a trunk, branches with riders or gigs will be established to Dumfries, Annan, &c., and that we shall lose all our coaches."

The intentions of the Government would appear to have been reconsidered, and although the port at Port Patrick was afterwards given up we know that a mail coach continued to run between Dumfries and Port Patrick until the year 1861.

In addition to the mail coaches, a number of other coaches plied to and from Dumfries for passenger traffic and in at least one instance a private coach was utilised also for the conveyance of the mails.

Thus we learn, "that the Dumfries and Kirkcudbright coach which carries the mail bags betwixt these towns and Dalbeattie and Castle-Douglas, will shortly run to Dalbeattie via Newabbey, Kirkbean, and Southwick in place of the direct route at present followed. In addition to its usual despatches the coach will carry bags for Newabbey, Kirkbean, etc., which are now conveyed by a foot post."<sup>30</sup>

Consequent upon the introduction of mail coaches the work of the Dumfries Post Office appears to have increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to employ a clerk. Under date 19th September, 1786, we learn from the Council Minutes that one Charles Gordon, clerk in the post office, was admitted burgess and freeman of the Burgh. This is the first mention of a clerk, the said Charles Gordon being apparently a nephew of William Gordon, Postmaster, who had charge of the office in Friars' Vennel.

30. "Courier," 15th Jan., 1844.

About this period also James M'Clure (1763-1813), the friend and companion of the Poet Burns, filled the position of a letter-carrier, while at a later period David Johnstone (1795-1810) performed the duties of a riding post between Dumfries, Thornhill, and Sanquhar.

In 1804 Mr William Gordon was succeeded in the control of the office by Mr Robert Threshie, who appears to have had, for a few years, the assistance of a Miss Gilchrist, probably a granddaughter of Bailie James Gilchrist, a previous holder of the office of Postmaster. Mr Threshie located the Post Office in Buccleuch Street, in premises which occupied a site adjoining the present Town Hall, but this step, as evidenced by the following communication from Mr Threshie to the Town Council through David Staig, Esq., the Provost, does not appear to have met with the approval of the inhabitants of the burgh.

Dumfries, 23d Feby., 1805.

Sir,—

It has been complained to me that the present situation of the Post Office in Buccleuch Street, being distant from the center of the Town, is extremely inconvenient to the bulk of the Inhabitants—I should have felt happy in being able to obviate that inconvenience, but the Emoluments being limited, and having been at considerable expence fitting up the Office where it is, I had no inducement to remove it. Being anxious however to accommodate the public and understanding the Old Guard-house belonging to the Town will soon be unoccupied, I should be inclined even to sacrifice the expense I have been put to, and with considerable personal inconvenience to myself, to remove the Office to that more central place, provided the Town would agree to fit it up, and set it me in lease at a moderate rent.

I persuade myself, you and the whole other Magistrates and Town Council will feel equally disposed to encourage this proposal, and shall expect to be favoured with an early answer, meantime

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most

huml Servt

R. THRESHIE.

The application does not, however, appear to have commended itself to the Council. Under date 25th Feby., 1805, we read:—"The said day the Magistrates and Council Authorized the Magistrates to sett the old Court House and Guard House at such rents as they shall think proper, to advertise for proposals to be given in to them.—If necessary to sett them by public roup for such a number of years after the term of Whitsunday next as they may think fit and to report."

Again, under date 22d April, of the same year, we read:—"The said day the Provost reported that he had lett the old Guard room and small apartment below the Steeple to Joseph Hinchcliffe, Cutler for the space of fifteen years after the term of Whitsunday next at the yearly rent of sixteen pounds Stg and the burden of repairing the room at his own expence; of which the Council approve and authorise the Magistrates or any two of them to enter into a Lease of the premises accordingly."<sup>31</sup>

Some time prior to the year 1819 Mr Threshie removed the office to the shop, No. 12 Castle Street."<sup>32</sup>

During Mr Threshie's tenure of office the salary attaching to the office of postmaster was £100 per annum.<sup>33</sup> In the year 1832 the Revenue of the Post Office in Dumfries amounted to almost £2500, after deductions for salaries.<sup>34</sup>

Some interesting details of the business transacted at the office is furnished to us by the following tables of postal information:—

#### 1820-1-2.<sup>35</sup>

"Post Office. Robert Threshie, Post Master.—The Mails from Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, and Carlisle arrive at Dumfries at half-past eight, P.M., and the Mail from Port Patrick arrives at Dumfries at twelve at night.

The Mails for Edinburgh and Glasgow are despatched from Dumfries at half past five A.M.; the Mail for Port Patrick is

31. Town Council Minutes.

32. Wood's Plan of Dumfries, 1819.

33. "Dumfries Standard," Oct. 27th, 1906.

34. New Statistical Account of Scotland.

35. From the Commercial Directory of Ireland, Scotland, and the Four Most Northern Counties of England for 1820-1-2. In the possession of Mr W. Allan, Chemist, Dumfries.



despatched from Dumfries at about nine P.M.; and the Mails for London and Carlisle are despatched from Dumfries at half-past twelve at night."

1835.<sup>36</sup>

"Hour of Arrival and Despatch of the Mails to and from Dumfries.

With the time for Delivery of Letters after arrival.

MAILS.	Arrival.	Despatch.	Time of Delivery.	
			Summer.	Winter.
Edinburgh, Glasgow, Moffat, &c. ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 A.M.	$\frac{1}{4}$ past 6 A.M.	7 A.M.	8 A.M.
London and whole of England. Office shut 1 hour after arrival for despatch of mail to Ireland, &c. ...	8.45 A.M.	$\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 P.M.	10 A.M.	10 A.M.
Ireland, Portpatrick, and the whole of Galloway ...	$\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 A.M.	9 A.M.	7 A.M.	8 A.M.
Thornhill, Sanquhar, Moniaive, &c. (Riding Post) ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 P.M.	9 A.M.	7 A.M.	8 A.M.
Lochmaben, Torthorwald (Foot Post) ... ..	6 A.M.	10.30 A.M.	7 A.M.	8 A.M.
Newabbey, Kirkbean, &c. (Foot Post) ... ..	7 P.M.	9 A.M.	7 A.M.	8 A.M.

Hours of attendance in Office, except when shut for despatch of Mails—from 7 in the morning in summer and 8 in winter till 8 evening. Sunday—From the same hours in the morning till half-past 10, from quarter to 1 till half-past 1, from 4 till 5, and from half-past 7 till 8."

From Pigot and Co.'s Directory for 1836 we obtain the following additional reference to a post:—"Post, Mouswald and Ruthwell—Letters arrive from and are despatched to Dumfries three days a week."

From Halliday's issue of the same year (1836)<sup>37</sup> we obtain the following particulars in regard to the staff at the Dumfries office of that period:—

36. From Halliday's Dumfries and South of Scotland Almanac for the year 1835. In the possession of Mr W. Blackie, Postal Overseer, Dumfries.

37. In the possession of Mr Wm. Allan, Chemist, Dumfries.



“Post Office—Castle Street.

Robert Threshie, Esq., Postmaster.

Robert Wallace, 1st Clerk; William Mitchell, 2nd Clerk.

Hugh Downie and James Kirkpatrick, Letter Carriers.”

On his death on the 26th July, 1836, Robert Threshie was succeeded as postmaster by Mr John Armstrong. Mr Armstrong died in March of the following year, and Mr John Thorburn, solicitor, was appointed in his place. In Mr Armstrong's time the office was removed from Castle Street to a little shop on the east side of the High Street, on part of the site now occupied by the shop of Messrs Cooper & Co., and on Mr Thorburn taking over the control of the office he removed it to English Street, to a place known as “the Doocot,” nearly opposite to the head of Queen Street.

#### INTRODUCTION OF PENNY POSTAGE.

In 1840 uniform penny postage was established, and as was to be expected increased demands were made upon the local service.

In consequence of this the attention of the Town Council was directed to the postal facilities in existence at that period, and for some years subsequent to the introduction of penny postage the Council minutes afford evidence of general dissatisfaction in regard to the local office.

On Tuesday, 17th November, 1840, “The Council resolve that at next Ordinary meeting they would take into Consideration the propriety of petitioning the Lords of the Treasury as to having a permanent established Post Office here built at the public expense in same way as had been done in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and other large Burghs. And the Draft of a petition to that effect was laid on the table.”

Again on 11th December, 1840, “Mr Hamilton moved that the Petition laid on the table as to a grant from the Treasury for erecting a Post Office be signed by the Council, and that the Provost be desired to use his utmost influence in promoting the object by applying to the Representatives of the Burgh and County or otherwise, which Petition being read, it was suggested by Mr Lookup that a Petition might emanate from the Council

praying a grant to erect a Post Office, Custom House, Stamp and Excise Office, it being well known that the Crown at present pays large rents for several of these offices, but he was convinced that if properly laid before the Treasury a saving might be proved to be effected by combining all these offices in one."

The Council signed the Petition, and agreed to carry out the suggestion of Mr Lookup by signing a Petition presenting the same to the Treasury, and named Messrs Lookup, Thomson, Kemp, Hamilton, and the clerk to prepare the Petition and get it signed and transmitted to the Lords of the Treasury.

The matter was again referred to at the Council meeting held on 11th February, 1841, but consideration of the correspondence was delayed until the following meeting on 5th March, 1841, when the Council was informed that the Post Office authorities desired to be informed what sum the Council or Burgh would contribute towards the expense of erecting a new office. After much discussion Mr Lookup moved that an application be made in name of the Council to the Treasury praying that a grant may be made from the public funds for erecting a building sufficient to contain the different public offices of the burgh. This was seconded by Mr W. Smith, and agreed to, the following gentlemen being named a Committee to frame the Memorial, viz.:—The Magistrates, Dean, and Treasurer, Messrs Lookup, Kemp, Hamilton, and W. Smith—Mr Lookup convener.

On 18th March, 1841, the Petition, drawn up by these gentlemen, was read and approved of, signed, and directed to be sent to the local representatives in Parliament for presentation to the Treasury.

Thereafter much correspondence in regard to the matter passed between the Council and their representatives in Parliament, but the only additional fact that emerges in the course of this correspondence is that, "Failing the Treasury entertaining this Memorial, the Council entreat that you will urge forward the application for the Post Office alone."<sup>38</sup>

38. Letter to General Sharpe, M.P.

We subjoin a copy of the Memorial to the Treasury :—

“ Unto the Right Honourable  
The Lords of her Majesty’s treasury  
The Humble Petition of the Provost  
Magistrates and Town Council of  
Dumfries in common council  
assembled.

Sheweth

That the Petitioners have already preferred a Petition to Your Lordships praying a grant for erecting a Post office and it has been intimated to them that Your Lordships are desirous of being informed to what extent the Petitioners will contribute towards the expense of erecting it along with Your Lordships.

That from the depressed state of the corporate property and the amount of the debts owing by that Burgh the Petitioners are not prepared to offer any sum from these funds and they are doubtful if the Inhabitants generally would contribute by voluntary subscription but the (*sic*) crave permission to make the following statement in reference to the yearly expenditure incurred for the public offices in Dumfries and to suggest a plan whereby provision may be made for the accomodation of these offices without subjecting the Country to an expenditure much greater than at present and they venture to offer this plan upon the assumption that Dumfries from its importance in the South of Scotland is entitled to be provided with accomodation for the discharge of public business more suitable than hitherto has been.

That at present the public offices are scattered throughout the Town and their situations have been chosen more to suit the convenience or taste of the officer under whose charge the department may be than to accommodate the public.

The following are believed to be the rents payable for the different public offices :—

Custom House ... ..	£40	0	0
Stamp Office ... ..	30	0	0
Post Office ... ..	25	0	0
Excise Office ... ..	25	0	0
Bonded Stores ... ..	40	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£160	0	0

That were the Petitioners allowed to suggest the sum that might be necessary to provide accomodation which they contemplate they would suggest that a sum between three and four Thousand Pounds would be amply sufficient to defray the expense of the site and erecting the Buildings.

That were Your Lordships pleased to order an inquiry into the preceding statement the Petitioners will prove the truth thereof.

May it please Your Lordships to take the premises into your consideration and to grant the prayer of the Petition.

And the Petitioners will ever Pray.

(Signed) John Fraser

Provost and Chief Magistrate."

No further reference to the Petition appears in the Council Minutes, but it is evident that the Postal authorities had the matter under consideration.

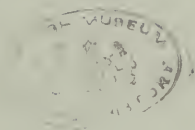
At the Council meeting on 3rd March, 1843, "The Provost laid before the Council two letters upon the subject of a New post office for the Town from Mr Reeves, Post Office Surveyor. Having considered these communications, it was decided that Mr Reeves should be informed that a New post office had been taken for five years, and that the Council were of opinion that a trial should be given to the New Office. And further procedure delayed as to the building of an office until a future period."

It seems clear that the expectations in regard to the new office cannot have been realised, for the subject was again brought under the notice of the Council on 4th June, 1847, when, on the motion of Mr Scott, they appointed the following Committee to meet with Mr Thorburn, the Postmaster, to confer with him as to a more convenient situation for a Post Office, viz.:—Bailie Newall, Bailie Hammond, Bailie Smyth, and Mr Scott—Mr Scott convener.

Here, for the time being, the matter was allowed to rest. In the following year Dumfries was brought into direct touch with the railway systems of the country, and a new era was opened up for postal developments.



THE DUMFRIES AND PORTPATRICK MAIL COACH (AT NINE MILE BAR, CROCKETFORD).



## IV.—THE DUMFRIES POST OFFICE—LATER DEVELOPMENTS.

The advantages of penny postage, combined with the safer and more expeditious mode of conveying the mails by rail, prepared the way for a marked expansion in post office business, and Dumfries, in common with other districts, can boast of a wonderful record of progress and development, especially during the last thirty or forty years.

The town was first linked with the railway system in 1848, when a line to Carlisle was opened. Two years later the system was extended to Glasgow, and the line was established under its present title of "The Glasgow and South-Western Railway." A branch line between Dumfries and Castle-Douglas was opened on 7th November, 1859, by The Castle-Douglas and Dumfries Railway Co. On 11th March, 1861, it was continued to Stranraer and Port Patrick by a joint company, designated The British and Irish Grand Junction Railway Co., and now known by the name of "The Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Railway Co." The Castle-Douglas and Dumfries Railway Co. ceased to exist on 5th July, 1865, when it became amalgamated with the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Co. In 1863 a branch line was opened by The Dumfries, Lochmaben, and Lockerbie Railway Co.<sup>39</sup> between Dumfries and Lockerbie, and in the following year another line was constructed by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Co. between Castle-Douglas and Kirkcudbright. Among recent extensions we have the Cairn Valley Railway, a branch of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway, opened in 1905. Although this railway passes through a quiet rural district with only two villages of any considerable size it has already been taken advantage of for the conveyance of mails to and from Moniaive almost since the day it was opened.

We have already mentioned that a coach continued to run between Dumfries and Portpatrick until 1861 for the conveyance of the mails. The reason for this is not far to seek. We learn from the foregoing references that it was not until that year that railway communication was established on that road between Castle-Douglas and Stranraer. The withdrawal of the mail

39. Amalgamated with the Caledonian Railway Co. in 1865.



coach is thus described in the "Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser" of date 8th March, 1861:—

"EXIT THE MAIL COACH.

The opening of the Portpatrick Railway for passenger and goods traffic on Tuesday first will cause a considerable alteration in the modes of conveyance hitherto used in the Stewartry. For nearly fifty-one years the mail coach has run from Dumfries to Stranraer, but to-morrow is the last trip from Castle-Douglas of the mail coach. The arrangements made for the conveyance of mails in the meantime is that a small gig will run from Castle-Douglas to Stranraer each day at nearly the same hour as at present, contingent on the arrival of the mail from Dumfries. It is also contemplated to despatch the mail in the afternoon by the five o'clock train instead of half-past three—an arrangement which will be a great boon to the inhabitants south, east, and west of Castle-Douglas. It will allow the boxes in the various places to be kept open upwards of an hour longer than at present, and thus give an opportunity to reply to any communication by the same day's post. The withdrawal of the mail coach will also change the route of passengers from Creetown and Newton-Stewart to Kirkcudbright. Instead of driving round by the coast, travellers will now come by train to Castle-Douglas, and go on by coach to Kirkcudbright—Mr Payne's omnibus waiting the arrival of the train from Stranraer."

When the railway was first brought into direct touch with Dumfries Mr Thorburn was still in office as Postmaster of the Burgh. Upon him therefore fell the responsibility of carrying out the necessary alterations for the adoption of the new system and for the expeditious delivery of the increased volume of correspondence consequent upon the introduction of penny postage. Sub-offices began to spring up in rural districts, and runners were established on roads not previously touched by the post, while pillar and wall boxes began to be erected at convenient points throughout the Burgh.

Mr Thorburn's tenure of office, as evidenced by the numerous references to the postal facilities of this period which are to be met with in the Records of Dumfries Town Council, must indeed have been one of strenuous activity.

Thus on 14th Nov., 1850—"Provost Nicholson laid before the



Council a letter from the Post Office, Edinburgh, stating that an application having been made to the Postmaster-General desiring that a delivery of letters should be made from the Dumfries Post Office between 1 and 2 o'clock on Sundays and desiring that the Provost should inform the Post Office whether the inhabitants of Dumfries generally would prefer an afternoon to a morning delivery. The Council, having considered this subject, request the Provost by a majority to answer said communication and state that the feeling is for a delivery betwixt one and two."

Again on 7th Feb., 1851—"Mr M'Gowan brought the subject of the postal arrangements in this quarter before the Council, and moved that a Committee be appointed to watch the proceedings in an action now in progress at the instance of the Lord Advocate against the Perth and Dundee Railway in regard to carrying the mails. [The meeting agreed to this motion, and named the following Committee, viz.—Provost Nicholson, Bailie Leighton, Messrs Dinwiddie, Blaind, Smyth, and M'Gowan, 3 a quorum—Mr M'Gowan convener.]"

At the next Council meeting, on 7th March, 1851, Mr M'Gowan intimated that the Committee upon Postal Arrangements in this quarter had not been called together, but he considered the subject so urgent that he begged to move the following resolutions:—

"That the Burgh and District of Dumfries from their extensive and daily increasing population and extensive Mercantile and Shipping interest are entitled to the benefit of the most improved communication under the powers entrusted by Parliament to the Post Office.

That the existing postal arrangements are defective, inconvenient, and exceedingly prejudicial to the interest of the Burgh. That although two Mails from London arrive in Dumfries within twenty-four hours one of these lies in the Post Office there till the following morning, and by this means the whole correspondence to Galloway and the upper district of Dumfriesshire is detained for eight or ten hours unnecessarily.

That the Edinburgh and Glasgow Mails, which formerly arrived twice in twenty-four hours, now only arrive once, and, were these forwarded by the train from Glasgow direct, to and through Dumfries, two mails from each might readily be had and an end put to the absurdity of all the Dumfries Correspond-

ence with the County of Ayr and the Towns and Villages along the line of Railway being transported round by Carlisle and Glasgow in place of directly to their place of address.

That these obstacles and several others might be stated to a ready communication can very easily be cured at no great expense and be a mighty boon to the population along and within the range of the South-Western Railway. And that a Memorial by the Council be presented to the Postmaster-General on the subject."

These resolutions were seconded by Bailie Leighton and unanimously adopted, and it was remitted to the former Committee to prepare the memorial resolved upon.

In August, 1852, the delivery of letters on Sundays was again brought under the notice of the Council, and we are informed in the minutes dated 6th August of that year, "The Council then on the suggestion of Mr M'Gowan took up the delivery of the letters at the Post Office on Sundays. Agree to memorialise and represent to the Post Office authorities the great inconvenience at present experienced from the irregular delivery on Sundays, in the middle of the day, and pray that the delivery be betwixt four and five in the afternoon in future." At the Council meeting on 21st September, however, Mr M'Gowan stated "That from certain communications from the Post Office authorities to the Town Clerk that the Mails would be shortly accelerated, the Memorial as to the delivery of the letters on Sundays had not been sent off, and that no movement had been made in the meantime."

Earlier in the spring of the same year the old question of a new office had been re-opened, and in the Council Minutes of date 2nd April, 1852, it is recorded—"Mr Dunbar brought forward the great necessity there was for an alteration in the site of the Post Office which was at present very inconvenient. The Council remit the matter to the following Committee to consider the same and to report. [Viz., Bailie Leighton, Bailie Crombie, Dean Payne, Messrs Sloan, M'Gowan, Dunbar, and Smyth—three a quorum. Mr Dunbar convener.] At the following meeting on 7th May, 1852, the above Committee recommended that the Meal Market and Granary above belonging to the Burgh be fitted up as a Post Office and let to the Post Master at the rent allowed to that gentleman for such an office. Thereafter much correspondence

in regard to this matter passed between the Council and Mr Western, the Post Office Surveyor.

Plans of the premises and medical certificates as to the light, ventilation, and healthy situation of the site were submitted at the request of the postal authorities, and although the Town Council announced their intention of carrying out certain alterations that were deemed necessary, it was intimated to them by the Clerk at their meeting on 4th March, 1853, that a letter had been received from the Postmaster-General stating that after inquiry the Post Office authorities did not think it would be advisable to take a lease of the premises offered for the purposes of a Post Office. The Council expressed regret at this decision, but being still of opinion that extended Post Office Accommodation in Dumfries was much required the agitation for this purpose was continued.

In the Council Minutes of date 5th August, 1853, we are informed, "The Member for the Burghs, Wm. Ewart, Esq., M.P., being present, Bailie Currie took occasion to point out the present existing Postal arrangements. Mr Ewart stated that were a Memorial prepared stating the grievance complained of he would do his utmost to press the same on the attention of the Government and get the same redressed. The Council then named Bailie Currie and Messrs M'Gowan and Sloan a Committee to prepare a Memorial in terms of Mr Ewart's recommendation. Bailie Currie convener." On 2nd September the Provost read a letter from William Ewart acknowledging receipt of the Memorial and stating that he had used every exertion in order to get the grievance complained of redressed.

Possibly as a result of this agitation the office was removed to 10 Queen Street, the same building which, after an interval of seventeen years, has again been brought into association with the service as a sub-office. Notwithstanding these improvements the Dumfries Office must have presented a striking contrast to the Office of to-day. In illustration of this it may be mentioned that the public were then served in the adjoining passage through a hole in the wall.

In Johnstone's "Guide to Dumfries and Galloway," published in 1860, the Post Office in Queen Street is described as "a commodious building, in which is ample accommodation both for officials and the public."

This cannot have been the opinion of the general public.

"On 2nd January, 1857, Provost Leighton brought before the meeting the subject of the great necessity that at present exists for a more convenient and comfortable Post Office, and on his suggestion the following Committee was appointed:—[Provost Leighton, Bailies Payne, Pagan, Watt, Dean Lawson, Messrs Dunbar, M'Gowan, Herries, Sloan, and Corson—Three a quorum—Provost Leighton convener] to take the whole subject into consideration and to prepare and transmit to Government a memorial praying for a Grant for the erection or purchase of suitable premises."<sup>40</sup>

Plans of premises which the Council proposed to let to the postal authorities for the new office were afterwards submitted, but after correspondence in regard to the matter, the Provost intimated at the Council meeting on 24th April, 1857—"That as directed at last Meeting he had communicated the resolution then come to as to the New Post Office to the Post Office authorities, and he produced an answer stating that they declined the premises under the Council Chamber as ineligible, being deficient in space, in height, and in general accommodation."

Thus for a second time the efforts of the Town Council were unavailing, and although the agitation for better accommodation was continued at intervals, it was not until the year 1889 that the inhabitants of the Burgh enjoyed the advantage of a newly erected and specially equipped Post Office.

Some idea of the work transacted at the Dumfries Office at the time of its transfer to the Queen Street premises may be gathered from the following mail sheet<sup>41</sup>:—

40. Dumfries Town Council Minutes.

41. From Slater's Directory for 1852.

" P.O., English Street, Dumfries.  
 Mr John Thorburn, Post Master.

TOWN, &c.	Arrival of Mails.	Box. Closes.	Despatch of Mails.
London and the South, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., also Ireland ( <i>via</i> Lockerbie) ... ..	A.M. 7.30	P.M. 7.45	P.M. 8.0
London, &c., also Ireland ( <i>via</i> Gretna) ... ..	A.M. 9.55	P.M. 2.15	P.M. 2.40
Port Patrick, &c. ... ..	P.M. 1.0	A.M. 9.45	A.M. 10.25
Kirkeudbright, Castle-Douglas, Dalbeattie, &c.... ..	P.M. 6.0	A.M. 7.30	A.M. 8.0
Sanquhar, &c. ... ..	A.M. 1.0	A.M. 9.45	A.M. 10.25
Parkgate, &c. ... ..	P.M. 7.0	A.M. 6.30	A.M. 7.0
Dalswinton, &c. ... ..	A.M. 9.30	A.M. 9.45	A.M. 10.25
Glencaple, Newabbey, &c. ... ..	P.M. 7.0	A.M. 9.45	A.M. 10.25

The office is open from the fourth of November to the fourth of March, at half-past seven in the morning; and from the fourth of March to fourth of November at seven in the morning; and the office closes at nine at night (Sundays excepted).

On Sundays the office is open from a quarter before one noon till a quarter before two.

Late letters may be posted with an additional stamp through the late letter box until within five minutes of the despatch of mail.

Money orders are granted and paid daily (Sundays excepted) from nine in the morning till six in the evening.

\* When the letter M occurs at the end of an address it signifies Maxwelltown."

By way of contrast we append a mail list for the year 1854,<sup>42</sup> which may, perhaps, be regarded as more authentic than the previous one, having been compiled and published by Mr William M'Farlane, one of the Dumfries letter-carriers. It supplies us also with additional particulars as to the mode of conveyance of the different mails.

42. In the possession of Mr Wm. Blackie, Postal Overseer, Dumfries.

## MAILS AT DUMFRIES.


December, 1854.

Arrival.	Delivery.		Box Shuts.	De-spach.
A.M. 9.5	A.M. 9.45	London, &c., Irish Mails, Edinburgh, Glasgow and North of Scotland	P.M. 3.20	P.M. 3.50
P.M. 8.30	A.M. 7.0	London, &c., Irish Mails, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and North of Scotland	P.M. 9.45	P.M. 10.15
A.M. 10.0	—	... .. (On Sundays <i>via</i> Lockerby)	P.M. 1.45	P.M. 3.0
P.M. 3.25	P.M. 4.0	Castle-Douglas, Kirkeudbright, Gatehouse, Stranraer, &c., per Mail Coach	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.35
P.M. 6.0	A.M. 7.0	Thornhill, Sanquhar, Kilmarnock, Ayr, &c., per Railway	A.M. 8.20	A.M. 8.50
		(On Sundays no mail either sent or received.)		
P.M. 7.30	A.M. 7.0	Hollywood and Closeburn Mounted Messenger ; six days a week	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45
P.M. 7.0	A.M. 7.0	Amisfield and Parkgate Runner ...	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45
A.M. 8.45	A.M. 9.45	Dalswinton Runner ... ..	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45
P.M. 7.0	A.M. 7.0	Glencaple and Bankend Runner ...	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45
P.M. 6.40	A.M. 7.0	Newabbey and Southwick, per Gig...	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45
P.M. 7.0	P.M. 7.0	Collin and Mouswald, six days a week	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45
P.M. 7.0	P.M. 7.0	Terregles and Shawhead, six days a week	A.M. 9.0	A.M. 9.45

Late Letters may be posted through the Late Letter Box, with an additional stamp affixed, up to 15 minutes before the despatch of each mail.

Office Open.—At 7 a.m. from 5th March to 5th November, and at 8 a.m. from 5th November to 5th March.

Shut.—At 10 p.m. and for 30 minutes after the arrival and before the Despatch of Mails.

 After the arrival of the 8.30 p.m. Train (as soon as the Mail is sorted) there is a General Window Delivery for an hour.

Open on Sundays from 12.45 to 1.45 p.m.

When the Mail via Lockerbie arrives so as to admit of a delivery at that time; and, when late, to be opened for an hour so soon as the Mail can be sorted.

Money Orders are issued and paid between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. (except from 3.20 till 4 p.m.) on week days only; and on Saturday Evenings Money Order Business may be transacted up to 8 o'clock.

In the year 1861 the Post Office Savings Bank was established, and in the following year Mr Thorburn retired from the office of Postmaster. He was succeeded by Mr Alexander Loudoun, from the Greenock Office. Mr Loudoun may be described as the first practical postmaster, for he had not only been trained in the service, but was required to devote his whole time to the duties of the office. The salary attached to the office was at this time fixed at about £130. On his retiral in 1889 it had been increased to almost £300 per annum.

During Mr Loudoun's term of office further changes, resulting in greatly increased facilities to the public, were made. For example, in 1870 the Telegraph service was transferred from private hands to the Government. Later in the same year a halfpenny postage rate for printed matter was introduced, and a few days later the first post-cards were on sale to the public.

On the 1st of May, 1871, a sorting carriage, staffed by one clerk from the Dumfries Office, made its first journey between Dumfries and Stranraer, leaving Dumfries, with the Irish mails, at 5.40 a.m.

The Postal Order system was commenced in 1881.

In August, 1883, the inland "Parcels Post" was started, and two years later the parcel post was extended to foreign countries and the colonies. In 1883 the Postal Authorities secured a lease of premises at the station to be utilised as a parcel depot. Here the work of receiving and despatching the parcel mails to and from Dumfries is still conducted.

The continuous and rapid expansion of postal business following on these improvements, combined with continued agitation by the people for still further facilities, led to the erection of the commodious and handsome Post Office in Buccleuch Street. The contract for the erection of the new building was given to Mr David Kirkland, Ayr, and the foundation-stone was laid with full Masonic honours. The office was first occupied at Whitsunday, 1889, when the late Mr Wm. G. Weir, a Greenock officer like his predecessor, was appointed to take charge, at an increased salary.



In Mr Weir's time numerous other improvements were introduced. Thus in 1889 Telegraph Money Orders were authorised, and the system was further extended on the 1st March, 1890. On the 25th March, 1891, Express services were instituted, and on the 1st January, 1895, free re-direction of letters, books, newspapers, etc., was conceded. More important still was the introduction of "Imperial Penny Postage" in 1898, as the outcome of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Mr Weir retired on pension in 1900, and was succeeded in office by Mr C. S. Chapman, from the Kendal Office.

During the years in which Mr Chapman had charge of the Dumfries Office further concessions were granted to the public. Perhaps the most important was the extension of penny postage to New Zealand and to the Chinese ports in 1902, to Australia in 1905, and to the United States in October, 1908. A noteworthy development was inaugurated on the 2nd of January, 1909. On that date payment was made for the first time of the weekly pension granted by the State to the aged poor of the British Isles.

On his retiral in March, 1910, Mr Chapman was succeeded on 31st May, 1910, by Mr William Carmichael, the present able and energetic postmaster.

#### V.—RECEIVING OFFICES AND TOWN SUB-OFFICES.

A branch office, known as the Maxwelltown Receiving Office, was established in 1843 for the greater convenience of the inhabitants of that burgh, and it is of interest to obtain some idea of the work transacted at the office shortly after it was first opened to the public.

From the "Dumfries Courier" of date January 29th, 1844, we learn that:—"There passed through this office, in 94 days from its institution on 22nd July, 1843, 2512 letters and 527 newspapers; and during the second 94 days ending January 5th, 4033 of the former and 752 of the latter, showing an increase on the last quarter of 1521 letters and 225 newspapers. The Maxwelltown community are under great obligations to Her Majesty's Post Office Commissioners for granting so seasonable a boon as the establishment of this branch, tending as it does so much to facilitate business."



The first postmaster in Maxwelltown was a Mr Clark, and the office was located in the shop at No. 1 Glasgow Street, presently occupied by Mr M'Courtie. Mr Clark held office for only a brief period, and was succeeded by Mr John Bell. In 1853 the office was at the shop in Galloway Street now occupied by Mr Beattie, grocer. Mr Bell was succeeded by Mr John Davidson in May, 1855, and the office was then transferred to the shop now occupied by Mr Kirk, tobacconist, at 45 Galloway Street. On his death in February, 1878, Mr Davidson was succeeded in office by a relative (probably his son), Mr John Davidson, in April, 1878. The second Mr Davidson was in turn succeeded by Mr John Moodie in December, 1884, and the latter again removed the office to the shop No. 32, further up the same street, presently occupied by Mr Tait, cycle agent. On Mr Moodie's resignation in July, 1886, the control of the office again passed, in August of the same year, to a member of the Davidson family, viz., Mr James Davidson. Thereafter the office was located in the premises presently occupied by the Misses Aitken, confectioners, at 42 Galloway Street.

On the Head Office being established in Buccleuch Street the Maxwelltown Receiving Office was abolished, and Mr James Davidson was appointed to take charge of a new "Receiving Office" located in the shop No. 63 English Street, Dumfries. Mr Davidson was succeeded by Mrs E. Johnston in May, 1890, and she removed the office to her place of business at No. 9 English Street. On Mrs Johnston's retiral in June, 1906, she was succeeded as sub-postmistress by Miss Jeanie T. Fergusson, the present holder. Miss Fergusson removed the office, now known as English Street T.S.O. (i.e., Town Sub Office), to the building previously occupied as the Head Office, at 10 Queen Street.

At the present time the office transacts the usual postal duties, including Money Order, Savings Bank, Annuity and Insurance Business. It is also a collecting office for telegrams, a telephone installed in May, 1907, being utilised for transmitting the messages to the Head Office. The hours of business are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. There is no Sunday attendance.

The St. Michael Street Receiving Office was established in November, 1889, and Mrs Margaret Gibson was appointed Sub-postmistress. The office was located in the shop now occupied

by Mrs Kerr at 1 Lindsay Place. On Mrs Gibson's death in August, 1896, the appointment was given to her daughter, Miss Sarah H. Gibson (afterwards Mrs Thoms) in October, 1896. Mrs Thoms resigned the position in July, 1898, and was succeeded immediately afterwards by Mrs MacWhinnie, the present holder. Mrs MacWhinnie removed the office to her business premises at 16 St. Michael Street.

At the present time the office transacts Money Order, Savings Bank, Annuity and Insurance business, in addition to the usual counter duties; but there is no telegraph work. The hours of business are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on week days, and there is no attendance on Sundays. The office is now known as "The St. Michael Street T.S.O." (Town Sub Office).

The Milldamhead T.S.O. was established in July, 1898, and the appointment of Sub-postmaster was given to Mr Samuel Fergusson, who conducted the business in the shop now occupied by Mrs Chesser, at the corner of Maxwell Street, Dumfries. Mr Fergusson resigned in September, 1901, and for a time the office was discontinued. In March, 1902, however, it was re-established at No. 3 Kirkowens Street, and Mrs Jane Jackson Dalziel was appointed to the office of Sub-Postmistress. Mrs Dalziel resigned in November, 1906, and was succeeded by Mr J. D. Little, the present Sub-Postmaster, who carries on the business at the same address. This office also transacts full duties in regard to Money Order, Savings Bank, Annuity and Insurance business, with the exception of telegraph work. There is no Sunday duty. The hours of business on week days were originally 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but on December 6th, 1909, these were altered to 8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., and on the 2nd May, 1910, authority was given for closing the office at 2 p.m. on Thursdays of each week.

Laurieknowe (Maxwelltown) T.S.O. was first opened for business on the 4th of January, 1909. Mr John W. Trotter was appointed Sub-Postmaster, and the office was located in his business premises at 6½ Laurieknowe, Maxwelltown. The office transacts the usual counter duties, including Money Order, Savings Bank, Annuity and Insurance business, but has no telegraph work. The office is not open on Sundays. The hours of attendance on week days were originally 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. but

these were altered to 8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on and from 1st November, 1909.

Troqueer Road (Maxwelltown) T.S.O. was also opened on the 4th January, 1909; the office being established in the shop at 10 Troqueer Road, and Miss Brown being appointed Sub-Postmistress. No Money Order, Savings Bank, Annuity, or Insurance business, or telegraph work, is, as yet, transacted at this office, but Postal Orders are issued on a limited scale. There is no Sunday attendance. Originally open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the hours of duty were changed on 1st November, 1909, to 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On the introduction of the label system for registered letters, packets, parcels, etc., numbers were allocated to these sub-offices as follows:—English Street T.S.O., Dumfries, 1; St Michael Street T.S.O., Dumfries, 2; Milldamhead T.S.O., Dumfries, 3; Laurieknowe, Maxwelltown, T.S.O., Dumfries, 4; and Troqueer Road, Maxwelltown, T.S.O., Dumfries, 5.

In addition to these Town Receiving Offices and Sub-Offices, Dumfries had under its control a large number of Rural Receiving Offices and Sub-Offices. Very few of these, however, were in existence prior to the introduction of uniform penny postage. There can be little doubt that the developments in the establishment of these Rural Sub-Offices were largely the outcome of this far-reaching reform.

The more important sub-offices were established at Auldgrith Bridge, Closeburn,<sup>43</sup> Colvend,<sup>44</sup> Crocketford (previously a penny post office under Dumfries), Dalbeattie (constituted a Head Office on 1st February, 1869), Duncow, Dunscore (previously a penny post office under Dumfries), Haugh of Urr,<sup>44</sup> Isle Toll,<sup>45</sup> Kirkbean, Kirkgunzeon, Kirkmahoe, Kirkpatrick-Durham,<sup>44</sup> Mouswald,<sup>45</sup> Newabbey (previously a penny post office under Dumfries), Old Bridge of Urr,<sup>44</sup> Palnackie,<sup>44</sup> Parkgate (previously a penny post office under Moffat), Preston, Shawhead, Springholm,<sup>44</sup> Southwick, and Torthorwald<sup>46</sup>

43. Now under control of Thornhill Office.

44. Transferred to Dalbeattie, 1st Feb., 1869.

45. Now non-existent.

46. Transferred from Lockerbie on and from 1st January, 1877.

A runner from the Dumfries Office previously undertook the delivery to the Roucan.

## VI.—POSTMARKS OF THE DUMFRIES POST OFFICE.

In the year 1660 the system of postmarking was invented and first used by Henry Bisshopp, Esq., His Majesty's farmer of the office of Postmaster-General, but it was not until about the year 1714 that the provincial or country Postmasters, then called "deputies," adopted this method of stamping or marking all the letters posted at or delivered from their respective offices. Hitherto the letters had been entered on what was termed "a labell" or waybill giving the time of arrival and despatch of the mails, and also the number of letters paid and unpaid.

Post Office	<i>Dumfr</i>	<i>12 July</i>	<i>1789</i>
Bye Letters to	<i>Sanquhar</i>		
Unpaid	<i>19 1/3</i>	at	<i>3</i>
Paid	<i>/</i>	at	<i>3</i>
		L.	<i>: 4: 10</i>
			<i>: : 3</i>

DUMFRIES AND SANQUIHAR WAYBILL, 12th JULY, 1789.

In the year 1715 instructions were issued that each Post Town should use a stamp "so that a check may be kept on letters passing from one stage to another." The instructions would appear to have been rigorously carried into effect, for one of the earliest orders issued to Post Office Surveyors or "Agents to ryde ye severall rodes and find out abuses," as they were then designated, was "to examine whether all letters are duly stamped."

The advantages of such a system can readily be understood. For a long time no important change is noticeable in the character of the stamps, but as the demands made upon the service increased defects became apparent and numerous improvements have from time to time been brought into operation.

Thus it is of interest to notice that still more stringent regula-

tions were laid down as to the work of stamping. Under date the 28th December, 1807, a "Special Instruction" was issued to the various offices in the following terms:—"Stamp all letters with wooden stamp, using common writing ink. On no account whatever apply the smoke of candles for the purpose."

There can be little doubt, we think, that Dumfries, in common with other provincial offices, would use a stamp in 1715.

The late J. G. Hendy states<sup>47</sup> that the earliest Scottish postmark which had come under his notice was taken from a letter of 1774. It may therefore be of interest to record that we have secured markings from the Dumfries Office of dates 14th June, 1761, and 25th March, 1765; from the Annan Office of dates November 27th, 1738, and August 27th, 1744; and from the Moffat Office for the 28th December, 1761.

Fig. 1 shows the Dumfries postmark for the 14th June, 1761. It possesses the peculiarity of having the letters M and F joined together so as to form what is called a ligature or nexus. This mark remained in use until about the year 1763 or 1764, when it seems to have been superseded by a larger mark (Fig. 2). The latter evidently continued to be used at the Dumfries Office for a considerable period. We find a similar postmark on a letter from the Poet Burns to his brother William, dated from Ellisland the 10th November, 1789, which is preserved in the Burns Museum of Mr John Thomson, Hole i' the Wa' Inn, Dumfries.

In the year 1808 the marking of mileage (i.e., the distance from London) was authorised, but it is certain that the rule was not applied generally. Figs. 3 and 4 represent the Dumfries marks showing mileage in use from 1814 to 1820. J. G. Hendy says:—"The Scotch stamps bearing mileage also bore the initial letters B, C, D, E, & G. These indicated the route by which the letters circulated, i.e., Berwick, Carlisle, Dumfries, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. It appears, however, that there were exceptions, thus we find Dumfries bearing route letter "G" and a different mileage (Fig. 4).<sup>47\*</sup>

In 1821 the character of the Dumfries postmark is somewhat different. The frame, as shown in the markings of 1814-20, has disappeared, while details as to the date of posting and hour of

47. History of the Early Postmarks of the British Isles, p. 127.

47\*. History of the Early Postmarks of the British Isles, pp. 137-8.

arrival have been added. Thus the specimen shown in Fig. 5 taken from a letter posted at the Castle Street P.P.O.<sup>48</sup> Edinburgh, on the 13th July, 1821, tells us that the letter reached Dumfries on the morning (M.) of the 14th July, 1821. In this case also the mileage differs from that given on the earlier postmarks. Another marking of a similar character (Fig. 6), in use during the years 1825 and 1826, has no index letter to indicate the time of arrival at the Dumfries office.

In 1830 the mileage and route marks gradually disappeared and a new mark (Fig. 7) was brought into use. Some specimens of this postmark bear an index letter "N." Others again (Fig. 8) have no index letter. In 1834 the first circular stamp of type shown in Fig. 9 was introduced.

In 1838 a question arose as to the supply of a more uniform type of stamps for use in Scottish post offices. "Previous to this date," says Hendy, "postmasters in many instances supplied their own stamps. It was now decided that these officials should be supplied from London with steel instead of brass stamps." Postmarks as shown in Figs. 10 and 11 then came into use at the Dumfries Office. In addition to these marks several others were in use at this period for special purposes. Thus Figs. 12 and 13 represent the marks endorsed on correspondence delivered through the medium of the local penny post, i.e., to Crocketford, Dunscore, Maxwelltown, or Newabbey, at the additional cost of 1d. Again Fig. 14, taken from a letter of date 22nd September, 1837, shows the marking in use to denote that the postage was prepaid. Another type of the "paid stamp," introduced at a later date, is shown in Fig. 15. Fig. 16 represents the mark used to denote that the letter had been missent and was therefore exempt from a second postage.

In the year 1813 an Act of Parliament was passed repealing, as far as Scotland was concerned, exemption from toll in the case of mail coaches with more than two wheels. The same Act, in order to indemnify the Post Office for the loss it would sustain, imposed an additional postage of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d upon every letter conveyed by mail coach in Scotland. Figs. 17 to 21 represent "additional halfpenny" marks used at different dates in the Edinburgh Office



for marking correspondence conveyed by the Edinburgh to Dumfries Mail Coach.

On the 6th of May, 1840, the 1d adhesive postage label which had to be cut with scissors from a sheet or strip of the same and the artistically drawn cover of Mulready also came into use, and their introduction was immediately followed by the first obliterating stamp (Fig. 22). The earlier impressions of this mark were made in red ink, but this was changed to black on account of the ease with which the red could be removed from the stamps. These stamps were cut in wood, and cost 1s each.

"From want of a distinguishing mark," says Hendy in his History, "it was found impossible to indicate the office where letters defaced by them were posted, so that in February, 1841, instructions were issued to all postmasters to date-stamp their letters with the office where posted in front, and with the office of delivery on the back."

The State though making no charge for the transmission of newspapers by post had, since 1711, levied a Stamp Duty upon them. Fig. 23 represents the Government stamp of the "Dumfries Courier" for transmission through the post, while Fig. 24 shows a similar stamp for the "Dumfries Weekly Journal." The paper had to be so folded that the Government stamp was seen, otherwise it was marked with the stamp shown in Fig. 25 and surcharged. Fig. 26 tells that the newspaper had been examined at the Dumfries office with a view to surcharge if it contained any unauthorised enclosure. On the introduction of uniform penny postage in 1840 another mark (Fig. 27) was adopted, and continued in use until about the year 1848, when a further change was made to the type shown in Fig. 28. In 1850 another change appears to have been made to the type shown in Fig. 29. Specimens of this mark show that it remained in general use throughout at least the years 1850 and 1851.

In the following year (1852) the first circular Dumfries stamp with an outer frame all round is met with (Fig. 30). We think it probable that this would be an experimental stamp, as it does not appear to have been kept in use for any length of time. Only a single specimen has come under our notice.

In the year 1853 another stamp (Fig. 31) was introduced. In this instance an index letter has been added. We know from other specimens of this marking which have come under our notice

that it was still in use until the beginning of the year 1857. In that year two new marks (Figs. 32 and 33) are met with. From the position of the marks we ascertain that they were designed for distinctive purposes. Thus Fig. 32 was used for endorsing inward correspondence, while Fig. 33 was for obliterating the stamps and endorsing the covers of outward correspondence. The reason for the use of a double stamp was that while one impression fell on the label the other would appear on the letter, and, as each number was allocated to one particular office, it thus formed a sufficient check on Postmasters and clerks against substituting an obliterated for an unobliterated stamp. Fig. 33 has the further peculiarity of having the index letter in the under portion of the stamp. Another type of the double stamp (Fig. 34) appears to have been in use in 1858, while a slightly different mark of the same class (Fig. 35) seems to have been introduced a few years later. Fig. 36 shows yet another type with thick parallel lines.

Other changes were made in regard to the marks for inward correspondence and the markings (Figs. 37, 38, 39, and 41) were afterwards brought into general use.

Fig. 40 shows the small mark (Fig. 41) in use also on a combined stamp.

We are indebted to the late J. G. Hendy for particulars in regard to the treatment of defaced stamps. He says, "All letters bearing stamps which appeared to have been previously used were to be charged with double rates of postage, as in the case of unpaid letters, and to be marked 'Old Stamp.'" The suspected stamps, whether appearing to have been previously obliterated or defaced, or otherwise imperfect, were not to be again obliterated, but carefully marked across, thus, X with pen and ordinary ink, so that the mark should not be an obstacle to any subsequent inquiry.

Prior to the abolition of the Maxwelltown Receiving Office in 1889 two markings (Figs. 42 and 43) were in use at different periods at that office. The latter marking (Fig. 43) is of interest as showing an error in the spelling of the name and on account of the use of the term R.O. for Receiving Office.

Of the subsequent changes we do not purpose to speak further than to mention that the double or combined date and obliterator stamps were afterwards withdrawn, and that clock time



was substituted for "Index letters" about the end of the year 1894.

Here we conclude our references to the Dumfries postmarks. We leave the reader to form his own opinion as to the merits of the respective designs which are here illustrated.

#### VII.—RATES OF POSTAGE, INCLUDING "THE FRANKING SYSTEM."

The term "postage," as applied to the charge made for the conveyance and delivery of articles passing through the post, is comparatively modern.

"The Act of 1764," says Joyce,<sup>49</sup> "is the first so to use it. The term is indeed used in the Act of 1660, but there it signifies the hire of a horse for travelling, i.e., "Each horse's hire or postage."

As we have already seen, the tariff for postage or "portage" introduced by Thomas Witherings at the establishment of a regular postal service with Scotland was as follows:—

	Single Letter.	Double.	If bigger.
Under 80 miles ... ..	2d	4d	6d an oz.
80 miles and not exceeding 140 ..	4d	8d	9d an oz.
Above 140 miles ... ..	6d	12d	12d an oz.
To and from Scotland ... ..	8d	After two ozs. 6d the oz.	

This was the introduction of such charges, but it is of interest to note the various changes and concessions which have from time to time been introduced.

Although it was to the Act passed in 1657 that the Post Office owed its establishment on a sound basis, another Act passed in 1660, as being unimpeachable, has come to be regarded as its charter. The rates of postage prescribed by the earlier Act were, however, only slightly altered by the Act of 1660. As finally introduced, the charges were as follows:—

	Single Letter.	Double Letter.	Per oz.
80 miles and under ... ..	2d	4d	8d
Above 80 miles ... ..	3d	6d	12d
To and from Berwick ... ..	3d	6d	18d
From Berwick within Scotland.			
40 miles and under ... ..	2d	4d	8d
Above 40 miles ... ..	4d	8d	12d

49 Footnote Joyce's "History of the P.O.," p. 29.

These charges were, in turn, superseded after the Union of 1707 by the following tariff from the Post Office Act of 1711:—

From London.	Single.	Double.	Ounce.
80 miles and under ... ..	3d	6d	12d
Above 80 miles ... ..	4d	8d	16d
To Edinburgh... ..	6d	12d	24d
From Edinburgh within Scotland.			
50 miles and under ... ..	2d	4d	8d
Above 50 miles and not exceeding 80 miles	3d	6d	12d
Above 80 miles ... ..	4d	8d	16d

By the same Act rates for correspondence passing between Dumfries and Edinburgh were prescribed as follows:—

“And for the Port of every Single Letter, or Piece of Paper, from the said General Post Office in *London* unto the City of *Edinburgh*, in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, or from thence to the said General Post Office in the City of *London*, and to and from *Dumfries*, or *Cockburnspath*, and between either of those Places and the said City of *Edinburgh*, not coming from, or directed on Board any Ship, Six Pence; and for the like Port of every Double Letter, Twelve Pence; and so proportionally unto the said Rates, for the Port of every Packet of Letters.”

In the earliest years of postal administration it appears to have been a common practice for public bodies, such as the Town Council, to make only periodical payments for postages, etc. It may not therefore be out of place to quote here the following extracts from the Dumfries Burgh Treasurer's Accounts:—

	lib	s.	d.
1708-09.—Feb. 24. Itt payed to Jo. Johnston for Eleven two peny leters and five four peny leters upon ye towns accountt ... ..	02	02	00
July 4. Itt payed for postage of letters for ye town from ye first of Aprile to the 4th July instant...	03	14	00
Decr. 20, 1710. For two post letters from Edr....	—	4	—
Febry. 16, 1711. To Torrery for postage of two letters from John Sibbald about ye toun's affairs ... ..	—	4	—
Sept. 8 (1711). To John Johnstone Postmaster for postage of Letters to and from ye Magis- trats about ye Touns affairs from 1 Decr. to 22 August last ... ..	3	15	—

	lib.	s.	d.
July 7, 1712.—For postage of a letter from Edr to ye Magrats ... ..	00	16	00
Sept. 15, 1712.—To John Johnston postmaster for postage of Letters and Gazetts to the Town p. the Councils precept at ye end of ye [partiar] accot and his Receipt ... ..	17	01	00
Feb. 23, 1728.—Postage of 2 Letters from Liver- pool about the bell mettall ... ..	—	—	8
Apr. 14, 1728.—Postage of a Letter from Edr....	—	—	2
May 4, 1728.—Postage of a Letter from Edr. wt the Act & Commission in John Irving's affair For postage of a Letter from Prov. Irving at London ... ..	—	—	6
12 Aprile, 1742.—To postage of a Double Letter to the provost from Glasgow anent the Linen manfr ... ..	—	—	8

Such entries are of frequent occurrence, and many of them are of more than passing interest.

In the year 1764 a concession in the rates of postage for distances not exceeding two post stages was granted, to take effect from and after 10th October, 1765; but the tariff for the longer distances remained unchanged.

By the same Act (Section vii.) the Rates of Postage between England and Ireland through Carlisle, Dumfries, Port Patrick, and Donaghadee were arranged as follows:—

“And whereas, for the more ready and extensive Conveyance of Letters and Packets between that Part of *Great Britain* called *England* and *Ireland*, and for the Conveniency of Trade and Commerce between the said Kingdoms, it may be convenient and expedient to improve the Communication for the Conveyance of such Letters and Packets by the Post through *Carlisle*, *Dumfries*, and *Port Patrick*, or some other convenient Port in *Scotland*; and through *Donaghadee*, or some other convenient Port in *Ireland*; be it further declared and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Postmaster General, and his Deputy or Deputies by him thereunto sufficiently authorized, to demand, have, receive, and take, for the Port and Conveyance of all Letters and Packets

passing and repassing by the Post between *England* and *Ireland*, through *Carlisle*, *Dumfries*, *Port Patrick*, and *Donaghadee*, or other convenient Ports in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, the same Rates or Sums for *English* Postage, according to the Number of Miles or Stages such Letters and Packets are carried by the Post in *England*, as also the same Rates or Sums for *Scotch* Postage, according to the Number of Miles or Stages such Letters and Packets are carried by the Post in *Scotland*; and, moreover, the same Rates or Sums for Packet Postage between *Port Patrick* and *Donaghadee*, or other convenient Ports in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, as likewise the same Rates or Sums for *Irish* Postage, according to the Number of Miles or Stages such Letters are carried by the Post in *Ireland*, as are respectively settled, established, and ascertained, by the said Act, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her said late Majesty Queen *Anne*, or by this present Act.”

On the introduction of the mail coach in 1784 an increase became necessary, and new charges were imposed as follows:—

Distance.		Single.	Double.	Treble.	Ounce
Not exceeding one post stage	... ..	2d	4d	6d	8d
Above one but not two post stages	... ..	3d	6d	9d	1/-
Above two stages but not exceeding 80 miles...	... ..	4d	8d	1/-	1/4
Above 80 miles but not exceeding 150 miles	... ..	5d	10d	1/3	1/3
Above 150 miles	... ..	6d	1/-	1/6	2/-
To or from Edinburgh and London	... ..	7d	1/2	1/9	2/4

The extract from the Act (24 George III., C. 37, A.D. 1784) in regard to the increase of one penny on single letters passing to and from Dumfries and Edinburgh is as follows:—

“And for the Port or Conveyance of every Single Letter conveyed or carried by the Post from the General Post Office in the City of *London* unto the City of *Edinburgh*, in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, or from thence to the said General Post Office in the said City of *London*, and to and from *Dumfries* and *Cockburnspath*, and between either of those Places and the said City of *Edinburgh*, the Sum of One Penny; For every Double Letter, Two Pence; For every Treble Letter, Three Pence; And for every Ounce in Weight, Four Pence; and so in Proportion for every Packet of Writs, Deeds, or other Things.”

A further increase was made in 1797, the rates within Scot-

land, i.e., "to any town or district in Scotland from Edinburgh," being again raised 1d for a single letter, 2d for a double, and so on.

Nor was this the limit of such charges. Thus while in 1797 the charge for a single letter from Dumfries to Edinburgh was 5d, in 1802 the charge was raised to 6d. In 1803 the tariff was reduced, but in 1808 it was again increased, this time to 7d, and a further increase of 1d was imposed in 1813. The latter increase would appear to have met with considerable opposition from the members of Dumfries Town Council. Under date Monday 22nd March, 1813, it is recorded in the Council Minutes—"Which day Provost Staig laid before the Council a letter from Mr Douglas, the representative in Parliament for this district of Burghs, dated the twelfth of March Current, covering a Printed Minute respecting the local hardship imposed on the Trustees of the High roads in Scotland by the exemption from Toll enjoyed by Mail Coaches, and suggesting that such exemption might be given up, taken an increase of 1d or 1½d per letter of postage on all Letters passing in Scotland as a compensation for an expense which would thereby be occasioned to the revenue, and the Council, having reasoned upon and considered the proposal contained in the said Minute, they are unanimously of opinion that such increase of postage is not a fair principle of compensation and ought to be resisted, they therefore desire the Provost to instruct Mr Douglas to give his decided opposition to the measure."

Again, under dates 25th and 31st May, 1830, it is recorded that—"Dr Symons brought before the Council a tax levied by the Post Office of a halfpenny at delivery of letters, and he read a return of the Burghs in Scotland that paid and the Burghs which are exempted. After consideration the Council determine this to be a grievous burden to the public and request the Provost without delay to make the proper application to the Postmaster-General for redress."

We have been unable to ascertain the result of this application. An interesting reference to the repeal of the additional charge on letters conveyed by the Side Posts has, however, come under our notice:—"Postage on Letters at Side Posts—A considerable portion of our readers will be as glad to learn as we are ourselves, that this obnoxious and anomalous duty will be

repealed in the course of a few weeks. That the penny stamp which franks a newspaper from London to Dumfries and from Dumfries to Stranraer, should not afford the same protection at the Nine Mile Toll-bar, on the same line of road, is indeed an absurdity. It may be true that small side posts hardly pay expenses; but they are a part of the general system—conduits which feed those larger cisterns of correspondence which contribute rather handsomely to the revenue of the country.”<sup>49\*</sup>

In consequence of these high rates of postage the advantages of the postal service to the community in general were greatly restricted, and, as was to be expected, illicit means of communication was adopted in order to evade the payment of postage altogether. Thus one correspondent writing to a friend says:—“I send this by the blind carrier, so that it may be some time upon the journey.” In a later communication the same correspondent writes in regard to the foregoing:—“This anticipation proved but too true, as my learned correspondent did not receive my letter until a twelvemonth after it was written. I mention this circumstance that a gentleman attached to the cause of learning who now holds the principal control of the Post Office may consider whether by some mitigation of the present enormous rates some favour might not be shown to the correspondents of the principal Literary and Antiquarian Societies. I understand, indeed, that this experiment was once tried, but that the mail coach having broke down under the weight of packages addressed to members of the Society of Antiquaries it was relinquished as a hazardous experiment.”

This, however, was by no means the only evil from which the Post Office of that period suffered. The system of “franking,” with its attendant abuses, is too well-known to call for special mention here. Originally designed to enable members of Parliament to keep in closer touch with their constituents, the system rapidly developed into an illicit means of communication, and it is recorded that in 1838 the number of franks which actually passed through the Post Office was estimated at about seven millions. Some idea of the loss thus occasioned may be gathered from the following interesting reference:—“I had a great postage to pay, my letter being weighty by the papers that were inclosed; and by

<sup>49\*</sup>. “Dumfries and Galloway Courier,” Wednesday, March 29th, 1837.

DUMFRIES

Fig. 1.

DUMFRIES

Fig. 2.

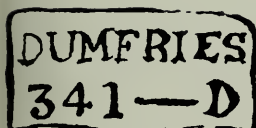


Fig. 3.

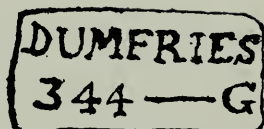


Fig. 4.

DUMFRIES  
14 JUL 1821.  
M 340-D

Fig. 5.

DUMFRIES  
1 DE 1825  
340—D

Fig. 6.

DUMFRIES  
5 JUL 1833  
M

Fig. 7.





DUMFRIES  
26 APR 1837

FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.

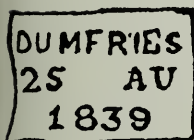


FIG. 10.

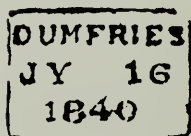


FIG. 11.

DUMFRIES  
PENNY POST

FIG. 12.

DUMFRIES.  
PENNY POST

FIG. 13.



FIG. 14.

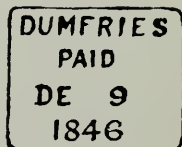
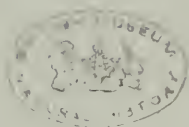


FIG. 15.



# MISSENT TO DUMFRIES

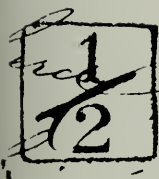


Fig. 17.

Fig. 16.

$$\text{Add!} \\ \frac{1}{2}$$

Fig. 19.

$$\text{Add!} \\ \frac{1}{2}$$

Fig. 18.

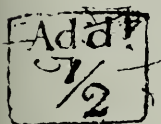


Fig. 20



Fig. 22.



Fig. 23.



Fig. 21.



Fig. 24.

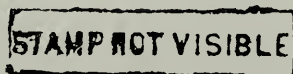


Fig. 25.

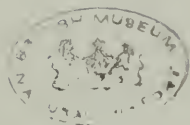




FIG. 26.

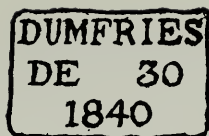


FIG. 27.



FIG. 28.



FIG. 29.



FIG. 30.



FIG. 31.



FIG. 32.

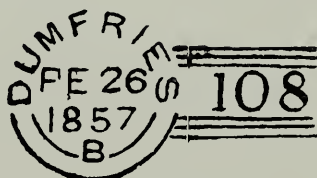


FIG. 33.



FIG. 34.



FIG. 35.





Fig.36.



Fig.37.



Fig.38.



Fig.39.



Fig.40.



Fig.41.

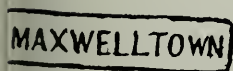


Fig.42.



Fig.43.





some omission my letter not being franked, I had 8s 9d to pay to Mr John M'Nish, Postmaster of Dalbeattie, and then I had paid for letters one pound, from England, Ireland, and other places."<sup>50</sup>

It will thus be acknowledged that the time was ripe for sweeping reform. It was not, however, until Rowland Hill had placed his scheme of Penny Postage before the public and gained their confidence and support that he was enabled, in spite of unflinching opposition on the part of the Government officials, to secure the adoption of his measure.

At a meeting of Dumfries Town Council held on 2nd November, 1837, a letter from Mr Wallace of Kelly accompanying a resolution of the Chamber of Commerce of Edinburgh as to adopting the plan proposed by Mr Rowland Hill for a uniform rate of postage was submitted. The Council agreed to petition both Houses of Parliament in favour of the measure.

In this connection it is interesting to find that in 1827, that is ten years prior to the date on which Rowland Hill published his famous pamphlet advocating penny postage, the Town Council of Dumfries would seem to have had under consideration proposals of a similar character. Thus we read in a minute dated 1st April, 1839:—"The Provost laid on the Table a Copy of the Newspaper Called Post Circular<sup>50\*</sup> Containing a form of a petition praying for an equal rate of postage not exceeding one penny, and as he observed that the Council had petitioned on the same subject *so far back as Nov., 1827*, he would propose that another Petition be presented." Unfortunately, on referring to the records for 1827, we find them incomplete, and no corroboration is therefore forthcoming of this statement, which, it is obvious, has a most important bearing upon the history of penny postage.

On the 10th of January, 1840, the uniform rate of One Penny for letters not exceeding half-an-ounce in weight was officially introduced, and we can safely say that this marked a new era not only in the history of the postal service, but in the Annals of our national prosperity. That further concessions have from

50. "The Gallovidian" Summer number, 1906, p. 90.

50\*. The "Post Circular" was a paper set up temporarily by the "Mercantile Committee" to advocate the reform. It was ably edited by Mr Cole, and had a wide circulation.

time to time been introduced goes without saying, but these, it may be claimed, are just the outcome of the unqualified success of Penny Postage.

In closing these references to the postages it is perhaps fitting that we should add a few particulars in regard to the Parcel Post, which although a comparatively modern institution, has developed into one of the largest and most important branches of our postal service. On the introduction of the service, in November, 1883, rates of postage were prescribed as follows:—

Not exceeding 1 lb. in weight	...	...	...	s.	d.
Exceeding 1 lb. and not exceeding 3 lbs.	...	...	...	0	3
"    3 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	0	6
"    5 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	0	9
"    7 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	1	0
No parcel can be sent exceeding 7 lbs. in weight.					

On the 1st May, 1886, the conditions of the Inland Parcel Post were altered. The maximum weight was increased to 11 lb., and the scale of postage was fixed as follows:—

Not exceeding 1 lb....	...	...	...	...	s.	d.
Exceeding 1 lb. but not exceeding 2 lbs.	...	...	...	...	0	3
"    2 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	4½
"    3 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	6
"    4 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	7½
"    5 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	9
"    6 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	10½
"    7 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	1	0
"    8 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	1	1½
"    9 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	1	3
"    10 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	1	4½
"    11 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	1	6

At the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria a further concession in the rates of postage was announced, and the following tariff then came into operation:—

Not exceeding 1 lb....	...	...	...	...	s.	d.
Exceeding 1 lb. but not exceeding 2 lbs.	...	...	...	...	0	3
"    2 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	4
"    3 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	5
"    4 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	6
"    5 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	7
"    6 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	8
"    7 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	9
"    8 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	10
"    9 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	0	11
"    11 lbs.    "    "	...	...	...	...	1	0

These charges were in turn superseded by a further reduced tariff on 2nd July, 1906, when the present low and popular rates came into force.

## VIII.—THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

Perhaps it was only to be expected that a department which had served the community so faithfully in the conveyance and delivery of letters and parcels should be called upon to undertake the transmission of messages by means of the electric telegraph and telephone, but like other great reforms of which we have already spoken the change only came in response to continued public agitation.

An Act empowering the Postmaster-General to purchase existing electric telegraphs was passed on the 3rd July, 1868, and in the year 1870 the transfer was completed.

Dumfries has had the advantage of the Telegraph since 1854, but at that time the business was in the hands of private companies. "The first Dumfries Telegraph Office," we believe, "was located at the unpretentious wooden structure which served as the original railway station, and which adjoined the Annan Road, on its north side. Mr William Wright was in charge of it: but owing to the high rates charged for messages his work consisted chiefly of signalling the departure of trains to stations north and south of Dumfries. Quite a number of stations were on the one wire, viz.: Carlisle, Annan, Dumfries, Thornhill, Sanquhar, the Cumnocks, Auchinleck, Hurlford, Mauchline, Kilmarnock, and Glasgow, and many a quarrel occurred as to who should get their message off first.

A considerable reduction was made in the charges after the erection of the new station, and correspondingly greater advantage was taken of the telegraph by the general public, with the result that a second clerk was appointed. Then rival companies appeared in the field. The Electric opened an office in Bank Street. Thereupon the British and Irish Magnetic Company, which had its office at the railway station, opened another in High Street, in premises opposite to Assembly Street."<sup>51</sup>

On the actual transfer of the telegraph lines to Government control on 28th January, 1870, the business was consolidated in the Post Office in Queen Street, and an allowance of £10 a year was granted to the Postmaster to provide the necessary accommodation for the work.

51. "Dumfries and Galloway Standard," Oct. 27th, 1906

At that time the tariff imposed by the Post Office was 1s for twenty words, with threepence extra for every additional five words or fraction thereof, the names and addresses of both senders and addressees not being included. This payment covered delivery within a mile of any telegraph office or within the town postal delivery of any head office: outside those limits a charge was made of 6d per double mile for portage. The charge for press telegrams was fixed at a much lower rate, being 1s for 100 words at night and for 75 words in the daytime, with an additional charge of 2d per 100 or 75 words for the transmission of the message to every additional address, wherever situated.

A sixpenny rate was indeed spoken of, but the authorities decided that it was too soon for so low a tariff, and it was not until the 1st October, 1885, that the present rate of 6d for twelve words or fraction thereof, with a halfpenny extra for each additional word beyond twelve, was introduced, the free transmission of addresses being abolished. Portage at the rate of 6d per mile was charged on all messages addressed to places beyond a mile radius from the office of delivery, but at the Diamond Jubilee in 1897 a large concession was granted and delivery free of charge undertaken to all places within a three-mile radius, and the portage charges for the longer distances reduced to 3d per mile, reckoned from the office of delivery. These portage charges were still further reduced on 1st January, 1906, the fee of 3d per mile being then reckoned from the boundary of the free delivery area, instead of from the office door.

As regards technical improvements, the recently published "Historical Summary of the Post Office" says:—"The most striking is perhaps the increase in the working capacity of the wires effected since the transfer. In 1870 each wire afforded only a single channel for communication. By the introduction of duplex working in 1871 it was rendered possible to use a wire for the simultaneous transmission of two messages; quadruplex working (introduced in 1878) raised the number of simultaneous transmissions to four; and multiplex working (introduced in 1885) to six. Great advance has also been made in the speed of the Wheatstone automatic apparatus. In 1870 a speed of from 60 to 80 words per minute was the highest which could be attained, whereas at the present time a speed of 600 words per minute is possible, and a working speed of 400 words is the fixed standard

for certain circuits. The duplex system has also been successfully applied to the automatic apparatus."

The Dumfries Office is well-equipped with convenient apparatus for undertaking the usual telegraph work, but on special occasions, as for example important political demonstrations, or on the occasion of the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show, additional apparatus and special working arrangements are rendered necessary. At the time of writing telegraphic communication is maintained between Dumfries and the offices named by means of the following apparatus:—To Glasgow by means of a "Quad;" to Carlisle, Polarised Sounder B; to Stranraer, Newton-Stewart, Castle-Douglas, and Dalbeattie by a Double Current; to Auldgirth and Thornhill by a Double Current; to Annan by a Double Current; to Dumfries Rail by a Double Plate Sounder; and to Crichton Royal Institution (Private Wire), Southwick, Kirkbean, and Newabbey by A.B.C. Communicators.

In September, 1876, the Telephone was first introduced by Sir William Thompson, and numerous companies sprang into existence. Becoming alive to the possibilities of the new system, the Government, on 20th December, 1880, decided that the Telephone Companies were an infraction of the State's Electric Telegraph Monopoly bought by Act of 1869, and legal arrangements with the Companies were completed on 11th April, 1881, a license being granted to them by the Postmaster-General on payment of an annual royalty.

A few years later public dissatisfaction at the want of development of the telephonic system forced the subject upon the attention of the Government, and as a result an Act was passed on 28th June, 1892, authorising the purchase by the Government of the Trunk Lines of the Telephone Union. The transfer was commenced on 4th April, 1896, and completed on 6th February, 1897, the only Telephone Company left in existence being the National, whose business was restricted within defined local areas.

Dumfries has had the advantage of the telephone since 1888. On the 31st of August of that year the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Telephone Exchange was opened by the National Telephone Company at 113 High Street, under the management of Mr R. Bryson. In September of the same year the service was extended

to Glencaple, and in the following year a line was opened between Dumfries and Annan. Call offices were established at Carrutherstown and in Annan, and from these the general public could speak for three minutes on payment of a fee of 6d. Subscribers were entitled to communicate with parties within a radius of six miles without any extra charge being made, but a fee of 4d for three minutes was charged when they desired to converse with individuals outside this area.<sup>52</sup>

In the annual schedule of the National Telephone Company for the year 1889 it is stated that in the Dumfries centre there are three exchange offices, one each at Dumfries, Annan, and Carrutherstown: 7 call offices, 72 exchange, and 5 private lines, making a total of 77.

In April, 1890, a trunk line was opened between Dumfries and Carlisle, and from that time the service has been steadily increasing.

It was not, however, until the year 1896 that the Telephone was introduced as part of the equipment of the Dumfries Post Office.

#### IX.—THE DUMFRIES POST OFFICE OF TO-DAY.

The Dumfries Post Office, as we know it to-day, was opened in 1889. Situated in Buccleuch Street, it shows a two-storey elevation with deep basement. Admission to the building is gained by two entrances. One of these is a private entrance for the staff and for the despatch and receipt of mails, while the other, approached by means of a flight of steps, admits to the public office, which measures nearly 30 feet in length.

The counter accommodates six clerks, and runs the entire length of the office. The telegraph desks for the convenience of those who desire to send telegrams are placed under two spacious windows facing Buccleuch Street, and there is a call box on the public side of the counter for those who desire the use of telephonic communication. A pneumatic apparatus conveys the telegrams from the counter to the instrument room on the second floor. To the right of the public office and communicating with it is the private office of the Postmaster. A commodious sorting office measuring 40 feet by 49 feet 6 inches adjoins. It is ade-

52. "Dumfries Standard," May 11th, 1889.

quately fitted with sorting tables, stamping tables, bag racks, newspaper and parcel sorting divisions, lockers, etc., with special apartments for the Superintendent and Registered Letter Clerks. This room is well lighted from the roof as well as by windows back and front. Gas with inverted incandescent burners is in use at night. Ventilation has likewise been amply provided for.

Leaving the sorting office by the side entrance we pass in turn the postmen's retiring room, and the male clerks' retiring room, both fitted with convenient cooking apparatus for the use of those employed on lengthy duties. The present male clerks' retiring room was originally set apart for the telegraph engineer's office, but in May, 1908, the engineer's headquarters were removed to Hamilton, and a re-arrangement was rendered necessary. In the basement provision is made for the heating apparatus, coal cellars, lavatories, engineers' store room, postal store room, and caretaker's room. The battery room, to which the wires, which run underground from the railway station, are conducted direct, is likewise accommodated here.

On the second floor there are two large retiring rooms, one for male and the other for female clerks, the telegraph operating room of the same size as the public office, and an adjoining apartment, fitted with double switch board, for telephone exchange duty.

To the rear of the main building wooden erections extend for a considerable distance along the boundary wall and afford shelter to the official cycles, while provision for a similar purpose is available for the mail barrows and parcel delivery vans.

With the exception of a short interval on Sundays the Head Office in Buccleuch Street is always open for the despatch and receipt of mails.

At the Station Parcel Depot important alterations have recently been made. In the autumn of 1910 a large addition was built and the depot fitted throughout with electric light. The depot now measures 78 feet in length by 20 feet in breadth and it is connected with the Head Office in Buccleuch Street by telephone. In this department the parcel mails to and from Dumfries are opened and despatched, while parcels posted at the Head Office, collected from the Town Sub-Offices, and received from the rural districts or from offices sending combined letter and parcel despatches, are transferred to the depot by means of hand-carts.



Two sorting carriages staffed from the Dumfries Office and fitted with apparatus for despatching and receiving mails while the train is in motion, travel daily both ways between Carlisle and Stranraer in order to expedite the delivery of correspondence to and from the Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire, and North of Ireland Offices. Working arrangements are tabulated in the Directory of the Burgh compiled and issued biennially by a few of the senior officials of the Dumfries Post Office staff.

### CONCLUSION.

Our task is done. The past with its record of achievement lies behind us; the future with its great possibilities opens before us. That the Post Office will continue to grow can scarcely be doubted. Even as we prepare for the press the Postal Authorities have assumed the control of the Service of the National Telephone Co., and we hear of proposals for the erection of a new and larger Head Post Office in Dumfries. This is as it ought to be. We are confident that the movement will be welcomed by all who reflect on the Burgh's long and honourable connection with the work of His Majesty's Post Office in Scotland.

### APPENDIX A.—THE POSTMASTERS OF DUMFRIES.

Robert Glencorse. In office 1642.

Robert Glencorse, merchant and innkeeper, was the first Postmaster of the Burgh, being appointed to that office in February, 1642.

He appears to have been prominently identified with the public life of the town and his name is frequently mentioned in the Council Records.

The following extracts from the Burgh Treasurer's Accounts are especially worthy of notice:—

1641-2.—Item payit to Robert Glencors quhen he was in Edg. at the parliment with proveist Irving... 15 lib. 3 sh.

March 8th, 1651.—Itt payed to Rot Glencorse when he went to Edgr to seik a comishand ffor the wiches ... 08 00 00

1 febyry, 1655.—Itt in Rot. Glencors spint wt the baillies and qrmr ... 00 15 00

The latest entry concerning him that we have observed occurs under date 16th March, 1663.



William Fingass. In office 1676.

William Fingass may, perhaps, have been the second Postmaster of the Burgh, but we have been unable to ascertain the exact year of succession. He appears to have been an innkeeper in Dumfries and he is specially deserving of notice on account of his lengthy and prominent public services. He was Dean of the Burgh in 1675-6 and afterwards served as Baillie from 1676-1685. He was appointed Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs in Parliament 2nd April, 1685.

From the Burgh Treasurer's Accounts for 1683-4 we obtain the following references.—

"Decemr 24, 1683.—Spent wt baillie fingas, baillie Roome, & James Cuthbertson massin when they went to sight the Bridge  
00 05 00."

"Octobr 2, 1684.—It. spent with baillie fingas, baillie Roome, Corheid & Baillie Coupe the tyme of the Circuit Court for Ale, Brandie, tobacco & pyps... .. 02 02 00."

He died 5th May, 1686.<sup>53</sup>

Robert Johnston. In office 1695, demitted 1709.

Robert Johnston, also a merchant and innkeeper in Dumfries, may possibly have succeeded William Fingass in the office of Postmaster. Our earliest mention of him as holder of that office is obtained from Dumfries Kirk-Session Records under date April, 1695. He appears to have been admitted a Burgess on 6th July, 1691. He retained office until his death in 1709.

John Johnston, 1709-1737.

John Johnston, merchant, succeeded to the office of Postmaster on the death of the above-mentioned Robert Johnston in 1709. He rendered valuable service to the community as a councillor, and was elected a Bailie in the year 1724, Stentmaster on 14th September of the same year, and Representative to the Convention of Burghs on 31st June, 1733. He was Postmaster of the Burgh during the rebellion of 1715, and seems to have taken a prominent part in the preparations for repelling the Pretender and his forces. As Rae, the historian of the Rebellion, puts it:—

"Hereupon they [the Pretender's forces] retired to Loch-

53. "Memorials of St. Michael's Churchyard," p. 290.

maben, where they lodged that Night with Mr Paterson, one of the Bailies of Drumfries, Mr Hunter, Chierurgian and Mr Johnston, Postmaster there, who had been sent out to reconnoitre them. They treated their Prisoners civilly enough, and dismiss 'em next Day, when the Town had set at Liberty three of their Friends, who had been incarcerate there, as suspected Jacobites."<sup>54</sup>

He retained office until his death in 1737.

#### James Gilchrist, 1737.

James Gilchrist, merchant, would seem to have succeeded John Johnston. We know at least that he was highly recommended for the appointment, and, although we have been unable to find any record of him as Postmaster, we have reason, as explained elsewhere, to believe that his appointment to that office was duly confirmed.

Like his predecessor in office, he also rendered valuable public services, acting as Stentmaster in 1749 and again in 1757, as well as several terms as Bailie.

He was admitted a burgess of the Burgh on 13th June, 1717.

He died 22nd April, 1772, and was interred in St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries.

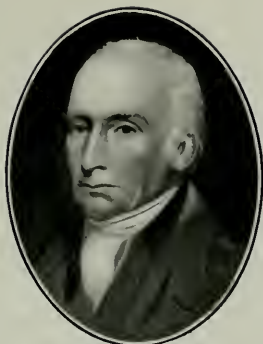
#### William Gordon. Demitted 1804.

William Gordon, probably a writer in Dumfries, appears to have been the next Postmaster of the Burgh.

Our only record of him as holder of that office is obtained in the year in which he retired, but from the circumstance of his nephew being a clerk in the post office in 1789 it seems probable that at that period William Gordon would be in charge of the local office.

#### Robert Threshie, 1804-1836.

Robert Threshie succeeded William Gordon in the office of Postmaster. He was a man of humble birth and circumstances, but it is said of him that being naturally plodding, aspiring, and of more than average ability, he achieved a high position, rising alike in opulence and social rank. From being a lawyer's



ROBERT THRESHIE.  
1804-1836.



WILLIAM WEIR,  
1889-1900.



CHARLES S. CHAPMAN,  
1900-1910.



WILLIAM CARMICHAEL.  
Appointed 1910.

DUMFRIES POSTMASTERS.

Charles S. Chapman, 1900-1910.

Charles S. Chapman, the next holder of the office of Postmaster, was a native of Dumfries, being born there in 1849. He began his official career in the service of the Magnetic Telegraph Company at Newton-Stewart in 1865, and was subsequently clerk at New-Galloway, Castle-Douglas, and Kilmarnock. While at the latter town he was in 1870 transferred to the Post Office service, and after holding the position of senior telegraph clerk until 1883 he was promoted Chief Clerk and acted in that capacity until appointed Postmaster of Galashiels in 1889. In 1897 he was transferred to the Postmastership of Kendal, and three years later—in 1900—he came to Dumfries, his native town.

He retired from the Service on the 31st March, 1910.

William Carmichael, appointed 31st May, 1910.

William Carmichael, the present able and energetic Postmaster, was appointed to succeed Mr Chapman on 31st May, 1910. Shortly after the transfer of the telegraphs to the State he entered the School of Telegraphy in Edinburgh, and after undergoing the usual training was appointed telegraphist at the Jedburgh office. He afterwards proceeded to Hawick, where, after twelve years' service, he attained the position of Chief Clerk. In 1888 he was appointed Postmaster of Wishaw, and from thence he was transferred to Stranraer in 1897. In 1905 he was promoted to the Postmastership of Keighley, and on 1st July, 1910, he took up his duties at Dumfries.

#### APPENDIX B.—DUMFRIES OFFICIALS WHO OCCUPY OR HAVE OCCUPIED PROMINENT POSITIONS IN THE SERVICE.

- \*Mr John Muir ..... Postmaster and Surveyor of Manchester.
- \*Mr J. Wilson ..... Postmaster of Leeds.
- Mr A. Shannon ..... Postmaster of Grimsby.
- \*Mr John Mitchell ..... Postmaster of Paisley.
- \*Mr James Armstrong ..... Postmaster of Penrith.
- Mr P. M'Giverin ..... Postmaster of Annan.
- Mr John Moffat ..... Postmaster of Linlithgow.
- Mr Norman Harley, ..... Postmaster of Kirkcudbright.

\* Retired.

Mr James Copland .....	Superintendent, Dumfries.
Mr William Lookup Blackie .....	Overseer, Dumfries.
Mr James Carson .....	Overseer, Dumfries.
Mr Walter Dickson .....	Overseer, Dumfries.
Mr William Dickson .....	Overseer, Hull.

## APPENDIX C.—STATISTICS OF WORK.

1870-1872.

“Considered as a central place in the Post Office system, the town has long stood high, and every year of late its importance from this point of view shews a steady increase. The number of letters, cards, books, pamphlets, and newspapers delivered during four weeks in 1870 was 151,293; in the corresponding four weeks of 1871 and 1872 the number respectively was 159,715 and 177,370. The weekly number of such articles passing through Dumfries and Galloway Sorting Tender for head Post Offices has risen from 19,239 in 1870 to 23,549 in 1872. Of telegrams forwarded, received, and transmitted, in 1870 there were 25,987; in 1871, 36,342; and in 1872, 47,356. The money order transactions show a similar advance, these having numbered 20,536 in 1870, 22,996 in 1871, and no fewer than 26,249 in 1872.”<sup>56</sup>

1904.

Since 1872 there has been a remarkable development of the postal service, in respect both of the extent and variety of its work. Figures for 1904, obligingly supplied by Mr C. S. Chapman, postmaster of Dumfries, shew that in an average week the number of letters and letter packets posted in the town and district is 66,110, giving an annual total of 3,437,720, without taking into account the large amount of extra correspondence dealt with at the Christmas season; and the weekly delivery reaches a total of 69,573, or an annual total of 3,617,796. Forwarded letters (i.e., passing between other head offices and re-sorted at Dumfries) number 52,609 weekly; yearly total, 2,735,668. In the Galloway and Irish sorting carriages, which are under the control of the Dumfries postmaster and worked by

56. These statistics were obligingly supplied by the local postmaster, Mr Loudoun, for M'Dowall's "History of Dumfries."

the Dumfries staff, 85,860 letters are dealt with weekly, yearly average, 4,464,720. This return brings out a grand total of 14,255,904 per annum. For the parcels department the return is:—Posted, 2209 weekly, 114,868 per annum; delivered, 2071 weekly, 107,692 per annum; forwarded, 5772 weekly, 300,144 per annum; in Galloway sorting carriages, 5946 weekly, 309,192 per annum; grand total, 831,896. About 420 letter mail bags and 240 parcel receptacles are dealt with daily at Dumfries and in the sorting carriages. Of registered letters there were 12,706 delivered during the year, and there were 652 express letter services. Of telegrams there were 47,346 handed in at Dumfries (exclusive of those received at the railway station), 58,593 delivered, 82,732 transmitted (these being messages received from offices not having direct communication with other towns and forwarded from Dumfries to their destination). Telephone calls numbered 11,024. The return of the financial business transacted at the head office shews 101,516 money and postal orders issued and paid, and 3928 savings bank transactions. The head office staff of all grades numbers 89. In addition there are two telegraph engineers and four linesmen located in the premises. The Dumfries district comprises 29 sub-offices, with about sixty postmen or postwomen employed in rural letter and parcel delivery.<sup>57</sup>

1910.

Returns for 1910, kindly supplied to us by Mr W. Carmichael, Postmaster of Dumfries, are as follows:—

Letters—Posted, 3,738,800 per annum; delivered, 4,166,240 per annum; forwarded, 3,333,212 per annum; yearly average of letters dealt with in Galloway Sorting Carriages, 5,451,836; grand total, 16,690,088. Parcels—Posted, 140,140 per annum; delivered, 130,193 per annum; forwarded, 329,264 per annum; dealt with in Galloway Sorting Carriages, 328,224; grand total, 927,821. Of registered letters there were 16,126 during the year and there were 630 Inland Revenue license transactions. Of telegrams dealt with at Dumfries Office there was a grand total for the year of 203,438, and there were 54,476 telephone trunk calls. There were 11,284 money order, 127,904 postal order, and 5768 Savings Bank transactions during the year.

57. Footnote M'Dowall's "History of Dumfries," 3rd Ed., pp. 848-9.

THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AND THE SANQUHAR REPRESENTATION  
THEREIN. By the Rev. W. M'MILLAN.

The origin and constitution of the Scottish Parliament are involved in obscurity. Long before the existence of the word "Parliament" the Scottish Kings, like all other feudal monarchs, were accustomed to consult with the Bishops, Abbots, and Barons of their kingdom, and in course of time these councils held by the Kings became what we now term Parliaments. It is impossible, however, to point to any particular reign as seeing the first Scottish Parliament, for while there are instances in the reigns of David I., Malcolm IV., William the Lion, and Alexander II. of important public transactions being carried with the aid of a great council of the prelates and nobles we cannot say that these councils were as yet Parliaments. Wyntoun tells us that in the reign of Alexander III. "the King caused a great gathering of the States at Scone for the purpose of settling the succession of the crown," and Fordun, who mentions the same assembly, informs us that it was composed of the prelates and nobles of the realm. The first time the word "Parliament" is used in connection with such gatherings is in 1286 immediately after the death of Alexander III., when, at a council held at Scone, six guardians were appointed to govern the kingdom. Unfortunately, no record of its proceedings has come down to our time nor is its exact constitution known. Three years later, however, another Parliament was held at Brigham, a village in Roxburghshire, and this we know was composed of five guardians or regents, ten bishops, twelve earls, twenty-three abbots, eleven priors, and forty-eight barons, who took the title the "Community of Scotland." There were then Royal Burghs in existence, but they do not seem to have had any representation in the "Estates of Scotland" in the earlier gatherings. During the wars of independence, however, the Burghs appear to have taken a share in the government of the country. In the first Parliament of John Baliol there were the "majores populi," who were probably representatives of the Royal Burghs. The famous letter addressed to the Pope and sent in 1320 from Aberbrothock to Rome was drawn up in the name of the "Prelates, Earls, Freeholders, and whole community of Scotland."

In 1326 King Robert held a Parliament at Cambuskenneth,



and although the original record of its proceedings has been lost an indenture has been preserved which proves conclusively that besides the Earls, Barons, Bishops, and Freeholders the representatives of the Burghs sat in this Parliament and formed the third estate of National Council.

During the whole period of its existence the Scottish Parliament sat as one chamber, lords and commons meeting on equal terms on the floor of the House. Its members belonged to at least five different classes, all of which at one time or another had constitutional access to it. These five classes were :—(1) Officers of State, (2) Higher Clergy, (3) Nobility, (4) Barons, (5) Representatives of Royal Burghs. The last three groups, however, alone had an unbroken right of attendance. An Act of Parliament of 1427 ordained that “the small Barons and tenants need not come to Parliament nor general councils so that of each sheriffdom there be two or three wise men chosen at the head court of the sheriffdom according to its size.” This system of sending representatives kept the Scottish Parliament very small. In 1612 there were 109 members. In April and May, 1641, the numbers fell to 29 and 59 respectively, and not till 1703 did the Roll have over 200 names. There were sixty-seven Burgh constituencies in Scotland, and each of these possessed the right to send two members to Parliament, but as a matter of fact rarely was more than one sent. The member for a Scottish Burgh was elected annually whether there was any likelihood of a Parliament sitting or not. The election took place annually at Michaelmas, and the commission held good for one year. This was different from the English method, by which a member was elected for each Parliament. The members were elected by the Magistrates and Town Council, not as now by the body of the inhabitants. Sanquhar was created a Royal Burgh in 1598, and at once possessed the right to send representatives to the Scottish Parliament, but whether it was the case that the Burghers could not afford the expense of sending a member or whether they were ignorant of their rights or did not trouble themselves about politics, the fact remains that it was not until 1621, twenty-three years after the granting of the charter, that the first Sanquhar representative took his seat in Parliament. This was Michael Cunningham, a native of Dumfries, who was also the Burgh’s representative in the Convention of Royal Burghs in that year. The Cunninghams of



Dumfries were a branch of the Cunninghams of Caprington, and appear to have been a family of some note. James VI., in his tour through Scotland, was entertained by Provost Irving of Dumfries in a Painted Hall in the Burgh belonging to the Cunninghams. Our second member was a Sanquharian, John Crichtoun, who appears to have been the first town clerk of the Burgh. At least he signs some documents in connection with the granting of the charter in 1598. He also was the first representative of the Burgh in the Convention of Royal Burghs. In the Records of that body we find the following under date 16th June, 1600 :—" The saymyn day comperit Jhone Creichtoun and Robert Phillop induellaris in the toun of Sanquhar and gave in thair supplication desyering the said toun to be enrollit and admitit in the societie and number of fre burrows as ane burgh regal and offerit thair concurrence in all things with the rest of the burrows and obedience to the lawis thairof." He was again the Sanquhar representative in the Convention in the year 1627. He was member of Parliament for the Burgh from 1628 to 1633. He appears to have been a notary in the town as well as a burgess. He belonged the Ryehill family of Crichtons. It would appear, too, that he was not of a very peace-loving disposition, for on 3rd September, 1607, Andro Creichtoun of Ulysyd enters into a bond of 1000 merks for John Crichtoun, notary in Sanquhar, that he will not harm Robert Hunter, minister at the Parish Kirk of Sanquhar. It is only fair to add that the parish minister enters into a similar bond not to harm John Crichton, notary in Sanquhar. The ex-burgh member died circa. 1641, and was succeeded in business by a son bearing the same name.

The Parliament which met in 1641 was one of the smallest which ever sat in our land. Sanquhar is mentioned in the Record, but as there is no commissioner's name given we may take it that the Sanquhar member was an absentee. In 1643 Lawrence Davidson was our representative. He was also a native of the burgh. He was Bailie in 1631, and appears to have been made Chief Magistrate about the same time as he was made burgh member. On the day of Sanquhar's chief fair, the feast of St. Mary Magdalene (22nd July), 1631, two men, John McConnel, in Woodend, and Hew Douglas, servitor to the Earl of Angus, had been creating a disturbance within the burgh. The Provost, Thomas Grierson, together with the Bailies Davidson

and Stewart, laid hold of the two disturbers of the peace, and cast them into the Tolbooth. The two men presented a petition to the Privy Council protesting against the treatment they had received. The Magistrates had to defend themselves before the Council, and the matter ended by the men being liberated, three others becoming security in 1000 merks that they would appear if called upon.

In the Parliament of 1644 Sanquhar is noted among the "absent Burrows." In the Parliament of January, 1645, however, the Burgh was again represented by one of her own sons, John Dickson, who belonged to a family which had been resident in the locality for at least 350 years. Dickson must have resigned his office or have died soon after the meeting of Parliament, for in July, 1645, we find the Burgh represented by Wm. Creichtoun, who continued member up to the year 1648. He was a member of the family of Crichtons of Carco and was an ancestor of the famous Abraham Crichton whose ghost kept the Sanquharians in alarm after his decease. Wm. Crichton was evidently a man of some note, and in 1647 when the country was engaged in the disastrous civil war he was chosen as one of the "committee of warre of the shire." In the minute of appointment he is styled "Burgess of Sanquhar," so that while he was of the family of Carco he was not *laird*, otherwise he would have been styled so. After the execution of Charles I. the Scottish Parliament did not meet again until 1661. During the interval the English Parliament continued to meet, and it would appear that on several occasions Scottish members sat with the English. In 1655 we are informed that the Commissioners for Sanquhar were the "Baylies for the time being and Ninian Dalyell Burgess," which probably means that they possessed the right to nominate a member to sit at Westminster. In 1656 and again in 1659 the Commissioners are the "Provost and Bailiffs for the time being, by order of Cromwell Lord Protector." With the return and restoration of King Charles II. came the Restoration of our Ancient Parliament, and in 1661 John Williamson took his seat as the Commissioner from Sanquhar. The Williamsons are an old Sanquhar family, and at one time possessed the lands of Castle Robert (now Corsebank) in the parish of Kirkconnel. John Williamson, the Burgh Member, was the third son of James, who died at Castle Robert in November, 1637. At the time he repre-

sented the Burgh the Bridge across the Nith was "totalie fallen down and ruined," and he was successful in getting Parliament to pass an Act in favour of the Burgh to assist in the rebuilding of it. By this Act "His Majestie, with advice and consent of the Estates of Parliament, have ordained and ordaines ane contribution and voluntar collection to be made and ingathered with all paroches both burgh and landward on the south side of the water of Forth for building of said bridge, and hereby seriously recommends to and requires all noblemen, gentlemen, magistrates, ministers of the law and Gospell within the said bounds to be assisting to the said Magistrates of Sanquhar for so good a work and for ane liberall contribution for that effect."

Williamson sat also in the Parliaments of 1662 and 1663, and also represented the Burgh in the Convention of Burghs for 1660, but in 1665 his place was taken by Robert Carmichael, who was also a scion of an old Sanquhar family. The Carmichaels appear to have been resident in Sanquhar from at least the beginning of the 16th century. They belonged to the same stock as the Carmichaels of Meadowflat in Clydesdale. He is called Carmichael of Corp, but where that place is or was I have been unable to discover. It may be a corruption of Crawick or Cog. He was a Bailie in Sanquhar at the time of his election, and two years later he became Provost. He continued member up till 1686, but he was not Provost for so long. He represented Sanquhar in the Convention of Royal Burghs from 1655 to 1688. Although member in from 1665 to 1686 he does not appear to have attended every Parliament during those years, for in 1673 the Commissioner's name for Sanquhar is omitted, but in the appendix to the Record of the proceedings of Parliament his name is given. Probably he had been re-elected member, but had not attended the deliberations of the House. Carmichael appears to have died about 1686, and there is no record of a member being elected again till 1689, when "Mr John Boswall" represented the Burgh. By this time the Stuarts had been dethroned. At the Cross of Sanquhar in 1680 Richard Cameron and a few followers had denounced the reigning sovereign Charles II. because of his having broken his Coronation oath. In 1685 James Renwick with a larger retinue had at the same place protested against the proclamation of James VII., and in 1689 the people as a whole followed the example of those two and declared that as the Stuarts

had broken their compact with the nation the nation was justified in throwing off its allegiance. What was treason in 1680 and in 1685 had become the Revolution Settlement of 1689. I have already said that the members of Parliament were chosen by the Magistrates and Town Council. To this procedure, however, the election of 1689 was an exception, and Boswell was elected by the whole body of the inhabitants. The reason of this was that only Episcopalians could be members of corporations in Scotland at that time, and had the elections been left to the corporations the men who would have been sent to Parliament would most probably have been Episcopalians favourable to the Stuarts. William therefore devised the plan of having the members elected by the whole body of the people so that the mind of the nation might be more thoroughly known. The meeting held in March, 1689, was called not a Parliament but a Convention since it had been called by William of Orange, who was not yet King. The Convention consisted of 42 Peers, 49 Members for Counties, and 50 Burgh representatives. This Convention declared that James VII. was no longer King, and called on William and Mary to become their sovereigns.

The Parliament met again in June, 1689, when Boswell was again present. He was again at the meeting of Parliament in 1690, and continued to be the representative of the Burgh to his death in 1692. He was one of the Boswells of Auchinleck, and the fact that he is always described as "Mr John Boswell," being the only member for Sanquhar who has the prefix Mr, leads one to the supposition that he must have been a University graduate. Though not a native of Sanquhar he appears to have possessed some property in the Burgh and to have been a Burgess. He represented the Burgh at the Convention of Royal Burghs in 1690 and in 1691, and there again he is the only representative with "Maister" prefixed to his name. At that period no person was allowed to represent a burgh in the Convention unless he were an inhabitant of the Burgh, and in 1675 it was ordained that only "Merchand traffiqueris" were to be allowed to sit. Sanquhar had good reason to abide by the law in this matter, for in 1660 her Commissioner was not allowed to take his seat because he was not properly qualified.

[In Brown's "History of Sanquhar," Appendix A, and in Wilson's "Genealogies of Uppermost Nithsdale," page 188, there

are references to a William Crichton, who represented Sanquhar in the Scottish Parliament from 1690 to 1702. Where they got their information from is, unfortunately, not mentioned, but this person's name does not occur in the Records of Parliament, and as there are other members mentioned as having been the representatives of Sanquhar in the years 1690-1702 I think we may take it that a mistake has been made. Perhaps the error arose from the fact that in 1689 the Convention ordered a new election of Magistrates in the various Royal Burghs of Scotland, and appointed "William Crichton of Gorland" overseer of the election in Sanquhar.]

On Boswell's death in 1692 Sir Alexander Bruce became the representative of the Royal Burgh in Parliament. He was in some ways her most distinguished representative, but he appears to have had but little connection with the Burgh which gave him his seat. Sir Alexander belonged to the Royal line of Bruce, being a son of Lord Bruce of Broomhall, who was a Lord of Session from 1649 to his death in 1652. His grandfather was Sir George Bruce of Carnoch, Fife, who had extensive coal works in the neighbourhood of Culross, and who had been knighted by James VI. He married a daughter of George Primrose of Burnbrae, one of the family now represented by Lord Rosebery, and was member for Culross for some years. Sir Alexander succeeded him, though not immediately, in the representation of Culross, for which burgh he sat for several years previous to 1695. While member for Sanquhar he was appointed Joint Receiver-General of Supply and Excise, an office which seems to have had some resemblance to that of Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1695, on his motion, Parliament gave Sanquhar the right to have a fair on the first Thursday of every quarter. In 1702 Parliament met in the month of June, and on the 9th of that month Sir Alexander Bruce moved that some be "appointed for drawing an answer to the Queen's letter," which was agreed to. On the 12th day of that month, however, Sir Alexander was by a unanimous vote of the members expelled from the House. The Records of Parliament give the following account of the affair: June 12th, 1702.—Sir Alexander Bruce, commissioner for the Burgh of Sanquhar, having said upon the reading of this Act that the Act of Parliament did contain many things inconsistent with the essences of monarchy, he was thereupon called to the Barr,

and not giving satisfaction was ordered to withdraw, and the question being put expell him out of Parliament or not it carried in the affirmative "nemine contradicente" and a warrant was ordered to the Burgh of Sanquhar to elect a new commissioner in his place in manner following:—

"Her Majesties High Commissioner and the Estates of Parliament in respect of that Sir Alexander Bruce Comr to this Parliament from the Burgh of Sanquhar is expelled the Parliament by a sentence of this date grants order and warrant to the Magistrates and Town Council of the said Burgh to elect a commissioner to represent the said Burgh in this parliament in vice of the said Sir Alexander Bruce at Sanquhar, 18th June instant and ordaines intimation to be made hereof in the usual manner."

This rather bald account of the expulsion of our Burgh Member is fortunately supplemented by an account preserved in the "Diary of Sir David Hume," one of the Senators of the College of Justice. From Lord Hume's account we learn that when "the Act for ratifying the Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Government" was being read "Sir Alexander Bruce of Broomhall said there was a distinction to be made betwixt the Protestant Religion and the Presbyterian Church Government which, as it is now settled, is inconsistent with the essence of monarchy as might easily be demonstrated. Upon which there was a cry of very many 'To the Bar, to the Bar.' The earl of Seafield and the Marquis of Annandale said, 'What he had said deserved censure, but he might be allowed to crave pardon of the House or to explain himself.' He said, 'He did only express his own sentiments,' whereupon the cry was, 'To the Bar, to the Bar.' So he was sent to the Bar, and said he only did say he conceived so. The advocate and others craved he might be removed, the treasurer depute moved that it be put to the vote Expell him or not. Carried nemine contradicente Expell. So he was called in and the sentence intimate. He said he was sorry he was deprived of the opportunity of showing his readiness to do Her Majesty service, and so removed and order signed for Burgh of Sanquhar to chose a new Commissioner. Argyle said before Sir Alexander went to the bar that the gentleman had taken the wrong cue, he had spoken too hastily. The Act again read voted and approven." From this account it will be seen that Bruce's offence, if an offence at all, was a very venial one. He



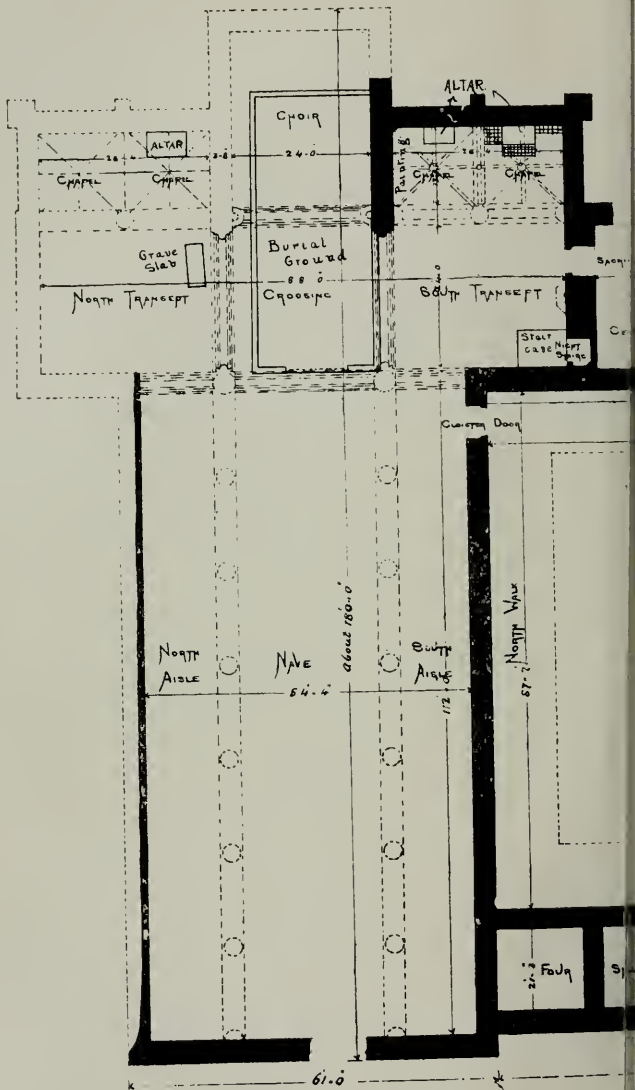
appears only to have expressed the idea that Presbyterianism was akin to Republicanism, a fact which few to-day would venture to deny. It appears, however, that there was more behind this than appears on the surface. Bishop Burnet declares that when the Parliament was proceeding to ratify *all* the former Acts in favour of Presbyterian Government Sir Alexander Bruce moved that these should be read, peradventure some of them might be found inconsistent with monarchy and that for this he was expelled the House (Burnet's History, Vol. III., p. 353). The Parliament which expelled Bruce was presided over by the Duke of Queensberry. It was something of the nature of a "Rump," for before it commenced its deliberations the Duke of Hamilton, with seventy-four of his followers, seceded on the ground that owing to the death of King William since the last election they no longer had any right to continue to sit as a Parliament. This makes Bruce's expulsion all the more strange, since Hamilton and his followers were Whigs, while the sentiments which Bruce gave utterance to might have been expected to give but little offence to the Tories. Be that as it may, Bruce was expelled. He, however, was not to remain long outside the House, for in 1705 he took his seat as the Earl of Kincardine. On the death of the third Earl (Alexander), his second cousin, he claimed the title, and was allowed, strangely enough, to sit and vote in the House before the title was confirmed to him. Lady Mary Cochrane, sister of the third Earl, claimed the title by declarator in the Court of Session, her claim being based on a resignation in her favour by the late Earl not completed by a Crown charter, but which it was legally held to be in the power of the Crown to accept and complete. Lady Mary protested at the elections of 1707, 1708, 1710, but the Queen did not interfere, and so it was held that Sir Alexander's title was quite valid. Perhaps Parliament had regretted his hasty expulsion in 1702 when they allowed him to sit while his claim to the title was being disputed in the Court of Session. Sir Alexander married his cousin Christian, by whom he had four sons and five daughters. His three eldest sons, Robert, Alexander, and Thomas, were fifth, sixth, and seventh Earls of Kincardine respectively. His great-grandson, Charles, ninth Earl of Kincardine, became fifth Earl of Elgin in 1747, and since then the two titles have been united. The ex-member for Sanquhar was succeeded in his representation of the Burgh

by William Alves, who was received on 23rd June, 1702, as Commissioner for Sanquhar. He appears to have been connected with Dumfries, for which place he was "Commissar" at some time previous to his being chosen for Sanquhar. He sat as member to 1707, and throughout the whole of the Union debates he voted steadily with the Unionist party. With the Union of Parliaments in 1707 Sanquhar was merged into the Dumfries District of Burghs, where it still remains. Until 1832 the member for the group was elected by five Commissioners, who in turn were elected by the Town Councils of their respective Burghs. When the writ for an election was issued the Sheriff sent word to the Town Council "to meet and convene within their ordinary Council House or place where they use to meet in Council with all convenient despatch and there to choose a Commissioner for the Burgh in such manner as they were in use to choose a Commissioner to represent them in the Parliament of Scotland." The Commissioner appointed had to be "a man fearing God of the true Protestant Religion publicly professit and authorised by the laws of the Kingdom without suspicion to the contrair Expert in the comon affairs of the Burrows a burges and inhabitant within this Burgh bearing all portable charges with his neighbours and a part of the public Burdens and who can lose and win in all their affairs." Whether the Commissioners who previous to 1707 represented the Burgh fulfilled all these conditions is unknown, but certainly during the 76 years that Sanquhar had a representative in Parliament by far the larger number of those who represented her belonged to the Burgh.

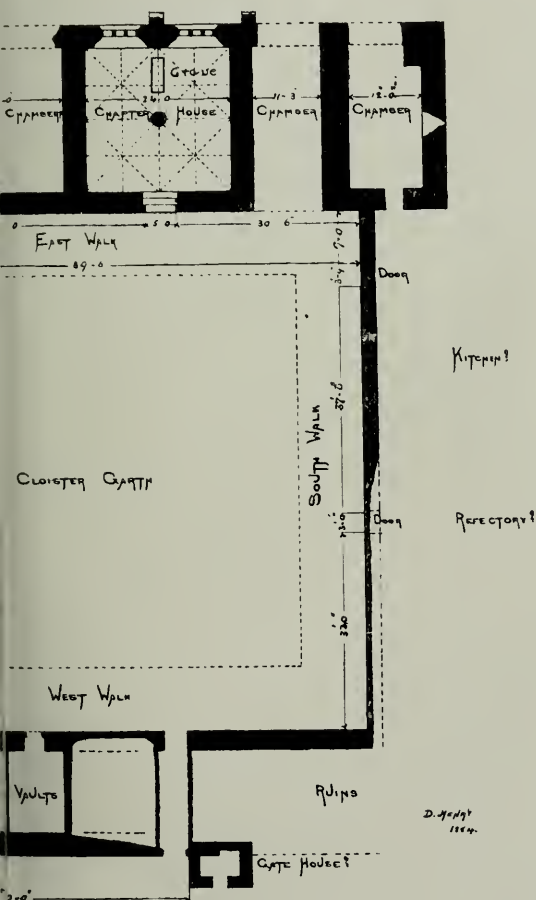
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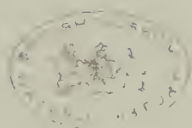






Galloway





*17th November, 1911.*

Chairman—EX-PROVOST LENNOX, V.P.

LANTERN LECTURE: GLENLUCE ABBEY AS IT WAS AND IS. By  
the REV. A. TAYLOR HILL, Minister of Glenluce.

The remains show that the buildings were manifold and extensive. The style is First Pointed English Architecture. The church was the largest single building. It is situated due east and west: the head towards the east.

Extreme length, 180 feet.

Extreme breadth, 86 feet.

Length of Nave, 112 feet.

Breadth of Nave, 54 feet 4 inches.

Crossing and Choir, 68 feet.

Breadth of same, 24 feet.

#### NAVE.

This had seven bays, each measured sixteen feet from centre to centre of the dividing piers. Probably the piers were plain cylinders. The diagram furnished herewith shows the ground plan; and the remains of the walls are shown by thickened lines. What remains of the Nave walls suggests that the roof was timber. These were not strong enough to support an arched stone roof. At present there is a well-kept pathway up the centre of the Nave. This way is maintained by the Dalrymple Hay family, as it leads to their burying-ground, which occupies all the Crossing and most of the Choir. The present floor level of the Nave is six to ten feet above the original level. At present the Nave, with exception of the walk, is filled with ivy, shrubs, and some thirty great trees. The lower half of the south wall still remains, varying from twelve to twenty feet in height. Of the north wall there is only a few feet at the west end. Of the west wall nothing is visible.

The Nave had two doors: the main door was in the west gable, and the other was at the east end of the south wall, and opened into the Cloister Garth. Of the latter all the dressed stonework is gone; and the opening is filled with undressed unlimed stones.

## CROSSING AND CHOIR.

These together measure sixty-eight feet by twenty-four feet, inside measurement. Most of the south wall of the Choir still remains. It measures twenty-four feet in length by about thirty feet in height. Only a fragment of the north wall remains. But in this fragment there is a Pesina in an almost perfect state. This Pesina faces north into one of the Chapels. It is an interesting and important relic. It is twenty-five inches wide, with trefoil arched head, and chamfered round the edge.

About two-thirds of the Crossing and Choir is used by the Dalrymple Hay family as a burying-ground. The family do not have proprietary right; but only the right or privilege to bury.

The Crossing and Choir are not two sections, but three. First there is the open Crossing, twenty-four feet square, which had a groined stone roof. East of this there is the Choir proper, of the same size as the Crossing, but walled on the north and south sides (of which only the south wall and a fragment of the north wall still remain). And still east of this there is a twenty feet section, enclosed on the north and south by walls, two windows, and by a great window on the east. Of the walls only the foundations remain. And of the windows there remains only part of the jamb of that to the south.

## TRANSEPTS.

There are (or were) two Transepts: one to the north and one to the south of the Crossing. These measure thirty-two feet across by twenty-five feet from west to east. Of the north transept the east and north walls are gone; and a modern wall protects the Gordon Tomb and the Pesina situated in this transept. When discovered some 15 years ago the Gordon Tomb was much broken. The covering slab was carefully put together, and restored to its place by Mr Macgregor Chalmers, Architect. The date on the slab is 26th April, 1548. Most parts of the south transept still remain. The roof and part of the east wall are gone. The south gable rises about seventy feet. Until twenty-five years ago a tower stood at the top of this gable. This tower was reached by a spiral stair, which can still be traced. This stair also communicated with the dormitories over the Sacristy and Scriptorium southward, and to dormitories built over the south transept. The transepts were roofed with carved stones,

in groined arches. Parts of the corbelled angle shafts and ribs are still in place. The upper portions of the transepts and crossing were lighted by clerestory. And I may add that the Nave also was lighted by clerestory. My reason for thinking so is, that the south wall of the Nave shows no traces of windows, though in places it still rises twenty feet. The roof must have been constructed of timber in three sections. Two lower portions would cover the side aisles; and a higher portion over the middle with clerestories on both sides.

#### FOUR CHAPELS.

To the east of each transept are two chapels. A large lancet window lighted each. These windows were in the east wall. In the two south chapels the sills and parts of the jambs are still in place. These chapels would be used for week-day celebrations: the high altar in the chancel being reserved for high mass.

#### TWO MORE RELICS.

In the chapel to the south of the Choir there is a stone arch. Inside measurements are  $30\frac{1}{2}$  by 26 inches; outside measurements,  $41\frac{1}{2}$  by  $35\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The other relic is a Pesina built in the south wall of the south chapel, and in a good state of preservation.

#### OTHER BUILDINGS.

All these are on the south side of the Church. A glance at the ground plan annexed to this sketch will make this clear. From the east end of the Church the clerical quarters ran due southward. Plans on the ground level ran as follows:—Sacristy, Chapter-House, and Day-Rooms. Above there were the Scriptoria and Dormitories. The measurements of this line of building were:—North to south, 94 feet; east to west, 32 feet; height to ridge, 65 feet (nearly).

#### CHAPTER-HOUSE.

This part of the Abbey suffered least from the vandalism that followed the Reformation. For this reason restoration was possible. It has been restored, and is now used for Christian worship. Inside it measures twenty-four feet square. The roof is of stone, finished as groined arches in four sections. Each section is supported by four ribs with horizontal cross-ribs; and each groin is finished with a heavy, carved boss. Some of the

corbels are carved with circular lines ; some are figured : all are beautiful. Two of the bosses show armorial shields, and two are circular pateræ.

In the east wall are two large traceried windows. At the inner edges they measure nine feet in breadth by eleven feet in height. The actual lights are five feet five inches in width. Between the windows against the wall was the Abbot's Stall. This is ornamented by a trefoiled hood moulding. The seat is part of a stone bench which ran round the four walls. The hood moulding above the Abbot's Stall is surmounted by the mitre, ornamented on one side with two cinquefoil flowers, and on the other side by one cinquefoil flower. The corbel which projects above the mitre is carved into a human head, over which are the words, "*Requiescat in pace.*"\*

The Chapter-House was included in the important restoration work carried out fifteen years ago. At that time it was falling into utter ruin. The inside roof was then repaired, and the outside protected with concrete. That work was opportune and excellent. And it seemed to me that that work should be continued so as to make the house fit for worship. But I also resolved that no existing structure should be cut, or changed, or removed. Workmen were put upon the roof to make it weather-proof. The floor was cleared, the walls pointed and toned, the windows glazed simply, and a suitable door fitted. A communion table was built in front of the Abbot's Stall. The original dais was restored in concrete. The concrete area was covered with warm matting, and a stove set up. The furniture is:—Two prayer desks, a lectern, a small organ, forms round the dais, and chairs filling the area.

On Saturday, 25th February, 1911, the Chapter-House, after an interval of 350 years, was reopened for public worship in presence of a large congregation.

#### LAYMEN'S QUARTERS.

As the clerical quarters go southward from the head or east end of the Church, so the laymen's quarters go southward from the foot or west end of the Church. These are smaller in every way, except in length. The clerical quarters form the east side,

\* Photographs of the Abbey and drawings of many of the details are given in "*The Five Great Churches of Galloway*" (Ayrshire and Galloway Archæological Association).—ED.



and the laymen's quarters form the west side of the cloister garth. These laymen's quarters would not be more than fifteen or twenty feet in height. If they had been higher, they would have spoiled the appearance of the Church nave. There would be a refectory for workmen, and another for pilgrims, two day-rooms, and probably attic dormitories.

Under these quarters are the remains of

#### VAULTED CHAMBERS.

These, I believe, were used as stores—for such stores as were to be kept for long periods. It was a rule of the monastic orders that pilgrims could lodge at any abbey for three days free of charge. In this way a heavy demand was often made on the Abbey stores. All things in the lines of food stuffs and seeds were stored at the abbeys. In the days of their faithfulness the monks toiled terribly, and lived on the plainest food in the smallest quantities. Such industry and economy resulted in the accumulation of goods. Consequently in times of dearth a monastery often supplied the needs of a whole parish. So I think that most part of the underground area of the laymen's quarters was used as vaulted store-chambers.

#### CLOISTER-GARTH.

This is an open space eighty feet square, enclosed on all sides by the Abbey buildings. Round the four sides was a broad covered walk. Those monks who had indoor work, such as copying or weaving, took fresh air and exercise here. The Cloister-Garth had doorways on all sides communicating with the refectory, day-rooms, chapter-house, prison, church, stores, and exit passage.

#### KITCHEN AND OFFICES.

These were to the south of the laymen's quarters. In the days of monastic zeal the food prepared in the kitchen was the plainest. In fact, it was primitive! In winter one meal only was taken in the twenty-four hours—at noon. And the cooking for this was merely the boiling of vegetables. Brown bread and vegetables—that and no more was the monks' fare! And even that was curtailed during Lent. Apparently the cooking resolved itself into filling the boiler with cabbage, carrots, and turnips, and priming the furnace.

## SCRAPS OF ABBEY HISTORY.

If records were kept, they have not been preserved, or have not yet been found. Among the Ailsa Papers David Henry found some scraps. The earliest is dated 1220. In that year Henry III. issued an order to Jeoffrey, justicier of Ireland, for the supply (by purchase) of corn, meal, and other necessities to the abbot and monks of Glenluce. And this order was renewed from time to time during thirty years.

These orders indicate that the Abbey had no agricultural land. They also indicate that such food stuffs could not at that time be purchased in Galloway. There is, however, abundant documentary evidence to prove that long before, as well as at the time of the Scottish Reformation, the Abbey owned tens of thousands of acres of land. It is difficult to understand how, or when, or by whom, these valuable and extensive lands could have been alienated or transferred. As all church properties and revenues came under the cognisance and jurisdiction of the Scottish Parliament of 1559-60, no church property or revenue could be alienated unless by the same authority. If the properties and revenues of this Abbey were restored to the Synod of Galloway as the legal representatives of the Glenluce Abbey, the Synod would have an additional revenue of twenty-five to thirty thousand pounds sterling per annum. In 1329 King Robert the Bruce visited this Abbey. The object of his visit does not emerge. He may have hoped for medical aid or medicine for the malady that was killing him. There is no evidence that medicine or the preparation of herbal medicine was one of the arts at this Abbey.

In 1507 King James IV. and his Queen made a visit. They may have come to see the famous Abbey gardens. The Royal record shows that a gratuity of four shillings was given to the chief gardener.

In 1560 Thomas Hay was appointed Abbot. He came with the Pope's authority; but the Gordons, who had a lease of some of the Abbey lands, refused to admit him. Hay got possession by authority of the Court of Session. The Gordons had been pulling the Abbey to pieces; and Hay accepted a loan of 2000 merks (about £1350) for its repair.

In the same year (1560) Hay granted a lease of fifty-eight farms to the Earl of Cassillis. The annual rental of these farms at this date is, in round figures, £18,500.

*1st December, 1911.*

THE PRESIDENT in the Chair.

LANTERN LECTURE: THE KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE COAST. By the  
Rev. C. H. DICK, B.D., Moffat.

The lecture gave an account of the Kirkcudbrightshire section of a journey along the whole of the Galloway coast-line. The more striking points of view on the road between Maxwelltown and Newabbey were noted, the history of Sweetheart Abbey was reviewed, and various details of the building discussed.

The great window at the west end has been spoiled by the introduction of a mass of masonry below the rose window, no doubt on account of a fear that the edifice was not sufficiently strong. Even from the floor level one can see that the original tracery runs down into this mass. The walls of the church are composed of unhewn granite blocks covered over with dressed freestone brought from beyond the Nith. According to tradition, Devorguilla, the foundress, was not the only lady associated with the building, for a carved stone in the wall of a house in the village, shewing the side of a boat surmounted by three heads, is said to commemorate three maiden ladies who kept a ferry and displayed both their piety and their muscularity by transporting all the freestone required for the abbey. Cromwell's lieutenants are said to have bombarded the place from the neighbouring Barhill, causing a breach in the containing wall. When a grave was being dug on the edge of the churchyard some years ago a cannon ball was found. Before the abbey was built, the parish took its name from Loch Kindar, a sheet of water at the foot of Criffel. This loch has two little islands, the one a crannog consisting of stones resting on oaken piles, and the other the site of the ancient church of the parish.

A little farther on, the shining waters of the Solway come into sight. Respectable historians have connected Solway with Selgovae, the name given by the Romans to the British tribe inhabiting Dumfriesshire. Dr George Neilson has the great credit of tracing it to "Sulwath, the muddy ford," the name of a ford on the Sark. The name came into use gradually for the

Firth as a whole. The Firth was regarded formerly as part of the Irish Sea.

Carsethorn village and the outlook across the Solway were described. Arbigland, the birthplace of Paul Jones, is about a mile and a half south of Carsethorn. It is not yet recognised sufficiently that Paul Jones should be reckoned among the greatest of Scotsmen. The old calumny that he was "a pirate" has perhaps hindered this recognition; but Jones' doings do not fall under any authoritative definition of piracy.

The Statistical Account of 1795 mentions three villages in the parish of Kirkbean—"Kirkbean, Preston, and Salterness." Preston has disappeared; but its market cross has been preserved and stands beside the farmhouse of East Preston. It bears no inscription or carving of any kind. Satterness is a charming seaboard village. The lighthouse was built before the end of the eighteenth century, and is the oldest in Galloway. Satterness got its name from the salt pits which provided former generations of the villagers with one of their industries. The absurd name "Southernness," which has been stereotyped on the Ordnance Survey maps and adopted by the Post Office, was not heard of until the nineteenth century. Let the members of this Society avoid its use in all time coming!

The scenery of the Colvend shore is more striking than that of the much-vaunted Ravenshall coast. After passing the Bainloch burn, I took the first turn to the right and pushed my bicycle up a steep bye-way towards the old church of Southwick parish. What remains of the church occupies a very small part of the sacred enclosure. The only indication of the architectural style is given by two very narrow lights in the east wall. The church has been built of unhewn granite blocks, but these windows are framed with red freestone with a round top in the early English style. Few ruins in Galloway are so entirely neglected as this. Almost every inch is covered with ivy, and dilapidation is going on rapidly. Before photographing one of the windows, I had to spend a long time in cutting and tearing the ivy away. I congratulate myself that I have arrested the disintegrating activity of the ivy so far as the windows are concerned; but surely the proprietor of the ruin could send a man to spend a day or two in completing the work in which I made this small beginning.

When I had returned to the main road and followed it to

Sandyhills, I turned again to the right to visit the site of St. Lawrence's Chapel. It is at Fairgirth farmhouse, about a mile up the glen of that name. I had seen no literature on the subject and went to investigate. The farmer's wife kindly shewed me a low garden wall, about three feet thick, saying "That was never made for a garden wall!" She drew back some of the ivy on the surface, and shewed me a dressed and moulded piece of freestone, saying she thought it was the top of a headstone, and that there were one or two more of those stones among the ivy. I observed, however, that the stone was not shaped with the symmetry usual in headstones. I learned also that when the garden was being dug over fourteen years ago, a large dressed stone had been found in the middle and left in its place, and that when some alterations had been made on the farm offices on the north side of the house human bones had been found. The door of the farmhouse is framed in granite blocks with a single circular moulding. The moulding of the lintel is complete; but on both the sides it is intermitted with a plain block at the top, inserted to increase the height of the entrance. In the older part of the house there is a granite newel stair of two storeys leading to an attic with a built-up window deeply splayed within and having a rounded top. It would be interesting to have an expert architect's opinion on these remains, especially those in the garden. Fairgirth is mentioned in an old list of the most important houses in Galloway. When I learned that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland was making its present survey of Kirkcudbrightshire, I sent what I had gathered to Mr Curle, the Secretary of the Commission, who replied that the facts were new to him, and would receive attention. We may hope, therefore, that some light may be thrown presently on these remains.

Kippford, or the Scaur, is a village of seamen on the estuary of the Urr. I induced one of them to take me over to Heston island. On ascending to the higher part of the island, I was much impressed by the magnificent panorama of the mainland, a far-extended succession of broken, rocky hills, sharp peaks, and elevated plateaux. Screel and Bengairn were, of course, the most prominent features. Seen thus from the south, they resemble closely their aspect from the north, but with an effect of increased grandeur. "Rathan" is an old name of the island.

There are some slight remains of an old house or castle beside the lighthouse-keeper's dwelling. After the fall of the Douglasses, the island became the property of the monks of Dundrennan Abbey, who had on the shore what was known as "the monks' pool" for keeping salmon.

Palnackie, with its quay on the west bank of the Urr, is one of those shipping villages which have fallen on quiet times since the introduction of railways. The round tower of Orchardton has been described already in the Society's "Transactions." It is associated with a story which is believed to have provided the groundwork of "Guy Mannering." There are several remarkable caves on the Rascarrel and Barlocco shores, between the village of Auchencairn and Dundrennan. The architecture of Dundrennan Abbey belongs to the Transition period. Little is known of its history. It was founded in 1142, in the reign of David I., possibly by Fergus, Lord of Galloway. The monks, like those of Sweetheart Abbey, were of the Cistercian order. The most interesting historical statement about the Abbey is that Mary, Queen of Scots, spent her last night on Scottish soil here. The last abbot, Edward Maxwell, sold or gave away a large part of the lands on the eve of the Reformation. When he died the remainder went to increase the revenue of the Bishop of Galloway. The revenues were annexed to the Chapel Royal at Stirling by James VI. in 1621. After this the buildings fell into disrepair. There are several well-preserved monuments of great interest. These have been described fully by the Rev. George M'Conachie.

The older streets of Kirkcudbright, such as High Street, are full of houses standing end to end with little closes here and there giving glimpses of the gardens behind. The gardens near the old boundary wall were held formerly under a "watch and ward" superiority duty; that is, the due exacted from the tenants was that they should watch and defend the wall in time of danger; a due represented now by very small sums of money, in one case by sixpence, the grand total of seven shillings and sixpence being collected every fifteen years.

The Tolbooth is entered by an outside stair, and is surmounted by a tower with a little spire, said to have been made of stones brought from Dundrennan Abbey. The tower has a bell, rung still at the hour of curfew and at other times, and a



clock with two dials facing the two sections of High Street respectively. The clock is lighted every evening at dusk, a pleasing detail in the nightly aspect of the town. One of the most memorable pictures of Kirkcudbright, indeed, is the dark street with the illuminated clock-face overhung by the evening star. The largest of the old buildings in the town is the castle of the Maclellans, the Lords Kirkcudbright.

The burgh records are full of interest. Extracts have been printed in the "Transactions," but I do not think the following incident has been noticed before. The parish was stirred to its depths in 1761 by the appointment of a blind minister. The anxiety of the people to have the settlement obviated was so strong as to lead to a step which must surely have few parallels. The appointment was made by the Crown, and among other opposition measures, the Town Council, "encouraged by your Lordship's honour, piety, and tender regard for the welfare of the Christian Church," appeal to the Bishop of London to use his influence in high places on their behalf. The minister was the Rev. Thomas Blacklock, the poet and friend of Robert Burns.

The records contain little that bears on the general history of the country. During the war scare of 1797, however, we find a meeting of the Council called to consider whether, in the then alarming state of the country, it might not be necessary to have one or more men stationed at or near the mouth of the harbour to keep a constant look-out, and report on the appearance of any of the enemy's ships. It was decided to place a man on either side of the river to watch the coast both day and night.

A beautiful road runs down the west side of the estuary of the Dee towards the old churchyard of Senwick, where John Mactaggart, the author of "The Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopædia," published in 1824, is buried. There are some remains of some ancient forts on the tops of the cliffs extending westwards from the Little Ross lighthouse. The pretty village of Borgue is the site of the memorial tablet to William Nicholson, the author of "The Brownie of Blednoch," and in the neighbouring churchyard of Kirkandrews is his grave.

Gatehouse-of-Fleet is associated with Burns' "Scots wha hae." The poet is said to have committed it to writing in a

room in the Murray Arms Hotel. The old church at Anwoth was the scene of the ministry of Samuel Rutherford. Of the houses and estates in the neighbourhood, Ardwall is the most interesting. A famous beech tree stood in the grounds until recently, the tree about which Thomas Campbell wrote "The Beech Tree's Petition" in 1800. It had been decided that the tree should be cut down on account of the harm it was doing to the garden in which it stood. As a result of Campbell's appeal on its behalf, the tree was spared and a new garden made in another part of the grounds. The tree was blown down on the 12th of November, 1909. It was then about a hundred and seventy years old. There are three old castles on the coast between Gatehouse and Creetown—Cardoness, the old home of the M'Cullochs; Barholm, the reputed original of "Ellangowan" in "Guy Mannering"; and Carsluith, the birthplace of Gilbert Brown, the last abbot of Sweetheart Abbey. Other details of this part of the coast are the rocks at Ravenshall, the cave of Dirk Hatteraick near the foot of the Kirkdale glen, and the circle of standing-stones at Cairnholy near Barholm, and the wide vistas across Wigtown Bay to the coast of the Machars and across the Firth to Cumberland and the Isle of Man. After skirting the grounds of Kirrouchtrie, the scene of a battle between Edward Bruce and the English, the road descends to Creebridge and the river Cree, where the coast of Kirkcudbrightshire ends.

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### ***15th December, 1911.***

Chairman—MR S. ARNOTT, V.P.

LANTERN LECTURE: THE APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY IN AGRICULTURE. By PROFESSOR J. W. PRIESTLEY, Leeds University.

[*From the Dumfries and Galloway Standard, December 23, 1911, revised by Professor Priestley.*]

Professor Priestley said he was very pleased to talk on the subject of the application of electricity in agriculture in Dumfries, because the question was one that seemed very likely to have useful information added to it in this neighbourhood. It was a subject that was of rather vital interest to all interested in



science, because there were many things remaining to be understood about plants; and it was of interest to the practical man, because there might be money in it some day. One of these days, with cheaper distribution, electricity was going to be used for far more purposes than at present, and he was sure it would then be of more use on the farm. With the aid of the pictures thrown on the screen, the lecturer sketched the history of the subject. The earliest known apparatus took the form of a large tray, insulated by means of pedestals, on which it rested. The tray contained a number of plants in pots to which electricity was being applied; and from the dresses of figures in the picture the date of the experiment could be fixed at about 1750. It was not known who made the experiment. Pictures of other early machines were shown, in which not only plants, but in one case a cat and a bird were in course of being electrified. Most of the early work on the subject was done in France, though the best experiments were those of the Scandinavian scientist, Lemstrom, whose machine was a better one than any that had gone before. It was mounted on ball bearings, and was driven by a motor, and was really the parent machine of many that had since been in use. There could be no doubt that electricity applied to certain plants stimulated their growth. Under the old system the wires were near the ground, among the plants, but now they are high up, and the electricity is discharged down through the air to the plants. They might think that a high tension current of, perhaps, 100,000 volts was very dangerous, but it need not be dangerous at all. The great trouble was to know whether the discharge was happening, as they could not always hear the "sizzling" sound made by it, and a number of failures had occurred because a sufficient discharge was not coming down. The only way to test it was to put an insulated wire below the top wire and collect some of the electricity, and test the discharge by touching this wire with the fingers or with the tongue, when a slight shock would be felt, or at night a vacuum tube might be attached, and in it they would see a little glow. Up till now it was positive electricity that had been used. With regard to the method of applying the electricity, it was shown, with the help of lantern pictures, including several of Miss Dudgeon's experimental station at Lincluden Mains, that at

certain places where experiments had been made, low tension electricity was carried into a shed, where there was elaborate machinery for changing it into high tension electricity, and it was then carried out to the field by means of thick wires. When it reached the field it was laid on to thin wires, which, being unable to hold so much electricity, allowed it to leak off to the plants. Over the part of the field to be electrified a network of wires was taken, high up out of the way of all farm operations. An illustration of the effect of the electricity was found in the fact that a hedge showed extraordinary growth at that part of it over which the wires were led. Experiments proved that wheat and other crops had a much greater yield when electrified, wheat, in one instance, showing an increase of 29 per cent., mangels of 18 per cent., and strawberries of 25 per cent.' But whether electrification resulted in an increase or a decrease, it was found in nearly every case that there had been acceleration. And as it was in the early part of the plant's life that the effect of electricity was to be seen in the acceleration of the yield, it would follow that crops could be got in earlier. If ever the electrification of plants came to be a practical thing, it would be of use in countries like Canada, where it would enable them to reap the harvest before the winter set in, and in this country crops would be on the market earlier, and thus growers would be in an improved position with regard to competition. He did not regard the work that had been done in connection with the subject as completed. It was only in its beginnings, because though the work had been going on for a hundred and fifty years, it was only in the last five years that it had been conducted on a practical scale. They still wanted to know what the effect was on the complicated life of the plant. If the work failed in the end, it had still been worth the trial; and if it was successful, it would mean one more victory of man over nature. Replying to questions put by members of the audience, Professor Priestley said that he believed that the biggest future for the system would be in places where there was a large irrigation scheme. The reason for this was that plants were always giving off water, and when electrified they gave off more water than under normal conditions. There had been nothing discovered to show that electrification was a cure for disease in potatoes and other crops, but he thought

that by means of it the plant was raised in tone, and so was helped to resist disease. Electricity had a tendency to exhaust the land quicker, owing to the acceleration of the crops. It would not take the place of manure.

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ELECTRICAL TREATMENT ON POTATO CROPS, 1911. By Miss E. C. DUDGEON, Lincluden House.

The following is a brief account of my experiments during the past season on the growth of potatoes with Electric Treatment, by means of the Oliver Lodge-Newman High-tension Electric Discharge Apparatus.

The field chosen for the trials was one on the farm of Lincluden Mains, near Dumfries, tenanted by Mr Cameron, who gave me every possible assistance in carrying out the experiment. The portion reserved for experimental purposes was about 8 acres, which, from the date of ploughing till the planting of the seed tubers, was treated all over in precisely the same manner. The land was practically level, having only one or two slight undulations; the soil varied slightly, some portions being loamy, while others were gravelly, but as these inequalities were distributed over the whole field, care was taken in dividing the plots so as to include equal portions of each variety in both experimental and control areas.

The field was ploughed in February, after which it was given a dressing of Biggar's Special Potato Manure—about 6 cwt. to the acre—and at the time of putting in the seed tubers, about 25 cart loads of farmyard manure per acre was spread between the drills, which were 27 inches apart.

Owing to a spell of wet weather it was not possible to commence planting till the third week in April, and for the first week after planting had been completed rain fell for several days. From May 4th to June 15th the weather was bright and dry; after that date rain fell for several days, when dry weather again set in and continued up to the date of lifting the crops.

The Electric Discharge was applied daily from May 1st till August 18th, averaging during that time four hours per day. The hours for putting on the discharge were regulated by weather conditions—on dull days it was applied both morning and afternoon;

when it was warm with bright sunshine, for two, three, or four hours in the evening. Total hours the discharge was applied—413.

The varieties of potatoes planted were:—Ringleader, Windsor Castle, Golden Wonder, Great Scot.

Owing to applying too late for seed tubers of the Ringleader, which variety I was anxious to have for trial, I was only able to obtain the third-grade size, which in many cases were little larger than an ordinary marble.

From the commencement of the application of the discharge a distinct difference was observed between the two plots, the crops under the electrified wires being, from the commencement of growth up to the time of ripening, distinctly in advance of those outside the influence of the charged wires. The tubers were ready for lifting quite a week earlier; also the difference in the height of the haulms and greater luxuriance of leaf-growth was very marked.

The following tables give the weights per acre of the crops lifted in the experimental and control plots:—

#### EXPERIMENTAL PLOT.

Variety.		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
RINGLEADER—						
Seed size... ..	...	6	19	...	...	
Under 1½ inches	...	1	2	...	...	
Total	...	8	1	...	...	No disease.
WINDSOR CASTLE—						
Seed size... ..	...	10	19	1	4	
Under 1½ inches	...	...	15	0	24½	
Total	...	11	14	2	0½	No disease.
GOLDEN WONDER—						
Seed size... ..	...	7	19	2	...	
Under 1½ inches	...	...	15	0	24½	
Total	...	8	14	2	24½	No disease.
GREAT SCOT—						
Seed size... ..	...	11	1	1	15	
Under 1½ inches	...	...	10	2	6	
Diseased ... ..	...	...	4	0	6½	
Total	...	11	15	3	27½	Diseased, 4 cwt. 6½ lbs.

## CONTROL PLOT.

Variety.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
RINGLEADER—					
Seed size... ..	4	13	...	...	
Under $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches	1	4	...	...	
Total	5	17	...	...	No disease.
WINDSOR CASTLE—					
Seed size... ..	8	18	0	19	
Under $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches	...	19	2	9	
Total	9	17	3	0	No disease.
GOLDEN WONDER—					
Seed size... ..	7	5	1	7	
Under $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches	...	17	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$	
Total	8	2	2	$12\frac{1}{2}$	No disease.
GREAT SCOT—					
Seed size... ..	9	6	2	20	
Under $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches	...	16	3	$19\frac{1}{2}$	
Diseased ... ..	...	2	2	24	
Diseased—					
Total	10	6	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$	2 cwt. 2 qrs. 24 lbs.

Extra yield under the electrified wires per acre:—

Variety.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
RINGLEADER	2	4	0	0
WINDSOR CASTLE	1	16	3	$0\frac{1}{2}$
GOLDEN WONDER	...	12	0	12
GREAT SCOT	1	9	2	20

The cost of applying the electric discharge was:—

Petrol	...	...	...	...	£1	6	0
Lubricating Oil	...	...	...	...	0	6	0
Depreciation at 10 per cent. on apparatus (costing £175) for three months	...	...	...	...	4	7	6
					£5	19	6

The same expense would have covered the cost of electrifying an area of 15 acres.

I was supplied by Mr A. W. McAlister, Seed Potato Merchant, Dumfries, with the seed tubers. He very kindly supervised the lifting of the crops, and most carefully verified the weights in both areas.

*19th January, 1912.*

Chairman—Dr W. SEMPLE, V.P.

SOME NOTES ON ESTATE MANAGEMENT IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. By Mr R. W. MILNE.

At different times I have noticed that interesting lectures have been delivered to this Society from notes taken from Parish Session Records and Town Council Minutes. To-night I am going to do something in the same direction, the source of my paper being a Minute Book kept by John Earl of Hopetoun during part of the period he had charge of the Annandale estates from 23rd May, 1758, to 30th December, 1774, during which time every transaction of importance seems to have been recorded. As far as possible it will be my purpose to select such information of general interest tending in a small way to illustrate the manners and customs of estate management in the latter half of the eighteenth century, while the care and regularity with which the various entries were made render them very suitable to be extracted and read without alteration.

I may mention that the factors who conducted the ordinary affairs of the estates under the Earl were Bryce Blair and Ronald Crawford, whom, as the Earl wrote in his Journal or Minute Book, "were both very knowing and skilled in their business as writers and had great practice in Law and Country affairs whereby they were not only of great use by their advice but also in the execution of their duties—particularly Mr Blair, who, living in Annandale, was always at hand and ready upon any emergency."

Mr Blair died in January, 1762, and was succeeded by John Story, writer in Dumfries, who went to reside in Moffat at Whitsunday, 1763. It is interesting to note that Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwellton was a surety for his intromissions.

The other Factor at that time was James Hoggan (who was not a writer), and he managed the upper division of the estates till the appointment of John Story, when he was transferred to the lower division.

With the foregoing introductory explanation, I will now begin with the Minute Book. I mentioned that the Earl was appointed on 23rd May, 1758, and it should be noted that he

then resided at Hopetoun House, Linlithgowshire. Thirteen days after his appointment he sends his factors the following instructions:—

“Wrote to the Factors for Rentals of the Estates, and for information upon several different points, and directed Eyedraughts of the whole Estate, for the better understanding of the nature and position of the different farms, to be made by John and James Tait, Land Surveyors in Lockerbie.”

An Eyedraught as used in 1758 was a form of plan prepared by judging measurements by the eye without the use of a scale. I have been able to find and bring with me four—they are applicable to the lands in the Upper Division of the Estates, namely—Johnstone, Kirkpatrick-Juxta, and Wamphray parishes, and the lands on Annan, Evan, and Moffat Waters. They are very interesting because they give a complete survey of all the farms in that portion of the Estate as arranged prior to 1758, also the lands that were held runrigg and a number of commons before they were divided.

Having shown you the farms and their boundaries as they appeared in 1758, let me now draw your attention to the lets of farms as appearing among the older papers. In an old rental dated 1683 most of the farms seem to be without tenants. This can easily be understood when we remember that about that time Claverhouse was busy in this county stamping out “Conventiclers,” so much so, that according to a recent writer, “The peasantry fled his presence as if it were the plague.”

The next rental I noticed of any importance was for the year 1707 (the year of the Treaty of Union) by which time all the farms appear to have been let to tenants on yearly tacks, which continued till about Whitsunday, 1722, when long leases came into use for the larger farms, the following being the usual conditions of let then in use for a sheep farm, viz.:—

Polmoodie, in Parish of Moffat.—“To John Murray, Junior, for 21 years after Whitsunday, 1722, pays of tack duty £1633 6s 8d Scot mony at two termes, viz., Martinmas and Whitsunday, as also pays the sum of 2400 lb. Scot in name of grassum, viz., 600 lb. Scot Lambas, 1722; 600 lb. Scot Lambas, 1723; 600 lb. Scot Lambas, 1724; 600 lb. Scot Lambas, 1725.”

Another of the same for an arable farm:—

“Kirkbank in Parish of Johnstone.—“To James Thor-



burn for 21 years after Whit Sunday, 1721, pays of tack duty 120 lb. Scot at Martinmas yearly, as also 120 lb. Scot in name of grassum, viz., 60 lb. at Martinmas and 60 lb. at Whity, 1723; cess offering to £101 Scot, 4 Kain hens, day service, short carriages as formerly."

Some years prior to the Earl of Hopetoun's time leases seem to have gone out of use, but the tenants on many of the farms had increased. That is to say, when a tenant found his farm was too large for his capital it seems to have been a custom to take in joint tenants. The result was that some farms had as many as four or five joint tenants, among others noticed being the following:—

In 1758 "Stobohill," in parish of Corrie, had five tenants, viz.—Francis Johnstone, John Moffat, James Graham, Robert Graham, and George Johnstone. Wynholme, in the same parish—Rachel Little, John and George Blake, John and William Irving.

The foregoing are sufficient to illustrate a peculiar position of matters then applicable to a number of farms. In the first place there was no division of the rents, showing what was payable by each tenant, and in the second place the old farm plans of same period show only one steading or town on each farm, for the accommodation of all. It also seems apparent that each tenant was liable for the full rent in case of failure of the others.

To meet this condition of affairs the Earl again introduced the practice of letting on tacks in terms of the following "rule" from his Minute Book:—

"Resolved that in regard many of the farms, to makè it a rule that the whole tenants in any one town, or upon one farm, should bind and be rentalled conjunctly as one possession, so that if at present any are in such low circumstances that the rest will not bind with them, or if during the currency of the tack any of them fail, their part of the possession should fall to the rest, whereby there will be a gradual diminution of the numbers."

In the foregoing I have given you some details from the old rentals. But to take up the Minute Book again. During the first three months of the Earl's management the following entries in the Minute Book show what progress he had made in arranging the affairs of the Estate:—

"1758, Sept.—Small pocket books of the farms of every



parish were made, in which the whole farms were entered, showing all the variations of rent that had happened upon them since the year 1718, with notes of their contents as estimate by the surveyors of their holding and number of sheep and cattle that they keep, the quantity of arable ground or proportion of rent that is made by corn or by pasture. The character they bear in the country as to being cheap or dear, the quantity of wool growing upon them, and a guess of the value, with every other useful observation relating to each farm that could be gathered from the factors and others, and the most intelligent people in the country, upon whom he could best rely."

"There is also entered in these books the rent and entries at which it was judged each farm might be let after viewing the estate and considering with the factors, and likewise notes of the bargains made with the tenants, which, however, often vary considerably from what had been previously concerted, according as things cast up in the community; and as offers were made, and though in some instances the farms are let under what was intended yet in many they are considerably above it."

To make an official visit to the Estate was the next step the Tutor took, when the plans and information collected was brought into use.

"1758 (no date).—The next step the Tutor took was to ride through the whole estate and view every part of it, having hardly missed one single farm, and had along with him some of good judgment in those matters, and though this could not be done very minutely, especially in the higher muirland parts, yet by means of this survey with the help of the eye-draughts, and the notes and previous enquiry and information, he acquired a much clearer and better notion and idea not only of the position, nature, and quality of each farm, but also its value, than he could possibly have otherwise done."

Here is another entry in the Minute Book which shows us one result of the visit:—

"1758 (Sept.).—The Tutor, at his first coming, intended no more this year than to inform himself of all circumstances as before narrated in order to be the better enabled to let tacks the next season, but, having succeeded beyond his expectations in acquiring the necessary information and knowledge for that purpose, and finding that as the season and markets had been extra-

ordinary good, and consequently the whole country in a much better state than it had been for many years past, he judged this a more favourable time for letting tacks than he might perhaps find again, and therefore resolved to proceed to let tacks of all such farms, to the setting of which there were no particular objection from the situation and marches of the lands. The Tutor made it known that he would not commune with any tenant of the Marquis's for a tack who had not cleared all arrears due at or before Whity., 1758, for crop and year 1757, which had an extraordinary good effect, though in some few particular cases and circumstances he was obliged to deviate from this rule."

You will, perhaps, have noticed that so far I have made no reference to tenants, houses, or farm buildings. I now proceed to do so, and for convenience will group the entries under the heading of "building," giving the dates in each case.

The first entry is dated:—

"Nov., 1759.—The Tutor having often observed with regret that the tenants' houses upon the whole estate were remarkably bad and poor, and in great disrepair, even worse than any others in Annandale, where they are in general meaner than in most other parts of Scotland, and being sensible of the great disadvantages the tenants lay under in that respect, not only from the scarcity and dearness of the proper materials and the length of carriage, but also from the uncertain state they had been in for many years as to the continuance of their possessions, judged it would be highly for the proprietors' interest that some remedy were applied to this great defect, as it is found by experience that nothing promotes the letting of lands to good advantage more, or is a greater encouragement to industry, than the having of good houses upon them. The Tutor, therefore, resolved that notwithstanding he had taken the whole tenants bound by their tacks to repair and uphold the houses upon their own expenses (but which cannot be understood to extend farther than to keep them up in the same poor way they have always been in, mostly built of fail and stone), that he would order timber to such of the tenants as would undertake to meliorate their houses, and for that purpose ordered the following advertisement to be published:—

"That such of the tenants as have got tacks and are willing upon their own expense to improve their houses by rebuilding

them with stone and mortar, and the door cheeks with stone and lime, may give in notes of the quantity and kind of timber the same would require to the factors, who are desired to view and consider the same, it being intended for their encouragement to give them such assistance of timber as can be spared from the woods; but to prevent embezzlement or impositions every tenant at receiving what timber may be ordered for him is to give his bill for the full value thereof, which will not be given up till the repairs are finished and inspected, to see that the timber has been properly applied, and if any misapprehension shall be discovered the value of the whole will be exacted. If any of the tenants shall propose to build their houses with mortar and all the doors and windows with stone and lime, and to cast the whole walls with lime, they will be preferred to the best timber. No timber will be given out of the woods after the first day of May till winter again."

The next entry explains itself:—

"1769, Sept.—When the Curator took the management of the estates in 1758 he found the whole tenants' houses upon the estates, in general, very bad and in great disrepair, and after having set the leases, in order to encourage the tenants to make better houses, he ordered that whosoever should build new ones according to the rules prescribed should be furnished with timber out of the woods, but the Marquis was to be at no expense in repairs. This had the desired effect in so far that a good many new houses were built and of a much better kind than formerly, and in the year 1767, when the leases were to be renewed, it was considered that if a tenant who had bestowed a good deal upon his houses should not happen to take the same farm again it would be a hardship, if, after a few years' possession, he should lose all he had bestowed upon the houses, and would effectually stop the spirit of building that had been. To prevent which the Curator declared in all such cases that a reasonable allowance should be made to the outgoing tenant."

Still the Tutor is not satisfied, and finality (so far as the Journal shows) is not reached until he takes the rebuilding and repairing of the houses on the estate "upon his own charges."

The following being the entry, which is dated 8th April, 1772:—

"In order to encourage the tenants to build good houses on

their farms, the Curator gave the following order to Mr John Story, the Marquis's factor:—

(As engrossed in Minute Book.)

“Hopetoun House, 8th April, 1772.

“Sir,—As many of the tenants' houses on the estate of Annandale are in a ruinous condition, and as great advances of the rents were made by the present possessors at the last set upon the faith that the houses would be repaired for them, which it could not be expected they should do on their own charges, especially considering the shortness of the leases, I hereby empower you to employ proper tradesmen to rebuild or repair all the said houses where you find necessary in a sufficient manner, it being always understood that the walls are to be built of stone and lime, or, at least of stone and clay cast with lime, but none of stone and fail, and that the timber is to be furnished from the Marquis's woods, as far as they can afford it, and in every respect observing the greatest economy consistent with the work being effectually done and in the proper seasons. I likewise understand that the carriages are to be performed by the tenants themselves, except it has been otherwise covenanted at the set, and likewise that they are to uphold the houses in time coming.—I am, etc.,

“(Signed) HOPETOUN.

“To Mr John Story, factor.”

“In consequence of this encouragement a considerable number of very good houses were built upon the estate, but it was found that the Marquis's woods, which began to be much exhausted, could not furnish the proper timber for building houses, and, therefore, it was found necessary to buy timber from other woods of the country when it could be got, and also foreign timber, which in some cases was found to be cheaper and to answer the purpose better.”

So far I have been dealing with commonplace routine work on an estate about 150 years ago. I am glad, however, I can introduce at least one interesting chapter, for I have always noticed that people are keen to hear anything that concerns Gretna Green or smugglers and smuggling.

At all events, the following report shows how the direct influence of the smuggling “trade” was brought to bear upon the management of the affairs of an estate on the Solway shore:—

"1761, Sept.—Ordered Mr Blair, the factor, to advertise the house and whole estate of Graitney to be let, and to take in offers for the same and report, and as it was judged that both the house and estate would set to better advantage if the house were put in proper repair, Mr Blair was directed to provide materials and to contract with tradesmen for that purpose."

Mr Blair died in January, 1762, so Mr Hoggan, who succeeded him, made the following report:—

"This estate was purchased in 1725 from the creditors of Colonel Johnstone, Ruthven, for behoof of James, Marquis of Annandale.

"The rental of the estate has been, with some small variations, about £124 sterling, but this includes £12 10s of tolls that are now disputed, and of which little has been paid for some years, so that the rental could not be reckoned about £110, and that includes some house rents.

"The tenants are very numerous, and mostly in bad circumstances, some of them being in great arrear.

"The land itself, even the best of it, is of a very light, dry kind, and a great part of it muirish and some mossy.

"By Tait's Survey the whole estate contains 634 acres (Scotch), besides the right in the common.

"The mansion-house was fallen into very great disrepair, so that it must soon be quite ruinous. Therefore it was ordered to be repaired by getting a quite new roof, in 1761, in the view that it might answer for an inn, being well situated for that purpose, or for some good tenant that might take the whole or a great part of the estate, as it would be very desirable to have it in fewer hands than at present. Several attempts were made for this purpose, and proposals got from different people both from England and in Scotland, but, besides the difficulty of finding people of good circumstances who will remove to any distance, there was another almost unsurmountable one, viz., the riotous and lawless disposition of the inhabitants, not only on this estate, but all the neighbourhood, arising from their situation upon the Border, and the constant practice of smuggling they are engaged in, in so much that they threatened to mob all strangers who came to look at the lands, and even proceeded to great rudeness and wrote threatening letters to some of them, by which they were deterred from venturing among such a crew, and not without good reason.

“Though many of the present possessors would have engaged for a higher rent, yet there was little prospect of it being paid unless some means could be fallen upon to induce, and even force, them into a greater habit of industry than they have ever been accustomed to. At last Simon Graham, a merchant, and James Black, innkeeper, both in Graitney-Green, who are both rich and had bestowed a good deal in building houses for themselves, being alarmed at the prospect of being removed if the house and estate should be let together, made an offer for being tacksmen of the whole, which, circumstances considered, was thought the best shape the thing could be put into, as they could manage and govern the inhabitants, who are in a great measure already dependents upon them, much better than any stranger could do, against whom they could probably have proven the greatest enemies by egging up and supporting the inhabitants against them. They offered to take a lease for 21 years of the mansion-house and whole estate at two hundred and sixty pounds sterling, of yearly rent, and to pay the cess as formerly, but not the stipend nor school salary, and be bound to build offices, and to uphold the whole at their own expense. And therefore the Curator agreed to accept of their offer. But James Black afterwards resiled, and therefore the Curator agreed with the said Simon Graham for a tack of the mansion-house and whole estate of Graitney for 21 years from and after Candlemas, 1763, for the yearly rent of two hundred and sixty pounds sterling, payable at Martinmas yearly.”

The following is interesting because it shows even in the early times we are dealing with a desire to encourage home industries:—

“It having been represented to the Curator that it would be a great advantage to the Marquis’s estate, as well as to the country in general, if woollen manufactures were established and encouraged at Moffat and the neighbourhood, and particularly the combing of wool and spinning, whereby the tenants of the store farms would find a market for their wool in the country without the trouble and risk of carrying it to distant markets, and the poor would be enabled to support themselves by spinning, without being a burden upon the heritors and tenants, and the Curator being sensible that it would tend greatly to the improvement of the Marquis’s estate if the wool produced upon it could

be manufactured in the country, agreed to give all reasonable encouragement to those branches of the woollen manufactures in the town of Moffat and neighbourhood, and a master comber from England, spinning and knitting mistresses, and a stocking-weaver having been procured in 1767, and several quantities of wool from the tenants of the Marquis's store farms, with combs, pots, wheels, reels, and other utensils which was necessary in order to keep them in constant work for instructing apprentices and scholars. A considerable quantity of wool was combed and spun, and several combers and a great number of spinners and knitters taught from 1767 to 1771 inclusive, which has already proved very advantageous to the country, and will no doubt be still more so in a little, but which, with salaries, premiums, and apprentice fees, and the rents of houses taken for the accommodation of the several persons employed, occasioned a considerable expense above the produce of the work from 1767 to 1771 inclusive. The account whereof is not yet finally settled, the returns for the yarn sold not being all come in, and some yarn and stuffs manufactured in Moffat being still unsold, but there is allowed to Mr Story, the factor, in his account crop, 1771, £400 as part of said expense.

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THE BLACKLOCK MANUSCRIPTS AT ANNAN. By Mr FRANK MILLER, Annan.

The manuscripts which I have undertaken to describe were presented to Annan Mechanics' Institute in 1898 by the late Mr W. R. Duncan, Liverpool, a descendant of Mary Blacklock, the poet Blacklock's sister, whose husband, William M'Murdo, merchant, Dumfries, was an uncle of Burns's friend, John M'Murdo, Drumlanrig, father of "Bonie Jean" and "Phillis the Fair."

I shall read the letter in which the MSS. were offered to the Institute, as doubtless you will be glad to know what the donor said about them:—

"Liverpool, May 25/98.

Dear Mr Miller,—In looking over my late father's books, I came across a number of the works of the late Dr Thos. Blacklock. As he was a native of Annan, I thought it likely that the



Mechanics' Institute Committee might be pleased to accept them as a donation to the Library. If so, I shall be very pleased to send them on to you.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. R. DUNCAN.

The books include:—

A Volume of Poems, and Life of Blacklock by Mackenzie.

Also, bound in same vol., a number of MS. Poems.

A Volume of Poems, with Blacklock's Life by Spence. Also MS. Poems.

Blacklock's 'Practical Ethics,' bound MSS.

A Volume of MS. Poems.

Letters and Observations on Men, Books, and Manners, by 'George Tennant' (a *nom de plume* of Blacklock's).

Five Volumes of Sermons, MSS. bound.

Many of the poems, etc., have notes and explanations written by some member of the family, I think."

Dr Robert Anderson, in the "Life" prefixed to his edition of Blacklock's Poems, published in 1795, says:—"He has left some volumes of Sermons in manuscript, as also a Treatise on Morals, both of which, it is in contemplation with his friends to publish. It is probable that the most important of his other pieces may be collected and republished on that occasion." Though Dr Blacklock's representatives gathered together and arranged his different writings, they did not carry out their intention of publishing them. The news that the MSS. referred to by Anderson have been recovered may interest you. Blacklock's formal verse does not appeal to many readers at present; but the great service which he rendered to Burns has secured for him a place in the affection of every true Scotsman.

The MSS. are on thick greyish paper of different makers. The paper on which the most valuable poems are written bears the name of James Whatman—a famous maker who carried on business from 1760 to 1765. No dates are discoverable in the watermarks of the paper. The "notes and explanations" referred to by Mr Duncan are very brief, and are merely designed to identify the men and women celebrated in the different odes and addresses.



When the MSS. were received I examined them carefully, and I have since gone over them twice. It is therefore unlikely that anything in them of interest has escaped my observation. I found among them three unprinted poems of some value; and these I published—one of them in "The Scottish Historical Review," and two in a book of my own. I diligently searched among the MS. poems and essays for references to Burns, but, unfortunately, did not discover any. The two rhyming epistles by Blacklock to Burns which every admirer of the chief Scottish poet knows by heart are not included.

According to Henry Mackenzie, Blacklock "obtained high reputation as a preacher." It need not surprise us, therefore, that five of the ten volumes in the collection are made up of sermons. The able and orthodox discourses preserved deal with such subjects as:—"The Character and Fate of Hypocrisy," "The Pernicious Tendency of Enthusiasm," "The Advantages arising from a Proper Estimate of Human Life," "The Unsatisfactory Nature of Sublunary Enjoyments," and "The Nature and Duration of Future Punishments." Two of them are marked "Delivered at Dumfries, 1761." In one of the volumes of sermons there are numerous erasures and additions, proof being thus afforded that the blind preacher recognised the value of frequent revision.

Dr Blacklock's qualifications as a Christian teacher are also attested by "Practical Ethics." This carefully written treatise is doubtless the work which Dr Anderson, in his biographical sketch of the poet, alludes to as a "Treatise on Morals."

Of more varied interest is the volume which bears the title:—

" Letters  
and  
Observations  
on  
Men, Books, and Manners.  
By George Tennant,  
Farmer in the Lands of Grim gribber."

The contents of this volume consist largely of reviews of theological and poetical works published between 1770 and 1785. In an article written at the beginning of 1784, there is a reference to Samuel Johnson, who had offended the literary men of Edin-

burgh by pronouncing an unfavourable verdict on Hugh Blair's "Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian":—"Doctor Johnson will be universally acknowledged to have united a great genius with profound and extensive learning; but these qualities, however eminent, are not only disfigured but almost counterbalanced by his hateful and incorrigible affectation." Blacklock was personally acquainted with Johnson, having been introduced to him in 1773 and received, as Boswell records, "with a most humane complacency."

Only three of the Blacklock volumes are devoted to poetry. One of the three consists entirely of a play in MS., entitled "The Deserter: a Tragedy," the other two are made up of printed as well as written poems.

After the publication of the second London edition of Blacklock's Poems, Joseph Spence, the Professor of Poetry at Oxford, urged him—but urged him in vain—to write a tragedy, assuring him that he had sufficient interest with Garrick to get it acted. Mackenzie says:—"At a subsequent period he wrote a tragedy; but upon what subject, his relation, from whom I received the intelligence, cannot recollect. The manuscript was put into the hands of the late Mr Crosbie, then an eminent advocate at the Bar of Scotland, but has never since been recovered." Though "The Deserter" is not an original work, but a free translation from the French of Mercier, I think that in it we have the long-lost play. Unfortunately, it does not contain a single good line. I shall not trouble you with an extract from the play, for I do not wish to tempt anyone to exclaim, in the words of Byron:—

"Stop, my friend; 'twere best—

*Non Di, non homines*—you know the rest."

As you would observe, the volume which heads Mr Duncan's list embraces a copy of Mackenzie's edition of Blacklock's Poems (1793). When I examined the volume I noticed that while the last page of the printed part was numbered 216 the first page of the manuscript part bore the number 377. Evidently the written poems originally formed part of another volume, and were transferred to their present position to make Mackenzie's edition fuller. The longest piece in writing is "The Graham." This very poor heroic ballad is not in the strict sense a "manuscript poem," for it was published by the author in 1774, and was re-

printed in "The Nithsdale Minstrel" (1815) by the Rev. William Dunbar, who may have got his copy from Blacklock's grand-nephew, the Rev. Henry Duncan, of Ruthwell. "The Graham" is followed by a few short pieces. In one of these—a parody on "Rule Britannia"—Blacklock refers in no generous spirit to "a regrettable incident" associated with the name of Admiral Keppel:—

When Keppel first from Britain's strand,  
 Plough'd o'er the surge his liquid way,  
 Deep groan'd the Genius of the land,  
 And cruel mermaids sang this lay:  
 "Yield Britannia, yield the main  
 To faithless France and haughty Spain."

The volume which includes a copy of the first London edition of Blacklock's Poems is richer in interest than any other in the collection. It embraces no fewer than 53 written poems, occupying 380 quarto pages. The pieces are described as "Manuscript Poems," and there is no marking on any of them to indicate that they are to be found in print; but some of them were published by the author himself. One of the longest of them—a satire entitled "A Panegyric on Great Britain"—was issued separately in 1773, and a considerable number of the shorter pieces were published at different times and in different ways. The earliest verses were written in 1745; the latest probably about 1780, when Blacklock was almost 60 years of age.

Prominent in the collection is a play called "Seraphina"—a translation of the "Cenie" of D'Happoncourt de Grafigny. Whilst engaged on this work, Blacklock, remembering the proceedings in connection with John Home's "Douglas," had some fear that his occupation might lead him into trouble with the Church, of which he was still a minister, though he had resigned his charge at Kirkcudbright. Dr Beattie, author of "The Minstrel," consoled him by arguing sophistically that to translate a dramatic poem could not be held to be on the same footing with composing one! The poetical merits of "Seraphina" being small, we need hardly regret that it was never published. Into the sentiment of the following lines the extreme sensitiveness of Blacklock must have enabled him fully to enter:—

"Would we but serve th' unhappy as we ought,  
 With what respect, what delicate address,  
 What unaffected tenderness of heart,  
 Must we perform the service we intend!"

Some of the pieces in the volume are historical in character. In an ode on the Rebellion of 1745-6 the infamous Duke of Cumberland is thus addressed:—

"O glorious youth, delight of Fame!  
 Th' immortal Muse's favourite theme,  
 And Heaven's peculiar care!"

An unpublished poem on a man who better deserved the title of "Glorious William" than the merciless prince has a place in the collection. It is entitled "On the Re-admission of a great Commoner to the Administration," and clearly belongs to the year 1766. The author assails Chatham with great virulence, condescending now and again to the use of coarse language. Here are the most interesting verses:—

"Let demagogues trumpet the praise of the nation,  
 For cautious and delicate use of taxation;  
 America, conscious of gaining the hit,  
 Will assert independence, supported by P——.

With joyful presages the Genius of France  
 Views her navy increase and her commerce advance,  
 Views the lords of the ocean their colours submit,  
 Deterr'd by the thunder she borrow'd from P——.

Old Scotia, too late for her freedom alarm'd,  
 Her majesty blasted, her Thistle disarmed,  
 Now vainly her impotent venom may spit;  
 Just curses and infamy trouble not P——.

Let thy manes, Belhaven, indignant arise,  
 Thy prophecy now can no longer surprise,  
 Yet of its completion the Union acquit,  
 Since thy country's disgrace and perdition was P——."

Four of the poems direct our attention to an episode in the personal history of Blacklock—his rejection by the people of Kirkcudbright in 1762. "Pistapolis," the longest of them, is an

extraordinary production. I need not quote it, as you have in your library a print from the "Scottish Historical Review" giving the text in full. But to show how the iron entered into the poet's soul at Kirkeudbright I may read a short piece, entitled "An Ejaculation":—

## 1.

Good God, whose all pervading eye  
Inspects the human breast,  
Whose ears are open to the cry  
Of innocence oppressed,  
In mercy hear our humble suit,  
Relieve our souls from pain;  
Nor be our sufferings more acute  
Than nature can sustain.

## 2.

For prepossessions, deaf and blind,  
To wreck our peace appear,  
While fury kindles in each mind,  
Implacably severe.  
For us no social bosoms glow,  
No kind affections reign;  
But haughty power contracts its brow,  
And meanness smiles disdain.

Not a few of the "manuscript poems" are odes and songs to ladies. Among the productions of this description I found a fine unpublished version of the famous "Ode to Aurora on Melissa's Birthday." The songs appear all to have been published, though not in any edition of Blacklock's poetical works. Two of them were included in Johnson's "Scots Musical Museum," and several in "A Collection of Original Poems, by the Rev. Mr Blacklock and other Scotch Gentlemen" (1760). One of the lyrics was set to music by Blacklock and published in the "Edinburgh Magazine and Review."

Blacklock delighted to compose and dictate to his amanuenses epistles in verse; and the volume under notice contains a number of "letters in rhyme," the best of which are printed in Mackenzie's edition of his poems. The following lines from an

unpublished epistle to a clerical friend shew that Blacklock had a hearty contempt for Anglified Scots:—

Frae eard should our bald Gutchers rise,  
 How would their sauls ilk Oe despise  
 Wha southern phrase, a winsome prize,  
     For theirs could barter?  
 Yet when the ape his English tries  
     He takes a Tartar!  
 The Daw in peacock's feathers dress'd,  
 When first he mingles wi' the rest,  
 Wow! but he shaws an ally crest,  
     And pensy stride!  
 But soon the birds the fool divest—  
     Sae comes o' pride!

When the volume came into my hands a religious poem contained in it greatly interested me, for I saw at once that it was the unpublished original of the beautiful Sixteenth Paraphrase:—

“ In life's gay morn, when sprightly youth  
     With vital ardour glows,  
 And shines in all the fairest charms  
     Which beauty can disclose,  
 Deep on thy soul, before its pow'rs  
     Are yet by vice enslav'd,  
 Be thy Creator's glorious name  
     And character engrav'd.

For soon the shades of grief shall cloud  
     The sunshine of thy days;  
 And cares, and toils, in endless round,  
     Encompass all thy ways.  
 Soon shall thy heart the woes of age  
     In mournful groan deplore,  
 And sadly muse on former joys,  
     That now return no more.”

Hitherto the paraphrase had not been assigned to Blacklock with full confidence, as you will see if you turn to Maclagan's “ Scottish Paraphrases ” or Julian's “ Dictionary of Hymnology ; ” and I was glad to be able to prove that it was his work. The

complete text of Dr Blacklock's hymn is given in "The Poets of Dumfriesshire;" but I may read the two stanzas which were used as a paraphrase, after a little needful revision—possibly by John Logan or William Cameron:—

A Poem from Eccles., Chap. xii., Verse 1.

"In life's gay dawn, when sprightly youth  
 With vital ardour glows,  
 When beauteous innocence and truth  
 Their loveliest charms disclose,  
 Deep on thy spirit's ductile frame,  
 Ere wholly prepossess'd,  
 Be thy Creator's glorious name  
 And character impress'd,

For soon the shades of grief and pain  
 Shall tinge thy brightest days;  
 And poignant ills, a nameless train,  
 Encompass all thy ways.  
 Soon shall thy heart the woes of age  
 In piercing groans deplore;  
 And, with sad retrospect, presage  
 Returns of joy no more!"

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THE CARLYLE FARM AND DWELLING-PLACE AT BIRRENS;  
 AGRICOLA'S WELL ON BIRRENSWARK HILL; AND A GERMAN  
 COMPANY'S COPPER MINE AT TORBECKHILL—ALL IN THE  
 PARISH OF MIDDLEBIE. By MR JAMES BARBOUR, F.S.A.  
 (Scot.).

THE CARLYLE FARM AND DWELLING AT BIRRENS.

The old Roman Station at Birrens, examined by spadework some years ago, revealed interesting material bearing on the military life of the Romans during their occupation in Scotland; the Station derives interest also, in connection with less distant times, from its association as the abode of the ancestors of one who rose to conspicuous literary fame. "Our humble forefathers," says Carlyle, "dwelt long as farmers at Birrens, the old Roman Station in Middlebie," adding that the Birrens

tradition bounded his remotest look into the past. That Carlyle's great-grandfather died at Birrens is evidenced by a horizontal tombstone in the disused kirkyard of Pennersaugh, worked by his father when a stone mason, and bearing that John Carlyle died at Birrens, May the 11th, 1727, aged 40. The Birrens Roman Station is described by Carlyle as "A place lying all in dimples and wrinkles; grassy but inarable, with ruined houses if you dig at all; part of which is still kept sacred in lea by the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, while the rest has been dug to powder in the last sixty or seventy years by the adjoining little lairds. . . . The Caledonian Railway," he adds, "now screams and shudders over the dug parts of Birrens." The station thus described consists of two parts, the Fort proper, and the Annex, and these are now, and have been for a long time, possessed by different proprietors. The latter, with the farm of Land, was conveyed 11th October, 1664, by James Earl of Hartfell to Thomas Bell, and after several changes it is now, together with the said farm of Land, the property of Herbert C. Irving, Esq., of Burnfoot. The fort is part of the farm of Broad-lea, and remains in the possession of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

The Carlyle holding, it would seem, corresponds in area with the part of the station known as the Fort, before described as "grassy but inarable, with ruined houses if you dig at all," the ruined houses referred to being the remains of Roman masonry underlying the sward. It was bounded on the west by the Annex, on the north by the farm of Land, and on the east by Middlebie burn, on the opposite side of which is Satur. Ownership defines all the boundaries except that on the south, where the Fort is possessed in common with the farm of Broad-lea, but here the Mein Water would appear to have been the dividing line. A modern public road passes northward through the Fort, towards the east, with a stone bridge spanning the Mein Water. Before these modern works existed the Fort was cut off and isolated from the larger farm, and in such a state it would naturally lend itself to the purpose of a separate holding; that it was so applied is obvious from the circumstance that a dwelling and outbuildings were attached, situated at the south end over the steep embankment. A recent writer says: "The little farm is absorbed now by a larger one, nor can anything



more than the probable site of this ancestral cottage be traced." This is hardly correct, as the site of the cottage lay, as before stated, at the south end of the Fort. In the course of carrying out the exploratory works alluded to the writer was able to discover traces of the foundations, and in General Roy's time, about 1750, the buildings existed, and are shown in block on his plan of the station. Roy mentions also that the house was known by the name of Birrens. This little farm would extend to 10 or 12 acres of good grassy pasture land, overlying the ruins of the old Roman Station in Middlebie.

#### AGRICOLA'S WELL AT BIRRENSWARK HILL.

From many a distant standpoint one's eye, travelling over variously cultivated or pasture lands, is attracted and rests on a hill of peculiar form in the district of Lower Annandale, known as Birrenswark Hill. Seen from afar, it also commands extensive prospects, the shores of Liverpool on the one hand, the hills beyond Moffat on the other, and wide circuits in other directions. On nearer approach the hill is seen to be detached a good way on all sides, to rise up from comparatively level ground, steep, almost unclimbable, crowned with a long narrow oval-shaped tabular top; treeless, but covered everywhere with richly tinted verdure, Nature has excellently moulded her part, and the hill is beautiful in form and finish. Art adds to its wonders; the tabular top is encircled with double ramparts, in which there are several gates; spreading around the base a great fortified camp lies on the north side, another more formidable flanks the hill on the south, showing three of its gates protected by notable earthen towers. Subsidiary works stretch to the west and to the east, and a rampart and ditch circumvallation embraces military remains covering an area of something like one hundred acres, which mainly, with the exception of the natural detritus from the ramparts and corresponding silting of the ditches, continue not greatly defaced as compared with the condition in which they were left by the Romans.

Many interesting details may be gathered, but here only one will be noticed, viz., the water supply, about which the Romans were exacting. Vitruvius dedicated to Augustus Cæsar his book on Architecture in ten chapters, one of which is devoted to water supply. Treating the subject generally, he says:—"Divine Pro-

vidence has made those things neither scarce nor dear which are necessary for mankind . . . but has diffused abundantly throughout the world those things without which the life of mortals would be uncertain." He remarks on methods for finding water, its different properties according to the varied nature of the places where found, how it ought to be conducted, and in what manner it should be judged of, inasmuch as it is of infinite importance for the purposes of life, for pleasure, and for daily use. From red sandstone and flinty rocks at the base of mountains copious supplies of cold and wholesome water may, he avers, be expected.

Birrenswark rests on old red sandstone formation, and at its base there are two springs—one at the north side, intended apparently for the supply of the tabular top, being situated at the easiest point of approach thereto, and protected by an earthen rampart drawn from the place of ascent; the other spring lies at the west base of the hill. The most important and interesting source of supply, however, is a fountain in the south camp, known as "Agricola's Well." It rises near the north side of the camp, and about mid-way between the east and west, out of high and dry ground, issuing with considerable force in a stream of the thickness of a man's wrist, and rising perpendicularly to a height of about eighteen inches above the surface, when it turns over like a fountain and falls on the floor. A little artificial conduit serves to carry the water across the camp towards the south rampart, but before reaching the rampart the conduit widens out to a circular basin of considerable size, built of earth and faced internally with a pitching of flat stones. Thence the conduit passes through the rampart, but not in a straight line, a traverse being interposed for the protection of the camp, something after the manner employed for the protection of the gateways, round which the water passes to the exterior. It is an interesting question whether the fountain issues from a natural crevice in the rock, or from an artificial bore constituting what has come later to be called an artesian well. In either case this glorious fountain has with ceaseless energy poured out its cool and wholesome stream for nineteen centuries, and will doubtless continue so long as the hills endure.

Like many other works whose origin is obscured in the dim and distant past, Birrenswark Hill was regarded with something

of superstitious awe. An old man brought up in the vicinity told the writer that in his boyhood the hill was regarded as an uncanny place. Few were bold enough to stroll there on Sundays or after sun-down, and against such practices his mother frequently gave him solemn warning. Some, he said, thought the ancient Britons or the Romans had something to do with these inexplicable earthworks; but the common belief was that another potent influence had a hand in the matter, who, desirous not to have his part detected, visits with elemental manifestations of displeasure such as come there to howk for hidden treasure.

The profound present-day scepticism makes no allowance for such wanderings in superstition as these, but some measure of excuse is properly due in circumstances unusual which may sometimes occur. The writer having occasion to visit the hill for the purpose of conferring with an officer of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, on reaching the south camp, found the place wholly enveloped in a dense fog, and no one could be seen. Shortly, however, conversation was overheard, and the desired meeting ensued. The effect of the mist was curious and interesting. Normal dimensions disappeared, and the ramparts, ditches, and other details loomed hugely gigantic and undefined. The writer seemed to perceive also fitful movements of something without shape or substance, and, whether preceding, accompanying or following, the motion had some sort of relation to his own—a rare phenomenon which arose from a quick flash of light from the sun casting trembling and uncertain shadows on the yet partially dense body of the mist. When the mist quickly unrolled, the sun broke out, and the whole place was bathed in the bright sunlight of the fully opened day.

During fine summer weather the atmosphere is fragrant and breatheable, but the hill is subject to sharp and sudden storms. When the excavations had been well advanced the Secretary of the Society and other Edinburgh friends paid a visit to view the works. They had just got under cover at the farm when, without warning, a fierce storm of elements broke over the scene—lightning, thunder, hail, rain. Ultimately the rain subdued the other elements, but continued to fall, not in drops, but like stalks reaching from the clouds to the ground, where it fell with a rushing sound. After lasting about half-an-hour the storm ceased as suddenly as it had begun, the clouds shifted, leaving a bright

blue sky and warmth of sunshine ; and the howking for the hidden treasure proceeded. Seen under cover, the storm was impressive and grand.

#### THE GERMAN MINE AT TORBECKHILL.

A chapter of Horrebow's "Natural History of Iceland," entitled "Concerning Snakes," is sufficiently brief, being summed up in the words:—"There are no snakes in the Island." The present communication would seem likely, on account of the absence of available information, to be somewhat similarly characteristic. Here, however, we have at least something positive. The mine exists, and there is documentary evidence relating to it, although extending to only one sentence.

The mine, which is sufficiently characteristic of the effects of mining operations, is situated on the north face of the high ground overlooking at a little distance the Mein Water. The external opening is large, but it immediately branches into two leads, diverging in the form of the letter V. How far these have been carried underground is not known, being rendered inaccessible by accumulations of debris fallen from the roof. The working is in a rock of splintery, ragged whin, to appearance of a rusty colour. That the mine was worked for copper by a German company appears from a MS. "Description of the Stewartrie of Annandale," by Mr William Garrioch, 1723, included in Macfarlane's Geographical Collections. "Near Albie," it reads, "(E. from Middlebie Kirk  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile) is a copper milne (mine) which the German Company is just now working at." Albie, it may be noted, is adjacent to Torbeckhill. What the influences were which had induced the German company to come to Scotland and enter on such an enterprise we do not know. The army of continentals which accompanied the Prince of Orange to England may perhaps have been in some way accountable. The Prince came over 1714; the Jacobite rising followed 1715; and the German company were at work 1723. During the 1715 affair the proprietor of Torbeckhill and Minsca was a thorough-going Jacobite. Mr Peter Rae's "History of the Late Rebellion," page 184, reads:—"And one —. Bell of Minsca, a Jacobite gentleman, having insulted the Guards at Penpont, and refused to stand when the Centries requir'd him, was shot by one of 'em thro the Leg; which I the rather take Notice of, because it was the first blood

that was drawn against the Pretender." This took place about the end of July, 1715. Mr Bell of Torbeckhill has kindly allowed me to exhibit the sword of the Minsca Jacobite, his great-great-grandfather, and also another old sword found in a crevice of a quarry at Torbeckhill a few weeks ago.

The first is a gentleman's dress rapier, the hilt furnished with shell, quillon, pas-d'ane, and knuckle-bow; the blade double-edged, 2 feet 5 inches in length,  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch in breadth, 1 inch from the hilt, and tapering to a point. The blade is marked with saucer-like sinkings on both sides about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter in two rows, not opposite, but alternating so as to produce a wavy line along the centre of the blade. Writing appears on both sides of the blade, but it is not sufficiently distinct to be decipherable.

The other sword, which is entirely encrusted in rust, is a double-edged broad-sword. The blade is 1 foot  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, but possibly reduced by corrosion, and  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches in breadth. The knob at the end of the hilt is in the form of a crown, on one side of which is a slightly raised line forming a circle  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch diameter enclosing some indefinite marking.

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## *2nd February, 1912.*

Chairman—Mr G. MACLEOD STEWART.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN FISH CULTURE, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SALMONIDÆ. By Mr WILSON H. ARMISTEAD.

Though fish culture cannot claim the antiquity of agriculture, there are records which show that it was practised by the ancients, and in a crude way there has always been an attempt to cultivate and even domesticate trout in this country ever since the Church of Rome first built monasteries in England. The remains of some of the fish ponds attached to these buildings show that the monks had a considerable knowledge of fishery management, but it is also evident that they did not concentrate their energies upon trout and salmon, but preferred those fish which to-day have practically no value in the food market, such as carp, tench,

perch, and pike. The keeping of these fish was much less trouble than the maintenance of a stock of trout would have been, because there was no need to have a supply of running water, and besides their quality was not a matter of such vital importance as in the case of trout.

I examined a set of trout ponds which had been made by the monks in a monastery in Herefordshire not long ago, and I was struck by the resemblance to an up-to-date set of ponds at any modern trout farm, and I could not help thinking as I examined the remains of their work that they probably knew a great deal more than we give them credit for.

So far as I am aware, there are no records which tell of a more complete knowledge than that required for the growing and fattening of young trout procured from the streams, but in the case of the ponds in Herefordshire there was enough evidence to justify the belief that they may have had a knowledge of artificial propagation. Unfortunately, after the monasteries were abandoned and the monks dispersed there was no one to take the place of these managers of ecclesiastical trout farms, and so far as we know, all attempts at fish culture in this country ceased, with the exception of a few private fish stewes belonging to manor houses here and there.

There was a long gap before the reintroduction of fish culture took place in this country, but its development has been steady, though the difficulties have been great, and to-day there are thirty or more trout farms in this country all doing useful work. There were several influences which led to the revival of fish culture, but apart from the increasing value of trout as a food the most inspiring fact undoubtedly was the prolific nature of the fish and the enormous loss in the early stages of its development which takes place in nature. A little investigation showed that there were means of averting this loss and turning it to good account, though I do not think the early investigators realised what an enormous amount of difficulties would have to be overcome before the work had attained the comparative perfection it has to-day.

The first step was the taking of eggs by hand and their incubation under conditions which eliminated the disastrous influences they had to contend with in a natural state.

It was Frank Buckland who gave the impetus to fish culture.



which has resulted in a steady forward movement during the last forty years, and it was he who said that under natural conditions not more than one trout egg in every thousand produced a mature fish.

It was admitted on all hands that the first heavy loss took place during the egg stage, and one can imagine the enthusiasm aroused amongst the little band of experimenters when they discovered that by means of their methods they could hatch off safely somewhere about 90 per cent. The person who invented that stupid saying "Well begun is half done" has been the cause of a great deal of bitter disappointment. The much older and wiser advice contained in the words "Let he that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" is applicable to most human undertakings, and certainly much disappointment would have been saved to the pioneers in fish culture if they had borne it in mind.

Such a splendid beginning as 90 per cent. of young trout hatched off as against a probable 5 or 10 per cent. under natural conditions, was a tremendous gain, and one can well imagine how rosy the future looked. It was not long after the young fish were hatched before troubles of various kinds came along, and each one had to be studied and, when understood, guarded against, and for a long time the elimination of one trouble only left the way clear for others, so that it soon became apparent that the hatching of eggs was only a first simple step which led one into a wilderness where there was lurking trouble on every hand, with no experience or knowledge to cope with it. The rearing of young trout to yearling stage was an accomplishment only arrived at with any measure of success after many weary years. Again and again, after it was thought the matter was thoroughly understood, new troubles would come along, and a whole season's work would be lost in a few hours. Some of the most memorable recollections of my early boyhood are connected with these wholesale losses amongst young fish, and I think it was not till the early nineties that there was any security felt in the ultimate outcome of a season's work, and even to-day there are many disasters which may, and occasionally do, overtake the fish culturist, rendering this form of farming a very precarious business indeed. All the experience and costly experimenting was borne by some half-dozen men in this country, but as soon as

knowledge had been accumulated which gave a certain amount of security to the work, farms sprang up in many places. It may be said that it has taken forty years to learn how to rear trout, but during this time another and a wider field for the fish culturist was opening up. This was the application of fish culture to all the varying conditions that are to be found in our lakes and rivers throughout the country. Though the growing of trout on a trout farm was rightly considered a most important work, it soon became apparent that if a reasonable return for this labour was to be expected it was necessary to understand the needs and influences affecting the fish in a natural environment. It was found that if fish culture was to fulfil the hopes of its promoters there was much to be done in the adaptation of the more or less artificial product of the trout farm to the strenuous life in an average water where Nature deliberately besets the path of living things with difficulty and danger in order to eliminate the unfit.

After the young trout had been successfully reared it was found necessary by a judicious adjustment of the fish for its new environment and of the environment to the welfare of the fish to so arrange matters that there should be the least possible chance of the new conditions proving too severe for them. There was a very natural endeavour at one time to produce a trout which should be as large at any given age as was possible or at any rate as large as any other trout farm could produce. The idea that the largest fish were the best fish for stocking purposes became so fixed and so universally acted upon that it is with the greatest difficulty that the fish culturist can persuade those who wish to stock a water that this is not the case. Many cases of disappointment taught us that the best type of fish for stocking purposes is one which is capable of growth to a large size, but which has not been allowed to develop too fast. The reason for this is apparent if we consider what are the two sets of conditions under which a trout is reared at a trout farm and destined for some loch or river.

The training which the fish receives at the trout farm is very different from the training a wild fish gets at the hands of nature. The instinct to hunt for food is impaired unless great care is taken to keep the fish alert and smart, and this can only be done by judicious feeding. It will be apparent that a young trout with more food at hand than it can take several times a day is sure to



develop an inability to hunt for itself. This means two things--it is not fitted for the competition and rigours of a natural environment and, also, too much food and very little exercise invariably causes a diseased liver. This was the type of fish that was and is produced where the demand for the largest possible size has to be supplied. This is the type of fish which is grown for the food market, but it is useless for stocking purposes.

The type which the fish culturist has found to be the best where their life is to be passed in lake or river is a fish that, while not being underfed, has always been kept in such condition that he is a keen feeder. He will not be so large a fish as the one we have had under consideration, but he will be a much more beautiful fish with colour markings that indicate health and also the fact that he has been in the habit of supplementing his food supply from the natural food contained in the water. He is well made, lively, and hardy, a great contrast to the colourless over-fed and sluggish fish that has had his digestion ruined.

Though it is only comparatively recently that the discovery of the importance of preparing fish for their natural environment has been thoroughly understood, the earlier fish culturists were aware that there was some influence at work which rendered large trout less certain to thrive in loch or river than small ones, and a reference to the literature on the subject of ten to twenty years ago will reveal the fact that fry were most strongly recommended for stocking purposes. At this age contact with man had not impaired any of their instincts, nor had their digestions been ruined by the mistaken process which resulted in a forced growth. Fish culturists found that it was not only necessary to grow fish but to produce a class of trout fitted in every way to fend for themselves when turned into waters where they were dependent on the natural food supply, and to-day it may be said that the hand rearing of trout is carried on in such a way that this result is attained.

It was early found that no amount of care on the part of the fish culturist was sufficient to ensure a satisfactory growth in loch and river if the conditions prevailing there were not favourable to the fish. All over the country different results were arrived at as the result of stocking and in many cases these were disappointing. When the matter was gone into it was found that where results were poor invariably the native stock of fish was of poor

quality. It became evident that the work of the fish culturist must be considerably extended, and that he must learn not only how to produce good fish on a trout farm but also how to improve the existing conditions in an environment which was unfavourable to the growth of good trout. It was found that the natural productiveness of water varied as much as the fertility of the land, and taking a lesson from the farmer the fish culturist set to work to find out how poor water could be rendered more productive. This was an uphill task not only on account of its inherent difficulties but because there were so few men willing to undertake the work, and consequently knowledge which might have been rapidly accumulated was collected with the greatest difficulty and at the expense of a great deal of time. We are still working at this problem, and each year brings fresh knowledge, but when it is remembered that there are only about a dozen men in the country who are seriously tackling this work and that all of them are busy men it will be seen what difficulties have to be overcome. It is more than ten years since we arrived at a working knowledge of the chief factors which go to the improvement of a trout water, but we are aware that to-day there is still very much to be learned, and we are confident that we shall arrive at a knowledge complete enough to enable us to deal with any water as effectively as a farmer deals with his land.

It must be distinctly understood that this application of fish culture is distinct from the work on a trout farm and is necessary in order to make the growing of trout as productive of good results as possible.

I will give a simple instance showing how the work on a trout farm may be frustrated at the point when it should be most productive, i.e., when the fish are turned out into some loch or river. A certain loch in Perthshire contained a good stock of trout, but they were all very small. So small in fact as to be practically worthless either as food or as sporting fish. The owner, without consulting a fish culturist, purchased a number of trout averaging a pound and a half. These he turned into the loch in the autumn. The following June I was sent for to find out why these fish had proved a failure, and to see if it would be possible to do anything which would improve matters. The owner of the water took me out to try and catch some of the fish, and at almost every cast we had one of the small indigenous trout. Presently there

was a rise from a fish which was evidently a good deal bigger, and it soon became apparent that we had hooked one of the larger fish. This was led into the landing net with hardly a protest, and it was indeed a pathetic sight. To say that the fish was thin and lanky conveys no idea of what it looked like; it was reduced to the point of emaciation.

A knowledge of the natural conditions prevailing in this loch would have enabled the fish culturist to avoid a mistake of this kind, and the size of the native trout would have been the first thing to call his attention to the fact that all was not as it should be. He would have investigated the reason for this state of affairs, and would very speedily have found that the remedy did not consist in the introduction of large trout but in a preliminary course of food cultivation.

Strange though it may appear, many people, without having thought much about the matter, have jumped to the conclusion that good water is all that is necessary for the production and maintenance of good trout, whereas the truth is that the water stands in the same relation to the fish as the air stands to us. It is the medium in which they live. The food supply for the trout in the water and the quality of it determine the size the trout will attain and the rapidity of their growth. This food supply is composed of many kinds of small creatures such as water beetles, larvæ of flies, mollusca, various crustacea, the most valuable being the fresh water shrimp, and, as everyone knows, flies. When the food question has been brought to notice a common mistake has been made in thinking that it is only necessary to introduce this to at once put matters on a satisfactory footing, but it is essential to remember that even as the trout require food so do the creatures of which this consists.

It is precisely at this point that difficulties arise. Most of the creatures on which trout feed are dependent on various forms of vegetable growth, and those that are not are dependent for their food on other creatures that are, so that we are driven to a consideration of these vegetable growths and the conditions under which they thrive. This, one might be tempted to say, is a simple matter, and so it would be if we only had to deal with the common aquatic vegetation which may be found in any ditch, but it is with the delicate and almost invisible algæ which grow on these plants that we are concerned, and we find that here a con-

sideration of the geological formation on which the water lies is of the utmost importance.

To the casual observer grass is grass and one field is the same as another. The farmer knows that there are very many grasses with different food values and that some of the most valuable will only thrive on certain soils. It is precisely the same with regard to aquatic vegetation, and particularly with regard to those most delicate and valuable algæ which are necessary to the creatures on which the trout feed.

In determining what is to be the treatment followed for the improvement of any trout water we have to consider first the nature of the land on which the water lies or over which it flows. After that we must adapt our methods to the natural conditions, making use only of those plants or creatures which experience has taught us are best adapted to this particular locality.

The geological formation is a most important matter, and we find that in waters which are in a natural state the quality of the trout varies with the value of rock and soil. It may further be said that there is a close parallel between the fertility of land and the productiveness of the water. In practically every case which has come under my observation it has been found that water overlying good fertile land in a prosperous agricultural district produces first-rate trout, while lakes or rivers in barren districts produce poor trout.

The fish culturist is able to modify the existing conditions, and the means he adopts are very like those employed by the agriculturist, indeed the use of chemical manure has already been proved a success, and they are largely used at our trout farms, and there is little doubt that in the future this principle will be applied to lochs.

In this work we are greatly helped by the researches of the agriculturist, and, indeed, it may be said that a knowledge of scientific agriculture is essential to the production of the best results from the water.

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NOTES ON THE PARISH OF KIRKGUNZEON. By the REV. J. E. GILLESPIE, Minister of the Parish.

The earliest record that we have of Kirkgunzeon is in a charter of Uchtred, son of Fergus, Lord of Galloway, who granted to the Monks of Holm Cultram Abbey, in Cumberland, the lands of "Kircwinnyn" for six pounds sterling. The witness to this charter was Christian, Bishop of Galloway from 1154, who died at Holm Cultram in 1186. In 1207 Pope Innocent confirmed to the same Monks the lands and chapel of "Kircwynnin," which they had enjoyed peaceably for forty years in terms of the original grant of Uchtred.

The earliest example of the present spelling of the name is to be found in the grant of King David II., in 1367, to Sir John Herries of the lands of Kirkgunane, which had formerly belonged to the Monks of Holm Cultram. One writer gives as the reason for their deprivation that the Monks had taken the side of the English in the wars between the two countries. A century later, in a charter from King James III. to Sir Herbert Herries, it is written Kirkgunzene. The old form is still found in "Winning's" Well, near to Kirkgunzeon Mill.

The Church was thus dedicated to the same Scoto-Irish saint who gave his name to Kilwinning in Ayrshire; that is, the Church of Winning, in the Welsh dialect, and in Gaelic, Kilfinnan—the Church of Finnan; "f" in Gaelic becoming "w" or "gu" in Welsh. The change from the earlier to the later spelling is an example of this modification. In the ancient Irish Church there were two bishops named Finan—one Finan or Finian, bishop about 575; the other Finian, Wynnin, or Frigidian, about 579. Symson says in his history that the name is from "extrema unctione"—"Kirkgunguent." This derivation is on a par to that which the writer heard given by an Englishman when the train stopped at Kirkgunzeon station. "The Kirk requires a gun to send people to Zion!"

The "Grange" of Kircwynnin, which was granted to the Monks of Holm Cultram, seems to have been larger than the present parish. In the "Book of Caerlaverock" there is given in Latin a perambulation of the marches between the lands of Kircwynnin and Culwen, made in 1289 by Sir Robert Abbot of Holm and Sir Thomas of Culwen. Unfortunately, while some of the

places mentioned can be identified, such as "the Water of Suthayk" (Southwick), "Bracanhirst" (Breconside), "Clochoc Monachum" and "Clochoc Beg of Culwen" (that is, Cloak and Little Cloak, and Stranside and Saltflat), there is so much change in the names that it is impossible to trace the boundaries.

I need not dwell on the general features of the parish. Kirkgunzeon Lane, which rises in Lochaber and joins the Urr below Dalbeattie port, intersects it from north to south. Roughly speaking, on the south side the rock is granite, and on the north whinstone. About fifty or sixty years ago, when the stream was being deepened opposite the farm of Porterbelly, some fine fresh water pearls were got from the bed of the burn.

On the Ordnance Survey Map of 1854 a spot on the southern slope of Clawbelly Hill is marked as the supposed site of Lord Maxwell's cave. It was said that the Lord Maxwell, who was outlawed for killing the Laird of Johnstone, hid there before escaping to France. Some years ago Mr Maxwell, Terregles Banks, and the writer made a careful search over the hillside, but were unable to find any trace of the supposed cave. About the middle of the slope there was a quantity of granite stones or boulders, loosely piled together, and it is just possible that these may have blocked the entrance.

There are three round moats or camps in the parish—one near the top of Camphill, close to the march between Kirkgunzeon and Urr. This camp is about 350 feet in diameter, and is well preserved. On the farm of Torkirra, about three and a quarter miles south from Camphill, there is another camp, fully as large. This one is not so well preserved, gravel having at times been taken from it. About 580 yards north-west from this camp, at the lower end of the field, there are traces of a smaller moat. Thirty years ago the encircling ditch and mound were distinct; but owing to drainage operations they are now somewhat obliterated. In the new Statistical Account published about 1844, it is stated that on the farm of Glaisters there had been a large cairn, which had been carried away for dykes, and that in the bottom of the cairn a number of urns were found filled with ashes, which crumbled into dust when exposed to the air.

At Barclosh and Corra are the remains of two old mansion-houses of the Terregles family. A tradition has been handed



down in the parish that Mary Queen of Scots slept at Corra during her flight from Langside. In the earlier part of the last century the old house was used as a dwelling-house by the tenant of the farm, and there was then in the building an old carved oak bedstead, now removed to Terregles. One of the adjuncts of the mansion was a large pigeon-house, which was removed from Corra and re-erected near the Glebe by the Rev. Mr Heron. An old Scottish statute of 1617 enacted that no person should build a dovecot or pigeon-house unless he was possessed of lands of the yearly value of ten chalders or victual lying at least within two miles. On the top of the pigeon-house is the remains of a stone sun-dial, and on a slab above the door are the initials of William, Lord Herries, and Katherine Kerr, his wife. The tower at Drumcoltran is smaller and much plainer in style than that at Hills, in Lochrutton. Both towers belonged to the same branch of the Clan Maxwell. There is nothing noteworthy about the building, except the inscription above the doorway: "Secla : Secreta : Loquere Pauca. Verax Esto A Vino Cave. Memeto (for Memento) Mori. Misericors Esto."

The ancient church, which was erected by the monks of Holm Cultram before 1207, was used as the Parish Church till the close of the eighteenth century, when, having become very ruinous, the present church was built, in 1796. Dr Pocock, a dignitary of the Irish Episcopal Church, who made a tour through parts of Scotland in 1747, 1750, and 1760, refers to the old building as follows:—"We passed the Our on a bridge, and came in two miles to Cairgunian. I observed the little Church was old, with a round window in the East end, and a Cross in relief over the door." The length of the "Kirk" was 44 feet, and the "Queere" 20 feet, giving a total length of 64 feet. The width of both kirk and queere was 17 feet, with an arch between. The roof was of oak, and was said to have been brought from Holm Cultram. The old oak beams of the roof were used as joists, to which the seating of the present church is nailed, and are still beneath the floor. The only other part of the old church still existing is the oak pulpit. It appears from the Presbytery records that well into the eighteenth century the area of the church had never been allocated, and at the heritors' request the Presbytery did so. The queere was set apart for the com-



munion table and for the seat of the patron, who was the Earl of Nithsdale. The pulpit and place for baptism were on the south wall of the kirk next to the arch, and on the north wall at the arch was a place for ringing the bell. The bell bore the inscription: "Kirkwinnong, 1674." At the manse there are still standing a pair of whale's jaws, which were given to Rev. Mr Heron by Captain Crosbie of Kipp. They measure about 13 feet in height above the ground and 11 feet in width.

The Kirk-Session Records state that in October, 1716, James Anderson in Isles was cited to the Session, there being a flagrant report that he had been guilty of a breach of the Sabbath by carrying a sheep on his back from Armannoch to his own house. At the meeting of Session he confessed "that on a Sabbath night in harvest he had carried to his own house a lamb of his own which had wandered to Armannoch muir and which he found among their sheep." For this he was gravely rebuked and exhorted to take more heed to his conversation in time to come.

In 1721 the Session appointed that whoever are married out of the Church in time coming shall pay one shilling, which is to be laid out on some pious use.

In 1730 "Nathaniel Ferguson appeared and confessed that he had cast knots on a string during the time of a wedding in church. He was required to produce them, and loose them and destroy them before the Session, which he did. Whereupon he was sharply rebuked for such a wicked practice." Putting knots on a string was supposed to be a charm of ill omen for the couple who were being married. References to the superstition are to be found in Norse sagas, for example, in Njal's saga—"Story of Gunnhild and Hrut." The superstition, however, was not confined to northern countries, as there is an allusion to it in the decrees of an ancient church council in Spain (Statuta Eccles. Valentina Concil. Hispan).

The Rev. John Crocket, who was settled at Kirkgunzeon in 1809, told the writer, who was his assistant and successor, that when a boy at Newabbey village he had met Billy Marshall, the well-known gipsy of the eighteenth century, who told Mr Crocket that he was helping with harvest at the Haugh-of-Urr when he saw King William III.'s soldiers pass through Galloway to the Irish campaign. That was in 1690, two hundred and twenty-two years ago.

*16th February, 1912.*

PRESIDENT in the Chair.

LANTERN LECTURE: SCOTCH FORESTRY—THE ROMANCE AND BUSINESS SIDE OF IT. By Mr G. F. SCOTT ELLIOT, F.R.G.S.

The subject on which I have the privilege of speaking to you to-night is one of the most important practical questions of the day.

You have only to glance at any contour map of Scotland to see that the amount of rough pasture and hill grazing, moorland and peat moss is out of all proportion to that of true agricultural land. The area of land which is worth from 6d to 3s 6d per annum is enormous as compared with the good grazing or arable which fetches from 10s to £2 per acre.

Many of us have wandered over the moors of our Scottish uplands and can bear me out in saying that it is only when one ascends up into the haunts of the whaup, grouse, and blackcock that one realises how great is the amount of undeveloped land in Scotland.

If one were to begin a tour of inspection at the West Coast, say near Glenapp, and walk by the Merrick and Alwhat then by Queensberry and Whitecombe and afterwards visit the Moorfoots, Lammermuirs as well as the wild country of Eskdalemuirs and even the Pentlands, one could then realise the enormous area in Scotland which is still practically undeveloped.

I do not wish to venture on any estimate of the acreage capable of being afforested. That would be far too dangerous without a much more thorough and detailed examination of the country than I have yet been able to undertake, but if even a twentieth part of this area were covered with forest, though bringing in even ten shillings per acre, the whole future of Scotland would be altered.

The first question, however, is to see what the prospects are of turning all these brown heaths of Scotland into wood, but not necessarily shaggy wood.

Questions of history, climate, soil, and elevation must, of course, influence us in estimating the probability of successful afforestation.

Now it is undoubtedly the case that at the dawn of history, Scotland was a very well-wooded country. Authorities differ in their opinion as to how far there was a Highland Scots Fir forest covering what is now all moorland and peat hagg, but certainly there was at a very distant period (possibly prehistoric or even glacial) a Scots Fir forest composed of trees 18 inches to two feet in diameter over an enormous area. Dr Lewis found remains of these trees practically wherever he searched for them at altitudes of 800-1000 feet in the Merrick Kells district. In the Highlands also he found remains of two Scotch Fir forests which had apparently developed at different periods.

Even if one grants that these forests were prehistoric and that the climate has changed, the change has most certainly been for the better from a forestry point of view.

Besides this upland Coniferous forest, it seems that at the dawn of history a forest of oak, birch, and hazel apparently covered almost the whole of the lower grounds, upon which a few clearings made by the scanty population can hardly have made much impression.

But the climate of Scotland to-day is really the decisive factor, and is of more importance than its rainfall in the period of Agricola, or at the close of the Glacial period.

There is, so far as I can gather from rather insufficient data, a very close resemblance between our climate and that of British Columbia.

In British Columbia the rainfall appears to be from 60-80 inches, rising in the hills to probably 100 inches. The Western Highlands of Scotland have a similar rainfall, which appears to be on the whole similarly distributed. We have not in the Scottish uplands quite so heavy a rainfall as this, but both here and in Renfrewshire there is ample moisture for forests. So far as I can judge, I think it is safe to say that all those parts of Scotland which one would wish to afforest enjoy what is essentially a true forest climate.

In British Columbia, on soil which is only a few inches deep, often only porous gravel, trees 150 to 200 feet grow within a few feet of one another. These Douglas Firs, Sitka Cypress, Menzies Spruce, Thuja gigantea (*T. plicata*), and Tsuga Mertensiana have been tried in Scotland and the results are decidedly encouraging.

So far as regards climate, Scotland has from a forestry point of view nothing to complain of.

Nor as regards soil are there any insuperable difficulties. At Corrour, near Fort Augustus, I have seen trees growing well even though planted in peat moss on a subsoil which contains iron-salts which appear to be injurious to the roots. This is at an altitude of 1300 feet and without any specially favourable conditions of any kind. When one has seen Sir John Stirling Maxwell's plantations at Corrour and also the Black Wood of Rannoch, one is inclined to think that with drainage and on a proper system the soil will in no way prevent afforestation, at any rate by qualified foresters.

But there is one point which must be most carefully studied, which is the question of altitude.

It is the exposure to wind which limits tree growth in height above the sea, just as it limits forest formation towards the North in the Arctic regions. On the top of Criffel or of Tinto it would be unwise to attempt to grow a plantation, although quite good Larch forests exist at even 4000, and, though not so good, even at 6000 feet altitude in the Alps.

Wherever the wind is unchecked and has free scope the growth of trees is seriously affected. The enormous mass of high land in the Swiss Alps makes it possible for trees to thrive at these great altitudes.

In the Southern counties our highest hills do not reach to more than 2200 to 2764 feet. These exposed wind-harassed summits are often very scantily covered with vegetation. One finds there rock surfaces and stones which, during all the time which has elapsed since the Ice Age, have been unable to produce anything beyond a mere stain of lichen or close cushion of moss.

On the slopes of the Merrick and about Alwhat it might be possible to grow trees profitably up to 1700 feet, or possibly at even higher altitudes, but it by no means follows that you could grow them even at 1200 feet if the highest land to the North-East is only 1400 to 1500 feet altitude.

Much seems to depend on the general slope of the country and on the local configuration. I have seen at a height of barely 100 feet in Wigtownshire trees probably 60 years old but only 6 or 7 feet high and resembling exactly the miserable scrub which occurs about the upper limit of trees in the Alps.

The brow of a cliff and even the summit of a plateau over

which there is no check to the violence of a South-Westerly gale is always a dangerous place for plantation, whilst the undercliff or the steep side of a hill at almost any elevation should in most cases be comparatively easy to plant.

The truth is that it is only since aeronautics became possible that we are beginning to understand something of the way in which wind blows, and even now we do not know very much. I think a good botanist ought to be able to say from inspection of the natural vegetation the level in any locality at which planting would become dangerous.

But even if these higher levels, the summit plateaux, and higher ridges of hills are excluded, there is still plenty of forest land.

There have been many courageous planters in the past, and I have noticed here and there in the Scottish uplands woods at great heights. It should not be difficult to get the practical tree line by testing the growth of these trees, which after all is a very simple matter.

So far then as history, climate, and altitude are concerned, the prospects for Scotch forestry are most encouraging; but what is really much more encouraging are the actual facts of growth.

For many years past Scotch proprietors have here and there been carrying out long, extremely expensive, and unselfish experiments in forestry without Government assistance, and in far too many cases without scientific help of any kind. We have not yet in Scotland proper statistics, that is applying to the whole country, of the growth of trees.

In Germany and France the increment of growth is measured to decimals of a millimetre, and one can obtain the fullest information based on practical experience and rendered useful by the best scientific authority.

We cannot apply these Continental statistics to Scotch trees; we have now to make our own practical knowledge available and useful.

I have been collecting a few examples of the growth of young plantations during the last year. These seem to me of great interest, but, of course, many more observations are required before practical conclusions should be drawn.

I will first mention a few given by Mr Somerville (*Journal, Board of Agriculture, 1903*). In these the girth is taken at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground.

		Age in years.	H'ght.	Feet per year.	Girth.	Inches per year.	County.
<i>Abies amabilis</i>	...	17	32	1·8	36	2·12	Dumfries
„ <i>concolor</i>	...	25	54	2·1	55	2·02	Kirkcudbright
„ <i>grandis</i>	...	20	68	3·4	65	3·2	Lanark
„ <i>magnifica</i>	...	18	38	2·1	34	1·9	Dumfries
„ <i>nobilis</i>	...	17	42	2·4	40	2·35	„
„ <i>nordmanniana</i>	...	20	48	2·4	42	2·1	} 2 Kirkcudbright
„ „	...	16	51	1·9	50	1·9	
<i>Araucaria imbricata</i>	...	36	47	1·3	57	1·6	Dumfries
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	...	40	47	1·1	48	1·2	„
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana</i>	..	22	33	1·5	30	1·4	Ross
<i>Chamaecyparis nutkaensis</i>		15	22	1·4	22	1·4	Banff
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	...	30	48	1·6	60	2·	Edinburgh
<i>Thuja gigantea</i>	...	35	37	1·	75	2·4	Fife
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> (Menzies)	...	22	49	2·2	92	4·18	Dumfries
<i>Pinus excelsa</i>	...	30	60	2·	73	2·4	Kirkcudbright
„ <i>Laricio</i>	...	25	45	1·8	36	1·4	„
„ <i>monticola</i>	...	22	60	2·7	42	1·9	Perth
„ <i>ponderosa</i>	...	30	44	1·4	38	1·2	Dumfries
<i>Thuja gigantea</i>	..	18	41	2·2	28	1·5	Lanark
<i>Tsuga Albertiana</i>	...	25	69	1·7	51	2·	Kirkcudbright

Now the trees that have been hitherto the mainstay of Scotch forestry are Larch, Scots Pine, and Spruce.

Mr Berry of Glenstriven has very kindly allowed me to see his Forest Record. This gives the growth of a few best specimens in 12 plantations at Glenstriven. I am told that this is one of the very best places for Larch in Scotland, and it is interesting to compare the behaviour of the Larch at Glenstriven with that of these other trees which are still on trial in Scotland.

#### LARCH PLANTATION AT GLENSTRIVEN.

Age.	Girth at 4½ feet.	Inches per year.	Height.
10	10"	1	.....
10	10·5"	1·05	.....
17	17·9"	1·05	.....
17	23·8"	1·4	30 to 35 feet
20	33"	1·65	.....
21	27·6"	1·3	.. ...
22	30"	1·36	.....
24	17"	·7	.....
33	41·8"	1·26	.. ...
47	39·9"	·8	.....
50	55"	1·1	65 to 70 feet .
51	56"	1·09	.....

The average increase of girth per year of Larch in a specially favourable locality was therefore 1.14 inches per annum.

At Glenstriven a few other trees have also been measured in the same way.

		Age.	Girth at 4½ feet.	Inches per year.	Height. Feet.
<i>Abies nobilis</i>	...	9	14"	1.5	1.77
"	...	10	11"	1.1	
"	...	14	29"	2.	
"	...	26	59"	2.5	
"	...	26	66"		
"	...	26	73"		
<i>Araucaria imbricata</i>	..	48	60"	1.25	.....
<i>Picea albertiana</i>	...	10	10.5"	1.05	... ..
<i>Pinus insignis</i>	...	10	15"	1.5	.....

In our own district I have not been able to take many observations, but the following notes may be of interest. Thus there are plantations at Monreith of both Japanese Larch and Common Larch side by side. These are eight years old, and I measured ten trees as a sample in each group.

The Japanese averaged 11.5 inches in girth, showed no trace of disease, and already formed a satisfactory canopy. The European averaged 7.5 inches, and were without exception diseased. Three were obviously doomed to death, whilst the canopy was also very imperfect. At Kirkennan I saw a number of Japanese plantations which gave the following results:—

5 years old	10 to 11 feet high	average girth	6 inches
6.7 "	8 "	"	7 "
9 "	17 "	"	14 "
One tree 27 "	40 "	"	100 "

Up to the age of 27 years these results would go to show that the Japanese, with an average yearly increase of 1.4 inches, is far ahead of the European. At Murraythwaite also there is a splendid plantation of Japanese. The control experiment of European Larch, which is on the other side of the glen, has been almost extinguished by disease.

Certain Douglas Fir at Kirkennan, 23 years old, showed a girth of 36 inches. Others 35 to 40 years had a bole fully 40 feet long and average quarter girth of 11.25 inches. A group, 40 to 50 years, were from 19.25 to 21.5 inches quarter-girth. *Picea*



Albertiana, 40 to 50 years old, showed 22.25 inches quarter-girth.

On the whole, it seems to me that such evidence as I have collected shows that whereas with Common Larch it is hardly fair to reckon on a gain of one foot in height and of one inch in girth per annum, the Japanese Larch ought to increase fully 1.3 inches in girth up to 27 years.

So many of the other trees have been grown under specially favourable conditions that it is dangerous to say much, but as you see from the figures all, except one or two, show a larger increase in girth than the Glenstriven Larch. Even the monkey puzzle has beaten it.

*Larix occidentalis* is another very promising newcomer; at Monreith eight have been planted out. They have only been three years out, but the average height is already 4 feet 6 inches (one was 6 feet high with a leader 2 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long).

The seed appears, however, to be very difficult to get.

It is surely of the very first importance that more statistics of growth should be collected and more experiments made with these exotics, and especially with those from British Columbia.

At any rate experiments with Douglas Fir, Menzies Spruce, *Abies nobilis*, and indeed with almost all these mentioned seem to show that there is quite a good chance of helping out the usual trees in Scotch forestry with others which appear, so far as the evidence goes, to grow far more quickly and to be just as hardy and healthy as the Larch, Scots Pine, and Spruce, which hitherto have been our main forest crop.

But, of course, in any practical proposal, the point which finally decides the question is, will it pay?

As a matter of fact, Scotch forestry does pay when conducted carefully, as a business and with ordinary common-sense. I know at least two proprietors who obtain ten shillings per acre regularly every year from their woods. These woods are increasing in value every year, and will not reach full bearing for probably 20 or 30 years to come.

The land in one case was so covered with rock, whin, and broom that it was worth less than nothing per acre.

For those of us who know by evidence of our own eyes the extent of Scotland, both in the Lowlands and the Highlands, which is worth only from 6d to 3s 6d per acre, the prospect of

10s per acre, even if only a twentieth part is afforested, means an extraordinary increase in the wealth of our country.

But it is not so much the mere material wealth that is important as the indirect benefits which would arise from afforestation.

Forestry works in very nicely with agriculture. It is a profession that requires and produces a fine, vigorous, and virile type of mankind. Those engaged in it live an open air life which may perhaps check the deterioration of national physique which inevitably follows existence in large cities.

Moreover, there is an enormous population which would indirectly be called into existence by Scotch forestry. Few seem to realise what would result if the demands for wire netting, fencing wire, carts, tools of all kinds, as well as plants and seeds, were to increase by fiftyfold in a very few years.

I have, as the result of fourteen months in which my whole time has been given to the question, not the very smallest hesitation in saying that Scotch forestry pays even to-day when run on business lines and carefully and economically worked, but it is very difficult to prove my opinion.

The mistakes made, especially in the years 1840-1870, have been deplorable; and even to-day there are not many woods and plantations which are run as a serious and profit-making business.

There are, however, two serious objections which must be carefully considered.

When new plantations are formed, the proprietor who makes them is at once called upon to pay extra rates. That is (to put it mildly) discouraging. Moreover, should he die before these plantations are ready to be felled, his successor pays heavy death duties.

Is that the way to encourage what is after all a most valuable national industry?

It is this point that is the real weakness of the future of Scotch forestry; no ordinary person will lay out large sums of money if it is only his grandchildren who will benefit.

There was, until some fifteen years ago, exactly the same objection to rubber plantations. The rubber plants, or at least the most valuable of them, take seven years to come into bearing. Very few people at that time contemplated seven years in the tropical climate in which rubber thrives, and for this reason plantations were considered out of the question.

Now, by means of companies on a large scale, this difficulty has been got over, and the wet jungle tropics promise to become one of the richest, instead of as hitherto the poorest and least attractive districts of the earth.

It is either by co-operation or by companies feuing land for afforestation that, it seems to me, the big question will be finally tackled. But there will always be time and opportunity for every proprietor who cares to work his own estates to develop his own forests.

I cannot see how the Government—that is the British Government—could embark on an enterprise of this kind. The genius of the British nation tends to self-help, and I very much doubt if interference by well-meaning Government officials is in the least desirable:

No; if forestry, as I maintain, is a profitable industry in Scotland, relieve it of every Government burden that can possibly be removed and leave it to dree its own weird.

Government has not in the least helped those hundreds, even thousands, of Scotch proprietors who have covered the land with the beautiful woods which we see almost everywhere in Scotland. No public department has helped those who introduced the larch and the sycamore, as well as these newer conifers which appear to be even more promising than the larch.

Until one has devoted special attention to the subject, one has not the slightest conception of the amount of scientific experiment in planting carried out by Scottish proprietors. I do not believe that even in Germany or in France have there been experiments on anything like the scale of those visible in all parts of Scotland.

These have been conducted at enormous expense without help from Government, often without scientific advice, and very often from the most patriotic motives.

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**1st March, 1912.**

Chairman—S. ARNOTT, V.P.

JOHN WELSH, THE IRONGRAY COVENANTER. By the REV. S. DUNLOP, Minister of Irongray.

It is a noteworthy fact that there exists no memoir of John Welsh of Irongray, though from the Battle of Rullion Green till Bothwell Bridge he was the most conspicuous Covenanting minister in Scotland. Had he glorified God in the Grassmarket, or fallen in some scuffle with Claverhouse's dragoons, or even like his friend Blackadder of Troqueer languished in prison on the Bass Rock, some pious hand would have been moved to write his story. His last public appearance in Scotland at the Battle of Bothwell Bridge alienated the extremists, and Patrick Walker speaks of him much in the same way as Robert Browning spoke of his *Lost Leader*:—"It was the observe and saying of several solid Christians, especially Mr John Dick, that singular and cheerful sufferer at Edinburgh, the 5th March, 1684, who rode much with that gracious and worthy Mr Welsh, 'That he had always had ups and downs in his case, warm blinks and clouds, but especially from the time he took the wrong end of the plea, in pleading in favour of the indulgence and censuring the more faithful by witnessing against it, and opposing the inserting of it among the steps of our defections as one of the causes of a day of humiliation.' . . . He died at London under a cloud at last" (Patrick Walker, "Six Saints of the Covenant").

As far as men interest themselves now-a-days in the squabbles of the Covenanters between Drumclog and Bothwell Bridge, they will be more inclined to sympathise with Welsh's attitude than that of "the singular and cheerful sufferer, Mr John Dick." It was Welsh's misfortune that he died in his bed—such a death for such a man was a sort of anti-climax. The man upon whose head the price of 9000 merks was set—three times as much as that offered for any other Covenanting minister (Wodrow iii., 15)—the man who "had long set at defiance every magistrate in Scotland, riding about in a stately fashion to his conventicles with a party of armed men, who went under the name of Mr Welsh's bodyguard," ought not to have died in peace.

Kirkton's estimate of him is probably not far from the truth:—"He must have an extraordinary character, as he had an extraordinary province. He was grandchild to that incomparable man, Mr John Welsh, minister of Ayr. His father, Mr Josias, was likewise an excellent gospel minister, and because of his mighty, rousing, wakening preaching gift, he was called in the North of Ireland 'The Cock of the North.' This Mr Welsh was a godly, meek, humble man, and a good popular preacher; but the boldest undertaker that ever I heard a minister in Christ's Church old or late: for notwithstanding the threats of State, the great price set upon his head, the spite of the bishops, the diligence of all bloodhounds, he maintained his difficult post of preaching in the mountains of Scotland, many times to many thousands, for near twenty years' time, and yet always kept out of his enemies' hands. It is well known that bloody Clavers, upon intelligence that he was lurking in some secret place, would have ridden 40 miles in a winter night, yet when he came to the place he always missed his prey. I have known him ride three days and two nights without sleep, and preach upon a mountain at midnight in one of the nights. He used to say to his friends who counselled him to be more wary, that he believed God would preserve him so long as he continued among dangers, but that whenever he should betake himself to safety then his time should come, which accordingly came to pass; for, after Bothwell Bridge, when all people forsook field meetings, he went to London and there died; but was honourably buried near the King's palace, as was his grandfather." (Kirkton's History, 219, 220.) Sir George Mackenzie, "the bloody Mackenzie" of the Covenanters, described Welsh as "a person of much courage, but no parts." His life speaks for his courage, and his sermons and pamphlets rather bear out the Lord Advocate's opinion of his parts. Beyond great earnestness and sincerity they show no striking originality.

The events of Welsh's life must be sought for in the pages of Wodrow and Kirkton and in the letters and State papers of the reign of Charles II. After spending a fortnight hunting him in the British Museum, I have come to sympathise with Clavers and his dragoons. Mr John Welsh is a most elusive gentleman. Though I have by no means a full account of his life to offer you, still I feel justified in giving what I have, and hope that some

more fortunate historical student may build a fuller life upon my foundations.

As Kirkton tells us, he was "the grandchild of that incomparable man, Mr John Welsh of Ayr," and the great grandchild of a still greater man, John Knox, the reformer. John Welsh, of Ayr, married the daughter of John Knox. Carlyle has made us familiar with King Jamie's opinion of the match, and Mrs Welsh's criticism of the King's opinion. His father, Josias, was minister to a congregation of Ulster Scots at Templepatrick, in Co. Antrim. I do not know whether our Mr Welsh had the good fortune to be born in Ulster, indeed I do not know when he was born. His father died, I believe, in 1636, and we first hear of John Welsh in 1653, when he was ordained minister of Irongray. He succeeded Mr Patrick Broun, whose grave still may be seen in our kirkyard, as minister of the parish.

On January 5, 1653, he delivered his Latin discourse to the Presbytery of Dumfries, "*De Qualificatione Membrorum Ecclesiae Visibilis.*" Whether it was a piece of very choice Latinity we do not know, but it "gave great satisfaction to the refreshment of the brethren." (Presbytery Records, Dumfries.)

On January 21, 1653, "after sermon made by Mr Hew Henryson (minister of Dumfries) calling upon the name of the Lord and the imposition of the hands of the brethren then present upon Mr John Welshe, before the eldership and remnant people of that congregation and others, the said Mr John was solemnly admitted to the function and charge of the ministry of the said place; and ane ordinaire was given to Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Francis Irving to tak workmen with them and appreciat the Manse that so Mr Patrick Broun, late minister there, may get satisfaction, and the said Mr John may get possession therein. This was done after the return of his edict and execut and endorsate" (Idem). Mr Melvil's and Mr Irving's valuation of Irongray Manse was 500 merks. And Mr John Welsh was instructed to pay Mr Patrick Broun £50 Scots for his deed of locality.

From the memoirs of Blackadder, his friend and neighbour of Troqueer, we have a glimpse of his early ministry in Irongray. These two, with Johnstone of Lochrutton, united in a plan of joint pastoral visitation and catechising in their respective parishes. (Blackadder's Mem. p. 34.) From his pamphlet, "A Friendly Advice," we learn his opinion of "the powers that be" during this

period. "Unparalleled villany was preached against the King's Majesty's sacred Person by ungodly and perfidious men (the Sectaries) shall therefore the Cause and Covenant bare the blame thereof? We cannot judge a cause by its events; let them be accursed who had any hand in the Regicide, but let not the Covenant be charged as the cause thereof." Cromwell and his Sectaries were not popular in Scotland, though it must be confessed the Kirk had peace under their rule, and Scotland had never been so prosperous since the Reformation.

In 1660 the rule of the Sectaries came to an end, His Sacred Majesty, Charles II., the one Covenanted King of Scotland, ascended the throne. Welsh was soon to experience that if the Sectaries chastised Scotland with Whips, the Stuarts would chastise her with Scorpions. On January 1, 1661, Parliament met, with the Earl of Middleton as Commissioner. It rescinded the proceedings of every Parliament since 1633, it passed between January 1 and July 12 three hundred and ninety-three Acts, and declared the King "Supreme Governor of this Kingdom over all persons and in all causes." besides voting him £40,000 sterling a year. Welsh in his sermon described Middleton's Parliament "a drunken Parliament"—a title by which it is still known in history. One of his heritors, David M'Brear of Newark, a member of this Parliament, accused Welsh before the Privy Council; and Maxwell of Munches, Steward-depute of Galloway, was sent to arrest him. On a Sabbath night Maxwell arrived at the Manse, but Welsh begged him to allow him to preach the next day at Holywood, being the Monday after the Communion, "which liberty Maxwell (though a papist) civilly granted." Next morning most of the parish and some brother ministers assembled to convey him a little on his way. "There was great sorrow and outcrying of the poor multitude beside the water of Cluden, where he was to take to horse. It was with great difficulty he got from among them, who were almost distracted, and cried most ruefully with tears. But he being resolute, would not be detained; and after two or three ministers had knelt down and prayed, he got to horse, the people still holding him. The ministers and he rode quickly through the water to win from among them; many, both men and women, brake in on foot after him, and followed on the road a good space, with bitter weeping and lamentation." (Blackadder's Mem. 89-90, Kirkton's Hist. 268-9.)



Welsh was carried to Edinburgh, but allowed to live in private lodgings instead of being incarcerated in the Tolbooth. His libel was pursued before the Lords of the Articles, but owing to the testimony of the witnesses not agreeing, he was dismissed, and returned to the parish in June, 1662.

While Welsh was being tried at Edinburgh, Parliament had fully restored Episcopacy and lay-patronage. It enacted that all ministers should before September 20, 1662, receive presentation from their lawful patrons and seek collation from their bishops or demit their cure. The order was not obeyed, and therefore the Privy Council sitting at Glasgow on October 1, ordained that if ministers did not obey by November 1, parishioners should cease to acknowledge them as their ministers and refuse to pay stipend. It was believed that most ministers would obey rather than sacrifice their livings. As a matter of fact, one-third of the ministers refused. The obstinacy or the consciousness of so many made the Council pause, and they extended the day of grace from November 1 till February 1, 1663.

Whatever other ministers might do, the grandson of John Welsh, of Ayr, and the great-grandson of John Knox, was not the man to seek collation from a Bishop; and if, as I believe, David M'Brear of Newark was the lay-patron of Irongray, could Welsh have gone to him to ask the living, or would he have received it had he asked? Welsh was outed like Blackadder of Troqueer and Gabriel Semple of Kirkpatrick-Durham.

A curate, Bernard Sanderson, was appointed to succeed him, but his settlement was effected not without strenuous opposition on the part of the parishioners. "A party of messengers was sent to intimate that the said Mr Bernard was to enter that Kirk for their ordinar. Some women of the parish (headed by one Margaret Smith), hearing thereof, placed themselves in the Kirk-yard with their ordinary weapons of stones, whereof they had gathered great store; and when the messengers and party of rascals with swords and pistols came, the women maintained their ground, defending themselves under the kirk dyke, that after hot skirmish the curate messengers and party of soldiers, not presuming to enter, did at length take themselves to retreat, with the honourable blae marks they had got in that conflict." Not only the women, but two of the heritors, signalled themselves in the

fray. William Arnott, of Little Park, and George Rome, of Beoch, stationed themselves at the door of the Kirk. Arnott drew his sword, saying, "Let me see who will place a minister here this day." T. M'Brear (should it not be D. M'Brear?) attempted to prevent Arnott drawing his sword.

The inhabitants of Irongray were called in question for this day's uproar. On May 5, 1663, "The Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council being certainly informed of very great insolencies lately committed within the Burgh of Kirkcudbright and parish of Irongray by the tumultuary arising of diverse persons within the same, and in a barbarous manner opposing the admission of certain ministers who were appointed and came to serve there appoint the Earls of Linlithgow, Galloway and Annandale and Lord Drumlanrig, and Sir John Wauchop of Nidry or any two of them to repair thither and call the plotters, and if necessary, secure their persons, and send them to Edinburgh to answer before the Lords of the Council." The Earl of Linlithgow was further instructed to take with him 100 horse and 200 foot of His Majesty's Guards, and to take free quarters in Kirkcudbright and Irongray, and raise money to satisfy the said horse and foot, viz., 30 shillings Scots per horseman and 12 shillings Scots per footman during their abode their by and altour the paying the officers their ordinary pay." (Privy Council Reg. 3rd Series i., 359.)

On May 30, 1663, the Privy Council ordered the heritors of Irongray to find caution of £100 stg., for each defaulter, and express their sorrow for the late tumult. William Arnott and Margaret Smith, the male and female ringleaders, were brought to Edinburgh and lodged in the Tolbooth. Here they became the objects of pious care and interest, being visited by ministers and others, who prayed with them and exhorted them as suffering for righteousness' sake, insomuch that the keeper of the Tolbooth was ordered to "take notice of who visits them, and their discourse and carriage towards them." The prisoners appeared before the Council. William Arnott was fined 5000 merks (afterwards, on petition, reduced to 1000), and ordered to make public acknowledgment of his offence on two Sabbath days at the Kirk of Irongray in presence of the whole congregation. Margaret Smith received a heavier sentence—transportation to the Barbadoes, but she told her tale so innocently before the judges that the sentence was not executed.

Before I resume the story of John Welsh, I must, after the manner of Lactantius, "*De Mortibus Persecutorum*," tell what became of the persecutor David M'Brear of Newark. I do so in words of the good Kirkton "one David M'Brear in the paroch of Irongray, a landed man, a grievous persecutor, who accused Mr John Welsh, his paroch minister, upon his life before Middleton's parliament, being upon a time hiding himself among his tenants (because he was in hazard of being imprisoned for debt) was providentially encountered by one John Gordon, a merchant in the North, and just such ane one as himself: and because M'Brear looked somewhat sad, Gordon apprehends him to be a Whigge and requires him to go with him to Dumfries, which M'Brear refused to do because he feared the prison for his debt. Gordon suspects him the more strongly, and because he had come south to be agent in the cause of a Northern curate, and had borrowed Chambers, the infamous curate of Dumfries his sword, this sword he draws and presents to M'Brear: the other either resisting or fleeing is presently run through the body by Gordon with Chambers' sword. After this he vaunted he had killed a Whigge; but when the country people saw the body, they told him the dead man was as honest a man as himself (and just so he was); where-upon he is carried to Dumfries, and there, by the Earl of Dumfries and Nithsdale, is condemned to be hanged to-morrow, which sentence was accordingly execute: which made the people of the country say, the Lord made one enemy destroy another, and that it was a curst thing to persecute Whiggs."

It was probably in February, 1663, that John Welsh was outed from Irongray. He seems to have sought refuge with John Neilson of Corsack, where other outed preachers, Gabriel Semple of Kirkpatrick-Durham and Blackadder of Troqueer also found shelter. Ejected ministers were forbidden to reside within twenty miles of their parishes, six miles of Edinburgh or any cathedral church, or three miles of any royal burgh. "Conditions which," as Wodrow remarks, "the nicest geographer would find hard to satisfy." They were pretty nearly satisfied in Welsh's case. At Corsack Welsh's first wife died. (Wodrow ii., 4, 5, 6, Veitch's *Memoirs*, Blackadder 24.) It was probably too at Corsack that Welsh penned his pamphlet, "*Fifty and Two Directions to Irongray*." The title from the earliest edition I have come across (1703) is "*Fifty and Two Directions*, written by that famous and

eminently faithful servant of Jesus Christ, Mr John Welch, to his Paroch of Irongray." There is a reprint of it in 1712, "whereunto is annexed now a friendly advice, etc., containing reasons proving the unlawfulness of prelacy and of submitting to prelates and their curates, by the same author." The date of the "Fifty and Two Directions" can be fixed by a quotation near its close. Welsh is replying to the charge that the Covenanters are guilty of schism—"They have gone from us, not we from them, for we continue in the way. We are sworn unto these twenty-three years since our reformation." This reformation I take to be the Solemn League and Covenant, 1643, the first head of which was the reformation of religion in the British Isles "according to the Word of God." The greater part of these Directions were such as any earnest minister might give his flock, though throughout we feel that they were written to warn his parish against Episcopacy and hearing curates. "Dear friends ye know by the laws of the land we were put to a necessity either to comply with Episcopacy contrary to our Covenanted Ingagements, or to be no more permitted to labour among you, being by Act of the Council banished out of the Parish and Presbytery. And now knowing that after our departure shall grievous wolves enter in amongst you, not sparing the flock. Therefore we have judged it our duty to leave you this small testimony and token of our care and affection to you, which is a legacy by a man dead in law as to his office among you, and all I crave of you is that ye would accept it in love and make it your own." In the last direction Welsh argues at length the question, "What say you to our hearing these men that have intruded themselves in your places?" And he comes to the conclusion that as they have no call either from God or the congregation, it is absolutely unlawful to hear them. "If it be sin to countenance an usurper in civil government, how much more an usurper in the House of God."

In the 13th Direction he tells his people, "the time that ye used to set apart for the Lord's worship on the Sabbath days and at other times, let it now be devoted to Him in private and secret duties, seeing public opportunities of hearing preaching is taken away from you."

In the 26th Direction we come to the question of conventicles, "My next advice to you is, and I pray you take it in love, if you shall see at this time a difference in opinions and practices

amongst us who were ministers of the Gospel, some standing and sticking at things that others can digest, be not offended at this, it has been so always since the beginning, it is no new thing, if there be some that leave off preaching when others continue to preach, though against law, I say offend not at either; when both keep right in the main."

Welsh was among the first who decided to preach in the fields against law, indeed, he is credited with being the inventor of the field conventicles of the Covenanters. In January, 1666, he was proclaimed for this, along with Semple and Blackadder, by the Privy Council. "Particularly the said Mr John Welsh does presume frequently, at least once every week, to preach in the parish of Irongray in the Presbytery of Dumfries, and himself and those who frequent his conventicles do convene together armed with swords and pistols; at which meetings he also baptizes children which are brought to him by disaffected persons." (Wodrow ii. 6.)

From Veitch's Memoir we have an account of one John Osburn of Keir who got into trouble over these preachings. It is related in his own words—"In the first place when the ministers preach in the hills to wot, when Mr John Welch, Mr Gabriel Semple, and other eight with them, were denounced, and I was also denounced with them as being a muntan (mountain) beddall (i.e., a person who summoned hearers to the hill preachings), as likewise afterhand I was forced to flee, and afterwards returning home, was apprehended at my Master's harvest by a party of Turner's men, being taken to Dumfries, was interrogate who they were that preached and who were the auditors of my acquaintance; the which I absolutely refused upon all hazards. Thence he (Turner) put me in the Thieve's Hole and threatened me with starving, keeping the key the space of three days himself, thinking to make me confess whom I knew to be preachers and hearers, the which I absolutely refused, afterwards my wife went to one of the tune (town) bailies declaring to him that she would go to Edinburgh and complain. Afterwards I was brought out of the prison and put in another, where I received meat and drink otherwise I had starved."

The Government despatched Sir James Turner to Dumfries and Galloway to suppress these field preachings, and to exact fines from those who were accused of non-attendance on church by the curates. His force, however, was quite inadequate for the task.

He had but seventy men at his command, and so scattered here and there that only thirteen were together in one place. He boasts that he executed his commission in a generous spirit. "I never came the full length of my orders." (Andrew Lang's *Hist. of Scot.*, vol. iii., 307.) However this may be, the inhabitants of the Stewartry broke out in open rebellion at Dalry in the middle of November, 1666. They marched on Dumfries, making a rendezvous at Irongray Church, seized Sir James and his fines before he had time to fight or flee. He would have been pistoled but for the intervention of Neilson of Corsack, a kindness he in vain endeavoured to repay when Corsack was captured and condemned after Rullion Green.

It is unnecessary to retell the story of the Pentland Rising. It is enough to say that the insurgents marched north, under Colonel Wallace, hovering for a while between Glasgow and Edinburgh, threatening both cities. The citizens were terrified, and the country folk indifferent. A force was speedily collected, under Tom Dalziel of Binns, who had fought in the wars of Muscovy, which met the insurgents at Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills. The insurgents were routed, and their leaders fled. Welsh was at the battle, and left it with the insurgent leader, Colonel Wallace. Whether he fled with Wallace to Holland I cannot say, but for nearly two years we hear nothing about him. Two parishioners and namesakes of Welsh were present at the battle, Welsh of Skaar and Welsh of Cornlee. They were among those who were exempted from the indemnity after Pentland.

Discussing the paper, Mr G. W. Shirley asked if the lecturer could give any further information about David M'Brair of Newark? His identity had considerably puzzled him (Mr Shirley). The M'Brairs of Almagill, of whom at least five had been Provosts of Dumfries in succession from 1453 onwards, possessed after the Reformation the New Wark in Dumfries. Hence some of them were known as "of New Wark." On the 26th of January, 1608-9, a David was baptised as son of Robert M'Brair of Almagill, Provost of Dumfries in 1599, and Sheriff of Dumfriesshire, 1619, and Margaret Murray, his wife. From other sources he appeared as the third son. In 1646 he was appointed tutor to his nephew and nieces, the children of his eldest brother, John of Almagill. There was a David of Newark in 1648-9 and



1656, but there was also a David of Almagill in 1647. Did the two designations refer to the same person? Was the Newark in Irongray confused in any way with the New Wark in Dumfries? It seemed as if there were two persons, for Mariote Maxwell, wife of David M'Brair of Almagill was in 1660 appointed tutor to her son, Robert M'Brair of Almagill, who was served heir to his father in 1664. David M'Brair of Newark was murdered in 1667. He appeared to have been succeeded also by a Robert M'Brair, who appears as "of Newark" in 1673. Could the descent of David M'Brair of Newark be traced?

Referring also to the murder by John Gordon, Mr Shirley said he had found the following document among the Burgh Records of Dumfries:—

"Ane order by my Lord Annindaill and Lord Drumlangrike to the magistrats to cause them haue the toun in armes and to goe to the bridgend of Drumfreis to attend the execution of Johne Gordoune.

Drumfreis the last of May 1667.

These requyereth zow in his Maties [Majesty's] name to haue ane company of foot belonging to zor toun armed the best way they can be Boden; To be by ten of the klok this day at zour gaule [gaol] stair foot to receave the persone of Jon Gordoun now in your gaule and to guard him from thence to the bridgend of Drumfreis and ther to attend till he be putt to a tryall for his confessed murdering of David M'brair and giff he sall be fand guiltie and adjudged to die that the said companie attend the execution and do sutch dewtie as is vsuall for guardes to do in sick caices. This ze sall not faill to do as ze will be ansherable.

ANNANDALE.

DRUMLANGRIG.

ffor the proveist and baillies of the burgh  
of Drumfreis."

From a document of the same date, which unfortunately he did not have with him, Mr Shirley gathered that John Gordon was executed on the Gallowhill, in Troqueer parish.



## WEATHER OF 1911 IN RELATION TO HEALTH. By Dr J. MAXWELL ROSS.

The following notes are compiled from the returns of four meteorological stations in the county, viz., Eskdalemuir 778 feet, Drumlanrig 191 feet, Dumfries 155 feet, and Comlongon 74 feet above sea level, and from the returns made by registrars of births, deaths, and marriages. It may be most convenient to present them under the heads of each month.

January.—During this month the conditions were mild with high barometer, high mean temperature, low rainfall, and winds chiefly from south-west. A violent westerly gale was experienced on the 10th and 11th with heavy falls of rain, sleet, and snow, but the weather thereafter almost to the end of the month was extremely mild, like the Januaries of 1898 and 1906. The average of the barometer readings at the four stations was 29.916 inches; the average mean temperature 38.8 degs. F., the humidity 90 per cent., the rainfall 2.56 inches, the average number of wet days being 17. The total number of deaths recorded in the County Landward and six Burghs was 70, giving a rate of 14.520 per 1000. The average death-rate of this month during the ten previous years being 18.384, the “expected” deaths may be stated at 88, or 18 more than the actual number. The chief causes of death were the circulatory diseases, pneumonia, phthisis, and cerebral hæmorrhage. This was one of two months, October being the other, when the phthisis mortality was at its highest for the year. Among the notifiable diseases scarlet fever was the most prominent, none of the others appearing in the list. Thirty-one cases, a much greater number than usual, came under observation, and these were fairly scattered over the county.

February showed two definite types of weather, the first half of the month being characterised by anti-cyclonic conditions with high barometer, low mean temperature, and low rainfall; the second half by storms of wind and rain, low barometer, high mean temperature, and high rainfall, this being to such an extent that the total fall for the month was considerably in excess of the average. Winds during this period were chiefly from south-west, and frequently reached the force of a gale. The average of the barometric readings was 29.694 inches; the average mean

temperature 38.4 deg. F., the humidity 89 per cent.; average rainfall 5.91 inches, the average number of wet days being 19. The total number of deaths was 66, giving a rate of 15.155 per 1000. The average death-rate of this month during the ten previous years having been 19.507, the expected deaths may be stated as 85 or 19 more than the actual number. Circulatory diseases, pneumonia, and cerebral hæmorrhage were again among the principal causes of death, but the phthisis mortality was low. There was a considerable diminution in the cases of scarlet fever as compared with the previous month, the number coming under observation dropping to 16. A few cases of diphtheria began to appear.

March.—During this month there was a prevalence of keen north-easterly winds, giving an impression of great cold, but the mean temperature was practically about the average or very slightly above. The barometer was fairly high and the rainfall low, there being a considerable period of drought. The average pressure was 29.644 inches, the mean temperature 39.6 deg. F., the humidity 83 per cent., the rainfall 1.61 inches, the number of rainy days 14. The total deaths registered were 67, giving a rate of 13.897 per 1000. The average death-rate was 16.933 and the expected deaths 81. The principal diseases contributing to the mortality of the month were cerebral hæmorrhage and cancer. The circulatory disease mortality was at its lowest for the year, and it is of interest to note that mortalities from phthisis, pneumonia, and bronchitis were low. The number of cases of scarlet fever coming to our knowledge was one less than in February. Diphtheria cases continued to occur, but did not increase.

April.—This month was somewhat breezy, in spite of the fact that the barometric pressure remained high during the first half, and anti-cyclonic conditions prevailed. The mean temperature was low, intense cold being sometimes experienced during the day. The rainfall was above the average at most stations in the north and west. The average of the barometric readings was 29.629 inches; the mean temperature, 42.7 degs. F.; the humidity, 82 per cent.; the rainfall, 4.56 inches; and the rainy days, 18. The deaths registered were 97, the rate being 20.793 per 1000. The average death-rate was 17.875, and the number of expected deaths 83. The death-rate is the highest of any month in the year. The chief contributors to it were the circula-

tory diseases, pneumonia and bronchitis, cancer, phthisis, and influenza. The heavy mortality may be adduced as an illustration of the truth of the old proverb, that "A green Yule and a white Pasch make a fat kirkyaird," inasmuch as the weather conditions of December, 1910, were mild, while those of April were severe and falls of snow were recorded at all the stations. The cases of scarlet fever continued, however, to fall, and there was a considerable drop in diphtheria, one case only coming to our knowledge.

May was a month of mild weather, with a variable distribution of pressure, and very high mean temperature (highest of any year in Scotland since 1896), which was experienced more particularly towards the close. The rainfall was in excess, but the rainy days were fewer than usual, and about the middle of the month we began to experience the period of drought which was so marked a feature of the year and caused so much anxiety as regards water supplies and vegetation. The average of the barometric readings was 29.662 inches; the mean temperature, 51.1 deg. F.; the humidity, 79 per cent.; the rainfall, 2.60 inches; and the rainy days, 11. The deaths registered were 69, giving a rate of 14.312 per 1000. The average death-rate was 16.172, and the expected deaths 78. Circulatory diseases showed their maximum mortality for the year, the deaths due to it being 23 per cent. of the whole. Phthisis and cerebral hæmorrhage also contributed largely to the rate, but there was a considerable fall in the mortalities from pneumonia, bronchitis, and cancer. Infectious diseases were few in number, there being only nine cases of scarlet fever, two of diphtheria, and one of enteric fever.

June.—The first half of June was hot, dry, and anti-cyclonic; the latter half cold and at times wet, the rainfall being very slightly in excess. The average of the barometric readings was 29.633 inches; the mean temperature, 58.4 deg. F.; the humidity, 77 per cent.; the rainfall, 2.99 inches; and the wet days, 14. The deaths registered were 62, giving a rate of 13.290 per 1000. The average death-rate 14.225, and the expected deaths 66. Circulatory diseases again showed a high mortality, and after them phthisis, cancer, and digestive diseases were the principal contributors to the death-rate. Digestive diseases were at their maximum mortality for the year; but cerebral hæmorrhage, pneumonia, and bronchitis were low. Infectious disease returns

show a continued fall, there being only five cases of scarlet fever, one of diphtheria, and one of enteric fever.

July.—This month was characterised by exceptionally fine, dry weather with high barometer, high mean temperature, low rainfall, drought, and brilliant sunshine. The average of the barometric readings was 29.799 inches; the mean temperature, 60.1 deg. F.; the humidity, 79 per cent.; the rainfall, 1.67 inches; and the rainy days, 14. The total deaths were 54, giving a rate of 11.201 per 1000. The average death-rate was 14.463, and the expected deaths were 70. The principal diseases contributing to the rate were again the circulatory, cerebral hæmorrhage, and phthisis. Pneumonia continued low, and bronchitis did not appear in the list of causes of death. Neither did the ordinary digestive diseases, though the diarrhoeal diseases were at their maximum for the year. There was an increase of infectious diseases, the scarlet fever cases being 10, diphtheria six, and one case of enteric fever was reported.

August.—The conditions in this month were very similar to those of July, though perhaps as a whole the weather was of a breezier character. The warmth was, nevertheless, without precedent in the records of the county, though there was some prevalence of winds from the north-east. The average of the barometric readings was 29.644 inches; the mean temperature 59.6 deg. F.; the humidity, 86 per cent.; the rainfall, 2.93 inches; and the rainy days, 13. The deaths were 43, giving a rate of 8.919 per 1000 (the lowest of the year). The average death-rate was 13.289, and the expected deaths 64. Circulatory disease mortality was near its minimum (the actual minimum having occurred in March). Cancer mortality rose considerably above the July figure. Digestive diseases again appeared in the list, with a rate approximating that of June (the maximum). Pneumonia was at its minimum, and the rate from bronchitis was again nil. Scarlet fever and diphtheria again receded, there being seven cases of the former and one of the latter.

September.—During a considerable part of this month the fine warm weather continued, but towards the end it became cool, changeable, and showery. The long-continued drought told heavily on many of the water supplies, and caused some anxiety. The average of the barometric readings was 29.702 inches, the mean temperature 52.3 deg. F., the humidity 88 per cent., the

rainfall 2.39 inches, and the rainy days 11. The deaths were 62, the rate being 13.290 per 1000. The average death-rate was 11.493, and the expected deaths 54. Circulatory diseases continued to yield the heaviest mortality, but the rate from this cause was the fourth lowest of the year. The cancer mortality rate was very slightly above that for August. The figure for phthisis (1.072) was slightly below that for the year (1.110). Pneumonia showed an increase on August, but remained low, and bronchitis re-appeared in the list of causes of death. The cases of scarlet fever were eight, and of diphtheria three.

October.—From the 1st to the 19th the weather was anti-cyclonic in character with a prevalence of winds from easterly points, a high barometer, low rainfall, and rather low mean temperature. With the latter date the long-continued drought of 1911 came to an end after lasting for about four months. From then to the 31st there were frequent wind and rain storms. The average of the barometric readings was 29.597 inches, the mean temperature 45.9 deg. F., the humidity 86 per cent., the rainfall 4.09 inches, and the rainy days 11. The total deaths were 64, giving a rate of 13.275 per 1000, practically equal to the average rate 13.243, so that the expected deaths tallied exactly with the actual number (64). The phthisis mortality was at its maximum (1.659) as in January. It was the principal contributor to the death-rate, being in excess of the circulatory disease mortality. After these came cancer and cerebral hæmorrhage. Pneumonia and bronchitis continued low, as did also diarrhoeal and digestive diseases. Cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria began to increase, there being sixteen of the former and twelve of the latter.

November.—The cyclonic conditions of the latter end of October continued until the 19th of November, after which until the end the weather was more favourable, but over the whole month the barometer was low, the rainfall high, the mean temperature about normal. The prevailing winds during the first part were from westerly points, during the latter from northerly and easterly. The average of the barometric readings was 29.303 inches, the mean temperature 40.7 deg. F., the humidity 88 per cent., the rainfall 5.98 inches, and the rainy days 20. The deaths were 70, giving a rate of 15.005 per 1000, which is very slightly in excess of the average, 14.903, so that the actual number of deaths is one above the expected, 69. The mortalities

from circulatory diseases, pneumonia, bronchitis, and cancer were high; those from phthisis, diarrhœa, and other digestive diseases low. Phthisis mortality was at its minimum for the year. Cases of diphtheria increased, but those of scarlet fever fell, there being twenty of the former and eleven of the latter.

December.—This month according to the meteorological office was the most disturbed, wettest, and stormiest month of the year over the United Kingdom, and this holds true of Dumfriesshire. The barometer was low. Winds frequently approached the force of a gale. They were chiefly from the south-west, so that the month though wet and stormy, was unusually mild, the mean temperature being at least 3 deg. F. above the average. At many of the rainfall stations it was noted that the greater portion of the rainfall occurred during the night. The average of the barometric readings was 29.230 inches, the mean temperature 40.9 deg. F. (slightly greater, it will be observed, than that for November), the humidity 91 per cent., the rainfall 7.89 inches, and the rainy days 27. The total deaths were 86, giving a rate of 17.838, which is somewhat in excess of the average, 16.275, so that the actual deaths are more than the expected number (78). The pneumonia and bronchitis mortalities—the chief contributors to the death-rate—were considerably above that from circulatory diseases. Cerebral hæmorrhage and cancer were next in order, and were followed at no great distance by whooping-cough, which was particularly prevalent in many parts of the county at this time. The cases of scarlet fever were seventeen and of diphtheria fifteen.

The averages of the barometric readings for the year at each of the four stations were:—Eskdalemuir, 29.090 inches; Drumlanrig, 29.743; Dumfries, 29.781; and Comlongon, 29.864. There were eight months in which the mean pressure was greater than the yearly mean, three (October, November, and December) in which it was less, and one (April) in which the figures closely corresponded. The mean temperatures for the year were:—at Eskdalemuir, 45 deg. F.; at Drumlanrig, 47.6 deg. F.; at Dumfries, 48.4 deg. F.; and at Comlongon, 48.6 deg. F.—giving an average over the county of 47.4 deg. F. The mean of all the maximum readings of the thermometer was 54.5 deg. F. The mean of all the minimum 40.2 deg. F. The absolute highest temperature recorded was 89 deg. F., which was observed



at Drumlanrig on 12th July; the lowest 16 deg. F., and this was the reading both at Eskdalemuir and Drumlanrig on 1st February. The aggregate rainfalls were 60.93 inches at Eskdalemuir; 49.69 at Drumlanrig; 37.34 at Dumfries; and 36.75 at Comlongon. I am able by the courtesy of Mr H. C. Irving, Convener of the County, Provost Halliday, and Mr Lyall to give the rainfalls of three other stations, viz., Burnfoot, Ecclefechan, Lochmaben, and Ewes, the yearly aggregate of these being 39.20, 37.40, and 53.48 inches respectively. The falls for the seven stations give an average of 44.97 inches. The rainfall over seventy-three stations of the Scottish Meteorological Society averaged 38.88 inches. There was a long drought, as already indicated in the monthly notes, from about the middle of May to the middle of October, but the question whether this year as a whole was a dry one would provoke very varying answers. At Dumfries the fall was 0.91 inches below its average; at Drumlanrig it was 5 inches above. The rainfall over the seventy-three stations in Scotland was like that at Dumfries, just 0.91 inches below its average. The observations on wind directions show that 21 per cent. of these were from easterly points, more particularly north-east; 49 per cent. from westerly, the greater number from south-west; 6 per cent. from due north; the same proportion from due south; and 18 per cent. were variable.

To turn now to the vital statistics, the total number of deaths was 810, and the rate per 1000 14.270. This is below the average of the previous ten years (15.5035), a point which may be otherwise and more plainly expressed by saying that the "expected" deaths were 880, or seventy more than the actual number, so that 70 lives have been continued into 1912 which might on these calculations have been expected to come to an end in 1911. How far this may have been due to seasonal influences it is difficult to say, and as so many factors go to the making of a death-rate one must be careful not to make one's inferences too wide. An examination of the monthly figures of actual and expected deaths brings out one or two points of interest. During eight months, January, February, March, May, June, July, August, and October the actual number of deaths was less than the expected by 101, while in the four remaining months, April, September, November, and December, the actual exceeded the expected by 31. The months in which the



death-rates were low were months which were characterised by a fairly high barometer, the average of the readings being in each case above the yearly mean. The high barometer is usually indicative of favourable and settled weather. They also with the exception of October showed a fairly high mean temperature. Both of these are certainly favourable to a low death-rate. Of the four months with high death-rates April showed a barometric pressure about average, a low mean temperature, "intense cold being sometimes experienced during the day," and a comparatively high rainfall. The barometer in September was a little above the yearly mean; the earlier part of the month was fine and warm, but the latter part cool, changeable, and showery, and the mean temperature was considerably below its average. Usually this month exhibits the lowest death-rate of the year, but in 1911 it changed places in this respect with August. November and December were both unsettled months with low barometric readings and high rainfalls. Though the temperature of November was about normal, and that of December considerably above, the wet and unsettled weather seems to have been a prolific cause of catarrhs and chills, and the fatalities from such diseases as pneumonia, bronchitis, and whooping-cough were particularly high, more especially in December, when they were at their maximum, the combined rates amounting to 6.85 per 1000. The next highest combined rate (4.07) was in April, and both months contrast greatly in this respect with July and August, when the combined death-rates from these causes were considerably below one per 1000.

With regard to other causes of death those from scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, and septic diseases were low. The pulmonary phthisis rate was also favourable, though it does not show any decrease on that of 1910, when it was 1.1 per 1000. Its course during the year was remarkable, being at its highest in January and October, next highest in April, and at its lowest in November, when it was very low indeed (0.2). The malignant disease death-rate was fairly high, especially in the month of April. Circulatory disease mortality was at its maximum in May, next highest in April, and at its minimum in March. Apoplectic diseases were most fatal in April, least so in August. Of other diseases subject to seasonal influences the diarrhœal and digestive do not show high death-rates. The diarrhœal

diseases are usually most fatal in summer and autumn, and there was a slight rise in the death-rate during July, but the rate in October was with that of January the lowest of the year. The fatalities from the other digestive diseases was high in June and August, but otherwise generally low.

Among the infectious diseases the most noticeable point is the increase of cases of diphtheria in October, November, and December. So far as this was due to seasonal influences I think it may be explained by the catarrhs of the throat caused by the wet weather following the prolonged drought and affording suitable breeding grounds for the development of the organisms which produce the disease. A gratifying feature was the low mortality, there being only five deaths out of 72 cases notified throughout the year.

Taking 1911 as a whole, though one or two months showed adverse weather conditions and high death-rates, it cannot be said to have been unfavourable to health, and this is borne out by the figures given as well as by the low general death-rate.

RAINFALL RECORDS FOR THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1911. Compiled by Mr ANDREW WATT, Secretary to the Scottish Meteorological Society.

	H'ght Ft.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.
DUMFRIES														
Langholm, Burnfoot ..	541	3.01	6.58	2.87	5.23	3.41	3.57	1.72	3.53	2.56	4.50	6.31	8.74	52.08
" " Ewes School ..	445	3.13	7.93	2.41	4.63	3.14	3.32	1.91	4.20	2.81	4.56	6.73	8.71	53.48
" " Westwater ..	450	3.60	8.12	2.10	5.20	3.03	2.90	1.82	4.38	3.88	4.43	5.73	8.36	53.55
" " Drove Road ..	270	3.54	7.76	2.19	5.17	3.56	3.15	1.85	4.72	4.09	4.50	6.45	9.07	56.05
Canonbie, Byreburnfoot ..	160	2.50	4.25	1.75	4.38	2.75	3.00	1.25	4.50	3.88	4.62	5.50	7.75	48.13
" " Irvine House ..	200	2.72	6.55	1.98	4.94	3.21	2.78	1.80	5.20	4.30	4.33	6.07	7.71	51.58
Eskdalemuir Observatory ..	778	4.24	9.19	2.89	6.78	3.46	3.44	2.30	3.22	2.83	5.36	8.21	9.01	60.93
Moffat, Eriestane ..	600	2.85	7.41	2.02	5.17	3.96	2.69	1.86	3.32	2.00	4.32	7.25	11.12	53.97
" " Hope Lodge ..	450	2.51	5.95	2.16	4.51	3.06	2.71	1.79	2.94	1.92	4.15	5.81	8.19	45.76
" " Auchan Castle ..	500	3.46	7.51	2.26	5.01	3.96	3.06	2.19	2.46	3.55	4.71	7.21	9.09	54.47
" " Craigielands ..	360	3.43	6.00	2.14	5.76	4.18	3.21	2.40	2.39	2.61	4.37	6.72	10.78	54.59
Beattock, Kimmelhead ..	820	4.06	8.53	1.46	6.70	4.08	4.10	2.77	4.24	3.30	5.59	6.67	10.43	61.92
Lockerbie, Castle Milk ..	199	1.71	4.78	1.15	4.52	2.03	1.88	1.44	2.90	2.21	3.35	5.97	7.03	38.97
Lochnaben, Esthwaite ..	166	1.44	4.93	1.16	3.84	2.08	2.14	1.41	2.62	2.35	3.55	4.81	7.17	37.40
Hoddam Castle ..	150	1.59	4.64	1.17	4.28	2.28	2.17	1.50	2.47	2.33	3.50	5.57	6.96	33.46
Comlongon Castle ..	68	1.63	4.19	.96	3.82	2.22	2.79	1.41	2.00	1.77	4.01	5.71	6.84	37.35
Dumfries, Crichton Inst., ..	185	1.66	4.10	.92	3.34	2.67	3.39	1.25	2.84	1.51	2.94	4.89	5.15	7.57
Drumlanrig Castle ..	187	2.72	6.22	1.69	5.16	2.58	3.74	1.83	3.32	1.96	4.89	5.96	9.62	49.69
Moniaive, Glenclash ..	350	2.92	6.38	1.34	5.03	3.41	2.87	2.32	3.29	2.30	5.06	6.08	11.49	62.49
" " Maxwellton House ..	400	2.56	5.74	1.20	4.53	3.32	3.65	2.06	3.69	2.12	4.69	6.29	9.96	40.81
" " Jarbruck ..	350	3.02	6.21	1.20	5.40	4.05	3.70	2.75	4.40	2.67	5.95	6.88	12.89	59.12

	Hght Ft.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.
<b>KIRKCUDBRIGHT.</b>														
Jardington	70	1.58	4.36	.97	3.73	2.66	3.37	1.34	2.68	1.55	3.53	5.33	8.44	39.44
Linchden House	60	1.76	4.69	1.03	3.75	2.72	3.02	1.57	2.53	1.98	3.50	5.40	8.44	40.49
Cargen	80	2.54	5.42	.85	4.61	4.16	4.24	1.66	3.47	1.95	3.79	6.92	10.25	49.86
Lochrutton	273	2.28	4.83	1.18	4.12	3.85	2.96	1.82	3.44	1.93	3.80	5.83	8.53	44.57
Arbigland	50	1.99	4.19	.82	3.70	2.24	3.19	1.66	1.68	2.84	3.75	4.96	6.71	37.67
Auchencarrn, Torr	50	3.01	6.64	1.12	4.04	3.75	3.04	2.08	2.85	2.83	4.02	6.13	8.83	48.94
Glenlair	250	3.33	6.07	1.37	4.66	4.33	3.01	2.48	3.56	2.55	5.55	7.36	10.50	54.77
Dalbeattie, Little Richorn	54	2.44	5.05	.91	3.83	4.13	3.04	2.28	2.58	2.36	4.46	7.09	8.83	47.00
Kirkennan	30	2.98	5.81	1.36	4.22	4.20	2.96	2.62	2.91	2.34	4.30	7.28	9.06	50.04
Monybuie	30	3.42	6.09	1.50	4.83	3.66	3.98	2.48	3.95	2.28	5.56	6.31	11.18	55.24
Kirkcudbright, St. Mary's Isle	150	2.21	3.72	.93	2.20	1.67	1.07	1.42	1.72	2.24	3.07	6.19	7.40	33.84
Gatehouse, Cally	0	2.68	5.09	1.54	4.20	3.13	2.79	2.10	2.53	2.48	3.24	5.51	8.64	43.93
Creelton, Cassenuary	120	2.64	5.24	1.24	4.19	2.82	2.87	2.21	2.07	2.95	4.15	5.92	9.20	45.50
Palnure, Bargaly	50	1.89	3.44	1.30	4.18	2.05	2.49	2.30	2.16	1.89	3.65	5.33	10.29	40.88
Dalry, Glendarroch	192	3.62	5.79	1.54	4.19	3.28	3.04	3.53	2.42	2.12	4.19	6.00	12.36	52.68
" Glenrie	411	4.11	6.43	1.50	5.25	3.19	2.45	2.13	3.08	2.42	5.57	7.07	13.58	57.08
" The Old Garroch	850	4.90	6.55	1.42	5.20	3.65	3.66	2.49	4.61	4.02	7.91	10.35	15.94	70.70
" Carsphairn, Shiel	448	5.21	9.25	2.26	6.11	3.45	2.78	2.63	3.96	2.81	6.50	8.42	14.46	67.84
Knockgray	850	5.83	10.83	2.00	6.28	4.73	4.01	3.31	4.54	3.25	8.45	10.40	14.96	78.59
Glenhead of Trool	641	3.52	7.03	1.66	4.71	3.51	3.42	2.85	2.95	2.84	6.48	8.09	13.57	60.63
	320	6.00	7.60	2.30	5.60	5.30	4.55	3.70	3.90	3.30	6.60	9.00	16.00	73.85
<b>WIGTOWN.</b>														
Loch Ryan Lighthouse	46	1.10	3.20		2.95	2.21	1.42	1.55	1.45	1.55	2.66	3.79	7.90	..
Corsewall	112	2.51	3.95	1.36	3.46	2.66	1.84	2.04	2.04	1.91	4.13	4.03	8.44	38.37
Mull of Galloway Lighthouse	327	1.37	2.54	.82	2.42	.79	2.46	.74	.74	1.21	1.11	3.13	4.83	24.43
Galloway House	20	2.64	4.03	.88	2.49	2.58	2.23	1.81	1.79	1.60	3.79	5.76	6.79	35.94
Whithorn	207	2.46	4.14	1.49	3.64	1.79	3.11	1.96	1.98	2.17	3.69	5.25	8.50	40.18
" Cutroach	120	1.96	3.74	1.19	3.82	1.66	2.65	2.12	1.46	2.06	3.15	4.23	6.66	34.64
" Logan House	80	1.77	2.86	1.11	3.23	1.81	2.93	2.10	1.92	1.15	3.63	4.48	8.19	35.18
Ardwell House	107	1.95	3.31	1.21	2.87	1.92	3.25	2.28	1.85	1.30	3.13	4.52	8.59	36.18
Lochnay	300	2.28	3.84	1.49	3.60	3.27	2.77	2.40	2.48	2.20	4.21	3.82	8.62	40.98

## ABSTRACT OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN

Station 155 feet

MONTH.	Baro- meter.	AIR TEMPERATURE.								HYGROMETER.				CLOUD. Cloud.
	Mean at Station at 32° Fahr. at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.	Mean of		Mean of A. & B.	Difference from average.	Absolute Maximum and Minimum.				Mean at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.				
		Maximum.	Minimum.			Maximum.	Day of Month.	Minimum.	Day of Month.	Dry Bulb.	Depression of Wet Bulb.	Vapour Pressure.	Humidity.	
January ..	Inch. 30·082	deg. 44·1	deg. 35·7	deg. 39·9	deg. +1·6	deg. 52	26th	24	{ 13th 17th 31st	deg. 39·7	deg. 1·4	Inch. ·216	% 88	8·5
February	29·860	44·7	33·8	39·3	+0·2	51	{ 18th 28th	20	1st	39·0	1·5	·209	88	8·1
March ..	29·797	45·8	34·7	40·3	-0·8	52	{ 2nd 3rd	29	13th	39·8	2·5	·197	80	6·7
April ..	29·789	50·8	37·3	44·1	-1·9	59	13th	24	6th	44·1	2·7	·231	79	8·7
May ..	29·818	63·5	45·3	54·4	+3·0	77	{ 29th 30th	32	3rd	52·9	3·6	·308	77	6·7
June ..	29·799	65·9	47·8	56·9	0·0	80	1st	35	14th	56·3	4·3	·336	73	6·3
July ..	29·960	69·0	53·8	61·4	+2·3	86	12th	42	3rd	60·7	4·0	·407	77	7·0
August ..	29·801	68·7	52·7	60·7	+2·5	84	13th	45	30th	60·4	3·6	·412	79	7·1
September	29·862	61·6	45·1	53·4	-1·2	70	2nd	30	22nd	52·9	3·1	·320	80	6·0
October ..	29·758	53·7	40·1	46·9	-0·6	62	13th	24	29th	45·6	2·3	·255	83	5·6
November	29·466	46·8	36·4	41·6	-0·3	57	5th	29	21st	41·2	2·1	·215	84	5·9
December	29·384	46·2	37·9	42·1	+3·3	55	3rd	30	25th	41·6	1·4	·233	90	6·5

AT CRICHTON ROYAL INSTITUTION, DUMFRIES, 1911.

above sea level.

RAIN AND OTHER FORMS OF PRECIPITATION.				WEATHER.										WIND DIRECTIONS.											WIND FORCE.
No. of Days.	Total Fall.	Difference from Average.	Most in a Day.		Number of Days with								Number of Observations at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.											Mean at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Scale 0-12.	
			Amount.	Day of Month.	Snow.	Hail.	Thunderstorm.	Clear Sky.	Overcast.	Fog.	Gale.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm or Variable.					
15	1.66	-1.84	0.85	10th	0	0	0	2	23	8	3	11	0	0	2	2	33	1	7	6	2.8				
19	4.10	+1.12	0.80	18th	2	0	0	2	18	8	6	0	0	0	10	5	22	1	9	9	3.0				
12	0.92	-1.62	0.30	3rd	0	1	0	2	12	0	0	6	15	13	3	0	13	0	12	0	2.9				
16	3.34	+1.09	0.55	25th	2	0	0	0	22	0	1	1	20	0	2	2	23	2	8	2	2.8				
9	2.67	+0.35	0.76	3rd	0	0	1	3	12	1	0	0	14	1	3	7	11	3	11	12	1.8				
14	3.39	+1.03	1.01	17th	0	0	1	4	13	0	1	2	6	3	9	0	16	2	11	11	2.0				
13	1.25	-1.89	0.69	27th	0	0	0	5	14	0	1	6	0	0	5	4	25	0	11	11	2.0				
14	2.84	-1.15	0.70	31st	0	1	0	4	13	0	0	0	7	0	3	5	21	0	5	21	1.7				
11	1.51	-2.06	0.41	29th	0	0	0	5	10	0	1	1	1	0	3	3	14	1	19	18	1.7				
10	2.94	-0.72	0.95	29th	0	0	0	5	8	3	1	1	15	4	5	0	6	1	3	23	1.7				
19	5.15	+1.36	0.63	4th	2	1	0	4	9	1	2	10	7	7	1	3	22	1	2	7	2.4				
29	7.57	+3.38	1.02	10th	2	1	0	2	13	1	2	0	0	0	14	4	38	0	4	2	2.3				

WEATHER AND NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR 1911. By Mr J.  
RUTHERFORD, Jardington.

## JANUARY.

The very mild and open weather of 1910 was continued into the New Year; and during the whole of January, with the exception of the last day, the weather was more like that of April. There were no unusually high winds, no snow, and very little frost. The wind for the first week was principally from the North and North-West; during the remainder from the South and South-West. Temperature was above the normal; and towards the end of the month the fields were fresh and green.

The rainfall was 1.58 inches, being the lowest record for January since 1897. The Hazel came into bloom on the 25th—30 days earlier than 1910. The head of the Snowdrop was hanging over on the 15th, and came into bloom a few days later—23 days earlier than 1910. First Daisy on the lawn on the 29th. Highest maximum temperature (in screen 4 feet above the ground), 53 deg. on the 25th; lowest maximum, 40 deg. on the 1st and 4th; highest minimum reading, 47 deg. on the 25th; lowest, 18 deg. on the 31st; lowest on grass, 11 deg. on the 31st. At or below 32 deg. in the screen on 10 days; at or below 32 deg. on the grass on 23 days. Highest barometer reading, 30.75 inches (which was very high) on the 31st; lowest, 29.5 inches on the 5th. This was the only day that it was below 30 inches during the month.

## FEBRUARY.

The first twelve days of this month were simply a continuance of the dry, calm, settled weather which began about the middle of January, being exceptionally mild for February. With the birds singing in the morning and a little green on the fields, everything had the appearance of Spring. From the 16th there followed squally, stormy, changeable, disagreeable weather till the end of the month. There were some strong winds during this time, but none sufficiently high to do much damage in this locality. There were no heavy floods, no continued hard frost, and no snow, so that the "dyke was black" throughout. First Crocus came into bloom on the "terrace" on the 18th; Coltsfoot on the 24th—both much earlier than 1910. Highest maximum



temperature, 52 deg. on a number of days; lowest, 36 deg. on the 2nd; highest minimum, 46 deg. on 16th; lowest, 18 deg. on the 1st. At and below 32 deg. on the grass on 21 days, and 10 days in the screen. Rainfall, 4.36 inches. Barometer—lowest, 29 inches; highest, 30.72.

### MARCH.

Came in with a fine bracing clear air and sunshine and a rather strong westerly breeze—a mixture of “lion and lamb” combined. The 7th was specially mild and warm, with bright sunshine. Larks, Lapwings, Curlews, hedges and gooseberry bushes, were all voicing Spring, and our heart was in sympathy with their song. After the first week rougher weather was noted. After the 11th till the end of the month there was a continuance of very cold, biting wind from the East and North-East, which checked all growth, kept the fruit buds from coming forward, and took all the green from the fields—a proverbial withering March wind. The fields, which were fresh and green at the end of February, had a grey and barren appearance at the end of March. The rainfall was low, which allowed the farmers a good opportunity for getting the land ready for the seed. On the 1st the crows were noisy enough at their nests at Newton Rookery. Flowers came into bloom earlier than in 1910. Lesser Celandine on the 2nd; Anemone on the 10th; Flowering Currant on the 30th. Sowing corn began on the 22nd, with the ground in nice condition. Highest maximum temperature, 55 deg. on the 7th; lowest, 43 deg. on the 14th; highest minimum reading, 46 deg. on the 2nd; lowest, 28 deg. on the 12th. Lowest temperature on the grass, 20 deg. on the 12th. There were 9 days in the screen when 32 deg. and under was registered, and 22 on the grass. Highest barometer reading, 30.4 inches; lowest, 29.7.

### APRIL.

The cold, dry, barren weather which began in the middle of March continued with us till the 12th of this month, when with a change of wind from the East and North-East to the West and South-West a change for the better in the weather set in. This was followed on the 15th with nice refreshing rain (April showers), which continued every day till the end of the month. With the moisture and genial heat, the progress of vegetation was rapid,

and by the end of the month the grass was quite green and full of promise, and the fruit trees were in full bloom. There was thunder on the 29th. Flowers came into bloom a few days earlier than 1910. Primrose on the 8th; Jargonelle Pear on the 10th; Dog Violet on the 12th; Blackthorn on the 14th; Wood Sorrel on the 20th; Cuckoo Flower on the 21st. Willow Wren first seen on the 17th; Sand Martin, 19th, which was about their usual time. First Swallows seen at Lincluden House on the 22nd (pioneers). Highest maximum temperature in shade, 58 deg. on a number of days; lowest, 44 deg. on the 4th; highest minimum reading, 47 deg. on the 21st; lowest, 25 deg. on the 5th. Lowest on grass, 20 deg. on the 5th. Number of days on which the temperature on the grass was at 32 deg. and under, 10; number in the screen, 6. Highest barometer reading, 30.45 inches; lowest, 29.3 inches.

#### MAY.

"May morn" the ground was covered with white frost, which thawed when the sun rose, and left an abundance of May dew. A single (pioneer) swallow was singing cheerily on the house-top at 11 a.m. On the 3rd there was a cyclonic storm of wind and rain of considerable violence. Taken as a whole, May was a month of Spring and Summer: sunshine, with a fair amount of shower, with high temperature and high barometer, particularly near the end. From the 17th there was a warm, genial atmosphere, with some thunder, which produced a luxuriant growth. In my notes on the 24th I find those words:—"The world is very beautiful." The last five days were very warm, the temperature in the shade averaging 81 deg. There was thunder on the 13th, 14th, 26th, 27th, and 31st. Sowing turnips on the 12th. Blenheim Orange Apple came into bloom on the 1st; Garden Strawberry on the 12th; Wild Hyacinth on the 13th; Lilac on the 14th; Chestnut on the 14th; Hawthorn on the 16th; Ox Eye Daisy on the 26th; Wild Rose on the 31st. Saw first small White Butterfly on the 9th; heard Corncrake on the 15th; saw first Wasp on the 19th. Highest maximum temperature, 82 deg. on the last three days; lowest, 52 deg. on the 3rd; highest minimum, 58 deg. on 31st; lowest, 29 deg. on the 1st. Lowest temperature on the grass, 27 deg. on the 3rd. Number of days

when the temperature on the grass was 32 deg. and under, 2; in the screen, 1.

### JUNE.

Brilliant sunshine, heat, and drought were the leading features of the weather during the first seventeen days. The temperature in the shade for the first eight days averaged over 80 deg., which was 10 or 12 deg. above the average. It reached the highest point, 88 deg., on the 7th. The wind was principally from the South-East, with a high and steady barometer. The wind continued mostly in the South-East until the 16th, and during this time there was no rain, and vegetation suffered for want of moisture. Pastures were getting burned, and a great quantity of turnips either failed to braird or, after brairding, died away, and sowing over again was very general. From the 16th till the end of the month rain fell (less or more) on most days, but not sufficient in quantity; and during that time the temperature was lower than at the beginning of the month, and the crops were not much benefited. On the 22nd, the day of the Coronation of King George the Fifth and Queen Mary, the weather in the morning was cold and stormy, with a maximum temperature of 61 deg. in the shade, and the two following days were more like April than June. Corn began ragging on the 24th, two days earlier than 1910; cut ryegrass hay (a heavy crop) on the 14th and 15th, which was secured in fine condition. Thunder on the 4th and 18th. Saw first Cleg on the 7th; first Meadow Brown Butterfly on the 18th. Honeysuckle came into bloom on the 10th. Highest maximum temperature, 88 deg. on the 7th; lowest, 60 deg. on the 21st and 24th; highest minimum, 56 deg. on the 8th; lowest, 36 deg. on the 10th. Lowest on the grass, 29 deg. on the 14th, when potatoes on some low-lying ground got a little nip of frost. Temperature on the grass at 32 deg. and under on the 10th, 13th, and 14th. Range of barometer was between 29.6 inches and 30.6.

### JULY.

This month left behind it an extraordinary record of weather. The first week was rather cold, with a West and South-West wind, and steady barometer about 30.35 inches, with fine sunshine and no rain. From the 7th till the 14th there was an extra-

ordinary heat wave. On the grass and exposed to the sun the thermometer registered 126 deg. at 4 p.m. on the 11th. The same thermometer has been in the same position for 25 years, fully exposed to the afternoon sun, and registered to 135 deg. It burst with the heat on the 12th. The heat required to do this would evidently be at least 135 deg. A record temperature was recorded on the 12th and 13th, when 92 deg. in the shade was registered on both days. Observing the very high temperature, I thought perhaps the sun's rays might be reflected in some way through the slanting bars of the screen; but I found on covering the whole screen with a cloth that it in no way altered the reading. As no rain fell till the 16th, and under an inch and a half till the end of the month, grass, corn, and turnips all suffered; but on heavy land in good condition they did not suffer to the same extent as they did on land which was poor and light. Commenced cutting meadow hay on the 3rd; a good crop, secured in fine condition without getting any rain. In my experience of haymaking (in a small way), which extends to over 30 years, I have not seen anything to compare with the haymaking of 1911. The strong, bright sunshine dried the hay so quickly that on one or two days hay that was cut in the morning was quite ready to go into the hay-shed on the afternoon of the following day, just about as green as when cut. The Harebell came into bloom on the 7th, two days later than 1910; Black Knapweed on the 11th, eight days earlier. Highest maximum temperature, 92 deg. on the 12th and 13th; lowest, 62 deg. on the 1st and 17th; highest minimum, 62 deg. on the 29th; lowest reading, 42 deg. on the 9th. Lowest temperature on the grass, 35 deg on the 2nd. Barometer was high and steady: Lowest, 29.8 inches; highest, 30.7. Thunder on the 29th and 30th. The wind was principally from the West, South, and South-West.

#### AUGUST.

There was a continuance of the fine, warm, sunny weather, quite charming to all except farmers and others whose water supply for domestic purposes was getting very low and in many cases stopped altogether. There was some rain which fell during the first and last week; but the quantity was not sufficient to benefit vegetation to any great extent or to increase the diminishing

water supply. Until the last week the fields had a dry and parched appearance, when, with the little rain which fell, a slight green came on. Corn cutting began on the 8th, and as no rain fell from that date till the 25th, and only a small quantity during the last days, with brilliant sunshine and a fair good wind from East and North-East, corn was ready for going into the stack in a short time; and although in many cases it was less in quantity, it was excellent in quality. Cut clover on the 16th. I think it was the most beautiful crop I ever saw—just a complete cover of purple bloom. Wasps were exceedingly numerous, destroying a lot of fruit, particularly the finer varieties of apples, plums, etc. Thunder on the 14th, 28th, and 29th. Highest maximum temperature, 87 deg., on the 13th and 14th; lowest, 65 deg., on the 25th. Highest minimum, 60 deg., on the 8th; lowest minimum, 42 deg., on the 16th; lowest on grass, 39 deg., on the 30th. Wind during first and last week was principally from the S.W. Barometer between 29.8 and 30.35 inches.

#### SEPTEMBER.

Delightful, warm weather; and great want of rain was also the leading feature of the weather of September. A little rain fell in the last week, and the temperature was a little lower. There was a great want of water in many districts, and in many cases there was a good deal of difficulty and inconvenience in procuring it. Saw Brook's Comet on the 4th and on many subsequent evenings. In my notes on the 19th I find "Fine seeing, nucleus about white, tail fan-shaped, and about 6 to 8 deg. Highest maximum thermometer, 73 deg., on several days; lowest, 53 deg., on the 29th. Highest minimum, 55 deg.; lowest, 30 deg., on the 21st; lowest on the grass, 28 deg., on the 21st, at 32 deg. or under on the grass on two days. Range of barometer between 29.5 and 30.4 inches. Wind mostly from the West and South-West. Thunder on the 11th.

#### OCTOBER.

Although some rain fell in the last week of September, grass did not improve. No rain fell in October till the 19th, and during that time there was a withering North, North-East, and South-East wind.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rain fell from the 19th till

the end of the month, which made the fields look a little greener. When the Autumn set in it was naturally expected, after the exceptional warm Summer, with so much heat in the ground, that when sufficient rain came there would be a fine Autumn growth, but in this there was disappointment. On the 29th 1.29 inches of rain fell, when the Cluden filled its banks for the first time since the last week in April. There was a record crop of "Acorns," and in this and other localities several cattle died rather suddenly, and I would not be surprised to know that eating too many Acorns was the cause. Our sheep fed on them every day without taking any harm. Potato digging was mostly finished before the rain came, and turned out a good average crop, fairly free from disease and nice and clean. Last Swallow was seen on the 2nd. Highest maximum temperature was 68 deg. on the 20th; lowest, 44 deg., on the 26th and 27th. Highest minimum, 52 deg., on the 20th; lowest, 22 deg., on the 28th; lowest on the grass, 20 deg., on the 28th; at 32 deg. or below on the grass on 10 days; ditto in the screen on 7 days. The wind was principally from the North, North-East, and South-East. During the first 17 days the Barometer continued high, between 30.6 and 30.1 inches; to the end between 29.3 and 30 inches.

#### NOVEMBER.

From the beginning till the 17th was wet and stormy. A gale of exceptional severity broke over the country in the early hours of the 5th, causing considerable damage to buildings, woods, and shipping. The wind was from the West and South-West. From the 17th till the end of the month was cold and wintry, with very little rain. The rain during the early part was sufficient to raise the springs, and bring the water supply up to about its normal state. Although there was a good deal of cold, wet, stormy weather, the average temperature was a good deal higher than 1910. There was very little frost, and just a trace of snow on the 28th. The total rainfall, 5.33 inches, was the highest for November in my record of 18 years. The principal work on the farm was storing turnips. This crop in its early stages on many farms had a very unfavourable appearance, and suffered considerably from drought and mildew during the Summer; but when the rain came it recovered wonderfully, and

lifted in many places a full average crop. Highest maximum temperature, 55 deg., on the 4th; lowest, 41 deg., on several days. Highest minimum, 46 deg., on the 14th; lowest, 25 deg. Number of days with temperature on the grass at 32 deg. and under, 13; ditto in the screen, 10. Barometer between 29 and 30.2 inches during the first week. The wind was mostly from the West and South-West; during the remainder principally from the East and North-East.

#### DECEMBER.

The weather of this month was also remarkable in many ways. It had a very high average temperature; it was very mild; almost no frost; just a trace of snow on one morning. The heaviest rainfall in my record for December, 8.44 inches. It rained (less or more) almost every day. For the last ten days the fields were nice and green, and cattle went out to the grass a good part of the day, which helped to save fodder and turnips; and should an early Spring follow there may be sufficient to carry stocks through till the grass comes. On the 12th the great Indian Coronation Durbar was celebrated, and Delhi again proclaimed the capital; and by a singular coincidence, within twenty-four hours, the P. and O. liner named the Delhi, with the Princess Royal, the Duke of Fife, and their two daughters on board, was wrecked on the coast of Morocco. Highest maximum temperature, 53 deg., on the 17th; lowest, 41 deg., on the 8th. Highest minimum, 48 deg., on the 17th; lowest, 28 deg., on the 22nd. Number of days with temperature on the grass at 32 deg. or under, 16. Barometer between 28.8 and 30.3 inches.

#### NOTE I.

In regard to Trees, Shrubs, and Plants (noted in this paper) coming into bloom, the individual Trees and Shrubs and the Plants growing in the same situation are noted from year to year, so that comparison may be made as to early or late blooming. The first flower that appears is observed, and when the corolla is fully opened up it is then noted as being in bloom. All other notes in this paper in regard to Weather, etc. (except where otherwise mentioned), apply to this immediate locality.



## RAINFALL, 1911.

Rain Gauge:—Diameter of Funnel, 5 in. Height of top—Above ground, 1 foot; above sea level, 70 ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
		Inches.	Date.	
January ...	Inches. 1.58	.68	10	15
February ...	4.36	.79	18	19
March ...	.97	.27	3	9
April .. ...	3.73	.48	25	16
May ... ..	2.66	.73	3	14
June .. ...	3.27	1.51	17	12
July ... ..	1.34	.64	27	13
August ...	2.68	.81	31	13
September ...	1.55	.40	29	10
October ...	3.53	1.29	29	12
November ...	5.33	.73	3	20
December ...	8.44	.99	10	28
Total,	39.44			181

Rainfall, 1911.—The average Rainfall for the last 18 years was 39.17 inches, so that 1911 was .24 inches over. The large amount which fell in November and December making up for the deficiency during the summer. The following question, which has been in my mind for a long time, I will leave with our members:—Is the well-known influence of the Sun and Moon and Ocean currents on the rotating Earth, sufficient to account for our weather conditions?

## NOTE II.

The year 1911 will long be remembered and referred to as having been one of the most remarkable years on record. First, in regard to its weather; for its long-continued drought, which continued throughout the Summer and into the Autumn; its un-

exampld sunshine, brilliancy, and heat; and the scarcity of water in many places for stock and domestic purposes.

In a paper read at a meeting of the Royal Microscopic Society by Mr C. Harding—"From statistics gathered from the various observing stations of the British Isles, compared with the Greenwich Records back to 1841" (from facts thus brought together)—the writer showed that as far as Temperature was concerned, the Summer of 1911 was "unique." "The mean temperature for the summer was higher than for any similar period during the last 70 years, so many hot days during the summer have never before been recorded. That the rainfall for the three summer months has only been smaller in three previous years during the last seventy; and also that the duration of sunshine was greater than in any previous summer since the introduction of sunshine recorders in 1881." I give these notes from Mr Harding's paper because he has access to very old records, while mine only go back 18 years. The year was also remarkable as being the Coronation year, for its political events, and for the number of Comets observed—eight having been seen, four of which were visible to the naked eye.

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### *15th March, 1912.*

Chairman—M. H. M'Kerrow, Esq., Treasurer.

SOME LOCAL AND OTHER PLANT NAMES. By Mr S. ARNOTT,  
F.R.H.S.

On two former occasions I have endeavoured to collect and to relate some of the popular plant names current in the district, together with some of the appellations of the same plants in other districts. At the request of your Secretary I have again taken up the subject, although I fear I have already occupied too much of your time with the question, and have already monopolised too many of the pages of the Society's "Transactions" with what must appear to some as subjects too trivial for consideration. Yet I venture to think that they are at least as worthy of consideration as many others which have been presented to the Society. I may state that the former papers were read in the

Sessions of 1904-5 and 1910-11, the first appearing in N.S., Vol. XVII., part 5, and the second will be found in the last issue—N.S., Vol. XXIII., pp. 195-201.

I fear on this occasion that I have little to add, as my opportunities of collecting the colloquial plant names are not now so frequent as before.

A common garden plant, frequently seen in gardens, both old and new, is the *Aconitum*, generally known here as the Monkshood, a name current over a great part of the country. It is so called because of the resemblance of the flower to the cowl of a monk. A variant is that of Friar's Cap; still another, quite appropriate also, being Helmet Flower. A Scottish name which I have not heard in our own district is Luckie's Mutch. The last British name is that of Wolf's Bane, the plant being said to be effectual in warding off wolves, or, at least, in poisoning them. In passing, I may mention that this is well known as a poisonous plant, and that a man of my acquaintance once informed me that it was so powerful that if he worked at it he felt his heart slightly affected. I cannot corroborate the statement. This plant has similar names to most of the above in different European languages, that of an equivalent to Monkshood being the most common.

I wonder if any one in this neighbourhood has ever heard the name of "Guild Tree" applied to the *Berberis*, which I have always heard called the Barberry? That of Guild Tree is apparently a corruption of Gold or Gilt Tree. It is called Yellow Tree in some parts of England. Is Barberry simply a corruption of the botanical name of *Berberis*? We are told that the name of *Berberis* is originally derived from the Arabic word, signifying hollow, on account of the hollow leaf; but, according to others, it means wild.

Coltsfoot is the ordinary term in use, so far as I am aware, for *Tussilago Farfara*; but I believe that in different parts it is called Foalsfoot, Son afore the Father, Assesfoot, Horsehoof, Bullsfoot, Cowheave (probably a corruption of Cowhoof), and Dovedock. Names of similar meaning are given to it in some of the continental countries. Shellago is also employed here.

I have been rather interested in having found more colloquial Scottish and English names for the Goosegrass, or Robin-run-the-hedge, than I had expected, and additional to those I have pre-

viously noted. It is called in some parts, but not here, so far as I know, Lizzy-run-the-hedge, Goosebill, Catch-weed (presumably so named because of the manner in which it adheres to the garments of those who come in contact with it), Bluid-tongue (from its roughness doubtless), Scratchweed, Cleavers, Jack-in-the-way, Goosewort, Beggar Man, Loveman, Catch Rogue, Grip Grass, Sticky Willie, and a curious word, Harrieff, which is, I observe, said to mean Hedge Robber.

The Speedwell, *Veronica Chamædrys*, I have always heard called the Germander; but it has one highly poetic name. This is Angel's Eyes. The same idea is to be found with Milkmaid's Eyes; although one would hardly expect to find that Cat's Eye is yet another one. Paul's Betony is, I think, quite unknown here, and Fluellin or Fluelling is a term which has long, I believe, been out of date here, if indeed it ever was current in this part of the kingdom.

Everybody, I expect, knows the common Yarrow, *Achillea Millefolium*, by the former name in this locality, but others for it in different parts are Hundred-leaved Grass and Thousand-leaved Grass. Nosebleed is a name supposed to have been applied to the Yarrow through a blunder of some of the old herbalists, the true Nosebleed having been the Horsetail. It was said to cause bleeding if put in the nose, and to "cure the megrims." It was also employed as a love divining plant in the East of England, where a girl would tickle the inside of one of her nostrils with a leaf, repeating:—

"Yarroway, Yarroway, wear a white blow;

If my love love me, my nose will bleed now."

One of our common plants is the wild Orchis; but I cannot say that I have ever heard any popular name for this plant, which has several in other parts, except one which came to me through an inquiry the other day from one of our most valued members, Mr J. T. Johnstone, of Moffat, who asked me if I knew what Orchid had applied to it the name of Dodgill Reepans, said to be a Galloway term for one of the genus. This I was unable to do, I regret to say, and I shall be glad if anyone can supply me with the information. In some other parts of Scotland *Orchis mascula* bears the following names: Aaron's Beard, Cockskames, Male-foolstones, Goose and Goslings, Deadman's Thumb. *Orchis*

latifolia, another species, has the name of Cockskames also, and is, in addition, Deil's Foot, Deadman's Fingers, Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve, and Foolstones. One would hardly think it possible that any other terms were left for the Spotted Orchis, *O. maculata*; but ingenuity has ordered it otherwise, as, although it again is Foolstones, it is also called Hand Orchis, Adder-grass, Henskames, and Deadman's Hand.

I suppose we all know the Vinca, or Periwinkle, as simply the latter, Periwinkle; but an old name for it was Pervinkle, and it has also been called Sorcerer's Violet, and has, in addition, with a slight variation, the name of the Ground Ivy, *Nepeta Glechoma*, and has claimed that of "Ivy of the Ground."

The Groundsel is nowhere in our district known by any other name than this; but I am informed that in some parts it is Grundy Swallow and Simon Sention. The former appears to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Grundswelge*, which meant "earth-swallower." The latter part of that of Simon Sention would appear to come from or to be allied to the French *Seneçon*, which is near the Latin *Senecio*.

The Fumitory is pretty well known to everyone, and the name of Earth-smoke may not be forgotten by some, as it is really conveyed in that of Fumitory. The French is *Fume terre*, and expresses the smoke-like appearance of the plant when in bloom. A curious name, which is probably suggested by the appearance of the flowers taken singly, is that of Waxdolls. An obvious corruption either of Fumitory or of the French *Fume terre* is *Fumeterrie*.

The Water Dock is generally known simply as that in our part of the country; but we find elsewhere that it is Cushycows, and also Water Patience. It is called in some parts of France *Patience d'eau*. The *Cyanus*, *Cyanus Centaurea*, is known to some of us as the Bluebottle, but it was better recognised as the Blawart. It is also Ragged Ladies, from the appearance of the flowers; Ragged Sailors; Hurtsickle, from the manner in which it blunted the sickle in cutting the corn; Blue Cornflower, and Blewblaw. The Blaeberry of our district, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, is the Hurtberry, Whortleberry, Huckleberry, Whurt (an evident abbreviation of Whortleberry, Bilberry, Myrtleberry, Wimberry, and Blackworts), surely a sufficient variety, attesting the widespread character of this little shrub. It is curious that we must

go to Iceland for the nearest approach to our name of Blaeberry. It is Blaber in the Iceland tongue.

I think I have not previously mentioned in my previous papers on plant names, though I may have done so in another connection, that the *Sempervivum*, or Houseleek, in itself a corruption, it is said, of House-like, from its being so much grown on houses in olden times as a preventative of lightning, has for long been called the Fooze in this district. I do not find this in several books on the subject; but this plant is also called Sengreen (meaning evergreen), Ayegreen, Birdbread, Jupiter's Eye, Bullock's Eye, and Jupiter's Beard. Birdbread has its equivalent in *Pain d'oiseau* of the French, and Jupiter's Beard has *Barba de Giove* in Italian; while the common name of Houseleek has its counterpart in the German *Hauslauch*, the Dutch *Huislook*, the Danish *Huuslog*, and the Swedish *Hauslok*. The Shepherd's Purse or Shepherd's Pouch was in olden times called *Clappe de Pouche*, from the fancied resemblance of the plant to the wallets of the beggars, who carried clappers, and had, we are told, the nickname of "*Clappe de Pouches*." It is also Poor Man's Permacetty, Ladies' Purses, Toywort, and Pick-purse. One of the French popular names is *Bourse á pasteur*.

The Rest Harrow, so called from its resistance to the operations of the husbandman, caused by its long tough roots and stems, I have heard called Wild Liquorice, as formerly mentioned; but other names not, so far as I know, current here are Stinking Tam (from its offensive odour), Cammock, and Rest Plough. One writer gives Petty Whin as a name for the *Ononis* or Rest Harrow; but I imagine that this is a mistake, unless it is one of the anomalies we find in connection with popular plant names, as the true Petty Whin is a *Furze*, but rare in this locality.

Since my first paper I have found some additional names for the beautiful *Briza*, or Quaking Grass. Those I named were Shakin' Grass, Cow Quakes, Dotherin' or Dodderin' Dicks, Tremlin' Grass, and Ladies' Hair. To these I have to add as current elsewhere Trembling Jockey, Siller Tassels, Silvery Cow-quakes, Siller Shakle, Fairy Grass, Hair Grass, Dotherin' Docks (a variation of Dotherin' Dicks), Wagwants, Pearl Grass, Quakers and Shakers, and Dodder Grass—surely a formidable array.

The Poppy is in our part of the world simply the "Puppy," but it bears other names, and some of these are rather interesting.

Among them we have Corn Rose, Cockeno, Cockscombs (compare the French Coquelicot), Red Weed, Thunder Flower, Cheesebowls, Headache, Coprose, Papig, and Jone Silverpin. It is said that Joan's Silverpin is, or was, applied in one part of England to a piece of finery on a slut, and was thus used to indicate that the Poppy, though a very beautiful flower, adorned a worthless object. In this part of the country we are not troubled with the Corn Poppy in the fields to the same extent as in many other places.

The Honeysuckle seems universally called by this title in this part of the country, but other local names in other districts of the United Kingdom are Caprifoly, Ladies' Fingers, Woodbind, Woodbine, Eglantine, and—most poetical of all—"Lily among Thorns."

Moss is almost always Fog with us, and the Turnip, when it has not the odious corruption "Turmit," is Neep, derived without a doubt from the old Anglo-Saxon Naep. I frequently wonder how the Onion came to be called an Ingan in this part of the world. I dare not venture on a suggestion. The Potato is often the Tatty, and in some parts the Praty, both rather unkindly names for the useful plant they do not adorn.

The Sow Thistle is Swine Thrissel in one part of Scotland, and it has also been Hare's Palace and Hare's Lettice, not Lettuce be it noted, but applied with the idea of the word "let" as we have it in Scripture, "without let or hindrance." It was said that if a hare could manage to get under its leaf nothing would touch the animal.

Such are some further additions to a wide subject, which would take much enquiry and many searches to do it proper justice.

NOTE.—Errata in former paper in N.S., Vol. XXIII., p. 197, line 31, for round-leaved Bellflower read broad-leaved; p. 198, line 12, for *Genista angelica* read *Genista anglica*.

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## THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME DUMFRIES. By J. W. WHITELOW.

This paper was suggested to me by the somewhat paltry and unsatisfactory nature of the very usual explanation of the place-name "Dumfries," viz., "Dum," a fort or castle, and "Phreas," brushwood (the castle in the brushwood). Several other explanations have been given from time to time, of which Mr Shirley has made a collection, and he was good enough to offer to make these available to me. I think, however, that this information will come better from himself, and that I shall more usefully employ my time in pressing upon you the explanation which I think is the correct one. It seems to me that in the case of a place of the importance of Dumfries, both historically and geographically, the name should express some outstanding historical or geographical fact, and if we dig deep enough into the ethnology and history of Scotland we may find an explanation which will fulfil these conditions.

We have fairly accurate knowledge of Great Britain during the time of the Roman occupation, and we find that it was then peopled by Britons up to the Forth and Clyde, and north of that by Picts in the north and east, and by Scots, who had founded the small kingdom of Dalriada, in the west. The Britons were of the Cymric branch of the Celts, and the Picts were of the Goidelic branch, or at least spoke that language; but experts are not agreed regarding them, and it may even be that there was a slight admixture among them of the pre-Celtic inhabitants who were Iberians or Basques. The Scots were also Celts, and came from Ireland, and ultimately obtained such dominion over the whole of the northern kingdom that they gave their name to it. There was also a settlement of Picts in Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire called the Niduarian Picts, of which I shall have more to say afterwards.

When Rome was tottering to its fall there was naturally a withdrawal of the Roman Legions from so outlying a part of that great empire, and before their final departure we hear of the Romanised Britons being assailed from the north by the Picts and Scots, and also on the east by a seafaring race who came from the shores of the other side of the North Sea.

With the departure of the Roman Legions our knowledge of Britain ceases for a century and a half, and when the light of

history again dawns we find this seafaring race, whom we now call Anglo-Saxons, established along the east coast of England and of the southern part of Scotland. The expression "Anglo-Saxons" is a comparatively modern appellation, and it really refers to a confederacy of nations established along the coast from the Elb to the Ems, if not on to the Rhine, and consisting of Saxons, Angles, Jutes, and Frisians. Of these the Jutes seem to have established themselves in Kent and the Isle of Wight; the Saxons in Essex, Middlesex, and Wessex; the Angles north of the Humber; and the Frisians still further north. The earlier incursions seem to have been by Angles and Frisians, of which the Angles were the more important, and ultimately gave their name to the southern kingdom (Angle-land or England), and we find the chronicler Procopius, who wrote in the sixth century, stating that the races inhabiting Britain were "Angiloi, Phrissones, and Brittones;" but it is right to mention that this does not refer to the country north of the Forth and Clyde, of which he seems to have had practically no knowledge.

In support of the view that the Frisians were the tribe who went furthest north I may mention that the chronicler Nennius refers to the Firth of Forth as "Mare Fresicum," and they and the Angles formed the kingdom of Northumbria, running from the Humber to the Forth, which became very powerful, and one of the Bretwaldas or Kings of which gave his name to a stronghold on the Frisian Sea, Edwin's Burgh (Edinburgh). West of the Frisians was the British kingdom of Strathclyde, with Dum Breatan (Dumbarton) as its capital, and *Caer Luel* (Carlisle) as an important place in the south, and it then consisted of the modern counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland, Dumfries, Ayr, Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton. On the south-west there still remained the colony of Niduarian Picts.

The kingdom of Northumbria ultimately conquered Strathclyde and established its dominion over the Niduarian Picts, who in consequence were called Gallgoidel (the Gaul or Celt under the rule of the stranger), and it is from this name that the modern Galloway is derived. Apparently the northern part of Strathclyde ultimately regained their independence, but the lower part of Strathclyde and Galloway still remained under the domination of the Saxons, and you will readily perceive that it was essential that they should retain the lower part of Strathclyde if they were also to retain Galloway.

Dumfries is the first point up the river Nith from the Solway where there is a ford readily available for the passage of armed men into Galloway, and it is only to be expected that at this point there would be a fort or out-post. What is likely to be the name given to this fort? We have an indication of how such a fort or castle is likely to be named in Dum Breatan, to which I have already referred, and I put forward the idea that this fort or castle on the Nith was Dum Fries, the castle of the Frisians, who, in the Saxon chronicles, are referred to as "Fries" or "Fres." We get some confirmation of this view in Nennius, because in giving a list of twenty-eight important towns in Britain he mentions "Caer Breatan" (which is evidently Dumbarton) and "Caer Pheris," of the exact location of which we have no knowledge, but which in my view is clearly Dumfries.

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ON THE NAME DUMFRIES. By Mr G. W. SHIRLEY.

It may serve a useful purpose to record and examine the various suggestions that have been current in the past as to the origin and explanation of the name Dumfries.

The earliest explanation in point of time that we have come across is given by Dr Archbald, who sent to Sir John Sibbald an "Account of the Curiosities at Drumfreis,"<sup>1</sup> which must have been written about 1680. He stated that the name was from "the Freezwell near the place." This at once easily avoided the main issue, and presupposed the existence and naming of a well before a human habitation was made in the vicinity. The only purpose served was to remind one that there was a well so named. We have not found this well mentioned in any other document, the nearest approach being "the ffreizehole." Its position is indicated in the following:—"Item, an acker of Land called the Lady Acker betwixt the ffreizehole and the passage leading to the Craigs on the north, the lands of umqll John Corsane on the east and the ffreizehole runner on the south parts. . . . Item, ffive roods of land called the park of Swans betwixt the lands pertaining to umqll John Pagan on the south, the yeards of umqll John Johnston and George M'Cartney on the

<sup>1</sup> Macfarlane's Geographical Collection. Scottish History Society.

east, the loaning going to the Craigs on the north, and the said ffriezehole on the west.”<sup>2</sup>

William Baxter, in his “Glossarium Antiquitatum,” the first edition of which appeared in 1719, made an excellent venture according to the most modern ideas, although Chalmers in his “Caledonia” (1890, v. 5, p. 45) says:—“Baxter, who is never at a loss for some plausible conjecture, will have Dumfries to be merely ‘Opidum Frisonum, vel Brigantum.’ But of such excursive imitations there is no end!”

The next explanation appeared to be current during the eighteenth century. It was that the name came from “domus fratrum Franciscanorum.” Writing in 1743, the Rev. Peter Rae said:—“Those who derive its Etymon from the Franciscan Monastery built there by Dornagilla, as if it signified as much as domus fratrum Franciscanorum or the Friar’s House, and therefore write it Dumfries, do mistake it; for certainly there was a Town there before that Monastery was erected, and it is called Drumfries by all our ancient Writers.”<sup>3</sup> This, one would have thought, was a sufficient reason for abandoning “domus fratrum,” yet in the third edition of the “Encyclopædia Britannica,” published in 1797, we are told that “its ancient name, it is said by some of the Scotch historians, was *Cotiac*; but on what authority we cannot tell. Its present name appears to have been derived partly from its situation and partly from the monastery of the Grey Friars that formerly stood near the head of the street called the Friar-vennel, the kitchen of which is all that now remains; being only a corruption of Drumfriars or the eminence of the Friary, and accordingly, till within these 40 or 50 years it was always spelt *Drumfries*, and not *Dumfries*, as it is now for the sake of greater softness.” Dr Burnside in his MS. History (1791) and Robert Riddell of Glenriddel in a note to Edgar’s MS. History also support this theory.

Rae himself makes another suggestion. Writing of the Lochar Moss, he tells the following curious story, the original of a legend which we have come across in various forms:—

<sup>2</sup> Disposition, Mr Peter Rae and Spouse to Robert Corsane, their son. 19th May, 1738.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from the Reverend Mr Peter Rae in relation to Lochar Moss. Select Transactions of the Honourable The Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture in Scotland. Edinburgh, 1743.

"There was one William Wilson, a Merchant, the first Compiler of that useful Book, the *Merchant's Companion*, (tho' to save himself the Expense of printing it, he allowed William Newall, likewise a Drumfriesman born, to prefix his name thereto), who told me that being at Lynn-Regis in England, he fell into the company of the Captain of a ship, who, finding, after some Conversation with him, that he was a Scotsman, born in Nithsdale, asked him, if he knew Tinwall-Isles? Mr Wilson told him, That he knew them very well. Upon which the Captain said, That he had read in a Spanish History That Tinwall-Isles were the best Harbour in Scotland."<sup>4</sup> On this Rae bases his derivation. "There is some," he says, modestly, "who bring an Argument to support this Opinion, [that the sea flowed over Loch Moss] from the Name of the principal Town on the other side of that Moss, viz., Drumfries; as if it signified *dorsum freti* (the Backside of the Frith): Because Mr Buchanan, in his *History of Scotland*, renders drum, dorsum, and fretum signifies a Frith or narrow Sea: So the People who inhabit those Towns above mentioned [Tinwald, Torthorwald, etc.] use yet to call the other side *beyond the Moss*."<sup>4</sup>

Robert Edgar, in his MS. History, written about 1746, gives another theory that, with a difference, still receives support. It is, he says, from "Dun, a rising ground or hill, and Freash Scrogie bushes growing on it." Dr Campbell, in his "Survey of Great Britain," 1791, supports this explanation.

More romantic than any of the foregoing is the derivation suggested by the author of "An Enquiry into the Ancient History of Scotland," published in 1789. "Castra Puellarum is a mere translation of Dun-fres. Dun signifying Castellum, and Free or Fri, Virgo Nobilis in the Icelandic Tongue." J. Pinkerton, in notes to Barbour's Bruce, 1790, calls the town "the celebrated Castra Puellarum, Dun, mons, castellum; Fre, puella nobilis."

I am at a loss to know where and why "Castra puellarum" was celebrated, unless it is the "Castle of the Maidens" in the "Morte Darthur," generally, I think, taken to be Edinburgh Castle.

Chalmers in his "Caledonia" (1824) offers the variant on

<sup>4</sup> Letter from the Reverend Mr Peter Rae in relation to Loch Moss. Select Transactions of the Honourable The Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture in Scotland. Edinburgh, 1743.

Edgar's derivation. "*Dunfres*" must, consequently, mean the Castle among the *Shrubberies* or copsewood" he says, after rejecting the Dun as meaning hill, because "there is not any hill." Chalmers' view was approved by William Bennet ("History of Dumfries," 1826), Joseph Duncan, the writer of the Account of the Parish ("New Statistical Account," 1834), William M'Dowall ("History of Dumfries," 1867), and the Rev. R. W. Weir ("Statistical Account of Dumfries Parish," 1876).

The next effort is a reversion to Baxter's despised derivation. Dr W. F. Skene in his "Celtic Scotland" (1877) took the view that it was the Fort of the Frisians, and the Rev. J. B. Johnstone ("Place Names of Scotland," 1891) and Sir Herbert E. Maxwell ("Scottish Land Names," 1894) add their support to Dr Skene's view, so that this derivation seems to be in a fair way to holding the field.

Turning to another aspect of the question, the pronunciation of the name, we observe a continuous evolution. It may be taken that at least up to the close of the sixteenth century words were spelt in the main as they were pronounced. A collection of the spellings of the name, though revealing many strange variants, yet divides into three principal versions. The early writers, that is, of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, almost without exception spell the name "*Dunfres*," pronounced apparently with the accent on the first syllable. About the beginning of the fourteenth century variations become frequent, and the consonant "r" is added, making "*Drunfres*, *Dronfres*, and *Drumfres*." This form settles into *Drumfreis* or *Drumfries*, and continues in use until, as the "*Encyclopædia Britannica*" informed us, about 1750. With this spelling the accent seems to have been distributed equally between the two syllables. As indicated by Rae, the modern spelling began to be used about the beginning of the eighteenth century, and, however it may be pronounced, we may expect it to remain so as long as the printing press and the school insist upon a uniformity that ignores change.

At the present time, as far as I can judge, the process of lessening the force of the first syllable still continues, and the second syllable is expanded. It seems now to be "*D'mfriess*." The whole evolution of the word appears to indicate a cumulative lengthening and softening of certain vowels by the inhabitants of the district, a feature more noticeable in some other words.



The Rev. Dr J. King Hewison, of Rothesay, writes:—As a Dumfriesian I was glad to read Mr J. W. Whitelaw's recent essay upon the meaning of the place-name "Dumfries," also Mr Shirley's supplementary notes on the subject. I have had the honour to be invited to write for the Cambridge University Press; a Geography of Dumfriesshire, which will be issued very shortly. This is my opinion of the place-name under review, as stated in that work:—The county (*comitatus*) for seven centuries has been associated with the town of Dumfries—a place where Dunegal and Radnulf his son held and disposed heritage about the middle of the twelfth century. Radnulf's charter was given at "Dron-fres," which in the Gaelic tongue signifies "the ridge of the bushes" (*phreas*). This corresponds with the persistent local pronunciation "Drumfreesh." The next form of the word is Dunfres and Dunfrez (1183-8), a significant change after the *dun* or fort of Dunegal, on the bushy ridge, became of paramount importance. This form of the word "Dunfrys" appears in 1296, and "Drumfres" holds on in charters after 1329. . . . Of a Frisian settlement in Dumfries, which by some is supposed to mean "the fort of the Frisians," there is no trace, and no record.

Dr George Neilson adds:—Clouds and darkness are thick around the remote origins of the place-name Dumfries, and they do not lighten even under Mr Shirley's lucid grouping of the various views and reasons. Of only one thing about it I am deliberately sure and that is that nobody knows: it is guesswork all.

#### CARLINGWARK LOCH AND ITS CRANNOGS. By JAMES AFFLECK.

Carlingwark Loch has long been famous, not only for its historical and legendary lore, but also as one of the many beauty spots of "Bonnie Galloway." Surrounded by little hills, verdant dunes, waving woods, green fields, and flowery meads, it seems like a liquid gem set in the midst of many coloured brilliants. Its tiny bays, jutting promontories, and the placid surface of the water,

With all its fairy crowds  
Of islands, that together lie  
As quietly as spots of sky  
Among the evening clouds,



present to the "seeing eye" a perfect picture of peace and scenic beauty unexampled by any other loch in our island home.

It is not, however, with the æsthetic aspect of the Loch that I have to deal, but with its past history. Carlingwark Loch is not only redolent with the historical, but also hallowed by the irresistible glamour of legendary lore. I have often listened to the traditional tale that a town lies buried in its depths, but although taught to respect tradition, at the same time I have also learned from experience to test its so-called facts with the greatest possible care. In this particular case, however, I am not only inclined to respect tradition, but also to believe that there is some foundation for the mystic legend that an ancient village lies buried under the silt of the loch. From personal investigation, and from other sources, I have gathered ample evidence to make out at least a *prima facie* case for the existence at one time of a Crannog, or lacustrine village, in the loch.

1. The name of the loch itself practically proves that a Crannog at one time existed on one or two of the little islands. Although the word "Carlingwark" may be open to several derivations, only one will stand the test of history and common-sense. Sir Herbert Maxwell, in his "Topography of Galloway," says that it is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *ceorla weorc*, which means "the work of the countrymen or men," while M'Kerlie holds that it is derived from the Cymric *caer* and *llyn*, meaning "fort lake," and if we add the Saxon adjunct *weorc*, which means "work," we have *caer-llyn-weorc*, the "fort-lake-work." The latter derivation is not only the oldest, but it is the most intelligible, because it points clearly to a lake with "fort-work," whereas Sir Herbert's derivation is obscure, because the forming of the lake itself could not be the work of countrymen. My argument is therefore that the name was given on account of the existence in the loch of a Crannog, or native fort.

2. The name of the parish of Kelton also points to the existence of such a Crannog. My experience in research is that most of our place-names were generally given on account of some outstanding feature or object in the vicinity. The name of the parish, as first found in old documents, was "Lochelletun." This was in a gift of the church so called, by Uchtred, Lord of Galloway, to Holyrood Monastery. "Lochelletun" simply means the "Loch-dwelling." Further, in one of the old charters it is called

"Keletun," alias "Lochetun," and in an old charter of William the Conqueror it is called "Cheletun." Now both "Keletun" and "Cheletun" are derived from the old British words, *cell*, which means "wood," and *tun*, a "dwelling," *i.e.*, a wood-dwelling. One or two authorities are inclined to hold that the parish derived its name from a church, *i.e.*, *cill* or *kill*, a cell, or place for worship, and *tun*, a dwelling. This is not only a Gaelic and Norse combination, but it will be seen that there is a material difference between *cell*, a wood, and *cill*, or *kill*, a place for worship. However, even if it were derived from the Latin word "cella," it may also mean a hut. This theory, no doubt, arose from Gordon's "Monasticon," where it is said that a church existed on the side of the loch, or, as tradition has it, on the Isle. Such a theory is untenable, because up to 1600, and even after that date, the Isle was under water. At the same time, however, tradition may be so far right, for a church may have existed on the same site, and prior to the one whose ruins we see in Kelton Churchyard, because that site was at one time practically on the side of the loch. In fact, in 1600, that part of Midkelton meadow, behind Halmyre Drum, was a loch distinct from Carlingwark, except during floods. At anyrate the overwhelming evidence points to Kelton as simply meaning in the original language a "wood" or "hut" dwelling, or in other words a Crannog.

3. Many of the antiquities found in the parish place it beyond doubt that Kelton was inhabited by various tribes from the "Stone Age" downwards, and it is an indisputable fact that certain of these tribes lived in Crannogs.

4. It is on record that canoes, hollowed out by the action of fire, were found in the loch. These go a long way to confirm its early occupation by a Celtic tribe.

5. A bronze cauldron, which has been assigned to the late Celtic period, was found within a dozen yards of the supposed site of the Crannog. It was full of various articles, such as axe-heads, hammers, bridle-bits, a small saw, etc., many of which have been found duplicated in other lake dwellings, or in different parts of Scotland.

6. I have spoken to gentlemen who have not only seen but traced a "causeway" running from the land in the direction of the sites of the Crannogs, and their evidence is confirmed by a writer in the "Old Statistical Account" of the parish. He says that this

"causeway" was formed of rough stones secured by piles of oak. This corresponds exactly with the usual "causeway" found at nearly all other Crannogs, because it formed the basis of the gangway which connected these dwellings with the shore.

7. The same writer in the "Old Statistical Account" says that in 1765, when the loch was partially drained in order to dig for marl, it was observed that one of the small islands—"The Ash Island"—seemed to be artificial, having evidently been formed by strong piles of wood driven into the silt, or marl, on which were placed large frames of black oak. This clearly points to a Crannog, because that was the manner in which Crannogs were built.

Finally, I can corroborate this statement, because I have not only seen the piles, but actually touched them. Whether they belong to a Crannog or not it is impossible to say until they are raised and the mortising marks examined.

Taking all these things into consideration, a strong case has been made out for the existence of a Crannog at one time on Carlingwark Loch. The question, however, could soon be settled if permission were given to raise a few of these piles or beams, when their antiquity and identity could easily be established by the mortising or chisel work. This is a matter which the Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society should take up. The expense would be very trifling, and to establish such a fact, or rescue such a strange phase of human life from oblivion, would, I venture to say, be another triumph for prehistoric archaeology. Owing to the present level of the water, it would be very difficult to dig for relics, unless permission were obtained from the proprietors to lower the loch in the summer by taking out the dam at the Buchan Bridge. This could easily be done, and when the investigations were completed, the dam could be replaced without in any way injuring the loch. It has been done before, and moreover, the loch, especially on the Public Park side, would be all the better of being cleaned of the weeds which threaten to spoil its beauty. And I am sure the knowledge thus to be gained of a prehistoric people who lived and flourished more than nineteen hundred years ago would more than compensate the proprietors for the permission so given, because the longer the question is left unsettled the proofs will become more and more indistinct.

The sites of the supposed Crannogs are on the east side of

the "Fir Island," and on the "Ash Island," and another little island adjacent thereto. The largest seems to have been on the "Fir Island," and was connected with the shore by a gangway. Crannogs, of course, vary in construction, according to the exigencies of the site or the period of construction. A common method of construction was to drive long piles of wood into the bed of the loch, or morass, leaving their tops projecting at a uniform height above the water. On the piles were placed cross beams so as to form a platform capable of supporting the wooden dwellings to be erected thereon. Another method was to make a floating raft of the stems of trees. These stems were all bound together and covered with hazel, or brushwood, heather, bracken, etc., mingled with stones, and then floated out till it grounded on the shallows. When this was effected it was pinned into position by driving piles all round it and mortising them into the framework. This formed the foundation for the dwelling proper. The houses built thereon were generally round, with the roofs sloping from the eaves to a point in the centre, and covered with heather, bracken, etc. Where a number of them were built together, they were generally connected by bridges or gangways, and thus formed a lacustrine village.

The inhabitants of these ancient villages seem to have maintained themselves almost solely by the spoils of the chase. This is corroborated by the large quantities of bones, such as the ox (*Bos longifrons*), deer, goat, pig, or wild boar, wolf, fox, otter, beaver, birds, etc., that are generally found in the refuse heaps of these Crannogs. No doubt many of these Crannogs were inhabited by the *Selgovae* (i.e., the hunters), who flourished on this side of the Dee, at a period prior to the Roman invasion.

At that period the loch presented a very different appearance from what it does now. The whole of the meadows from the Dee right to Bruntstick Tollbar were part of the loch. Carlingwark meadows were connected with the loch through what is now Marl Street, and also through the "Gallows Slot." This is not surprising, because a rise of fifteen feet of water would accomplish this at the present day. Even down to Timothy Pont's survey (1608-1620), the loch had its outlet through Cuil meadow, Cuil field, along the public road to Whitepark Brae, and from thence to the Black Loch, down past Torrs farmhouse into the loch beyond, and from thence finally down by the Old Mill of Buittle into the

Urr. All the little islands which now adorn the loch were then submerged to a depth of at least seven or eight feet, and only the top of the rocky part of the Fir Island would be visible, if visible at all. It was only in 1765 when the loch was partly drained by the formation of the canal from the Buchan to the Dee that these islands came prominently into view. Tradition says that the Fir Island was the site of an iron forge where Edward I. shod his horses when passing through Galloway in 1300. It is difficult to believe this time-honoured tradition, because at that time the island would be practically under water. The question, however, might be easily settled by running a trench or two towards the rock without in any way damaging the trees, when some evidence either of the existence of a forge or Crannog may be found.

On the Kirkland side of the loch there are two or three recesses built into the bank, the use of which puzzles visitors. These were used as store houses for the marl raised from the loch, and are of no antiquarian value.

Carlingwark Loch has in the past proved a prolific source of archæological relics. They have been numerous, the most important being canoes of an early Celtic period, a stone hammer, supposed to be Druidical, ancient horse-shoes, which consisted of a solid piece of iron made to cover the whole of the hoof. On the inside these shoes were hollow so as not to press on the soft part of the foot. Several large stag heads were also found. A fine bronze sword was found in 1873; portions of a bronze sword, and a plain bronze ring in 1885, a bronze cauldron in 1886, etc. In other parts of the parish and vicinity many other bronze articles were found, such as a bronze mask in 1820, stone coffins, carved urns, and several implements of warfare, all of which bronze articles prove that the parish and the loch must have been the scene of an important Celtic settlement, either in the late "Bronze Age" or the early "Iron Age." Such finds ought to stimulate us to make greater exertions and more exhaustive researches wherever we have evidence of the footsteps of our pre-historic forefathers. And I not only hope, but almost feel sure, that every encouragement will be given to such research.

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**29th March, 1911.**

Chairman—MR G. MACLEOD STEWART.

SANQUHAR BURGH CROSS. By REV. W. M'MILLAN, A.C.P.

The precise date at which the Cross of the ancient Burgh of Sanquhar was erected is lost in the dim ages of history. In all probability it would be erected when our town first became a Burgh of Barony, and tradition tells us that this took place when William the Lion was King over Scotland. The tradition, too, has a certain amount of support in history. The first charter of which the provisions are certainly known was that granted by King James III. in 1484. In this charter mention is made of our town as being anciently a "free Burgh of Barony" (*Ex antiquis temporibus retroactis fuit liber Burgus in Baronía*), and it is further stated that the earlier charters had been lost in the tumults of those stirring times (*Cartae ejusdem per guerras et alias destructae sunt et combustae*). This charter, then, of date 1484 is sufficient to show that in that year Sanquhar was considered as an ancient Burgh, and that previous to that date at least two charters had been granted to her citizens. In addition, the fact that King William was related to the Rosses of Ryehill (his natural daughter, Isabel, having married Sir Robert Ross) makes it quite probable that he should have given a charter to the town of Sanquhar. Be that as it may, however, the charter of 1484 above referred to gave the Burghers the right to hold a market and to have a Cross, the words of the charter being:—*Rex fecit et de novo infeodavit prefatam villam de Sanquhar liberum burgum in baronia cum omnibus libertatibus et privilegiis et concessit ut haberent crucem et forum perpetualiter die sabbate singulis ebdomatis*. The King makes and anew infefts the aforesaid Burgh of Sanquhar a free burgh of barony with all liberties and privileges and grants that they may have a cross and a market every week on the Sabbath day (Saturday). It is, of course, quite probable that this charter gave to our forefathers rights which they already possessed, but of which the charter evidence had been lost. At any rate the Market Cross must have been erected in Sanquhar by the 15th century at the latest. It stood at the Corseknowe (hence the name). This knoll was the highest portion of the Burgh so

far as the main road was concerned, and doubtless this had something to do with its being placed there. It also sat about the centre of the town, being almost equidistant from the Council House, which marks the boundary of the Royal Burgh on the North-West, and the Townfoot Burn, on the South-East. The Cross has, unfortunately, disappeared, the only portion of it which is left is the capital, which is fixed on the apex of the porch of the West United Free Church. Underneath it is a stone bearing the inscription, "Top of Sanquhar Cross. 1680." Why the date 1680 should have been placed there it is impossible to tell, for the Cross was certainly in existence long before that date. The Cross itself consisted of a circular base of five steps, on the top of which was a square block of freestone, from which the shaft sprung. The shaft was not more than nine inches in diameter and was surmounted by a plain capital. The Cross was the centre of the life of the Burgh. It was there that all proclamations were made, whether national or local. The markets were held around it, and in times of danger it was the rallying point of the Burghers. In 1587 we find it mentioned in the Records of the Privy Council as "a place for the selling of nolt (cattle)."

In 1598 the Burgh was advanced to the position of a Royal Burgh, and in the charter granted then by James VI. the burghers are granted the right to have "perpetually and at all times a market place and a market cross." Not only was it used by the Magistrates for their proclamations, others considered it a sufficiently important point to publish their declarations regarding the Government of the country. It was here that in 1680 Richard Cameron with some twenty followers boldly asserted that as King Charles II. had broken his Coronation Oath his subjects were no longer bound to regard him as their Sovereign Lord. It was a bold step to take and one which cost its author and many of his followers their lives, but in 1689 the Scottish Parliament really asserted the self same principles as the Covenanters had done at the Cross of Sanquhar when they declared the throne vacant since the King had broken the fundamental laws of the country. Simpson tells us that this declaration was published by Michael Cameron (brother of Richard) amidst solemn silence, but from the proclamation which was immediately issued by the royal authorities regarding it we learn that "it was after a solemn procession and singing of psalms" that the proclamation of the



rebels was made. From the royal proclamation we also learn that several persons belonging to the district were concerned in the affair. These included a "brother-in-law of Robert Park, Bailie (afterwards Provost) of Sanquhar." Crocket, in his "Men of the Moss Hags," has given a novelist's version of the publishing of the declaration.

In addition to the first Sanquhar declaration no less than other five were published at the Cross of the old burgh. The chief of these was that published by Rev. James Renwick on 28th May, 1685. The members of the Covenanting faction in the district met at Friarminnon, in Kirkconnel, and after deliberation, proceeded to Sanquhar, where at the Cross they declared that "Although a few wicked and unprincipled men had proclaimed James Duke of York a professed Papist and excommunicated person to be King of Scotland, we the contending and faithful remnant of the Church of Scotland do hereby deliberately jointly and unanimously protest against the foresaid proclamation." Renwick's declaration was published with more pomp than Cameron's, for as he made his way to the Cross Renwick was attended by no fewer than 200 armed men, and we can well believe the words of the historian, "Their sudden appearance without warning in the heart of the town caused considerable alarm in the townfolk at the unceremonious intrusion of so large a force."

The other four declarations were published at the Cross. The first on 10th August, 1692; the second on November 6th, 1695; the third on May 21st, 1703; and the fourth on 2nd October, 1707. These were all after the Revolution Settlement of 1689, and all protested more or less vigorously against the same. Regarding the publishing of the last of these declarations a very interesting account has been preserved in the "Memoirs of Ker of Kersland." It appears that the Covenanters met at Kelloside, near Sanquhar, and from there marched to the Cross. Their protest related to the Union of the Parliaments, and in no measured terms did they denounce it, showing to their own satisfaction that it was a breach of Divine law, a forsaking of the Almighty, and a "plain subversion of the fundamental ancient constitutions, laws, and liberties of this kingdom which we, as a free people, have enjoyed for the space of about two thousand years without ever being fully conquered. We have thought fit to

publish and leave a copy of the same at Sanquhar by a part of our number having the consent of the whole to do so."

The citizens, however, did not take any heed of the warning, but pursued their own way much to the disgust of the stricter Cameronians, who appear to have been ready to go any length to prevent the Union being carried out. The Cameronians, strangely enough, never appear to have been very numerous about Sanquhar, although their chief declarations were made there.

The next scene at the old Cross of which an account has been preserved to our time took place in 1760, when the new monarch, George III., was proclaimed. Doubtless other monarchs had their accessions to the throne declared at the same spot, but George III.'s is the first which is recorded. The record is not in the minutes of the Council but in the account book, but it gives us sufficient to see of what sort the ceremony was. The account is as follows :—

Accompt of the Expense of the  
Proclamation of His Majesty King George the third, the 4th  
November, 1760.

	S.	D.
To two pints of spirits and a bottle of wine made into punch which was drunk at the Cross ... ..	11	4
To a pint of whisky to the trades who fired at the Cross...	2	6
To one pound of powder ... ..	1	6
To carting a load of coals and for ringing the bell ...	0	9
To a lad for beating the drum ... ..	1	0
To the expenses of the man who brought up the Procla- mation ... ..	0	9
To James Kellock on that occasion ... ..	1	0
	18	10

From this we see that the older citizens made much more of the proclaiming of a king than their present-day descendants.

In 1901 on the 29th of January King Edward was proclaimed at the same spot. The Magistrates and Town Council met in the Council-House, and, preceded by the Volunteer band, marched to the Cross, where the proclamation was made, it being noticed that, although the Provost, Mr Waugh, had a written copy of the proclamation in his hand, he read it off a newspaper cutting. The day of the ceremony was wild and blustering

and a considerable amount of snow had fallen in the morning. Just as the Provost was getting well into his work of reading the document the snow slid from the roof of the house behind where the Council were standing and for a moment or two they ceased to take any interest in the proceedings, while the onlookers, who were clear of the fall, joined in a roar of laughter. After the ceremony proper was concluded the crowd, led by Mr W. M'Gowan, joined in singing "God Save the King."

Another ceremony which took place at the Cross during Provost Waugh's term of office was the address which General Booth, the veteran leader of the Salvation Army, delivered by its side. The General was then on tour through England and Scotland, and he stopped at Sanquhar. A semi-official welcome was extended to him by the Town Council, and a large crowd of the townspeople assembled to hear him speak. In the course of his address he paid a noble tribute to those men who, according to their light, had endeavoured to obey God rather than men.

Last year (1910) Provost Tweddel at the same place proclaimed King George with appropriate ceremony.

Although I have stated above that King Edward was proclaimed at the Cross, this statement requires some qualification, for sometime in the beginning of last century the ancient Cross of the Burgh was removed. It had been ruinous for some time, and appears to have been allowed simply to fall to bits, parts of it being taken by one and other of the burghers to repair their own premises.

In 1682 the Council of Sanquhar made application to the Convention of Royal Burghs for a grant in aid of their burgh funds in order to improve their public buildings, including the Cross. Nothing appears to have been done then, and so a petition bearing that "the tolbooth, the cross, and the bridge is altogether rowinous" was presented again in 1688. This time the petition received more attention, and on the report of three commissioners £10 sterling was paid to the Burgh in 1697. In 1704, and again in 1727, the burgh received sums from the Convention for the repair of the "Tolbooth and other public works," which latter, of course, included the Cross.

Some time about 1810 the Cross was, as I have mentioned, removed, and the meeting place of the burghers and the spot where demonstrations were held was shifted to the "pump well,"

which stood a little to the north of the Post Office. This was a large pump from which the lieges drew their water supplies. It was built of stone with a stone seat beside it. It was driven not vertically but horizontally like the pendulum of a clock. Few there were who could swing its handle except with both hands, and to do so with one was regarded as a proof of great strength. The widening of the street left this pump in the middle of the roadway, and in 1836 it was shifted to the side of the street, its former site being marked by a cross formed of large stones. In 1881 it was removed altogether at the instigation, it has been alleged, of certain members of the Water Company, who, perhaps, considered that there might be more users of the private company's supply of water if the public wells were abolished.

The following extract from the "Dumfries Magazine" of 1826 gives a charming glimpse at the customs of 85 years ago:—

"On Thursday last the common bell-man of Sanquhar made a notification in the following words: 'I am requested to intimate that the baw' o' moosic will meet at the pump well the night at seven o'clock to play 'God Save the King,' and they'll be glad o' the company o' onybody that likes to come and hear them and to tak' a glass wi' them afterwards in a quate discreet kin' o' a way when a' His Majesty's loyal subjects are gaun tae toss the King's Health for the favour he has done tae the lieges o' Sanquhar in opening the ports at this prezeese time.'" In consequence it is related of the above call upon their loyalty a number of the lieges "assembled and listened to the performance of the King's Anthem and then adjourned from the Pump Well to the Court-House, where they pledged His Majesty's health, long life, and prosperity in brimming bumpers, but from the more potent liquor drawn from John Barleycorn." This reminds us of the "dry" year of 1826, when the corn supply failed in the country, and the King on his own authority suspended the protective laws, and so saved many of the people much unnecessary suffering. Thus the Sanquharians' thankfulness for the opening "of the ports at this prezeese time." After the taking away of the Cross its site remained unmarked for about fifty years, but at a "demonstration" held in Sanquhar on 22nd June, 1860, the 180th anniversary, it was resolved to have the spot permanently marked. The project was kept in abeyance for nearly four years, but on the 11th May, 1864, the present monument was unveiled.

It is constructed of Dalbeattie granite, and rises to a height of twenty-two feet above the street. On the side facing the roadway is the following inscription:—

In Commemoration of  
 the two famous  
 Sanquhar Declarations  
 which were published  
 on this spot where stood  
 The ancient Cross of the Burgh,  
 The one by  
 the Rev. Richard Cameron  
 on the 22nd June, 1680 ;  
 The other by  
 the Rev. James Renwick  
 on the 28th May, 1685,  
 “ The killing time.”

If you would know the nature of their crime  
 Then read the story of that killing time.

1864.

The foundation stone was laid by the ex-Provost, Mr Samuel Whigham, chairman of the committee, in presence of a great concourse of people anxious to witness the ceremony. In a prepared stone near the base of the monument was deposited a bottle containing a number of documents, etc. It is to be regretted, perhaps, that the committee did not attempt to restore the ancient cross of the burgh. There were many people alive in 1864 who remembered the ancient land mark and many of the stones, including the shaft, capital and square block, were then in existence. But the committee evidently thought that something brand-new was preferable to that which was old, and so the street was ornamented with a modern obelisk.

Although the majority of the citizens of Sanquhar were enthusiastic over the project of erecting a monument to commemorate the worthies of the Covenant, there was a small minority who were not so. One of the minority, Mr Alexander Weir, published a little book of 40 pages, entitled “Sanquhar Monument” (a politico-religious and historic cantata). In this book Sandy (as he was familiarly called) rails at the action of the Covenanters and those who supported them. His little book is rather scarce

now, but I have one of the copies, and from it I take the following lines which give a fair idea of the work:—

The Rebels proclaimed their declaration,  
On Sanquhar Cross fixed such publication.  
To the King they knew the old burgh had sworn  
Allegiance and service evening and morn.  
This old burgh therefore forfeited its claim  
To municipal privileges Royal,  
Tainted, perjured, corrupted, disloyal,  
Such deeds to perpetuate and preserve,  
A monument granite such end would serve.  
By our Modern Magnates carnally wise  
Erected, and thus it testifies  
Of Rebels unholy who seized the town,  
And of Burghal Authorities who in sooth  
Were sworn to the King to defend his cause  
And fight for his crown and country's laws.

Behind the Cross still stands the old prison of the Burgh. Its walls are of great thickness, and in some parts the mortar used appears to have been clay. The house is now used as a dwelling-house, and is probably the oldest building within the Burgh. During the troublous times which followed the execution of King Charles in 1649 a prisoner in this old prison was the means of causing a great tumult in the town. This prisoner was David Veitch, brother of the Laird of Dawick, and a member of the same family that afterwards had possession of Eliock estate. This Veitch had been actively engaged on the side of King Charles II., and had been arrested and confined in the old prison in Sanquhar. It so happened that as he was lying there two troops of English Dragoons serving under the Commonwealth happened to meet in the town, the one troop, under Captain Mason, coming from Carlisle, and the other, under Captain Palmer, coming from Ayr. They met opposite the Burgh Cross, and Veitch, hearing them, rushed to the window and shouted to them to fight for King Charles. Each troop thought that he was exhorting the other and that the other was composed of King's men. The result was that they started to fight, and the party from Ayr being the stronger, the other was driven back. They made their way to Christon Peel, where there was an English garrison, and

the Ayr party seeing them rush there saw that a mistake had been made. Captain Palmer and several others were wounded in the encounter and had to stay in the Castle till their wounds were healed. At this particular period the Tolbooth proper was in a most ruinous condition, and it may have been on this account that the prisoner was not confined there. It has always been held that the present Council House occupies the site of the former one, but it is just a little strange that the prison and Cross should be so near one another, while the Council Chambers and Court-House were at the extreme end of the Burgh. There is a case here for investigation, and I would not be the least surprised to see it proved that the present Tolbooth is in quite a different situation from the former one.

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PLACE NAMES IN KIRKPATRICK-DORAND, COMMONLY CALLED  
KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM. By Rev. W. A. STARK, F.S.A., Scot.

When we attempt to pierce the darkness which shrouds the hills of Galloway before the time which is called historic, we seem to descry a people who lived here before the advent of any Gaelic speakers, either Brythonic or Keltic. Those ancient inhabitants are supposed to have spoken "a dialect of Iverian," and they have left behind them in Galloway one word, namely, the word Urr, or Orr, which is the name of the stream that forms the western boundary of the parish of Kirkpatrick-Dorand. The same word Urr is said to be the Basque word for water. Readers of S. R. Crockett's "Adventurer in Spain" may remember that he mentions hearing on the slopes of the Pyrenees "the bell of Ur Church," and adds "they say Ur is the ancient name for waters—which, indeed, I can well believe, for this Ur is a place of many of them." In old accounts of the Stewartry, and also in the common speech of the people up to the present day, the name of this stream is not Urr, but Orr, and is the same in origin as the name of the river Ure in Yorkshire and of the Orr Water in Fifeshire. That appears to be the only remaining trace in the names of this parish of that ancient people.

So far as the names of places are concerned, the Roman occupation, which was only a brief one in Galloway, seems to have left almost no vestige in the nomenclature of this parish:



for I would not admit that the Doon of Urr is, in its name, an indication of the Roman occupation. Dun or Doon is of Gaelic, not Roman, origin, and would indicate Keltic possession.

Vestiges of the Norse dwellers are also very faint. The parish is fourteen miles from the shore at its nearest point. The Norsemen might never be in it in any number nor for any considerable time. Some of their place names were appropriated, and handed on by the Gaelic-speaking residents, such as mar for moor. If local pronunciation may be accepted as a guide, Gilmartin should point to the gill or ravine where Martin had his abode. Whether Martin was saint or sinner cannot in this case be ascertained. A part of the ancient property of Marwhirn was known as the "one mark land of Marwhirn," i.e., the portion of Marwhirn from which an annual payment of one mark was due to the superior. This was a designation of land which belonged to Scandinavian customs, and was in use in Shetland till comparatively recent times.

The earliest race of which we have clear evidence in the place names was a Gaelic-speaking people, and as they overran and occupied this corner of Scotland for at least 1200 years, we cannot be surprised to find marks of their occupation in hills and streams and fields and houses and lands. Besides, we have sufficient evidence<sup>1</sup> that Gaelic was spoken in the remote parts of Galloway as late as 1670. Over the whole of Galloway it would probably be more or less spoken 300 years ago. Those Gaelic people not only designated the hills with names which have descended to the present time, but with manifest discrimination marked the character of the hills by the names which they gave to them. In various parts of the Stewartry they gave the prefix Mill or Mull to the highest hills, such as Millfire and Millyea. One only of these names survives in Kirkpatrick-Dorand, viz., Milharay, which rises only to the height of 973 feet above the level of the sea.

Distinguished from the Mills or Mulls were the Bars, of which we have five. Three only of these present the pointed top which the name is supposed to denote, viz., the Bar Hill, as it is now called—a mixture of Gaelic and modern speech; Barderroch, the hill of the oak trees; and Barmoffaty, which seems to mean Moffat's Hill, but I confess that it is a sort of puzzle. The two

1. E.g., Riddell's MSS., vol. 7. Appendix.

remaining Bars, namely, Barbain and Barncailzie, do not show much of a hill of any kind.

The broken, precipitous-faced hill which we call a crag was known among those Gaelic-speaking people as a Craig. At any rate their word has come to us in that form. Sir Herbert Maxwell mentions three in Kirkpatrick-Dorand, viz., Craigen-gillan, Craigadam, and Craigelwhan, of which the first and second recall the names of persons. Many hills in Scotland and also in Ireland<sup>2</sup> perpetuate the recollection of Guilleán, who was the tutelary deity of the ancient blacksmiths. Another Craigen-gillan is in Carsphairn. Craigadam, I have reason to believe, is a modern coinage intended to designate the abode of a gentleman called M'Adam. The house has given its name to the hill, as sometimes happens. The meaning of Craigelwhan is to me unknown.

Next come the Knocks, which were much the same as in Southern Scotch would now be denominated Knowes. Of these, eight survive, viz., Knockâmos and Knockwalker, which possibly preserve from oblivion two persons, Amos and Walker; Knocknail; Knockvennie, said to mean the Knowe of the Milk; Knockwalloch or Walloch's Knowe; Knockleach, which is the Knowe of Flat Stones; Knockdrockit, the Knowe at the Bridge; Knocklosh, which may be either the Burnt Knowe—alluding to its burnt appearance in summer, or more probably the Hill of Fire, because a beacon signal flared on occasions from its summit.

Still another word those people had to distinguish the appearance of elevated land. In distinction from the Mill or Mull and the Bar and the Craig and the Knock, they had the Drum, which denoted a sow-backed ridge. Kirkpatrick-Dorand has only one Drum, viz., Drumhumphry, or Humphry's Ridge. If this were better seen, for it is now covered and obscured by trees, its appearance would justify the epithet which those people conferred upon it.

Cairns would no doubt be numerous in those old days as monuments of departed warriors, or marks and memorials of famous battles; but only two are still mentioned here. They are Cairney Hill and Meikle Cairn.

We can hardly help remarking that those Gaelic-speaking people had a keen eye for topographical characteristics, and were

able to apply appropriate names to them—names which have remained in use now for many hundred years. Knocklosh may have been an instance of this, but certainly Barbain="the white hill," is so, and Auchenreoch="the grey field," and Minnydow="the black moss," prove that they were not colour-blind. So also Glaisters if it means, as is supposed, "the green land." The natural features of the localities have been described with an accuracy which is still apparent in such cases as Larg="the sloping hillside," Chipperkyle="the hollow of the well," Bogue and Boghall="marshy places," and Lairdlaugh="place on the hillside." We cannot be certain, but it seems probable that Corsock, of which the Church and Manse are in this parish *quoad civilia*, originally designated it as a marshy place.

Those who live in certain parts of Corsock are mostly aware that, owing to the clay sub-soil, the water which falls in rain does not speedily drain away, but lies long upon the surface. The Corsock district was at one time famous for its peat mosses. Indeed it continues to be so still. Owing to the high price of coal, Corsock people have been glad to fall back upon their peat.

A bare, barren hill with small appearance of vegetation is Muil, 1135 feet high. At the foot of it are the Muil Well, of which Symson made a note more than 200 years ago, and the farm of Muil, which takes its name from the hill. Fleckit Hill, too, i.e., "the hill of many colours," shows that the people who gave it the name were observant of the natural features of the scenery amid which they lived. Take as another instance, Clonkins, which means "the beautiful meadow"—a name which is frequently found also in Ireland. Still another instance is Garholm, which we may take to mean "the rough holm."

Spending their days under the open canopy of heaven—not confining themselves, as many of us are tempted to do, within four walls and under a slated roof—they were able to observe more narrowly the objects of the landscape. They did not dwell in cities or towns, but in open fields. Neither were their fields like ours now, encircled with hedges or fences or walls. They were open fields. The people wandered across the country at their will.

Auchen represents mostly their word for field. We have in Kirkpatrick-Dorand Auchenreoch="the loch of the grey field." The field gave its name to the loch which is now the boundary in that part between the parishes of Kirkpatrick-Dorand and Urr.

We have also Auchenhay, where in old days was an open-air kiln, a place for drying the grain.

As they had grain to dry they were to some extent at least tillers of the soil. They had also sheep, for their name survives in Darngarroch="the field of the sheep." Where sheep were grazing a summer residence of some kind was needed for those who had charge of them, and as the Gaelic word for a sheiling is *Airidh*, so we have still a trace of that word in *Areeming*. Pigs would also appear to have been among their possessions, if we can be sure that *Kilnabony* really means "the place of the piglings."

[The names of two adjoining fields on the property of Crofts have come down to these days, one of them *Kilnabony* and the other *Kilnapany*. It seems to me not altogether impossible, especially as an ancient chapel was in close proximity, that a holy man or saint had his cell or *Kil* in that part, and that his name was *Nabony*. The name *Nabony* is an old Galloway one. I had a family of *Nabonys* as parishioners who were of an old Galloway stock. I think it is possible that the field *Kilnabony* commemorates a holy man of that name. If so, the other name *Kilnapany* would be an invention of some one who tickled his fancy with a sort of rhyming correspondence of sound.]

I have alluded to the sheep and the pigs. An animal which was reared and esteemed a delicacy amongst the Gaelic-speaking residents of Galloway was the badger. The flesh of the badger is said to be excellent eating. Those people had places in which they bred and reared their badgers. Such a place was called *Brockloch*. We have actually two places of the name in the parish—two old badger-warrens. Not only did those people possess sheep and badgers and perhaps pigs, goats were climbing on their hills. Doubtless they knew how to bring one down when it was wanted, either for its flesh or for its milk. *Slongaber* was the place which took its name from the goats which frequented it.

But while they were fortunate in having so many useful associates, there were others against which they would carry on a constant warfare. Wolves, which are long since extirpated, had found shelter in *Tarbreoch*. Foxes, not so very long since driven from the parish, were in those days seen on *Shinnie Brae*. Wild cats roamed in the neighbourhood of *Lochenkit*. Perhaps some might be found there still. Adders gave their name to

Knarrie Burn. Most likely descendants of those adders are there at the present day.

In those times many trees and even thick forests covered great portions of the country. The lake-dwellings which have been discovered and carefully investigated prove that those ancient people had access to an unlimited quantity of timber. Only one species of tree has left its name in Kirkpatrick. It is the oak. Barderroch was "the hill of the oak." But that there were woods is testified by Culfad="the long wood," and Culshand="the old wood." Perhaps Garholm, alluded to already, which meant "the rough holm," may have shown some sort of vegetation.

We need have no doubt that, owing to the absence of any artificial drainage and excessive rains, lochs and marshes abounded in the parish. In fact the whole parish was at one time known as Kirkpatrick on the Moor. The Norse word for moor was adopted in the Keltic speech, and is still maintained on twentieth century lips in such names as Margley="the moor of the fight," Marwhirn="the moor of the cairn," and Marcartney, which was Cartney's or M'Cartney's moor.

We have three Isles in the parish: but they are not "tracts of land surrounded by water." The word is Keltic, and denotes meadow land beside a stream. Thus Isles of Tarbreoch is a level carse gently sloping to a burn. Isles of Boot, a name known now only to a few of the older people, is a sloping piece of level land behind Durham Street in the Village, watered by a small stream. Mossisle, though the name is now confined to a cottage, was at one time the name of the level ground near the cottage and adjacent to the running water. The same use of the word occurs in the Millisles of the parishes of Kirkinner and Sorbie.

The evidence of the ecclesiastical life of those old times which survives in the place-names of the present day is rather disappointing. There is less than one had reason to expect. The parish name of old, Kilpatrick, gives us the Keltic dedication to the saint. That Kilquhanity was the kil or cell of Kennedy, some saint or hermit of Keltic times, is no more than a conjecture. At Kirklebride we are on firmer ground, for there we have the Kirk of St. Bride or St. Brigid, to whom were many dedications in Scotland. The word Kirklebride is interesting, because it shows us that the original name was Kilbride, the same

as East Kilbride and West Kilbride. But when the Gaelic-speaking people were disappearing and others were taking their place who did not understand the tongue yet worshipped in the same little church, they prefixed their own word Kirk. Thus Kilbride became Kirk-Kilbride, and remains so in the common speech of to-day—Kirklebride. Kilnabony, as already mentioned, may have been originally an ecclesiastical spot. Another vestige of old church usages is found in the words for cross which still remain. In old Keltic days, as in some continental countries still, crosses were erected in various places, some elaborately carved, others extremely plain. That custom accounts for the names Croys, Corse, Corsehill, Corsegate.

We pass on now to more modern times. Naturally we pass through a period of transition. Just as Norse words passed into the usage of those who spoke Gaelic and were modified accordingly, so Gaelic words have come down to us through the speech of those who knew no Gaelic and have been at times so distorted as to become unrecognisable. This may account for such names as Cutcloy and Tailtratnaw. For the same reason—the meaning of the words having been lost—later additions were prefixed or appended. Kirklebride is an instance. Again, names were given to places which brought together the speech of two different races, thus forming one word. Of this kind is Gowkcairn. Gowk is Saxon and Cairn is of Keltic origin. If I might hazard a guess at Tan Hill, I would say that it also is a hybrid, for Tan<sup>3</sup> may represent the Gaelic for fire and Hill of course is Saxon.

Coming now to names which are more distinctive of our modern times, we have a few—I may take this opportunity to put them on record—which are ceasing to be remembered. Slatehouse is one. Perhaps it was the first house in the district to be slated. All the other houses would be thatched or covered with turf. Shielbank, Westfield, Springside, Step-end, Marlmount, the old name for Woodpark.

Other names, most of them still in use, have preserved words which are nearly or altogether obsolete. Nethertown, for instance, and Townhead, in which town is the old word toun= the farm toun, i.e., the farm with its collection of houses—barn, byres, stables, etc. Fordhouse and Crocketford preserve a use of the word ford, which has now become forgotten, namely for a

3. See Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary, *sub voce* Teind.



road or way. I noticed lately<sup>4</sup> that this old Scottish use is found also in the neighbourhood of Dartmoor, where Lydford, Litta-ford, Longaford, Reddaford, do not apply to passages over streams, but take their appellations from the old word ford = a way.

A small hamlet commonly known as Corsegate has an older name, Liggatcheck, which preserves two obsolete uses. Ligate is the old name for a gate. Jamieson defines it as "a gate so hung that it may shut of itself" and the "cheek" of the ligate is the side of it.

Sillerhill is where siller or money was dug up.

Shankfoot is a house at the foot of a shank. Jamieson says that the shank of a hill is the projecting point of it.

Shaw Brae is the brae which had a wood beside it. Shaw is an old Scotch word. It was of old spelt S C H A W, and meant a wood or grove.

Butt Hill is a hill which was ploughed all round, but had a centre portion unploughed.

Waulk-mill-pool in the Water of Urr recalls the old word waulk. The waulk-mill was where cloth was fullled or thickened.

Boglebridge denotes the bridge where a bogle or ghost used to be seen. [A curious fact regarding this ghost deserves to be mentioned for the benefit of any who take an interest in such matters. Many years ago, before the construction of the present road which leads the traveller from Crocketford to Corsock, the path crossed the water much higher up. It was only a hill track, and at that time the water was crossed by stepping-stones. One dark night, when the stream was in flood, a man—I have been told he was a soldier—was making his way across the stones when his foot slipped. He fell into the water and was drowned. At intervals thereafter his ghost appeared, to frighten the passers-by. But in course of time a new and better road was made considerably further down the water, and a bridge crossed at the point now known as Boglebridge. For the curious point is that the ghost, finding that no one was coming to the stepping-stones and therefore having no one to frighten, came down from the old place to the new. It ceased to be seen at the stepping-stones and made its appearances at the bridge. Hence



the name Boglebridge. This change of habitat was so well known that a local poet<sup>5</sup> has recorded it in verse.

“ I heard folk say  
As lang’s the road gaed by that way  
That every now and then at e’en  
Some fleysome things were heard or seen:  
But since the road cam’ farer down  
Frae Galloway unto the toun  
The fleysome things have flitted too,  
And now and then appear in view.”]

This ghost was not the only uncanny visitant of the parish. Brooklands possesses a Fairy Hill, where the fairies may have conducted their dances. The Brownie Hill also perpetuates the memory of one of those Galloway phantoms of which Nicolson’s ballad, “The Brownie of Blednoch,” gives such a weird description.

“ There cam’ a strange wight to oor toun en’,  
An’ the fient a body did him ken,  
He tirlid na lang but he glided ben  
Wi’ a dreary, dreary hum.”

The Gledsknowe reminds us of the “greedy gled” or kite, a species of falcon.

Cushat-knowe retains the old Scottish word for the ring-dove.

Netheryett gives us the old Scottish word for a gate.  
“ Please steek the yett.”

The names of persons have come down to us in the same way. As the name of the parish tells us both of St. Patrick, to whom its church was dedicated, and of the family of Dorand (corrupted into Durham), who were its chief proprietors in days long departed, so Lochpatrick and St. Patrick’s Well bear the appellation of the saint, and Durhambill and Durham Street bear the altered name of the early proprietors. In a similar way, Crocketford was called after someone of the name of Crocket, and Maryfield and Kate’s Well, Tottleham’s Glen and Dronan’s Craig and Chalmer’s Brae tell us the names but not the history of persons now forgotten. Piper Croft allows us to imagine a piper whose bagpipes made the hills resound, but does not tell us his name.

Regarding the attribution of colour, it is noticeable that while the Gaelic-speaking people evidently tried to mark their appreciation of colour in hills and fields, the later inhabitants have hardly evinced that desire to the same extent. Except at places called Redhill, Red Brow Pool, and Green Hill, nothing but white and black has been thought worthy of remark—Whitecairn, Blackhall, Blackloch, Blackpark, Blackmark.

Two names mentioned by Sir Herbert Maxwell<sup>6</sup> as belonging to this parish might be classed as hybrid. They are Moneyknowe and Moneypool. The first part of these might be of Gaelic origin, but perhaps Moneyknowe is like Sillerhill, the knowe where money was found, and Moneypool was the pool where money was seen.

This brief review has brought us over a period of more than two thousand years. Does it not seem strange that a person who speaks to-day of the Bridge of Urr is using a name which unites the speech of people between whom is a space of twenty centuries?

#### LIST OF PLACE NAMES.

Areeming.	Brooklands.	Croys.
Arkland.	Brownie Hill.	Culfad.
Auchenhay.	Burnside.	Culshand.
Auchenreoch.	Butt Hill.	Cushat Knowe.
		Cutcloy.
Bar.	Cairney Hill.	
Barbain.	Chalmers Brae.	Dalvåkïe Holm.
Barderroch.	Chipperkyle.	Darngarroch.
Barmoffaty.	Clonkins.	Doon of Urr.
Barncailzie.	Coldstream.	Doonpark.
Barnyard.	Corse.	Dronan's Craig.
Blackhall.	Corsegate.	Drumhumphry.
Blackloch.	Corsehill.	Durhamhill.
Blackmark.	Corsock.	Durham Street.
Blackpark.	Craig.	Eastlands.
Boghall.	Craigadam.	Fairyhill.
Boglebridge.	Craigelwhan.	Fleckit Hill.
Bogue.	Craigengillan.	Fordhouse.
Bridge of Urr.	Crocketford.	
Brockloch.	Crofts.	Garholm.

Garmartin.	Lairdlaugh.	Pipercroft.
Gilmartin.	Liggatcheck.	
Glaisters.	Lochenkit.	Redbrow Pool.
Gledsknowe.	Lochpark.	Redhill.
Gowkcairn.	Lochpatrick.	St. Patrick's Well.
Greenhill.	Longberry.	Shankfoot.
		Shaw Brae.
Hillhead.	Maiden's Craig.	Shepherd's Cairn.
Holehouse.	Manse.	Shielbank.
Holmhead.	Marcartney.	Shinnie Brae.
	Margley.	Sillerhill.
Isles of Tarbreoch.	Marlmount.	Slatehouse.
Isles of Boot.	Marwhirn.	Slongaber.
	Maryfield.	Southpark.
Kate's Well.	Meadowhead.	Springside.
Kilnabony.	Meikle Cairn.	Squarepoint.
Kilnapany.	Midpark.	Stanefauld.
Kilpatrick.	Millharay.	Stepend.
Kilquhanity.	Millpool.	
King's Chair.	Minnydow.	Tailtratnaw.
Kirkland.	Moat Hill.	Tan Hill.
Kirklandhill.	Money Knowe.	Tarbreoch.
Kirklebride.	Moneypool.	Townhead.
Kirkstyle.	Moorwood.	Tottleham's G en.
Knarrie Burn.	Mossisle.	Waulkmill Pool.
Knockāmos.	Muil.	Wee Park.
Knockdrockit.	Muil Well.	Wellhill.
Knockleach.		Westfield.
Knocklosh.	Nether Nassin.	Westland.
Knocknail.	Nethertown.	Whitecairn.
Knockvennie.	Netheryett.	Wilderness.
Knockwalker.		Woodhill.
Knockwalloch.	Orr.	Woodpark.

## DESTRUCTIVE FOREST INSECTS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE. By W. H. WHELLENS, Esq., Forester, Comlongon.

In presenting this paper to your notice I do not wish to take up too much time in minutely describing each insect, or family of insects, but will try, in the fewest words, to give you a description that may enable you to recognise several insects, either from the damage done by them, or from their distinctive markings or colour.

I do not profess to have found all of the destructive insects of Dumfriesshire, but during the two years that I have been in the county I have found quite enough to worry any forester.

All or most of the insects that I shall name have been through my hands in one form or another, although I may not have specimens of some of them at the present time.

I have brought a few specimens of the less fragile ones for your inspection and to help to relieve the monotony of the descriptions. I may say here that in the case of a particularly destructive pest I shall mention any means of prevention or cure that I know to be effective.

I shall make a start with beetles. They pass through four stages during their life cycle, viz., eggs, larvæ, pupæ, and the perfect insect. Some species, as will be seen, do damage in both the larval and perfect stages, while others do damage only when mature. The damage varies greatly, some species damaging the bark, leaves, roots, and others the wood itself.

*Melolontha Vulgaris* (Common Cockchafer).—One of the worst enemies that the forester has to deal with is the Cockchafer, and once it gets a foothold in a nursery it is very difficult to get rid of. In the Summer the female lays from 30 to 40 eggs, from 6 to 9 inches below the surface of the ground. The larvæ hatch out in about 6 weeks time, and live from 3 to 4 years in this stage, feeding meanwhile on the rootlets of the young trees, causing them to die. By the time the dying plant is noticed the grub has moved on. In the Autumn of the 3rd or 4th year the grub descends deeper into the soil to pupate, appearing as a perfect insect during the next Summer. In the mature stage the beetle does damage to the foliage of trees. It can often be seen resting on the leaves of trees in the daytime, while at dusk it can be seen flying about. Traps, consisting of small trenches filled with weeds, sods, bark,

etc., are often very effective in getting rid of the larvæ. To prevent the beetle laying her eggs in the nursery the ground should be sprinkled with flour of sulphur or sprayed with paraffin emulsion. This makes the ground distasteful to the female for egg deposition. The mature beetles may be shaken from the trees and destroyed.

*Anobium Domesticum*.—Anyone who has wormeaten furniture may blame or thank this insect—or the furniture doctor. It is a little brown beetle, not a worm, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long. The damage needs no description.

*Rhagium Bifasciatum*.—This can hardly be called a destructive insect, compared with many others, as it confines its attacks to dead Scots Pine or Spruce that have been left standing in a wood, but it aids the decay of the wood by boring into the timber. The insect is very pretty, presenting a dark mottled appearance, with two yellow spots or stripes on each wing-case.

*Melasoma Populi* (Poplar Leaf Beetle).—I have no specimen of this insect at present, having dissected the only two that I found, hoping to find more. It does damage in the larval stage, and also as a mature insect. The larvæ completely skeletonize the leaves and the beetle eats holes in them. The beetle has a blueish-black thorax, with brick-red elytra, the tips of which are black.

*Phyllodecta Vitellinae* (Willow Beetle).—The metallic lustre of the wing-cases of this insect gives it a very uncommon appearance. The mature beetle eats the extreme point of the buds of willows and poplars, which causes the plants to throw out side branches, thereby spoiling the marketable value, especially when willows are grown for basketmaking, as the rods then are required clean and straight. The larvæ, 5 or 6 in number, move about in line, like soldiers, eating the green portions of the leaves.

*Deporaus Betulæ* (Birch Leaf-roller).—The work done by this insect in rolling the leaves is really wonderful. It rolls them into a cone shape, like the paper that sweets are done up in by the grocer. Each leaf seems to be cut exactly to pattern, and the eggs (one in each case) laid exactly in the same position on each leaf. The female starts cutting the leaf on one side and works to the mid-rib, she then crosses over to the opposite side and again works towards the centre, making each time an S-shaped cut, which seems necessary to the correct rolling of the leaf. An

incision is made in the cuticle of the leaf on the left-hand side of the mid-rib, and in this receptacle the egg is laid. The leaf is then rolled, but how this is done I cannot say for certain, but it is generally thought that one side is rolled first and the other side rolled over it. I had the pleasure of being the discoverer of the egg, it being thought before that the insect did not lay an egg inside the case in the same way as other leaf-rollers.

*Attelabus Curculionoides* (Oak Leaf-roller).—This leaf-roller makes "thimble-cases" of the leaves, and inside of each case there is an egg, loose, not under the skin of the leaf as in the case of the previous species. The beetle is reddish-brown in colour and somewhat like a lady-bird, but without spots. The attacks are generally very slight.

*Otiorhynchus Picipes* (Clay-coloured Weevil).—This insect I found eating the bark of young trees in the company of the Pine Weevil, but it does more damage to garden plants such as strawberries and raspberries than to forest trees. Its colour, as its name implies, is a brownish grey and blends with the soil, thus making it hard to find.

*Hyllobius Abietis* (Pine Weevil).—This insect may be called the forester's worst enemy. The damage is done by the mature beetle, which gnaws the bark of young trees from 3 to 7 years of age, sometimes on a young shoot eating into the wood itself. When trees that have been newly planted are attacked, they cannot resist the damage done and therefore die off. As these insects generally appear in swarms the damage is often very great. With older plants the damage is often not sufficient to kill them but their vitality is impaired. When a bad attack has been made the trees look as if they have been nibbled by rabbits, in fact in many parts of the country at the present day rabbits are blamed for the damage. The beetles that have hibernated throughout the winter swarm about the beginning of April. These lay their eggs on the roots of trees that have been felled for two or three years. The larvæ hatch out in three weeks or a month's time, and feed under the old bark till May or June of the following year. They then pupate, appearing as perfect insects in June or July. These late swarmers are not so destructive as the older swarm, as they soon hibernate under tufts of grass or lumps of earth, appearing the following year as the early swarm. As to remedies, the setting of traps, made by laying a slab, slightly raised at one end,

over some sawdust is very successful. The beetles shelter in the sawdust and can be collected and destroyed. But prevention is better than cure. Destroy the breeding places, viz., the bark on the roots of felled trees, either by lighting fires over the roots or stripping it off and burning it. On a bright sunny day the beetles can be picked from the trees. The beetle is dull black in colour with several yellow spots forming bars on its elytra. These spots, through a magnifying glass, are seen to be composed of hairs.

*Pissodes Pini*.—This insect is very much like the Pine Weevil, in fact it is often mistaken for a small specimen of the latter. The main difference lies in the position of the Antennæ. Those of the Pine Weevil are situated at the extreme end of the rostrum, while those of the smaller beetle are halfway down. *Pissodes Pini* cannot be classed as a very destructive insect as the larvæ which do the most damage are generally found on dead or dying trees. The mature insect is to be found most often in sawdust piles.

#### BARK BEETLES.

*Hylesinus Fraxini*.—This beetle is generally found on dead or back-going ash trees, and their markings on both bark and wood are very pretty. The centre gallery is made by the female, who lays her eggs to the right and left. On hatching out the larvæ bore at right angles to the mother gallery, and after pupation make their exit through the bark and fly away to healthy ash trees, where they bury themselves in the bark and hibernate there, emerging in March and April, when they fly to some dying tree to breed.

*Hylurgus Pini-perda*.—This is another of the forester's worst enemies. In April they withdraw from their winter quarters (generally in young shoots) and fly to a sickly or dying tree. The female burrows into the bark, and then upwards partly in the bark and partly in the cambium, laying eggs as she goes. The larvæ hatch out in from 10 to 20 days and proceed to eat their way, at first at right angles to the mother gallery afterwards in all directions. Pupation takes place at the end of the larval galleries. After pupation the mature beetles escape by making exit holes through the bark. The damage done by these insects is confined to this stage. The beetles bore into the leading shoots



of the Scots Pine, entering the pith and eating their way up the young shoots, which die and drop off, carrying the beetles with them. The latter hibernate in the shoots as a rule, although some pass the winter in the bark. The remedy is to cut out sickly and dying trees, which serve as breeding places, and to burn the bark, especially if the trees are felled during the breeding season. Felling a few trees to serve as traps answers very well. The bark is stripped off and burnt as before.

*Hylurgus Minor*.—This beetle is smaller than the preceding species, but is very much like it. Practically the only difference is this, the elytra of both are covered with hairy tubercles, but near the apex on the larger insect there are two missing. The damage done by the two beetles is very similar, but the smaller insect is more injurious in the larval stage, as the grubs make their galleries mainly in the cambium, while those of the larger one make theirs mainly in the bark. The result is, that the trees become stagheaded, and are sometimes killed outright.

*Phlæophthorus Rhododactylus*.—Although this is one of the smallest of beetles, it has, I think, the longest name. It is found on half-dead stems of gorse or broom, so cannot really be called a destructive forest insect.

*Tomicus acuminatus*.—This is a very pretty insect of a terracotta colour. It has a depression at the apex of its wing-cases, and on each of the latter there are three spikes, the third one on the female being very strongly marked and like a hook. The damage done is to the bark of dying trees.

*Pityogenes Bidentatus*.—One can hardly pick up a dead branch of Scots Pine without finding the markings of this insect. Sometimes they are quite a work of art. The central chamber is scooped out by the male and the larger galleries by the females, often from four to six in number, each one taking a different course. The smaller markings are made by the larvæ. The beetle often does great damage to young transplanted trees. For instance, when trees from six to twelve years are planted out and the planting is followed by a dry summer. The beetles then attack those that are doing badly, and by their attack prevent the young trees from recovering. Pines of all species are attacked as well as Spruce and Douglas Fir. Collecting and burning all branches in a young plantation is a means of prevention.

## LEPIDOPTERA OR MOTHS.

The damage done by moths is confined to the larval stage, the mature insects being quite harmless. We are rather too far north to get a great variety of moths, but some very destructive ones are found in the county, although I have not been very fortunate in securing specimens.

*Orgyia Antigua* (Common Vapourer Moth).—The caterpillars of this moth feed upon the foliage of almost every tree and shrub. They are very noticeable for their tufts or bunches of hair, and for their great variety of colour. They are a mixture of brown, grey, pink, yellow, red, etc. The male moth varies in colour between brown and chestnut, with a half-moon shaped spot on each of its upper wings. The female is almost wingless.

*Dicranura Vinula* (Puss Moth).—One of the finest caterpillars is that of the Puss Moth. It is bright green in colour with a brown diamond-shaped patch on its back. It has a forked tail, from which, when roused to a fighting attitude, two threadlike organs are thrust out. The moth lays her eggs on poplars and willows, and the larvæ on hatching out eat the leaves. The insect pupates in a hard cocoon, made by gnawing the bark and soft wood into sawdust, and glueing it into shape round itself, and on to a branch of the tree. The moth is a large and handsome insect of a greyish colour with yellowish venation. The body is covered with long soft hair and it is this characteristic that gives it its name.

*Pygæa Bucephala* (Buff-tip Moth).—The larvæ of this moth do considerable damage to hard woods such as Oak and Elm, sometimes defoliating trees of all ages. It is a common sight to see a bough totally stripped of its leaves standing out plainly against the rest of the tree. The larvæ feed in company in their younger stage, but after moulting they divide up into parties of eight or ten, but do not move far away. Thus the damage is often confined to one place. They are about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, and are covered with long hair. Their colour is a mixture of black and yellow. The moth is a very handsome insect and its colour harmonizes so well with the bark of a dead twig, upon which it likes resting, that it is often overlooked. The extremities of its upper wings are buff coloured, hence its name.

*Fidonia Piniari* (Bordered White Moth).—The male moth is rather pretty, the centres of the wings are white, and round the

edge there is a broad band of brown. The female is larger than the male, being over an inch in expanse of wings, but it is duller in colour, having no white on the upper wings, which are a light brown. The caterpillars attack Scots Pine mostly. They are light green when young, changing to a darker shade, with a white line down the back and a yellow line along each side.

*Cheimitobia Brumata* (Winter Moth).—The caterpillar is destructive to fruit trees as well as forest trees. In fact they will feed on the leaves of any hard wood tree. They are green in colour, with three yellow stripes along each side and a dark line along the back. The female moths are practically wingless, and fruit growers put grease bands on the trees to intercept them when climbing the trees to lay their eggs. Often, however, the male carries the female to the top of the tree.

*Hybernia Defoliaria* (Mottled Umber Moth).—This insect is injurious to many trees by eating their foliage. The caterpillar is very prettily marked. It is brown on the back with a narrow black line running the length of the body, and at each joint there is a small grey patch. The portion of the body below the black line is light yellow, with white spiracles, round which is a reddish brown circle and the belly is yellowish green. The moth is common, but not conspicuously marked.

*Diorystria Abietella*.—The larvæ of this insect live within cones of the Silver Fir and Common Spruce. It is generally of a dirty red colour but sometimes greenish. The damage is hardly noticeable at first, but later the cone is much eaten away. The moth is dark grey with black markings, and appears on the wing in July.

*Retinia Turionana* (Pine Bud Tortrix Moth).—As the name implies, this insect attacks the buds of Scots Pine. The female lays her eggs at the base of the bud and the caterpillars (or rather grubs) on hatching, proceed to eat away the inside of the bud, in time completely hollowing it. Pupation takes place in this chamber. The resin that exudes from the injury covers up the entrance hole made by the grub, and the damage is often not noticed till the spring, when the injured buds drop off. The only treatment is to pick off the infested buds when the grubs are in them and burn them and so prevent to a certain extent a further attack next year. I have a bad attack under notice at the present time.

*Retinia Buoliana* (Pine Shoot Tortrix Moth).—With the previous insect the buds were attacked, but this one attacks the young shoots, which become deformed. I have not found this insect but have seen some of the damage done by it.

*Retinia Resinella*.—This is another of the same family. The larvæ do damage to the shoots of Scots Pine. They bore into the pith of the shoots, and galls of resin form. In these the larvæ pass the winter. In the spring they continue feeding. On opening a gall it is found to have two chambers, in one of which the insect pupates. The moth hatches out in May, and each generation extends over two years. The front wings of the moth are black-brown with silvery grey markings.

*Hyponomeuta Evonymellus*.—One often sees white silky webs on such trees as birdcherry and spindle tree. Inside the web and on the foliage round it are to be seen the larvæ of this insect. The damage done is the defoliation of the trees. The moth has silvery white fore-wings with tiny black dots, about 40 in number, arranged in five rows. The hind-wings are dark grey. The moths are very easily hatched out, and are very good subjects for a beginner in entomology.

#### SAW FLIES OR HYMENOPTERA.

*Lophyrus Pini* (Pine Saw Fly).—The larvæ of the Pine Saw Fly do great damage to young Scots Pine by eating the leaves, often quite stripping the trees. It is one of the worst enemies of the forester. There are generally two broods in a year, the first about the beginning of June and the second in the Autumn. The caterpillar is light yellowish-green, with a light brown head, and sometimes has black spots on the body. The female fly is slightly larger than the male, and the colour of her body is a mixture of black and yellow. The wings are transparent. The best remedy is to spray the infested trees with Paris green. Crushing the larvæ with a gloved hand can be done when the trees are not too tall.

*Pontania Salicis*.—One often sees the leaves of the Goat Willow skeletonized. This is done by the Willow Saw Fly. The caterpillars are light green and about half-an-inch in length.

*Cræsus Septentrionalis*.—This species is rather common, and feeds on nearly all the soft wooded trees, such as Poplar, Birch, Willow, etc. The larvæ are bluish green with a black head and

yellow legs, and have one or two rows of black dots along the body. It is a very handsome caterpillar.

*Nematus Erichsonii* (Large Larch Saw Fly).—It is only of late years that this insect has been much noticed. The presence of it now is notifiable to the Government. The damage is done to the foliage of Larch trees of all species. The leaves are eaten by the caterpillars, which are greyish-green on the back and a lighter green on the sides, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to 1 inch in length. Remedy—Spraying with Paris green or hand-crushing.

*Sirex Gigas* (Giant Wood Wasp).—The female of this species is armed with a long ovipositor, and lays her eggs in Scots Pine or Silver Fir. The insects live for two years in the larval stage, appearing as perfect insects in the third year. They tunnel through the wood, and often emerge after the timber has been put into a building. The female is a very handsome insect, resembling a giant wasp. The male is much smaller, and is not so brilliantly marked.

*Megastigmus Spermatrophus*.—The female insect lays her eggs in the cones of the Douglas Fir, a fact only discovered in recent years by Mr Crozier, forester at Durris, in Aberdeenshire. The mature insect is yellowish in colour, but the shade differs in the sexes. The female is easily distinguishable by her long ovipositor, which is as long as her body. The larvæ eat the kernels of the seeds and render them useless. It is thought by some entomologists that a part of the life cycle of this insect is passed as a gall-forming insect on Oaks or other host trees.

I shall not take up any more time in describing the many other insects that I have found, but I shall give you the names of several saw flies that are gall-forming, and also some other gall-forming flies and a miscellaneous list.

#### Gall forming Saw-Flies.

*Pontania Ischnocerus*. Found on Willows.

*Pontania Salicis*. Found on Willows.

*Nematus Gallicola*. Found on Willows.

*Rhodites Eglanteria*. Found on Dog Rose.

*Rhodites Rosae*. Found on Dog Rose (Pincushion Gall).

#### Oak Galls.

*Neuroterus Lenticularis*. Spangle Gall.

*Spathogaster Baccarum*.

## Oak Galls.

- Neuroterus Fumipennis.*  
*Neuroterus Numismatis.* Button Gall.  
*Aphilothrix Fecundatrix.* Artichoke Gall.  
*Dryophanta Scutellaris.* Cherry Gall.  
*Dryophanta Longiventris.*  
*Dryophanta Divisa.*  
*Teras Terminalis.* Oak Apple.  
*Cynips Kollari.* Marble Gall.

## Gall Mites.

- Eriophes Tiliae.* Nail Gall, on Lime.  
*Eriophes Laevis.* Found on Alder.  
*Eriophes Axillaris.* Found on Alder.  
*Eriophes Fraxini.* Found on Ash.

## Two-winged Flies.

- Cecidomyia Marginemtorquens.* Found on Willow.  
*Cecidomyia Tiliam Voiens.* Found on Lime.  
*Diplosis Dryobia.* Found on Oak.  
*Hormomyia Piliger.* Found on Beech.  
*Hormomyia Capreae.* Found on Goat Willow.  
*Chromatomyia Iticis.* Found on Holly.  
*Chromatomyia Obscurella.* Found on Woodbine.

## Aphididae.

- Phyllaphis Fagi.* Found on Beech.  
*Chermes Laricis.* Found on Larch. The damage of the latter is too well known to need any description here. Its effects are too plainly seen in the Larch plantations, not only in this county, but all over the country.  
*Phylloxera Punctata.* Found on Oak.  
*Chermes Abietis.* Found on Spruce.

## Scale Insects.

- Cryptococcus Fagi.* Found on Beech.  
*Apterococcus Fraxini.* Found on Ash.
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*12th April, 1912.*

The PRESIDENT in the Chair.

At this meeting three Life Members and ninety-seven Ordinary Members were admitted, on the motion of the President of the Society.

ANWOTH OLD CHURCHYARD. By the REV. F. W. SAUNDERS,  
Minister of Anwoth.

[The following is a summary of Mr Saunders' contribution :

There is no evidence that the Churchyard was used previous to the date when the Church was built. Most of the Catholics are interred in the north-east corner. The Church is in the style nick-named "Heritor's Gothic." It measures sixty-four feet by eighteen feet. The main door is in the west gable, and there appears to have been another entrance from the south side opposite the old school. The north wall, in accordance with the old Scottish superstition, is devoid of windows. The interior was bare except for a gallery at the east end, reached by an outside stair. This was the "heritor's loft," and belonged to the Gordons of Rusko. In front of the gallery was the pulpit, the preacher faced the door on the west, his back being to the gallery. The Church of Abercorn shows a similar arrangement. The Church dates from about 1626. Above the door is the date 1627, but this was inscribed only a few years ago, and is the date when Samuel Rutherford became minister of the parish. There are records of a church of Anwoth being granted to the monks of Holyrood Abbey in the twelfth century by David the son of Terri, who held the manor of Anwoth. It was afterwards, with the subordinate chapel of Culness, now Cardoness, transferred to the prior and canons of St. Mary's Isle, anciently a dependant cell of Holyrood Abbey. No trace of the old church remains, though in the north wall there seems to be some sign of an older wall having been built in. A rough stone, on which a cross of the most ancient design can be distinguished, now stands inside the Church. It is not known where it came from, and it is not sufficient evidence on which to base a claim that there was a Pre-Reformation burying ground here. A part of the Chapel of Culness still stands and



was used by Colonel William Maxwell, founder of the Cardoness family as a place of private devotion. Anwoth Church was dismantled in 1826, when the new Church was completed. The new Church is largely composed of stones from Bush o' Bield, the manse in Rutherford's day.

The most interesting tombstones are those to the members of the Gordon family and to John Bell of Whitesyde (for transcript of inscriptions *vide* Transactions, D. & G. Natural History and Antiquarian Society, 1887-90, pp. 271-3. There are no other stones to members of the Gordon family, nor, curiously, to any of the M'Cullochs of Ardwall. John Bell of Arckland, Rutherford's correspondent, and John Bell for long schoolmaster in the ruined building opposite the Church, now used as a stable, remembered for his ability and learning, lie not far from the martyr's stone. Other monuments that may be noted preserve the memory of "Archibald Faulds, gardiner at Bardarroch" (1724), who was body servant to Colonel William Maxwell; of Elizabeth Latterthwaite, who lived to be 100 years, and Agnes Crawford, who reached 103. One to Samuel Blyth, a tanner in Gatehouse, consists of one of the stones on which tanners used to rub the skins. A stone let into the south wall of the Church bearing the Maxwell arms and motto, "Think on" and death's head and scroll, is inscribed "Rebuilt anno 1710, W. M., N. S." It was taken from the doorway leading down to the old Cardoness vault which was rebuilt at the date given. The initials are those of Colonel William Maxwell and Nicholas Stewart, his wife, through whom the estates came to the Maxwell family.]

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A LIST OF THE COLEOPTERA OF THE SOLWAY DISTRICT. By Mr  
BERTRAM M'GOWAN.

I.—TO THE END OF THE CARABIDÆ.

The Coleoptera (or beetles) have been pretty well worked in the district (though the individual collectors have been few in number) during a period extending over a great many years, and it has been suggested to me by our Secretary, Mr Shirley, that it might be useful for any present or future workers to gather together all the records for the district and publish a complete

list in the Transactions. In cases where I have not taken the species myself I have given the name of the collector responsible for the record.

It will be of interest perhaps to make a short reference to the various collectors who have worked in the district. The first appears to have been the Rev. William Little, who was minister of the Parish of Kirkpatrick-Juxta from 1841-67. He had a considerable reputation as an Entomologist, and corresponded with the leading collectors of his day. He assisted Mr J. F. Stephens, the author of "Illustrations of Entomology," in 1828-32 in giving Scottish localities for Coleoptera, and also was of very material assistance to Mr Andrew Murray in the compilation of his "Catalogue of Scottish Coleoptera," published in 1853. In addition he published a list in the "Magazine of Zoology and Botany" in 1838, but some of the species therein included are very doubtful. Afterwards we had in the neighbourhood of Dumfries Mr William Lennon, for many years a valued member of our Society, who was for some time officially connected with the Crichton Royal Institution, and after his retiral lived in Brooke Street, Dumfries. He was a most indefatigable and successful collector, and for about 35 years prior to his death in 1899 he, as he says himself, "searched almost every field, moor, moss, glen, and stream in the district" for beetles. Unfortunately, his early records cannot be relied on implicitly. A list almost certainly compiled by him appears in the "Local Parish Histories and New Statistical Account for the Parish of Dumfries," published in the "Dumfries Courier," 12th September, 1876, *et seq.*, but many of the species therein recorded are obviously in error, as also are some species recorded by him in our "Transactions" as having been taken at Field meetings. Two papers by him published in the early numbers of our "Transactions," as well as occasional lists of captures contributed to the "Entomologist's Monthly Magazine," can, however, be depended on. His collection is now in the Edinburgh Royal Scottish Museum, along with a most useful manuscript list, which I have seen through the courtesy of Mr Grimshaw, and of which I have made full use in the following list. Associated with Lennon in his early collecting days we had the late Dr W. R. M'Nab (afterwards Professor M'Nab), who resided in the neighbourhood of Dumfries from 1867-69, and Dr David Sharp, M.A. (Cantab), F.R.S., who has for many years

been recognised as one of the chief authorities on Coleoptera, and who for some years was Curator of the Museum of Zoology at Cambridge. Dr Sharp was resident in the Thornhill district for about 16 years, from 1867-83, first at Bellevue, Keir, and afterwards at Eccles, Penpont, and while here collected beetles most assiduously in several parts of the district. He became an ordinary member of our Society in 1867, and some years afterwards was made a Life Member. Lists of some of his captures in the district appear in the early numbers of the "Entomologist's Monthly Magazine," and a valuable catalogue by him of the Coleoptera of Scotland is published in the "Scottish Naturalist" of 1871-81, which shews the species then recorded for the Solway district, and which has been referred to by me.

More recently Mr W. D. Robinson-Douglas, M.A., F.L.S., F.E.S., of Orchardton, near Auchencairn, worked the district in his immediate neighbourhood very carefully, but since Lennon's death he informs me he has done little or no collecting. He published in conjunction with Lennon a list of additions to the Scottish and Solway lists in the "Annals of Scottish Natural History" in April, 1892. He has also furnished me with a list of the species taken by him at Orchardton, and I have noted those of interest.

A few years ago Mr Frank Balfour Browne, M.A. (Oxon), F.R.S.E., F.Z.S., worked up the water beetles of the district (Dytiscidae, Hydrophilidae, etc.) very thoroughly, and published a very full list of these in the "Annals of Scottish Natural History," April-October, 1909, to which reference should be made. With his permission, I have incorporated his list into mine, with a few additions we have been able to make. Mr J. G. Gordon, F.E.S., has been doing good work in the neighbourhood of Corsemalzie and other parts of Wigtownshire, and has turned up many interesting species, and two useful lists of his captures appear in the "Entomologist's Record," 1903-4, and he has also been kind enough to assist me with further information. Mr W. H. Whellens, forester, Comlongon, also has recently been devoting some attention to the order, especially to those species injurious to trees, etc.

Professor T. Hudson Beare, B.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.E.S., of Edinburgh, and Messrs W. E. Sharp, F.E.S., and H. St. J. K. Donisthorpe, F.Z.S., F.E.S., of London, have also done a little

collecting at odd times in the district, and they have been good enough to send me lists of what they have taken, and to the first-named gentleman I am indebted for assistance in determining some of the more critical species.

The Solway district as defined includes portions of other counties besides the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Wigtown, but my list only refers to records for these three counties. In order to show the counties in which so far each species has been recorded and to conform to the system advocated by Watson ("Cybele Britannica") I have added where I am able the initial letter of the county or counties.

#### ORDER COLEOPTERA.

##### FAMILY CICINDELIDÆ.

- Cicindela campestris*, L. not uncommon in sandy localities especially in early summer both inland and on the coast.  
D. K. W.

##### FAMILY CARABIDÆ.

- Cychnus rostratus*, L. widely distributed but not common under stones.  
D. K. W.
- Carabus catenulatus*, Scop. common on the hills, more local in the lowlands.  
D. K. W.
- C. nemoralis*, Mull. common in gardens, etc., often found crushed on the pathway in early spring.  
D. K. W.
- C. glabratus*, Payk. a scarce mountain species. First taken by Lennon on or near the summit of Cairnsmore-of-Fleef in June, 1880, and afterwards on 2/7/81. Mr Douglas took two specimens on Screel on 2/7/91, and the late Mr Service found three in an old whisky bottle on the shore of Loch Dungeon on 28/9/93.  
K.
- C. violaceus*, L. a scarce species in this district, but it appears to be widely distributed.  
D. K. W.
- C. nitens*, L. a few specimens taken by Lennon over 30 years ago near Tinwald Downs, but it has been found more recently by Mr Gordon at Corsemalzie and Kildarroch, Wigtownshire.  
D. W.
- C. granulatus*, L. not uncommon and generally distributed especially in marshy places.  
D. K. W.

- C. arvensis*, Hbst. not uncommon on the hills, Dalveen, Millyea, Screel, also recorded by Lennon from Tinwald Downs. D. K.
- Notiophilus biguttatus*, F. very common and general. D. K. W.
- N. substriatus*, Wat. probably common, but overlooked; taken by Lennon near Moffat and by Mr Douglas at Orchardton. D. K.
- N. aquaticus*, L. not uncommon in sphagnum. D. K. W.
- N. palustris*, Duft. also not uncommon in sphagnum. D. K.
- Leistus fulvibarbis*, Dj. in damp places under stones and at roots of grass not uncommon. D. K. W.
- L. ferrugineus*, L. apparently very rare, one specimen taken by Mr Gordon at Corsemalzie, 3/01. W.
- L. rufescens*, F. somewhat local, but not uncommon, several often found together. D. K. W.
- Nebria brevicollis*, F. abundant under stones in damp places. D. K. W.
- N. gyllenhali*, Sch. also common and generally distributed both lowlands and highlands. D. K. W.
- Blethisa multipunctata*, L. rare, has only been taken by Lennon at Maxwelltown Loch and by Mr Douglas and myself at Lochrutton. K.
- Elaphrus riparius*, L. common on mud round margins of lochs and ponds. D. K. W.
- E. cupreus*, Duft. also common and often found along with the preceding. D. K. W.
- E. uliginosus*, F. very rare, two or three specimens taken many years ago by Lennon on Tinwald hills. D.
- Loricera pilicornis*, F. very common and general. D. K. W.
- Clivina fossor*, L. also very common and general. D. K. W.
- C. collaris*, Hbst. locally common, banks of Nith below Kingholm and near Thornhill. D.
- Dyschirius thoracicus*, Ross. apparently very scarce. I have taken two specimens on the sand hills at Southernness and one at Sandhead, Luce Bay. K. W.

- D. impunctipennis*, Daws. also scarce. I have only found it at Southernness and Sandhead. K. W.
- D. politus*, Dej. Lennon records it as very local and scarce under sea refuse, estuary of Nith. D.
- D. nitidus*, Dej. also very local and scarce, but less so than the preceding, Kelton and Caerlaverock shores, also taken by Mr Douglas at Orchardton. D. K.
- D. salinus*, Schaum locally common, banks of tidal rivers and on the coast. D. K.
- D. globosus*, Hbst. common and general in flood refuse, moss, etc. D. K. W.
- Brosicus cephalotes*, L. common on the coast under stones and refuse. D. K. W.
- Badister bipustulatus*, F. under stones in damp places, not uncommon and general both inland and on the coast. D. K. W.
- Chlaenius nigricornis*, F. very rare, a few specimens taken by Lennon in flood refuse from Nith and Cairn. D.
- Acupalpus dorsalis*, F. very rare, one specimen taken by Lennon under sea refuse mouth of Nith, also recorded from Rae-hills by Murray on the authority of Rev. W. Little. D.
- A. exiguus v. luridus*, Dj. very rare, one taken by me in sphagnum Gore Moss, 13/4/02, also recorded from Moffat Hills by Murray on the authority of the Rev. W. Little. D.
- Bradycellus placidus*, Gyll. rare; I have taken a few specimens in sphagnum in Comlongon woods. D.
- B. cognatus*, Gyll. not common in sphagnum various parts of Lochar Moss, also recorded from Orchardton by Mr Douglas. D. K.
- B. distinctus*, Dj. not common in sphagnum Comlongon woods, also recorded from Thornhill by Dr Sharp. D.
- B. verbasci*, Duft. very common and general in sphagnum. D. K.
- B. harpalinus*, Dj. recorded by Lennon as not common in moss and flood refuse, and from Corsemalzie by Mr Gordon. W.

- B. collaris*, Pk. recorded by Lennon as occasional under stones near top of Criffel. K.
- B. similis*, Dj. common and general. D. K. W.
- Harpalus rufibarbis*, F. apparently very rare, one from Thornhill by Dr Sharp, and two taken by me on banks of Nith at Nunholm. D.
- H. ruficornis*, F. common and general. D. K. W.
- H. aeneus*, F. abundant. D. K. W.
- H. latus*, L. common and general. D. K. W.
- H. rufimanus*, Marsh (*tardus*, Brit. Cat.), common at Southerness. K.
- Dichirotrichus pubescens*, Payk. locally common banks of tidal rivers. D. K.
- Anisodactylus binotatus*, F. not uncommon under stones in sandy places. D. K.
- Stomis pumicatus*, Pz. not uncommon under stones. D. K.
- Pterostichus cupreus*, L. I have only taken it in flood refuse at Kelton, but Lennon records it as common in the district, and Mr Gordon records it from Wigtownshire. D. W.
- P. versicolor*, Stm. common and general. D. K. W.
- P. madidus*, F. abundant. D. K. W.
- P. aethiops*, Pz. very rare, one specimen taken by Dr Sharp in 1867 close to the house Bellevue, Keir, and one by myself at Dalveen Pass, 20/5/00. D.
- P. vitreus*, Dj. not uncommon under stones on hills at Dalveen Pass, also taken by Mr Douglas on Screel. D. K.
- P. niger*, Schal. common and general. D. K. W.
- P. vulgaris*, L. also common and general. D. K. W.
- P. anthracinus*, Ill. three specimens taken at Corsemalzie by Mr Gordon. W.
- P. nigrita*, F. also common and general. D. K. W.
- P. minor*, Gyll. not uncommon and general. D. K.
- P. strenuus*, Pz. common and general. D. K. W.



- P. diligens*, Stm. also common and general. D. K. W.
- P. vernalis*, Pz. locally common, often found abundantly in flood refuse at Kelton. D.
- P. striola*, F. rather scarce, but appears to be widely distributed. D. K. W.
- Amara fulva*, De G. not uncommon in sandy places banks of Nith, Cairn, and Æ, also at Southernness. D. K.
- Ä. apricaria*, Pk. not common, taken in flood refuse at Kelton, and at Southernness, also by Gordon at Corsemalzie. D. K. W.
- A. consularis*, Duft. recorded by Lemmon as very scarce, banks of Nith and Æ, and a few have been taken by Mr Gordon under sand boxes on Glenluce Golf Course. D. W.
- A. aulica*, Pz. common and general, often taken by sweeping. D. K. W.
- A. bifrons*, Gyll. Apparently rare. I have only taken two specimens, one near Collin, and the other at Dalveen Pass, and Mr Douglas found one at Orchardton. D. K.
- A. ovata*, F. not very common, but appears to be widely distributed. D. K. W.
- A. similata*, Gyll. Rare, only taken by Mr Douglas at Orchardton. K.
- A. acuminata*, Pk. moderately common under stones and in flood refuse, and apparently widely distributed. D. K.
- A. tibialis*, Pk. common at Southernness, Orchardton, and Glenluce. K. W.
- A. lunicollis*, Schiod. occurs occasionally in flood refuse banks of Nith and Cairn, also found in moss at Dargavel. D. K.
- A. curta*, Dj. recorded by Mr Douglas as rare in flood refuse at Orchardton. K.
- A. familiaris*, Duft. common at Southernness, more local inland. D. K. W.
- A. trivialis*, Gyll. very common everywhere. D. K. W.
- A. communis*, Pz. apparently not uncommon and generally distributed. D. K. W.

- A. continua*, Th. Has been taken by Mr Douglas at Orchardton. K.
- A. plebeia*, Gyll. not uncommon and general. D. K.
- Calathus cisteloides*, Pz. common and general. D. K. W.
- C. flavipes*, Fourc. common at Southerness, and at Glenluce Golf Course and Craignarget. K. W.
- C. mollis*, Marsh. common on sandy banks of rivers and on the coast. D. K.
- C. melanocephalus*, L. very common everywhere. D. K. W.
- C. micropterus*, Duft. Apparently very rare, one specimen taken by me on Cairnsmore-of-Fleet, 16/7/99. K.
- Amphigynus piceus*, Marsh. common under dead leaves Crichtope Linn, also taken in moss at Maidenbower Craigs, and found by Mr Douglas at Orchardton, and by Mr Gordon at Corsemalzie. D. K. W.
- Taphria nivalis*, Pz. rather a scarce species though apparently widely distributed. D. K.
- Laemostenus complanatus*, Dj. common at Ellangowan in out-houses and probably found elsewhere under similar conditions; also taken by Mr Gordon at Corsemalzie. D. W.
- Sphodrus leucophthalmus*, L. Several specimens were taken many years ago in shops and houses in Galloway Street, Maxwelltown. K.
- Anchomenus angusticollis*, F. not uncommon under stones, etc., in damp places. D. K. W.
- A. dorsalis*, Mull. very common at roots of grass, etc. D. K. W.
- A. albipes*, F. very common under stones near streams. D. K. W.
- A. oblongus*, F. taken by Dr Sharp in the salt marshes towards the mouth of the Nith. D.
- A. marginatus*, L. common among shingle at Lochrutton and Loch Kindar, also taken at mouth of Lochar. D. K.
- A. ericeti*, Pz. recorded by Lennon as occasional in damp sphagnum Dargavel Moss, also from Corsemalzie by Mr Gordon. D. W.

- A. parumpunctatus*, F. common and general. D. K. W.
- A. atratus*, Duft. very local but common at mouth of Nith below Glencaple, and found by Mr Douglas at Orchardton. D. K.
- A. viduus*, Pz. also local but found not uncommonly at Lochrutton on under bark of fallen timber. K.
- A. viduus v. moestus*, Duft. recorded by Sharp as not common, and from Orchardton by Mr Douglas. K.
- A. versutus*, Gyll. two specimens in Dr Sharp's collection from Eccles. D.
- A. micans*, Nic. somewhat local but not uncommon on the banks of rivers in Dumfriës district. D. K.
- A. fuliginosus*, Pz. common and general. D. K. W.
- A. gracilis*, Gyll. very common at roots of grass and in moss in damp places. D. K. W.
- A. piceus*, L. not common in marshy places Maxwelltown Loch and Loch Arthur, and found commonly by Mr Gordon in flood refuse Castle Loch, Mochrum. K. W.
- A. puellus*, Dj. recorded by Lennon as local and scarce by sweeping marshy places.
- Olisthopus rotundatus*, Pk. recorded by Lennon as somewhat local but not uncommon banks of Nith and Cairn, also from Orchardton by Mr Douglas, and from Corsemalzie by Mr Gordon. D. K. W.
- Cilleus lateralis*, Sam. locally common on muddy banks of Nith at Kelton and Glencaple, also found on the coast at Southerness and Orchardton. D. K.
- Bembidium rufescens*, Guer. scarce but found occasionally in flood refuse. D. K.
- B. obtusum*, Stm. not uncommon and general. D. K. W.
- B. guttula*, F. very common and general. D. K. W.
- B. mannerheimi*, Sahl. not uncommon and appears to be generally distributed. D. K.
- B. biguttatum*, F. apparently rare, one specimen taken by me in flood refuse from Cluden. K.

- B. aeneum*, Germ. very common on muddy banks of Nith and Cairn. D. K.
- B. doris*, Pz. local but not uncommon where it occurs in moss round margins of ponds, Gore Moss, Lochrutton, Loch Chesney, etc. D. K. W.
- B. minimum*, F. common at Kelton and on the coast. D. K.
- B. schuppeli*, Dj. three specimens in Lennon's collection from flood refuse from Nith below Dumfries, also taken near Thornhill by Mr W. E. Sharp in March, 1911. D.
- B. lampros*, Hbst. very common and general. D. K. W.
- B. lampros*, v. *velox*, Er. recorded by Lennon as common at Kelton. D.
- B. tibiale*, Duft. common among shingle banks of rivers. D. K.
- B. atrocaeruleum*, Steph. also common in similar situations. D. K.
- B. decorum*, Pz. also common, often found with the preceding. D. K.
- B. monticola*, Stm. also common on banks of rivers. D. K.
- B. stomoides*, Dj. a scarce species, but is found occasionally on the banks of the Nith below Kingholm, also recorded from Thornhill by Dr Sharp. D.
- B. lunatum*, Duft. local but not common on banks of Nith below Kingholm. D.
- B. testaceum*, Duft. recorded by Sharp as common in one or two places on banks of Nith. D.
- B. concinnum*, Steph. very local but common on muddy banks of Nith between Kingholm and Kelton. D.
- B. femoratum*, Stm. recorded by Lennon as local, and from Raehills by Murray on the authority of the Rev. W. Little. D.
- B. bruxellense*, Wesm. not uncommon on banks of Nith, Cairn, and Æ, also found in Wigtownshire. D. K. W.
- B. saxatile*, Gyll. not uncommon on banks of Nith near Kelton, and found at Alticry, Luce Bay. D. W.
- B. andreae*, F. (*anglicanum*, Shp.), common on shingly banks of Nith near Thornhill, and on Æ at Æ Bridge. D.

- B. littorale*, Ol. very common and general. D. K. W.
- B. pallidipenne*, Ill. common under decaying seaweed at Southerness. K.
- B. bipunctatum*, L. not common, but found occasionally on banks of rivers, also on coast at Southerness and Orchardton. D. K.
- B. punctulatum*, Drap. common on banks of rivers throughout the district. D. K.
- B. prasinum*, Duft. local but common on banks of Cairn above Irongray Church, also on banks of Nith near Thornhill. D. K.
- B. flammulatum*, Clair. recorded by Lennon as rare but occasional on muddy banks of Cargen Water, and at Kelton. D. K.
- B. varium*, Ol. apparently very rare, three specimens taken by me in cracks of a dried-up pool at Southerness, 3/6/00. K.
- B. paludosum*, Panz. recorded by Lennon as very local but not rare at Kelton salt marsh; but I have some doubt about this record, though there is no reason why the species should not occur in the district. D.
- Tachypus pallipes*, Duft. a scarce species, but it is found occasionally on sandy banks of Æ. D.
- T. flavipes*, L. common on banks of Nith at Dumfries, also at mouth of Lochar. D.
- Perileptus areolatus*, Cr. very local and scarce, taken by Sharp and Lennon in some numbers under small stones on both sides of the river on banks of Cairn above Irongray Church. It is still found there but appears to be very rare or difficult to find. D. K.
- Trechus micros*, Hbst, scarce, on sandy banks of Nith below Kingholm, also found occasionally in flood refuse. D.
- T. longicornis*, Stm. recorded by Lennon (and also taken there recently by Professor Hudson Beare) as very rare under stones and shingle banks of Nith near Kelton, also by Sharp on banks of Nith at Thornhill, and by Lennon on banks of Cree at Creetown. D. K.

- T. lapidosus*, Daws. only taken by me on banks of Nith below Kingholm Quay. It was not uncommon for a few seasons, but it seems to have entirely disappeared. D.
- T. rubens*, F. Lennon records two specimens under tidal refuse Caerlaverock shore, also recorded from Orchardton by Mr Douglas, and from Corsemalzie by Mr Gordon. D. K. W.
- T. minutus*, F. very common and general. D. K. W.
- Patrobus excavatus*, Pk. not uncommon and general especially in the higher lands. D. K.
- P. assimilis*, Chaud. Lennon records it as not uncommon under stones near top of Criffel, also recorded by Mr Douglas from neighbourhood of Orchardton, probably Screel. K.
- P. septentrionis*, Dj. Recorded by Lennon as very scarce on hills above Moffat. I have a single specimen which was sent me from hills near Sanquhar. D.
- Pogonus chalceus*, Marsh. locally common on coast and at mouths of tidal rivers. D. K.
- Lebia chlorocephala*, Hoff. recorded by Lennon as very local and scarce near broom near Dumfries, also by Dr Sharp from salt marshes towards mouth of Nith. D.
- L. crux-minor*, L. exceedingly rare, a single specimen taken by Lennon over 30 years ago in damp sphagnum at Auchencrieff Loch. D.
- Dromius linearis*, Ol. common in cut grass banks of Nith near Kingholm, and appears to be generally distributed. D. K. W.
- D. agilis*, F. recorded by Lennon as not uncommon under fallen or decayed beech trees, also by Mr Douglas as not common at Orchardton. K.
- D. meridionalis*, Dj. two specimens taken at Corsemalzie by Mr Gordon. W.
- D. 4-maculatus*, L. appears to be not uncommon under bark and generally distributed. D. K. W.
- D. 4-notatus*, Pz. apparently rare, two specimens only taken by me, one on a wall near Maxwelltown Loch and the other at Ellangowan. D. K.

*D. melanocephalus*, Dj. common under cut grass on banks of Nith below Kingholm, and appears to be generally distributed. D. K.

*D. nigriventris*, Th. occurs not uncommonly in several localities in Luce Bay. W.

*Metabletus foveola*, Gyll. common at Southerness and recorded by Mr Douglas as rare at Orchardton, also taken by me at Dargavel. D. K.

This completes the list of the carnivorous ground beetles which form the tribe (or sub-tribe) Geodephaga. I have omitted several species which have been doubtfully or erroneously recorded, but reference will possibly be made to these at a later stage. According to the most recent Catalogue (that of Beare & Donisthorpe, 1904), there are 316 British species contained in 64 genera. Of these it will be seen we have 159 species, or practically 50 per cent., and of the genera we have 39 or 60 per cent. This compares very favourably with other local lists. The Bembiidia, a large proportion of which are found on the banks of rapid rivers among shingle, etc., are particularly well represented in the district, there being found here 30 out of 53 British species, while, on the other hand, the Harpali, as in other parts of Scotland, are very poorly represented, as we have only 5 out of the 30 species on the British list. Several of the genera and species missing are almost exclusively associated with chalky soil, which accounts for their absence here. Turning now to the County records, there appear to be records for 133 species in Dumfriesshire, 119 in Kirkcudbrightshire, and 73 in Wigtownshire, but the last county has not been worked to the same extent as the others, and a number of species at present unrecorded almost certainly occur. I hope to deal with the water beetles and other groups in a future number.

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*26th April, 1912.*

Chairman—Dr J. W. MARTIN, Hon. V.P.

THE EARLY COINAGE OF SCOTLAND. With Special Reference to a Small Group of the Early Coins of Alexander III. By Mr JAMES DAVIDSON, F.S.A.Scot.

It has been well said that old coins have a strange fascination for most people, the uninitiated as well as the expert. They seem to suggest so much that one naturally feels a strong desire to know the story they may have to tell. They may be considered among the smallest of the antiquities of Scotland, yet none possess a greater interest. It is strange that the coinage of Scotland should not have had the same amount of study devoted to it as those of some other countries have called forth. The different mintages of the different reigns are quite as interesting, and present many intricate questions to elucidate. It is only of recent date that investigations of a systematic and scientific nature were undertaken to put the coinage upon a sound footing. The Records of the Privy Council and Exchequer, the Acts of Parliament and other original documents in connection with the Scottish Mint were searched, and the information obtained, along with a careful examination of the coins themselves, gave the precise knowledge necessary for their proper classification. The coinage of Scotland, so far as we have evidence at present, commenced with David I., although very probably it had a borrowed currency long before this. The finds of Roman coins, Anglo-Saxon and Northumbrian Stycas, may go to prove that they were all in use as a currency prior to David I., although even in his reign offences were frequently punished by fines of cattle.

The types of the early Scottish coins copied very closely the contemporary coinage of England; they were of much the same weight and composition. This similarity of the coinage of David I. to Stephen can be well understood. Mr Edward Burns in the *Coinage of Scotland*, in reference to the relation of the Scottish to the English Coinage, quotes from E. W. Robertson and the contemporary Malmesbury as follows:—"An intimate connection with the Court of England for upwards of a quarter

of a century had effectually rubbed off the Scottish rust from David, converting him into a feudal baron; and many years before he was called upon to fill the throne he had gathered around him in his Cumbrian principality a body of knights and barons from whom spring the older chivalry of Scotland." David, the "mighty innovator," would naturally feel that if Scotland was to make progress it must have a coinage of its own, and the type he evidently admired and copied was, as in many other things, that of England. The two chief Mints were Berwick and Roxburgh, and, so far as we know at present, are the earliest Scottish Mints. The coins themselves are not well struck, have rather a rude appearance, and seldom have the inscription or legends entire.

Malcolm IV. minted coins similar to the first coinage of Henry II. at Roxburgh, but they are very rare.

It is in the reign of William the Lion that we have definite information regarding the coinage. His first coinage was what is known as the crescent and pellet sterlings. The sceptre head on the obverse is the distinguishing feature, those with a cross potent correspond with the pennies of the first coinage of Henry II., while those with a cross of four pearls correspond to the second coinage. We find in the "Chronicle of Melrose" this entry under the year 1195:—"Willelmus Rex Scottorum innovavit monetam suam," which can mean nothing else than a change from the short single cross on the reverse of the coin to the short double cross—a change which had taken place in England 15 years previously. Wyntoun in his "Chronicle" also mentions:—

"Of Scotland then the Kyng Willame  
Renew'd his monè then at hame."

The coinage of William would, however, occupy considerable time, as the names of the Mints and moneyers are numerous, and we must leave it to some future occasion, and hurry on to the coinage of the Alexanders, which is more the subject of this paper. Alexander II. succeeded his father in 1214. His coins are rare, considering that he reigned for 35 years. Mr Burns explains this by saying that Alexander II., like his English contemporaries, struck his money with his father's name and type up to 1247. At this point we are confronted by the double cross

controversy, which was carried on for a considerable time, whether the coins bearing the name of Alexander, with a long double cross on the reverse, should be attributed to Alexander II. or III. It has been clearly proved that they belong to Alexander III., the historical evidence all being with that view. Lord Hailes, in "Annals of Scotland," states:—"1250. In this year the form of the Scottish coin was changed, and the cross, which formerly went no further than the inner circle, was extended to the circumference." Lord Hailes mentions that this information is received from the *Scotichronicon* by Bower. Alexander II. died in 1249. This change of the coinage took place in 1250, when Alexander III. was on the throne. It is to a small group of these early long double cross coins of Alexander III. that I wish to direct your attention. They all bear the name of WALTER as the moneyer. We have WALTER ON GLA, WALTER ON DVN, WALTER ON MVN, WALTER ON FRES. The sterlings reading ON GLA are attributed to Glasgow; ON DVN might represent either Dundee, Dunbar, or Dunfermline; ON MVN, Montrose, which is known in ancient charters as Munross. Burns, in the *Coinage of Scotland*, says:—"It is an altogether exceptional occurrence to find the same obverse die employed upon sterlings of different mints. After much careful comparison, I have not in any instance, other than on the sterlings of this remarkable group with the name of Walter for the moneyer, met with coins from different mints struck from the same obverse dies. The natural inference, therefore, is that the four Mints must all have been worked by one and the same moneyer, and probably to some extent contemporaneously." This is the opinion of the highest authority on the subject, derived from a very careful examination of the coins themselves. In France the moneyers are said to have travelled with the King. There is every probability that Walter accompanied Alexander and coined when necessary. Forres has been considered the probable town at which the sterlings with FRES were minted. "In the absence," Mr Burns says, "of any Scottish town whose name commences with FRES." This is certainly a very easy way out of the difficulty. Burns, however, admits that "it may be no more than a coincidence, but it is certainly remarkable that the two syllables composing the name Dunfries should have been represented on Walter's coinages." It seems to me that Dumfries has a very strong claim to the honour

of having a Mint at some period during Alexander III.'s reign. In a paper recently read before this Society the writer mentioned that Dumfries was "the Castle of the Frisians, who in Saxon Chronicles are referred to as Fries or Fres," and that Nennius mentions as one of the important towns "Caer Pheris." There is no doubt that this is the distinctive part of the name which would linger in the district. Dumfries held a very important position during the reign of Alexander III. It had been a Royal Burgh from the time of William the Lion, and here King Alexander brought together a fleet to subdue Magnus, King of Man, a very important event. We know that Dumfries had frequently the honour of being visited by the King. It is almost certain that when Walter the moneyer coined here he would use the second syllable—in every probability the name by which the town was generally known—in order to distinguish the coins from those he had coined at Dunbar or Dunfermline. The coins with Walter on Fre or Fres are very rare. From this one would infer that the coinage had not been large. There appear to be five varieties struck from five different dies. On two of the varieties the A and L in WALTER are in monogram, while on one he leaves out the letter L, and calls himself WATER: ON FRES. The form of bust of No. 1 appears to be of an early type with low flat crown to left, sceptre head cross pominee.

The following are the legends on the five varieties at present known, Nos. 1 and 4 having the AL in monogram.

Fig. 1.—obv. ALEXANDER REX  
rev. WAL/TER: ONF/RES

Fig. 2.—obv. ALEXANDER: REX: C:  
rev. WA/LTE/R ON/FRE

The C after REX on the obverse probably stands for "Scotorum."

Fig. 3.—obv. ALEXANDER REX  
rev. WA/TER/ONF/RE:

The legends on this variety are mostly imperfect, the die having failed on "ONF."

Fig. 4.—obv. Same as last, but after REX  
rev. WAL/TER/ONF/RES



COINS OF ALEXANDER III., BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MINTED AT DUMFRIES.



There is another variety with similar obverse to above, but the reverse reading:—

WA/LTE/R ONF/RES

The above sterlings are from the "Brussels Hoard." I am indebted to Mr A. H. Baldwin, numismatist, London, for the loan of two of the coins reproduced. Figs. 1, 3, and 4 are unpublished varieties. For the reproductions I am obliged to Mr A. Coldwell, A.R.C.O., Dumfries.

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GLEANINGS FROM THE VERNACULAR. By Dr ALEXANDER CHALMERS, M.A., Crockettford.

I venture with considerable diffidence, and with a very acute sense of shortcoming, to bring before you my little sheaf of East Galloway gleanings. Possibly the list could have been much fuller. Possibly phrases as well as words should have been included. But it has really been difficult to see where to draw the line. Words which I thought rare because they occurred but seldom in my personal experience turn out to be (apparently) quite common with certain groups of people. "Grossky," e.g., I took to be a unique specimen, possibly imported by the person whom I heard use it; I learn, however, that it is quite well understood and used by graziers. Per contra: words occurring so commonly in the district as "basque" and "lown," I thought it quite unnecessary to make note of; yet I am informed from several sources that these words are—to my informants at any rate—quite unknown.

The only touchstone by which one can gauge the right of a word to special note appears to be its presence or absence in Jamieson, or—as I believe we should now say—in Warrack and Grant, and for the most part I have been guided by this rule. A few words which Jamieson notes have been introduced here, because I think they are really rare in Galloway; though I hesitate to say so definitely, for I do not pretend to anything like a complete knowledge of the various phases of the vernacular as spoken by all sorts and conditions of men and women in the district. Probably it would have been wiser to draw up an extended list of words used in Galloway speech apart altogether from their appearance in Jamieson, say, as a supplement to



M'Taggart's Gallovidian Encyclopædia. But that reached beyond my immediate aim, which was the preservation of a few curiosities of our Scots dialect, which are in danger of early and irretrievable extinction. In this connection I would take the liberty of suggesting the preparation of lists of technical words used by farmers and tradesmen, for comparison with similar lists which might be prepared in other parts of the country. I believe some interesting results would emerge. In Galloway farmers talk of coles, stangcoles (? standing coles), grapes, wylies, forry, avval, yell, etc., etc. What are the corresponding terms used in other parts of the country?

Bach: cowbach, cowbat, cowplat=Cowdung as it lies in a piece on the ground.

With reference to this word, Mr Grant (Ashfield, Cults, Aberdeen) writes me:—"Wright gives cows-bachrin as a Galloway word=dung dropped in the field. Also bachram, as a probably obsolete word, for Dumfries=an adhesive spot of filth, what has dropped from cattle on hard ground. In English dialect duck-batches=ground trodden by cattle in wet weather."

Bachlies=dried dung for fuel. "Bring in some bachlies."

Blinkit (winkit)=sour. "That milk (or buttermilk) is gey blinkit."

Bood=bent, roundabout. "The heich road's nae bood-gait."

"He ploughed a bood-gait," i.e., the up and down furs of the plough.

Boon=bound or boundary. "Ayont the boons o' the fairm."

Boosse=to sulk. "What for are ye boossin' there?"

Broke, applied to one who is slovenly or untidy. "Ye're a dirty broke."

Grossky=tough and voluminous; fat. "A grossky spit."  
"Grossky grass."

Mr Grant remarks:—"Wright has grosk cum and yks=luxuriant, fat; Swedish dialect, gróske, spring verdure. This is a very interesting word. I wonder if it is of recent introduction from Cumberland, or did it come with the original Scandinavian trek from that district into Dumfries?"

Horrid=very, specially, extra. "It's a horrid fine day." "It's horrid windy."

Scardie = an oatmeal pancake.

Scoor = to rub clean. "To scoor blankets."

Smool = to scowl at. "What are ye smoolin' at?"

Mr Grant:—"A correspondent from West Dumfries[shire] gives me the meaning as a horse's scowl." To smool about = to hang about listlessly.

Spluiter (Jamieson has splatter) = a mess. "Don't mak' a spluiter."

Whammum = hunger or starvation, or emptiness; overturn.

"Hae a dish o' whammum." "Whammle that bine."

Mr Grant says:—"In Huntingdon they say:—'I have washed the milk pails and set them to wemble,' i.e., drain by turning upside down."

Wylie, is an instrument for making hay ropes.

The following uncommon words met with in Galloway are mentioned in Jamieson:—

Bengle = a collection of too many things. "Ye've juist a bengle in your pooch."

Byas = by-ordinary, exceptional. "A byas fine day." "He was a maist byas man."

Glent = a smack. "A glent on the chaffs."

Griesocks = the glowing remains of a fire. "I'll use the griesocks o' the fire tae mak' a wee drap tea."

Mr Grant:—"Wright gives grushach and griushack as Dumfries forms. In Morayshire the word is greasach, Gaelic griosach."

Plat. See Bach.

Pookit = wizened, or shrivelled. "He looks gey pookit."

Roopit = roughened or made hoarse. "He was roopit up wi' the cauld."

Rug = to rive, pull, or tug. "Don't rug ma hair."

Scaut = faded. "A scout-lookin' dress."

Yim = a small piece. "Gie me a yim o' cheese."

In common with many others, I have been struck with the frequent occurrence of German words and modes of expression; and I append a few examples. It will be noted that a different etymology is suggested of the word leelang than that usually put forward.

Fleech: She fleeched wi' me to be quate. "Duncan fleeched and Duncan prayed." "Ja, ja," flehte Hilda.

Gant: He ganted an' he ganted. Er gähnt.

Grue: It made me grue tae think o't. Sie gedachte mit Grauen.

Leelang: We enjoyed oorsel's the leelang day. "We lap and dance't the leelang day." Durch die er den lieben langen Tag über zu winden und zu schmiegen hatte.

Lown: It's a lown nicht. In der dämmerhaften lauen Nacht.

Rice: They gathered rice for the fire. Reis.

Sair: I'm sair afeird. I was sair putten aboot. Ich fürchte sehr du lässt dich zu tief ein.

Sheil: What are ye sheilin' at? Sie schielte hastig nach Marianne hin.

Smiddy: Schmiede.

Ticht-handed: She was a trig, ticht-handed body. Er ist tüchtig und klug.

Weer [cf., veer]: Weer the sheep into that field. "To wear the tod frae the flock on the fell" ("Brownie of Blednoch").

Warf Marianne, leise abwehrend, dazwischen.

He nicht ha'e could dae that! Er hätte das thun können.

A few of the interjections met with among the peasantry are added, without present comment:—

Gosh. Loven enty. Losh. My greaty. Och anee. Atweel.

Dod. Nabbat. Hech sirs. By Hecky or By Heck. My sang.

My word. By the long. By the long Harry.

JAMES LINDSAY, PROVOST OF LINCLUDEN. By JOHN LINDSAY, M.A., M.D., Glasgow.

James Lindsay, Provost of Lincluden, was a son of the laird of Covington, a considerable barony in the parish of the same name in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire. He makes his first appearance in record history in the year 1432, as a litigant at the Papal Court, where he was engaged in defending his possession of the rectory of Arbuthnot against the claim of another priest. For five years the case dragged on, and in the end was settled by compromise, Lindsay, while permitted to retain the rectory, was required to surrender to the rival claimant a prebend held

by him in the Church of Dunbar, and to pay to his rival a pension out of the lands of Covington.<sup>1</sup>

By this time he had succeeded to the family estate, presumably through the death of an elder brother; for, had he himself been the first-born son it is unlikely that he would have been dedicated to the priesthood. This early attainment by him of the status of a minor baron, with the right to a seat in Parliament, assured his advancement in the Church; but of even more consequence to that end, and of more consequence than his own ability, was the patronage of the great house of Douglas. Just at what time and in what manner he had entered on terms of friendship with the chief of the Douglasses we do not know, but as early as 1441 he was witness to a charter of James the Gross.<sup>2</sup> In the list of witnesses to an ancient document it may not be permissible to infer more than a chance association, but generally the witnesses were selected for definite reasons; and in the light of immediately subsequent events we may be allowed to see more than chance in this connection of the rector of Arbuthnot with the 7th Earl of Douglas. Probably there was some degree of blood relationship between them; for, in presenting in 1447 one Master James Lindsay to the Church of Hawick, newly erected into a prebend of the Collegiate Church of Bothwell, the 8th Earl of Douglas calls him "consanguineus noster"; and there can be little doubt that this Master James was identical with him who had previously been rector of Arbuthnot.<sup>3</sup> That the presumed relationship was a near one is out of the question; but distant ties were at that time readily acknowledged and regarded. The origin of the Covington Lindsays has not been ascertained, but in all probability they were cadets of the Lindsays of Crawford, with whom the Earls of Douglas had common blood.

James the Gross died in 1443. Previous to this event, perhaps, and certainly not later than the same year, Master James Lindsay became parson of Douglas with a stall in the choir of Glasgow and a place in the chapter; for the parsonage was a prebend of the cathedral.<sup>4</sup> So from that time until his election to the

1. *Calendar of Papal Registers*, Vol. VIII., pp. 256, 422, 460.

2. *Hist. MSS. Com.*, 11th Rep., App. Part VI., p. 212.

3. *Reg. Epis. Glasguensis*, Vol. II., p. 366.

4. *Laing Charters*, No. 122.

provostship of Lincluden, early in 1449, he figures as a canon of Glasgow; and during the same period he was acting as secretary to William, Eighth Earl of Douglas.<sup>5</sup> He was now, if he had not been before this, immersed in politics; and since he became more distinguished as a politician and statesman than as a churchman, it is necessary to an insight into his life and character that account should be taken of the political activities of the Douglasses, then dominating the public affairs of the kingdom. Immediately upon succeeding his father Earl William went to Court, and was forthwith appointed Lieutenant-General of the Kingdom. "It sounds a thing incredible in modern ears," says Sir Herbert Maxwell, "that the whole of the royal forces should have been entrusted to the command of a lad of eighteen; yet so it was." Incredible it may sound to us that military leadership, titular or actual, should have been regarded as the natural right of noble birth and feudal power; but such was the idea of the time, and agreeably to this idea none had a better claim to high command than the Earl of Douglas, young as he was. Not in this, then, lies the marvel of Earl William's career, but in that he, between his eighteenth and his twenty-fifth year when he died, should have played so great a part in the game of politics, involved and hazardous as it then was, and should have more than held his own against such experienced and wily players as Livingstone, the King's Governor; Crichton, the Chancellor; and Kennedy, Bishop of St. Andrews. Livingstone and Crichton, though not among the great territorial magnates, had proved themselves formidable foes by carrying through such a drastic scheme for breaking the Douglas power as the judicial murder of the sixth earl and his brother. On account of this record they had the best of reasons to watch and to checkmate if possible every move of their new opponent. Yet very soon he was playing the one against the other. The Livingstones he detached from the opposing party, and looked on with indifference, if not with contempt, when they went down before the wrath of their old associates. The great stroke which was to have reduced the Black Douglas to the level of the other nobles he countered and rendered of no

5. *Munimenta de Melros*, Vol. II., p. 573; Frazer, *Douglas Book*, Vol. III., pp. 380, 428; *The Scotts of Buccleuch*, Vol. II., p. 35; *Reg. Mag. Sig.* (6th Aug., 1447). *Exchequer Rolls*, Vol. V., p. 336.

effect by marrying his cousin, the Fair Maid of Galloway, thereby gathering again into his own hands the whole of the family resources. Then by leaguings with the Earls of Crawford and Ross he put himself into a position that could scarcely be assailed with success by the whole forces of the Crown.

Such masterly policy and action emanating from one so young may be explicable by assuming for him exceptional talent and courage. There have been many historical instances of precocity in political affairs; but we do not resort to the exceptional and the marvellous in explanation, when the more commonplace will suffice; and if some one could be pointed to of proved astuteness and experience, who was likely to be a trusted adviser of the young earl, we should be bound to give this possible factor full consideration in any attempted elucidation of his political aims and achievements. No such personage is mentioned by any of those who have written of the history of the period. To all appearance none such was known to them. Yet in James Lindsay, Rector of Douglas and Provost of Lincluden, there was one well able to fill the rôle of political mentor.

Lindsay, when he became secretary to the young earl, was a man of mature years. In 1449 he was one of the auditors of accounts, and was chosen a member of an important embassy sent to England, a testimony no doubt to his reputation as a man of affairs.<sup>6</sup> In later life he was one of the leading statesmen in the country, and the writer of the Auchinleck Chronicle speaks of him in terms not flattering, certainly, but such as would not have been called forth by a merely colourless personality. "Ye said quene, he says, eftir ye deid of King James ye secund tuke master James lyndesay for principale counsallour And gart him kepe ye preve sele nochtwithstanding yat ye said master James was excludit fra ye counsall of ye forsaid king and fra ye cort for his veray helynes And had bene slane for his demerits had not bene he was redemit with gold."<sup>7</sup> We do not know the meaning of the word "helynes," but obviously it was something uncomplimentary, craftiness or duplicity, perhaps.

As secretary to Earl William, the rector of Douglas must have been something more than the parish priest who might be called

6. *Excheq. Rolls.*, Vol. V., p. 336; Rymer, *Foedera*, Tom. XI., p. 235.

7. *Auchinleck Chronicle*, p. 22.

upon to aid him in the unfamiliar art of writing. His tastes, his talents, his experience, his social connections, all tended to make him a participator in the schemes of his patron; and in particular he was well fitted to bring into being as a negotiator the league of the three earls. He was bound in dutiful service to the Earl of Douglas. The Earl of Crawford was his hereditary chief, and although this bond might be merely a sentimental one, there is evidence also of actual association between them, for Master James was a witness to at least one of the earl's charters, while his brother and nephew were the baron bailies of Crawford.<sup>8</sup> To him, then, Douglas might very well entrust the task of securing the participation of Crawford in the league, an object worth striving for, since he was the greatest noble in midland Scotland, as Douglas was in the south, and Ross in the north. With his accession the league would hold a preponderance of material power and influence throughout the length of the country. Whoever carried through the business, it could have been no light undertaking to bind together in a common cause three such youthful potentates; for Douglas was under twenty-five, Crawford could have been only a few years older, while Ross was still a minor when his father died in 1447. Then, too, whatever the character of Douglas, Crawford was a man of such fierce and turbulent disposition that in the course of his short life he succeeded in earning for himself the ominous nickname of the Tiger Earl; while Ross at an advanced age closed a career that had been a troubled one, and altogether futile from his own vanity and weakness.

Now, whatever may have been the purpose of the earls' league, it was inimical to the Government, if only because by its very strength it belittled the authority of the Crown; and it would surely have been checked in its inception had the acting Ministers of State been aware of what was afoot. To bring the scheme to the point of effectiveness secrecy was imperative, and such secrecy was maintained that it was accounted for special shrewdness in Bishop Kennedy that he was the first to suspect the existence of the conspiracy. For the finesse in management that achieved this result are we to look to any of the young men who were the

8. *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, X., 133 (18th June, 1449); *Hist. MSS. Com.*, 15th Rep., Append. VIII, pp. 64, 65.



nominal heads of the movement, to the arrogant Douglas, to the truculent Crawford, or to the vain and feeble Ross? Neither Crawford nor Ross possessed the needful qualifications, and it may be doubted if Douglas had them. So to the many speculations that have to serve us as the history of the period, I would venture to add this one, that James Lindsay, Provost of Lincluden, had a hand, and an effective one, in shaping the policy of the Douglas party.

The Earl of Douglas was slain in February, 1452, killed by the King because, as it is believed, he had refused to break up the treasonable alliance referred to. Crawford immediately took up arms, and notwithstanding his defeat at Brechin, continued in rebellion. The brothers of the murdered earl were also actively engaged in hostilities when in August of that year there was brought about a reconciliation between them and the King. The strength of the Government apparently was not such that it could compel the unconditional surrender of the rebels. Doubtless their treasonable plotting was not generally known to the people, or was forgotten, and only the provocation that they had received was remembered and served to secure for them much sympathy and support. With this in mind, perhaps, and desirous of atoning for his own act of violence and treachery, the King received into his peace the members of the party. The decrees of forfeiture which had been pronounced were rescinded, and King James undertook to promote the appeal for a dispensation whereby the new Earl of Douglas might marry the widow of his dead brother, that same Fair Maid of Galloway. To be reckoned also among these measures of conciliation—and the point is significant for our understanding of the factors at work in the development of events—the Provost of Lincluden, who at the time of the slaughter of his patron filled the office of Clerk Register, was now given the custody of the Privy Seal.<sup>9</sup> Thus to dispose of a troublesome adversary by loading him with the responsibilities of office is a manœuvre which has been not infrequently resorted to in politics even to the present day.

During the years of peace which followed this reconciliation the name of the Provost of Lincluden is one of those most often

9. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. V., pp. 491, 606; *Reg. May. Sig.*, IV., 118, 119 (12th Jan., 1452-3).

met with in the contemporary records, for by reason of his office he was a witness to most of the royal charters and a party to most of the public and to many of the private transactions of the time. Having also been appointed chamberlain to the Queen, receiving her rents and other allowances, and supervising the expenditure of her privy purse, he won her esteem and confidence to an extent that raised him to a position of high influence in the country at a later date.<sup>10</sup>

But the days of peace were soon to end. For reasons not definitely ascertained the King and his advisers resolved on the destruction of the Black Douglasses, and speedily carried this resolution into effect. All their lands and honours were forfeited, never to be restored; and the Provost of Lincluden as a partisan of their house was deprived of his office and expelled from Court.<sup>11</sup> Whether he had continued actively to serve them we know not, but that he had remained loyal is evident from the fact that his lands were distrained for the value of some of the forfeited estate of the Countess Beatrix, which apparently he had tried to save from the wreck of the family fortunes.<sup>12</sup> For a time he lived out of the main current of public life, not wholly in disfavour, however, since he was permitted to use the royal authority in compounding for and remitting fines at the Justice Ayre of Dumfries.<sup>13</sup> Then in 1460 came another of those tragic happenings which dogged like a fate the footsteps of the Stuart Kings. James II. was killed by the bursting of a cannon at the siege of Roxburgh, leaving as his heir a boy of eight years of age. Immediately the widowed Queen, Mary of Gueldres, a woman of energy and strength of character, assumed the regency, and summoned the Provost of Lincluden to resume the custody of the Privy Seal and to join with Crichton, the Chancellor, Kennedy, Bishop of St. Andrews, and George, Earl of Angus, in a council of government; and if the chronicler may be believed, she made the Provost her chief adviser, as we know she again appointed him her chamberlain.<sup>14</sup> Lindsay was now associated with those

10. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. V., pp. 524, 554, etc.

11. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. VI., p. 87; *Auchinleck Chronicle*, p. 22.

12. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. VI., p. 162.

13. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. VI., pp. 555-557.

14. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. VII., pp. 2; 7, 31, 60; *Auchinleck Chronicle*, p. 22.

who had been the chief opponents of the party to which he had formerly adhered, but by this time he upon whom had devolved the leadership of that party, if such it could still be called, James, 9th Earl of Douglas, was utterly discredited. It is little to be wondered at that Lindsay should have abandoned the lost cause of the Black Douglas; and he was not acting at variance with the spirit of his times in now so cultivating the Red Douglas, George Earl of Angus, as to obtain from him a gift of various lands in the neighbourhood of his barony of Covington.<sup>15</sup> It does not seem to have been his conduct in this respect but rather his intriguing with rebels, perhaps even at the time when he was holding a Government office, that called down upon his head the condemnation that has been quoted from the Auchinleck Chronicle.

To the Provost of Lincluden was entrusted the care of Queen Margaret of England when she fled to Scotland for refuge upon the defeat and capture of her husband, King Henry VI., by the Yorkists. At Lincluden she was lodged as the guest of the nation, and there being visited by the Queen of Scotland, the resources of the Provost must have been taxed to accommodate these two royal ladies and their trains. In the other public business of the country Lindsay appears in his capacity as Lord Privy Seal as witness to most of the royal charters of the period. On two occasions he went to England to arrange a treaty of peace, the other envoys being the Bishops of Glasgow and Aberdeen, the Abbot of Holyrood, the Earls of Crawford and Argyle, Lords Livingstone, Borthwick, and Boyd, and Sir Alexander Boyd of Drumcoll.<sup>16</sup> We hear of him also going to various places on the King's business or to hold courts.<sup>17</sup> In the latter half of the year 1468 he became Lord High Treasurer of Scotland; but died before the end of the same year.<sup>18</sup>

It is of local interest to mention that there is very good reason for believing that this Provost of Lincluden received as a personal gift from the Earl of Douglas the lands of Fairgirth and others in the parish of Southwick. If so he settled them on a kinsman and

15. Frazer, *The Douglas Book*, Vol. III., p. 91.

16. *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland*, Vol. IV., 1341, 1350, 1362, 1363.

17. *Excheq. Rolls*, Vol. VII., pp. 118, 152, 293, 455, 512; Vol. VIII., p. 45.

18. *Ibid.*, Vol. VII., pp. 520, 593, 656, 670, 672.

namesake, a nephew perhaps, with whose descendants they continued, and in whose family it was a tradition that they were sprung from the house of Covington. The first of the family married Margaret Cairns, who was heiress eventually of another Provost of the College Church, Master Alexander Cairns, and who brought to her husband the lands of Carsluith, which had been a gift from the Douglasses to this earlier Provost.

The direct line ending at the beginning of the 16th century in an heiress, Elizabeth Lindsay, Carsluith passed to the son of her marriage with Richard Brown, while Fairgirth went to her uncle, the heir male. Branches of the family were the Lindsays of Auchenskeoch, and of Rascarrel, and probably also those of the Mains of Southwick. All of them were flourishing in the middle of the seventeenth century, but within a hundred years thereafter the various properties were in other hands. If Master James Lindsay, Provost of Lincluden, had really been the means of settling these Lindsays in Galloway, then he had established for himself a very lasting association with the ancient province.

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OLD BRIDAL STONE, CROUSE FARM, KIRKOWAN.

In "The Transactions and Journal of Proceedings" of this Society, N.S. Vol. XIX. p. 168 (1906-7) an illustration of the old Bridal Stone on Crouse Farm, Kirkcowan, was given without any reference being made to it in the text. Mr J. J. Vernon, Honorary Secretary Hawick Archæological Society, in a paper on "Betrothal and Other Perforated Stones" read on 19th December, 1911, describes it thus: "About four miles from Kirkcowan Station, Wigtownshire, in a field near the farmhouse of Crouse or Crows, can be seen a perforated stone, commonly called the old bridal stone of Crouse. It may be fairly described as oval-shaped, seven feet seven inches in height and five feet three inches at its greatest breadth. When visited in 1864 it was lying almost level with the ground; to-day it stands once more upright. Transversely the stone is obtusely curved into a bulge at the middle of both faces, or, in other words, is double convex. The stone itself is quite natural, of granite, the perforation may be described as two circular basins, twelve inches in diameter, oppositely sunk into the faces of the boulder and connected by the hole bored through their bottoms." Mr J. J. Vernon also describes another holed stone in Galloway: "In connection with a stone circle there is a fine example of a holed stone far away among the hills beyond Loch Urr, in the Stewartry, close to a remarkable structure called Lochrinnie Mote. It is a thin broad slab of blue whinstone, and stands three feet two inches above ground, thirty inches wide and six inches thick. The hole is about four inches in diameter and has been nearly circular. It seems to have been in connection with a stone circle, ten stones of which remain standing and prostrate."\*

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT DUMFRIES,  
1909 AND 1910.

The death of the Rev. W. Andson in March, 1909, caused a break in the continuity of the local Meteorological Records given in our Transactions from 1886 onwards. The following tables fill up that hiatus. They are taken, by permission of Dr J. Maxwell Ross, county medical officer for Dumfriesshire, from his Nineteenth and Twentieth Annual Reports. In 1910 the station was removed from Newall Terrace, Dumfries, to the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.

\* Transactions Hawick Archæological Society, 1911, pp. 57-9.



## Abstracts of Meteorological Observations at Dumfries, 1910, 155 feet above sea level.

1910.	Months.	Baro- meter.	AIR TEMPERATURE.										HYGROMETER.				RAIN, &c.			WEATHER.		WIND DIRECTIONS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
			Mean of					Difference from Average.	Absolute Maximum and Minimum.			Mean at 9 A.M. and 9 P.M.				Number of Days.	Total Fall.	Difference from Average.	Amount.		Snow.	Thunderstorms.	(Clear Sky. Overcast. Fog.	(Tale.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	N.W.	Calm or Variable.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
			Maximum.		Day of Month.	Minimum.	Day of Month.		Dry Bulb.	Depression of Wet Bulb.	Vapour Pressure.	Humidity.	Inch.	%	Inch.				Inch.	Most in a day.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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## PRESENTATIONS.

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3rd November, 1911.—Mr M. H. M'Kerrow—Engraving of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn; Copy of the Catalogue of the Scottish Historical Exhibition, Glasgow, 1911.

17th November, 1911—Mr R. C. Reid of Mouswald Place—Perforated Stone Axe found on Drummuir Farm, Torthorwald Parish, in August, 1911. Measurements: 11 in. by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. (at broadest part in centre) by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. in thickness. Perforation,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. across.

Dr Rutherford of Mountainhall—Camden's "Britannia," ed. by Edward Gibson, 1722. 2 vols., folio.

19th January, 1912.—Anonymous—Four Charters relating to the Lands of Glengaber and Morington. The first of these, dated 20th May, 1556, was granted by Thomas Campbell, Commendator of the Abbey of Holywood, to John and Cuthbert Morrin, and was signed by the Commendator and by David Welche, John Lytill, and Kenneth M'Gee, brothers in the monastery. The other charters are dated 5th Feb., 1574; 31st May, 1593; 12th April, 1595.

Rev. Henry Paton, Edinburgh—"Register of the Rev. John Macmillan. Being a Record of Marriages and Baptisms solemnised by him among the Cameronian Societies," edited by Rev. Henry Paton, M.A., Edinburgh. 1908.

Mr Clement Reid, F.R.S.—"The Irish Naturalist," Vol. XX., No. 12, containing article on "The Relation of the Present Plant Population of the British Isles to the Glacial Period," by the donor.

16th February, 1912.—Mr Robert Wallace—Collection of Fossil Plants:

### UPPER CARBONIFEROUS.

Crichope Burn—			Jockie's Syke, Netherbie—		
6	Specimens	Neuropteris ovato.	2	Specimens	Annularia.
12	Do.	Neuropteris (?).	2	Do.	Lepididendron.
3	Do.	Fern Stems.	3	Do.	Fern Stems.
2	Do.	of Rootlets.	5	Do.	Neuropteris Schizeri.
1	Do.	of Ironstone.			

Byreburnfoot (R. Esk)—

3 Grey Shales.

5 Black Shales, containing Neuropteris Pinnuli.

Mr Wallace said:—I wish to draw your attention to the economic aspect of the Closeburn Basin in its relation to coal. The memoir of the geological survey describes the rocks of that basin as belonging wholly to the lower Carboniferous formation; but

it is evident to present-day geologists that this is an error. During the formation of all sedimentary rocks there was a continual evolution of life in both plants and animals. The lower bands of sediment contain fossils of species with simple organisms, but the layers above, which were deposited at a later date, show by their fossil life various degrees of progress or degeneration. The younger rocks are said to be of a higher horizon in the vertical scale of rock-building, and are frequently named by the fossil contained in them. The higher deposits of strata in the Closeburn Basin alternate rapidly between clay, shale, red sandstone, fireclay, and grey sandstone. This thin bedding of rocks and their prevailing red colour seemed to speak of an Upper Carboniferous Age in that valley; but, unfortunately, fossils could not be found to prove this theory. However, after lengthened perseverance I have discovered a band of shale crossing the Crichton burn not far below the famous Burley's Leap. This outcrop of dark grey shale has yielded some beautiful specimens of fossil fern prints. Specimens were sent to the Geological Survey, Edinburgh, they in turn submitted them to Dr Kidston, the British expert. They are now returned and presented to your custody. Dr Kidston has named them *Neuropteris ovata*. This species is found exclusively in Upper Carboniferous strata. After a careful comparison with the results of similar work in the Ayrshire coalfield, and a personal examination of the coal measures of the Canonbie coalfield, I am of opinion that the Carboniferous strata of the Crichton belong to the upper coal measures. This gives us another proof of the very uneven floor on which the red sandstones of Gatelawbridge were deposited. The possibility of workable coal seams underneath—the probable existence of similar strata throughout the Closeburn Basin, are problems deserving of closest attention in the future. The Canonbie coalfield gives us an unbroken series of deposits which belong to the Carboniferous formation. From the basement beds of cementstone at Tarrasfoot on the north to the Liddel Moat on the south, the Esk has laid bare all the deposits in an ascending order. On the Netherbie estate the highest bands rise from underneath the New Red Rocks, and contain a creamy white shale which is virtually a fern bed. From that horizon the most interesting specimen in the collection is *Neuropteris Schizeri*. This species is confined to the topmost shale. It is evidently a plant of more perfect organism than its cousin of the Crichton burn. On the fern fronds delicate tracings caused by minute hairs can easily be seen. The last group in this present collection belongs to the lower coal measures of the Canonbie coalfield. They were found at Byreburnfoot, where the historic Byreburn enters the river Esk. Several feet above the fossil bank are two seams of coal,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet thick respectively. This outcrop of coal crosses the Esk at the point where the road crosses the tributary stream. This

horizon of the lower coal measures gives us *Neuropteris Pinnuli*, a very simple form of leaf.

- 1st March, 1912.—Mr R. C. Reid of Mouswald Place—"Petition of Sir John Sinclair of Longfornacus, Baronet," Nov. 14, 1740. "Petition for Charles Areskine of Tinwald, Esquire, His Majesty's Advocate, and others, Freeholders of the Shire of Dumfries," Dec. 11, 1740. "Answers for Thomas Charteris of Amisfield, William Kirkpatrick of Eliesland, John Young of Gulliehill, John Dickson of Upper Locherwood, William Martin of Kirkland, James Currie of Spadoch, William Irvine of Gribton, and Charles Areskine, younger of Tinwald, to the Petition of Sir James Douglas of Kilhead, Baronet," Jan. 23, 1741. "Answers for James Maxwell of Barneleuch, Walter Wilson of Croglie, Edward Irvine of Wisebie, Robert Dalrymple of Priestside, John Irving, younger of Bonshaw, William Macburnie, Portioner of Kelton, James Grierson of Dalgonar, Colonel Thomas Dalziel of Beatford, William Dalrymple of Waterside, William Carruthers of Warmanbie, Richard Graham of Blaitwood, Adam Elliot of Arkleton, John and William Elliots, elder and younger of Cumes, William Scot of Meikledale, William Elliot of Tarris, William Irvine of Auchinbedrig, and John Laing of Westerkirk, to the Petition of the Hon. Charles Areskine of Tinwald," Jan. 27, 1741. "Memorial for Edward Irvine of Wisebie," Feb. 19, 1741. "Memorial for my Lord Advocate and others in relation to the Objection made by them against Mr Irvine of Wiseby his right to vote at the Elections of a Member of Parliament for the Shire of Dumfries," Feb. 19, 1741. "Petition of Mr Charles Areskine and others, Heritors of the Shire of Dumfries," Feb. 23, 1741.
- 29th March, 1912.—Miss Fraser, Newall Terrace, Dumfries—Collection of Dried Ferns. Anonymous—First type of dry gas-meter used in Dumfries registering only to 2000 feet.
- 12th April, 1912.—Mr William Dickie—Collection of Carboniferous Fossils from Arbigland:—

#### Brachiopoda.

1. *Productus* ———.
2. Do. *giganteus*.
3. Do. *semireticulatus*.
4. Do. *punctatus*.
5. Do. *longispinus*.
6. Do. *pugilis*.
7. Do. *concinus*.
8. *Spirifera* ———.

#### Gasteropoda.

- 1, 2 and 3, *Euomphalus*.
- 4 Do. *pentangulatus*.
- 5 and 6. *Macrochilina*.

#### Actinozoa.

1. *Stenopora*.
2. Do. *obliqua*.
3. *Alisiophylid coral*.
- 4 and 5. *Cup Coral*.
6. *Coninia*.

#### Cephalopoda.

1. *Orthoceras*, etc.

#### Echinodermata.

- 1 and 2. *Encrinite Stem*.

Mr Robert Wallace indicated their significance in the following note:

—These specimens were obtained from the limestones on the Arbigland shore. They have been sent to Mr Arthur Macconochie, Palæontologist of the Scottish Geographical Survey, who has named them. They make a very valuable addition to the other fossils of Carboniferous Age, which have been collected from various localities in this area. There are twenty-three specimens, classified in the following natural orders:—1. Brachiopoda, containing several producti which are generally known as owl's heads. 2. Gasteropoda, with their delicate and wondrous tracery. 3. Actinozoa includes some fine examples of cup corals. 4. The Cephalopoda is represented by a beautiful Orthoceras, with its various stages of progressive life engraven on the stone. 5. Some encrinite stems give us a glimpse of that mysterious borderland between the animal and the vegetable world. The collection is representative of the different types of shellfish that swarmed the vast Carboniferous Seas, hundreds of millions of years ago. When compared with their successors of to-day—the mussels, cockles, and nautilus of our shores—we see at a glance that the race has been to the swift and the battle to the strong. Carboniferous rocks stretch from Carsethorn past Southernness to Colvend, with an occasional strip at Rascarrel Bay and White Port on the Rerrick coast. The same group re-appears at Comlongon, and is continued past Hoddon, Ecclefechan, and Canonbie into Liddesdale. Strata of the same age floor the bed of the Solway, and give at Maryport valuable coal seams of considerable thickness. Various attempts have been made on the Kirkbean shore to discover coal of workable value. At Powillimont there is a small band a few inches thick. If we ascend the Kirkbean burn towards the Criffel granite we find an outcrop of red sandstones belonging to the Old Red Sandstone period. From this small remnant of the former massive deposits of Old Red Sandstone the burn cuts through a continuous section of various strata until the shore is reached, and there we find the highest band exposed on the shore in front of the gardener's cottage. During the deposition of the Old Red Sandstones that are found high up the burn this locality was part of a great desert, containing large inland seas. The water was extremely salt and highly charged with oxide of iron, which gave the rocks their deep red colour. Adjacent to the sandstones is a thin cake of lava, which has also been dissected by the burn. This stream of lava, which flowed along the ocean floor in early Carboniferous times, must have been of large dimensions. It broadens out in Middlebie, and forms a prominent escarpment at Birrenswark. From there it extends to Eskdale and Liddesdale, and re-appears again in the North of England, fringing all the Carboniferous outcrops of the Lake District. From the volcanic lava down the stream to Kirkbean village we find thin limestones and shales.

On every hand there is evidence of a great change having taken place. There are not many fossils in these shales, but wherever found they show by the forms of marine life that the ocean had entered in. The water was shallow and full of mud, which was very unfavourable to the inhabitants of the deep ocean. Probably this condition was brought about by the barriers of the distant ocean having been slowly submerged. The atmosphere also changed in these early Carboniferous times. Instead of the arid sand-blown desert conditions of the Old Red Sandstone Age, we are confronted with proofs of warm temperature under humid conditions. During the existence of these muddy seas or estuaries we have evidence in other parts of Scotland of the growth of large forests; but the conditions as a whole were not favourable to the formation of coal. Adjacent to these cement stones of the muddy seas we find a large deposit of grey sandstones. They are known as the Thirlstane sandstones, and belong to the same horizon as the grey sandstones of Woodcockair in Annandale and the Fell sandstones of the Lake District. The grains are large and coarse, and the stones have been largely used for millstones in the past. The sandstones have here been quarried into large caves by the waves, and in many cases the top of the cave has been removed by wind and weather—leaving weird and fantastic shapes to guard the shores. In later times they formed convenient receptacles for smuggled goods. Immediately overlying these sandstones seawards we find another mass of shales and thin limestone bands, containing fossils, and in front of the gardener's cottage the coralline limestones are finely arranged. By great earth pressure in a lateral direction the rocks have been thrown into a large trough or syncline. The appearance on the surface resembles a coral reef. During the formation of the limestones the waters were crowded with animal life. The conditions were mainly those belonging to deep oceans. The limestone is chiefly composed of the dead bodies of minute animals which fell to the ocean floor. Cup corals and branching corals abound in great profusion. During the making of the rocks from which the fossils were taken the district was covered by a large ocean stretching across the best part of Europe, teeming with life, bounded by distant continents now wholly unknown.

12th April, 1912.—Anonymous—Title Deeds of No. 156 St. Michael Street, Dumfries, from 1628 to 1827. Leadwork taken from the Blue Bell Hotel in St. Michael Street, which stood immediately below the Old George Hotel, consisting of a rainbow with initials "R. C." and date "1748," and various "lugs" with designs. (vide illustration.) The initials are believed to be those of Robert Corsane of Meikleknock, son of the Rev. Peter Rae of Kirkbride and Kirkconnel, an extensive proprietor in the town at the date given.



LEADWORK (RAINBOX AND LUGS) FROM OLD BLUE BELL INN,  
ST. MICHAEL'S STREET, DUMFRIES.





## PURCHASES.

## BOOKS.

Inscribed Stones at Kirkmadrine, in the Parish of Stoneykirk, County of Wigtown, by Sir Arthur Mitchell. [From "The Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland," Vol. IX., p. 269, 1872; includes at end drawing and description of Stones in the holograph of William Todd, Schoolmaster, Kirkmaiden. Our knowledge of the inscription on the third stone, which has now disappeared, rests on this drawing.] 1 vol., sm. 4to.

One volume,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , containing the following:—

- Believer's Farewel to the World. Elegie on the Death of . . .  
 Sir Robert Hamilton of Preston. 1701 pp. 19. (13)
- Bruce, Michael. Good News in Evil Times for Fainting Believers . . . 1707. pp. 76. (2)
- The Rattling of Dry Bones. . . Sermon preached at Carluke. May, 1672. . . n.d. pp. 42 (22)
- Six Dreadfull Alarms. n.d. pp. 23. (20)
- Calamy, Edmond. The Great Danger of Covenant Breaking. 1706. pp. 31. (3)
- Cameron, Richard. vide Simson, James. (9)
- Cargill, Donald. A Lecture and Sermon Preached at Different Times by Donald Gargill. n.d. pp. 22. (27)
- vide Simson, James. (9)
- Dickson, John. A Letter written by [torn]. n.d. pp. 8. (15)
- Guthrie, John. A Sermon preached upon Breach of Covenant. n.d. pp. 15. (19)
- Mosman, John. The Christian's Companion under Soul-Exercise. n.d. pp. 25. (23)
- Peden, Alexander. The Lord's Trumpet Sounding an Alarm against Scotland. By Mr Alexander Pethine. n.d. pp. 34. (21)
- A Protestation and Testimony Against the Incorporating Union with England. n.d. pp. 16. (14)
- Another Copy, imperfect. (29)
- Renwick, James. Antipas, or, The Dying Testimony of Mr James Renwick. n.d. pp. 8. (16)
- The Church's Choice, or a Sermon on Canticles, I., ch. v., 7. 1705. pp. 55. (4)
- Some Notes or Heads of a Sermon. January 22, 1688. n.d. pp. 15. (5)
- A Sermon. [Isaiah 8, 17] n.d. pp. 8. (6)

- Rutherford, Samuel. Christ and the Doves. n.d. pp. 29. (28)  
 — . . . or, a Sermon preached in Kirkcudbright. . .  
 May 12, 1633. n.d. pp. 23. (26)  
 — A Sermon Preached to the Honourable House of Commons.  
 . . 1644. 1709. pp. 67. (24)  
 — A Sermon Preached before the Right Honourable House  
 of Lords . . 25th June, 1645. 1709. pp. 69 (23)  
 Shields, Alexander. Some Notes or Heads of a Preface, Lec-  
 ture, and Sermon . . preached at Lowthers in Crawford  
 Moor. March 11, 1688. n.d. pp. 31. (7)  
 — A Sermon preached . . in the Cannongate Meeting  
 House, Feb. 10, 1691. 1702. pp. 16. (8)  
 — Some Notes or Heads of a Preface and of a Lecture  
 preached at Distinckornhill in the Parish of Gaastoun. April  
 15, 1688. n.d. pp. [14] x 22. (12)  
 A Short but Plain Discovery To whom the due Right of Describ-  
 ing and Appointing of Fasts doth belong. 1707. pp. 16. (17)  
 Simson, James. The Building the Tower of Salvation.  
 pp. 15-30. A Preface and Preaching. [Song of Solomon,  
 iii., 3]. By Mr Richard Cameron; pp. 31-36. A Sermon by  
 Mr Donald Gargill [Isaiah, lxii., 6]. n.d. pp. 36. (9)  
 Welsh, John, of Ayr. History of Mr John Welsh, Minister  
 of the Gospel at Air, 1706. pp. 31. (1)  
 Welsh, John, of Irongray. The Churches Paradox. n.d.  
 pp. 22. (18)  
 — A Sermon Preached at Nempterbrae in Clidsdale [torn].  
 pp. 28. (10)  
 — Fifty and Two Directions . . To his Paroch at Irongray,  
 1703. pp. 42. (11)

## EXHIBITS.

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- 20th October, 1911.—Mr A. D. Drysdale—Indian Mutiny and Crimean Relics, including a tulwan found at Cawnpore in 1857; State sword of the Chief Magistrate of Lucknow; claymore used by the Captain of the Grenadier Company of the 42nd Highlanders at Sebastopol, 1854-5; sword carried by him at Alma and Russian rifle taken there; various Indian daggers; purses for flints and a brass bowl taken from the Koran Palace at Delhi in 1857.
- 19th January, 1912.—Mr James Barbour—Rapier and Broadsword described in his paper. (vide p. 169.)
- 2nd February, 1912.—Dr J. W. Martin—Wild Pigeon showing disease which was at present causing much havoc among wild pigeons, many of which appear to have died from disease known as bacillus diphtheriæ collumbarum. (vide Paper by Mr Hugh S. Gladstone, "The Ringdove," "Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald," February 24th, 1912.)
- 29th March, 1912.—Mr W. H. Whellens—Insects and Specimens showing their destructive work on Forest Trees. (vide pp. 260-9.)
- 12th April, 1912.—Mr M. H. M'Kerrow—A Jug broken and annealed in the fire in Chicago in 1871. Mr G. Macleod Stewart stated that he had stood on the smoking ruins, and there was a great quantity of such material about. Rockeries in Chicago to-day frequently consist of similar memorials.

## EXCHANGES.

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- Aberdeen : University Library.  
 Banff : Banffshire Field Club.  
 Belfast : Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, The Museum, College Square.  
 Berwick-on-Tweed : Berwickshire Naturalists' Club (Secretary, Rev. J. J. M. L. Aiken, Manse of Ayton).  
 Buenos Ayres : Museo Nacional, Buenos Ayres, Argentine.  
 Cambridge : University Library.  
 Cardiff : Cardiff Naturalists' Society, Cardiff (Secretary, Dr O. L. Rhys, 22 St. Andrew's Crescent).  
 Carlisle : Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Tullie House.  
 Edinburgh : Advocates' Library.  
     Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 5 St. Andrew Square.  
     Edinburgh Geological Society, India Buildings, Victoria Street.  
     Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Queen Street.  
 Glasgow : Andersonian Naturalists' Society, Technical College, George Street.  
     Glasgow Archaeological Society, 207 Bath Street.  
     Geological Society of Glasgow, 207 Bath Street.  
     Glasgow Natural History Society, 207 Bath Street.  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia : Nova Scotian Institute of Science.  
 Hawick : Hawick Archaeological Society.  
 Langholm : Eskdale and Liddesdale Archaeological Society (Secretary, Rev. George Orr, North Manse, Langholm).  
 Hull : Hull Scientific and Field Naturalists' Club, The Museum, Hull.  
     Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, The Museum, Hull.  
 London : British Association for the Advancement of Science, Burlington House.  
     British Museum, Bloomsbury Square.  
     British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington.  
 Marlborough : Marlborough College of Natural History, The College.  
 Oxford : Bodleian Library.  
 Perth : Perthshire Society of Natural Science, Natural History Museum.  
 Reigate : Holmesdale Natural History Club.  
 Sheffield : Sheffield Naturalists' Club, The Museum.  
 Stratford : Essex Field Club, Essex Museum of Natural History, Romford Road.  
 Stirling : Natural History and Archaeological Society, Smith Institute.

Stockholm, Sweden: Kung Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien.

Surrey Archæological Society (Secretary, A. H. Jenkinson, The Record Office, Chancery Lane, London.)

Toronto, Canada: The Canadian Institute, Provincial Museum, St. James Square, Toronto.

Torquay: Torquay Natural History Society, The Museum.

United States:—

Brooklyn, N.Y.: Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Chapelhill, N.C.: Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society.

Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard College Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology  
Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.

Davenport, Iowa: Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences.

Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

Minneapolis, Minn.: Minnesota Academy of Natural Sciences.

Meriden, Conn.: Meriden Scientific Society.

New Brighton, N.Y.: Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

New York: New York Academy of Sciences.

Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences.

Rochester, N.Y.: Rochester Academy of Sciences.

St. Louis, Mo.: Missouri Botanical Garden.

Washington: Smithsonian Institute, U.S. National Museum.

United States Bureau of Ethnology.

United States Department of Agriculture.

United States Geological Survey.

Upsala, Sweden: Geological Institute of the University of Upsala.

# LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Revised to 26th April, 1912.

Those who joined the Society at its reorganisation on 3rd November, 1876, are indicated by an asterisk.

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Sir Mark J. M'Taggart Stewart, Bart., Southwick .....	7/6/84
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Thomas Fraser, Maxwell Knowe, Dalbeattie .....	2/3/88
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M'Pherson, Wm., 37 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh ..	7/8/09
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Wilson, Jos., Liverpool .....	29/6/88

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Monuments, 2 The College, Glasgow.
- Curle, James, W.S., F.S.A.Scot., Priorwood, Melrose.
- Gregory, Professor J. W., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.S.E., F.G.S.,  
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- Holmes, Professor E. M., F.L.S., F.R.B.S., Edinburgh and Lon-  
don, F.R.H.S., etc., 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.
- Johnstone, R. B., Hon. Secretary and Editor, Andersonian  
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- Lewis, F. J., F.L.S., Lecturer in Geographical Botany, The  
University, Liverpool.
- Macdonald, Dr George, M.A., LL.D., 17 Learmonth Gardens,  
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- Reid, Clement, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., 28 Jermyn Street, Lon-  
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- Rhys, Professor Sir John, M.A., D.Litt., Professor of Celtic,  
and Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, Fellow of the  
British Academy.
- Scott-Keltie, J., LL.D., F.S.A.Scot., Secretary Royal Geographi-  
cal Society, Hon. Member Royal Scottish Geographical  
Society, 1 Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, London, W.
- Smith, Miss Annie Lorraine, B.Sc., F.L.S., Temporary Assistant,  
Botanical Department, British Museum, 20 Talgarth Road,  
West Kensington, London, W.
- Watt, Andrew, M.A., F.R.S.E., Secretary Scottish Meteorolo-  
gical Society, 122 George Street, Edinburgh.

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	Bedford, Her Grace the Duchess of, Woburn Abbey .....	7/2/08
	Bell, Arthur, Hillside, Langholm .....	16/2/12
	Bell, T. Hope, Morrinton, Dunscore .....	22/10/97
25	Biggar, William, Corbieton, Castle-Douglas .....	12/4/12
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	Blacklock, J. E., Broombank, Annan Road, Dumfries ...	8/5/96
	Blacklock, W., The Cottage, Rosemount Street, Dumfries	2/10/10
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30	Bowie, J. M., The Hain, Dalbeattie Road, Maxwelltown	15/12/05
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40	Burnie, Robert, Union Bank House, Thornhill .....	12/4/12
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	Cairns, Rev. J., Rotchell Park, Dumfries .....	6/2/91
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	Campbell, Rev. J. Montgomery, St. Michael's Manse, Dumfries .....	15/12/05
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50	Carrick-Buchanan, D. W. R., Corsewall, Stranraer .....	12/4/12
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	Carruthers, J. J., Park House, Southwick-on-Weir, Sunderland .....	/10/08
	Carter, Samuel, 45 Lorne Street, Leith .....	12/4/12
	Cassillis, Earl of, Culzean Castle, Ayr .....	12/4/12
55	Chalmers, Dr Alexander, Crockettford .....	4/11/10
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	Church, P. W., The Grove, Dumfries .....	12/4/12
	Clarke, Dr, Charlotte Street, Dumfries .....	6/6/89
60	Coats, W. A., of Dalskairth, Dumfries .....	18/9/96
	Cochrane, Rev. John Douglas, The Manse, Kirkbean ...	26/4/12
	Common, W. Bell, Gracefield, Dumfries .....	14/9/08
	Copland, John, 12 Carnegie Street, Dumfries .....	17/11/11
	Copland, Miss, The Old House, Newabbey .....	5/7/90
65	Cormack, J. F., Solicitor, Lockerbie .....	4/6/93
	Cornet, E., St. Mary's Place, Dumfries .....	4/7/11
	Corrie, John, F.S.A.Scot., Burnbank, Moniaive .....	6/8/87
	Corrie, John M., Post Office, Newtown St. Boswells .....	4/10/07
	Corrie, Joseph, Millbank, Maxwelltown .....	4/7/08
70	Cowan, John, Glenview, Maxwelltown .....	15/12/05
	Crabbe, Major, of Duncow, Dumfries .....	1/12/11
	Crichton, Douglas, 3 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C. ...	7/2/08
	Crichton, Miss, 39 Rae Street, Dumfries .....	20/10/09
	Crockett, W. S., The Manse, Tweedsmuir .....	12/4/12
75	Dalkeith, the Earl of, Drumlanrig Castle, Thornhill.....	12/4/12
	Dalrymple, the Viscount, M.P., Lochinch, Castle- Kennedy, Wigtownshire .....	12/4/12
	Dalrymple, the Hon. Hew, Lochinch, Castle-Kennedy, Wigtownshire .....	12/4/12

	*Davidson, Jas., F.S.A.Scot., Summerville, Mxawelltown	3/11/76
	Davidson, J., Hillhead, Bankend Road, Dumfries	10/5/95
80	Davidson, W., Beechgrove, Annan	12/4/12
	Dick, Rev. C. H., St. Mary's Manse, Moffat	4/11/10
	Dick, Rev. James, Blackwood, Auldgirth	12/4/12
	Dickie, Wm., Merlewood, Maxwelltown	6/10/82
	Dickson, Miss A. M., Greenbank, Perth	12/4/12
85	Dickson, C. W., of Friars' Carse, Auldgirth	12/4/12
	Dickson, G. S., Moffat Academy, Moffat	14/9/07
	Dinwiddie, Rev. J. L., Ruthwell	18/5/08
	Dinwiddie, L. M., Albany, Dumfries	12/4/12
	Dinwiddie, R., Overton, Moffat Road, Dumfries	9/3/83
	*Dinwiddie, W. A., Bridgebank, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries	3/11/76
90	Dixie, G. D., Cassalands, Maxwelltown	20/10/11
	Dods, J. W., St. Mary's Place, Dumfries	2/3/83
	Donaldson, T. M., Riddletonhill, Maxton, St. Boswells	26/4/12
	Douglas, A. H. Johnstone-, Comlongon	20/10/09
95	Drummond, Bernard, Dumfries	7/12/88
	Drummond, J. G., Stewart Hall, Dumfries	17/11/05
	Drysdale, A. D., H.M. Prison, Maxwelltown	23/4/09
	Dudgeon, Colonel, of Cargen, Dumfries	19/1/12
	Dudgeon, R. C., of Cargenholm, Dumfries	19/1/12
100	Dudgeon, Miss, Lincluden House, Dumfries	1/12/11
	Duncan, Jno. Bryce, of Newlands, Dumfries	20/12/07
	Duncan, Mrs, of Newlands, Dumfries	20/12/07
	Dunlop, Captain H. Murray, Corsock, Dalbeattie	15/6/12
	Dunlop, Rev. S., Irongray Manse, Dumfries	10/6/05
105	Dunn, John, Solicitor, Castle-Douglas	12/4/12
	Edie, Rev. W., Greyfriars' Manse, Dumfries	15/12/05
	Elliot, G. F. Scott, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., Meadowhead, Liberton	4/3/87
	Elliot, Mrs Scott, Meadowhead, Liberton	26/10/06
	Ewing, Lady Augusta Orr, of Dunskey, Portpatrick	12/4/12
110	Faed, Mark George, Ardmore, Blackhall, Midlothian	12/4/12
	Fergusson, D., Southdean, Rotchell Park	29/3/12
	Fergusson, Mrs, Southdean, Rotchell Park	29/3/12
	Finlay, Miss, Bridgend, Dumfries	21/10/10
	Fleming, James A., K.C., 33 Melville Street, Edin- burgh	12/4/12
115	Flett, James, C.R.I., Dumfries	19/1/12
	Foster, Wm., Nunholm, Dumfries	20/10/08
	Fraser, John, 54 Great King Street, Edinburgh	12/4/12
	Galbraith, Charles S., Terregles, Dumfries	12/4/12
	Galloway, Earl of, Cumloden, Newton-Stewart	12/4/12
120	Geddes, R., Brooke Street, Dumfries	20/10/09
	Gibson, J. Ewing, writer, 156 St Vincent Street, Glasgow	12/4/12
	Gillespie, Wm., Solicitor, Castle-Douglas	14/5/92
	Gladstone, Mrs H. S., Capenoch, Thornhill	13/7/07
	Gladstone, Miss Joan, The Lodge, Parkstone, Dorset	3/11/11
125	Gladstone, J. B., Architect, Lockerbie	15/2/07
	Glaister, Professor John, M.D., F.R.S.E., D.Ph. (Camb.), The University, Glasgow	12/4/12
	Glover, John, W.S., 1 Hill Street, Edinburgh	23/11/06
	Goldie-Scot, A., Craigmue, Moniaive	12/4/12
	Goldie-Scot, Mrs, Craigmue, Moniaive	12/4/12
130	Gordon, Miss, Kenmure Terrace, Dumfries	14/9/07
	Gordon, H. S., Glenæ, Dumfries	26/4/12
	Gordon, J. G., F.E.S., Corsemalzie, Whauphill	20/1/11

	Gordon, Roger S., F.E.S., Corsemalzie, Whauphill .....	3/9/11
	Gordon, Robt., Brockham Park, Betchworth, Surrey ...	10/5/95
135	Gordon, William, County Buildings, Dumfries .....	12/4/12
	Gracie, Robert, 51 St. Domingo Grove, Liverpool .....	26/4/12
	Graham, W. F., Mossknow, Ecclefechan .....	12/4/12
	Grahame, Mrs., Springburn Cottage, Kilbarchan, Ren- frewshire .....	28/7/06
	Greaves, A. R., Dalmakerran, Thornhill .....	12/4/12
140	Grierson, R. A., Town Clerk, Dumfries .....	15/3/07
	Grieve, David G., Brynholm, Dumfries .....	17/11/11
	Grieve, Mrs David, Brynholm, Dumfries .....	15/12/11
	Gulland, John W., M.P., House of Commons, London ...	12/4/12
	Haining, John M., Solicitor, Dumfries .....	21/11/08
145	Hall, Major H., of Denbie, Lockerbie .....	12/4/12
	Halliday, T. A., Parkhurst, Dumfries, .....	26/1/06
	Halliday, Mrs, Parkhurst, Dumfries .....	26/1/06
	Halliday, W. J., Esthwaite, Lochmaben .....	6/4/06
	Hamilton, W. M. J., Craighlaw, Kirkcovan .....	12/4/12
150	Hamilton-Grierson, Sir Philip, 37 Palmerston Place, Edin- burgh .....	12/4/12
	Hannay, Miss, Langlands, Dumfries .....	6/4/88
	Hannay, Miss J., Langlands, Dumfries .....	6/4/88
	Hastie, D. H., Victoria Terrace, Dumfries .....	24/2/06
	Henderson, Mrs, Logan, Cumnock .....	18/12/08
155	Henderson, Miss E. L., Barrbank, Sanquhar .....	12/6/09
	Henderson, James, Solicitor, Dumfries .....	9/8/05
	Henderson, Thomas, Solicitor, Lockerbie .....	17/10/02
	Henniker-Hughan, Sir A., Bart., Inveresk House, Musselburgh .....	12/4/12
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160	Hewison, Rev. James King, D.D., The Manse, Rothesay ..	12/4/12
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	Hough, J. B., Dalgowan, New-Galloway .....	16/2/12
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165	Houston, Mrs, Brownrigg, Dumfries .....	12/6/09
	Houston, James, Brownrigg, Dumfries .....	12/6/09
	Hume, Colonel A., of Auchendolly, Dalbeattie .....	12/4/12
	Hunter, Dr Joseph, Castle Street, Dumfries .....	24/6/05
	Hunter, Dr, St Catherine's, Linlithgow .....	12/4/12
170	Hunter, Thomas S., Cordova, Maxwelltown .....	12/4/12
	Irving, Colonel, of Bonshaw, Annan .....	18/1/01
	Irving, H. C., Burnfoot, Ecclefechan .....	/ / 07
	Irving, John A., West Fell, Corbridge-on-Tyne .....	7/12/06
	Irving, John Bell, Shinnelwood, Thornhill .....	16/10/03
175	Irvine, Wm. Ferguson, F.S.A., Birkenhead .....	7/2/08
	Jackson, Colonel, Holmlea, Annan .....	9/8/05
	Jardine, D. J., of Jardine Hall, Lockerbie .....	12/4/12
	Jardine, Sir William, Luce, Annan .....	26/4/12
	Jardine, Major Wm., Craigdhu, Capetown .....	17/6/11
180	Jardine, Wm., Wauchope, Klipdam, Kimberley .....	17/6/11
	Jenkins, A. J., Victoria Terrace, Dumfries .....	8/4/10
	Jenkins, Mrs, Victoria Terrace, Dumfries .....	8/4/10
	Jenkins, Ross T., National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh	12/4/12
	Johnson-Ferguson, Sir J. E., Bart., of Springkell, Ecclefechan .....	30/5/96
185	Johnson-Ferguson, A., Knockhill, Ecclefechan .....	9/9/05
	Johnston, Christopher, M.A., Ph.D., M.D., LL.D., Pro- fessor of Oriental History and Archæology at John Hopkins University, 21 West 20th Street, Bal- timore, U.S.A. ....	26/4/12

	Johnston, Dr S. E., Burnbank, Penpont .....	12/4/12
	Johnstone, F. A., 16 Draycott Place, London, S.W. ....	11/4/11
	Johnstone, John T., Millbank, Moffat .....	4/4/90
190	Johnstone, T. F., Balvaig, Maxwelltown .....	12/9/08
	Johnstone, Mrs, Victoria Terrace, Dumfries .....	17/2/96
	Johnstone, T. S., Victoria Terrace, Dumfries .....	19/2/09
	Johnstone, W. S., Victoria Terrace, Dumfries .....	11/2/98
	Joss, Edward, C.R.I., Dumfries .....	19/1/12
195	Kellock, R., J.P., 78 Promenade, Portobello .....	12/4/12
	Kennedy, Colonel J. M., M.V.O., of Knocknalling, Dalry .....	12/4/12
	Kennedy, Lieut.-Colonel John, of Kirkland, Thornhill..	12/4/12
	Kennedy, Robert, Bank House, Thornhill .....	12/4/12
	Kerr, James, Troqueer Holm, Dumfries .....	24/7/09
200	Keswick, J. J., of Mabie, Dumfries .....	6/3/08
	Kirkpatrick, John George, 32 Morningside Park, Edin- burgh .....	12/4/12
	Kirkpatrick, Rev. R. S., The Manse, Govan .....	17/2/96
	Kissock, James, Solicitor, Dumfries .....	19/2/09
	Laidlaw, John, Plasterer, Lockerbie .....	18/10/01
205	Laurie, Colonel C. E. R., Maxwellton House .....	20/1/11
	*Lennox, Jas., F.S.A.Scot., Edenbank, Maxwelltown ..	3/11/76
	Lewis, R. M., Rotchell Road, Maxwelltown .....	2/2/12
	Little, James, solicitor, Commercial Bank, Dalbeattie..	12/4/12
	Little, Rev. J. M., U.F. Manse, Maxwelltown .....	26/5/09
210	Little, Murray, Town Clerk, Annan .....	12/4/12
	Little, Thomas, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries .....	4/10/07
	Loreburn, The Right Hon. Earl, 6 Eton Square, London	9/1/91
	Lowrie, Rev. W. J., Manse of Stoneykirk, Wigtownshire	2/3/08
	Lupton, Thomas, Solicitor, Stirling .....	12/4/12
215	Lusk, Hugh D., Larch Villa, Annan .....	25/4/08
	Lyon, J. Stewart, of Kirkmichael, Dumfries .....	12/4/12
	M'Alister, A. W., Ashgrove Villas, Dumfries .....	1/12/11
	M'Burnie, John, The Garth, Dumfries .....	21/11/08
	M'Call, Major Pollok, Kirkmichael House, Dumfries....	3/11/11
220	M'Call, Wm., of Caitloch, Moniaive .....	20/1/11
	M'Cargo, James, Kirkpatrick-Durham .....	24/4/96
	M'Clellan, Charles, The Lea, Dumfries .....	26/4/12
	M'Clure, James, the Clydesdale Bank, Lockerbie .....	12/4/12
	M'Combie, Rev. John, The Manse, Holywood .....	26/4/12
225	M'Connel, J. I., of Eliock, Sanquhar .....	26/4/12
	M'Cormick, Andrew, Solicitor, Newton-Stewart .....	3/11/05
	M'Cormick, Rev. F., F.S.A.Scot., Wellington, Salop ..	4/10/07
	M'Cracken, Miss, Fernbank, Lovers' Walk .....	9/11/06
	Macdonald, J. C. R., W.S., Dumfries .....	6/11/85
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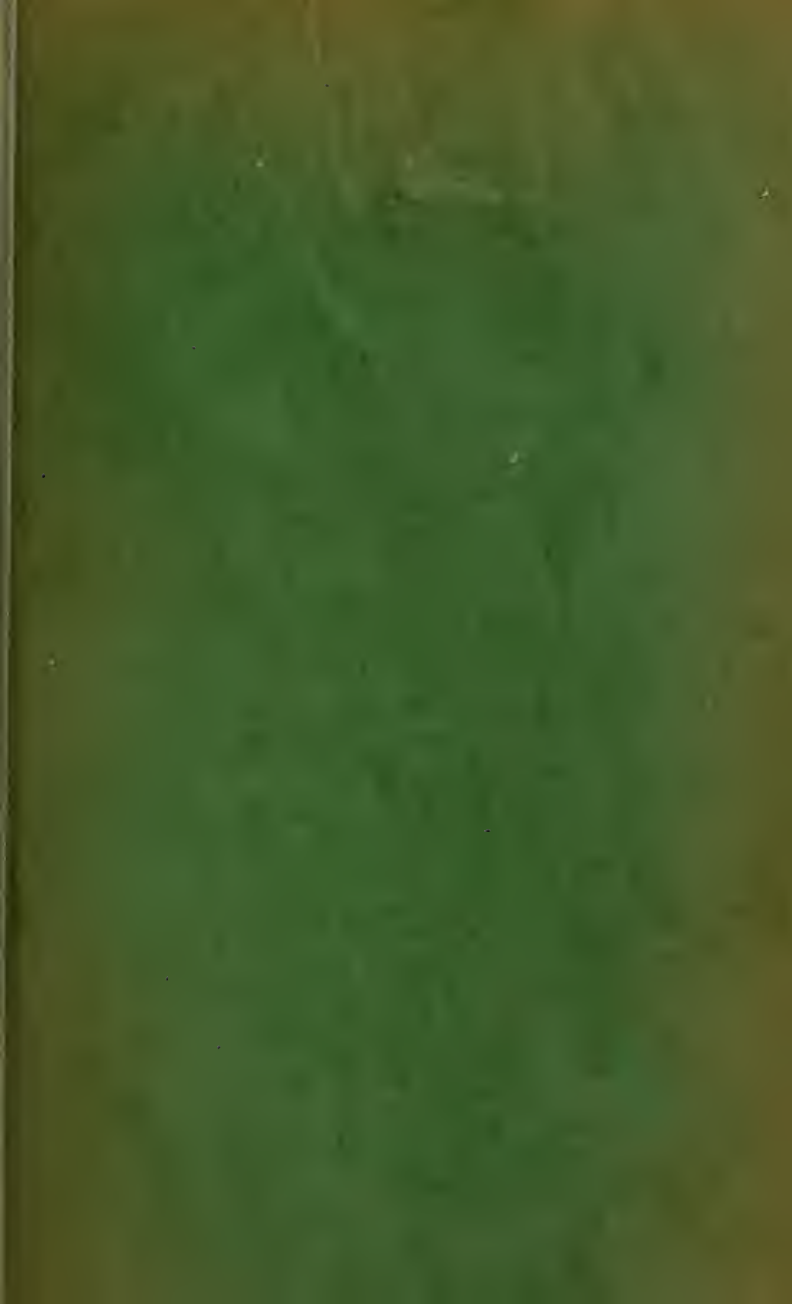
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A List of the Flowering Plants of Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, by James M'Andrew, 1882, *out of print*.

Birrens and its Antiquities, with an Account of Recent Excavations and their Results, by Dr James Macdonald and Mr James Barbour, 1897, 2s 6d.

Communion Tokens, with a Catalogue of those of Dumfriesshire, by the Rev. H. A. Whitelaw, 1911, 5s.

Addenda and Corrigenda to "The Birds of Dumfriesshire," by H. S. Gladstone, Esq., 1911, 3s 6d.

History of the Dumfries Post Office, by J. M. Corrie. *In the Press*.

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