

THE TRANSACTIONS

AND

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DUMFRIESSHIRE & GALLOWAY

NATURAL HISTORY

AND

ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SESSION 1863-64.



DUMFRIES:

PRINTED BY W. R. M'DIARMID AND CO.

1866.

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“For the pleasure and delight of knowledge, it far surpasseth all other in nature. We see in all other pleasures there is satiety; and after they be used their verdure departeth, which showeth well that they be but deceits of pleasure, and not pleasures; and that it was the novelty which pleased, not the quality; and therefore we see that voluptuous men turn friars, and ambitious princes turn melancholy. But of knowledge there is no satiety—but satisfaction and appetite are perpetually interchangeable.”

BACON.

“That nothing walks with aimless feet,
That not one life shall be destroyed,
Or cast as rubbish to the void,
When God hath made the pile complete.”

In Memoriam.

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JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

November 3d, 1863.

Mr. M'DIARMID in the Chair.

THE SOCIETY held the first meeting of the Session,—being the Annual Meeting—within the Committee Room of the Mechanics' Institute.

Mr. Andrew Barrie ; Mr. A. Simpson, Writer ; Mr. Malam, Gas-Manager ; Mr. John Shaw, Drumlanrig ; Mr. Biggar, Thornhill ; Mr. J. Bryce, Closeburn ; Mr. John Maxwell, Joiner, Dumfries ; Mr. R. A. Dickson, Queensberry Square, were elected Ordinary Members.

Rev. W. Greenwell, University, Durham ; Rev. D. Langmuir, Aberdeen ; Dr. Aitken, District Lunatic Asylum, Inverness ; Dr. Donkin, Medical School, Newcastle ; Rev. James Edmonston, Ashkirk, Hawick ; Professor Struthers, Aberdeen, Corresponding Members.

The Secretary read an Abstract of the Proceedings of the past Session ; thereafter the Statement of the Treasurer was submitted to the Society, and being examined was found correct.

The Report of the Committee of Management, of October 31st, was then read by the Secretary. The suggestions as to

the alterations in the rules were considered and approved of, and Mr. M'Diarmid, Mr. Mitchell, and the Secretary were requested to prepare a re-issue of the code as revised. The suggestions of the Committee with regard to the formation of a library, and the continuation of the present office-bearers were also approved of. The Secretary intimated that the President—Sir WILLIAM JARDINE—would deliver his presidential address at the next meeting. This concluded the general business of the Meeting.

Dr. Grierson, Thornhill, gave an oral account of some curious Roman relics lately discovered near Carlisle, and the Society then adjourned.

December 3d, 1863.

Sir WILLIAM JARDINE, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Francis Maxwell, Gribton; Capt. Yorstoun, Lincluden; Mr. Maxwell, Munches; Mr. Paterson, Veterinary Surgeon, were elected Ordinary Members.

Rev. D. Landsbury, Free Church, Kilmarnock; Mr. Wellwood Herries, were elected Corresponding Members.

Sir W. Jardine then delivered his presidential address, in which he reviewed the country meetings of the Society during the past summer, and commented at some length upon its future development, and the nature and value of its researches in relation to the science of Natural History, and the varied aims which it had in view. The address was listened to with great interest by a very full assembly of Members, and at the close, a vote of thanks was accorded, on the motion of Mr. M'Diarmid, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Goold.

The following communications were read :—

On the recent Discovery of a Stone-Coffin in Lochar Moss, near Tinwald Downs. By Mr. M'Diarmid.

A Footprint on Sandstone, the first that has been met with in that district, was exhibited by Dr. Grierson, from the carboniferous sandstones near Thornhill. Dr. Grierson expressed his opinion, that it was the footprint of a Batrachian reptile, in which opinion Sir W. Jardine was understood to concur.

A number of objects of Natural History and Antiquarian interest were laid upon the table, and afforded subjects of conversation to the Members present.

January 5th, 1864.

Dr. GILCHRIST in the Chair.

Dr. W. S. Kerr, Buccleuch Street ; Mr. Howat, Architect, Drumlanrig, were elected Ordinary Members.

The following communications were read :—

On the Old Greyfriars' Monastery, Dumfries. By Mr. Stark, Troqueer Holm.

In the course of the discussion which followed, it was observed, that the chimney, which is supposed to have been that of the kitchen, is still to be seen, where it forms a large portion of the gable of the house called the "Grey Horse Inn" at the head of the Friar's Vennel, and that it is still in use as the kitchen fire-place of that establishment.

On the Geological Features of the summer excursions, illustrated by specimens and diagrams. By Dr. Gilchrist.

On the rarer *Lepidoptera* of the district. By Mr. W. Lennan. Specimens were exhibited of various species, hitherto unknown to entomologists as inhabiting Dumfriesshire or Galloway, and which he had taken at different periods.

On the Pearl Mussel found in the river Cluden. By Dr. Aitken, Inverness. Read by the Secretary. Specimens of

shells and pearls from the Cluden, and also from the principal pearl-bearing rivers in Scotland, were exhibited.

February 2d, 1864.

Dr. GILCHRIST in the Chair.

On the Botany of Colvend and Southwick. By the Rev. Mr. Frazer, Colvend.—See *Transactions*.

In discussion, Dr. Grierson, Thornhill, made some remarks relative to the geographical distribution of the plants referred to by Mr. Frazer, as compared with their distribution in his own district. He remarked that he had tried *Eryngium maritimum* in his own garden, from plants obtained from the west coast, but found that it lost its peculiar iodine taste. He had seen both *Primula elatior* and *veris* growing in Galloway, but *veris* only was known in the neighbourhood of Thornhill. *Carum verticillatum* was found abundantly in Upper Nithsdale. *Drosera rotundifolia* was common, but the species *longifolia** was known only in a limited range, and where found, to the complete exclusion of *rotundifolia*. *Equisetum hyemale* was found only at a single station, viz., Scaur Water. *Hypericum elodes* was not known. *Lobelia dortmanna* he had found in a loch in the parish of Keir, but it was known to be abundant in Lochmaben Lochs. *Salix pentandra* abounded along the sandy banks of the Nith. He thought it worth mentioning that *Vaccinium oxycoccus* was mentioned by Pennant as having once been an article of commerce in this district. *Carlina vulgaris* he had found in Tynron, and in the same locality as *Drosera longifolia*, showing an affinity between the two plants as to geographical distribution. *Genista tinctoria* was very abundant, and he had found *Pyrola minor* in the woods. *Ulex nana* he had found in Newabbey district. *Viola lutea* α was found in his district, precisely corresponding to *Viola* β of botanists, except as regards the colour, which was blue.

* *intermedia*, Hayn.

Mr. Maxwell, Breoch, mentioned that he had found *Pyrola secunda* at the head of the Long Wood.

Dr. Gilchrist had gathered *Allosorus crispus* on the road to Craig's Quarry, a habitat which was quite unnatural to it as a sub-alpine plant.

The Secretary reported that he had received a communication from Mr. Stratherne regarding the second paper on the list, but that the paper itself had not yet come to hand.

Mr. Gibson exhibited an ancient British cinerary urn, found on the other side of the border, and remarked that the shape and style of the ornaments corresponded with several found in Dumfriesshire, portions of some of which were laid on the table, and that it appeared to him to belong to the second of the three classes mentioned by Wilson, viz., the hand-shaped urn, with rude and imperfect attempts at decoration. It was found in a tumulus on the farm of Shancastle in the parish of Stapleton, and, like one found lately in the parish of Irongray, the bones seem to have been gathered together on a flat stone, and the urn inverted over them.

Dr. Gilchrist exhibited urns of the same type found in Perthshire.

Dr. Grierson, Thornhill, brought under the notice of the Society the investigations at present being carried on at the Tibbers Castle, Drumlanrig, under the superintendence of Mr. Gilchrist Clarke. He observed that the early history of the castle was very imperfectly known, probably it might have been the old baronial residence of the family, but at all events its origin was very remote. For many years only mounds of debris indicating its site had been visible; latterly, the Duke of Buccleuch had given orders to lay bare these mounds; the result had been that the ground-plan of the castle, which was of greater extent than had been anticipated, was now com-

pletely discernible, and that many interesting relics had been brought to light.—See *Transactions*.

Mr. Goold exhibited two slabs of sandstone from Locharbriggs Quarry, with markings resembling rain-drops.

Dr. Grierson laid on the table specimens of concretions from the Permian limestone of Sunderland.

March 1st, 1864.

Sir WILLIAM JARDINE, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Frank Maxwell, Drumpark ; Mr. Grierson, Dalgonner ; Mr. John Martin, Courier Office, Dumfries, were elected Ordinary Members.

It was proposed that, for the better working of the Society it should be divided into sections, and a Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. Gilchrist, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Stark, Mr. Goold, Mr. J. Thorburn, and the Secretary (convener), for the purpose of nominating members to take charge of the respective departments. The Committee were requested to communicate with the gentlemen nominated, and report at next meeting.

On the Geology of the Nith Valley, with reference especially to the earlier formations. By Dr. Gilchrist.

Dr. Gilchrist stated his intention of resuming the subject, in relation to the more recent deposits, and the present aspect of the valley, in a future communication.

On the Relics of supposed Ancient Armour found near the source of the Corrie Water. By Mr. Alexander Strathern. Read by the Secretary.

Mr. Gibson exhibited a collection of coins, dating from the reign of William the Conqueror to the present day. A number of these had been found in the neighbourhood of Dumfries.

Sir William Jardine expressed his opinion that the markings upon the sandstone-slabs from Locharbriggs, exhibited at last meeting, had been caused by rain-drops.

Dr. Grierson, Thornhill, exhibited varieties of the bullfinch and chaffinch.

April 5th, 1864.

Dr. GILCHRIST in the Chair.

Mrs. J. S. Milne, Berkshire ; Mr. T. R. Marshall, Edinburgh, were elected Corresponding Members.

The Committee appointed at last meeting for the purpose of nominating "Heads of Sections," submitted the following arrangements. It was considered expedient that, as far as possible, a town member and a country member should be selected to co-operate in their respective departments.

	TOWN.	COUNTRY.
Geology . .	Dr. Gilchrist.	Mr. Maxwell, Gribton.
Botany . .	Mr. Hogg.	Mr. Frazer, Colvend.
Mineralogy .	Mr. Aitken.	Mr. Dudgeon, Cargen.
Zoology . .	Mr. W. Lennan.	Dr. Grierson, Thornhill.
Archæology .	Mr. Gibson.	Mr. Stark, Troqueer Holm.
History . .	Mr. M'Diarmid.	Mr. Maxwell, Breoch.

All the gentlemen nominated, with whom the Committee had had an opportunity of consulting, had consented to act.

The following communications were read :—

Notes on the Siller Gun. By Mr. Stark.

On the New Granite Quarry at Kirkeconnell, and the geology of the neighbouring district. By Dr. Gilchrist.

Dr. Gilchrist exhibited specimens of the various rocks in illustration of his remarks, and observed that the quarry was especially interesting from the beauty and the quality of the

granite, from the different varieties which it exhibited, and from the excellent illustrations which it afforded of the contact of the Syenite and Silurian rocks, which was well marked at a place nearly opposite Glencaple: a vein of granite or Syenite passed through the Silurian rock and varied the character of the latter very considerably. Dr. Gilchrist described also the traces of the ancient sea-beach along this part of the coast-line. He drew attention to the geological features of the Silurian rocks, as exhibited in the quarry at Longwood, and the contorted and twisted appearance which they present in some parts, which he thought might probably be due to a vein of granite which passed near the quarry, and showed a "fault," the two sides not agreeing. The quarry presented also veins possessing precisely the character of "lode"—in mining phrase—in which the quartz was of a semi-opaline character, which indicated the probable vicinity of a granite vein.

Dr. Grierson exhibited a specimen of a white robin-red-breast, and a "Smew" or "White Nun" (*Mergus albellus*), a northern species, which was obtained in the vicinity of Thornhill, and which, so far as known to Dr. Grierson, was the only one ever seen in that district.*

Mr. Maxwell, Gribton, exhibited a stone-hammer found at Carnaddie in Holywood.

Mr. M'Diarmid laid on the table a number of Roman mosaics collected by him while on a recent tour in Italy.

Dr. Gilchrist exhibited and presented to the Society a quern, which had recently been found on the side of the road passing between the Craig's quarries, and which had evidently been thrown out in clearing a ditch; also a slab of sandstone

* A specimen was shot on the river Annan, near Dormont, and is now in the collection of British birds there, formed by the late W. L. Carruthers, Esq.—W. J.

from Locharbriggs showing rain-drop markings : he exhibited also a specimen of obscure footmarks upon sandstone from the Wood-end Quarry.

May 3d, 1864.

Sir WILLIAM JARDINE in the Chair.

There was a very full attendance of Members.

Mr. Sloane, Merchant, Dumfries ; Mr. Blacklock, Timber Merchant, Dumfries ; Mr. Witham, Kirkconnell ; Mr. Coup-land, Hairdresser, Dumfries ; Mr. G. Clarke, Speddoch ; Sheriff Trotter, Dumfries, were elected Ordinary Members.

Sir William Jardine then presented the Society with the published Journal of the Proceedings of the Society's first session. It was arranged that the journal should be distributed free to all the Ordinary Members on the roll up to May 1864. Members admitted after that date to pay 1s. 6d. The price to non-Members was fixed at 2s. 6d., and to corresponding Members 1s. 6d. It would be expected of new Members that they should take the Transactions of the past year, as this would assist considerably towards increasing the funds of the Society. Sixty copies of the journal were then placed in the hands of the Secretary, to be followed by 240 more on the following day.

It was then agreed that the open-air meetings of the Society should commence upon the first Tuesday in June, and that the first excursion should be made to the ruins of Tibbers Castle, near Drumlanrig. The principle of last summer-session was adopted of selecting the locality for next excursion at the previous meeting.

The following communications were read :—

Translation from the writings of Hector Boethius, "On the Terrestrial Winged and Aquatic Animals of Scotland." By Mr. D. Biggar, Drumlanrig.

With reference to this paper the president remarked, that from the mass of fiction and fable with which the older writings on Natural History were surcharged, we were apt to overlook many valuable hints and suggestions, and much information which we might otherwise obtain from them. It was curious to remark that in the Highlands and Western Islands of Scotland, many of the superstitious feelings and beliefs of the present people bore a close resemblance to the stories related by the older naturalists. Many of the lochs, for instance, were still the objects of superstitious fears to the ignorant minds of the natives, as the abodes of monsters and strange creatures resembling those described by Boethius.

Dr. Grierson remarked that the wild horses mentioned by Boethius as inhabiting Scotland might probably be Highland ponies. He thought that the statement regarding the rejection by foxes of their natural prey, when fed upon the flesh of the fox, was not improbable, and certainly derived support from observations made by himself upon his own dog.

Extracts from the old Borough Records of Dumfries. By Mr. M'Diarmid.

On Circular Markings upon Rocks and Stones, with special reference to some recently discovered near Lochgilphead in Argyleshire. By Dr. Dickson, Secretary.

Dr. Grierson exhibited a pair of Jougs which were removed from the cross of Minnyhive, Glencairn, in 1812, when it was undergoing repair.

Dr. Dickson laid upon the table a collection of coins which had been found from time to time in trenching the ground of the Crichton Institution.

(French)	3	Gold pieces	of Francis.
	1	Silver	„ of Edward IV.
	15	„	„ of Henry VIII.
	5	„	„ of James V.
	1	„	„ ?

LIST OF MEMBERS

OF THE

Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

SESSION 1863-64.

November 3d, 1863.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- MR. ANDREW BARRIE, George Street, Dumfries.
MR. A. SIMPSON, Writer, Dumfries.
MR. MALAM, Gas-Manager, Dumfries.
MR. J. SHAW, Drumlanrig.
MR. BIGGAR, Thornhill.
MR. J. BRYCE, Closeburn.
MR. J. MAXWELL, Joiner, Dumfries.
MR. R. A. DICKSON, Queensberry Square, Dumfries.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

- Rev. W. GREENWELL, University, Durham.
Rev. D. LANGMUIR, Aberdeen.
Dr. AITKEN, District Lunatic Asylum, Inverness.
Dr. DONKIN, Medical School, Newcastle.
Rev. JAMES EDMONSTON, Ashkirk, Hawick.
Professor STRUTHERS, Aberdeen.

December 3d, 1863.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- MR. FRANCIS MAXWELL, Gribton.
Captain YORSTOUN, Lincluden.

List of Members.

Mr. WELLWOOD MAXWELL, Munches.
Mr. PATERSON, Veterinary Surgeon, Dumfries.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

Rev. D. LANDBURY, Free Church, Kilmarnock.

January 5th, 1864.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Dr. W. S. KERR, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.
Mr. HOWAT, Architect, Drumlanrig.

March 1st, 1864.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Mr. F. MAXWELL, Drumpark.
Mr. GRIERSON, Dalgonner.
Mr. J. MARTIN, Courier Office, Dumfries.

April 5th, 1864.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Mrs. J. S. MILNE, Berkshire.
Mr. T. R. MARSHALL, Edinburgh.

May 3d, 1864.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Mr. SLOANE, Merchant, Dumfries.
Mr. BLACKLOCK, Timber Merchant, Dumfries.
Mr. J. COUPLAND, Perfumer, Dumfries.
Mr. WITHAM, Kirconnell.
Mr. G. CLARKE, Speddoch.
Sheriff TROTTER, Dumfries.

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM OF THE SOCIETY.

Collection of Casts of Footprints.—*Captain Anderson.*

Photographs of three pages of the Minute-Book of the Ayr Sailors' Society, of date 1647.—*Dr. Sloan, Ayr.*

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The "Genetic cycle," by Professor Ogilvie, Aberdeen.

The "Master-Builder's Plan," by Professor Ogilvie, Aberdeen.—
The Author.

The King's Quair.—*Dr. Sloan, Ayr.*

Report of the Liverpool Naturalists' Field Club.—*The Club.*

Report of the Montrose Natural History and Antiquarian Society.—
The Society.

Annual Report of the Transactions of the Plymouth Institution.—
The Institution.

On the Permian Rocks of the North-West of England, and their extension into Scotland, By Sir Roderick Murchison, K.C.B., &c., and Professor R. Harkness, F.R.S., &c.—*Professor Harkness.*

Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science, Vol. I., Part 1.—*The Institute.*

DUMFRIESHIRE AND GALLOWAY NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

In account with Mr. W. G. GIBSON, Treasurer.

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>	
1863-4. To Cash paid for rent of Room, Fire, Gas, and delivering Circulars.	£0 19 9	1863-4. By Balance in hand from last year's Account
Printing Notices and Circulars	1 14 0	By Cash arrears unpaid for 1862-63
J. Anderson and Son, Stationery	0 13 0	By Subscriptions of 81 Members of Society, for years 1863-4, at 5s.
J. Maxwell, do.	0 2 11	Donation from J. Stark, Esq., of Troqueer
George Dunbar, for Boards, etc.	0 4 2	Holm
Mr. R. Edgar, for Ballot-box	0 7 6	Cash from Sale of copies of Society's Journal
J. Maxwell, Joiner, for Work on Old Room	1 11 10	
J. Smith, for 24 Chairs, New Room	4 16 0	
Secretary's Outlays for Postages, Carriage, etc.	2 13 8	
Arrears of Subscriptions for Years 1863-4, 23 at 5s.	5 15 0	
Cash in Treasurer's hands	6 17 2	
	<u>£25 15 0</u>	<u>£25 15 0</u>

Examined and found correct,

J. GILCHRIST, V.P.

J. DICKSON, Secretary.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,

SIR W. JARDINE, BART., LL.D., F.R.S., F.L.S.,

ETC. ETC. ETC.

6th December 1864.



GENTLEMEN,—The printed proceedings which you have had this evening laid upon your table will best inform you of what has been done at the meetings of the past winter ; and while these have not been without interest, and show a wish from all the Members of the Society to enlarge our knowledge in every department, we must not relax our exertions, and because we have once gone over the ground, think that we have nothing more to discover.

It is one of the duties of your President to render some account of what has been done during the Summer Meetings ; and this is an important one, because, if done carefully, it should be the record and authority for the facts and discoveries which you have made ; and these, being authenticated, proved and verified by the Members, either during the excursions or by after-examination, will give you the foundation and yield the materials for the natural history and antiquities of our district.

The first summer excursion of 1864 had been arranged to meet in the Thornhill district, with the especial intention of examining Tibbers Castle, the ruins of which were in progress of being cleared out by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. The meeting was well attended.

Dr. Grierson's museum at Thornhill was first inspected by

the Members who had started early, after which the party proceeded to Boatford, and examined the upright stone placed in a field upon the south side of the river Nith, and not far distant from the road leading from the village of Thornhill to Penpont. Little or no history exists in regard to this cross, but there is an excellent representation of it in the volume of the Spalding Club devoted to the Sculptured Stones of Scotland, pl. cxxi. p. 37, edited by Mr. Stuart, who thinks it may have once stood close to the bank of the river. Other sculptured stones seem to have also formerly stood at some distance, but in the vicinity, which have been removed in the course of improvements. This points both to the value of Mr. Stuart's volume and to the importance of yet saving all that we can of these relics.

The fog and drizzling rain of the morning having cleared away, and the sun breaking out, the party proceeded to Tibbers, where they were met by Mr. Howat, clerk of the works at Drumlanrig, who explained the plan of the ancient building, and gave an account of the clearing operations which were still going on. Dr. Grierson, among the ruins, read a paper on the ancient history of the castle.

During the excavations the greatest pains have been taken to find and preserve all remains and relics that could throw any light upon the ancient place and its inhabitants. The clearing out of the well discovered several articles and bones; but one of the more interesting incidents of the excavations was the discovery of the ashpit or kitchen-midden, telling us of the animals that were then living in the vicinity and of the especial feeding habits of the residents in Tibbers. Among a large heap of bones collected by the workmen—among which those of sheep, roebuck, etc., could be recognised—by far the most abundant were the leg bones of a small ox, the so-called *Bos longifrons* of palæontologists. This animal, I have no doubt, existed until a very late period, if it does not exist still, and was only, I believe, a small race of oxen run-

ning almost wild on the hills of the district, and most probably the remains so frequent in the Irish bogs and crannoges were from similar races, or varieties of them. Bones of the same animal occur in other localities. I place on the table bones from Tibbers—Dowalton Loch, whence those sent to Professor Owen were named as above—a specimen found when digging the site for the gasometer in this town of the same character; and you have beside them the analogous bones of a Shetland cow killed at Jardine Hall a few months since. If the latter was subjected to the influence of peat for a few months it might also bear the name of *Bos longifrons*.

Another remarkable incident is the finding of a large quantity of oyster-shells mingled with these animal bones. In the refuse-heaps of equal age—at Dowalton—and in the lake dwellings, we have almost always a certain proportion of marine shells, edible species, showing that these were a favourite and national article of food. Where the localities are near the sea this is not difficult to understand, and the presence of fish bones also indicated that the sea was largely used; but at Tibbers, where a few shells of the common whelk, *Buccinum undatum*, and the common clam, *Pecten varius*, were found among the oysters, the nearest sea where these could be obtained is very distant, and we have difficulty in accounting for so many being now found.

Leaving the remains of Tibbers, the beautiful grounds of Drumlanrig Castle were walked over under the conduction of Mr. Mackintosh. It was just after those severe nights of frost, and most of the more tender plants and vegetables were much injured. Acres of rhododendrons, which, in a few days, would have exhibited a splendid mass of bloom, now half-opened, were entirely checked. The thermometer at Drumlanrig gardens stood so low on the 30th and 31st May as 26° and 25°. This low temperature extended over a great portion of Scotland, and also southward, varying one or two degrees. At Jardine Hall, on the same two last nights

of May, the thermometer stood 27° and 26° , and considerable damage was done in the garden ; but the great harm and loss occurred among the pines. The young shoots of the deciduous trees were sufficiently advanced and strong to resist the cold ; but the young shoots of the common spruce and silver firs were all cut, and did not recover or spring again. *A. menzesii*, *pinsapo*, *cephalonica*, and others, were entirely cut ; but the *A. douglasii*, with a few exceptions where the trees were early, either from shelter or variation, almost entirely escaped ; and in this case that tree has proved itself more capable of withstanding our climate than those species we have so long grown.

A beautiful drive and walk from Drumlanrig took the party to Durisdeer, a secluded village of a few houses, situate at the head of a pastoral valley, and such as one scarcely expected to meet with at the present time. The vicinity is full of interest and the remembrances of ancient times. The church of the village is, as in general, a modest structure, but the aisle, shut off from it, and known as the " Queensberry aisle," is the burying-place, and contains memorials of the different members of the Queensberry family. The stained glass, marble monuments, and rich carving and workmanship contrasts strangely with the other primitiveness of the valley and its buildings. If this aisle is not quite faultless, it is a fine work, and is one of those historical records which will repay examination, both on account of the records of the times and the style of art then prevailing ; nevertheless, after the beautiful drive and peculiar position of Durisdeer, we felt the aisle almost as an intrusion, and marring the harmony of the surrounding landscape.

After a simple and enjoyable repast beside a clear and cold stream, and having fixed the place for next meeting, the members separated into small parties, each to explore on its own account.

The interest of this day's excursion has been very great,

and will be better understood by referring to the papers in our Transactions for this year. Antiquarian details would be unsuited for such observations as those I have now to make. The geology is interesting, but this you have well described in the papers by Professor Harkness, which are possessed by the Society. The botany of the upper valley of the Nith, and of the rich country passed through in approaching Durisdeer, will repay a closer examination. Several rare plants are known to occur. The juniper is abundant on many of the hills in Tynron. *Meum athamanticum* was gathered in the upper part of the Durisdeer valley, and it is not uncommon in many of the Nithsdale valleys, while in Annandale I do not know of any habitat. The entomology of the district passed through should be rich and varied, but although the after part of the day was warm and brilliant, it was particularly remarked that the Lepidoptera observed during the very varied walk were comparatively few.

The second excursion of the Society was to Dundrennan Abbey, and afterwards to examine the coast-line towards Auchencairn. The starting-point may be said to be the station at Dalbeattie, where various parties joined, and proceeded by vehicles of different descriptions. A short detour enabled them to visit the old tower of Orchardton, remarkable for its circular form. It is a building of very considerable strength. The walls are $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, and are grouted together, like many of the castles in this district, with sea-sand mixed with shells.

Marubium vulgare, *Verbascum thapsus*, and *Myrrhis odorata* grew by the walls or near the building—the two first perhaps introduced of old. A few plants of *Scolopendrium vulgare* grew inside; but the rare plant of the locality was the *Asplenium ceterach*, which grew abundantly on the outside of the tower, the greater part of it fortunately out of the reach of wanton collectors. We were favoured with a bright day,

and from Orchardton had a beautiful drive, with fine views of Anchencairn Bay, Heston Island, and the distant English hills. The hedges were now covered with honeysuckle in full flower.

The approach to Dundrennan, and first view of the grey old abbey, is very fine ; but, for the reasons before mentioned, we shall not now enter into its history. There is a good description printed in a 4to volume, with engravings of the principal carvings and tombs, entitled "Memorials of Dundrennan Abbey, by the Rev. A. B. Hutchinson, B.D." A copy of this is kept at the village for the use of visitors. A review of this work, with copious extracts, also appeared in the "Dumfries and Galloway Courier," of 29th June 1858. It is a great satisfaction to see this fine ruin cared for and protected by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

In the joints of the walls, and among loose stones, several specimens of *Clausilia nigricans* were picked up. *Asplenium trichomanes* grew abundantly on the inside walls.

The shore was struck at Port St. Mary. In the garden there, several plants indicated a mild winter and spring. There are fine specimens of *Laurus nobilis*, or sweet bay. *Budlea globosa* was a large plant ; and a *Camellia* had stood out without protection in winter.

The coast here is very rugged and precipitous, in some places rising into cliffs ; but from the tide not coming up to their base, sea-fowl do not breed at any part, but various hawks nestle among the rocks—a great portion is clothed with natural vegetation, which yields a rich treat to the botanist. In some of the caves and hollow parts of the rocks, where a little stream trickles over, are beautiful fern houses. *Scolopendrium vulgare* and *Asplenium marinum* cover the roof and sides in the greatest profusion and luxuriance, and may be studied from the earliest state to their highest development. A list of the principal plants observed is given, but the whole district has to be carefully botanised. Among the plants

observed were *Carlina vulgaris*, considerably larger than those gathered on the Colvend coast; *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, very strong in the stem and leaves; *Solanum dulcamara*, with very dark-coloured leaves; *Convolvulus sepium*, *Raphanus maritimus*, *Trifolium filiforme*, *Vicia sylvatica*, *Lathyrus maritimus*, the latter in abundance; but the more interesting and less frequent were *Crambe maritima*, below Roscarrol House, and *Iris fetidissima*. The latter is not given as Scotch by Babington.

The entomology must also be very rich, but has been still less examined. In the many hollows from the top of the bank or cliff small streams run down and give growth to other vegetation. *Chrysosplenium* forms a rich undergrowth; *Eupatorium cannabinum* is here a showy plant; and by the sides of the stream *Enanthe crocata* grows very luxuriantly. The umbells of this plant were weaved up by a small gregarious caterpillar. Mr. Lennan collected and took these home; they span up, and the perfect insect appeared in the autumn, which he made out to be *Depressaria umbellana*, Fabric; this species does not appear to be noticed as found in Scotland. The society had the satisfaction of being accompanied in this excursion by Dr. Baird, one of the officers of the British Museum, and in such brackish pools as dry weather had left, and in the eddies of small streamlets he detected the following Entomostraca:—*Diaptomus castor*, *Cidaris sphericus*, *Cyclops quadricornis*, *Condona*—probably new species.

The third excursion had been fixed for the Moffat district, taking the higher or lower hill ranges as the weather might suit. A hill or mountainous district in fine weather is always exhilarating to travellers; and the influence might be perceived as the party, after reaching Lockerbie, took up their members at the different stations, and the ascent began. At Beatoch Mr. William Carruthers, who was well acquainted with the country around, and the Rev. W. Bennet, were in

waiting, and to those gentlemen the members were indebted for guidance to the more interesting objects. The lower district was decided upon as the field for exploration: nothing but the finest days in early summer will suit the ranges exceeding 3000 feet in elevation, but on the ground selected it was found that there was yet ample scope even for discovery.

The party started for the summit of Beatock Hill to examine a stone fort situate there, the formation of which has been usually attributed to an ancient British people. The site commands a noble view of a great portion of Annandale, and the upper part of the valley of the Kinnell, bounded on the horizon by the Skiddaw range of mountains.

Descending from this high ground into the upper part of the valley of the Garple, a remarkable *tumulus* on the right bank of the burn near Holm Shaw was reached. It is about eighty yards in circumference, and is surrounded by a ditch partly artificial, and shows also traces of ramparts or outworks. Farther down the stream on the opposite side there is a more extensive camp-like structure. The ancient history of all these remains is well worthy the attention of the Society, and under judicious care and superintendence no doubt excavations would be permitted to ascertain the structure or other particulars that would throw light upon their origin.

Auchencass Castle, now the property of Butler Johnstone, Esq., late M.P. for Canterbury, was next visited. It is now a very dilapidated ruin, many of the walls being mounded or grown over with turf, but sufficient exists to show the plan of the building, in the form of a square with circular towers or bastions at each corner, the entrance being at one side, and the access to the apartments opening from the inside of the square.

From Auchencass the upper part of the Garple Linn was reached. The Garple, a small mountain stream, falls into the Evan water above Beatock. Near its source among the lower hills forming the north-east shoulder of Queensberry, and in

its upper parts it winds past the old remains we have just mentioned without much character; but on reaching the slope of the Evan Valley it has to make a rapid descent, and has formed for itself a "linn," broken by falls from one rocky precipice to another. The banks are clothed with natural wood, and a footpath being now cut, a summer walk of great beauty has been formed. Formerly all was wild and tangled. The explorer had to scramble up, as best he could, and early in May there was great interest. Water-ousel and grey wagtail nested at all the falls; many kestrels bred among the rocks; and at the higher fall a pair of ravens had their nest and held undisturbed dominion. The ravens have now been gone for many years; the kestrels are diminished to one or two pairs. The linn is also of equal interest to the botanist and entomologist, and is especially rich in ferns and mosses. At all the falls where the rocks are covered in and shaded these abound. *Hymenophyllum wilsoni* was gathered: this pretty fern covers yards of moist rock, and the rapacious collector may pull off large pieces more than his share. By one of the falls *Aquilegia vulgaris* grows, but was out of flower and not noticed. It bears purple flowers, and many plants are fortunately out of reach. It keeps its purple flowers without variation, and if at one time it originated as an outcast from old Auchencass, it is now naturalised, and thrives well in its very local and restricted habitat. Specimens transplanted to the garden at Jardine Hall have not varied for twenty years.

H. blandina was plentiful in many of the open spaces in the wood.

The *graptolite* shales were examined under the direction of Professor Harkness and Mr. Carruthers.

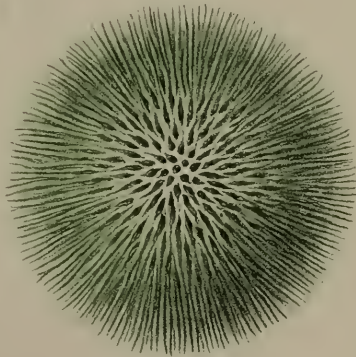
Carlingwark Loch and Threave Castle in Galloway were chosen for the fourth excursion, the meeting-point being Castle-Douglas. Members arrived there by an early train—the morn-

ing was far from promising ; but, deeply in love with what they expected to see and find, and seduced by occasional glimpses of light, and blue sky the members pressed manfully on. Under conduct of Mr. S. Gordon, and in expectation of an improvement in the weather, the antiquities in the vicinity of Castle-Douglas were first visited : among others the Carlingwark Thorn, and the spot where Mons Meg is reported to have been manufactured.

A few bright openings in the sky, and a lull in the gale, made Threave to be thought accessible ; and on they went. On reaching the Dee it was found to be swollen, and had it not been for confidence in the assurance of Mr. Rae's servant that the ford was practicable, and the powerful appearance of his horse, Threave must have for this time remained unvisited. As it was, there was some demur, but the bolder spirits of the Society took the first plunge and were forded safely over. The more timid followed, and, jolted over the edges of the Silurian beds which stand up almost erect, they were also landed.

Threave was a fine fastness, beautiful and strong in its site. The thick walls have been grouted with mortar, of which sea-sand and shells formed a part. The tumbled-down fragments show a concrete of this consistency as strong as the stone itself. Returned to Carlingwark Loch, an attempt was made to find the lake buildings or driven piles mentioned in the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland* ; but the rain and gale had now increased, and although the attempt was made, it was impossible under the circumstances to detect anything. But even if fine, another cause would have prevented us : a minute fresh-water Alga filled the whole water in immense profusion, and was drifted and laid in a thin layer upon the shores. Cattle could not have drunk in the loch without swallowing thousands. The water was coloured a dull green, and it would have been impossible to have examined the bottom or to have seen any substance or erection a foot below the surface.





R. K. Greville, del^t

W. H. M^s Farlane, Lith^r Edin^r

Rivularia pygmæa.

KÜTZ.

Under the microscope, this curious Alga was a beautiful object, and seemed to be worthy of closer examination, and I sent specimens to Dr. Greville, who has kindly drawn up the following observations on its history, and at my request made the drawing for the excellent figure which accompanies this description:—"The little Alga belongs to the family Rivulariadae (Kütz.) Some of the genera *Physactis* and *Limnactis*, for example, seem to pass into each other, and it is only by very careful dissection that some of the species of *Rivularia* itself can be separated from those two genera. The plant under consideration is at first sight exceedingly like *Limnactis parvula*; but as the radiating filaments of which the "phycoma" is composed are furnished at their base with an elongated cell, it must be referred to the genus *Rivularia*, and I am disposed to identify it with *R. pygmea* (Kütz. Sp. Alg. p. 337; Tab. Phycol. vol. 2, pl. 70, fig. 4). The following are the specific characters given by Kutzing:—

"*R. globosa*, obscure æruginea, dura, trichomasibus omnibus excentricis rigidiusculis, torulosis, apice hyalinis inarticulatis; manubriis elongatis curvulis, basi incrassatis.'

"The very minute size of this Alga, being smaller than the head of the smallest pin, and the firm, elastic, and highly lubricous substance, render it extremely difficult of examination. It is only by completely crushing it, and patiently searching out the perfect fragments, that its true nature can be ascertained."

Carlingwark Loch will well repay another visit. Marle is said to have been procured in quantity, and animal remains have been found in it. Many aquatic molusca inhabit the loch, and notwithstanding the unfavourable circumstances of the day, the following species were picked up:—*Anodon cygneus*, *Cyclas cornea*, a *Psidium*, *Planorbis marginatus*, *Limnæus periger*, *Bythinia tentaculata*. Our entomology was restricted to water-beetles. From the same causes, our botanical list was limited. Besides the Alga already referred

to, among phænogamous plants, *plantago maritima* was observed on Deeside; by the loch, *Sparganium simplex* and *ramosum*, and *Bidens cernua* were gathered. Dr. Gilchrist reported *Potamogeton crispum* and *heterophyllum*.

The last excursion for the summer session had been fixed to meet at Ecclefechan, to examine the Roman encampment at Birrens Werk, but from unfavourable weather and other circumstances this did not take place.

At different times excursions have been made by Members of the Society independently of the fixed monthly meetings, and the information then acquired may very properly be incorporated among the work of the year.

It had been reported that some stone coffins had been discovered near Newby, in the vicinity of Annan, and on the 8th July a small party made arrangements to proceed thither and ascertain the truth of the report. On reaching Newby they ascertained that, although two stone coffins were to be seen, they had been known to the tenant, Mr. Beatie, and others, for some years. One of the coffins was placed in a mound of drift, a short distance from the farm-house. A workman stated that it had been opened about ten years since by some idle persons, probably in expectation of finding concealed treasure, and the stone slab or covering had been replaced immediately afterwards, and had not been disturbed since. Upon again removing the covering, and digging amongst the mould and rubbish which had been thrown in, a number of fragments of an ancient urn were found, which, when pieced together, indicated plainly that it was rudely fashioned, as if by the hand, and was marked with the herring-bone pattern of ornamentation. Some small fragments of bone were also found. The coffin itself was formed of unhewn slabs of

sandstone, resting against each other, forming an irregularly-shaped hole. The covering overlapped the cavity considerably, and with the slabs forming the sides was five inches in thickness. From the dimensions of this coffin, the body must have been placed in a sitting posture, for which there was sufficient depth. The long axis was placed nearly due east and west.

The site of the second coffin was about 200 yards farther along the coast. It had also been placed on a mound of drift, on which the sea had made considerable inroads, and some years since had exposed a coffin similar to the last, but longer, as if the body had been placed in a lying posture. All the slabs which formed this coffin, except the end one, remain; but the cavity is now mostly filled with stones and *débris*.

The clearly artificial character of the superficial parts of the mound, to a depth of probably three or four feet, satisfied the party of the almost certain existence of other coffins, probably resembling those which had been already opened, and of the importance of farther explorations.*

Another small party † met during the summer. The object was to visit a tree that had been found in Lochar Moss, standing in an erect position, and which, from the account that Mr. Simpson had received, was worthy of and would repay examination. While casting peats this year in a part of Lochar Moss called the "Syke," in the parish of Torthorwold, and the property of Sir Alexander Grierson, Bart., Mr. John Kerr, farmer, came upon the tree in question, which attracted his attention from its unusual position. In preparation for the party visiting the spot, Mr. Simpson had labourers employed, and the peat removed.

* See description of further examinations; Address of the President for 1865.

† Sir W. Jardine, Bart.; Professor Harkness; J. G. Clerk, Esq., Speddoch; and Mr. Simpson.

The trunk of the tree was uncovered until the root was reached, spreading out upon a grey sandy subsoil. The tree, a *Scotch fir*, had grown from this soil, and now stood in its original position, the peat having formed around it. On the north side, a little above the roots, it presented a charred appearance, as if fire had been at one time applied, but this apparent charring was the result of the peat surrounding the tree, and a strong spring of water issuing near the roots impregnated with iron. This spring came directly in contact with the charred side of the tree, and was considered by Professor Harkness to have produced that appearance.

The depth of the peat surrounding the stem of the tree was fourteen feet, and exhibited at the bottom a very compact texture. It there contained the remains of jointed reed-like plants, showing that in the early formation the place was marshy. Among this compact peat seeds of plants were abundant, with the remains of various insects. The latter were so preserved as to enable us to distinguish the corslets and wing-cases of carabidous species, and the wing-cases of a species frequenting aquatic plants, *Donacia*, easily recognised by the beautiful sculpture upon them, here finely preserved.

A closer examination of the wood of this tree has been attended with considerable interest. To see the more exact structure of the wood, I took some cuttings to Edinburgh to have them polished. On handling and sawing it, I was struck with the soapy or greasy feel, and the heat of the saw dissolved what was then thought to be resin. But on subjecting the slices to a greater heat to dry them for polishing, a considerable quantity of a dark oily matter exuded, more, certainly, than could be accounted for by the presence of the resin of the pine. Anxious to ascertain the true nature of this, I sent a piece of the wood to Dr. Blyth, professor of chemistry, Queen's College, Cork, and that gentleman has kindly sent me the following valuable observations:—

“ WOOD FROM LOCHAR MOSS.

“ The whole wood is saturated with an oily fluid, which is most abundant between the annual rings, and communicates a dark brown tint to these. Under a magnifier small granules of a whitish uncrystalline resinous matter is perceived in some places between the woody fibres. The greater part of the substance in the wood is, however, neither crystalline nor solid, and can be pressed in the form of oil out from the dark centre annular spaces. It is tasteless and inodorous, but gives off a faintly aromatic odour when heated. It is highly inflammable, and distils at a low temperature, the vapour taking fire and burning with a bright luminous but smoky flame. The wood is rendered by this matter highly inflammable ; it takes fire instantly, and burns with a bright flame.

“ There is no regular deposit of the white solid in any quantity or layer, and it is only seen in minute traces when the woody fibres are torn apart and examined by the microscope. It is quite soluble in alcohol and ether.

“ On submitting the wood to slow (dry) distillation a considerable quantity of oily matter sublimes, which on standing becomes semi-solid, but it does not crystallise.

“ Both ether and alcohol readily extract the oily matter from the wood, and, on evaporation, a whitish soft semi-solid but not crystalline matter is left, which has the properties of resin.

“ The ethereal solution is not rendered turbid by the addition of alcohol. Water renders the alcoholic solution quite turbid. It is attacked by strong nitric acid.

“ A second portion of wood from the outside of the tree was forwarded to me for examination after the above remarks were made, which afforded some further insight into the nature of the oily matter between the annual layers. In the more compact parts of the wood there was abundance of this

oily fluid, which flowed out on the slightest pressure. But where the woody texture was more open it had passed from the annual rings in those parts, and had, by the more free access of air, been converted into transparent solid layers, having a shining appearance like wax. This was particularly observed in the direction of the medullary rays. When split in this direction thin cakes of a spermaceti-looking substance were found coating the wood, and communicating a soapy or greasy feeling when touched. Although having no crystalline form in the wood, these thin plates, when dissolved in alcohol and ether, and carefully evaporated, readily formed crystals. These were generally grouped in masses of needles, radiating from a centre, and resembling very much nodules of wavellite. When heated in a tube they fuse at about 320° Fahr., and sublime in the form of oil drops, which on cooling become crystalline. From some portions of the solid matter from the wood were obtained at once, by heat, at a comparatively low temperature of about 120° Fahr., and without passing through the oily stage, delicate flattened four-sided prisms, half an inch long, and belonging to the rhombohedral system. These crystals were distinct from the radiated nodules. This proves that the solid matter in the wood was evidently a mixture of several crystalline bodies.

“The small quantity of matter at my command did not permit of a separation and fuller examination of these different bodies. There can be no doubt, however, that none of the oily or crystallisable matter in this fossil tree was derived from the surrounding peat. The pine-tree must have contained, in its fresh state, an unusually large quantity of turpentine, from which, by slow and very imperfect oxidation, the various substances found in the fossil were formed. In the inner and more compact portions, from which air was excluded, the turpentine preserved its fluid character, but possessed so little of the turpentine odour, and had acquired a peculiar aromatic smell of its own, that it is very

probable that it has been partly changed into an isomeric hydrocarbon.

“ Towards the exterior, where the woody fibre is more open, so as to admit a little of the limited quantity of air which penetrated into the peaty layers around the tree, some of the oil has been resinified ; whilst in the outer layers, where the wood is cracked, the resin is further oxidised into a solid crystalline matter.

“ It would be interesting to ascertain if the wood in the upper portion of the tree, where it comes near the surface of the bog, and must consequently have had a freer supply of air, contained more of this solid crystalline matter than in the lower parts further removed from air.

“ The crystalline matter appears to belong to the same class as *Fichtelite*, *Scheererite*, *Tekoretine*, *Phylloretine*, etc. etc., which have been obtained from fossil pines found in bogs in Bavaria, Denmark, and elsewhere. It is not, however, identical with them. These bodies fuse at temperatures varying from 113° to 200° Fahr., whilst only a part of the Lochar pine-tree crystals fuse at these lower temperatures, the greater part requiring for this purpose above 300° of Fahr. The published accounts of *Fichtelite* and the other oxidised products from turpentine found in fossil pines, show that these bodies also cannot be regarded as really simple, but that they are mixtures of different substances. Should a sufficient quantity be obtained for a more complete examination, a considerable series of fossil products would undoubtedly be found to be derived from the slow metamorphosis of the turpentine of the ancient pines.

“ The roots of pines from the Irish bogs, found in abundance at Macroon, near Cork, appear to be saturated with a matter similar to that of the Lochar pine-tree. The roots are torn into threads, and sold for firewood. They have a greasy feel too, and burn at once, on the application of flame, with

much light and smoke, and in them is also found chrysaline matter. In Jutland, in the large turf bogs, there is a species of turf, evidently derived from the *dèbris* of pines (from the twigs and leaves), which burns like cannel coal, and contains a resinous matter, which also can be extracted from the fresh fir-needles. It is called *Lyscklyn*, and is used by the inhabitants for lighting their dwellings. The resinous matter may possibly be similar to those portions of the Lochar pine fluid which have been so far transformed as to assume the semi-solid unchrysalisable resinoid form."

In connection with this subject, and the age of peat, I bring to your notice the fact of silver coins having been found not very far from the same locality. They were found, while casting peats, about six feet below the surface, and were said to have been about fifteen or sixteen in number. That before you is the only one recovered, and I fear "*treasure-trove*" has prevented them coming to light. This one was traced to the possession of an old woman in Liverpool. It is of the coins called family coins, and was struck for one *Fufius Calenus*, B. C. 82 years, to record the reconciliation which had taken place between Rome and the other people of Italy after the end of the Social War. It is not easy to fix a time from this. Still we have something. It has been suggested that these coins may have been carried out with *manure*; but the distance from the edge of the moss, and the inutility of carrying manure there, would militate against this supposition. From the appearance of the coin before you it had been some time in circulation.

Such are the results of our summer meetings. They have not been altogether unfruitful, and have cleared the way for again examining the same localities. But we have generally endeavoured to take in too much ground, and have consequently run over it without that careful examination the country required. In our excursion to Dundrennan, for in-

stance, the walk along the shore, and its examination, was far more than a day's work. It is most interesting in every point of view. There is more than a day's work in and around Carlinwark Loch alone. There should be a little more division of labour, and it should be more careful work.

This time last year I directed your attention to one or two subjects on which a great deal had been written, and which were exciting much attention among both high and low, scientific and unscientific persons—such as the *Darwinian* theories, *antiquity* of man, *authenticity* of the Scriptures, etc.; and the facts, or so-called facts, on which the different opinions expressed regarding them were based. I may say that no great advance has been made during the past year to prove or disprove these asserted theories. At the same time, the subjects are fully maintaining their interest, are taken up by a very varied class of persons, and are being looked upon, I think, with a little more serious importance.

I judge from the numerous works called forth in consequence (they are perhaps only exceeded by one other class), and from the general tenor of the speeches and discussions arising at the meetings of our scientific as well as other societies and associations. See the extremely numerous rudimentary works on most scientific subjects, as if science was to be made easy at once, and without work; the numerous controversial works—replies to, and defences of, the principal or typical works lately published. Some of those exhibit great carefulness and research and sound reasoning; others are flimsy in the extreme, and hurt the cause they advocate.

Look, again, at the *periodicals*. The *literary* devote some of their pages, just because the subjects are, I may call it, fashionable. The *scientific*, which relate to animal or vegetable life and physiology, whether popular or more strictly scientific, are almost filled with papers referring more or less to these subjects. It is the same with the *geological* and *geographical* journals and transactions, and one *Society's Journal*

and *Review* is devoted entirely to the study of man. The Anthropological Society, although I am now far from agreeing with all the principles it sends forth, is doing a great deal of work, both by its papers and the translation of little-known publications, but these have to be carefully sifted.

The bibliography of this subject would now fill a large volume. I will only mention two works, but for very different reasons. The first of the translations put forth by the *Anthropological* Society is *Introduction to Anthropology*, by WAITZ—a compilation certainly, but, at the same time interesting, and containing original views. This has been reviewed by a qualified traveller, and many of the circumstances upon which certain positions were upheld *as conclusive* are challenged, and sometimes demonstrated to be *false*. In fact, Waitz, given out by authority as written and compiled by one who had devoted long time and research to the subject, cannot be entirely trusted, and must be read side by side with Burton's review and notes. I have mentioned this to show you how very careful we require to be in drawing conclusions from works ranging over a *whole subject*, where portions must be gathered second-hand—such are quite different from a monograph, or description of some particular local formation in geology, or of the description of some particular tribe with which the individual had had long intercourse. Here the authors, when they generalise, may be mistaken; but the facts so studied and recorded may be mostly depended on.

The other work I alluded to is by one of the most careful and candid observers of the present day. It is a paper by Joseph Prestwich, Esq., published in the Transactions of the Royal Society for 1864,—“*Theoretical considerations on the conditions under which the deposits containing the remains of extinct Mammalia and Flint Implements were accumulated, and their Geological Age.*” Mr. Prestwich, after very careful and repeated examinations of the valley of the Somme, extending over a series of years, and compared with other deposits, in

May 1863, writes:—"Thus there were two extremes" (in accounting for the deposition of the formations): "I have been led to adopt an intermediate course. I could not admit the possibility of river-action, as it now exists, having in any length of time excavated the present valleys and spread out old alluvia; neither was it possible to admit purely cataclysmic action in cases where the evidences of contemporaneous old land-surfaces and of fluvial beds were so common. But with river-action of greater intensity, and periodical floods imparting a torrential character to the rivers, the consequences of joint operation are obtained, and the phenomena admit of more ready explanation. I long had proposed the separation of the gravels into the high-level gravels and low-level gravels, and shown that the former were older than the latter. I was, however, at one time disposed to adopt, in part, some of the views of M. Elie de Beaumont with regard to the cataclysmic action in preference to the slower action of rivers; but further research, and the discovery of land and fresh-water shells in so great a number of low-level gravels, and in some of the high-level gravels, and especially the striking evidence eventually afforded by the beds of St. Acheul, and by the higher level gravels around Paris, satisfied me that river-action peculiar to each valley commenced with the high-level gravels; while the mass of *débris* and the large blocks present in the beds indicate the action of a large body of water and ice-transport. I conceive that the hypothesis brought forward in this paper gives consistency to the whole subject. It brings down the large mammalia to a period subsequent to that when the extreme glacial conditions prevailed, and closer to our own times." . . . "And" (the formations and deposits) "dependent upon one prolonged and uniform set of operations in accordance with the climatal conditions, and necessarily resulting from them."

Thus it will be seen that the unprejudiced working of a candid observer can modify preconceived views or theories;

and our knowledge of all those great questions has been, and still is, so limited that any absolute proposal may be very probably overturned by continued research. I would recommend a very careful perusal of this paper, which cannot be understood by any partial extract.

Attend also to the addresses which were made on opening many of the sections of the last British Association, and the character of a great portion of the papers read before some of the sections, and the discussions which followed, how they bore on the subjects I have alluded to ; members could not help, as it were, introducing them, so much were they in their minds. They even got mixed into the complimentary and after-dinner speeches, but at the same time a greater caution was displayed, a feeling as if the ground they were trying to tread upon was not sufficiently firm under them for *certainties* to be proclaimed. The same subjects have been more or less taken up by general public speakers and by bishops in their charges. The Bishop of London has very lately given a lecture in Edinburgh "On Science and Revelation." There is another sign of the importance with which these points are looked at. A declaration commencing—"We, the undersigned students of the natural sciences, desire to express our sincere regret that researches into scientific truth are *perverted* by some in our own times into occasion for casting doubt upon the truth and authenticity of the Holy Scriptures," etc. etc.

All these are signs or indications which proclaim that fears are roused by the tendency to scepticism which these books and discussions may produce. I declined to sign the declaration because I did not see why we scientific gentlemen or students of natural history should be called upon to make any such declaration, more than other professions, and we deny that *we* PERVERT scientific truth to casting doubt upon the Scriptures. I have no fears for the books or discussions, and my reason for introducing the subject here is both in sequence to what I addressed to you last year, and to recom-

mend you to study those subjects freely and unreservedly, and without prejudice one way or another, and to study them with your Bible, for now you can scarcely do so without. If there are scientific points which you cannot master, and I doubt not there will be, apply to those who have made a study of the branches to which your difficulties relate; you will find very few that will not be ready to assist or direct you. And if, on comparing science with your Bible, you think that they do not agree, and that you have made out a clear case that the latter cannot be relied upon either scientifically or historically, before deciding, bring to your mind and recollect the extent and kind of information you require before you can arrive at such a conclusion. Let it be asked, Have you got up the zoology, botany, and geology of the East—its meteorology—the ethnology and study of races—its traditions and monuments—manners and customs of the ancient peoples? Are you a Hebrew scholar, and do you know the allied tongues? When you can say you are so well instructed, we may think it worth while to listen to and examine some of your arguments.

When I mentioned that the books of science, rudimentary, popular, or scientific, and the controversial volumes incident to these, were only exceeded by one other class, I alluded to what are called works of *fiction* or *sensation*, now at last beginning to be looked at as having some influence on the mental development of youth. Of old, and in all countries, fiction has been enjoyed, and many of us may yet recollect the delight with which we once read such books as “Sandford and Merton,” “Robinson Crusoe,” “Philip Quarles,” “Gulliver’s Travels,” or the “Arabian Nights;” and when a little more advanced, how we enjoyed the novels of Smollett and Fielding, or discussed Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim. Later still came a higher class of light literature—the novels of Sir Walter Scott, and his imitators, many of them of a high class.

I have before stated to you that I considered recreation,

amusement, change of work, necessary under all circumstances. This is one of the reasons given for bringing out the quantity of fiction so constantly streaming on. The true one is, that, like gin palaces, it has been found profitable ; but, like them, it is a stimulating waste of mind and time. Its low-class quality debases the mind, and induces carelessness of reading and study, by skimming over page after page in search of sensation passages. It has been said that the language of the old novels and stories often precluded them from being put into the hands of young persons or females ; but we question if the outspoken expressions of Fielding, or Smollett, or Laurence Sterne, were more injurious and unchaste than the tales (sometimes written by females) of seduction, adultery, and bigamy, of the sensation novels of the present day.

I trust it will not be taking too much upon ourselves if we venture to express a hope that the objects and pursuits of this Society, as well as its meetings, may tend to direct the minds of its members into sounder channels, and that our "*sensations*" will be the discovery of *new species*—*new facts*—and *new uses* to which we can apply the various productions that Providence has placed around us.

The law of treasure-trove is of great importance to some of our pursuits. Several good letters on the subject have appeared in the "Times" during the past year. There is one by Mr. Godfrey Taussett, in which he defines the law as laid down by Coke ; and, if he is correct, it is very simple and intelligible.

"Treasure-trove is where any gold or silver, in coin, plate, or bullion, hath been of ancient time hidden, where-soever it be found, whereof no person can prove any property, *it doth belong to the KING, or some LORD or OTHER by the King's grant or prescription.*" And he explains the words *gold* and *silver* thus :—"For if it be of any other metal it is no treasure, and if it be no treasure it belongeth not to the

King, for it must be *treasure-trove*" (Coke, *Inst.* iii. p. 132).

Or it may be otherwise put :—1. The *Crown* claims all *silver* and *gold* ; 2. The finder all *other relics*. But whatever be the reading, all *jewels, glass, pottery, porcelain, etc.* etc. are excluded.

The directions of Sir G. Grey to the police in 1860, and their interference in consequence, has done great harm, and to it the concealment of various pieces may be attributed. The value of these articles cannot be overrated. Whether old deeds or writings, utensils, ornaments, or coins, etc., they constitute the old history of our country, and give us the details of manners and customs long gone by ; for, notwithstanding the advance of civilisation, there is yet much to learn in studying any ancient people, and we may gather many things from their primitive customs, simple virtues, rude manufactures, and modes of government.

It is right and expedient that there should be some public collection where such relics may be preserved, and where they can be easily referred to ; but I must say that I should grudge to see all the old relics of Scotland transferred to the British Museum, useful as that great institution is. These public museums, even the British, were at one time very badly managed, and anything getting into them might have been said to have been consigned to oblivion. Now it is different.

In Edinburgh the Society of Antiquaries is an excellent institution, and their collection, in charge of Mr. Macculloch, is in good order, and the specimens can be at once referred to. I have received great assistance here in making out some of the relics which have come into possession of our members since this Society was constituted, and any one calling there will receive every assistance and information. Scotch antiquities that cannot find a resting-place elsewhere should be sent to Mr. Macculloch.

But some of the letters on treasure-trove, to which I have alluded, decry private collections and collectors. With this I entirely disagree. Private love for any subject begets its investigation, and a collection is the consequence, endeared to its owner by all the difficulties of procuring the specimens and making out their history. These collections may sometimes be scattered and dispersed, but they should be known to the officers of the public museums; and when they come to sale the desiderata and really valuable pieces can be secured, and the expense to Government or the public will be much less than the purchase of a large miscellaneous collection. There are few of our best authorities who have not collections in the branches they pursue, whether paintings, coins, natural history, or antiquities. These seldom go out of Great Britain, except when Government happens to be economical. Destroy or interfere with private collections, and you will destroy the taste for the subjects, and at the same time interfere with the liberty of the subject.

I think it more than probable that treasure-trove may be this session taken up by Parliament, and a clear definition of it made; it might be useful, and assist, if the various societies were to express their opinions, and memorialise for that purpose. In the meantime I would recommend any one possessing or finding antiquities not *gold* or *silver* to bring them forward, and let them be studied and described. They will be quite safe and again restored, or, if desired, full value will be obtained for them.

Before concluding these observations, it may be profitable to learn if our wanderings and explorations have produced any additions to our knowledge of the various productions coming under our notice. Among the larger animals, or mammalia, we can scarcely expect any, though, if attention is given to the smaller species—*Bats*, *Arvicola*, *Sorex*—we may yet add to the list.

But although we may not have anything new, changes

take place. The *squirrel* and the *roe-buck* are now spreading over a much greater space. Both have reappeared in Annandale within the last ten years. This may be attributed to the growth and extent of wood and cover.

The *Alpine* or *blue* hare—*Lepus variabilis*—not known, I believe, in the south of Scotland, is now to be found on the Moffat, Evan Water, Lead Hills ranges, and the other high ranges leading into Selkirk and Peeblesshire. But there is reason to believe that it was introduced, though it cannot be certainly ascertained when or by whom. It is an animal, however, not difficult to introduce or naturalise. In Faroe it was in 1854 or 1855 introduced from Norway, and thousands now exist in the island.

A specimen of the thrasher—*Alopias vulpes* (Borlasse)—was taken in the Solway, and was procured for our collection. It is far from common, and has only occurred a few times on the British coasts.

Among insects we may place *Depressaria umbellana* of the Dundrennan excursion as new to Scotland.

The larva of one of the saw-flies was extremely common in the Drumlanrig woods, feeding on the Scotch fir, and stripping their young branches. Mr. Doughty, forester to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, sent some of the caterpillars to ascertain what they were. They were larvæ of *Lophyri*, but the exact species could not be ascertained until the perfect flies appeared. They did so in the spring, and on sending specimens to Mr. F. Smith, British Museum, they were ascertained to be the true *L. pini*. They appear at uncertain intervals, like the saw-fly of the turnips, and being gregarious, are sometimes very destructive.

The plants occurring have been mentioned in the account of the different excursions, among which the most important was the *Iris fœtidissima*. Next, the very curious Alga of Carlingwark Loch (see p. 10). In the trip which Professor Balfour made with his pupils to the vicinity of Dumfries,

Enanthe fistulosa was gathered;—not recorded by Babington as Scotch, although Sir W. J. Hooker gives a few habitats.

In palæontology, Professor Harkness obtained a portion of a trilobite in the slate-rocks of the valley of the Scaur Water. A search was made during summer in these quarries (not now worked), by the professor, myself, Mr. Maxwell of Gribton, and Mr. Harley, but without success. The slates are, however, very interesting. They afforded many good impressions of tracks which we would refer to crustacea. Dr. Grierson has obtained species of a graptolite in Nithsdale.

In Annandale, for the first time, we have met with the remains of an ox. It occurred in the same remarkable deposit which has yielded the remains of red-deer, roebuck, black bear; and in the same deposit has also been found the fragment of a palmated horn, which, though small to pronounce a decided opinion upon, there is little doubt is a portion of that of a rein-deer.

In *mineralogy*.—On our visit to Barlochan mine of barytes an interesting mineral was seen, exhibiting a rich blue colour. Mr. Dudgeon has submitted this to competent authority, who pronounces it to be the *cup. sul. of lead*.

Many of the Members may have seen Miss Hope Johnstone's spirited advertisement in regard to iron or other minerals. Professor Harkness visited the "diggings" along with me. There are undoubtedly strong traces of iron to be seen in the small portion opened; but the doubt is, if the fissures in the old rocks there will be large enough to contain sufficient quantity of ore to render it valuable. There are perhaps stronger indications eastward towards the dryfe.

TRANSACTIONS.

NOTES ON SOME ANTIQUITIES AND OLD RECORDS OF DUMFRIESHIRE AND GALLOWAY. By JAMES STARKE, F.S.A. Scot.

THE SILLER GUNS.

Read 5th April, 1864.

I HAVE had an opportunity of seeing the "Siller Gun," which is in the hands of Mr Martin, Town-Clerk of Dumfries; and have thus been induced to note down a few particulars respecting it.

The Gun came into the possession of the Town-Council about twelve years ago, having been given over to them by the Incorporated Trades of Dumfries, to whom it was presented by King James VI.

Authors have spoken of this royal gift in a slighting way, as a toy, a trinket, and so forth. This is difficult to be accounted for: it would imply a total misapprehension of the nature and object of the gift.

It was not given as a field-piece, and the precious metal of which it is composed precludes our expecting a Mons Meg. It was given simply as a prize to be shot for; and is in the nature of a medal, expressive enough, as such, like the silver arrow of the Royal Archers, and would be correctly termed a Gun Medal to be worn on the person of the victor at the annual shooting match or weapon-schawing.

The Burgh of Kirkeudbright is also in possession of a Siller Gun from the same royal donor, as a prize to encourage the Trades there in the use of fire-arms as implements of war instead of the bow and arrow.

There is also sometimes mention made of another Siller

Gun in another Burgh, but I am not in possession of any particulars respecting it.

The Kirkcudbright Gun is probably in much the same state as when first presented. It is a tube or barrel of about seven inches in length, with a ring and heraldic shield of silver, and a ribbon attached by which it may be suspended.

The barrel of the Dumfries Gun is of a similar length, but it is said to have been mounted on a silver wheel carriage, *which has long since disappeared*.* And it is now set on a stock or butt of white metal, with cock, trigger, and ramrod, all modern and immoveable. There is also no touch-hole to be seen, which in the Kirkcudbright Gun is on the side; and if there are marks of the original wheel carriage, these are likewise not to be seen. Such changes, though cleverly done, and not without cost, must of necessity alter the character and value of the Gun as a specimen of the fire-arms then in use.

On the Kirkcudbright Gun are engraved the letters T M C, and the year 1587. The letters are understood to be the initials of Sir Thomas M'Clellan of Bombie, the then Provost, or Alderman,† of the Burgh; and, historically, it appears that the Gun, though meant for the use of the Trades, was the property of the Burgh, and in the custody and keeping of the Magistrates, to whom accordingly they made application for its use.

The Dumfries Gun, on the other hand, was presented to the Trades, and retained in their own possession and custody till given over by them to the Town Council in the year 1852.

The following is an excerpt from minutes of meeting of the Council on the occasion of its delivery, 6th August, 1852:—

“Mr Blaind introduced a deputation from the Seven Incorporated Trades, who produced a minute of the said Trades, in which the Trades had agreed to give into the custody of the Town Council, to be kept by them in a pro-

* Guide to Dumfries, page 14.

† Nicolson's Galloway, vol. I., page 529, note.

per place of safety, the 'Silver Gun,' presented to the Trades by King James VI., and upon the condition that in future if the majority of the Trades in Dumfries agree to shoot for the said Gun as formerly, they should have liberty to do so, upon an obligation that it be returned and restored to the said place of safety. The Council, on the motion of Mr M'Gowan, and seconded by Bailie Crombie, unanimously agreed to accept of the custody of the said Gun, and tendered their unanimous thanks to the Seven Incorporated Trades for the great confidence reposed in them.

"The Council appointed the following committee to make arrangements as to a proper place in which to keep the Silver Gun, viz. :—Messrs Dunbar, Dinwiddie, and Blaind,—Mr Dunbar convener.

"The meeting adjourned till Thursday first at 2 o'clock.

"(Signed) WM. NICHOLSON.

"Present—

" Provost NICHOLSON.
 Bailie LEIGHTON.
 „ CROMBIE.
 „ WATT.
 Dean PAYNE.
 Messrs DUNBAR.
 P. MUNDELL.
 DINWIDDIE.
 LAWSON.
 CLARK.
 SLOAN.
 BLAIND.
 M'GOWAN.
 SMYTH."

The Dumfries Gun has on it the letters I M, and a modern inscription :—" Presented by King James VI. of Scotland 'to the Seven Incorporated Trades of Dumfries, MDXCVIII."

The King was in Dumfries in the month of November of the previous year, 1597,—ten years after the gift to Kirkcudbright,—and spent the greater part of that month in the town, in anxious endeavours to repress the disorders of the times, and bring the western borders to quietness. It is sup-

posed to have been on this occasion the gift was made, though it bears date the year following. This is Mr Chambers' opinion in his Domestic Annals of Scotland. "Most probably," says that author,* "it was while spending this month "in Dumfries, and not during 1598, when he certainly did "not visit the town, that he conferred this mark of his favour."

The explanation of this discrepancy may be that the date was put on at some distance of time after the event, and in the absence of the record.

In our two Guide Books the date assigned for the gift is 1617,—when the King is known to have passed through Dumfries to England. The same date is also given in the Statistical Account of Dumfries. But no authority is stated in any of these cases, nor any reference made to the date upon the Gun.

The Town Council records of that period are not extant, the earliest being, I am informed, 1650, and the Trades' records, having been sold, are in the hands of a private party by purchase.

With regard to the letters I. M. on the Gun, I am not aware whether any satisfactory explanation has ever been given. It has indeed been said that they are the initials of John Maxwell, Provost of Dumfries, if such there was. But, 1, as the Gun was not given to the Provost or Magistrates, as in Kirkeudbright, but to the Trades themselves, it is improbable that the Provost's name would be set upon it; and, 2, in point of fact it rather appears that the Provost of the time was one of the Irvings of the family of Bonshaw.

In default, therefore, of a better explanation, I am disposed to think that in this instance the royal donor, who was a great scholar, and prided himself not a little on his attainments, had in his eye a reference to the classical phrase, *in medium* or *in media civitate*, meaning *for all*, or *in trust* for the common good of the town.†

* Domestic Annals, vol. I. p. 294.

† Cicero, Virgil, Horace, Terence,—in all these authors the phrase occurs, in various ways, and sometimes more than once. Terence says:—

"In medio omnibus

Palma est posita."—TER., Phormio, prol.

This was quite the position of the Siller Gun.

His Majesty probably saw a seeming unfairness in bestowing a gift on the Trades and yet giving the possession to the Magistrates. But aware also of possible risk in placing it elsewhere, he stamped upon it a word of caution that it was *in trust* for the general benefit. It is much to be regretted if the trust has not been preserved, by the alleged disappearance of the original wheel carriage; and still more if the depreciatory style in which the gift has come to be spoken of had its origin in this part of its history.

In both towns now the gun medals are in excellent keeping, and further enquiry may lead to information respecting the other "Siller Gun."

The Kirkcudbright Gun has been shot for on two occasions in the present century—in 1830, when the Earl of Selkirk attained his majority, and in 1838, on the occasion of the Queen's coronation.

The Dumfries Gun "was shot for several times in our recollection," says one of the Guide Books, "and the last time it figured in a public pageant was on the 25th January, 1859,—the Burns Centenary, which was celebrated at Dumfries with extraordinary pomp and enthusiasm."

I cannot conclude without expressing my acknowledgments to Mr Martin and Mr M'Lellan for the readiness with which they produced to me the guns in their charge. Such frank and ready courtesy merits acknowledgment. It facilitates research and smoothes the way in investigations which are apt to be regarded by some people as interfering with business. My especial thanks are due to Mr Martin, who has furnished me with copy excerpt from the Council records of the minute passed by the Council on the occasion of the Trades of Dumfries giving over the custody of the Gun to the Town Council.

P.S.—The Dumfries silver gun is now enshrined in an oval frame in the Council Chamber.

NOTICE OF THE NUN SLAB AT DUNDRENNAN ABBEY.

By JAMES STARKE, F.S.A., Scot.

THE old ruin of Dundrennan Abbey has many points of great interest, both in its historical aspects and in the detail of its examination. Among its old monuments is the Nun Slab. This slab is broken into several pieces, and the legend or inscription round the border is both abbreviated and obliterated. But an epitaph can be plainly made out, and the object of the present paper is to submit a conjecture that it is the epitaph of the last prioress of Lincluden before the change of that Abbey into a College. From the present state of our information respecting the old Abbey of Lincluden, any suggestion on the subject can be offered only as an historical conjecture, but a direction may be given to enquiry, and the burial place of the old prioress may be found to be at once a vindication of her own personal character, and a testimony to the good feeling which subsisted among the old Abbeys for one another.

Some difference exists in the statements of writers as to the founder of Dundrennan Abbey, where the present Slab lies : Dempster and Fordun, with Hollinshed, ascribing the foundation to David King of Scots, whereas Spottiswood, an accurate and reliable authority, and the industrious Chalmers, say the Abbey was founded by Fergus, Lord of Galloway. The latter opinion harmonizes with the whole circumstances of the case.

The district of Galloway, in which Dundrennan Abbey is situated, was at the time of its foundation a separate and peculiar district, having its own lords or reguli, and its own people, with their own language, laws, and customs. The Abbey was not likely to be a royal foundation ; and the case of Dryburgh Abbey shows that David, that *sair sanct* to the

crown, obtained the name of founder though another than he was the actual founder.

Dundrennan Abbey was founded in the year 1142. This was four years after Fergus first appears in history as Lord of Galloway, and two years after his great neighbour De Morville, Lord of Cunninghame, in Ayrshire, founded his stately Abbey of Kilwinning. Fergus appears to have become Lord of Galloway on the fall of Ulgeric and Dovenald, the previous Lords of Galloway at the battle of the Standard in 1138. Two years after this the Abbey of Kilwinning was founded, and two years thereafter Dundrennan Abbey.

The circumstances thus seem to point to Fergus Lord of Galloway as the founder of the Abbey. He was the acknowledged founder of other Abbeys in the district, and the ancestor of a line of founders of Abbeys.

His son, Uchtred, Lord of Galloway, founded at Lincluden a priory of Benedictine Nuns—apparently the only nunnery in the district. And among the monuments at Dundrennan Abbey still remaining is an old mutilated effigy in the north transept, supposed to represent Uchtred's grandson, Alan, Lord of Galloway, who was buried here.

These preliminary remarks have their bearing on the view here taken of the Nun Slab.

This Slab lies in the eastern aisle of the south transept. It is an incised slab, now in fragments, and according to the Rev. Mr Hutchison, in his Memorials of the Abbey of Dundrennan, the length is 5 feet 6 in., and the breadth 2 feet 10 in.

It has on it an incised figure, full length, in the dress or habit of a nun, the feet resting on two lambs, with a Latin inscription in old English characters, without capitals, round the margin of the stone.

The Slab being broken and mutilated, the legend is in some parts defaced and incomplete; the want of capitals adds to the difficulty of deciphering it, and while in some parts there are unnecessary blanks, in another the words are huddled together so as to require abbreviation, contraction,

the union of letters, and even what we must call interlineation.

Mr Hutchison remarks on the singularity of a female being buried within the precincts of a monastery, but he offers no explanation of the present case, nor any explanation of the inscription, but supposes that the nun must have been of the same monastic order as the monks of the Abbey, though other considerations than co-fraternity may have led to her being buried here.

Commencing the inscription at the top of the Slab, the first words are entire—*Hic jacet*, Here lies. And the concluding words hardly admit of doubt. They are *biit año d 1440*. The initial letter to *biit* cannot be doubted, and *año* has the usual mark of a contraction for *anno*. *Obiit anno domini 1440*—She died in the year of our Lord 1440. The next considerable passage in the inscription is *domina pr — uondan*. The last word is obviously *quondam*, formerly, at one time; and if we take *pr* to be a contraction, as it probably is, it would perhaps intend *prioressa*, prioress. Here the significance of the lambs under the feet of the figure becomes apparent. The symbol of a lamb does indeed denote purity and meekness, as Mr Hutchison suggests by his quotation to that effect, but here it seems as natural to betoken office and authority, that the lady prioress had under her the lambs of the flock.

Immediately following the commencing words of the epitaph there is a long blank, in consequence of the mutilation of the Slab, and then come the letters *chea*. If these letters be assumed to be part of the name of the deceased, the name they would suggest is *Blanche*, in Latin *Blancha* or *Blanchea*, preceded by the usual title *domina*—*domina Blanchea*, the lady *Blanche*.

The only remaining letters are *v si*. The *v* is either the end of a word, which on the foregoing supposition must be only of two letters, or it is an abbreviation for a word. In either case it might be *virgo*, followed by the word *sit*, or some such similar short word, meaning that she was a vestal or nun.

ANNO DOMINI

hic iacet

et



ANNO



1510

10



DOMINI





Taking this interpretation to be the true reading of the inscription, we have the following epitaph:—

Hic jacet
 Domina Blanchea
 v. sit
 Domina pr. quondam
 Obiit anno d 1440.

i.e.,

Hic jacet
 Domina Blanchea
 virgo sit
 Domina prioressa quondam
 Obiit anno Domini 1440.

Here lies
 The Lady Blanche ;
 She was a nun,
 At one time a lady prioress ;
 She died in the
 Year of our Lord 1440.

a pr — uondan — biit año d. mccc

hic jacet
 XL°

chea — v — si —

domin

If we proceed to enquire who this nun was, at one time a lady prioress, and how it came that she was buried here, the inscription gives us no information. It is especially remarkable that the name of the priory of which she was prioress is not given.

As already stated, the priory of Lincluden appears to have been the only nunnery in the district, and it ceased to exist as such in the reign of K. Rob. 3, who died in 1406. The nuns of Lincluden were of the Benedictine order, and the monks of Dundrennan were Cistercians. The orders thus differed entirely. But yet their situation in the same peculiar district of country, and their common origin from the Lords of Galloway might establish between them common ties, which the fate of the nunnery might in the case of the discarded prioress not sever but strengthen. King Rob. 3 died in the year 1406. This was 34 years before the death of the prioress, yet she may have lived so long after the breaking up of her establishment, and been but in middle life at that event; while, if she retained an unblemished character, it was reasonable to give her the honourable burial she here received in vindication of her character, and possibly also of the nunnery itself, as well as in testimony of their common relation.

It is not necessary to suppose that the lady prioress lived in the monastery at Dundrennan. When the establishment at Lincluden was broken up by its change into a college, the nuns would betake themselves, according to their temper and habits, and the lady prioress, chaste but weak perhaps, and unenergetic in the necessary discipline of the convent, would, after a life of purity in some other establishment, or in private life, receive honourable burial here.

Her burial place is not in the common cemetery of the Abbey, nor in the chapter-house, where there are other tombstones, but in the eastern aisle of the south transept of the Abbey church.

If this is the tombstone of the last lady prioress of Lincluden, it would go far towards a vindication of her character

against the imputation on which the change of the priory into a college was founded.

But whatever may be thought of the suggestion here offered, the singularity of a female being buried in a monastery, and in such a prominent situation of the Abbey church, together with the mysterious obscurity of the epitaph in not giving the name of the priory in which she was a nun and prioress, and the obscure, abbreviated form in which she is described,—all these are circumstances which excite investigation, and the present paper is an attempt at their solution.

SIR CHRISTOPHER SETON AND HIS CHAPEL AT DUMFRIES.
By JAMES STARKE, F.S.A. Scot.

IN the churchyard of St. Mary's parish church there is a small monumental stone. There is no getting at a close examination, and the stone is somewhat discoloured and weatherbeaten. But it is understood to be composed of fragments of stones, put together in the nature of a tombstone, and to bear the following inscription:—

“These stones, the relics of the ancient chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, erected by King Robert Bruce in memory of Sir Christopher or Chrystal Seatoun, are here placed for preservation by Major James Adair. 1840.”

There are doubtless other stones to be found in the neighbourhood which may reasonably be supposed to have formed part of the old chapel, but the present are especially interesting from their authenticity. I made enquiries on the subject, and received a letter from the church officer, who superintended the excavations when they were found. He says:—The few stones erected within Major Adair's burying ground were part of the east window of the old chapel, and only brought to light when the workmen were excavating the hill for the foundation of St. Mary's Church. Under my immediate superintendence at the time every part of the ruins were carefully inspected, &c.

Major Adair here mentioned was a residenter in Dumfries, and one of the trustees of St. Mary's Church and ground. In the list of the trustees in the Presbytery records, under date 28th May, 1838, his name stands the first in order,—Major James Adair, Albany Place. He was not a member of the Kirk Session, as I understand, nor is there in the Session records any reference to the erection of the monument.

This interesting monument stands on the south of the church, within an iron railing, which encloses also tombstones in Major Adair's burying ground. The stones, it is stated, formed part of the east window of the chapel, and were only brought to light when the workmen were excavating the hill for the foundation of the present church.

The chapel had long disappeared, the materials having been from time to time carried off for other purposes.

It was standing undecayed in 1552,* and old Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, who wrote an account of the House of Seyton, says he had heard mass in it. After the Reformation it would no doubt fall into neglect, and in 1715 the remaining materials were taken to make up the defences of the town against the rebel army then threatening Dumfries. When the defences also came to an end, the materials would be appropriated in many ways.

The present church on the site of the chapel was erected in 1838—a period of 510 years at least from the foundation of Sir Christopher's chapel.

In Robertson's Index of Old Charters, the following is the title of the charter of erection by King Robert Bruce:—

Charter of the foundation of ane chappel near Dumfries, and £5 strivelig dotted thereto by the King furth of the lands of Carlaverock, where Christopher Seton, his good brother, was slain in his Majesties service.

The date is not given, but it would probably be about the year 1323 or 1324.

The £5 "dotted" or dotated by the King furth of the lands of Carlaverock would not maintain a permanent chaplain, but it might and probably did secure daily mass being said by an itinerating or mass priest.

In this point of view, and also having regard to the locality on which it was built, the size of the chapel becomes a matter of probable conjecture. It would be in the nature of an oratory or chantry chapel, and of limited size. We find accordingly that when the excavations were being made

* Burke's Peerage.—Art. Seton.

for St. Mary's Church, the foundation showed that the chapel was small. By the kindness of Mr Mitchell I have been supplied with extracts from the *Dumfries Courier* of 1837. It is there stated that "Traces of the rough foundation of a building were lighted upon by the workmen, but from what was seen it only proves that the chapel or oratory must have been a very small one indeed."

Mr Gibson has procured a lithograph of Dumfries from the copy of an old print. The view is tasteful and felicitous, with the chapel in the foreground; but it here appears of larger dimensions than would have been anticipated, and there is also more of the edifice exhibited than is perhaps warranted by the perspective. The object, no doubt, was to bring into view as much of the chapel as could conveniently be done, and the print may thus be deemed more valuable than if it had been more artistically correct.

I sent it to a distinguished antiquarian in England, author of a learned work on church architecture, and he considers the stepped gables an unusual feature. He says he had found such in houses at Ghent and some other of the old cities in Flanders, but did not remember any gable of this character applied to churches. But on looking at this print we perceive the same description of gable at St. Michael's Church; and this peculiarity should invite the attention of our archæologists.

At each corner of the edifice is a tall pointed buttress, and another of like character in the centre between them supporting the main wall, very elegant; and the fine east window, as well as the two side windows, and the general appearance of the building, beautiful and appropriate, confirms the traditionary accounts of the excellent taste and workmanship displayed in its original construction.

Sir Christopher Seton was brother-in-law to Bruce, having married Bruce's sister, the Lady Christian Bruce, third daughter of Robert, Earl of Carrick, and widow of Gratney, Earl of Mar, whose elder sister Isabel was the wife of Bruce.

He was an associate and one of the principal supporters

of Bruce, and was present at his coronation at Scone on the 27th March, 1306,—45 days after the death of Comyn at Dumfries ; and when Bruce was unhorsed at Methven by Philip de Mowbray, Sir Christopher, then acting as his particular Esquire, rescued him.*

After the defeat of Methven, Sir Christopher took refuge in the Castle of Loch Ur,† and when that fortress surrendered he was taken prisoner, brought to Dumfries, and there condemned and executed. His brother, Alexander Seton, was executed at Newcastle, and others suffered at other places.‡ Bruce's daughter Marjory, and his sister Christina, the wife of Sir Christopher, were immured in convents, having been taken at the Girth of Tain, to which they had fled with other ladies from Kildrummy in the hope of safety.‡

According to Trivet, the English historian, Sir Christopher, being deemed an Englishman, not a Scotsman, was ordered to be led off to Dumfries, where he had slain a certain knight of the English interest, and there was forced to undergo judgment, drawn, hanged, and afterwards beheaded.

This sentence would seem to imply a charge of treason, and therefore it was no doubt that his Anglo-Norman lineage was made to pass muster in the account against him.

Hemingford, another English historian, says it was Comyn's brother, Sir Robert, who was thus slain. The letter of King Edward on the occasion of Comyn's death is vague and general, stating that the Comyn was slain and some others. But in general our historians mention only the Red Comyn and his uncle, Sir Robert.

It is probable that Sir Christopher Seton was at the monastery of Dumfries with Bruce, and he may have ran in with Kirkpatrick to despatch Comyn, and Sir Robert who came to his defence ; and that Seton's presence and assistance on the occasion were made the groundwork of the charge against him. There appears nothing to connect him with

* Kerr's Bruce, chap. 4.

† Nicolson's Galloway, I., 244.

‡ Kerr's Bruce, chap. 6.

the slaying of any other knight of the English interest in Dumfries.

There is no reason to doubt but that the patriot Seton suffered at the common place of execution at that day, and that this mount where the chantry chapel was so piously erected for him—then described as in the neighbourhood of Dumfries, being outside the town wall,—was the actual locality. It was the Tyburn of Dumfries; and here also, as tainted and polluted ground, all suicides were buried.

When the excavations were being made for St. Mary's Church, a considerable quantity of human bones and about 70 or 80 skulls were dug up*—the miserable remains, no doubt, of the convicts and suicides who had been buried there.

Before concluding, I will offer a suggestion.

We are all indebted to Major Adair for collecting and authenticating these relics of the old chapel, and they have been preserved already for upwards of 20 years from their discovery.

But unquestionably they are not placed in the most favourable situation for inspection; and it is a curious circumstance that the fact of their existence is not referred to in the Statistical Account of Dumfries, or in any of the recent Guide Books.

What I would suggest, therefore, is, that after due enquiry and consent, they should be removed to the interior of St. Mary's Church, and placed as a tablet on an inner wall, in an accessible position.

We may safely reckon on the public spirit of the Minister and Kirk-Session for their co-operation in such a matter.

* Dumfries Courier, 31 May, 1837.

THE OLD MONASTERY OF DUMFRIES. By JAMES STARKE,
F.S.A. Scot.

THE old Monastery of Dumfries has long ceased to exist. Streets and houses now occupy the site. And a few names of places—some portions and pieces of ancient structures—and the occasional disinterment of old relics, are what remain to attest its former existence.

But the locality has a permanent and undying interest, as the scene of a busy life which was characteristic of a former period of our history, and still more as one of the many memorable spots in the nation's struggles for liberty and independence.

I have therefore been induced to put together some notes of the place. They are chiefly historical, as in too many cases they must be from the want of material remains.

There is reason to believe that Dumfries was early chosen as a settlement, and first of all, perhaps, as an ecclesiastical settlement.

The venerable Bede, in his Ecclesiastical History of England,* tells us that in the time of St. Wilfred, who was a zealous bishop of the north of England in the 7th century, a Synod was held *juxta fluvium Nidd*. If this was the Nith, it would be close by the river, or rather close by the flowing stream of the Nith. These words describe the locality of Dumfries happily enough. But no town is named. Had any such existed at that time, the mention of it would hardly have escaped the minute accuracy of Bede.

However, in the list of towns in the historian Nennius, a name occurs which Mr Skene, in a late paper in the Antiquarian Transactions "On the early Frisian Settlements in

* Bede Eccles. Hist., Lib. 5, cap. 20.

Scotland,"* thinks is Dumfries. This is the *Caer Peris*, or *Caer Pheris* of Nennius, which Mr Skene is of opinion became, by change of dialect, Dumfries.

Be this as it may, the natural advantages of the place were seen. An important town arose, and in the time of William the Lyon it was made a royal burgh, having then also both a fort or castle and a church. The castle went, even at that early time, by the namé of the old castle. This appears from a charter, supposed by Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*,† to have passed between the years 1175 and 1189, wherein King William grants to Joceline, Bishop of Glasgow, *toftum illum apud Dumfries quod est inter vetus castellum et ecclesiam*—the toft or messuage of land situate and lying between the old castle and the church.

The Castle was in all likelihood a residence of the Lords of Galloway. The situation of the town in the district—the erection of a Monastery occupying a large space in the very heart of the town, and the grant by Devorgille of bridge dues to the convent,—all tend to shew a great power in the family over the town. And in one charter Alan, Lord of Galloway, is familiarly described as Alan de Dumfries.

This Alan, Lord of Galloway, was a great man. Buchanan calls him *Scotorum longe potentissimus*,‡ by far the greatest noble in the kingdom.

He married for a second wife the eldest daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon, the King's next brother,—a marriage from which important consequences followed in the history of Scotland. And it was the eldest of his two children by this marriage, Dervorgille, who founded the Monastery.

The date of the foundation is, I believe, not exactly known. But if we run over the events of her life in connection with her character and disposition, and with the character of the age in which she lived, we shall perhaps arrive at an approximate, or at least not improbable time.

* Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. 4, p. 169.

† Chalmers' *Caledonia*, vol. 3, p. 135, note.

‡ Buchanan *Rev. Scot. Hist.*, Lib. 7.

She married John Baliol of Bernard's Castle, in England. The date of this marriage is given by Mr Nicolson, in his *History of Galloway*, as 1228. But this is certainly wrong. She would be but 15 years old, and on the other hand her son John Baliol, afterwards King of Scots, was not born for 30 years after. He was born, according to our historians, in 1260, and died in 1314. We may rather take it, therefore, I presume, that the lady Dervorgille remained a long time in a state of single blessedness. Her warm feelings and susceptible character are very conspicuous in all that relates to her husband's death. He died in 1268 or 1269. Two years before this, she founded at Wigton a convent of Black Friars, possibly on some occasion of her going to St. Ninian's shrine in his illness. And after his death, as is well known, she founded Sweetheart or Newabbey, and deposited his heart there, bringing it from France, where he had died. Her father, Alan, lord of Galloway, died in 1234, when she would be about 21 years old, and by the death of her sisters she would come as sole heir into the possession of great wealth. Two events now occurred, either of which was calculated to affect such a person very strongly—even violently. In 1242, when she was 29 years old, her youthful cousin, Patrick, Earl of Athole, was cruelly murdered, in revenge, as it was thought, for his having foiled and defeated in a great tournament his great relative Sir Walter Bisset. The other event was the death—but whether before or after the other is differently stated by different authors—of her mother's brother, John le Scot, Earl of Chester, by poison, when about setting out for the Holy Land. Would it be surprising that in an age of religious foundations, when the building of a church or an abbey was the accustomed mode of expressing strong feeling, the mind of Dervorgille, wealthy, susceptible, unmarried, should take that direction, and that she should now found her abbeys of Dumfries and Dundee.

The monastery of Dumfries was founded for Franciscan or Grey Friars or Friars Minors as they were variously called—an order of monks which had come into this country a

short time previous, and were quickly followed by the Dominicans or Black Friars.

They had eventually eight convents in Scotland, of which Dumfries is reckoned by Spottiswood the third, the first two being Berwick and Roxburgh, both of them under the wardenship or custody of Newcastle.

The existing church would naturally determine the site of the convent. Not that a church was a regular or even perhaps usual part of a monastery, which was normally but the residence of a fraternity of monks, whose function and mission was not to preach to any stated congregation, but to go from place to place and from house to house hearing confessions and speaking peace to the departing spirit, then returning to their convent with as many of the good things of life as they could collect or get the promise of. But notwithstanding, a church was an advantage, and in that light the church of the town would be regarded.

If this is a correct idea of the circumstances the buildings which the Lady Dervorgille actually erected would be the dormitory or sleeping apartments, the refectory or dining hall, a granary, cloisters, and the other usual conventual buildings. The whole, including the church, appears to have been enclosed by a wall with ports or gates at the thoroughfares.

The monks were mendicants. They professed poverty and received alms. But in order to secure to them a stated revenue, a bridge was erected—the old bridge of Dervorgille—and a power given to the convent to levy dues and customs on all goods and cattle passing, on condition of maintaining and upholding the bridge.

This grant of bridge dues shows very plainly the power which the Lords of Galloway exercised over the town—thus continued even after it became a royal burgh. For the effect of it was to give the convent a species of control over the ingress into the town, which with our present notions should be vested in the Town Council and in the Town Council alone.

By the erection of the bridge the town or village on the west became the Brig-end of Dumfries. This was the usual name for houses so situated, but the village was of old standing, and is now the populous burgh of Maxwelltown.

While all was yet quiet in the monastery and prosperous, John Duns Scotus, the subtle doctor, was here clothed with the habit of the order. So says Spottiswood in his "Religious Houses."* But others say it was at Newcastle, or by the friars of Newcastle. If Dumfries was like Berwick and Roxburgh in the wardenship of Newcastle, the discrepancy may be reconciled.

But events were now at hand, big with the fortunes of both the monastery and the kingdom.

In the summer of 1300 the ambitious Edward of England came to Dumfries, and lodged with the Friars Minors in the monastery. And in the course of the same year he received the papal bull which claimed Scotland for the Holy See. This complicated matters not a little.

The situation of Scotland was now most critical. It had almost ceased to be a separate and independent kingdom. Baliol's short reign was over, and having presumed to affect independence, he was after a humble submission to Edward and a humiliating feudal penance sent a prisoner to the Tower. The Scottish regalia and the ancient regal stone of Scone were lodged at Westminster. The brave Sir William Wallace was tried in mock state, executed, and dismembered as a traitor to England, which Tytler says was not true "as he never had sworn fealty to Edward."† The fortresses of the kingdom were in the hands of English governors. And Justiciars, in the nature of the English Justices of Assize, were appointed over Scotland, two of them sitting as it seems at this very moment in the castle of Dumfries, when an event occurred in the monastery the consequences of which subsist to this day in the position and character of Scotland. This was the death of the Red Comyn in the

* Spottiswood *Relig. Houses*, chap. 16, sec. 1.

† Tytler's *Scotland*, chap. 2.

church, and his uncle, Sir Robert, in the sacristy or vestry, on Thursday, 10th February, 1305-6.

The accounts of this affair have varied in some particulars from the very first, and appear even contradictory, arising from party representation and also the want of witnesses to the transaction. But the main facts are clear enough, and though well known we shall state them here for a reason which will afterwards appear.

Bruce and Comyn were heads of parties in the State, and also personal rivals as descendants from the daughters of David, Earl of Huntingdon, the younger brother of William the Lyon, whose line of succession to the throne had failed. And in the course of an altercation in the church of the monastery Bruce struck Comyn with his dagger. Lindsay and Kirkpatrick afterwards seeing Bruce *pale and agitated*, enquired the cause, when Bruce replied, *I doubt I have slain Comyn*. Doubt ye, said Kirkpatrick, I'se mak sicker, whereupon he and Lindsay ran in and despatched Comyn *still alive* at the high altar, and his uncle, Sir Robert, in the sacristy. From this it is plain that however desirable the death of either might be to the other, Bruce did not intend the death of Comyn. It was Lindsay and Kirkpatrick who made all sure. The die was now cast. The wretched discord which had been so baneful to Scotland was now hushed. And decision of conduct on the part of the survivor was imperative and indispensable. Before the end of the following month Bruce was crowned King of Scots.

On the 5th April, which was eight days after this, Edward, much enraged, made Aymer de Valance captain-general of the English forces in the North, and in the letter of appointment the death of Comyn is described from the English point of view. Robert de Brus (says the letter) sometime Earl of Carrick, in whose fidelity we (Edward) had placed entire confidence, disregarding his oath of homage and fealty, has with his abettors and supporters traitorously slain—*nequitur et proditorialiter interfecit*—John Comyn of

Badenoch and some others in the church of the Friars Minors at Dumfries.

This is the aspect of the case which the letter presents ; and many a sad day followed. But Bruce at length prevailed.

“ For Freedom’s battle, once begun,
Though baffled oft, is ever won.”

Religious, national, and party feeling now all concurred to desert the desecrated church of the Friars Minors for St. Michael’s in the neighbourhood—to which William de Carlyle, lord of Torthorwald, a near relative of Bruce’s, appears to have presented the fine bell which now rings in the Mid Steeple.

But the monastery still continued ; and when King James IV. came to Dumfries to attend the great justice ayre or circuit court held here in 1504, he gave the friars of Dumfries a gratuity of 14s., and in September of the next year he gave a like sum to the cruicket vicar of Dumfries that sang to the King at Lochmaben.* This cruicket vicar was perhaps the worthy who officiated in the church of the monastery.

The Reformation was now approaching. And after that event, on the 23d April 1569, the magistrates and community of Dumfries received from the Crown a grant of all the houses, gardens, possessions, and revenues which had belonged to the Grey Friars of Dumfries, under the old condition of upholding the bridge.†

This grant to Dumfries was after a similar grant to the town council of Edinburgh of the conventual properties in that city,—and there, in the garden of the Dominican Convent a school was erected, and in the Grey Friars’ grounds a church. We were not so fortunate here. Shops and houses were erected, and these perhaps not on any regular plan but as occasion served, the material of the old buildings affording also a convenient supply for the new.

* Treasurer’s Accounts ap. Pitcairn.

† Chalmers’ Caledonia, vol. 3, p. 136.

The church appears to have been still in existence in Arthur Johnston's time.

This learned Scotsman, and distinguished physician and poet, wrote some lines on each of the principal towns of Scotland. Unfortunately, like Buchanan, he wrote in Latin. The following are some of the very beautiful lines he wrote on Dumfries :—

“Surgit in hac ædes, cui cedunt templa Dianæ
 Vel venerabilius Græcia si quid habet.
 Proditor hîc patriæ Brussii virtute Cuminus
 Concidit et sacram sanguine tinxit humum.
 Scotia Drumfrisi, reliquis altaria præfer
 Hîc tibi libertas aurea parta fuit.”

“In this town may be seen a building to which the temples of Diana or whatever Greece can show more worthy of honour, must give place. For here the valiant Bruce struck down to the earth the traitor Comyn, whose blood soiled the holy ground. O Scotland, I prefer this spot in Dumfries to all others in the land : it was the birthplace of thy glorious liberty.”

In this passage we find the form into which tradition early moulded the story of Comyn's death. The gallant and generous Bruce, who shuddered to think he had mortally wounded Comyn, is here the stalwart champion of liberty, striking down the traitor to the ground, which is soiled with his blood. Posterity has approved the deed, idealized it, and consecrated the hero.

This result is obviously to be ascribed to the cruel and relentless way in which the English persecuted our great patriots, and the glorious success which Scotland at length achieved.

Let us now conclude with a short reference to the locality.

The area within which the monastery lay was perhaps from Mr Lennox's premises on the north to Mr Anderson's

on the south, and extending back to Irish Street and St. David Street on the west. Within this space we look for remains of the walls and old structures.

The most patent memorial remaining is the *Friars' Vennel*, which shelves down from the upper end of the High Street to the river, nearly opposite the old bridge of Devorgille; and about the middle of the Vennel, behind Mrs Arnott's shop, is *Comyn's Court*.

On the spot occupied by this shop was, it seems, to be seen, about the beginning of the present century, part of the *wall* of the monastery, with the remains of two arched *windows*. And on the other or south side of the Vennel, in Dove's, Grierson's, or the Crown Inn Close, is another piece of the monastery *wall*.

There is said to be a fragment of the original gate or *Port* of the Vennel in the gable of Mr Selkirk's house; and in the public-house opposite the large *chimney* of the kitchen connected with the monastery.

The *Church*, where the death took place, probably stood at the back of Mr Lennox's shop, and *Comyn's Court* may indicate the very spot.

THE LADY DEVORGILLA. By WILLIAM R. M'DIARMID, Dumfries.

THE South-west of Scotland has produced a number of eminent individuals, and in proof of this may be mentioned that an interesting pamphlet has recently been published devoted to the eminent men of Dumfries-shire alone. Doubtless these eminent men owed much to their mothers, but the mothers do not stand out individually, and the local list of eminent women is, I am afraid, a brief one.

There is one name, however, which may be safely claimed, though the place of the lady's birth is uncertain, the Lady Devorgilla, who, if not born in the South of Scotland, was

deeply interested therein, and was to it a great benefactress.

This noble lady, whose descent from the great Norman William the Conqueror can be easily traced, was the third daughter by his second wife of Alan, Lord of Galloway and Constable of Scotland. Alan, who lived in the end of the 12th and the beginning of the 13th century, was a member of that Norman aristocracy which over-ran England and the richer portion of Scotland, and with their tyranny introduced civilization. At this period, though England and Scotland were separate kingdoms, the aristocracy appear to have been common to both, and the two countries were more united than they were again until the Union in the time of Queen Anne. As an illustration of this it may be mentioned that Alan, Lord of Galloway and Constable of Scotland, was one of the great Barons of England to whom King John gave, or who extracted from him, the Magna Charta. In short, Alan in the 12th century occupied a similar position to that of the Duke of Sutherland or Buccleuch at the present day. There is ground for believing that in the days of Alan this district of Scotland was prosperous and advanced, but that it was thrown far back by the oppression of Edward the 1st, and the unfortunate wars arising from the disputed succession to the Scottish Crown.

Alan married for the second time in 1209 a daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, and this lady must have died before 1228 (there being no Divorce Court in these Catholic days), when he was married for the third time.

The Lady Devorgilla was the third child of the second marriage, and was born in 1213. Her father died in 1234, leaving three surviving children, all daughters, one born by his first wife and two by his second. The wild men of Galloway revolted at the idea of being ruled by females, and desired to be governed by a natural son of Alan, but after a long struggle the succession of the daughters was established. Devorgilla's full sister, Christian, married a son of the Earl of Albemarle, but as Christian died without issue, Devorgilla became her heir, and thus acquired two-thirds of her

father's estates. Devorgilla herself married John Baliol, who is by some described as Lord and by others as Sir. He is best known as having been the founder of Baliol College, in the University of Oxford, a work in which he was aided by his spouse, who moreover carried out his beneficent desires after his death. John Baliol died in 1269.

The Lady Devorgilla had previously borne her husband four sons and a daughter, but only the fourth son and a daughter survived her. She resided chiefly at Fotheringay, a seat of her grandfather the Earl of Huntingdon, in Northamptonshire, whence she was usually called the Lady of Fotheringay, but she retained a warm side, as the Scottish saying is, for this part of the country. She founded the Franciscan Monastery of Dumfries, Sweetheart Abbey in the Stewartry, and she built the bridge at Dumfries, a portion of which still spans the Nith. She also founded a Convent in Dundee.

Alan, Lord of Galloway, was buried in the Abbey Church of Dundrennan, but the Lady Devorgilla formed a burying-place for her own family at Sweetheart Abbey. She seems to have erected a new Church and Monastery on the site or in the vicinity of a former building, whence the name of Newabbey. Her husband Baliol was buried there in 1269, but she caused his heart to be embalmed and placed in an ivory box bound with enamelled silver, and this box she solemnly closed in the walls of the church near the high altar, whence was derived the name of Sweetheart Abbey.

The Lady Devorgilla died at Bernard Castle, a seat of her husband, in 1289, at the age of 76, and her remains were brought to Sweetheart Abbey, and interred in the same tomb that contained the ashes of her husband. The noble ruins of Sweetheart Abbey still remain, to charm the visitor and to attest the architectural skill of what are called the dark ages, but there is no trace, so far as I know, of the tomb of the lady to whose munificence we owe these stately walls. The ruins were partially repaired recently, and the ground floor levelled down to the base of the pillars, but no carved

stone or anything else remarkable was discovered. There are, however, three stones lying on the window sills of the parish church that adjoins the Abbey which appear to me to be worthy of more attention than has hitherto been bestowed upon them. They were found among the ruins some years ago, and are said to be the foundation stone of the Abbey. With some hesitation I venture to suggest that they may have formed part of this double tomb. On one of the stones may be traced without difficulty the latter letters of the name Devorgilla, and the word fundatrix; on the second is what seems to be the date 1280, but as a portion of the stone is broken away, it is not improbable that the original date was 1289, the year in which Lady Devorgilla died. The inscription on the third stone I have not been able to decipher. I have submitted a copy of it to Mr Starke, who supposes the first part to be *Marito viro illustri*, that is, To my husband, illustrious man. This may be part of the inscription on the tomb when it was occupied by Baliol. The 1289 would be added after the interment of Devorgilla, with whom is said to have been buried the heart of her husband. That there were inscriptions on the tomb is known, for there is record of an elegy for Devorgilla composed by Hugh de Burgh, the Prior of Lanercroft, which was inscribed on the tomb. It is as follows:—

In Devorvilla moritur unsata Sibilla,
 Cum Marthaque pia, contemplativa Maria,
 Da Dervorville requie, rex summe potiri,
 Quam tegit iste lapis, cor pariterque viri.

In Dervorgil, a sybil sage doth die, as
 Mary contemplative, as Martha pious;
 To her, oh deign, high King, rest to impart,
 Whom this stone covers with her husband's heart.

The son who survived Devorgilla was John Baliol, the competitor for the crown of Scotland, to which he succeeded

through his maternal grandmother, the daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, and wife of Alan, lord of Galloway.

The daughter, who was named Marjory, was married to John Comyn, lord of Badenoch, and her son was murdered by Bruce in the church of the Franciscan Monastery in Dumfries, an edifice that owed its erection to the piety of his grandmother.

HOW QUACKERY WAS TREATED IN DUMFRIES IN 1739. By
WILLIAM R. M'DIARMID, Dumfries.

AT a meeting of the Dumfries Town Council on the 8th of October 1739, a complaint was produced from Elizabeth Moffat, Indweller in the Burgh, against Nicholas Holding, residenter there, representing that she having applied to him to cure her arm and that by his mismanagement the same was spoiled and which obliged her to apply to Surgeons to get the same cut off; which they having done upon Saturday last and therefore craved that he might be brought before the Council to answer to this complaint. The Magistrates and Council having sent for the said Nicholas Holding and examined him and the surgeons employed by the said Elizabeth Moffat, it appears that by the said Nicholas his mismanagement and taking upon him to practise surgery though he never had education for that business and that he had no credentials to show of his good behaviour or having served any apprenticeship; That the said Elizabeth Moffat is not yet out of danger, Therefore the Magistrates and Council unanimously ordain the said Nicholas Holding to be imprisoned in the Tolbooth of this burgh until he find sufficient caution *Judicio Sisti et Jus Judicatum solvi* and appoint Mr Ebenezer Gilchrist, Physician, in this Burgh, Joseph and William Johnstons and Thomas Morrison, Surgeons, in the said Burgh or any two of them to examine and take trial of the said Nicholas Holding his ability and qualifications for

practising in Surgery and to make report thereof in writing to the Magistrates.

On the 15th of October there was produced and given in to the Council a certificate under the hands of Dr Ebenezer Gilchrist, William and Joseph Johnstons, Thomas Gordon and Thomas Morrison, Chyrurgeons, bearing that they having by appointment of the Magistrates and Town Council of this burgh examined Nicholas Holding indweller there with respect to his knowledge in Physick and Surgerie which he has for some time past assumed to practise in this town and country adjacent they found him entirely destitute of the least knowledge necessary to the practice of those arts besides being highly illiterat never having served any apprenticeship or had opportunity otherwise to qualify him for practice in either of the foresaid arts and therefore gave it as their opinion that he is not only highly unfit but dangerous to be trusted with the health or lives of mankind which certificate is dated the 10th of October. Which report with the petition given in by Elizabeth Moffat and a petition given in this day by the said Nicholas Holding representing that he ought to have been called when the dressing of the said Elizabeth Moffat's arm was quarrelled by the surgeons and at that time might have probably given them a satisfactory answer for after his first dressing the said arm the same had been loosed by persons of no manner of skill or experience at least poultises and plaisters of their own contriving laid thereto for several days which had occasioned the spoyling of the arm if it was spoiled and probably he might have prevented cutting of the same and though he had no extraordinary learning yet it was known that a person of long experience and practise had performed cures as well as a learned surgeon and which was the case with him as appeared by certificates therewith produced.

Being considered by the said Magistrates and Council with the foresaid pretended certificates subscribed by some poor people in this burgh and others unknown to the Magistrates and Council and the said Nicholas Holding being

called and examined with respect to his having any right or privilege of residence in this Burgh or to follow any trade as a surgeon or in adhibiting medicines to people within the same which he acknowledged he had not. The Magistrates and Council find that the said Nicholas Holding has no right or privilege to reside in this Burgh or to follow any trade or business therein and that he has been in use for some time past to practise in Physic and Chyrurgerie in this place though it appears to the Magistrates and Council that he has had no education for these employments nor can give any account of any skill or knowledge therein : And the said Magistrates and Council considering how dangerous it is to the inhabitants of this Burgh and country adjacent to be imposed upon by the said Nicholas Holding in his going on to practise in Chyrurgery and Physick which may lead to endangering the health and taking away the lives of many people. They therefore appoint and ordain the said Nicholas Holding to remove himself and family furth and from this burgh, liberty and privileges thereof betwixt the date hereof and the term of Martinmas next and never to have any residence therein from and after that term without express allowance from the Magistrates and Council and have discharged the said Nicholas Holding to adhibit any medicines or practice in any part of Chyrurgerie or Physic within this burgh after this date under the penalty of One Hundred pounds Scots payable to the Treasurer of this Burgh and of being summarily seized and apprehended by the Burrow officers or any inhabitants and incarcerat by warrant from any of the Magistrates till payment of the said penalty and until he find sufficient caution acted in the burrow courts to remove himself and family and not to return and to desist from practising in Physick and Chyrurgerie within the same in all time coming, and reserving always action to the said Elizabeth Moffat against the said Nicholas Holding for her damage and expenses.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE DUMFRIES TOWN
COUNCIL. By W. R. M'DIARMID.

November, 1653. On this date the Magistrates and Council with consent of the community passed an act for taxing malt for the relief of the widows and orphans of those who were killed in the wars.

July, 1657. The Council ordained that, in consequence of great abuses from excessive numbers of persons attending bridals and baptisms, not more than 12 persons were to be present at the latter or 24 at the former under certain penalties: the fines for excessive bridals to be paid one-half by the bridegroom and one-half by the innkeeper in whose house the bridal had been held.

November, 1659. The common lands of the Burgh were set for a year from Martinmas at 1000 merks Scots; the Bridge dues for 2000 merks; and the dues of the other three ports at 525 merks.

Same date. Bailie Cunningham was appointed to meet the Earl of Nithsdale anent the ground before the Castle.

March, 1660. The Council finding that some of the inhabitants send their children to other schools than the High School ordain all but especially lads to be sent to the High School. Parents abstracting a manchild from the High School to be fined 5 merks and the teacher who receives such child to be fined the same sum.

11 February, 1661. The Council considering the dearth of wine in the burgh ordain all vintners to sell their French wines for 5 groats a pint under penalty if they charge more of 10 merks Scots. Thomas Irving eldest Bailie protested against this as being against all order for the council to interfere in the sale of foreign goods.

3d December, 1661. The Council prohibit the sending any tallow out of the burgh as all can be sold within: candles are not to be sold above 5s. per lb.

2d April, 1662. James Dickson was fined 30 shillings for coming out of prison without leave.

September, 1662. Bailie Irving was appointed to attend the election of the Deacons of Trade and see that they acknowledged his Majesty according to act of Parliament.

29th October, 1662. The Council, considering that the Earl of Middleton, his Majesty's Commissioner for this part of the Kingdom, had discharged Mr Smyth Henderson from preaching in the Burgh because he would not conform to the government of the Kirk as by law established, from their strong affection and desire that he be continued Minister in this burgh, proceeded all in a body to entreat him to conform. This appeal was not successful and the Council entreat the King's Commissioner to appoint Mr James Chalmers, Minister at Collin, to preach until the Burgh be provided with a Minister.

10 November, 1662. Notwithstanding notice was given to all the inhabitants to frequent the sermons upon the Lord's day yet divers persons to the great scandal of the gospel and breach of the Sabbath day have most contemptuously absented themselves from the Kirk for the last two sabbaths and either stayed at home or travelled up and down the country during divine service; it is enacted that every master and mistress of a family in Dumfries on Saturday night and in health shall attend the Kirk of this Burgh on the Sabbath day or pay for each person absent the fine of 40 shillings Scots.

17 November, 1662. Bailie Irvine was appointed to go to Edinburgh and supplicate my Lord the Commissioner to appoint James Chalmers Minister without further delay to reclaim the people from principles of rebellion. Those who had been guilty of breach of the sabbath day who confess their fault and promise not to repeat it are ordained to be discharged from the fine. A declaration was taken to this effect and a promise made not to go to other kirks in the country by William Wallace and four others.

NOTES ON A FEW OF THE RARE LEPIDOPTERA OBSERVED IN
THE VICINITY OF DUMFRIES. By WILLIAM LENNON.

ON a former occasion I had the pleasure of preparing a small paper, which was read to the Society last winter, on a few of the rare Lepidoptera of this district. In that paper particular mention was made of a rare Butterfly, scientifically called "*Thecla Quercus*," which I had the satisfaction of finding in Comlongan Wood. This year I was fortunate enough to find it in quite a new locality, and one much nearer home, namely, at Dalscairth. I found it on the 28th of July last, when I was beating the oaks for larvæ. Stainton, in his Manual of British Butterflies and Moths, says that it is generally distributed in the south, and occurs in the north of England. I wrote to one or two entomologists in Cumberland and Westmoreland, but not one of them had ever taken it, or ever heard of its capture in any of their respective localities, so that the fact of finding it at Comlongan and also at Dalscairth makes it the more interesting.

The next rarity of the season is "*Notodonta dictæa*." This Moth belongs to an order of insects called the "*Bombycina*." The Germans call them the Spinners, because it is to this order of insects that the silkworm belongs. There are only twelve families represented in Britain. "*Notodonta dictæa*," or the "Swallow Prominent," is by no means a common insect, although it takes a very wide range, and is found sparingly in most parts of England. Stainton cites Edinburgh as the only place of its capture in Scotland. The moth appears in May and July. The caterpillar is of a greenish white, with a yellow stripe on each side. It feeds on the poplar, and is full-fed in October. I took about twenty larva in the grounds of the Crichton Institution, which are now in pupa state.

Notodonta dictæoides (or the Lesser Swallow Prominent) very closely resemble the preceding, but is generally a little darker, more especially on the hind wings. The moth appears in May and June. The caterpillar is deep brown,

with a broad yellow band on each side, and in some lights extremely glossy. It feeds on the birch, and is full-fed in October. Stainton also cites Edinburgh as the only place of its capture in Scotland. I found four of the larva this season in the grounds of the Crichton Institution.

The next order of insects belong to what are called the Geometrina. They are so called from their peculiar mode of walking when in the larva state. This makes them appear as if they were measuring the earth: for this reason the larva are commonly called Loopers. The larva have only ten legs, which appears to be the reason of their peculiar mode of progression, for, having no legs under the middle part of their body, they grasp the plant on which they are walking firmly with their fore legs, and then bring the hind legs up close to the fore legs, curving or looping the body, thereby producing nearly a full circle.

Tephrosia crepuscularia (Small Engrailed). This is by no means a common insect. Stainton does not cite Scotland at all. The Rev. F. O. Morris cites Glasgow as the only place of its capture in Scotland. I took it at Dalscairth in May last. The situations in which it is generally found are in fir woods, where it is generally seen at rest on the trunks of trees in the day time. The caterpillar is said to feed on the larch.

The *Geometra papilionaria* (Large Emerald) is another of this year's capture, and is one of the handsomest of the small-bodied moths, being of a brilliant grass or emerald green, but unfortunately the brightness of the colour soon fades. The specimens generally seen in collections exhibit but a faint tinge of its former colour. The caterpillar is green, with humps on the second, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth segments. The humps are all tipped with red, and a small red dorsal line on the tenth to the twelfth segment. Stainton cites Dumbartonshire and Renfrewshire as the only Scotch localities. The moth appears in July. The larva feeds on the birch. I took six larva near Douievale, and four near Tinwald Downs.

The next rarity of the season is *Venusia cambricaria* (Welsh Wave). This insect at one time was so very rare that few collections could boast of it. Of late years it has been found in several English localities. Stainton gives no record of its capture in Scotland. The Rev. F. O. Morris cites Arran and Ben Nevis as the only Scotch localities. I took it at Dalscairth in July last. The larva is unknown.

Scotosia undulata is another insect that may be considered rare. The regular undulating transverse stripes, which have suggested its specific name, are very beautiful. I took one at Tinwald Downs, and one near Dalscairth. It very seldom happens that more than one is taken during a season in the same locality. They are almost always taken singly. The moth appears in June. The caterpillar is said to feed on willow.

Cilix spinula is a very beautiful little moth. It was formerly considered rare, but it has recently been found near Manchester, Brighton, and the Cotswold district. Stainton gives no record of it further north than Newcastle. I found it near Dalscone in July last. It is generally seen gambolling about in wet and boggy places in the gloaming. The caterpillar is of a bright green, with a row of red dorsal spots; its head of a reddish hue. The caterpillar feeds on the sloe and the wild cherry.

Melanippa hastata (Argent and Sable) is a very pretty insect, and is rather rare but widely distributed. Stainton cites Dunoon, Arran, and Ben Lomond. I found it at Tinwald Downs, Dalscairth, and in Lochar Moss, near Barnkin. The caterpillar is cinnamon brown or black brown, with the dorsal line dark brown; spiracular line formed of a series of horseshoe-shaped yellow spots. It is said to feed on the birch. I found the larva feeding on bog myrtle. The moth appears in June and July.

Carsia imbutata (Treble Bar) is a very local species, and formerly taken occasionally in heathy places in the north of England, and also at Dunoon. Of late years it has been found in some abundance in Chatmoss, near Manchester.

The Manchester collectors were so elated with their success that they named it the Manchester Treble Bar. I don't see why we should not name it the Dumfries Treble Bar, seeing that we have it in our own locality, namely, at Tinwald Downs, where I myself found it in July last. I have not been able as yet to see the larva, so that I cannot speak of it at this time. It is said to feed on *Vaccinium myrtillus* or bilberry.

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE BOTANY OF COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK. By the Rev. JAMES FRASER, Colvend.

Read 2d February, 1864.

WHAT I have undertaken to-night, at the suggestion of our excellent Vice-Preses, Dr Gilchrist, is to give you some brief account of the botany of Colvend. I was not long settled in Colvend till I found that it was peculiarly rich in botanical treasures; that it was richer than any parish or district of the same extent which I had ever had an opportunity of botanizing. If we except those districts in which from the elevation of the mountains contained within them, a truly Alpine flora is to be met with, I question if there are many districts in Scotland of similar extent in which a greater variety and number of rare and interesting plants can be found. And the reason is that Colvend contains within itself great and marked varieties of land and water. It is naturally rugged and broken, a condition always favourable to the growth, and preservation within its nooks and glens, of plants, which left to grow in the field or by the roadside would soon be rooted up or trodden down. It is intersected and bounded by hills, none, it is true, of any great elevation,—Laggan Hill, the most central, is about 900 feet high, and Boreland Hill, which separates Southwick from Kirkbean and Newabbey, is about 1,100 feet. On hills of this height, of course, we can neither have an *Alpine*

nor a *sub-Alpine flora*, but we have several plants of considerable interest to botanists. But what chiefly gives Colvend its character botanically is its lochs and its seashore. At one time there were in Colvend some ten or eleven lochs of different sizes, several of which have been drained for agricultural reasons ;—but there are still six lochs undrained, or only partially drained ;—and in these are to be found all the ordinary, and not a few of the rarer Lacustrine plants. Then Colvend has a long and varied outline of sea coast, stretching from the mouth of the Urr, near the village of the Scaur, round by the Castle Hill, and Millstone Quarry, Glenstocking, Port o' Warren and Whitehill, Portling, Torr and Douglas Hall Heughs, on to Lot's Wife and Southwick Burn ; consisting of high and precipitous cliffs, of deep fissures and caverns,—of a shore, composed in one place of mud or clay, in another of sand and broken shells ;—thus furnishing the conditions favourable to the growth of maritime plants of different habits. A variety of hill, and lake, and shore such as that which Colvend contains within itself, I think, is not often to be met with ;—and corresponding to the variety of situation is the variety of plants which we find scattered over the length and breadth of the parish, embracing at once the plants of the north and of the south. Before I became acquainted with Colvend, now nineteen years ago, I had resided mostly on the east coast of Scotland, or in the highlands of Invernesshire,—and with the plants of those localities I was more particularly acquainted. When I came to the south therefore, or rather to the south-west, I was delighted to find a flora to me almost new ; and hardly a year has elapsed in which I have not had the pleasure of discovering something which I had not met with before, or something which, if not new to me, was new to me in Colvend ;—and I have no doubt that there are many things yet undiscovered, which would repay a careful search in the different months of the year.—And this leads me to remark, that it is not by any single excursion into a district that the botany of that district can be known ; but by a residence on

the spot, and a frequent and careful examination of its localities. When a person takes a hasty run through a part of a country, as some of you gentlemen did last summer through Colvend, he is perhaps disappointed that he meets with so few rare or uncommon plants. He must remember, however, that, in examining a district for a first, or even for a second or third time, there are many plants which will not be in flower at that particular season,—and also, that it is possible to reach only one or two of the localities in a single excursion.—This leads to a suggestion, and it is this, that if ever we arrive at a full and correct flora of the province of Galloway, *i.e.*, of Dumfriesshire and the two Galloways included, we must have full and accurate lists of the plants found in the various districts and localities, furnished by botanists resident on the spot. And no greater boon can be conferred on this society by its members resident in the three counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Wigtown, than to send in to the Society lists of the plants found in their several neighbourhoods, with dried specimens for the sake of verification and comparison,—with sufficiently exact descriptions of the habitats of the rarer plants for the guidance of future botanists. In this way only can we hope to have at some period not remote, what many counties and provinces have, a complete flora of the plants of a district, which is, I believe, second in interest to none in the kingdom.—As a small instalment from a limited field, I beg now to submit to you a list of the principal plants found in the united parish of Colvend and Southwick, all of which, with one or two exceptions, I myself have gathered, and have seen growing in the stations named. I hope to add dried specimens of the plants themselves at some future meeting.

PLANTS FOUND BY THE SEASIDE, EITHER ON THE ROCKS
OR ON THE SEASHORE.

Apium graveoleus—Salt Marsh, or Merse as the people call it. Near the Needle's-Eye. Origin of our garden celery. Rather uncommon in Scotland.

- Asplenium maritimum*. Rocks and caves from Douglas Hall all round the coast.
- Astragalus glycyphyllus*. Millstone Quarry and Blackneuk. Rather rare.
- Blysmus rufus*. Seashore, Glenluffin.
- Carex extensa*. On the muddy portions of the seashore all round from Glenluffin to Southwick burn. A rare carex.
- Carex distans*. In similar, but drier and more sandy situations. Also a rare carex, although some botanists have thought it a maritime state of the well-known *Carex binervis*.
- Crithmum maritimum*, or Sea Samphire, which begins on the rocks at Douglas Hall, and is continued all round the coast to Colzean Castle, Ayrshire, but is found in no other part of Scotland. It is plentiful in the south of England.
- Eryngium maritimum*—Sea Holly. Sandy seashore at Saltflats, Millstone Quarry, and Douglas Hall bay: but almost extirpated by summer visitors. Found in great abundance on the Kirkbean shore, near Saturness.
- Glaucium luteum*—Horned Sea Poppy. Saltflats and Port o' Warren.
- Juncus maritimus*. Mouths of the Urr and Southwick Burn.
- Primula veris*. } Together at Douglas Hall Bay, near the
 ——— *elatior*. } Burn.
- Ráphanus maritimus*—Sea Radish. Rocks and cliffs around Port o' Warren. One of the rarest and most peculiar plants of the shore.
- Ruppia maritima*. Salt marshes at Douglas Hall Bay and near the Needle's-Eye.
- Rubus suberectus*. } Seashore near Portling.
 ——— *cæsius*. }
- Samolus valerandi*—Brook-weed. Plentiful along the coast.
- Salicornia herbacea*—Glasswort. Plentiful at the mouth of Southwick Burn.

- Armeria maritima*—Thrift or Sea Pink. Common.
Statice Limonium—Sea Lavender. Muddy seashore at
 Portling. This is rare in Scotland.
Zostera marina. Between Saltflats and Rough-Isle.

PLANTS FOUND IN THE LOCHS, MARSHES, AND MOSSES OF
 COLVEND.

- Anagallis tenella*. In marshy places near the sea.
Carum verticillatum—Whorled Caraway. Plentiful in wet
 meadows. This is very rare in England.
Drosera rotundifolia. Marshes. Common.
Drosera longifolia. Sides of Ironhash Loch and some other
 lochs and marshes. Less common than the former.
Equisetum hyemale. Near Barnbarroch school.
Hypericum elodes. Various marshes and ditches. This is
 one of the rarest and most peculiar of the hypericums.
 It is not found anywhere on the east coast of Scotland.
Isoetes lacustris—Quill-wort. Bottom of Manse Loch. Dis-
 covered for the first time in 1864.
Litorella lacustris. Sides of Manse Loch.
Lobellia Dortmanna. Sides of Manse Loch.
Lycopus europæus. Marshy ground near the Manse and at
 Lochhouse.
Nymphæa alba. } Lochs. Abundant.
Nuphar lutea. }
Osmunda regalis. Side of Manse Loch and in one or two
 other localities, but nearly extirpated.
Parnassia palustris. Abundant.
Rhynchospora alba. Bog opposite Auchenlosh on Drum-
 stinchall.
Scutellaria galericulata. Sides of lochs and seashore among
 stones.
Scutellaria minor. Bog behind Murbroy. Very rare.
Salix pentandra. Near Torr, &c.
Schænus nigricaus. Boggy ground near the Scaur, on the
 Mark Hill.
Typha latifolia. Gallihorn Loch. Common.

- Typha angustifolia*. Manse Loch. Rare.
Utricularia minor. Meiklecloak Moss, &c.
Vaccinium Oxycoccus and *Vitis idæa*. Bogs.

PLANTS ON THE HILLS, IN THE FIELDS, &c.

- Allium vineale*. Rocky ground near the sea.
Alsine verna or *Arenaria verna*. Found for the first time on Torr Heugh in 1864 by Dr Latham. A most interesting discovery, being the first time found on the west coast.
Arenaria verna. Found by Mr Peter Gray in the same situation ten or twelve years ago.
Allosorus crispus. Among rocky debris on the south slope of Whitehill, and in other places in Southwick.
Botrychium lunaria. On the glebe, Colvend, and over the hills frequently.
Betonica officinalis. Sea cliff east of Glenstocking. Rare.
Carlina vulgaris. Hilly pastures.
Convolvulus sepium. Millbank farm.
Corydalis claviculata. Many places.
Eupatorium cannabinum. Frequent.
Genista anglica. Roadside, Drumstinchall Moor. Common.
Hypericum perforatum. Heugh of Laggan.
 ——— *humifusum*. Dry pastures.
Habenaria viridis. Hilly pastures.
 ——— *albida*. Do. Less Common.
 ——— *bifolia*. By the burnside in a wood above Barn-hourie Mill.
Jasione montana—Sheep's-bit. In dry hilly pastures. This is almost unknown on the east coast.
Lithospermum officinale. On the roadside opposite Broad-yards. A very uncommon and singular plant.
Lychnis viscaria. Cliffs near Port o' Warren, and on Lot's Wife.
Lysimachia vulgaris. Side of Manse Loch.
Ornithopus perpusillus. On rocky and stony places frequent. A curious plant, with its seed pods resembling

a bird's claw. Uncommon on the east coast.

Pyrola minor. Fir wood on Barnhourie.

——— *media.* Found flowering beautifully on the southern slope of Whitehill by Mrs Latham some years ago.

Sedum anglicum. Common.

——— *acre.* Blackneuk, &c., but not abundant on the west coast.

Viola lutea. Hills near Barnbarroch.

Ulex nanus. Abundant on the hills.

There are found in the parish 18 Ferns indigenous.

Of the Mosses, Lichens, Algæ, and Fungi I cannot speak, as I am not acquainted with these divisions or departments, but I have no doubt that in some of them the parish of Colvend will be found to be equally rich.

NOTES ON BIRDS. TAKEN IN 1864, AT MOUNTAINHALL,
A MILE EAST FROM DUMFRIES. By THOMAS AIRD.

I AM not a naturalist, in the usual sense of the term ; but I take a living interest in the characters, habits, and fortunes of my country neighbours, the birds. From Loch Skene and the high Moffat range, down to the shores of the Solway, where we have a fair proportion of the sea-birds, Dumfriesshire, being well varied of cultivated fields, pastoral solitudes, hills and valleys, woodlands and rivers, moors and mosses, has a correspondingly varied wealth of birds. New discoveries of a decisive kind are hardly now to be expected, still fresh points may be found out from time to time. For instance, we have ascertained in this district lately that the Siskin, which was long thought by naturalists not to breed in this country at all, breeds in that large fir wood at Dalswinton and in the woods of Shambelly. Light is still to be thrown on other points of the kind ; and it is one function of our

Society to give an impulse to that spirit of observation from which such light is to be drawn. I would, therefore, call on other unscientific members like myself, who can yet use their eyes, not to be backward in giving us their simple notes of fact.

At Mountainhall, where we have a small shrubbery, an old-fashioned bushy garden, some fine old trees, and two or three fields in grass, with hedge-row trees, we have a fair number of the birds common in Scotland.—The **MAGPIE** has left us of late years. Or rather, I ought to say, it is almost exterminated in this district by the cruel zeal of gamekeepers. I am surprised that our proprietors allow such a style of warfare to be waged against some of our finest species of birds.—The **TREE LARK**. In a small grass field, much shaded with trees, and sloping down to a marshy bottom—in the neighbourhood of Mountainhall—I notice occasionally what Bewick calls the Tree Lark. I am disposed to think, however, that that peculiar raising of the wings and fan-like spreading of the tail, as it descends from its short upward flight and song, which he considers a distinctive characteristic, is a mere sexual affection at a certain season.—The **MISSEL THRUSH** is multiplying with us yearly; and on fresh gusty days, in the end of December and beginning of January, we have it regularly in song. I think I have observed that this bird sits an unusually long time in hatching, but I am not prepared yet to lay this down as a fact.—The **COMMON SONG THRUSH**, after its breeding time is over, disappears from Mountainhall. Invariably, however, I find it back in our garden in autumn, in the drills of the potato plots, where, I presume, it gets small slugs, worms, and insects to its particular liking at that season. It disappears from us again, and is away all winter—where, I cannot tell.—The **COMMON GULL** walks our grass fields, in the end of August and beginning of September, every year regularly, for a fortnight or so. It is there not only for worms and grubs, but mainly, I think, for the crane-fly (commonly called daddy-long-legs), which is found in autumn in great numbers

entangled in the tufts of grass.—We are at a considerable distance from the river, and have no burns near us, and so the WAGTAIL does not breed at Mountainhall; but every September, without fail, we have numbers of them running about the slate and stone roofs. I fancy they get young spiders there and then. The Pied Wagtail, like the Thrush, is seldom seen with us in winter. These partial migrations of our common birds are very obscure. I see the Yellow Wagtail sometimes in spring, about the corners of fields of young corn; but it is rare about Dumfries. The Grey Wagtail, from having a good deal of yellow about it, is often mistaken for the Yellow Wagtail.—Of the migratory birds we have an average number. The Blackcap and Redstart visit us occasionally, but do not breed at Mountainhall. Our northern friends, the Fieldfare and Redwing, come to us about the middle of October. Some naturalists hold that the Redwing comes a little before the Fieldfare, but I have not been able to detect this. Redwings are few in number compared with the Fieldfares; and, when the full rigour of our winter comes, they are seen to be much softer birds: many of them get detached from the main flock, which they seem unable to follow, and make their way to warmer places, near the habitations of men. In severe weather, I have often seen them distressed and weak in the low Dock meadow at Dumfries. I have made special reference to the Fieldfares, chiefly for the sake of venturing to state as a fact that, for two or three years bypast, they have stayed with us later in the spring than usual: nay, the flock has been with us in May. What instinct as to weather, here or in their own high latitudes, has caused this delay of departure, may be easily guessed at, but is not so easily determined. Of the Spotted Flycatcher, never more than one pair comes and breeds at Mountainhall. Last summer our pair had two broods: this is contrary to the opinion of many naturalists. As our little visitant insists on building low down in some elbow of the strong hairy arms of the ivy clasping one or two of our old ash trees (for the ivy prefers

the ash), I have some difficulty in fencing the nest from cats by means of thorn and holly branches fastened round the root of the tree. The bird repays me with its picturesque movements in hunting its flies. What kind of flies it likes best, I have not yet found out; but it is obviously nice in its choice. A difference of flies and insects depends much on a difference of vegetation; vegetation depends much on soil, and soil on geological formation: and therefore the migrations of such birds as feed on insects and flies are so far regulated by rocky structure. Query—Is it possible to classify such migrations on a geological basis? To return to our Spotted Flycatcher: I have now to mention, in connection with the query just put, that I never saw the bird on a stiff clayey bottom. It is common enough on light, sandy, and especially gravelly soils.

THE STARLING.—“When I was four or five years old,” says Sir Walter Scott in his Diary for 1830, as given in Lockhart’s Life of Scott, “I was staying at Lessudden Place, “an old mansion, the abode of this Raeburn. A large “pigeon-house was almost destroyed by starlings, then a “common bird, though now seldom seen.” This statement by Scott, as to the prevalence of the Starling in that district and its disappearance therefrom, corresponds exactly with what my father used to tell me. When he was a boy in the village of Bowden, which is mid-way between Abbotsford and Lessudden, the Starlings were very numerous there, several of them building every year in the gable of an old barn belonging to our family. They left the place altogether; and during my own boyhood, the old barn being still there, I never saw a starling about Bowden, or even in that quarter of the country. Whether or not they are back to Bowden, I cannot say; but in autumn, last year, when I was on a visit at Bridgeheugh, about a couple of miles from Abbotsford, I saw a large flock of them, packed close in the very centre of a looser flock of rooks, making their way toward the Sunderlandhall woods. In harmony with all this, as to

the habits of the bird, I have now to add that when I went to live at Mountainhall, eight years ago, not a Starling was to be seen thereabouts ; but now they breed with us, and I see large flocks of them in our fields in autumn. Now, such sudden and sweeping changes of habitat are not governed by the usual laws of inner migration—that is, of migration from one part of the island to another. The gradual changes of tillage, modifying the supplies of food for the bird, cannot account for such violent changes of habitat. I myself have no way of accounting for them.

THE SWALLOW.—In reference to the Martin or Window Swallow, White of Selborne says :—“ Unless these birds are “ very short-lived indeed, or unless they don’t return to the “ district where they have been bred, they must undergo “ vast devastations somehow and somewhere ; for the birds “ that return yearly bear no manner of proportion to the “ birds that retire.” The same remarks are applicable to the House or Chimney Swallow. We send about twenty of them away from Mountainhall every autumn, and invariably only two pairs return to us next April. They breed twice, the latter broods being in the end of August or beginning of September. The young birds keep close in the nest till they are large and strong. Last autumn, and the autumn before, I pushed the younglings out of the nest, when I knew they were fully ripe, in order to see how they should take the air. They went high at once, and wheeled about with vigour and ease, leaving me no room to doubt their ability to take the passage to Africa on the 25th of September—which I have set down as the day when our Swallows leave Mountainhall. I am thus led to think that there is no weakness in the later broods to prevent their going with the rest ; and I believe they go accordingly. In all events, I have seen no indication of any lingerer about our place.

THE CHAFFINCH.—It is my first business, when I step out in the morning, to call on Robin ; and he comes and sits

on my hand, and eats his breakfast of oaten cake broken into crumbs. With all his habits of familiarity, it is not easy to get Robin to do this. We have also with us at Mountainhall a hen Chaffinch or Shilfa, whose tameness is even more peculiar than Bob's. She was bred close beside the house in 1863. All last winter, and especially in spring, when the natural food of birds gets scanty, she was very much about the door, and ventured often into the lobby. She was gradually brought to take food from the hand ; and when she was hatching, and came down to me from her nest, eager for supplies, I put the bit of cake in my mouth, and she flew straight to my face and took it. When her young were out, she took none of the cake to them in the nest, but fed them with the small green caterpillars from the leaves. When the fledglings had got to the garden, however, she followed me assiduously for the cake, hovering about my face till I got it into my mouth, and then made off with it to her young ones. I may remark here that oaten bread is preferred by the birds to every other kind : there is much flint in the oat for the bones, and the instinct of birds may like it accordingly. When her brood were dismissed to take charge of themselves, Tibbie (for such is the name we have given our little friend) continued to be very familiar with the people of the house ; and often, when I was leaning on the gate, the breadth of a field away from our avenue, she came and sat down on the gate beside me. Once, but only once, she allowed me to touch her with my forefinger. After a proper interval, she dressed up her old nest (not a very common thing), and brought out a second brood in it. About the middle of July, Tibbie began to be much away from us, yet visiting us from time to time. For the cake she seemed no longer to care : I suppose she was getting food in the fields which she liked better. I have seen the flock of Chaffinches repeatedly in our upper grounds ; and have noticed, in accordance with White of Selborne's observation, that the most of them are hens. One day lately, when I was by a bit of paling up in one of the fields, I saw Tibbie detach

herself from a flock of Finches on a high tree ; and down she sat on the paling close beside me. I offered her some small crumbs, but she declined them : her object was pure friendly recognition. After she had sat awhile, and I had bantered her for her faithlessness to the kind old door, she answered with a chirrup, and rejoined the sisterhood on the tree. Such is little Tibbie of Mountainhall. Now I myself never saw or heard of such habits in the Chaffinch before ; and I have thought them not unworthy of being recorded in the papers of our Society.