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THE TRANSACTIONS

AND

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY

Natural History & Antiquarian Society,



SESSION 1886-87.

PRINTED AT THE COURIER AND HERALD OFFICES, DUMFRIES.

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“ How charming is Divine Philosophy !
Not harsh, and crabbed, as dull souls suppose,
But musical as is Apollo’s lute,
And a perpetual feast of nectar’d sweets,
Where no crude surfeit reigns.”—*Milton*.

“ Is it not desirable to call the soul from the feverish agitation of worldly pursuits to the contemplation of the Divine Wisdom in the beautiful economy of Nature? Is it not a privilege to walk with God in the Garden of Creation, and hold converse with His Providence? . . . The more we study the works of the Creator, the more wisdom, beauty, and harmony become manifest, even to our limited apprehensions, and while we admire, it is impossible not to adore.”—*Sir J. E. Smith*.

SESSION 1887-88.



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PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY
NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY.

SESSION 1886-87.

1st October, 1886.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Dr GRIERSON, President, in the Chair. Twenty-three members present.

New Member—Mr W. J. Maxwell of Terraughtie, Dumfries.

Donations.—The Secretary laid on the table the 5th Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey; the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1884; Report of the Peabody Museum, 1885, as donations from the Smithsonian Institution; and two numbers of the *Phytologist* containing lists of local hepatics and mosses from Mr Peter Gray. A land-rail (*Crex pratensis*) from Mr W. J. Maxwell, Terregles Banks.

Exhibits.—Mr George Johnstone exhibited two pieces of the sandstone rock from Corsehill Quarry, near Annan, in the shape of a man's foot and leg, and remarked that they were of this shape when quarried. The Chairman explained that he believed these two curiously shaped stones to be the casts of plants, &c., formed at the time of the deposition of the rock by the removal of the original substance, the sand filling the vacant places. There were no characteristic markings to enable the determining of the species. The Chairman exhibited several specimens of the Cotton Moth, which had been sent him by Dr Grant Bey, of Cairo. This moth (*Earias Insulana*) was first discovered in Madagascar, and is known to be very destructive to the cotton

crops in the old world. He also exhibited several contorted stones resembling fishes, and said they were due to the same causes as the specimens exhibited by Mr Johnstone.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr J. Wilson) submitted the following report :—The Secretary's annual report for the session which has now closed may be considered of some importance, as it gives a general statement of the present Society's doings for the 10th year of its existence, and forms a good indicator of its life and utility.

At the Annual Meeting last year our membership numbered 190, comprising 5 life, 165 ordinary, and 20 honorary members. Since then 11 names have been taken off the roll—3 members having died, 1 resigned, and 7 removed from this district; and 34 new members' names have been added, which make a net total of 213, being the largest number on record, and now includes 5 life, 187 ordinary, and 21 honorary members.

In addition to the seven ordinary Winter Meetings and the five Field Meetings, four special ones have been held, at which lectures on subjects within the scope of the Society were given. At the ordinary Winter Meetings 15 papers by different members were read and discussed, the majority of which were confined to special subjects relating to the Society's field of action. These papers are of great practical value, and the writers thereof deserve commendation for thus advancing the aims of this Society by investigating the local antiquities, as well as recording the Flora and Fauna of the district. In addition to hearing papers read at these meetings, members had an opportunity of inspecting many rare exhibits, which formed an interesting feature in the programme. The five Field Meetings proved both instructive and enjoyable to the members and their friends who took part in them. One of these requires special notice, for on the 5th June a joint excursion of the *Scottish Natural History Club* and this Society was held at Lochmaben, at which there were more than 50 members present.

The average attendances at these meetings were 33·1 for the winter and 29·4 for the summer—the former being larger than last year's and the latter slightly under, those being 32·1 and 30·1 respectively. These figures may be regarded as very small considering the number of members in the Society, but owing to so

many living at a distance, the stormy weather, and numerous other meetings occurring on the same dates, they may be regarded in a favourable light.

There were eleven Committee meetings held during the session, all of which were well attended.

The Sub-Committee which had been appointed in session 1884-85 to make arrangements respecting the Presbytery House, completed their task to the Society's satisfaction. On the 2nd October, 1885, the Annual Meeting was held in this building, which the Society now holds on lease for 15 years at a nominal rent. In my last report I expressed the hope that the expense incurred would be defrayed without drawing on the ordinary funds of the Society. This hope would have been realised had the Committee confined their operations to the repairs, &c., proposed, but as the work proceeded, further improvements were made. It is, however, gratifying to know that £83 18s 6d has been raised by private subscriptions, and by adding the Presbytery's donation to this, the balance, as our treasurer will inform us, is not very large.

The Society's specimens, which had been deposited in the Observatory Museum, were removed to this building in January last. Since we purposed forming a collection of local specimens, the donations to this Society have been both important and numerous. It would occupy too much time to enumerate the different articles presented, and as they are all registered in the minute-book, the following notice may suffice. Special mention must be made of Captain Maxwell's donation of five British birds, a stoat, and a hedgehog, and a rarity from New Zealand, the ground parrot (*Stringops Habroptilus*), also his gift to the Library of Buller's History of the birds of New Zealand. The Smithsonian Institution has contributed most handsomely by presenting the annual report of that Institution, the Bureau of Ethnology, and two reports of the United States Geological Survey, &c., &c.; Mr Coles, V.P., presented a collection of land and fresh water shells and 110 specimens of flowering plants; Mr Sam. Chrystie, a collection of bird's eggs; Mr Robinson-Douglas has further presented the Journal of the Linnean Society; Major Bowden, 9 volumes of the Philosophical Journal; Mr Arthur Bennett, F.L.S., a collection of plants for distribution; Mrs Gilchrist, a collection of minerals, Greviella (41 parts), and 3 vols. of the Transactions of the Cheshire Historic Society; the

Glasgow Geological Society, its Transactions to date, and a Catalogue of the Western Scottish Fossils; Mr W. J. Maxwell, a fine specimen of the great buzzard.

The Society has made another valuable addition to its library by purchasing the Micrographic Dictionary, and to its Museum Timothy Pont's maps of Dumfriesshire and Galloway. It purchases "Science Gossip" and the "Scottish Naturalist" periodicals when published.

All the above books and periodicals have been freely circulated among the members, and the more important have been in use since the Society acquired them.

The Proceedings and Transactions of this Society have not yet been published, but they are ready for the printer when desirable.

I have already referred to the death of three members, but this report would be incomplete were I to allow the subject to pass without further notice. The first deceased was our late President, Dr Gilchrist, who had taken such an important part in the founding, not only of this Society in 1876, but of the older one in 1862, and through whose unwearied exertion and zeal, the present Society exists, and for the time, the older Society had its being. Although we miss Dr Gilchrist at our meetings, and especially the field meetings, we shall never forget the kind and encouraging words which he had for every beginner in natural history studies. Mr Adamson, a former treasurer of the Society, took an active part in its affairs since its formation, and when he presented the Annual Balance Sheet his humorous and pithy remarks were always appreciated by the members. Miss Chrystie, who was the first lady member, took a keen interest in Botany, and was always present at our meetings until her failing health rendered this impossible. In these three prominent members the Society has sustained a very severe loss.

On the motion of Mr Robert Murray, the report was cordially approved, and the Secretary awarded the thanks of the Society for his honorary services during the past year.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer (Mr J. Lennox) explained that owing to the large number of subscriptions being in arrear, the Committee had decided that his Annual Report be held over until the November

meeting, and in the meantime he was to employ a collector if it were the wish of the meeting. The Committee's proposal was agreed to.

Election of Office-bearers.—The following were elected the Office-bearers and Members of Committee for the ensuing Session :—President, Dr Grierson ; Vice-Presidents, Messrs J. G. H. Starke, James Barbour, F. R. Coles, and Major Bowden ; Honorary Secretary, Mr J. Wilson ; Assistant Secretary, Mr Robert Barbour ; Treasurer, Mr J. Lennox ; Members of Committee—Messrs W. M'Dowall, J. Rutherford, T. Watson, Robert Murray, J. Neilson, J. Davidson, A. Innes, T. Shortridge, J. W. Dods, and A. Bruce ; Auditor, Mr M. M'Innes.

Conversazione.—The Secretary intimated that the late committee had decided to hold the proposed *Conversazione* in Greyfriars' large hall on the 27th and 28th October, and submitted their recommendation for approval. It was unanimously adopted, and the new committee were empowered to make the necessary arrangements.

The remainder of the evening was occupied in general discussion on the nature of the *conversazione*, and the objects to be exhibited thereat.

27th, 28th, and 29th October, 1886.

EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition was held in Greyfriars' Halls on the above dates, and proved one of the most important and interesting events in the history of the Society.

A large collection of local objects of Archæology, Manuscripts, and Portraits was arranged in one half of the larger hall, and the other half was occupied with the Natural History exhibits, which comprised specimens of nearly all the flowering plants, ferns, and mosses, and a representative series of the lichens and fungi. The collections of minerals and rocks of the district were arranged in one corner, while the zoological specimens were fairly well represented. The meeting was opened at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, the 27th, by the President, Dr Grierson, in the unavoidable absence through indisposition of W. H. Maxwell, Esq. of Munches, and remained open until 10 P.M. On Thursday and Friday it was opened at 11 A.M. and closed at 10 P.M.

For full description of Exhibition see Appendix.

5th November, 1886.

Major BOWDEN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-eight members present.

New Members.—Messrs J. Carlyle Aitken, The Hill, Dumfries; J. Kerr, Blountfield; Wellwood Maxwell of Kirkennan, Dalbeattie; James Turner, Dumfries; and W. Costin, Maxwelltown.

Donations.—Mr Robert Murray presented on behalf of Miss Gracie, Buccleuch Street, six old coins; Mr Barbour, V.P., presented on behalf of Treasurer Hiddleston the old iron belt used in bringing the criminal David Haggart to Dumfries, and which had been recently found in a cellar in Assembly Street; Mr Barbour also presented on behalf of Mr John Bridges the top of the old Incorporated Trades flag-staff. The Secretary laid on the table an old flint pistol found at Rockhall, and presented by Mr John Kerr, Blountfield; a Roman copper coin found at Liverpool, the gift of Mr W. Henderson of that city; also a piece of bronze and two silver coins found at Midtown, Carlaverock, as a donation from Mr James Thomson.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer (Mr James Lennox) submitted his annual report for the past session, that had been postponed from the Annual Meeting, of which the following is an abstract:—

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance from Session		Purchase of Books ...	£2 6 6
1884-85	£19 19 5½	Stationery and Receipt	
Arrears recovered	2 7 6	Books... ..	1 2 6
173 Subscriptions at 2/6	21 12 6	Printing... ..	2 17 0
Entrance Fees	3 2 6	Pont's Maps	5 0 0
Sale of Transactions	0 2 6	Bird Stuffing	0 5 0
Interest on Bank Account	0 17 2	Secretary's Outlay	
		(Postage, &c.)	7 14 1
		Treasurer's Outlay	0 19 1
		Gas and Coals	0 15 8½
		Removal of Specimens	
		to Rooms	0 5 0
		Building Account	14 0 10
		Balance in hand at Annual	
		Meeting—	
		Cash in Bank, £7 0 0	
		Cash in hand, 5 15 11	
			12 15 11
			<hr/>
			£48 1 7½
			<hr/>
			£48 1 7½

“I have examined the books of the Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society, kept by the Treasurer, of which the above is an abstract, and I certify the whole to be correctly stated and properly vouched.

“(Signed) M. M'INNES, Auditor.”

The report was unanimously adopted, and the Treasurer awarded the thanks of the Society for his honorary services.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE CONVERSAZIONE.

The Secretary read a report prepared by the Committee on the recent conversazione, referring to articles exhibited, &c., and acknowledging their indebtedness to the many ladies and gentlemen who had rendered assistance. On the motion of Mr J. S. Thomson, the report was unanimously adopted, and the Committee thanked for their trouble, special reference being made to Mr J. Barbour, V.P., and to Mr J. Wilson, Hon. Secretary. The thanks of the Society were then awarded to the exhibitors, and to the ladies and gentlemen who had assisted with the arrangements, on the motion of Mr M'Dowall.

On the motion of the Secretary, it was agreed that the report be extended so as to include a description of the many exhibits, and that it be embodied in the next part of the Transactions. See Appendix.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I. *Local Ornithological Notes for 1886.* By Mr W. HASTINGS.

As far as my observation has gone with regard to our local birds, the most noteworthy incident is the immense sacrifice of life which took place among the swallow tribe shortly after their arrival in this country to spend the summer with us. After they had made their appearance in unusually large numbers, a tract of uncongenial cold weather set in which completely prevented the insects upon which the swallows subsist from stirring abroad, so that the poor birds were starved to death, and were picked up in great numbers throughout the country. I had a great many sent me from the district round about. The common or barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) was numerous; the house martin (*Hirundo urbana*) next; and the sand martin (*H. riparia*) fewest in numbers. The swift (*Cypselus apus*), fortunately for himself, did not arrive until more genial weather had set in. Such a mortality among the tribe has never occurred in my time. Early in the month of June I received a fine specimen of the male turtle dove (*Columba turtur*), shot in Tinwald, and later in the month a female of the same species shot in the neighbourhood of Kirkcudbright. The wild turtle is a migratory bird,

and is very irregular in making its appearance in this country, many years passing without one being seen or heard of here. Some years ago I had one sent me which had been shot in the neighbourhood of Sanquhar. In the month of June I had a male puffin or coulterneb (*Fratercula arctica*) sent me from the neighbourhood of Kirkcudbright. It breeds in great numbers upon Ailsa Craig. In the same month I received a fine specimen of the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*), trapped in Glencoe. It measured about three feet in length, and seven feet in the stretch of the wings. These birds are scarce now, even in their native Highlands. In September I received two oyster catchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*), which had been knocked down and killed, among a great many others, by a tremendous whirlwind that occurred upon the 5th of that month in the neighbourhood of the Brow Well. Many of the birds were dashed against a wire fence, and had their heads cut off almost as clean as if it had been done with a knife. Some of our small birds had their numbers sadly reduced by a severe winter we had some years ago; but they now seem as plentiful as ever. I may also add that in the month of August a curious specimen of the bat, taken in Troqueer parish, was sent to me. It resembles the common bat in its form and colour, but is a full third larger. I am not quite sure of its specific name.

II. *Notes on Local Botany for 1886.* By Dr A. DAVIDSON.

Last year when I had the honour of addressing you I hazarded the opinion that it was probably the last time I would be able to record anything new for this district, but I am happy to say I have again been so fortunate as to make a few new, and I trust, not unimportant additions to the Flora of Dumfriesshire. I almost require to apologise for making so small a record the basis of a paper, but your energetic secretary, rightly desiring all papers to be of local interest, would take no denial. So far as the theory of this principle was concerned, I entirely concurred with him, but I cannot say I quite agreed with the demand for a practical proof of my adherence.

The season has altogether been unfavourable for field botanists. The most severe of winters was followed by a cold spring and a tardy and inclement summer. The coltsfoot flowers opened their petals for a few days in the last week of March, only to close them beneath a fresh snowfall, and not till near the middle of

April were they again seen. The primroses first appeared on April 13; and four days later the first blossoming of the wood anemone, the butterbur, the barren strawberry, and the golden saxifrage were recorded.

The first record of a plant new to the county was made by Mr J. Black. When we were tramping Sanquhar Moor one May evening he plucked what seemed to be a very stout form of the common cotton grass, *Eriophorum angustifolium*. This on examination we considered to be the variety *elatins* Koch, and on referring to Mr Arthur Bennett it was confirmed. I subsequently found it in a few other places, but nowhere so abundant or typical as on Glenmaddie Craig, at an altitude of 1350 feet. Here also I may state I found *Draba verna* and *Cochlearia officinalis*, the former being at a higher altitude here than has, as far as I am aware, yet been recorded. The next in order of time was *Carex Hornschuchiana*, Hoppe, a var. of *fulva*, which is fairly abundant on the moist clayey soils of the higher hills. When this Society visited Lochmaben, two varieties of the creeping willow were gathered. The one was the common var. *S. argentea*; the other var., *S. ascendens*, is new to the district. A fescue I have previously recorded as *Festuca sciuroides*, Roth, I have now determined to be *Festuca Myurus*, Lin. It is not uncommon. The common corn mint, *Mentha arvensis*, so well known about Dumfries, has not been observed in Upper Nithsdale, but is sparingly represented by *Mentha arvensis*, var. *nummularia*. This season I have made special investigation of our Hieracia, or Hawk weeds, and I have no doubt, on fuller investigation, Dumfriesshire will compare favourably with most other counties. In our local list we have only seven species recorded, viz.:—*Hieracium Pilosella*, *H. pallidum*, *H. murorum*, *H. Iricum*, *H. sylvaticum*, *H. umbellatum*, and *H. boreale*. Of these *H. pallidum* has not been found in recent years. Of the remaining six, *Pilosella* and *boreale* are no doubt common. *H. murorum* and *H. sylvaticum*, as far as I have observed, are errors. *H. Iricum* and *umbellatum* are no doubt correct, though the latter must surely be found in other places than Tynron and Sanquhar. In Sanquhar district, of which I can only speak, the following are found:—*H. Pilosella* is common; *H. vulgatum* and *H. tridentatum*, likewise common, have in the local list been named *murorum* and *sylvaticum*. *H. vulgatum*, var. *maculatum*, is not uncommon in the woods near Sanquhar; and *H. umbellatum* grows on the Nith near Knocken-

jig; *H. crocatum* grows near Eliock Bridge along with *boreale*, which is, however, common elsewhere; *H. prenanthoides*, which I found this autumn on Carsrig Burn, is, with *crocatum*, two rare and interesting additions. The Myosotes, or forget-me-nots, are the only other critical species I have carefully observed, of which six are recorded for the county. Of these the early myosote, *Myosotis collina*, may be considered doubtful, and the marsh forget-me-not, *Myosotis palustris*, I have not yet seen. The field myosote, *M. arvensis*, and its var. *umbrosa*, as well as the yellow and blue forget-me-not, *Myosotis versicolor*, are all common. *Myosotis repens*, not previously recorded, is the most common form in the district; while *M. cæspitosa*, only reported from Grey Mare's tail, is fairly abundant in a few places near Sanquhar. *M. palustris*, var. *strigulosa*, found last year at Kirkbog, Thornhill, is also a new record. A large flowered albino variety of *Geum rivale*, the water aven, which some botanists have attempted to designate with the special title of *Geum palladium*, was found in the Holm Wood. A somewhat curious variety of *Poa nemoralis* with smooth glumes, discovered on Kello Water, was submitted to Mr A. Bennett, who considered it closely resembled the var. *glauantha*, a rare mountain form of this somewhat variable grass. I think it is similar to the forms of *Poa nemoralis* I have previously gathered on the rocks on the Nith, both at Sanquhar and Drumlanrig woods; but as I have at present no specimen of these with which to make comparison, I must leave its solution to a future season. Of plants new to the parishes of Sanquhar and Kirkconnel the following fall to be recorded: — *Lysimachia vulgaris*, Loosestrife, near Gateside; *Meum athamanticum*, literally covers part of the meadows on Scaur Water; the hemlock, *Conium maculatum*, and *Habenaria viridis*, have also been found. Among aquatics, besides the variety *panormitanus* of *Potamogeton pusillus*, previously recorded, the true *pusillus* has been found at Auchengruith and Kirkconnel, in the latter place accompanied by *P. heterophyllus*, not elsewhere found. On Kello Water the branched burweed, *Sparganium ramosum*, and the filmy fern, with *Vicia sylvatica*, the pencilled vetch and the rare wood vetch, *Vicia orobus*, have found suitable habitats. An exhausting ramble on Enterkin and both the Lowthers yielded results more negative than positive. The alpine club moss, *Lycopodium alpinum*, growing near the entrance to the Pass, and the modest *cowberry* in its plenteous profusion

on the slopes of the reposing Lowthers scarce redeem them from absolute sterility.

I had prior to writing this paper sent a list of plants unrecorded for Dumfriesshire to the "Scottish Naturalist," and those interested will there find nearly 120 additions, some of them, I daresay, well known. I found at that time, while looking over the Cybele Britannica, that therein are recorded a good few plants not yet entered in our local catalogue, and I will here enumerate them in the hope that some of you, either now or hereafter, may correct or verify the record. The authorities responsible for their insertion are only in some instances quoted, but I suppose they are all from the Gray catalogue, with a few exceptions, recorded by Messrs Liddell and Hutton. These are:—*Hutchinsia petraea*, *Reseda luteola*, *Subularia aquatica*, *Vicia tetrasperma*, *Potentilla Sibbaldia*, *Rubus fissus*, *l. affinis*, *R. radula*, *R. humifusus*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Lamium intermedium*, *Myosotes sylvaticum*, *Trientalis Europæa*, *Centunculus minimus*, *Plantago media*, *Atriplex patula*, *Atriplex erecta*, *Salsola Kali*, *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *Potamogeton lucens*, *Arum maculatum*, and *Avena pubescens*. Of these one-fourth are not uncommon, and have possibly been overlooked, but the remainder are rare and interesting, and I trust some member may ere long discover them.

3rd December, 1886.

Dr GRIERSON, President, in the chair. Thirty-four members present.

New Member.—Rev. Wm. Andson, Dumfries.

Donations.—The Secretary laid on the table a copy of the Chronicles of Lincluden, as a donation from the author, Mr W. M'Dowall. Mr J. Barbour, V.P., presented on behalf of the managers of the Martyrs' Free Church, Dumfries, three communion tokens, two of which are dated 1745, and the third 1780; also, on behalf of Mr John Wilson, Friars' Vennel, a Burgess ticket of the burgh of Annan, dated 19th July, 1701, and an interesting document containing a list of the tenants on the estate of the Earl of Nithsdale, from whom rents were to be collected, when that Earl escaped to France for participating in

the rebellion of 1745. Mr J. M'Andrew presented four specimens of *parmelia*, and a specimen of the dwarf birch (*Betula nana*). Mr J. M'Lellan Arnott presented one of the hand-bills which had been issued in 1820 offering a reward for the capture, and a description, of the notorious criminal, David Haggart.

Exhibits.—The Chairman exhibited two bottles of volcanic dust collected on board ship, about 500 miles from the coast of New Zealand, which had evidently been erupted during the recent great volcanic disturbances in that island. Dr Grierson also exhibited a specimen of the "Galloway Flail," and with it for comparison an ordinary flail. The Galloway flail had been formerly used by the peasantry of the South of Scotland as a weapon of war in "the killing times." The handle of the one exhibited was made of ash and measured five feet, to which was attached the "souple," or the iron portion of the flail, consisting of three joints, each a foot in length. Dr Grierson remarked that he could obtain very little information about this weapon further than it was mentioned by the Rev. Mr Grierson of Sanquhar, in his "Gleanings among the Mountains," as having been used by the Covenanters, and that Sir Walter Scott, in "The Talisman," described a military flail similar to this one.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I. *A Plant of Sphagnum.* By Mr J. M'ANDREW.

In this paper the author described the structure and life history of a plant of sphagnum, and remarked that no observant person could walk through or alongside any bog or moss, such as the Lochar Moss, without noting the variegated and beautiful tints of the sphagnum, or peat mosses, filling the pools, and concealing often the treacherous depths. The order *Sphagnaceæ* contains only one genus, *sphagnum*, with about 60 species, one-third of which are tropical, and only 15 or 16 are British. Of the latter the author has collected in the district of the Glenkens all the species except *S. Lindbergii*, and all the varieties except *S. Acutifolium*, var. *gracile*; *S. strictum*, var. *squarrosulum*; *S. squarrosulum*, vars. *laxum* and *imbricatum*; *S. intermedium*, var. *pulchrum*; *S. laricinum*, var. *platyphyllum*; and *S. tenellum*, var. *longifolium*. In conclusion Mr M'Andrew remarked that the nature of the soil does not seem to have any effect on the number of species and varieties. A dry or a wet season,

and the place of growth must, however, affect their development, density, and size. The colour must be the result of vital action. These colours perceptibly fade when the plants are dry. Almost all species have a tendency to run into two forms—one a dense compact variety caused by the shortening of the internodes, and the other variety having the branches and leaves bent down or squarrose. In the true determination of the species of *Sphagna* almost every point in their structure must be taken into account, and these points are so many that it is difficult to name many of the species, not to speak of the numerous varieties.

II. *A Visit to Birmingham with the British Association.*

By Mr J. SHAW.

In this paper Mr Shaw gave a brief description of the numerous places of interest visited by the Association, and a sketch of the lectures given during the meeting.

7th January, 1887.

Major BOWDEN, Vice-President, in the chair. Twenty-eight members present.

New Member.—Rev. J. M'Farlan, The Manse, Ruthwell.

The Ruthwell Cross.—The Secretary intimated that the committee had adopted the following resolution, and moved its adoption by the Society, viz. :—"That this Society is pleased to learn that the Ruthwell Cross is at last to be protected from the weather, and cordially approves of the action taken by the Rev. Mr M'Farlan and the heritors of Ruthwell Parish, and recommends that the Society contribute three guineas as a donation towards the expense." This was seconded by Mr W. M'Dowall, and unanimously agreed to. The Rev. Mr M'Farlan exhibited and described the plans of the proposed erection, and stated that they had already been approved by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and that the Government through the Commissioners contributed £50 towards the expense; one of the conditions being that the Cross should be always accessible to the public free of charge. On the motion of the Chairman, the thanks of the

Society were accorded to Mr M'Farlan for the great trouble he had taken in connection with this interesting and ancient monument.

Midsteeple Buildings.—Mr Barbour, V.P., called the Society's attention to the proposal of the Town Council to alter the apartment in the basement of the Tower. On the motion of Mr Rutherford, Mr Barbour, V.P., Mr M'Dowall, and the Secretary were appointed a sub-committee to memorialise the Town Council on the subject.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I. *Meteorological Notes for 1886.* By Rev. W. ANDSON.

The observations recorded in the accompanying table, and which form the subject of the following remarks, were taken at Newall Terrace, Dumfries, about 60 feet above sea level, and, as is customary, the barometric readings are corrected to 32° F. and for sea-level.

Station—NEWALL TERRACE, DUMFRIES. YEAR 1886.

MONTHS.	BAROMETER.				SELF-REG. THERM. IN SHADE.				RAIN.		
	Highest in Month.	Lowest in Month.	Range (Monthly).	Mean.	Highest in Month.	Lowest in Month.	Monthly Range.	Mean Temp.	Days in which it fell.	Heaviest in 24 hours.	Total Amount.
	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	°	°	°	°		Inch.	Inch.
January	—	—	—	—	51·6	15	36·6	34	25	0·62	4·58
February	30·42	29·12	1·30	29·98	48	16	32	35·9	17	0·40	2·03
March	30·41	29·03	1·38	29·79	68	18	50	40·4	20	0·87	4·13
April	30·28	29·05	1·23	29·77	68	30	38	46·4	15	0·56	1·79
May	—	—	—	—	62	33	29	49	19	0·80	3·81
June	30·36	29·60	0·76	29·94	78	38	40	55·4	11	0·24	0·77
July	30·33	29·29	1·04	29·86	78	42	36	58·3	17	0·55	3·64
August	30·26	29·50	0·76	29·92	71	41	30	57·9	16	0·44	1·91
September	30·46	29·51	0·95	29·96	77	29	48	53	16	1·02	5·79
October	30·47	28·89	1·58	29·80	69	31	38	49·8	20	0·91	4·17
November	30·64	29·13	1·51	29·82	56	30	26	42·1	26	0·80	3·58
December	30·47	27·61	2·86	29·57	51	8	43	32·4	22	0·83	4·43
Year	30·64	27·61	3·03	29·84	78	8	70	46·2	224	1·02	40·63

* Barometer out of order.

Barometrical Observations.—The most remarkable fact in the meteorological record of the year was the sudden and excessive fall of the barometer on the 8th December. On the morning of the 7th it stood at 29·30 in.; at 9 A.M. of the 8th it had fallen to

28·40 in., at mid-day to 28·00 in., and about 6 P.M. it reached the extremely low point of 27·61 in., after which it began slowly to rise till, at 9 P.M., the reading was 27·70 in. The depression moved from west to east—as such depressions for the most part do—and had a very extensive area, embracing all the west of Europe. Readings below 28·5 inches were observed in all parts of the kingdom, but the north of Ireland and England and the south of Scotland appear to have been the centre of the depression. At Belfast the reading at 1.30 P.M. was 27·38 in.; at Dumfries about 6 P.M., 27·60 in.; and at Leith a little later, 27·65 in. This circumstance—of the South of Scotland being in the centre of the depression—is probably the explanation of the fact that, though the barometer fell nearly as low as in the great storm of January, 1884, and in some places even lower, the force of the wind was not nearly so great as in that destructive storm. In these cyclones, as they are called, it is well known that the wind, instead of blowing in a rectilinear direction, whirls round the depressions, and is most violent at some distance from the centre, or area of lowest pressure, which is often comparatively calm. The south of Scotland and north of England appears to have been the centre in this instance, but farther south, on the coast of Wales and in the English Channel, there was a violent gale, which caused much destruction to shipping. For an example of an opposite condition of barometrical pressure, or anti-cyclone, a term used to describe an extensive area of high pressure with slight gradients, the month of September may be referred to, when for twelve successive days, from the 13th to the 25th, with one exception, the barometer stood above 30 in., culminating in 30·58 in. on the 15th. During that time there were ten successive days on which no rain fell, from the 15th to the 25th. A still better example was furnished by the latter part of June and the beginning of July. From the 26th June to the 10th July, a period of fourteen days, the barometer ranged from 29·98 in. to 30·43 in., and during that time the winds were very light, and only one-hundredth of an inch of rain fell. It is not without reason, therefore, that a continuous high state of the barometer is commonly associated with settled weather, for the period mentioned was by far the finest and warmest part of the summer. The theory of meteorologists regarding these cyclones and anti-cyclones is that the atmosphere which envelopes the earth resembles an ocean, which, like the sea, is more or less

constantly in motion, and is characterised by waves of greater or less height. When an anti-cyclone, or period of high pressure, occurs the crest of the wave is passing over us, while in a cyclone we are under the trough of the wave.

Temperature of the Year.—The highest temperature occurred on the 30th June and 2d July, when the maximum reading of the thermometer was 78 degrees; the lowest on the 21st December, when the minimum reading was 8 degrees, and the river Nith for the only time during the season was frozen over. Annual range, 70 degrees; mean temperature of the year, 46.2 degrees; mean at Cargen for last 26 years, 47.9 degrees. The mean temperature of August, October, and November was above the average, that of the other months was below it. During the year there were 112 days on which the minimum reading of the thermometer was at and below 32 degrees—27 in January (157 degrees of frost); 18 in February (91 degrees); 16 in March (75 degrees); 4 in April (4 degrees); 3 in September (2.5 degrees), 3 in October (2.5 degrees); 7 in November (8 degrees); and 27 in December (196 degrees)—in all 536 degrees of frost. It will be observed from this statement that the autumn months were characterized by milder weather than usual, while January, February, and December, with the first half of March, were of a peculiarly wintry character, and marked by a temperature much below the average, though frequent fluctuations, both of pressure and temperature, made the weather as a rule exceedingly changeable. The spring and early summer were also colder than usual, a circumstance which threw the harvest into a late period of the year, when much rain fell, and caused great damage to cereal crops.

Rainfall of the Year.—There was an extremely heavy fall between the 12th and 13th October, when the rain gauge registered 0.91 in. for the 24 hours. We can better imagine how much this represents when we take into account the ascertained fact that the fall of an inch of rain in depth is equivalent to 100 tons of water per acre. But the heaviest fall of the year occurred on the 5th September, on a Sabbath afternoon, when 1.02 in. was recorded in the 24 hours. Unlike the former, which was a steady, continuous fall through the day and night, the greater part of this fell within the space of an hour. The previous day (Saturday) was oppressively warm, with a maximum temperature of 77 degrees, and the atmosphere strongly charged with

electricity. Some rain fell on Sabbath morning, but it was not till three o'clock in the afternoon that the downpour commenced in right earnest. At that hour there was a sharp shower, followed, after a brief cessation, by a tremendous torrent of rain, accompanied by numerous peals of thunder and flashes of lightning, and shortly after by a high wind, the noise of which almost drowned the sound of the thunder, and the sky at the same time grew so dark that it was hardly possible to see to read. The drains being insufficient to carry off the great body of water which fell in so short a space of time, many of the streets and roadways of the town and suburbs, and of the areas and cellars in low-lying parts, were flooded to a considerable depth. The storm appears to have been more severely felt on the shore of the Solway Firth, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Brow Well, than further inland. The following description, given in the *Standard* newspaper at the time, is worthy of being quoted:—"Before the heaviest of the rainfall, a hurricane was observed suddenly to spring up, apparently about Southerness Point, and drive masses of cloud before it in the direction of Silloth. The sight was one of terrific grandeur, so rapidly did the clouds speed along, and so tumultuously did they roll over each other. When near to Silloth, the storm seemed suddenly to veer, and swept across the channel and inland in a north-westerly direction. The roar of the wind was heard a considerable time before its force could be felt, and then the few persons who were out found it impossible to stand against it, and were fain to lay themselves prostrate. The rare phenomenon of a water spout was also witnessed. The water was lashed up into a tapering column, described to us as having been higher than the Midsteeple of Dumfries, and this careered along in a threatening manner, but it gradually subsided without any mischievous result, finally disappearing a little to the north of Ladyland, a farm about two miles from Clarencefield."

The wettest month of the year was September, with a fall of 5.79 in., being 3.5 in. above the average. The driest month was June, when the total fall was only 0.77 in. There were 224 days on which precipitation took place in one form or other, but on 25 of these the fall did not exceed one hundredth of an inch. There were 18 on which snow fell, and 206 rain—total rainfall for the year, 40.63 in.; mean of 26 years at Cargen, as reported by Mr Dudgeon, 44.85 in. The average rainfall for Dumfries, according to a table given in Sir John Herschell's article on

“Meteorology,” in the “*Encyclopædia Britannica*” (eighth edition), published in 1857, is 36·9 in. But either this must be an under-estimate, or within the last thirty years the Dumfries district must have become more rainy than at a previous period, seeing that the mean of 26 years at Cargen is in excess of 36·9 in. by nearly 8 in. It is possible, however, that the rainfall at Cargen, from its proximity to Criffel, is in excess of that of Dumfries. It has been so during the past year by more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., that of Cargen being 43·31 in. and that of Dumfries 40·63 in.

If we compare the average rainfall of Dumfries with that of other stations in this country, it appears to be much in excess of many of them; that of Edinburgh, for example, being 24·9 in.; Arbroath, 27·44 in.; Aberdeen, for last five years, 29·6 in. But it is a well-known fact that the western side of the country has a much greater rainfall than the eastern. Ardrossan has an average rainfall of 37·5 in., and where the stations are situated in elevated regions, or in the neighbourhood of mountains, as in the Western Highlands, the average is greatly increased, ranging from 60 to 80 inches on the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland. At Seathwaite, in Cumberland, at a height of 422 feet, it is said to amount to 154 in., which is the greatest recorded in Britain. The cause of this is not difficult to explain. The greatest part of the moisture, which is deposited in the form of rain, is brought by westerly or south-westerly winds from the Atlantic; and where the coast is mountainous the air is forced to ascend into the higher and colder regions of the atmosphere, where the vapour which it contains is condensed by the lower temperature, producing the drenching rains so common on the seaward slopes of our western hills. We are not subject in Dumfries to such excessive rains as these, but still we cannot boast, as the above report shows, of a very dry climate, nor even as far as regards the past year at least, of a very warm one.

II. *Notes on the Bridge of Nith.*

By Mr J. CARLYLE AITKEN. (Abridged.)

The date of the Old Bridge of Dumfries is usually given as 1275, and that it has been assumed by some old ecclesiastics that Christian, sister of Devorgilla, was associated with her in the work, but as she died in 1246, and as the Bridge was probably built in her lifetime, it is possible that the structure was earlier

than the date usually given. In the course of the ages prior to this artistic structure, the stone bridge of the 13th century, there evidently must have been some practical link of communication connecting the town and religious communities with their Troqueer lands on the opposite shore of the Nith, and the inhabitants of Galloway generally speaking. We think it probable that some rudely constructed bridge of wood may have preceded this stone structure. This supposition is rendered the more probable, seeing that in 1609 a petition to the Privy Council anent "the brig of Dumfries, which the saidis Lordis knawis is a verrie large brig of mony bowis," the petitioners further allege and explain as to the then threatened hindrance "of the ordinar passage over the wattir of Nith, sein na boat dar ga upon that wattar but in calme and fair wedder in respect it has so swift and violent a course." From the earliest ages we find the Dumfriesians have cherished an amiable predilection in favour of this their "Auld Brig" of Dumfries and of Nith, a predilection the depth of which, in the reign of King James the Sixth, manifests itself in the fervidly amiable language and prayer of their petition anent its threatened ruin, as we may by and bye see in detail. The ancient King's town of Dumfries, as the great seat of the courts of law, of oldest time held within the Castle of Dumfries, with its monastery, mills, commerce, and shipping, must in a very real sense have been the natural central capital town of the shire, as well as of a much wider superficial area of a land in which towns were as few as far between in the undeveloped ages of the history of Dumfries and Galloway. As the shipping of the port of Dumfries on the Nith is in some sort allied with the history of the Bridge of Nith, we here add what may to some extent be considered as one of the foundation vouchers of its descriptive limits and history, as they were understood to have been in the first year of the reign of Henrie and Marie, King and Queen of Scots. We the more willingly do so seeing that the preparatory narrative of the cause itself contains some interesting summary of the constitutional history of the ancient Burghs Royal of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, which although otherwise not unknown here receives positive and official confirmation. We need hardly say that so far as the Burgh of Kirkcudbright is concerned no older surname can there well have been there than that of the Maclelland of Bombie, which is associated with the narrative of their Burghal Charter, dated Perth, 26th October, 1455, wherein the reigning

Provost or Alderman of "Kirkcudbrith" is named "Willm Macleland de Bomby." We here add the outline of the petition, which is dated 22d March, 1565, and seems to us almost unique of its kind:—

"Henrie and Marie be the grace of God King and Queine of Scottis, to our lovittis William Cunynghame, our Sheriffs in that part conjunctly and severallie, specially constitute, greeting: Foralsmekill as it is humble meant and shewin to us be our lovittis the provest, baillies, counsall, and communitie of our Burght of Dumfries: That quhair our Burgh is infest and erectit of auld in free Burght Royal, with all Privilegis, Freedoms, and siklike Liberties as ony ither burgh within our realme, as the saide compleinaris infestment thairof mair fully purportis, Be virtew of the quhilk thair predecossoris & thai has been in possesioun of crissing, lading, and coquetting of alle Schippis & Boittis resorting and arruing betuix our said Burght & the Burne fute of our Abbay of Dundranane, but interruptioun in alle tymes byegane past memory of man: Nochtheless, Thomas Makclellane of Bombie alleging him to haie in tack & assedatioun all and hail the Custowmis of our Burght of Kirkcudbright within all the parts and boundis thairof betuixt the Wattir of Nyth & the Wattir of Cree, as hes beene usit in tymes bigane, and that William Killaw, maister; James Simson, owner; Arrold Davencurtiss, servand to Peter Purot, merchand in Burdeaux, hes laitlie brocht in ane schip callit 'The Grace of God' within the freedom of our saide Burght of Kirkcudbright, browken bulk and sauld the saime to the foirsaidis compleinaris, and will nocht pay the custowmis thairof to the said Thomas & quhilk is nocht of verity, has obtieinit our uthir Lettres be deliverance of the Lordis of our Counsale, & therewith gart chaarge the saidis compleinaris and the saidis maister and ownar to content and pay to him as allegit takkisman foirsaid that foirnमित customes of the guidis customabill being in the said schip, and als chairging alle our liegis & strangeris arryving within the freedom of our said Burght of Kirkcudbright, that nane of thaim sell, dispone, or put away the guidis and merchandise customabill to be brocht be thaim within the said freedom, &c., &c. Quhilkis utheris Lettres are wrangouslie and sinisterlie purchaset without cognitioun in the cause, &c. . . . And the said schip arrivit within the freedom of our Ladie burght of Drumfries, three myles be west the Wattir of Urr, as sal be clearlie proven, &c. Our will is

heirfore, and we charge you that ye lauchfullie summon, wairn, and chairge the said Thomas Makccllane, allegit takkisman foir-said, and the Alderman and Baillies of our said burgh of Kirkcudbright, personallie or at their dwelling place, to compeir, &c. The said otheris Lettres wrongously purchased are hereby suspended, &c. Given under our signet at Edinr., the 22nd of March, and of our reigns the first and twenty-fourth years, 1565.

“Ex Delib. Dom. Concilii.”

Our real chartered history of the Bridge begins in the reign of King James the First, and the first quarter of the 15th century. This is, of course, the period when the family of Douglas were already far advanced in their reign of one hundred years over the Lordship of Galloway. King James the First, in 1424, had completed his nineteen years of captivity in England. Between the years 1275 and the chartered year 1425 we learn little or nothing concerning the Bridge in any shape. In the course of the first half of the 15th century there are a charter and a confirmation charter of the Bridge Toll or Custom. The first of these is the still extant charter by the Lady “Margaret, Duchess of Touraine, Countess of Douglas, and Lady of Galloway and Annandale” (as she therein styles and describes herself), wherein she grants to the Friars Minors of Dumfries her own vested rights in the Bridge of Dumfries, as described in the charter, which is dated, “At the Trief, the 16th of January, 1425.” On the back, in an almost contemporary hand, is the following endorsement: “Domine Galwidie de Ponte, 16th January, 1425.” The next document we still have is the confirmatory and renewal charter, dated 4th of January, 1452, whereby “James, Earl of Douglas and of Avondale, Lord of Galloway, etc.” (as he is there styled), confirms to the said Friars Minors the previous charter of the Lady Margaret in Anno 1425, in this instance the source and nature of the toll or custom being more fully described as pertaining “ad pontis de Nyth de Drumfres;” while the relative endorsement of the time is “Carta de Douglas de Custuma Pontis.” The real intrinsic position and relative significance of the noble family of Douglas generally within the realm of Scotland is best understood by reproducing from “The Douglas Book” the following summary and exposition of the learned editor, Dr William Fraser, C.B., wherein it may be observed that even the wide domain and lordship of Galloway formed but a small item in the catalogue of the Douglas family possessions within the realm of

Scotland, as in this rare and valuable work fully set forth. Incidentally treating of the great power and authority of the family of Douglas, Dr Fraser says:—"Thus by rapid strides the family of Douglas rose within one generation from the good Sir James to be owners and rulers of the greater part of the South of Scotland, as well as of considerable estates in the North. They bore undisputed sway over a large portion of the shires of Lanark, Peebles, Selkirk, Roxburgh, parts of Berwickshire, and Dumfriesshire, with the whole of Galloway. To this territory was added for a time the earldom of Mar and lordship of Garioch. When it is further considered that either nominally on behalf of the King or in their own right the lords of Douglas possessed or garrisoned the strong castles of Kildrummy in Mar, Jedburgh in Teviotdale, the Hermitage in Liddesdale, the Thrieve in Galloway, Tantallon in East Lothian, Lochmaben in Annandale, as well as their native fortress of Douglasdale, it will be more easily understood how the members of this one family were able to maintain a more than royal state, and their power became dangerous to the throne itself. Of ancient Galloway under the Lords and Earls of the Douglas family there are many details of much local interest. Notable among such is the chartered history of the Douglas possession of the barony of the Balliols of old time, the barony of Botle, which also appears to have been the first landed possession of the Douglasses in Galloway. In the year 1325 it appears King Robert the Bruce granted a charter of the lands of Botle, *totam terram nostram de Botle, in Galwidia, cum suis pertinenciis, &c.*, to the good Sir James. In the year 1342 Hugh Douglas, the brother of Sir James Douglas, resigned the same lands. Further, in or about the year 1348 A.D. William, Lord of Douglas (afterwards the first Earl), granted to his godfather, William Douglas, the Knight of Liddesdale, the lands of Knokys, Sevenkirks, Kenmore, Logan, and Colennauch, in the barony of Botle in Galloway."—(Reg. Hon. de Morton, ii., 10.) During nearly the whole of the 16th century the records give but few details touching the Bridge. However, you incidentally learn the existence of a fund, then known familiarly as "The Brig Werk," to which all freemen and burgesses had from use and wont been accustomed to subscribe as one of the known penalties of their elevation and future existence as duly constituted freemen. From the great diametrical change which has since that time taken place in the purchasing power of money, to even form an

approximate estimate of the extent of such fund might be very difficult. On the other hand, the following stray reference seems to stand alone in the record, although it serves to remind us of the liabilities to which the Bridge, the Mill, the great grange, or "Barnsbuith," and their surroundings of "the Brigend of Dumfries," were constantly exposed in the nature of things:—

At Drumfries the 28th of May, 1521.

"The Alderman, Baillies, and Community of Drumfries has set to Thom Cunynghame in heritage ane Mylshed with ane Watergang distrinzeand fra the Moit to the Barnsbuith of the Sandbeddis, payand thairfore zeirly 20s. If the Myll-stob does ony skaith to the Sandbeddies, or to the Willies, the said Mill (of the Sandbed) sall be distrenzit (for the damage)."

As we understand this entry, we suppose the place-name of the "Staikfuird" had been descriptive of some ford of stakes or mill-dam barrier of the river Nith in that locality. The Staikfuird Mill, as one of the Mills of the Colledge and Barony of Lincluden, must once have been of no small importance. Of old the eastern foreshore and bank of the river Nith, from the march of the Colledge lands of Nunholm downwards to the Bridge of Nith, seem to have been in general described, in whole or in part, as the ancient ecclesiastical lands of Dumfries: the haughs of the vicinity of the river-bed and as far as the Staikfuird and Greensands being comprehended within the limits of "the Moitlands" and "the Over-Haugh" as descriptive of such pasture grounds. To the haughs there succeeded a general eastern foreshore of sand and gravel levels of river bank, reaching beyond the bridge and mill. This flat region, in virtue of its nature, was collectively known as "The Sandbeds," which were singled out again distinctively as the Upper and Lower Sandbeds; or, later, as the Green and the White Sands. Between the Friervennel and "the Moit," and beyond, riverwards, there seems to have been little else than orchards, fields, and open spaces, with occasional granges, or barns. At or about the northern verge of the Greensandbeds, and by the Staikfuird ford, the "water-gang" of the "Old Sandbed Mill" had its origin in the Nith, flowing onward through the said sandbeds until it supplied the mill and tanneries, regaining the Nith somewhere beyond "the Newtown" quarter of the burgh. Beyond the Brigend the mill-stream, or "water-gang," intersected the great high road to Galloway as it crossed

the Lower or Whitesandbeds, and was then familiarly known as "the Galloway-gait." It seems to us that the Dock Park was formerly designed, generally speaking, as "The Willies." As the safest guide for the natural level of old times we presume the Nith and its course are the true standard, amid so much modern improvement and artificial increase in bulk. In the year 1681 the Bridge of Dumfries the town, in their legal defence, then officially describe as "one of the best and largest Bridges in the Kingdom, and at this time now consists of Nine several Arches." Two years afterwards the ravages of winter had been more than usually serious, the masses of floating ice adhering to the buttresses, collecting until the accumulation, or "gadds of ice," as the record explains, required to be relieved and broken by great stones thrown upon it from above. "The Brig Petition" to King James the Sixth on the part of the town of Dumfries, has, in the Privy Council records and other publications, been in part reproduced. But nowhere have we seen a true literal copy, such as is here presented from a certified and signed duplicate of the original of the day and time of presentation. The petition as a curious sample of an address to his "Sacred Majesty King James the Sixth," in his own rounded and sublimely classic style, as to "the soverane fontane and livelie spring quhairwith the politic bodie of this estait and everie particular member thair of is cherished and nurished," inherently possesses an historical, literary, and antiquarian interest as a work of art. The bridge had, it seems, been its own tomb, resolving to itself in its fall the whole results of the Royal gift, of the temporalities of the Friars Minors, and the whole patrimony of the toune, &c. "The Brig Petition" to King James the Sixth, as copied from the signed and formal duplicate of the original itself, in the holograph of Albert Cunynghame, clerk, as certified therein by himself in his own hand, circa 1620—

"Most gracious and sacred Soverane,—The greate calamitie and wrak which befell to Your Maties. ancient Burgh of Drumfries in the moneth of (1620) by the overthrow of the bridge thair of through the force and violence of Wattir of Nith, being on our behalf regretted unto Your Mie. by the lordis of your hienesse privy counsell. And your Mie. oute of your moste excellente wisdome apprehending that a voluntarie contributione amongis your M.'s good subjectis would prove the most sure and readdie way for preventing of the wrak and overthrow of the said

Burgh, wherewith it was threatnit by the falling of the said bridge. Your Mie. for this effecte was graciouslie pleasit to give directioun that the mater sould be recommendit to the charit. able consideratioun of your Mies. good subjectis to burgh and land, throughout the whole kingdom. Of whose benevolence towardis this so necessar and common a wark your Maie. reposed with great assurance. Lykeas we embracing this your great overtures as a solid ground whereupon we builded our hopes of a timous and liberal supplie, we made some trial thair of amongis the barronis and gentlemen adjacent to our burgh, who in regard of their vicinity with us have their own conduct interest in the mater; but finding their charity to be cold, and their dispositionis most averse from contributionis of this kynde, we left off all prosequeing of that effort, being loth to lay upon you our new and necessarie burdens wherein help nor relieff was to be expected. And so being lefte to our selfis without alle hope of help that way, we resolved to interpryse and begin the wark our selfis, quhairin eftir long stryving and in end overcoming alle difficulties with continuall turmoyle, trouble, and labour both day and night (wherefrom none within the said burgh were exempt neither in their personis nor pursis) we brocht the wark to a gude and happie conclusioun. And in one year we accomplished and performed the samen in a more substantious and statelie maner nor it was befor. And we may truly affirme withoute ostentatione idyle or vain show that it was the greateste warke that wes evir dune in Scotland in sa shorte a spaice be ane handfull of poor personis without the help or assistance of utheris, wherein as we have striven againis our oune weaknesse and againe all appearans or likleyhood of ane guid success to have followed. And in that has gone verrie far beyond the expectioun of all personis, quho mesuring the greatnesse of the wark with our inhabilitie did apprehend that we did stryve againe the streame, and that our power was not answerabil to such a greate and chargeable work. In doing whereof we have exhausted the whole common rent and patrimony of that toune, and has not lefte so much as ane pennie thair of free. And by continuall and dayly contributione most freely and willingly advancit amongis ourselfis oure purses are so emptied and thairby disabled from undertaking anie uther charge either for the weill of the said toune, or commonweill of the kingdome, that we are forced to yield to necessitie and to sink under the heavie burden which we have so

long supported and which in end hes now our maisterit us. So that the estate of that toun is no longer habile to subsist in that rak and rewine, wherein it formerlie stude amongis. But as ane decayit and faylit member will fall off fra the reste of the bodie, unless your Matie. out of your accustomit princelie commisseratione of the distresse of everie particular member of the commonweil, put to your helping hand. The consideratione quhairof hes movit us in most submissive and humble reverence to prostrate ourselfis befor your hienesse (as the soverane fontane and livelie spring quhairwith the politic bodie of this estait and everie particular member thairof is cherished and nourished) thir our wantis and necessitie. Beseeching your Mie. to consider the necessitie whereunto we are driven be this occasione of the Bridge, and accordingly to extend such proportione of your benevolence and favour towards us as your Mie. shall think meit for the redemptioun and relieff of our common rentis engagit by us for the performing of the said work. We are sure that in thingis of so many greate and princelie affairs quhairwith your Mie. is overburdened that we should empesche your Hienesse, but the importance of our comforting ourselves without intermission, or wearying to send up our humble and uncessant prayers unto God for your Mties. long and blessed reign. We reste (at the most respectful distance of the very bottom of the big sheet),

“Your Maties. mo. humble and obedt. subjectis,

“JOHN CORSANE, Provost.

“J. DOUGLAS.

“JAMES MACGOUN, bailye.”

Holograph of “Albert Cunnyngname, clerk of Drumfreise, in name of the hail Counsell thairof.”

4th February, 1887.

MR BARBOUR, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-six Members present.

New Members.—Mr D. W. Rannie of Conheath, and Mr J. Stafford, Mouswald.

Donations.—The Secretary laid on the table eleven parts of the Journal of the Linnean Society from Mr Robinson-Douglas; eleven old coins from Mr T. Loudon; also, an old Bible in two

volumes, with annotations by Theodore Haak, published in London in 1657, as a donation from Mr John Kerr.

Exhibits.—Mr J. Rutherford exhibited a number of microscopic slides, chiefly anatomical. Mr Coupland exhibited four pieces of rock brought to the surface from the depth of 346 feet, during the boring of the artesian well at the Troqueer Mills. The rock is a breccia, and is of the same formation as that exposed at the railway cutting near Goldielea, and was very difficult to pierce.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I. *The Scandinavian Customs and Habits in Scotland.*

By Mr J. GIBSON H. STARKE, V.P.

In this paper the author referred to some of the customs and habits of the old Scandinavian warriors, few of which are now extant. He remarked that the festivities attending our Christmas resemble those of the Scandinavians, when, at Yule-tide, the huge logs of wood were burnt in honour of the gods Odin or Thor. The mode of interment—the ship-shaped barrows discovered in this country resemble those found in Scandinavia. Mr Starke also referred to the hanging of the mistletoe in the dwelling-houses, the sword dance, the haaf fishing, and the drinking bouts, which have their prototypes still in that country.

II. *Cup and Ring Markings near Kirkcudbright.*

By Mr J. M'KIE, R.N.

In this paper Mr M'Kie described the discovery by a member of the Kirkcudbright Naturalists' Society in April, 1886, of a large stone adjacent to the Dunrod Churchyard, with several cup and ring markings on its surface. In September Mr M'Kie visited this stone, and by scraping away the earth from it he found the traces of seventeen different markings, which he now described, and also some other markings on the adjacent rocks.

The readers are referred to a paper on this subject read by Mr Coles at the April meeting, as it also describes these markings and many others discovered after Mr M'Kie's paper was read.

4th March, 1887.

Mr BARBOUR, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Forty-five Members present.

New Members.—Mr G. F. Scott-Elliot of Newton, Dumfries ; Mr W. R. M'Diarmid, Edinburgh and Colvend ; Miss L. Chrystie, Dumfries ; and Mr R. Barbour, Belmont.

Donations.—The Transactions of the Essex Field Club were laid on the table as a donation from that Society.

Exhibits.—Mr Dods exhibited pieces of a Roman brick from the wall at St. Albans. Mr J. J. Armistead showed some ova of trout, and some recently hatched fish under the microscope.

Relics of the Stuarts.—Mr Watson exhibited, on behalf of Mr James S. Thomson, the following interesting objects, kindly lent by Mr Witham of Kirkconnell for inspection by the members. They are :—(1) A copy of the prayer used by Queen Mary when on the scaffold immediately before her execution. It was—

“ O, Domine Deus, speravi in Te ! O, care mi Jesu, nunc libera me ! In dura catena, in misera pœna, desidero Te ! Languendo, gemendo, et genuflectendo, adoro, imploro ut liberes me ! ”

The English of which is—“ O, Lord God, I have hoped in Thee ! O, my dear Jesus, now release me ! In hard chains, in wretched punishment, I yearn for Thee ! Suffering, groaning, and kneeling, I implore Thee to release me ! ”

This interesting memorial of the unfortunate Queen was given to Mr Maxwell Witham by Rev. Father Edmond Huckles, Prior of the Dominicans, Woodbridge, in 1879. (2) A miniature portrait in oils of Mary's grandson, Charles I. This is mounted as a lady's pin, and is neatly executed. The reverse of this gem contains a replica in gold, inlaid on enamel, of the emblems of death—the skull and cross bones—and the initials C.R. These were formerly manufactured into a locket that had been issued by the Royalists to the leading Jacobite families. This relic has been in the Kirkconnell family for more than 150 years. (3) A manuscript volume of letters, meditations, and prayers composed by Charles' unfortunate son, James II., when in exile at St. Germain. This volume was sent to the Kirkconnell family in 1702, after the death of James, and is a copy of the original. It is entitled “ A collection of several of his late Majesty's papers of devotion, copied exactly out of the original manuscripts left

by his Majesty in his own handwriting;" and their authenticity is certified by the following holograph note:—

"This is a true copy of the original papers, which are now in my hands, and which, when the King my son and I make no more use of them, are to be deposited in the Scots' College of Paris, there to be preserved with the rest of the King of ever blessed memory his papers, conform to his Majesty's intention.

"MARIA R.

"St. Germain, Jan. 22, 1702."

The following titles of the papers, which are either in English or in French, will give an indication of their character, and furnish some light on this unfortunate monarch's later days not generally known:—

1, Advice to Converts; 2, Further Advice to Converts; 3, Motives of Conversion; 4, Motives for Leading a Christian Life; 5, Reflections upon the Vanities of the World and the Punishment of Sin; 6, Of God's Goodness Towards Us; 7, Reflections upon the Corruption of this Age; 8, Insensibility of Christians who are not Touched with the Judgments of God; 9, More Considerations upon the Corruption of this Age; 10, A Prayer, made by his Majesty for his own use; 11, Bad Christians Worse than Heathens and more Punishable; 12, Of the Edification and Benefit His Majesty Received by Visiting La Trappe; 13, His Christian Purposes; 14, Crosses Necessary to Try the Just; 15, His Distribution of Time; 16, Necessary Remembrance; 17, Wishes to Die and to be with Christ; 18, Reasons for Distinguishing that all such as have a Firm Resolution of Living as becomes Good Christians, and do their Parts to Perform it, as far as Human Frailty will permit, ought to desire to Die, tho' Content to Live; 19, A Further Discourse on the same subject; 20, Continuation of the same subject; 21, Several Christian Maxims and Subjects of Meditation; 22, His Thanksgiving to God for the Particular Benefits Bestowed upon Him; 23, That all Christians are bound to aim at perfection; 24, That there is no true quiet in this world, nor happiness to be expected in the next, without performing all the duties of a Christian, and that all distracting and dangerous diversions should be avoided; 25, A prayer for the Church (including a prayer for "mercy on the Queen and all my children; grant they may live as becomes good Christians; that my son may succeed me on the throne; that he may be instrumental of thy glory," &c.); 26, Advice to a Religious Person; 27, "Fatherly Advice to N. N.;" 28, To the same; 29, To the same; 30, Questions proposed to his Confessor. The other papers, which are in French, are—31, Some sentences concerning death; 32, The Vanity of the World; 33, A letter to——, recommending frequent communion; 34, A letter to——, exhorting him to change his life; 35, A solemn promise and protestation to God, wherein His Majesty declares that he would rather "die the most ignominious death than commit a mortal sin;" and 36, Three short prayers.

(4) A snuff-box, sent by James' son, the Old Pretender, to the Kirkconnell family as a personal keepsake. This relic is of dark

wood, shaped like a small opera-glass case. It has a silver hoop, with the words—"Jao: et Clemen: Dei Gra: Mag: Brit: Fra: et Hib: Rex et Reg. Fidei Defensor. 1726." On the lid is a heart-shaped shield charged with a sphere, the ring of which is dislocated, and over which is the legend "Spes Ultra." This snuff-box was sent to the Kirkconnell family by the Chevalier and his wife Clementina through Sir David Nairn, their Secretary, whose name is imprinted on the bottom.

Mr Watson, in moving the thanks of the Society be awarded to Mr Witham, remarked that the grandfather of the present Mrs Witham, James Maxwell, Esq. of Kirkconnell, was an officer under Prince Charles Edward, and fought with him in all the engagements, and afterwards accompanied him into exile. While at St. Germain's he wrote the narrative of the Rebellion, which was so largely drawn upon by Sir Walter Scott.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I. *Atmospheric and other Influences on the Migration of Fishes.*

By Mr J. J. ARMISTEAD.

The following notes will apply chiefly to the *Salmonidæ*, as that family of fishes has come chiefly under my notice. I may, however, first remark with regret that the systematic arrangements adopted for noting the movements of birds by means of stations all over the world have not yet been extended to fishes, and that our information on many points connected with their habits, is therefore still very meagre. It is now almost impossible for a flock of birds to cross the North Sea without being seen leaving the land on the one side and approaching it on the other, and the facts reported to a central committee. But, notwithstanding this, some of our commonest birds have not been traced to their breeding stations. I might take as an example the knot, which is most abundant on the Solway during the winter months. We know that this bird goes away to the Arctic regions, but we know no more. It is much more difficult to follow the movement of fishes, and there is here a wide field open for the observer. The more we work out the facts about the migration of fishes, the more complex very often does the question appear to become. Primarily there were two causes which led to their migration—first, food supply; second, reproduction of species. It has been asserted that salmon do not feed.

But I am prepared to assert that they do feed, and feed as voraciously as any other members of their family. Passing over the early stages of incubation, we arrive at the parr stage in the salmon's life. The parr, by-and-bye, puts on the livery of the smolt, and at that stage passes down to the sea. It loses the peculiar finger-marks with which we are familiar, and the general trout-like appearance, and becomes very silvery. It used to be supposed that this silvery appearance was caused by growth of scales; but that was not so. It is caused by a silvery pigment on the under side of the scales and opercles, which are scaleless. An interesting experiment was tried some years ago. A number of salmon parr were taken from the river—I hope there are no water-bailiffs present—and placed in an aquarium tank. In due course about half of them developed into the smolt stage. The others did not. Sea water was added, the supply of fresh water being previously cut off. What was the consequence? Some people affirm that parr will not live as such in salt water. These not only lived, but very rapidly assumed the smolt stage after the salt water was added. Now we know that parr feed. Those of you who are anglers know that they would take almost any bait. They have been found gorged with shell fish, with the larvæ of aquatic insects, &c. Smolts also feed voraciously. They would even spoil the sport in a river, taking the bait so readily as to become a nuisance. Could it be supposed that the salmon in its early stage, during which it does not make any great growth, but feeds voraciously, after going to the sea take either no food or very little; notwithstanding that the smolt which had left the river perhaps a quarter of a pound in weight returned as a grilse weighing six or seven pounds? It seems unreasonable. It was found among domesticated fish that at certain seasons of the year they feed voraciously, and at other times very little; but at all times more or less food was taken. At Stormontfield some years ago, it was noticed on one occasion that the smolts which were to be let down to the sea were of a very much larger size than they had been in previous years. It was found, on inquiry, that the ponds had become charged with minute shell fish, and the liberal diet they afforded accounted for the extra growth of the smolts. Some smolts returned from the sea as grilse in two or three months; others in fourteen or fifteen months. Those which returned in two or three months had, taking a very low estimate, attained a weight of some three pounds; but those which remained

in the sea for the longer period—say from May of one year to July of the following year—did not seem to attain a very much greater size than those which returned in the shorter period. The same peculiarity was noticed in the case of tame trouts kept in ponds. Some grow much more rapidly than others. It has been found that parr become smolts and go to sea, some of them the first year; the great majority, the second year; and some not till the third year. This too, was exactly the case among domesticated trout. It was found necessary at the end of the year to take the fish out of the pond and sort them. If this were not done, the big ones would eat the little ones, and at the end of two or three years their size would be altogether disproportioned. Some weighing only two or three ounces, others as many pounds, I have known cases of domesticated trout reaching 4 lbs. in two years, whereas usually it takes three years for a trout to reach 1 lb., even when domesticated. A smolt let off in May at Stormontfield returned in July, weighing 3 lbs. On the other hand, a smolt which the Duke of Roxburgh let off on 14th May did not return until July of the next year, and it had then attained a weight of only 6½ lbs., having in fourteen months just doubled the weight gained by the other fish in three months. These, and many other observations, proved that fish spending a long time in the sea did not continue to grow at the same rate as in the first few months. There was very little doubt that food supply was the great incentive which drove salmon to the sea. They did feed, and feed voraciously, in our rivers at times. But sometimes they took little food—when spawning, for example; when the temperature was very low, and when on migration. It was quite possible, for these reasons, to get plenty of salmon with nothing in their stomachs; and as their digestion was very rapid, even after a good meal, no trace of it might be found a few hours afterwards. The idea seemed to exist in many minds that the huge bodies of the salmon were developed by a very indefinite something which the fish managed somehow or other to obtain by a process which they called suction; and this, as a recent writer very aptly remarked, pointed to something like microscopic supplies. But there was no doubt the food of the salmon in the sea consisted largely of herrings, young and old, sand eels, crustacea, &c. They followed the young herring shoals closely. In many cases they had been found gorged with young herrings; and I have a report from the Highlands stating that a

few years ago the herrings did not visit a particular part of the coast at the accustomed time, and hardly any salmon were to be got, although they were usually very plentiful in the herring season. In the summer we had a good many young herrings in the Solway. I have taken them by dredging and otherwise. It was a curious fact that the herring, which used to be so abundant as a mature fish in the Solway, should have left it entirely, although immense quantities were found in the sea just outside the Firth, and the young herrings still visited the Firth itself. These were found in large numbers along the shore, where the salmon are most plentifully caught. The return of the salmon to the rivers was an exceedingly important economic question. During the autumn, when they ran up the rivers to spawn, they did not feed, or fed very little, subsisting during that season on the fat which they had laid on while in the sea. The same thing was observed in regard to domesticated fish. As soon as we reached October, those fish which spawn at that season had almost ceased to feed; but the occupants of other ponds, which spawned about January, went on feeding until hard frost set in, and the water became very low in temperature. Fish, being cold-blooded animals, went into a more or less torpid condition during cold weather. Tench buried themselves in the mud at the bottom, and lay there.

Every angler is familiar with the influence which an approaching thunderstorm has in preventing fish from rising. Fish often do not rise when the barometer is falling, whereas when we had a steady rise in the barometer, with the wind from the west, a good run of salmon was often noticed in west coast rivers. But when the barometer reached 29·50 inches the run ceased. It has also been observed that they run better in west coast rivers when the barometer is lower on the west coast than on the east coast. When it was rising and reached 29 inches, the best run occurred; and from 29 to 29·50 seemed to be the most favourable point. Temperature is also an important factor in connection with the migration of fish, I believe, of all kinds. It must generally happen that the temperature of the river differed from that of the sea or the estuary. Many writers have remarked that the low temperature of the sea induced the salmon to leave it and seek the higher temperature of our rivers. This has been particularly remarked about our North Sea and east coast rivers, which are earlier than those on the west coast. Fish culture has taught us

a good deal here. It was found that in cold weather fish were later in spawning than in mild weather; that during a hard frost they spawned very tardily; and when there was a mild rain and rapid thaw, they spawned more freely than under any other circumstances. If it were taken from ice-cold water and placed in a tank in-doors, the inflowing stream of which was gradually warmed, a fish from which it had been found impossible to take ova would then yield its eggs freely. Some time ago, when seeking salmon ova in the Nith, I could find no ripe fish; but I was told by some fishermen that there were plenty to be got in the Cluden, which I found to be the case. I instituted some experiments, in which Mr Rutherford of Jardington and some others kindly helped me. We had thermometers placed in the two streams; and found, as I expected, that the temperature of the Cluden was higher than that of the Nith. It has been said that the temperature of the sea being colder than that of the rivers, the fish left it seeking a higher temperature. I have not noticed this so much myself; but it is the experience of some writers, and is recorded in the Government fishery reports and elsewhere. But this I know, that the temperature of the sea during the late spring months and in summer was often a great deal higher than the temperature of the water in the river, very often varying ten degrees or more; and we found—a thing which had puzzled naturalists—that salmon leave the sea and run up the rivers at all times of the year, more or less. Why should fish run up the rivers during the summer months, when the spawning season was so far distant? Seeing what an effect temperature had upon the spawning of fish, I suggest that its effect on the reproductive organs might compel them to leave the warmer waters of the sea and take refuge in the rivers. Of course these were the best fish—what we call the clean run fish. When the water of the sea was of a low temperature, as in early spring, we did not get such a large run of fish as we did later on. In the month of March, for example, when the east winds are blowing, the fish do not run so well as in April; and they don't run so well in April as in May. When I was at Douglas Hall I noticed this particularly. So much was it the case that the tacksmen did not find it remunerative to put on the net for a month after the opening of the legal fishing season. But later on, when the sea got warmer, they found a good many fish running. If the weather remained cold, and the temperature of the sea at a low point, there was not

such a run of fish. It was generally supposed that a heavy fresh caused a good upward migration. I believe this was in many instances the case, but there were exceptions to the rule. Sometimes a heavy spate occurred without any fish running. I believe I am right in saying that the bulk of the salmon entering our rivers only run on spring tides, and on those tides preceding the highest spring, more than on the two or three tides after the highest spring. And if a strong westerly breeze accompanied the spring tide on our west-coast rivers, more fish came up than when there was no wind at all; and with an easterly breeze fewer would come up. Now, what effect had the wind on the tide? A strong westerly wind would cause the tide in our rivers to rise higher, to flow longer, and to remain high longer; and if the fish ran, as they were supposed to do, on the top of the tide as it were, a westerly wind, causing the tide to flow even half-an-hour longer, would give a chance for far more fish to get up than if it had stopped at the ordinary time. It was supposed generally that salmon only ran with the flood, that if they found the tide ebbing they turned back to the sea and ran up with the next tide. The larger run of fish was therefore accounted for by the longer time they had to run. More fish came up from neap to spring than when the tides are falling off, from spring to neap; and during that time the only tides upon which fish would run to any extent were those just after the highest spring. Should a land spate occur at the same time, a good run of fish may be looked for, especially if it were accompanied by a west or south-west wind. In many instances a land spate was almost necessary now in our rivers to enable the fish to get over the pollutions and the obstacles which they meet with in their ascent. It has been said sometimes that fish could smell the rain, and certainly they often apparently know when it is coming. I believe they will often run up a river anticipating a spate. I have noticed that fish in a pond will sometimes get very restless and run up the race-ways, and in an hour or two down came the rain. It was most important to get reports from streams which were in a state of nature—unpolluted and unmolested as far as possible. Such, for three miles of its course at least, is the stream (the Newabbey Pow) which passes near my hatchery. It is frequented by very few fish, fewer, I think, than in former years. I have made the acquaintance, I believe, of nearly every salmon that passed up that stream for about a month. As a rule, I find that they do

not run by day, but by night. Only during a spate would they run by day. Some nights they did not run at all. On other nights three or four went up, which was a large number for that stream. The early fish were mostly males. It was quite exceptional to get a female very early in the season. Later on they found both sexes coming up. I also found that they almost invariably run on spring tides, and that they did so whether there was a spate or not. A westerly gale during the spring tides was followed, as expected, by a run of fish. I noticed one pair of fish particularly that came up lately. They had evidently been prevented ascending the stream before. They came to a suitable place, where they constructed a redd and deposited the ova. This took about a week. I then took away the female and placed her in a tank, and waited to see what the other fish would do. I thought it probable that he would go up stream and try to find another female. But he dropped back into the next pool further down stream, and remained there two days and two nights; on the third night he dropped down three pools further; then into another pool further down stream; and from there I concluded he had gone down to the sea. Fish having spawned, evidently have a desire to get away again to the sea; and I believe it is often owing to their not being able to get away with sufficient rapidity that they were attacked by the horrible fungus which abounds in our rivers in some seasons. A remarkable fact which I observed was the appearance in the stream of four spent female fish, which I was perfectly satisfied had not been in the stream before. I concluded that they were Nith salmon which had descended that river after spawning, and, for some reason, went up this little bit of a stream for about three miles. Unfortunately, owing to some misunderstanding, and a complaint by the tacksman that the fish were being interfered with, the observations were brought prematurely to a close. It is only, however, when observations of this nature were made on most of our streams, and reports sent in to some central committee, to be investigated and classified, as has already been done in the case of birds—when all those who are personally interested in our fisheries bestir themselves and investigate the facts in connection therewith, or place facilities in the hands of others who can do it for them—that we can expect to unravel the mysteries of nature.

We shall scarcely notice the well-established fact that instinct

leads the salmon to return year after year to its native stream, and which has a striking parallel among birds, as in the case of the swallow, but pass on to other migratory fishes, first noticing the eels. Unlike the salmon, the eels spawn in the sea, if they do spawn at all. At anyrate, they went down to the sea to breed, and they came back again up the rivers; and we find that the elvers, or young eels, come up about the month of May in large shoals. The older eels come up and run on spring tides, never waiting for a spate.

The herring migrate, not to and from the Arctic regions, as was reported by all the older naturalists—worthy men in their time, and who have handed down to us a lot of erroneous information—but simply from deep to shallow water, and remain, I believe, very near our islands all the time. Their migration is very largely dependent upon temperature. To give an idea of the extraordinary numbers of the herring, if we allow one herring for every cubic foot, and assume a shoal to be a square mile in extent and eighteen feet deep, it would contain five hundred millions of the fish. And there were a great many shoals of vastly larger dimensions. Such were their immense quantity, and such their rapid rate of increase, that the whole quantity caught by man did not appreciably affect their numbers, and they would choke up the sea if they were not eaten by other fishes. One of the fishes most destructive to the herring was the cod, which followed the shoals, and has been found very frequently in the Solway now in the winter, at spots where the haddock used formerly to be plentiful, but from which it has disappeared.

II. *The System of Land Tenure in Scotland.*

By MR J. W. WHITELAW.

In this paper the author remarked that the system of land tenure in Scotland was of feudal origin, but that very little feudalism now remained except in nomenclature, and the theory that the sovereign is the source and fountain of all rights in the land. He traced the history of Feudalism from the earliest times, showing how the various changes were introduced, and described the rites and ceremonies of investiture.

1st April, 1887.

Dr GRIERSON, President, in the Chair. Fifty-three present.

New Members.—Mrs Gibson-Starke of Troqueer Holm and Mr J. B. Waddell, Dumfries.

Exhibits.—Mr James S. Thomson exhibited, on behalf of Mr Maxwell-Witham of Kirkconnell, a miniature portrait in oils, on ivory, of Queen Mary, Consort of William III., in her early life; also, a richly illuminated psalter, written by the Monks of New-abbey about 500 years ago, and which was a gift from them to the Kirkconnell family.

Donations.—The Secretary (Mr J. Wilson) exhibited and presented to the Society the small urn found at Greystone, the subject of his communication. Mr James Dairon, F.G.S., presented a number of graptolites from the Moffat district.

Field Meetings.—The Secretary submitted the following list of places to be visited during the summer, which the Committee had selected, and moved their adoption:—May—Rue Tower, Dunscore Old Churchyard, Isle Tower (Mr Fergusson of Isle having invited the Society), and Friars' Carse. June—Orchardton Old Tower and Orchardton, Mr Robinson-Douglas having invited the Society to spend the day in exploring the hills, &c., on his estate. July—Meet the Scottish Natural History Club (Edinburgh) at Moffat and visit Beld Craig. August—The district of Sanquhar, Mr J. R. Wilson and Dr Davidson having kindly promised to arrange the programme and to conduct the party. September—Dunrod and other places of interest in the neighbourhood of Kirkcudbright, under the guidance of Messrs M'Kie and Coles.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I. *The Small Urn recently found at Greystone, Dumfries.*

By Mr J. WILSON (Secretary).

At a meeting of this Society, held on 5th November, 1880, an anonymous paper, entitled "An Antiquary's Growl," was read, in which the author recorded his protest, and drew the attention of the Society to the fact that the Greystone of Greystone Park had been buried, and that two cabbages valued at two pence were then growing in its place. From that time the subject of raising this old land mark was frequently discussed in committee

meetings, and representations were made to the late proprietor of the field, and to the tenant, but without success. Last year the field in which this stone was situated was purchased by Mr William Dickie, Victoria Terrace, Dumfries, and soon afterwards I waited upon him, and solicited him to favour this Society and the community at large by again raising the stone, and placing it in such a suitable position that the public could have access thereto. Mr Dickie kindly promised to grant this request as soon as he obtained possession of the field; and I have now to report that this stone was dug up on Monday, the 21st March, 1887, and that it is at present lying within eight feet of its original site, it being that distance to the north. Time will not permit me to notice the history of this stone further than to say that it is one of a so-called Druidical Circle which formerly stood on that knoll, and that it was on the northern point of the circle. I may mention, however, that Mr W. G. Gibson informs me that the late Mr John Brodie remembered several stones standing there in a circle, and that he frequently played leap-frog over them when a boy. Mr Brodie also stated that three of these stones were buried in the foundations of Mr Reid's house, a fourth was built into the wall at the Mile-house, and a fifth was lying at the entrance gate of the field. The greystone, that at the Mile-house, and the one at the gate are boulders of Silurian grit, and are dissimilar from the rocks quarried in the district. It was in searching for the greystone that the Urn, the subject of this paper, was found. On Thursday, 17th March, 1887, workmen commenced excavating for the foundations of a house which Mr Dickie purposes building there, and they picked up three old coins—two halfpennies and a farthing—and the bowl of an elfin or old tobacco pipe. These I exhibit and present to the Society. The coins are too much worn, by being so long in the earth, to be deciphered correctly, and the pipe I believe to be of no very distant date. These were found in the top layer of mould, which has been frequently ploughed and manured. Thinking that articles of greater interest might be found, I mentioned it to Mr Dickie, who promised to make arrangements with the contractor for their security and receipt. On Monday the greystone was discovered, and in excavating around it, one of the workmen noticed something which he said "looked like a turnip," and lifted it to the surface on his spade. As Mr Dickie and I had been speaking of urns on the Thursday, the man at once

guessed it to be one, and thinking it might be full of coins emptied out the contents with his knife. Mr Dickie arriving on the scene, got him to replace the contents, which appeared to be nothing but clay, or rather fine sand. In looking about they noticed some pieces of bone, and these they also put into the urn. Mr Dickie gave the urn to me, which I now exhibit and present to this Society. On visiting the place I ascertained that it was lying on its side, and was at the depth of four feet and a half below the surface. It is of red clay, burnt, unglazed, very fine in texture, ornamented with three lines—two at its widest part, with a row of dots between, and one $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top. Between the top line and that next below there are fine diagonal cross-lines. The three lines are clearly cut as if made by a sharp instrument. From the accompanying drawing, kindly made by Mr Robert Barbour, its dimensions will be easily seen. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the base, and slopes gracefully to its greatest diameter, which is 3 inches at $1\frac{1}{2}$ from the base, then gradually contracts to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the top. There are two small holes pierced through one side about half an inch apart. I have looked carefully for a lid or covering, and also for a larger urn, but up to the present have not discovered either. On Friday evening Mr Barbour and I visited the place, and on digging to the depth of $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet we found numerous pieces of bones, lying on the same level as the urn had been, and within a radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet. These bones we collected, also two pieces of charcoal, and some of the darker coloured sand with a piece of the skull embedded therein. The fragments of bones are not larger than an inch and a half, and are evidently portions of a human skeleton, and I think a full grown male. However, I have these specimens for further examination by experts if desirable. When the greystone was buried, I have ascertained that a hole was dug at the side, and that it was pushed into it, in the direction from the wall or towards the north. The urn was found on the south side of the stone when buried, and we found the fragments of bones on the south side of the place where the stone had lain, so we may conclude that the urn and bones were very close together, and that they were buried in a grave four and a half feet below the present level of the field, or three feet and a half below the top layer of soil, and that the greystone originally marked the site of this interment. From these particulars, I venture to express the opinion that the urn is an



J Akerman, Photo-lith London

Urn found at Gwy Stone. April 1887.



ancient British Cinerary Urn of the later period, that had been buried by the side of the partly-burnt bones. It was customary, however, at that period to place a small vessel like this inside of, or beside, a larger one, but I have found no trace of the larger vessel as yet. I have sent a drawing of the urn and details to Mr Black, of the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, and I have received his reply since coming to this meeting, in which he says—"The urn is one of a type occasionally found in connection with burials of the Bronze age, and never alone, but always in connection with a larger urn of the Cinerary type." . . . With regard to the purpose of these vessels, Dr Anderson writes—"The purpose of these tiny vessels has given rise to a variety of conjectures. It has been suggested that they may have been censers or incense cups, or lamps, or salt-cellars or vessels for carrying the sacred fire that was to light the funeral pile, or cups for the strong drink required on the occasion of the funeral feast, or vessels destined to contain the ashes of the brain or heart, or for the bones of an infant sacrificed on the death of its mother. All these conjectures are equally probable, inasmuch as they are all equally unsupported by evidence." (Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries, vol. xiii. p. 122.)

Note.—Another stone belonging to the Circle was discovered on making further excavations in the middle of April, 1887, and in close proximity to it were several pieces of bones, similar to those already described. This one is larger than the greystone.

II. *The recent Cup and Ring Mark Discoveries in Kirkcudbrightshire.* (Abridged.)

By Mr F. R. COLES, Vice-President.

About twenty-five years ago, Sir James Y. Simpson, when compiling the materials for his work on British Archaic Sculpturings, described certain marks on rocks and stones in Kirkcudbrightshire. One of these is popularly known as the "Cow Clout Stane," at Kenervie, in the parish of Parton; the other is at High Auchenlarie, Anwoth, some four miles west of Gatehouse-on-Fleet. The Cow Clout marks occur upon the surface of the natural rock; those at Auchenlarie are cut upon a slab. At the same time, there were two localities in Dumfriesshire (Holywood

and Greystone) and one in Wigtownshire (Whirlpool) described by the same writer. Thus, a record of five widely-separated localities marked by pre-historic sculptures was then made for the South of Scotland. During the summer of last year (1886) there was found by Mr William Thompson of Kirkcudbright a highly important addition to our local rock-sculptures in the neighbourhood of what once were the village and Kirk of Dunrod, in the centre of a district teeming with relics of ancient times. I repeat, a most important discovery this, since there were found, not merely oval or irregularly-circular hollows in the rock (such as lead one to doubt the nature of the marks), but distinct cup-shaped cavities surrounded by a clearly-cut ring, and not only by one such ring but by many concentric rings, and besides these, certain grooves or gutters connected with them; all so arranged as evidently subservient to some plan and purpose. Before proceeding to describe some of the designs which characterise our Dunrod and other sculpturings, it will be well to familiarise the eye with their general form by noting the seven types into which Simpson collected these strange figures. (See Plate I.)

Type 1.—Single Cups. These may be arranged in any manner, symmetric or not. Sometimes (as at Balmae) a solitary cup is the only cutting on a rock. They may occur in couples and triads, as at High Banks; in long lines, as at Ratho, where the face of a rock forming part of a "Druidical" circle is perpendicularly bisected by a line of cups; or, as at Old Bewick (Northumberland), where a horizontal line of cups is cut along the sides of a rock; or again, they may be clustered together and scattered over the surface of a rock quite undesignedly.

Type 2.—Cup surrounded by a single ring.

Type 3.—Cup surrounded by a series of concentric rings.

Type 4.—Cup surrounded by a series of concentric but incomplete rings, having a straight radial groove. Prof. Simpson thought this the most common.

Type 5.—Cup surrounded by concentric rings which are extended into lines.

Type 6.—Concentric rings without any central or other cup.

Type 7.—Spirals or volutes—the central point being usually marked by a cup-like excavation. Prof. Simpson says this is perhaps the rarest form in Britain, but is common in Ireland and Brittany.

I hope to make it clear that with the exception of the spiral, we have in one small district in the Stewartry all these types represented, and some new ones. The rock containing the strange marks which arrested the eye of William Thompson is a rather smooth northward-sloping piece of "whinstone" (a form of Greywacke), in one of the large and rich pasture fields known

as the Milton Parks. Across it a dyke was built (see dotted line, Pl. II., Fig. 3), which divides this field and the Dunrod Kirkyard from a like field on the east, which also contains a goodly number of sculptured rocks. In honour of its discoverer, I have named this Thompson's Stone. The turf being worn off by cattle, there is exposed to view a surface of some fifteen square feet, very distinctly carved, as shown in Pl. II., Fig. 3. It contains five plain cups, three cups surrounded each by a single ring, two cups surrounded by concentric rings, and two cups with rings and flexed lines; in addition to which there are two oblong cavities. The diameter of the largest ring is eight inches, and of its central cup two inches, the others in proportion. The depth of the cups is barely half-an-inch, while the rings scarcely reach that. The rock has been much disintegrated, and no doubt once bore more cups and rings. Owing to its exposure, the weather has worn down its surface very considerably.

To the east of this dyke, at some 60 yards away N.E., is a similar rock, sloping N.E., which contains numerous sculptures, but all (with one exception) of the same types as those just described. The exception referred to is a group of five concentric circles with a very broad channel beginning at the third ring—very similar, therefore, to the largest group on the Auchenlarie slab (Pl. II., Fig. 1), and to the larger group on the rock at Clachandolly (Pl. VI.) The surface of this rock at Milton is very closely covered with rings, cups, and grooves, but as the rock has also been severely weathered, it is extremely difficult to say what may be artificial groovings and what natural cracks and narrow fissures, if indeed the one may not be the cause of the other. There are at least 15 cups and 20 rings on this stone, besides oblongs, the largest ring being almost 12 inches in diameter and the smallest about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The oblongs on these Dunrod rocks are all small—not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. or thereabouts. In this East Milton field there are a great many cups and rings of the same types as those just described. I shall, therefore, note only such as have marked peculiarities. One such is shown in Pl. II., Fig. 2, where we find a large cup, larger than the central one, lying between the two outer rings of the group of four concentric circles—the greatest diameter being 10 inches, the outside cup being 2 inches wide. A groove connects the third of these rings with the ring of a second group about 10 inches distant, and another single cup and ring are carved about four inches to its northerly side.

The next interesting deviation of type is represented on a small piece of rock close to the road and a few yards west of Low Milton Cottage. It is shown on Pl. VII., Fig. 2. The upper portion of this rock having been well under the turf, this cutting of a single cup and ring is more than usually deep and distinct. They have evidently, when fresh cut, been a good inch deep. The serpentine groove which comes out of the ring is also at its upper end very clear, but, as it bends down to the ring below and enters its cup, it becomes almost hypothetical. At six inches to the left of this lower cup is a third cup, also obscure. I do not find any trace of the prolongation of the groove towards this third cup.

Near the farm of Milton, and not far from the remains of a Fort, there are innumerable surfaces of the whinstone exposed—some nearly flat. On the flattest of them all I found the design shown in Pl. VII., Fig. 1. It is remarkable for the perfect precision of its circles, the straightness with which its cups lie in a line, and the curiously short lip of the largest ring. They are carved in almost, if not quite, a due N. and S. line. There is something, not only in these details, but in the size, shape, and appearance of the surface of this rock, not a little suggestive of the lid of a kist-vaen. The following are the dimensions :—

Greatest length of stone	4 feet 6 inches.
„ width „	2 „ 6 „
Diameter of largest ring	5½ „
„ „ cup	3½ „
„ of smaller ring	3½ „
„ „ cup	1½ „

These Milton fields contain then at least 42 cups and 44 rings, distributed over a total of seven groupings or “localities.” I have little doubt that more yet remain to be discovered. Some of the most remarkable of these Petroglyphs were those found by Mr E. A. Hornel and myself on the 23d of February, 1887, in the neighbourhood of Old Galtway, Knockshinnie, and Bahnae.

At High Banks, by the kindness of Mr Rigg, we were shown, first of all, a surface of whinstone upon which we could trace an elaborate design composed of central cups and *rings of cups*, or cupped circles. This arrangement of a cup surrounded by a ring of cups, which, to us, seemed a new fact in this study, would appear to be not so rare, for Sir J. Simpson says—“On the Rowtin Lynn Rock (Northumberland) is an example (the only

one I have noticed in England) of a cup surrounded by a circle of cups, instead of a circular line"—seeming to imply by this that the arrangement is at least known on Scottish rocks, or elsewhere. Yet in no one of the numerous plates illustrating his work is there any example given of such an arrangement. The only approach to it is a group of six concentric circles *dotted* out on a monolith in Sweden.

Captain Conder, R.E., a great collector of lapidary sculpturings in the East, to whom I wrote about these cup circles, replied that they were new to him. It would be strange if this type proves to be peculiar to one part of the British Isles alone. The whinstone rock on which this important constellation of cups is carved lies some 200 yards from the centre of the old village of Galtway.* It trends north and south, and much of it having some fifty years ago been blasted and quarried away, several square yards in all probability of sculptured surface have been lost. Beginning at the southern end of the rock, that nearest "The Gatta" (Galtway village), there is a space exposed of five feet by three, and upon this there are no fewer than 200 cups and 3 plain rings distinguishable—as shown by the photo-lithograph on Pl. III. There are ten central cups; seven of these have a ring of cups seven in number, and one an additional plain ring. Of the three remaining centres, the largest has, first, two plain rings, and beyond these two cup rings containing 21 and 42 cups respectively (?) The next has four circles of cups, beginning with 14; and the third has a small ring of seven cups, and an outer one of fourteen.† The diameter of the largest ring is 15 in., of the next 9½ in., and of the third 6 in. The cups vary from 3 in. to about ¾ in. in diameter, and are barely half an inch deep. Many of them are worn down almost beyond detection. Fifteen feet north of this sculpture is a second cutting perhaps even more interesting and peculiar. (Pl. IV.) I have called it a probable attempt at drawing a tree. My friend, Mr Hornel, who discovered this, made a cast of about a square foot of the lowest or westerly portion of the rock, and was at once struck with the resemblance to a tree. At that time he had not observed the connection of the main broad straight groove GG with the curved

* Known to have been inhabited during the Irish Rebellion, 1641.

† Such at least was the first reading of this ring-puzzle which Mr Hornel and I made. Where all is so vague, I think we are as much entitled to a solution of *seven* as to a solution of *three*, which is a favourite interpretation of other ring-sculptures.

portion on the left. Unfortunately the rock is greatly broken, on the southern side especially, and all the higher portion—on the left in the plate—very much obliterated. Of the two upright grooves marked DD I am inclined to be doubtful—the only fact in favour of their artificiality being that the shorter one does not continue beyond the cup. It may, therefore, like the very distinctly-cut groove T, be considered as a stem of our supposed tree. Of all the rest of the design, the main stem T, the ground line GG, and the groups of cups and ovoid hollows on either side of the stem, there can be no doubt on the point of artificiality. They are perfectly clear cut, deep, and unweathered; and each cup as well as the grooves are full of unusually-distinct and decided tool marks. Indeed, so decided are these that they suggest the only doubt in the matter—were *these* cups and grooves not cut by something harder than the flints of our pre-historic forefathers? There are two very short scratches on the lower side of the ground line GG, one of which has suggested the notion that it was once continued and formed the corresponding arm of a cross. I cannot think that either of these marks has anything to do with the design at all; they are much more like marks made by the teeth of a harrow. On the same line of rock surface the following sculptures are found:—A group of concentric rings with central cup, the largest ring being twenty inches in diameter and the cup one inch. The rings are five in number, and are much weather-worn. A little to the north of this is a wonderfully fresh and deep cup two inches in diameter, having four rings round it, all very clear; one of these rings being so much deeper than the space next the cup groove as to make it look like a ridge above the surface of the rock. This is a rather uncommon form. I have records of only two others at all similar; one is on the Kist-cover at Bleaton-Hallett, Blairgowrie, and the other is mentioned by Mr Jolly in his paper on “The cup-marked stones in the neighbourhood of Inverness.” Near this remarkable cup are two plain cups, and numerous small indistinct cups; and at a few feet away fragments of a different arrangement can be traced composed of sets of one large and two small cups, and of ordinary single cups and rings, and also of rings of cups, like those above described, surrounding a central cup.*

* While preparing this I hear to-day (14th September, 1887) of the discovery of yet more and more peculiar petroglyphs on the same piece of rock at High Banks by Mr Hornel and Mr Thompson.

Some two hundred yards to the south-west of this ridge of rocks at High Banks, we stand in the midst of the turf-hidden multitudinous middens and shapeless walls of the once well-to-do village of Galtway (locally called "The Gatta"). On a small projecting and flat piece of coarse-grained sandy whinstone, we find an interesting type of petroglyph (shown in Pl. V., Fig. 2). It contains a cup 1 in. in diameter, round this an incomplete circle 4 in. in diameter, round this a second incomplete circle $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, and lastly, an arc of above the third of a circle, which, if complete, would have a diameter of 11 inches. This is a noticeable sculpture, as there is no doubt, on examining the rock, that these segments were cut and left incomplete. There are other sculptures on the site of "The Gatta," but all of the ordinary cup and ring type.

The next rock-surface visited contains a highly interesting sculpturing, discovered by Mr Hornel. It lies nearly at the summit of a wooded and rocky hill called Knockshinnie, some 300 feet above sea-level, and within a mile of the sea itself. Nearly half-way between it and the Dunrod rock-markings is the site of the old Castle of Drummore. The design of this petroglyph is shown on Pl. V., Fig. 1. It is rather too vague to admit of an elaborate fac-simile being made, but its prominent features are these—Four concentric rings with central cup and a much larger cup between the circumferences of the two outer rings—precisely the arrangement noticed above on one of the Dunrod rocks. It occurs also on the Rhynie stone (mentioned by Mr Jolly in the paper above referred to), with this difference that the ring-line cuts the cup in halves. There is also a simple cup, with a semi-circle above it, at the higher or south-east extremity of this curious design; and the irregularity of the long groove and of the concentric rings, together with the extremely worn and obliterated state of this entire group of markings, lead one to fancy this may have been an early work indeed of this ancient school of design. Below this part of the hill, on rocks in the home-fields of Balmae, north of the house, are isolated examples of plain cups and cups with single rings, one of these cups being of the unusual diameter of 5 inches. Quite close to the out-houses at Balmae, I found a very clear and prominent piece of cutting. (See Pl. V., Fig 3.) The rings are a little irregular, but the cups quite circular, grooves and cups being something under one-third of an inch deep. This is remarkable for having

two cups within the circumference of one ring. The larger ring measures two feet across in one direction and one foot eight inches in the other. The cups are each three inches across, and the grooves respectively three and five inches long.*

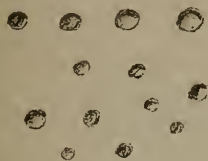
The ground all about these Balmae outhouses is very rocky. Large spaces of rock are exposed, and on almost all of them, there are not only weather-worn ovals and narrower holes, but faint traces of artificial handiwork, besides the distinct design just described and those I am about to refer to. In one large flat rock are two large and deep cavities, measuring about $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 8 in. in diameter, and respectively 6 in. and 5 in. deep. They are perfectly spherical at about two inches below the surface; above that line their sharpness of edge loses itself in a lip, and the lip gradually slopes up to the actual surface of the rock. They may have been, originally, grinding basins, and in the course of thousands of years (!) have become smoothed away into their present oval form. Or they may, originally, have been the beds of large pebbles, and thereafter worked upon by the flint or bronze tools of our Archaic sculptors. On the rock nearest these, some twelve or fifteen feet to the east, there are numerous round suspiciously artificial-looking hollows, very shallow, but very regular, which lie in lines along its surface, running north-east and south-west, and evidently a continuation of similar cups to be seen in smaller numbers on another exposed piece of the same rock. The space between the two now exposed rocks is quite turfed over, yet not so deeply as to prevent our striking the rock below with a long-handled spud. We counted at least fifty of these cup-marks; and since my first visit, rings, of the usual type, have been observed. Though there may be a reasonable doubt as to the origin of these cavities, there can be none as to the design and accuracy displayed in the group of petroglyphs presently to come under our notice—the last important typical group of this district.

On the rather steeply sloping surface of a very weathered and glaciated mass of whinstone *in situ*—some 100 yards or so south-west of Balmae—are two sets of concentric rings, one having five rings and an extreme diameter of 24 in., with central cup of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., being in no way more remarkable than others of the same

* At Little Balmae Mr Hornel has found a very similar sculpturing—two rings within each other, but still more irregular than those described above, and *without cup or groove*. Measurement of outer ring, 18 in. by 17 in. at widest point; of inner ring, 13 in. by 10 in.

PLATE I.
SIMPSON'S SEVEN TYPES.

TYPE 1.



TYPE 2.



TYPE 3.



TYPE 4.



TYPE 5.



TYPE 6.



TYPE 7.





PLATE II.

MARKS AT AUCHENLARJE AND DUNROD.

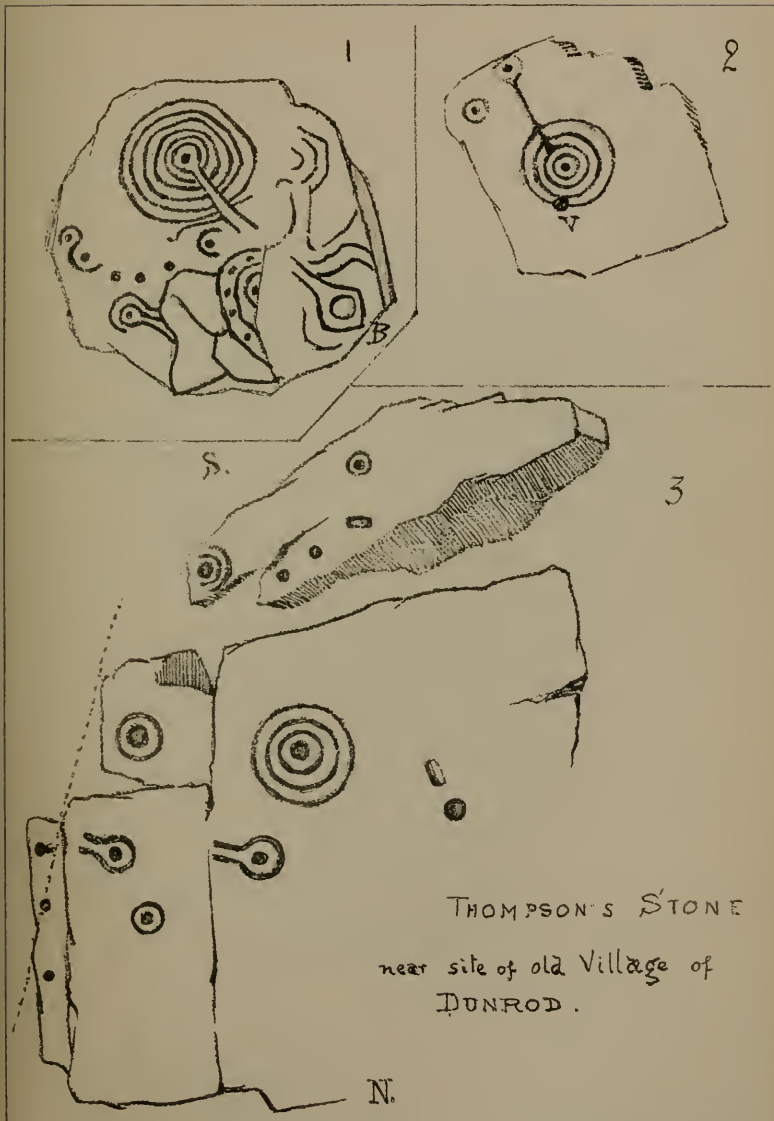




PLATE III
CUP. CIRCLES AT HIGH BANKS.





PLATE IV.

AT HIGH BANKS : TREE-SYMBOL ?

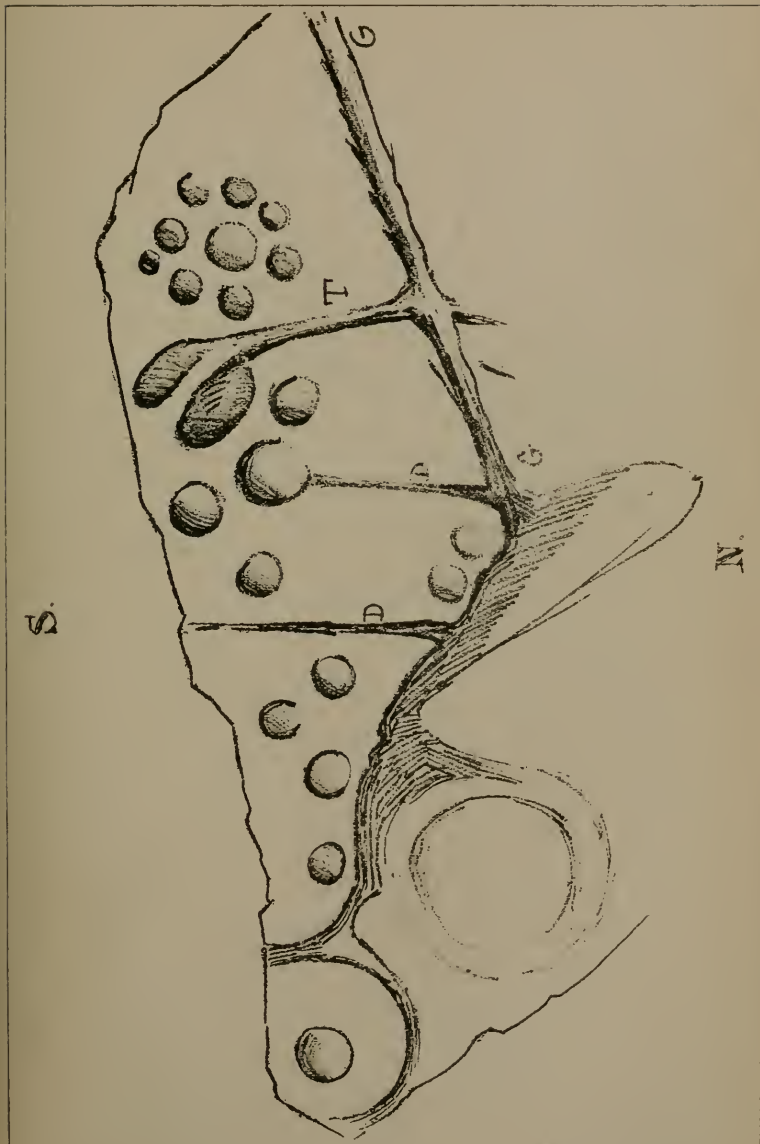




PLATE V
AT RNOCKSHINNIE GALTWAY AND BALMAE

E.

V

W.

2

S.

4

3

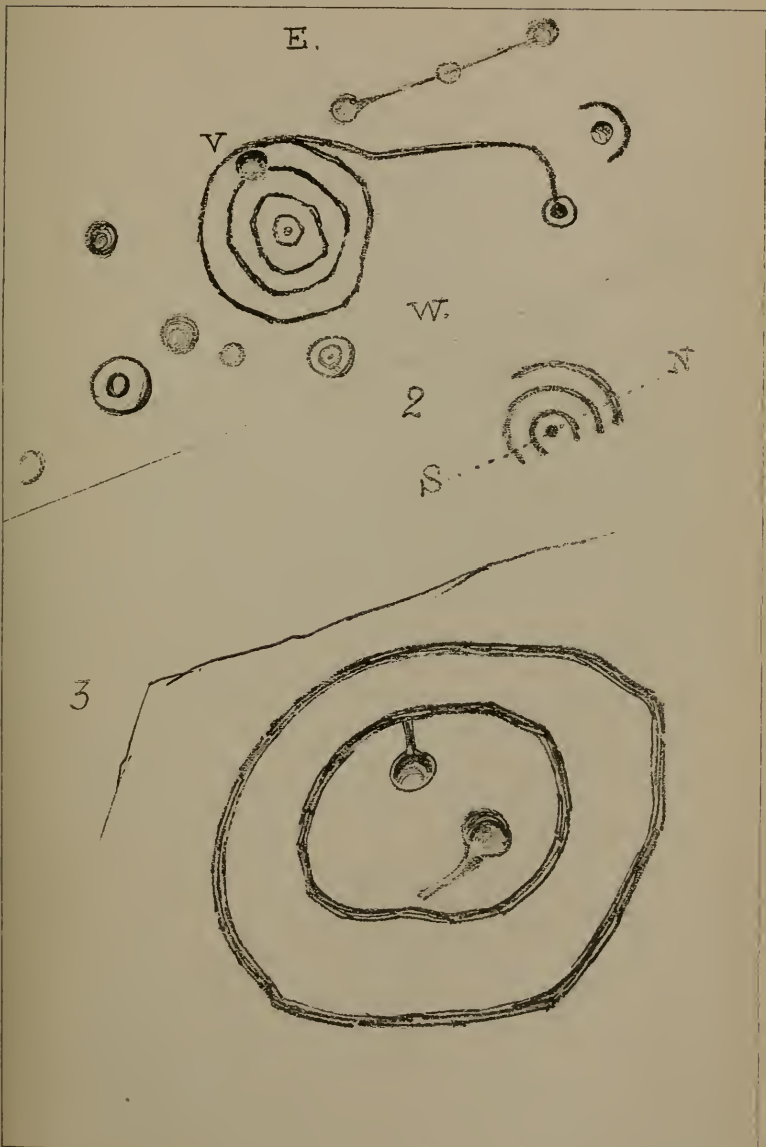




PLATE VI

THE CLACHAN DOLLY STONE
(BORGUE)

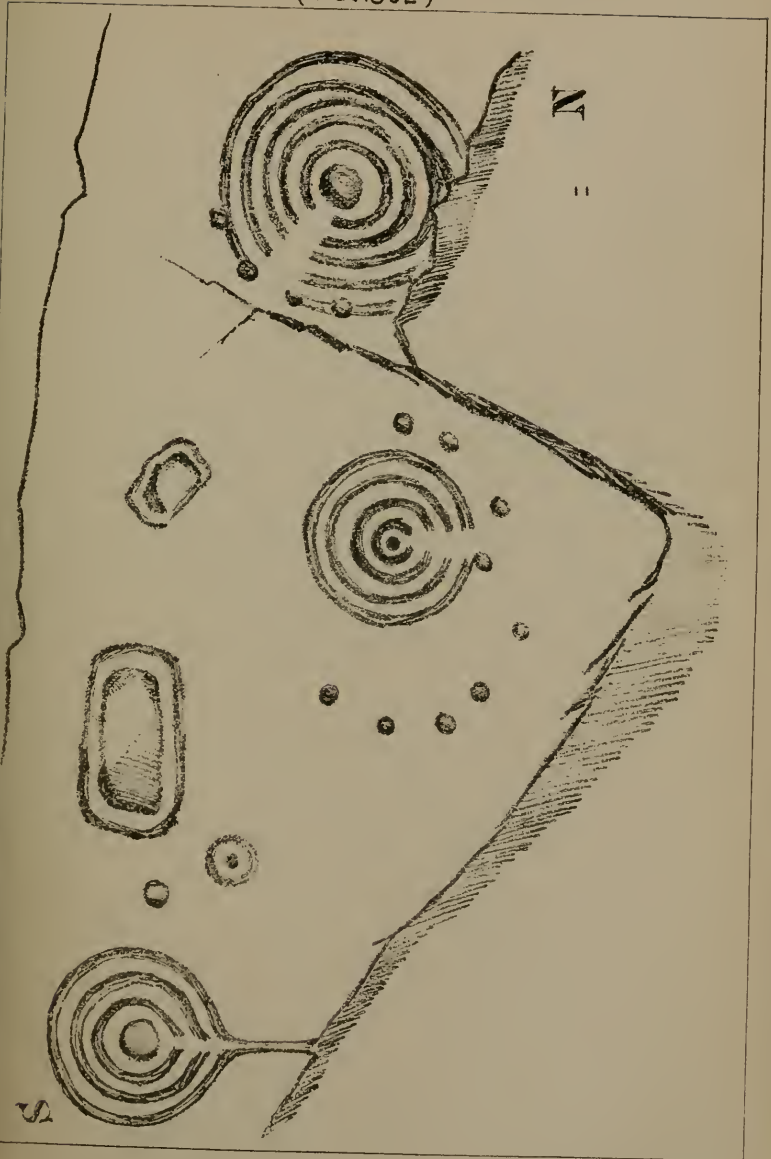
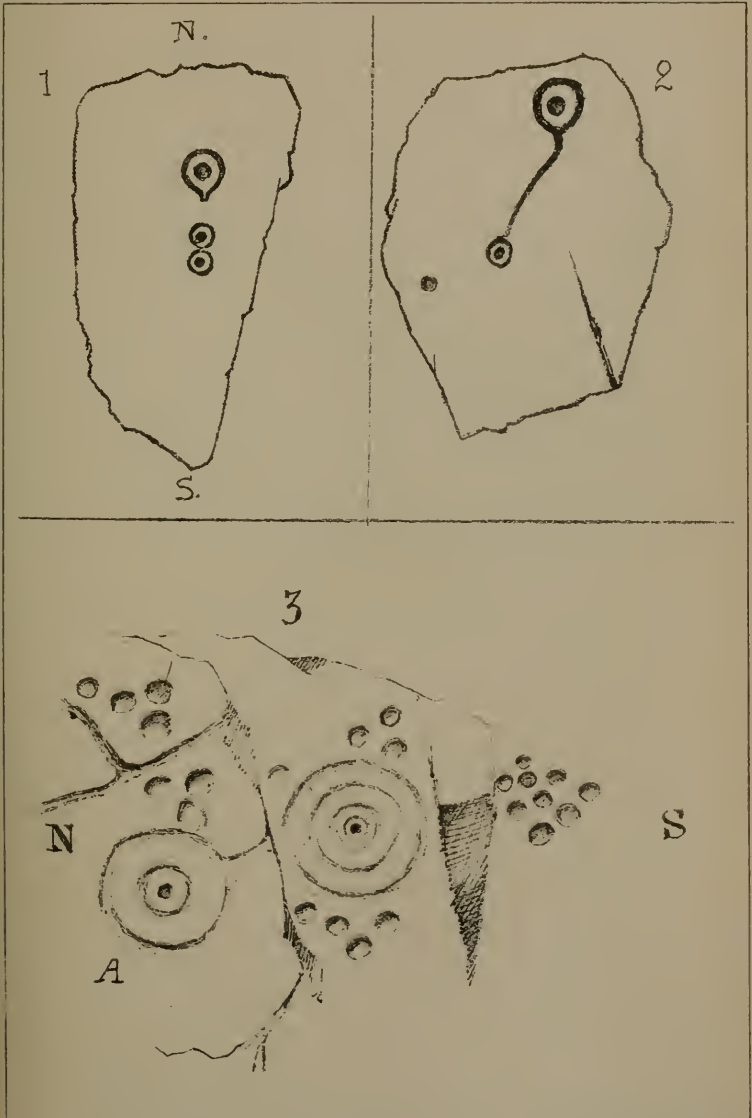




PLATE VII.

AT MILTON AND HIGH BANKS.





type. But its fellow-group of four plain concentric rings, *without central or any other cup*, makes a valuable addition to our Kirkcudbrightshire types. Slightly further to the south-west a similar group of plain concentric rings—five in number—occurs. The diameter of the largest ring in both these groups is 18 inches, while the smallest is 3 inches wide. The sculpturings I have hitherto described are collected within a very small area on the east bank of the Dee: say, from Bombie straight south to the coast where is the site of Raeberry Castle—a distance of rather over four miles, and a breadth of country not more than two—*i.e.*, between the Parish of Rerwick on the east and The Manxman's Lake on the west—at most, an area of not more than eight square miles. Within this area it is also noteworthy that no fewer than twelve ancient camps, forts, castles, or villages can be traced; so that it is manifestly almost impossible that any cup and ring marks should occur more than one mile away from such camps or villages. That they are not found always in proximity to such remains I can prove from personal observation, as *e.g.*, at Borness in Borgue, where, within a few yards of the famous bone-cave, the moats of an old fort are perfectly visible; and in Balmaghie, at Edgarton and Dunnance, where there are two moats within a mile of each other; but neither at or near any of these places is there a sign of cup or ring, and indeed little, if any, of the hard, smooth glaciated whinstone is found there either.

The country on the west of the Dee has not yet yielded so large a crop of good results. There are, however, one or two suggestive sculpturings to be seen on rocks *in situ* here as well as in the Dunrod locality, which seems to have been specially favoured in this matter. On the farm of Brighouse, in a field behind the smithy, at Clachandolly, in Borgue, is a bare piece of rock, long exposed, and showing a design of which I give a representation on Pl. VI. There are two curious points in this petroglyph. First, the size and importance of the oblong cuttings, the larger being seven inches by four inches (taking the outside groove); and then the peculiar effect obtained in the two upper ring-groups, by leaving the stone at its natural level where the rings stop. There is no groove cut down, as in the third or south ring, but a broad clear space simply left intact. There is also apparently a point of minor interest in the arrangement of several cups on the line of the outermost circle in the large group, and what looks like an attempt—and a bad one—to cut a circle of cups round

the small middle group of rings. The diameters of the largest ring in each group, counting from the north end, are 11, $8\frac{1}{2}$, and 8 inches respectively; and the small oblong measures 4 inches by 2. In several spots hard by Brighthouse Bay and Senwick there are reputed cups and rings. One or two which were reported to me proved to be mere weatherings; of others I cannot yet speak by personal examination.

The next important sculpturing is the one I referred to on the first page—the slab at High Auchenlarie, in Anwoth, described by Prof. Simpson. In Pl. II., Fig. 7, is shown what seems a very careful and accurate representation of this stone. It is important in many ways. Simpson says it was dug up by plough many years ago on a piece of waste land, and its exact relations to any other stone, or to the well-known stone circle at High Auchenlarie, were unfortunately at the time not noticed. But he thinks it may have been a *Kist-cover*. It would be very interesting to ascertain this. With the two exceptions I am about to adduce, we have no instance in Galloway, so far as I know, of cup or ring marks being found cut on *anything but rock in situ*. I have examined monoliths, stones, or so-called “Druidical” circles, boulders, &c., and as yet have seen nothing in the form of genuine cups and rings carved on these surfaces, with the following exceptions:—(a) In Tongland, on the lower slopes of Barstobric, there is a much glaciated smooth and very hard block of whinstone (Greywacke), measuring roughly four feet by two, and in thickness about one foot eight. On this there are two large and very distinctly and smoothly cut cups, measuring respectively $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. and 4 in. in diameter, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. and 2 in. deep. (b) The other exception is, still on the west side of the Dee, miles away among the moors to the north of Cairnharrow. Here on a wild gloomy spot, 700 feet above sea level, I found near, but in no apparent connection with, a tumulus and two stone circles and kist-vaens, two cups on a rough dark grey sandstone block. One is of the ordinary form; the other is remarkable, *being funnel-shaped*, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and about the same in surface diameter, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch only wide at the bottom. Cup-hollows of exactly this type have also been found in Ohio, and near Penrith.

The Auchenlarie slab—now preserved at Cardoness—displays some fresh points of interest; for it contains not only many and varied typical markings, but has one sculpturing on the lower

portion which is different from any others known amongst our Kirkcudbrightshire petroglyphs. I refer to the one marked B in the plate. The prolongation of the grooves of this cutting has evidently been severed or worn away towards the middle of the stone; there can be little doubt that these two grooves formed part of the design on the upper portion. Indeed, it is quite probable that the general design was carried on beyond B, and down what was, no doubt, the longer surface of the slab. The numerous incomplete circles and semi-circles are also noticeable. Close to the standing stones of the "Druidical" Circle at High Auchendarie, on the nearest surface of solid rock, I discovered cup and ring sculptures, containing 8 perfect cups varying from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 inches wide, and two groups of rings, the largest being 5 inches wide. There are also straight and curved grooves, the lower and turf-hidden portion seeming to bear proofs of having only begun to be picked out. It may be worth while noting that in the year 1882 the total number of cup or ring marked stones described was in Great Britain 348, of which 128 are sepulchral; while in France, Switzerland, and Scandinavia together there was a total of only 95, of which 21 are sepulchral. The stones are or were most numerous in Northumberland, which had 18 localities—in Yorkshire 8, Cumberland and Isle of Man each with four, Derbyshire 3, and one each in Westmoreland, Lancashire, Stafford, Dorset, and Cornwall. (Pro. Soc. Antiq., Scot., 1881-82.) Counting each separate rock surface as a "locality," the total for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright will be somewhere between 35 and 40. Hitherto, the Valley of the Nairn has been distinguished by its richness in these ancient sculpturings, but from day to day so many new localities are being discovered and described that it will be hard if we in Kirkcudbright may not soon vie with any other county in adding important facts to the materials already accumulated—which may help us to read this riddle of the rocks—at once so mysterious, so universal, and so human.*

Note.—The cups and rings shown at the foot of Pl. VII. form part—and a very small part—of a most interesting discovery made during this autumn (1887) by Mr Hornel, who has made several excellent casts of this recent "find," which can be seen in the Museum at Kirkcudbright. A surface of solid rock, some

* At some future date I may discuss some of the thousand and one theories advocated in solution of the origin and meaning of the petroglyphs. At present I see no better course than to collect facts and arrange material.

three feet square, sloping off east and west from a central ridge, saddle-like, is covered as closely and intricately as possible with designs of a similar type to those shown on Pl. III., of which, indeed, it forms a portion. Several square feet to the east of this sculptured "saddle" are also very elaborately carved with what seem, at first glance, to be fresh designs, in which grooves straight and partly angular are more conspicuous than rings. There are also many small groupings of cups in threes and fives, some with grooves, others simple. The chief peculiarity in the portion shown in my diagram (Fig. 3, Pl. VII.) lies in the whole inner surface of the ring marked A being hollowed out to a level below the actual level of the surrounding rock. This ring is ten inches wide, and the adjoining circle eleven inches.

III. *The Graptolites of the Moffat District.*

By Mr JAMES DAIRON, F.G.S.

It may be remembered that the specimens which I exhibited before this Society on the last occasion were, with few exceptions, principally the simpler forms belonging to the genera *Monograptus* and *Diplograptus*. To-night, I shall bring forward a few of the more complex kinds, also found in the lower Silurian or upper Llandeilo rocks of the south of Scotland from the locality of Moffat. Although these ancient Zoophytes have not a wide range in the earth's crust, being exclusively confined to the Silurian system, yet, geographically speaking, they are found in various countries of the globe, indeed wherever these rocks exist. I shall again briefly describe their structure, and with the assistance of this model, the accompanying drawings, and specimens which are on the table, those of you who are unfamiliar with the subject will, I trust, be able to follow me as I proceed in the enumeration of the different species.

We shall now notice *Monograptus Sedgwickii*.—There is no Graptolite, it may be stated, that assumes so many different forms and variations of form as this species. Many of these differences, I have no doubt, may arise from their state of preservation, their age, or their sex. There are two or three varieties, which appear to be distinct enough to be entitled to distinct names. The general form of *M. Sedgwickii*, as described by Portlock and figured by M^rCoy, consists of a simple Monoprionidian stipe of

considerable length. The breadth of the adult portion of the stipe from the solid axis to the cell mouth is from one to two lines. The axis is capillary, the common canal is broad, sometimes attaining a width of $\frac{1}{20}$ th of an inch. The cellules are long, slender, and pointed, their superior margins slightly convex, and having a general direction at right angles to the axis; their inferior margin more extensively curved, the inner or basal portion being sharply inclined to the axis, while the outer half is nearly horizontal. Each cellule is of a triangular shape, the base resting on the common canal, the cell apertures being at the apex. The cellules are separate, from 20 to 24 in the inch, their general inclination being slightly upwards, nearly at right angles to the axis. Locality—Dobb's Linn, Garpel Glen, &c.

Monograptus Sedgwickii, var. *triangulatus*.—This is a well marked variety of *M. Sedgwickii*, and not a distinct species. The stipe is simple and monoprioidian, and is more or less curved, beginning with a small radical and a slender curved proximal portion, which gradually straightens as it reaches full development. The axis is capillary; the common canal is slender, and very much narrower than in the normal form. The cellules are from 20 to 30 in an inch, nearly at right angles to the axis, and sometimes approaching the appearance of a Rastrite so nearly as to be mistaken for such. Locality—Dobb's Linn and Beld Craig.

Monograptus lobiferus (M'Coy).—In this species the stipe is linear, monoprioidian, often of great length. The full grown individual reaches a breadth of one-tenth to one-twelfth of an inch. The axis is slender. The common canal is rather broad and well marked. Cellules are nearly at right angles with the axis, but having a slight upward inclination. Their upper margin is curved, terminating in obtusely rounded lobes, in which a notch on the under side separates the rounded extremity from the oblique descending margin (M'Coy). The cellules in full grown specimens vary from 16 to 18 in the space of an inch. The base is slender and curved, the common canal having a comparatively greater width. The cell, as is occasionally well shewn, opens at the notch in the under side of the cellule. Locality—Dobb's Linn, Beld Craig, &c.

Climacograptus teretiusculus.—This genus was at first described by Professor M'Coy, and named by him *Diplograptus rectangularis*. It is very abundant, having a wide range passing up through the Skiddaw States, Lower and Upper Llandello, Caradoc, and Lower

Llandovery. It will be observed that it shows no row of denticles or hydrothecæ as in *Monograptus sagittarius*, Linn, *M. Nilssonii*, Barr, and many others, but merely elliptical apertures forming the cell's mouths on both sides of a cylindrical frond or tube, which are not opposite to each other, but alternate. Its width when fully developed is about one-eighth of an inch. The solid axis is prolonged both proximally and distally to a considerable length. The external appearance of the frond varies according to the amount of pressure it may have sustained. There are about 30 hydrothecæ to an inch. The cylinder or frond of *Ulimacograptus teretiusculus* (His.) is made up of two semi-circular compartments, placed back to back with the septum, and the solid axis placed in the centre forming a mutual gable or partition, as it were, between the two colonies of Zooids, having each their own row of cells and common canal, each colony being quite independent of the other. Localities for this species are Dobb's Linn, Hartfell, Beld Craig, &c.

Genera *Didymograptus*.—The polypery is composed of two simple branches springing bilaterally from the radical or initial point. The branches are monopriodon, assuming different angles in different species. The cells, or "hydrothecæ," are generally opposite to the radical or initial point, but in some examples they are found on the same side. The size of the radical or spine varies very much in different species, and in some it is altogether wanting. It is not easily determined to what uses these spines could have been applied, as there does not seem to be any evidence that they had been objects of attachment. If we look at their different positions with the spines inside of the angles or concave, one would think it scarcely possible for them to be used for such a purpose, more especially as some of them are without any radical or initial point whatever. The genus *Didymograptus* was originally founded by M'Coy (1851), and takes in those Graptolites which are "bifid," or of a twin character. The vertical range of this genus has its commencement in the Skiddaw and Quebec groups, and attains its maximum in those rocks in which it is represented by numerous and remarkable examples. It likewise occurs in the lower Llandeilo, and is also well represented in the upper Llandeilo rocks, but is scarcely known in the Caradoc period of this country. Several examples are got in the rocks of this age in America, but not one is known in the upper Silurian, and it may safely be said to be characteristic of the upper and lower Silurian periods.

The genus *Didymograptus* of the Moffat district, belongs to the upper Llandeilo black shales. I have brought several specimens forward to-night, which we may examine. It will be found that the cellules are attached to the under or inferior side of the two arms. It will also be seen that the spines are both on the upper and lower, and some cells are without any whatever. It will also be observed that those belonging to the Arenig, or of the Skiddaw and Quebec groups, have their cells on the uppermost side of the stipe, which is the reverse of the Moffat specimens. Locality—Dobb's Linn, Hartfell, &c.

The genus *Retiolites* was originally founded by Barrande, who described one species *Ret. Geinitzianus*, which he obtained from the upper Silurian rocks of Central Bohemia, and figured in his valuable memoir upon the Graptolites of that country, published in 1850. This genus is one of the most interesting of those belonging to the Graptolitic group, but unfortunately our knowledge of its structure is limited, and must, I think, remain so, until a more extensive collection of specimens, in a more perfect condition than hitherto attainable, has been formed and carefully studied. In its general outward appearance the genus *Retiolites* resembles those of *Diplograptus* and *Climacograptus* in having a central stipe or solid axis, to which is attached a double row of cells, giving it a rather leaf-like appearance, but widely differing from those forms in its internal structure. It may be mentioned that in the year 1873 I exhibited a specimen with remarks before the Geological Society of Glasgow, which I named *Retiolites branchiatus*, and which was a beautiful example of the genus, from the lower Graptolitic shales of Dobb's Linn, near Moffat. On another occasion afterwards, in the same place, I was fortunate enough in discovering a new species of *Retiolites*, differing entirely from anything I had previously got at Dobb's Linn. It was found in the upper shales, showing that the genus had lived through the whole range of strata as represented in the Moffat beds. This new species I showed to Professor Lapworth on one of his visits to Glasgow, which he afterwards named *Retiolites Daironi*, and it is figured in Transactions of N. H. Society of Belfast, and this is an enlarged drawing of the same. You will easily perceive how widely it differs in its internal structure from some of the other species. The length of the fronds seem to vary from 3 inches to 4 inches; while their greatest breadth near the centre is $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. They have a long, slender stipe in the

centre, continuing beyond the distal extremity. To this stipe are attached, at an angle of 30 degrees, the cellules, which are beautifully ornamented with a kind of lace or network placed around them from the outer margin to about half way on each side of the solid axis; the other two halves on the two sides of the stipe being filled in with a kind of hairy, irregular network. The cells at the outer edge are of a finely rounded or convex shape, numbering about 26 to an inch, and are alternate on opposite sides of the frond, while they gradually diminish from three-quarters of its length to a lancet-shaped point. I think there can be no doubt that there was a chitinous covering over the fine hairy netting for protection that has been worn away. Locality—Hartfell and Dobb's Linn.

Genus *Dicranograptus* (Hall), species *ramosus*.—The polyperly towards the proximal point has a double row of cells, but divides or bifurcates at a certain length up into two monopronidian branches on the outside only, or the polyperly keeps the same line as commenced at the proximal points, and has two small lateral spines at each side of a minute radical. The structure of *Dicranograptus ramosus* (Hall) resembles the form of *Diplograptus* for so far up, but the *hydrothecæ* appear to have the same form and structure as *Climacograptus*. The branching off of the two arms at a certain distance up make it easily distinguishable from the other allied forms—*Diplograptus* and *Climacograptus*. The genus *Dicranograptus*, as far as known, is entirely confined to the upper Llandeilo rocks of Britain at present, but it is found in the Cardaoc rocks in North America. Locality—Hartfell and Dobb's Linn.

Genus *Pleurograptus* (Prov.)—This large and rather remarkable Graptolite which we now take up is one of the branching forms, and is, perhaps, one of the most curious of any of our British forms, and seems to have some small resemblance to the *Pleurograptus*, as figured by Mr Carruthers, or nearly related thereto. Mr Carruthers had first given it the name of *Cladograptis linearis*. The Generic name is one that was proposed by Genitz, but Mr Carruthers, not seeing it to be appropriate, then changed it to *Dendrograptus linearis*. It is now recognised as *Pleurograptus linearis*. The frond is composed of two long serrated branches springing from a radical or initial point, and gives off branches at certain distances and mostly at right angles to the main stems. I have specimens with a third re-branching process given off,

while Mr Carruthers' specimen exhibits two only. This genus seems to throw out its branches much in the same manner as its primary branches like the small genus *Cænograptus gracilis* (Hall), with this difference that *Cænograptus* does not send out any secondary branches. Locality —Hartfell and Dobb's Linn.

IV. *A Sketch of Early English Costume.*

By Mr J. G. M'L. ARNOTT.

In this paper the author gave an interesting account of the various costumes worn by the ladies and gentlemen of fashion from the Anglo-Saxon period to the end of the 17th century. He illustrated his remarks by a series of large crayon sketches drawn by himself, depicting the modes of dressing during the different periods.



FIELD MEETINGS, 1887.

RUE TOWER, DUNSCORE OLD CHURCHYARD, ISLE,
AND FRIARS' CARSE.—*7th May, 1887.*

The first Field Meeting of the session was held on the above date, when a party numbering thirty assembled at the Fountain at noon, and proceeded thence in waggonettes to Rue or Fourmerkland Tower, passing on their way the Holywood Druidical Circle. Arriving at the tower, they were disappointed in not obtaining admission, as the tenant, forgetting the arrangements, had gone from home and taken the key with him. The tower, which is yet used as a dwelling-house, is not very large, and is a square structure, with small turrets on the front and rear. It was erected by the Maxwell family in the close of the sixteenth century, and over the principal doorway is the family crest, with the initials R. M. and I. G. at each side, and the date 1590 underneath. Some time was occupied by the members in sketching the building or botanising in the adjoining fields and wood, permission having been granted by the proprietor, Mr Maxwell of the Grove.

The next item on the programme was Dunscore Old Churchyard, and on arriving there the party were joined by the President (Dr Grierson), Mr Fergusson of Isle, and Mr Wellwood Maxwell of Kirkennan. The chief object of interest here was the tomb of Grierson of Lag, but, as what was once a monument in stone to his memory had suffered from the weather, and from the hands of those who held this notorious opponent of the Covenanters in little esteem, the tombstone was not easily discovered. At last Dr Grierson pointed out a large slab, half-covered with moss and debris, lying under a sycamore tree, with the traces of an inscription thereon, but now utterly illegible. Near this is the grave of his son, James Grierson, a flat stone, on which his name is engraved, marking the spot. A short time was spent in deciphering inscriptions on other stones. One of the oldest and in good preservation was in the vault of the Isle family. With a little trouble the inscription "Here lys intombit ain honest and uirtus man, Alexander Fergusson of Iyl, 1608," and in the centre of the stone a lion rampant, could be distinctly traced.

From the churchyard the party proceeded to Isle Tower, where they were cordially welcomed by Mr and Mrs Fergusson. This tower is similar in design and appearance to Rue Tower, and was built about the same time, for over the principal doorway is the date 1587. Under Mr Fergusson's guidance the party entered the structure, which is still used as a dwelling-house, and minutely examined the various secret closets in the walls where valuables might be hidden in time of siege, the thickness of the walls, and the oaken floors. The principal entrance is guarded by a strong iron gate constructed of heavy upright and cross-bars dovetailed into each other. Inside of this was another wooden or comfort gate, generally found in buildings of this period. Before leaving the tower, Mr Fergusson exhibited a number of interesting family documents. One of these was the marriage contract drawn up on the 29th May, 1793, between Alexander Fergusson of Iyl and Agnes Lowrie, daughter of Sir Robert Lowrie of Maxwelton, and sister of the "Annie Laurie" immortalised by Burns. Mr Fergusson also exhibited a number of burgess tickets presented to an Alexander Fergusson of later date, who had been elected a member of Parliament for Dumfriesshire, and gained much popularity for the opposition he displayed towards the union of the English and Scotch Parliaments. For this he was publicly thanked by the citizens of Dumfries, and made a burgess of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Tain, and Lochmaben. Some of the burgess tickets, and especially that of Glasgow, were beautifully illuminated by hand, and the latter bore the date 1770. Numerous title-deeds bearing the seal of the Earl Melross were also inspected.

On leaving the tower the party adjourned to the dining-room, where they were hospitably entertained by Mrs Fergusson. Here a short business meeting was held—Dr Grierson presiding—when Mr Fergusson of Isle and Mr Thomas M'Gowan, solicitor, Dumfries, were elected Ordinary Members; and, on the motion of the President, the thanks of the Society were awarded to Mr and Mrs Fergusson for granting them permission to see this interesting building, and for their cordial and hospitable reception.

Having taken leave of their host and hostess, the party walked along the Nith to Ellisland, where a short stay was made to inspect Burns' old farm-house. On one of the windows, written by the poet with his diamond, may still be seen his favourite

line, "An honest man is the noblest work of God;" and underneath this, on the same pane, is the name Jean Lorimer, also written by him. From Ellisland the walk was continued to Friars' Carse, and on arriving at the Hermitage there, they were met by Mr Nelson's keeper, who conducted them to see a number of sculptured stones and old stone crosses which a former proprietor had collected. A megalithic circle in a wood about a mile from the mansion-house was next visited. This consists of about fifty stones, varying from three to five feet in height, arranged around a larger one in the centre. All the stones appear to be quarried and of a recent date. The lacustrine dwelling in the loch was next visited, a footway having been made to it with branches of trees and brushwood. The outline may still be discerned from the number of upright oaken beams protruding through the mud and above the water.

Owing to the lateness of the season, very few botanical specimens were collected, *Cardamine amara* and the butter-bur, *Petasites vulgaris*, along the banks of the Nith, being the only rarities.

ORCHARDTON TOWER AND ORCHARDTON.—4th June, 1887.

The second Field Meeting of the session was held on Saturday, 4th June, when, on the invitation of Mr Robinson-Douglas, Orchardton Old Tower and the district around Orchardton mansion-house were visited. Owing to the heavy rains in the early morning, and to the constant downpour at the hour of starting (nine o'clock), only fourteen members assembled at the Dumfries Station, and proceeded to Dalbeattie. On their arrival at Dalbeattie, fortune seemed to smile upon the "earnest few," for there was a break in the clouds, and by the time the party had taken their seats in the waggonette which was in waiting, the rain had ceased. From Dalbeattie to Orchardton the drive was most enjoyable, the beauty of the scenery being enhanced by the refreshing rain; and, as glimpses of the sun were occasionally obtained, the party congratulated themselves on the prospect of a pleasant day. The first halt was made at Orchardton Old Tower, where an hour was spent in sketching the ruin or botanising in the district. As the door of the building was opened for the party, the majority ascended to the top by the spiral staircase, where a good view of the surrounding district

was obtained. In one of the chimneys, and about 7 feet from the top, six pale blue eggs in a starling's nest were seen.

From the Tower the drive was continued to the mansion-house, while the golden yellow of the broom and the furze, which was here very abundant, intermingled with the fragrant white of the hawthorn, added a new charm to the scenery. In driving up the avenue to the house the party were joined by Mr Maxwell, the factor on the estate, and on arrival they were received by Mr Robinson-Douglas and by Captain Ramsay—the latter gentleman only recently invalided home from Burmah. Having arranged one o'clock as the hour for luncheon, under the guidance of Mr Robinson-Douglas and the other gentlemen, the party inspected the grounds, conservatories, and flower gardens, where some very beautiful rhododendrons and azelias were yet in bloom. The holly trees were greatly admired for their size, and also for the abundance of blossom with which they were this year clothed, the older botanists of the party never remembering such a show of flower as was then observed.

At the appointed hour they returned to the mansion-house, when Mr Robinson-Douglas exhibited his collections of birds and beetles. The former contained a good many of the rarer birds of this country, and some from the South of Europe and Africa. The entomological collection was very extensive, and gave great pleasure to Mr Lennon and the other members interested in this pursuit.

The party having adjourned to the dining-room, a substantial luncheon was partaken of; and before rising from the table, the usual short business meeting was held, Mr Robinson-Douglas presiding. Dr Mackie and Mrs Mackie, Thornhill, and Mr William Walls, Dumfries, were elected new members. Mr Shaw, of Tynron, moved the thanks of the Society to the sub-committee who had prepared and published the Transactions for Sessions 1883-86, for the trouble they had taken, and for the creditable manner in which they had performed that duty. This was seconded by Mr Bruce, and unanimously agreed to. On the motion of Mr Laing, the Society's thanks were awarded to Mr Robinson-Douglas for inviting the Society to this neighbourhood, and for his kindness in conducting and entertaining the party.

Retiring from the dining-room, the party proceeded to their field of work for the day—the marshy ground, woods, and shores of the bay; for it was thought advisable not to ascend the

adjacent hills, owing to the mist settling down on the tops and obscuring the view. Having arranged to re-assemble at 4.30 at the house, the members scattered, each on his different pursuit; and when they re-assembled the botanists seemed pleased with their finds, but it was not a favourable day for the entomologists.

The following plants were found:—*Ranunculus hederaceus*, *R. Flammula*, *R. Drouetii*, *Chelidonium majus*, *Cardamine sylvatica*, *Cochlearia officinalis*, *Draba verna*, *Viola palustris* (yet in flower), *Polygala vulgaris*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, and *H. tetrapterum* (not yet in flower), *Ornithopus perpusillus*, *Vicia hirsuta*, *V. angustifolia*, *Orobus tuberosus*. One or two shrubs of the Bullace—*Prunus insititia* (rare)—were noticed, and some fine trees of the horn-beam—*Carpinus Betulus*; *Sedum anglicum*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Carum verticillatum*, *Conium maculatum*, *Chlora perfoliata*, *Menyanthes trifoliata* (abundant), *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Linaria Cymbalaria*, *Myosotis palustris*, *M. Collina*, *M. versicolor*, *Glaux maritima*, *Statice limonium* (rare), *Luzula pilosa*, *L. Sylvatica*, *Blysmus rufus*, *Carex dioica*, *C. vulgaris*, *C. glauca*, *C. pallescens*, *C. panicea*, *C. ampullacea*, *C. arenaria*, and the Star of Bethlehem—*Ornithogalum umbellatum*. The scaly fern (*Ceterach officinarum*) is yet firmly established on Orchardton Old Tower, and several plants of the hart's tongue were observed growing between the stones, which is rather an unusual situation. Neither of these ferns were interfered with by the party, and we trust visitors to this old tower will in future also respect them, as they are now very rarely met with in the South of Scotland. The variety *Borreri* of *Nephrodium Filix-mas* was met with in abundance, and the Moonwort (*Botrychium Lunaria*) was observed in all the old pasture fields.

MOFFAT AND BELD CRAIG.—2nd July, 1887.

The Third Meeting of the Session was held as a joint excursion with the Scottish Natural History Club (Edinburgh) in the neighbourhood of Moffat. Owing to the inconvenient train service, the two Societies had little time together on this occasion. Some of the Dumfries members arrived in Moffat by the morning train, and were met there by Mr Dairon, and Mr Johnstone the secretary of the Moffat Naturalists' Club. As the Edinburgh Society was not timed to arrive in Moffat until one o'clock, this

party visited the Wells, and returned to the Railway Station by the Gallow Hill to again welcome the visitors to the district. The majority of the local Society arrived in Moffat at two p.m., and immediately afterwards the whole party proceeded in waggonettes to the Beld Craig Glen. Alighting at the foot of the Glen, the party wended their way along the water's edge and the precipitous sides until the "Beld Craig," an immense mass of rock nearly 100 feet high at the top of the Glen, was reached.

Here the usual business meeting was held, when Mr Barbour, vice-president, presided, and welcomed the Edinburgh Society again to this district. He regretted that the train arrangements were so awkward as to permit them spending much time together, but trusted that on a future occasion they would be more fortunate. Mr Craig-Christie, F.L.S., hon. secretary of the Visitors, intimated an apology from their President, Rev. T. B. Morris, and expressed the pleasure which his Society had in visiting Lochmaben last year, and also on the present occasion. On the motion of Mr J. Wilson (hon. secy.), the thanks of the two societies were awarded to Messrs Johnstone and Dairon for furnishing the details of the excursion and kindly guiding the party.

From the Beld Craig the party returned a short distance down the Glen until the "Weeping Rock" was reached, over which a small rill comes trickling down. In winter, or after a spate, this is a magnificent sight, as the water falling from such a height is dashed into spray by the rocks below. A short distance below this rock the majority of the party scrambled up the precipitous side to the field at the top, where some time was spent in botanising. From this they continued their explorations over two adjacent hills and through a valley, until the bridge over the Moffat Water was reached, where they found the carriages in waiting, and returned to Dumfries by the train arriving there shortly before nine.

Mr Craig-Christie discovered *Rubus Leesii* during the afternoon; and as he subsequently had his "find" confirmed by Professor Babington, this is the first recorded appearance of this plant in Scotland. Some of the other plants found in addition to the ordinary summer ones were—*Sanicula Europæa*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Crepis paludosa*, *Briza media*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum*, *A. viride*, *A. Trichomanes*, and *Aspidium aculeatum*.

SANQUHAR DISTRICT.—6th August, 1887.

The Fourth Field Meeting of the Session was held in the neighbourhood of Sanquhar, when a full programme was gone through. A party numbering fifteen left Dumfries station by the 11.55 a.m. train, and on reaching Thornhill they were joined by Dr Grierson, president, and other members from that district. On arriving at Sanquhar they were met by Mr J. R. Wilson and Dr Davidson, who had kindly consented to conduct the party during the day. Under Mr Wilson's guidance they first inspected his extensive collection of celts, bronzes, arrow-heads, and other archaeological specimens, chiefly found in the neighbourhood. The next item on the programme was Sanquhar old Castle, which is situated on some rising ground on the south side of the burgh. This important stronghold is now a ruin, with only portions of the outer walls standing amid the heaps of *debris*, the larger and the cut stones having been taken away for building purposes. Mr Wilson gave a brief sketch of its history, and exhibited a copy of the plan of the Castle, drawn by Mr Anderson of Edinburgh, 1876, for the Marquis of Bute. He said the Castle was at one time occupied by the family of Edgar, and afterwards it fell into the possession of the Crichtons of Sanquhar. It was subsequently sold to the Douglasses, who occupied it before the present Drumlanrig Castle was built. Mr Wilson further remarked that when Mr Anderson examined the ruin, that gentleman was of opinion it was originally a Scottish "keep," and had been added to at later periods. There was a fish pond near to, and connected with the Castle, but there is doubt as to whether the building was surrounded by a fort or not.

From the Castle the party walked along a bye-path to the remains of the Old Bridge of Sanquhar, which was one of the finest in its day in the county, but now only some portions of the buttresses remain. It is first mentioned with the Burgh of Sanquhar in a Royal Charter granted by James VI. in 1578, but there is great probability that it existed at an earlier date. The battle of Langside was fought in 1568, and Queen Mary, when fleeing into Galloway, is supposed to have crossed the Nith by this bridge. The bridge is subsequently mentioned in the time of James II., and in the reign of Charles II. the Burgh of Sanquhar was granted, by Act of Parliament, the power of restoring it and

levying dues. The following is a copy of the Act, read by our guide, and is of antiquarian interest:—

“ A. D., 1661. Act in favours of the Burgh of Sanquhar. Our Sovereign Lord and Estates of Parliament, takeing to their consideration a supplication presented to them by Johne Williamson, Commissioner for the Burgh of Sanquhar, Shewing that the said Burgh of Sanquhar, being situat and builded upon the water of Nyth, ane verie great considerable river, which in the Winter tyme is nowayes pasable at the beist dureing the time of any raine or storme. The bridge which was thereupon being now totallie down and ruined, which is very prejudieiall not only to the said Burgh, bot also to the hail Cuntries neir the saime, and all others who have occasion to passe that way, who sumtyme will be forced to stay thre or four dayes ere they can passe over the said water. And the said burgh, thro the calamities of the tyme and great sufferings they have had, are now redacted to such povertie as they are nowayes able to build up the said bridge, which so much concernes the weill of the said burgh and the publick good of that cuntrie. And, therefor, craveing ane recommendation to the severall presbtries within this Kingdome upon this side of the fforth for help and supplie for building up the said bridge, which so much concernes the weill of the said burgh and all that cuntrie. And, also seeing such a contribution will be unconsiderable for as great a work, therefor also craveing ane certaine small custome to be payed at the said bridge for such years and aff such persones and goods as should be thought fit. And, having considered ane testificat of verie many Noblemen and Gentlemen in the Shire and circumjacent bounds, Testificing the necessity and conveniencie of the said bridge, and haveing heard the said Johne Williamson thereanent, who, in name of the said burgh, had undertaken the building of the same bridge within the space of two years. And haveing also considered the report of the Commissioners of Parliament appointed for bills and trading (to whom the said mater was referred) thereanent, His Majestic, with advice and consent of the said Estates of Parliament, Have ordained and ordaines ane contribution and Voluntar collection to be made and ingathered within all paroches, both in burgh and landward, on the South side of the water of fforth, for building of the said bridge, And that either personally or parochially as the Magistrates of the said burgh shall desire. And hereby Seriously Recommends to and require all Noblemen, Gentlemen, Magistrats, and Ministers of the law and gospell, within the said bounds, to be assisting to the said Magistrates of Sanquhar for so good a work, and for ane liberal contribution for that effect. And seeing it is expected that the foresaid collection will not be as considerable as to defray the charges of so great a work, Therefor His Majestic, with advice and consent foresaid, hath given and granted, and hereby give and grant to the said burgh, ane custome to be lifted by them, or any other they shall appoint for uplifting thair of, for the space of twentie seven years after the building thair of, at the rates following—viz., for ilk footman or woman, two pennies Scots; for ilk nolt beast or single horse, four pennies; for ilk horse with his load or rydder, six pennies Scots; And for ilk sheip, two pennies Scots money. And ordaines all passengers what-

somever to answer, obey, and make payment of the said costume, at the rates abovewrin, to the said burgh and their collectors thairof, durning the space above mentioned, but ony obstacle or objection whatsomever. With power to the said Magistrates to put this Act to dew execution, Conforme to the tenor thairof in all points."

The bridge was accordingly restored, but fell again into decay, and the present structure was erected in 1855, by the Road Trustees.

The next place visited was Blackaddie farm house, to examine a black letter inscription on one of the walls. With a little trouble it was deciphered and read as follows:—"William Crichton, Rector of Sanquhar, son of William Crichton of Ardloch." Mr Wilson explained that it was supposed this stone had been removed at one time from the churchyard to the manse for safe keeping, but that in vandalising times it was used in building where it is now. Another view taken is that it sets forth to builders of a portion of the old manse buildings.

Under Dr Davidson's guidance the majority now walked to the chalybeate spring at the foot of the Euchan Glen, and subsequently spent some time in that romantic spot. Here the usual business meeting was held—Dr Grierson presiding—when Miss Dobie, Penfillan House, Thornhill; Mr J. Corrie, Moniaive; and the Rev. J. H. Scott, Sanquhar, were elected ordinary members. On the motion of Mr Barbour, V.P., the Society's thanks were awarded to Mr Wilson and Dr Davidson; after which the party returned to the station and reached Dumfries about eight o'clock. Dr Davidson furnishes the following note of the botanical finds:—"At Sanquhar Castle specimens of the Alkanet, *Anchusa semper virens*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Linaria vulgaris*, *Conium maculatum*, the wall rue and black maiden hair ferns, were found. Passing along the "brae heads," *Phleum arenaria* was found growing abundant. *Ethusa cynapium*, a few plants of the evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) were likewise here observed. In Euchan Glen *Vicia orobus*, *Hieracium tridentatum*, *Rubus saxatilis* (in fruit), *Carduus heterophyllus*, *Gentiana campestris*, *Stachys betonica*, and the green spleenwort were found in fair abundance.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT DISTRICT.—3rd September, 1887.

The last meeting of the Session was held on the above date, when the Society visited the recently discovered archaic sculptur-

ings in the neighbourhood of Kirkcudbright. At the hour of starting (9 A.M.) a small party assembled at the Dumfries station, but their number was increased on reaching Castle-Douglas and Kirkcudbright. On arriving at Kirkcudbright they were met by Messrs M'Kie and Coles, who were to be the guides for the day, and also by Mr Hamilton of Ardendee and several members of the Kirkcudbright Naturalists' Field Club.

The first item on the programme was Loch Fergus, about three miles from the station. At a remote period a loch of the above name existed there, but it has long been drained, and what was once the bottom is now cultivated fields. In the twelfth century Fergus, Lord of Galloway, had his stronghold on one of the islands in the loch, and traces of this and another island were now observed above the level of the surrounding fields. From here the party walked through Glen Lag until High Banks was reached. On this farm a number of the cup and ring markings have been discovered, and were duly described by Messrs M'Kie and Coles during the Winter Session. (See April Meeting.) From High Banks the walk was continued to the site of old Galtway village, but there is not even a house standing now to mark the spot of this once populous place. The next halt was at Low Milton, where the ring marks are different from those discovered at other places in the district. These markings were the first observed in the neighbourhood by Mr W. Thomson of Kirkcudbright, and as that gentleman now formed one of the party he narrated the circumstances under which the discovery was made. On the motion of Mr Coles, the Society's thanks were awarded to Mr Thomson for the action he had taken, and the great interest he had shown in bringing these markings under the notice of the public. In this difficult undertaking he was ably assisted by Mr Hamilton and Mr Hornel, as they took casts of the typical markings and forwarded them to the British Museum, to this, and other societies.

Dunrod Churchyard was next visited, also Knockshinnoch and Balmae, where other markings were seen. A British camp at Drummore subsequently engaged the party, but while there the rain, which had been threatening for some time, began to fall heavily, and necessitated their returning to Kirkcudbright earlier than they intended.

APPENDIX A.

Report on the Conversazione held on 27th, 28th, and 29th October, 1886, Extended.

At a meeting of the Committee, held on the 30th October 1885, it was unanimously resolved to have a Conversazione during the ensuing Session, but owing to the death of the late President (Dr Gilchrist) in December, it was deemed advisable to postpone it until the following autumn. At the subsequent general meeting, it was decided to hold the Conversazione on 27th and 28th October, and, if circumstances permitted, to extend it to the following day.

In order that the different subjects in which the Society is interested be duly represented, a number of sub-committees were appointed to take charge of the different sections for collecting the exhibits, and superintending them during the time they were on view. It is very gratifying to record that the circular which had been issued to members, friends, acquaintances, and public bodies requesting specimens of local natural history, or objects relating to the archaeology of the district, met with such a hearty response as to fill Greyfriars' Hall; and that every article lent for the occasion was safely returned to the owners. It was arranged that W. H. Maxwell, Esq. of Munches, should open the Exhibition on the 27th (Wednesday) at two P.M., but, in the unavoidable absence of that gentleman through indisposition, the ceremony was performed by the president, Dr Grierson. A nominal charge was made for admission, to cover the expenses incurred, and the attendance during the three days being considerable, there was a balance of £5 12s 3½d in favour of the Society. The income from sale of tickets was £20 13s 6d, and the total expenditure amounted to £15 1s 2½d. During the time the Exhibition was open, a number of the lady members and friends presided at the organ and pianoforte, and other members ably assisted the Committee in arranging the exhibits, and in various ways contributed to make the Exhibition a success.

To describe every article in this unique collection—even if the details of all were at our disposal—would be undesirable, and, instead of doing so, we purpose giving an outline of the Exhibition, and noticing such specimens as are of scientific or archaeological interest.

NATURAL HISTORY DIVISION.

BOTANICAL SECTION.

Flora of Upper Nithsdale.—A collection of typical phanerogamous plants from this locality was exhibited by Dr A. Davidson. These included the rarities described by Dr Davidson in the communications which he read at the winter meetings.

Thornhill District.—Mr Fingland exhibited about 300 specimens, including some rare potamogetons and carices. The rarer ones are described in the Transactions.

Kirkcudbright District.—Mr Coles sent a typical collection of the plants found in this district, and also from the hilly parts of Galloway.

Wigtownshire.—About twenty plants not hitherto recorded for this county were exhibited by Mr M'Andrew. These and others form the subject of a communication read in December, 1887.

Grasses and Carices.—A portfolio of all grasses and carices recorded from Nithsdale, and collected by Mr J. R. Wallace, was exhibited by him.

Mosses.—Over 200 specimens collected in the district, the rarest being *Pottia Heimii* from Glencaple, by Mr J. Wilson.

Fungi.—A series of 50 beautiful water colour paintings of the larger fungi found in the district, by Mrs Gilchrist Clarke.

Lichens.—A portfolio of lichens by Mrs Gilchrist; representative series from the Society's collection.

Woods.—26 polished sections of the different trees were sent by Mr J. Gibson Starke; and a few other sections by Mr Stobie. A piece of the first larch tree grown in Scotland, at Closeburn, by Mrs Gilchrist.

GEOLOGICAL AND MINERALOGICAL SECTION.

Rocks of Dumfriesshire.—50 specimens sent in by Mr George Johnstone. This collection also included two curious pieces of sandstone, resembling a man's leg and a foot, found in that shape when quarried. For further description see Proceedings of November (1886) meeting.

Minerals.—A collection of various minerals by Mr James Davidson. Two cases collected by the late Dr Gilchrist were lent by Mrs Gilchrist.

Gems.—A case of the different gems found in Scotland, polished and in the rough, was also exhibited by Mrs Gilchrist.

Limestone Fossils, &c.—Several of the fossils from Kelhead, Closeburn, and Carsethorn were shown by Mr J. Wilson. Also, a specimen of the sandstone from Craigs, showing the markings of rain-drops and sun-cracks.

Graptolites.—Several specimens from the Society's collection.

Building Stones.—A six-inch cube, with one surface polished, of the various building stones used was shown by Mr J. W. Dods.

ZOOLOGICAL SECTION.

(1) MAMMALIA.

The Stag.—A pair of antlers of the red deer (*Cervus elephas*), which had been dug out of the sand near Glencaple by a fisherman about thirty years ago, was shown by Miss Borthwick. Another large pair, found near Annan about fifteen years ago, was lent by Mr W. G. Scott.

Fallow Deer.—The head and antlers of the fallow deer (*Dama vulgaris*) were sent by Mr W. Hastings.

Pole-cat.—A pole-cat (*Putorius feticidus*), caught many years ago in Tynron parish, sent by Dr Grierson; also, a badger and two otters.

Smaller Mammalia.—Specimens of hares, rabbits, squirrels, foxes, weasels, stoats, rats, mice, moles (including three white ones), and bats, exhibited by Dr Grierson, Messrs Hastings and Shortridge.

Wild Cat.—A wild cat, caught in the parish of Buittle many years ago, and supposed to have been introduced by some Russian sailors, also shown by Dr Grierson.

(2) AVES.

The Buzzard, Merlin, Kestrel, Sparrow Hawk, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, several Thrushes and Blackbirds, Jack Snipe and young, Snipe, 2 Choughs caught at Ailsa Craig, Cuckoo (male and female), King Fisher, Rock Dove, Turtle Dove, and several smaller birds—by Mr Hastings. A large glass case containing nearly all the smaller birds found in Tynron parish—by Mr T. Brown. Golden Oriole—*Oriclas galbula*—caught near the Nith in Closeburn parish, and other

smaller birds—by Dr Grierson. Great Buzzard caught at Kinharvie, great northern diver, golden-eyed Duck, and other birds from the Society's Collection. A cuckoo and a small bird, by Mr Gibson. A pheasant, by Mr W. Campbell.

Eggs.—A collection of birds eggs in two large cases, by Mr Douglas Barbour. Several clutches of the eggs of the rarer birds, by Mr T. Brown. Two cases of eggs—Mr J. Rutherford. The shell of a large duck egg, having a perfectly formed shell of a smaller egg inside, was shown by Mr J. Thomson of Midtown.

(3) REPTILIA.

The adder and slow worm, from Society's Collection, and four bottles containing several specimens of the same, by Dr Grierson.

(4) PISCES.

Several specimens from Society's Collection, including the vendace from the Castle Loch, Lochmaben.

(5) MOLLUSCA.

Land and fresh water shells from Society's Collection.

(6) INSECTA.

All the exhibits in this section were lent by Mr Lennon, who was in attendance, and furnished any information required by the visitors.

Lepidoptera.

Diurni.—The collection of *Diurni*, or butterflies, included 63 species, among which the following rarities were noticed:—*Colias Edusa*, *Argynnis Aglaia*, *A. Euphrosyne*, *A. Selene* from Dalscairth, and other localities. *Vanessa Cardui* (this rarity is not unfrequent in some seasons) and *Thecla Rubi*, from Dalscairth and Tinwald Downs; *T. Quercus*, from Comlongan and Goldielea; *Lycana Artaxerxes*, from the Dalscairth and Terregles hills. *Thanaos Tages* from Goldielea hills, and *Hesperia Sylvanus*, Dalscairth.

Nocturni.—The moths were well represented, and included *Smerinthus Ocellatus*, *S. Populi*, *Sphinx Convolvuli*, *Deilephila Galii* from the Crichton Institution Grounds, and *Cherocampa Elpenor* from the Tinwald Downs. *Sesia bombylifformis*, also

from Tinwald Downs, and *Cirura Fercula*, from Dalscairth. *Notaulonta Dromedarius* from Kirkconnel, and *Dasychira fusulina* from Tinwald Downs and Dalscairth.

Geometre. — This family was represented by 214 species, and included *Uropteryx Sambucaria*, *Epione Advanaria*, *Eurymene Dolabraria*, and *Geometra Papilonaria* recorded from Tinwald Downs and Dalscairth. *Melanippe Hastata*, *Scotosia undulata* from Dalscairth, and *Carsia Imbutata* from one particular spot on the Tinwald Downs.

Noctue. — More than 240 species of this extensive family were shown, and included *Thyatira Batis*, *Acronycta Leporina*, *A. Menyanthidis* from the Lochar Moss. *Celona Haworthii*, *Tryphena Fimbria*, *Noctua Glareosa*, *Anarta Myrtilia*, and *Hydrelia Unca* from the Lochar Moss and other places.

Coleoptera.

The collection of beetles was very extensive, Mr Lennon showing representative species in nearly all the British genera.

Hymenoptera.

The bees and wasps were fairly well represented in two cases, also shown by Mr Lennon.

MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

A table at the end of the hall was set apart to a microscopical display of objects embracing anatomical preparations, sections of plants and rocks, chemical crystals, &c., by polarised light, and a large variety of zoophytes, foraminifera, diatoms, and miscellaneous objects; the microscopes were lent and presided over by Messrs Davidson, Innes, J. Wilson, and Rev. F. Mullins. Other microscopes were lent by Mrs Gilchrist, Mr Grierson, and Rev. R. W. Weir.

ELECTRICAL SECTION.

Several electric batteries; a plate-glass machine, Leyden jars, electrophones, discharging rods, insulating table, &c.; galvanic battery, two Runkorf coils, mariner's compass, and electro-motor instruments. Two incandescent lamps were lighted daily with a bi-chromate battery; also a patent lighting apparatus and several other apparatus were lent by the Principal of St. Joseph's College, Dumfries.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DIVISION.

(Names of Exhibitors are given in Italics.)

Books.—Burns' Poems, 1st Edinburgh Edition (1787); a folio Bible Concordance, which belonged to Burns when at Ellisland (1788); Carlyle's French Revolution, 1st Edition, with autograph; twenty volumes by local authors in prose and poetry—*Mr J. Gibson Starke*. Twenty-three volumes by local authors—*Mr James Lennox*. History of Dumfries, Copy of Dr Burnside's MS. History—*Mr W. M'Math*. Lectures by Dr Wightman (Oliver & Boyd, 1834); Sketches from Nature, by J. M'Diarmid (1830); Collection of Reels, &c., by James Porteous (1820); George Thomson's Collection of Scots Songs, 4 vols. (1803)—*Mr F. Gilruth*. Mr M'Diarmid's Scrap-book, 1 vol.; Sermons by Dr Thomas Mutter, of the New Church; Burns in Dumfries, by M'Dowall; Burns' Poems (small 8vo.); Observatory Catalogue; Burns, the Ploughman Poet—*Mr Wellwood Anderson*. Burns' Poems, Kilmarnock Edition, complete—*Mr J. R. Wilson*. A large Bible that belonged to Allan Cunningham's father—*Mrs Aitken*. Philip M'Cubbin's Bible—*Mr James M'Cubbin*, Elvanfoot. Several old books by local authors and others, annotated by Burns—*Rev. W. N. Dodds*. A History of the Wars of Montrose, annotated by Burns; Transactions of the first Agricultural Society of Dumfries (1776)—*Mrs Aitken*. A large Scrap-book, containing interesting cuttings, and an old Valuation Roll of Kirkeudbrightshire—*Kirkeudbright Museum*. Valuation Roll of Dumfries (1807), Valuation Roll of Kirkeudbright (1778)—*Mr Henry Gordon*. Book by Smeaton; Songs of Scotland by Allan Cunningham—*Mr J. Fergusson*. A Lithographed Book, illustrating the different styles of writing, by Craik, a writing master in the Dumfries Academy—*Mr S. Grierson*. The first volume of the *Courier*—The *Courier and Herald* Offices.

BURNS' RELICS.—An exhibition of this description taking place in Dumfries would be singularly incomplete that did not contain a number of interesting memorials of the poet Burns, who was an honorary burgher of the town, lived in it, died in it, is buried in it, and is its everlasting glory. On the occasion of the Burns' Statue Bazaar, held in September, 1880, what was perhaps the largest and richest collection of Burns' relics ever seen was displayed in the Mechanics' Hall. A printed catalogue of the relics, written by the well-informed and affectionate

biographer of that brief and sadly brilliant part of the poet's life that was passed at Ellisland and in Dumfries, Mr William M'Dowall, was issued at the time. A copy of it is preserved in the library of this Society, and its existence renders unnecessary a detailed account of the Burns' relics that enriched our exhibition, for the most and the more valuable of them are there described. We append a list of the articles, with the names of the exhibitors:—"MS. of "The Silver Tassie"—*Mr James Lennox*, Maxwelltown. Cradle—*Mr Welsh*, Dumfries. Letters and other Manuscripts—*Mr John Wilson*, Dumfries. M.S. of "Holy Willie's Prayer"—*Mrs Johnstone*, English Street. Manuscripts and Table—*Mrs Pearce*, Dumfries. M.S. of "The Whistle;" do. of lines on the wounded hare, and Pane of Glass from the Hermitage with verses written on it—*Mr Nelson* of Friars' Carse. Excise Book—*Miss Burnet*, Dumfries. Work-box (of Mrs Burns), Antique Jug, Cup, Punch-bowl, and Prince Charlie's Wine Glass (belonging to the poet)—*Mrs Smith* of the Globe Inn, Dumfries. MS. of "The Whistle," and a Cup (belonging to Burns)—*Dr Rutherford* of the Crichton Institution. Three Receipts, volume "Louisa"—a poetical novel—annotated by Burns, Piece of the Poet's Nursing Chair, Portrait of the Poet, and Bust of his Eldest Son—*Miss Gracie*, Dumfries. Snuff-Mull, Sugar Crusher, and Toddy Ladle, belonging to the poet, and now the property of the Dumfries Burns Club, together with the Club's Punch-bowl, and an Engraving of the Poet—*Mr Henry Gordon*. Two Towels—*Mr M'Clure*, Lockerbie. Auction Hammer used at sale of the Poet's effects—*Mr Arnott*, Newall Terrace, Dumfries. Engraving of the Poet—*Miss Currie*. Portrait, together with Cup and Saucer—*Mrs Dunbar*, Dumfries. Two Receipts for £385 to John Syme—one due by Robert Burns, and the other for mournings by his widow and family; the Poet's Bible, and his Burgess Ticket of Jedburgh—*Mr W. G. Scott*, Dumfries. Portrait of Burns—*Industrial School*, Dumfries. Snuff-box made out of wood of Poet's bedstead—*Mr R. Murray*, Dumfries. Sterne's Works, annotated by Burns—*Rev. W. N. Dodds*, Dumfries. One of the marginal notes written by Burns is as follows:—"I love drinking now and then. It defecates the standing pool of thought. A man perpetually in the paroxysms and fevers of inebriety is like a half-drowned, stupid wretch condemned to labour unceasingly in water; but a now-and-then tribute to Bacchus is like the cold bath, bracing and invigorating.

—R. B." Table, Four Chairs, Wooden Ladle, Tongs and Poker, Manuscript of Letter by Burns to his wife, and a Leaf from his Excise-book—*Mr William Nicholson*, Dumfries. These articles were given by Mrs Burns to her servant, Mary M'Lachlan, when she got married to the late Mr Andrew Nicholson, shoemaker, Dumfries; and they were sold on the 3d February, 1888, by public auction, in Dumfries, on the death of Mr William Nicholson. Two chairs, £12 10s, to Mr William M'Kissock, Plough Inn, High Street, Ayr; another chair, £9 15s, to Mr J. J. Glover, painter, Dumfries; the fourth chair, £8, to Mrs Smith, Globe Inn, Dumfries; the round table, £5 17s 6d, to Mr Reuben Place, furniture and book-dealer, Dumfries; the ladle, £3 5s, to Mr M'Kissock; tongs, £1 12s, to Mr Andrew Lawson, Dumfries. Greatest interest centred in the sale of the MSS. The letter was one written by Burns to his wife a few weeks before she joined him at Ellisland, and has been published in Dr Hatley Waddell's edition of his works. Its value is lessened by the absence of the signature, which Mr Dunbar explained Mr Nicholson had been prevailed upon to cut off and give to the late Colonel Grierson; and it is slightly torn at several places. It is written on the two sides of a single quarto sheet. The following is a copy of it:—

Ellisland, 12th Sep., 1788.

MY DEAR LOVE,—I received your kind letter with a pleasure which no letter but one from you could have given me. I dreamed of you the whole night last; but, alas! I fear it will be three weeks yet ere I can hope for the happiness of seeing you. My harvest is going on. I have some to cut down still; but I put in two stacks to-day; so I [am] as tired as a dog.

. . . get one of Gilbert's sweet milk cheese, and send it.

[On] second thoughts I believe you had best get the half of Gilbert's web of table linen, and make it up, though I think it damnably dear; but it is no outlaid money to us, you know. I have just now consulted my old landlady about table linen, and she thinks I may have the best for two shillings per yard; so, after all, let it alone until I return, and some day soon I will be in Dumfries and will ask the price there. I expect your new gowns will be very forward or ready to make against I be home to get the Baiveridge. I have written my long-thought-on letter to Mr Graham, commissioner of excise; and have sent him a sheetful [of poe-]try besides. Now I talk of Poetry, I had . . . Strathspey long in hands of . . . for Johnson's Collection.

This manuscript went at relatively the lowest price of any article in the collection, being purchased by Mr James Richardson, 82 Queen Street, Glasgow (a loyal Dumfriesian) for £3 5s. Mr Richardson was also the purchaser of the leaf from the Excise

book, which brought £1 more, viz., £4 5s. It is a record of visits made to various places within Burns's official circuit at which brewing was carried on, with entries of the quantities of material observed and other items of information required by the Excise authorities. The following is the order of calls on what seem to have been four different journeys, viz.—Thornhill, Penpont, Cairnmill, Tyneron, Crossford, Dunscore. Residence—Ladyfield, Conheath, Glencaple Quay, Glencaple, Bowse, Home. Residence—Park, Drumwhinnie, Kirkgunzeon, Enterkinfoot, Slunkford, Sanquhar, Whitehill, Sanquhar.

BRONZES.—A Bronze Pot, 8 inches in height, 5 inches greatest diameter, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter at the top—*Mr Maxwell* of Munches. Three Bronze Pots found more than twenty years ago—one near Lotus, another near the Maxwelltown Loch, and the third a small one (a ewer), in perfect condition, in Carlaverock parish—*Mr J. B. A. McKinnel*.

CELTS, &c.—The collection of stone and bronze celts was large, and included eleven stone and two bronze of the ordinary types from Wigtownshire—*Mr Armstrong*. A stone celt found at Kelton, Dumfries—*Mrs Gilchrist*. Two perforated stone axes, four stone celts, two stones with depression wrought on each face, half of a stone mace head faceted, the only one recorded from Galloway; two perforated stones (use unknown), three grinding stones, one bronze palstave, one bronze celt, &c.—*Sir Herbert Maxwell*, Bart., M.P. A perforated axe head, $10\frac{9}{16} \times 5\frac{2}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, with a cutting edge of 3 inches, weight 10 lbs. 1 oz., found near Auchencairn about fifteen years ago, one, if not the heaviest known of recorded celts; a small stone celt, $5\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{2}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ inches found at Clonyard in 1886—*Mr Maxwell* of Munches. A celt found at Mabie Moss, $4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$; a perfect flint arrowhead, found on the farm of Knockgray, Carsphairn, $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ —*Mr James Davidson*. A bronze celt, found at Cowshaw, and two stone celts—*Mr J. Rutherford*.

LETTERS.—The following letters were lent by the Dumfries Town Council, and are interesting:—

Registered 2nd October, 1533 — “Great Seal Register.”

“*Rez confirmavit literam ablutariis Burghi de Edinburgh sub hac forma.*”

Till all men be it kend, &c., the Prowest, Bailies, Consale, Communitie, and Dekynnis of Craftis of the burgh of Edinburgh, greeting:—Comparit befor us sitand in judgment the Dekyu, Kirkmasteris, and Brethir of the Craft of Cordinaris within the said burgh, viz.: Thomas Murelyis, Dekin;

James Litaljohne, &c., and the remanent of the haill brethir of the said craft, and presentit their bill as efter follows:—To yow, my lordes Prowest, &c.—Quhair it is weil knd till all your wisdoms how for louing of God and upholding of dewyne service we mak great reparatioun and expens at our altare of Sanctis Crispin Crispinian, situat within your college kirk of Sanct Geill, and has na leving to uphold the same and daily chaplain thairat but our weekly pennie gaderyt amangis the brethir of the said craft, quhilks are but a few nawmer to the regaird of uthir great craftes within this burgh, quhilk has grantit to thaim weeklie on the mercat day ane penny of all stuff belanging their craftis, brocht fra landwart, to be sauld for sersing (trying, proving) of the gudness and fyness tharof, sau that Our Soverane lord & his liegis be nocht begylt tharewith anent the insufficientness of the saime, &c.—At Edinr., 17th Sep., 1533.

Copy.

Privy Council Letter.

Edinr., 18th July, 1679.

“The Lordis of His Majesties Privy Council, considering that Maister William Macmillan hath been for a long tyme past prisoner within the Tolbooth of Drumfries, upon the accompt of Conventicles, and being certainlie informed that the Rebels lately in arms (Covenanters of Battle of Bothwell Brig in June previous and then last bygone) did make open the said Prisone and put him at liberty, and entysed him to go alongis with thaim; and that the said Mr William did declare to the saidis Rebels that he would not own his liberty from them, but would come out by that same authority that imprisoned him, and accordingly he returned back into prison, where he yet remains.

“The saidis Lordis, upon the consideration foresaidis Doe Ordain the said Magistrates of Drumfries to sett the said Maister William Macmillian at libertie.

“Extracted by me,

“(Signed) ALEXR. GIBSON.”

Letter of Mr Adam Broun.

Direct yours for me to the care of Nicol Spence, writer, at his house over against the Bowheid Well, Ednr.

To

William Coupland of Collistoun, Provost of Dumfries.
(Anent the Jacobites, &c.)

Edinburgh, 15th September, 1704.

SIR,—The insolent boastings of the Jacobite party, and the preparations they have made and are making of arms and ammunition through the whole kingdom, their secret caballings and consultations with the Papists and others come from France, and many other circumstances of things not fitt to be communicate by ane ordinar missive, give the well-affected of the nation just grounds to fear they have some bad designs on foot against the present establishment, both of Church and State, which we know not how

soon they may execute by forcing upon us a Popish successor, and cutting off all who shall oppose them in their designs.

The conviction of this our imminent danger has engaged some of our good friends of all ranks now on the place who wish well to Her Majesty and present establishment, to meet together and to consult of means which, through the blessing of God, may prevent the stroke; and in order to this it is thought necessary to let the country understand their danger, and to make the grounds of our fears as public among the well-affected as can be, and to fix a correspondence with the honest parties of the whole nation, that we may understand the state of the country, the number of these we may reckon upon as our friends, how they are armed, what number of arms will yet be wanting, How arms and ammunition may be provided and distributed, How the people may be modelled, and that overtures for effectuating these may be interchanged and communicated; and for that purpose they have made choice of some persons who are of known prudence, interest, and zeal, to meet weekly thereto, receive account thereof, and to consider how to forward this good design; also, there is chosen out of each shire and some considerable Burghs and Townes one or more well-affected and of general acquaintance and influence, to take their own prudent ways for making tryall of these things, and who may pitch upon other persons to join and concert with them in this affair, and who may keep a constant correspondence with these here at Edinburgh, that we both may understand what is done here, or advised to be done, and may communicate our measures each to other. And you are pitched upon for the Burgh of Drumfries as a fit person for that purpose, having all the qualifications required for managing such a design. And it being understood here that I, having the honour of your acquaintance, its laid upon me to write this to you to intreat your assistance in this work, which tends so much to the security of the present establishment of this Church and nation, and of all the Protestant religion in general, which is in imminent danger from the attempts of a Jacobite party in this nation, considering the present posture of affairs, and to allow of this as the beginning of a correspondence which our friends in this place for our common safety, the rather expected since it is agreeable to the Act for the Security of the Nation now past in the last session of Parliament, whereby we are warranted to do all that's here recommended, wherein if we be wanting we can never answer to God, the Church, or the Nation, but must lay our accounts to be an easy prey to a furious and enraged enemy. And if by your return to this you signify your willingness to assist us you shall have further particulars by the next, from Sir, your most humble Servant.

(Signed) ADAM BROWN.

In addition to the above, there was another letter from the Deputy-Governor of Carlisle, dated "ye 28th May, 1689," conveying the Lieutenant-Governor's thanks to the Provost of Dumfries for being so hearty in the King's service, "and that you clap up ill men" and deserters who came across the border. A letter written by Boswell to an early friend, John Johnstone of Grange, Annandale, was shown by *Mr Thomas Johnstone Carlyle*.

MANUSCRIPTS.—This section formed one of the most interesting in the Exhibition, and many valuable documents were now shown in public for the first time. Space will not admit the reproduction of them here, but the following is of special interest to those residing in this district, and for which we are indebted to *J. Dickson, Esq.*, Perth. It is “The True Solemn League and Covenant,” as signed and adhered to in Dumfriesshire in Anno 1638 of its promulgation. The Dumfriesshire impression reproduced the prescribed text of the General Solemn League and Covenant, and mentions that it was engrossed by “Maister William Ramsay, Commissar Clerk of Drumfries,” and who appears to have been “26 March, 1642, the heir of Maister Thomas Ramsay, minister of St. Michael’s, Drumfries, his father, in five merklands of the kirklands of Kirkbryde Church and Parish, Dumfriesshire.” The document, which is of parchment, 26 inches by 22 inches, was written all over, and was intended to chiefly represent the “Parichiones and Indwellaris within the Parichiones of Carlaverock and Rivell,” as well as of Dumfriesshire generally. In the following list of signatures the prefix of “M” for “Maister” defines the rank of the elder members of the clergy, the Provost of Dumfries, and other worthies; while the proprietors are designated by the names of their lands:—

Ministers of Dumfriesshire and others, who sign the Covenant in their own handwriting, and do so in the following order, &c., viz.:—

Maister Francis Makgill, at Kirkmichael; Maister Johnne Corsane; “Nithisdail;” “Lag;” A. Weil; “Closeburn;” Johnne Charteris (of Amisfield?); “Apilgirthe;” Kirkpatrick; “Craigarroche;” John Douglas, Mouswald; W. Henryson, at Lochmaben; N. Rogers, at Tundergarthe; W. Rowatt, at Cummertrees; Maister Alexander Makgoune, at Mouswall; Symon Johnstone, Annand; M. Hammiltoune, Westerkirk of Esdail; John Broune, minister at Glencarne; Richard Broun, at Tynron; Alex. A. Hannay, at Closburne; Maister Samuel Austin, at Penpont; Geo. Cleland, at Durisdeir; Maister Archibald Watson, Kirkeonnell; J. Hope, . . . ; Halbert Gledstanis, at Troqueir; H. Hope, at Cowenn; Mr John Weir, at Mortoune; J. Broun, at Irongray; M. Ghar, at Kirkmahoe; M. Makjore, at Carlaverock; Mr Geo. Blake, at Dinscore; Maister Alex. Gray, at Lochrutton; R. Hereis, at Drysdail; Maister John Macgumrie, at Holywood; Mr Tho. Melvill, at Terregles; Mr David Ramsay, at Newabbay; Maister Umphray Lynd, at Thorthorwald; M. Hareis, at Tinwalle; P. Broun, at Trailflat; B. Sandersone, at Keir; A. Brown, minister of Kirkpatrick Durham; G. Gledstains, at Troquier; Maister Geo. Pryd, minister of Houtoune; Maister John Young, at Apilgirthe; N. Henryson, minister at (Dumfries?); Maister William Graham, at Drumfries; Maister James Hammiltoune, minister at Drumfries; James

Douglis ; J. Menzies, Auckinsell ; Robert Maxwell ; James Smythe of Drumclyer ; Andw. Kirke of Glen ; Andrew Wilson of Gargland ; W. Hammiltoune, at Kirkgunzeaine ; Maister Thomas Bel, at Midlebye ; Maister Thos. Chalmers, at Kirkpatrick ; Mark Brown, Homer Maxwell, James Maxwell, Maister Francis Irving, minister at Traillflat ; M. Lyndesay, M. Young at Ruthwall ; Thomas M'Burnie, N. Broome at Dunscore ; Mr C. Archibald, expectant.

Carlarock.—Signatures of Thomas Dickson, William Maxwell in Bankende, James Mackinnell, Robert Paterson, schoolmaster, William Dickson of Zet, William Dicksonne Hedis, Thomas Martein, Edward Martein, Thomas Allan, Thomas Martein, Edward Maxwell in Bankende, James Edzer in Carmuck, Johne Richartson, William Dickson, James Turnbrig.

Here the holograph signatures end, and the general text and narrative is pursued as under, viz.:—"Herbert Gledstanes in Knok-Horne, Johne Maxwell in Bourdlands, Johne Heslope thair, John Huttoune in Conhaithe, John Makbrair in Bourlands, and John Jeardin in Conhaithe ; Johne . . . Herbert Jeardin thair, William Macburnie in Howmaynis, John Dune in Glencaple, Johne Dune, tailzeor thair, Johne Rawling, within the Yett thaire, Johne Rawling, callet 'Charlie's John,' in Glencaple, William Dune thaire, Thomas Mairtein in Hiemaynes, Johne Dune thaire, John M'Kie in Glenhowane, Johne Edzeir thaire, Nicoll Edzeir thaire, David M'Kie in Lantounsyde, Robert Edzeir in Lanrikland, Richard Dune in Conhaithe, Samuel Rawlyng, smith in Bankende, John Blaikstoke, tailzeor thaire, Johne Murray thaire, Edward Heslope Wobster thaire, Symone Edzeir in Woodend, Thomas Edzeir in Bankend, Thomas Rawling in Glencaple, James Martein in Hiemaynis, Robert Caird in Bankend, David Rowle in Greenmyle, Thomas Glessel Smythe thaire, William Heslop in Scherrington, John Fergusson thaire, Thomas Edzeir thaire, Thomas Rae thaire, John Martein, son to umquhile, William Martein in Blaikschaw, John Adamesone thaire, John Edzeir of Carmuke, Johne Fruid Wobster in Blaikschaw, John Dickson sone to umquhile C. Dickson chapman thaire, John Dune thaire, William Baitar thaire, Johne Dickson sone to Thomas Dickson thaire, Robert Syme thaire, James Syme thaire, Johne Martein in Midtoun thaire, Johne and Robert Brewes (Bruce) thaire, Clement and John Dickson thaire, Andro Batie thaire, William Corsebie Smythe thaire, Robert Nicolson thaire, Johne Brewhaus, Johne Dune thaire, Johne Browne thaire, William Jephrey thaire, Thomas and Johne Makquharies thaire, William Fruid thaire, Jno. Makquharie, Thomas Japhrey younger thaire, Johne Andersone thaire, Thomas Forsythe thaire, John Andersone elder thaire, John Japhrey thaire, Johne Blaikstok thaire, Johne Brande thaire, William Fruid Wobster thaire, William Hyne thaire, Johne Fruid thaire, John Fruid his servand thaire, Johne . . . in Kirkblane, Johne Heslope in Hiemaynes, Robert Forsythe thaire, Johne Culeane in Lands, John Rawling in Glenhowane, John Cairlell at Greenmyle, Williame Fergusone in Scheiringtoun, Thomas Rawling in Glencaple, John Stormont in Blackschaw, Robert Huttoun in Conhaithe, Johne Forsythe in Blackschaw, Edward Nickolson thaire, Robert Jeardine in Conhaithe, Edward Edzeir in Glenhowane, William Hair in Kirkblane,

Thomas Huttoun servitor to Maister Wm. Macjore, minister at Carlaverock, Johne Makkeawne in Bankend, Robert M'Burnie in Kirkblane, James Jamesone in Kirkland of Carlaveroke, Robert Dickson in Blackshaw, Johne Huttoun sone to Johne Huttoun in Conhathie, John Rawling son to John Rawling in Glencaple, John Dune thaire, John Stott in Hiemaynes, John Rawling son to Johne Rawling in Glencaple, Johne Rawling, son to John Rawling in Cargane, Johne Man in Glenhowane, Johne Dune in Hiemaynes, Robert Edzeare son to Edward Edzeare in Glenhowane, John Snythe in Bankend, Robert Fruid sum tyme in Ireland, now in Blackshaw, William Dune in Glencaple, John Paterson thaire, John Mitchelson servitor to Johne Dickson in Scheringtoun, Thomas Heslope in Scheringtoun, Robert Dougalsone in Hiemaynes, John Herroune in Glencaple, Nicol Dougalsone in Hiemaynes, Johne Wright servitor to William Dickson in Yett, Thomas Ferguson in Glencaple, Thomas Japhray, Elder in Blackshaw, Johne Myllar, Elder in Bankend, all leivand within the parochine of Carlaverock, Thomas Jameson in Over Locharwood, Johne Hair thaire, Robert Edzeare thaire, Thomas Anderson thaire, Clement Dickson thaire, parichiones and indwellaris within the parochine of Rievall. Subscryveris conforme to the Declaratione of the generall assemble within written with our handes at the pen led be the notaries undirsubscriband at our command becaus we can not write ourselffe."

The mandatory of the several signatories is—*Ita est Masr. Gulielmus Makjore, pastor Ecclesie Dei apud Carlaverok*: "By Maister William Makjore, my pastor, at my command," &c.

Here the said attested signatures begins as follows, viz.:—"Ita est Jacobus Thomson, Notarius Publicus in premiss regni situs de mandatus dictarum personarum scribere nescientium ut assensum manu propria. Ita est Magister Gulielmus Rig, Notarius Publicus, &c., Imprints. Andro Japhra in Blackshaw, Thomas Edzeare in Bouhous, Johne Japhra in Blaikshaw, Johne Martein thaire, Johne Dunbar, Maysone in Bankend, Johne Murray younger, Robert Anderson in Blaikshaw, Nicoll Martein thaire, Matt. Nikolson thaire, Wm. Blaikstoke thaire, Hew Macquharrie thaire, Robert Macquharrie thaire, Robert Mitchelson thaire, Thomas Dickson thaire, Robert Dickson thaire, Robert Purdame thaire, William Dickson thaire, Edward Browne thaire, John Purdome thaire, Patrick Mitchelson thaire, John Herries thaire, Robert Wilson thaire, Gowan Purdome thaire, Thomas Rawlin in Carmuke, Richard Dickson in Blaikshaw, Mark Rawling in Glencaple, Johne Miller in Bankend, Johne Mackowne in Carmuke, John Edzeare in Bankend, George Browne in Bowhouse, Thomas Stott in Scheiringtoun, Johne Adamsone in Glenhowane, Richard Dickson in Kirkland, William Blaikstoke in Glencaple, Thomas Adamsone in Scheiringtoun, and Thomas Randell, maysone thaire, all parichiones and inhabitantis within the parochine of Carlaverocke, subscryvit according to the determination foresaid with our handis at the pen led be the Nottar undir wryttene at our command becaus we can not wryte ourselffis. *Ita est Jacobus Thomsonsone, Notarius Publicus, &c.*

As also—

Edward Broune, merchant in Blackshaw, John and William Neilsones

thaire, Christie Keltun thaire, William Martein thaire, Symon Gunzung in Kirkblane, and William Edzar in Holinbus, parichoners and inhabitantis of Carlaverock, subscribe the within written covenant conforme to the within written declaratione with our handis at the pen led by Mr William Makjore, our pastor, &c.

I, Richard Browne in Kirkland (by Mr Makjore, &c.) subscribe in the same terms, &c.

Martin Browne in Kirkland, James Keltoun in Blaikschaw, William Adamsonsone in Scheringtounne, with our hand at the pen, subscribe by hands of the Notary.

Jonah Carrell servitor to Alexander Maxwell of Conhaith, and Alisone Corsene, spouse to Thomas Garmesone, Mark Broune in Kilblane, Adam Broune his son thaire, and Thomas Maxwell in Hiemains, John Lawson servitor to my Lord of Nithisdail—we John Fruide, Clement Dicksonsone, Wm. Edzear, and James M^cWilliam, also John Maxwell, son to Wm. Maxwell the ^ocook—all subscribe, &c., by Maister William Makjore, our pastor, &c.

The Charters of the Burghs of Dumfries and Kirkeudbright, lent by the respective *Town Councils*.

PORTRAITS.—A portrait of Miller of Dalswinton, by Nasmyth, and of Provost Gregan—*Miss Gregan*. A miniature portrait of Mr Craig of Arbigland, a portrait in wax and a miniature in oil of Provost Staig, and in crayon of the Rev. James Gatt—*Mr J. Gibson Starke*; of Provost Kennedy—*Mrs Newbigging*; of Carlyle, Edward Irving, and Mrs Carlyle—*Mrs Aitken*; miniature in oil of Prince Charlie—*Miss Richardson*; of Miller of Dalswinton, of Mrs Miller and her two daughters, and of Mrs Miller, by Nasmyth—*Mrs Hay*; of Provost Leighton—*Mr M. Leighton*. A portrait of the eldest son of Burns, of Mr Gracie (banker), Mr Copland of Collieston—*Miss Gracie*; of Wm. Sharpe, of Colonel Clarke-Kennedy—*Mr H. Gordon*; of Provost Staig and Mr Ewart—*Mr S. Brown*; of Rev. F. Small—*Dean Turner*; and of the noted character of fifty years ago, Jamie Queen—*Mrs Pearce*. An engraving of the Rev. Dr Burnside—*Mr Weir*; a miniature of the Rev. Dr Scott—*Mr Gillies*; the Earl of Glencairn—*Mr Robert Murray*; and portraits of Provosts Shortridge and Gillies—*Mr A. Sharpe*. In the centre of the Hall and place of honour was a large autotype of the late President, Dr Gilchrist; and on the opposite side of the Hall was a large crayon drawing, by a member, of his Grace the late Duke of Buccleuch.

PICTURES.—This collection embraced a large series of engravings, old and modern, of the historical buildings and places of interest in the two counties, among which were:—Views of

Sweetheart Abbey, Old Dumfries—*Mr James Lennox*; a portfolio of engravings—*Mr W. M^cMath*; an engraving of Sweetheart Abbey, from the painting of R. A. Riddell (1780), of the Old Bridge of Dumfries, view of Dumfries (1824), and Plan of the Burgh of Dumfries and Maxwelltown in 1819—*Mr J. Gibson Starke*; of Craigenputtock, the Old Bridge of Dumfries—*Mrs Aitken*; an engraving of the New Church, two views of Dumfries *Mrs Payne*; of Lincluden Abbey—*Mr Geo. Thomson*; and a sketch in pencil (“The Playfellow”) by Thorburn—*Mr W. Allan*. An oil painting of Caerlaverock Castle, by the artist—*Mr Fergusson*. A large series of engravings, framed and unframed—*Mr J. Barbour*. Several engravings of Burns and places connected with him—*Mrs Smith*.

WEAPONS.—A claymore bearing the inscription: “Presented by Archibald, Duke of Douglas, to Thomas Tinning, for capturing the Chevalier’s secretary and other rebels in 1745;” a claymore (Andrea Ferrara) that belonged to one of the Earls of Traquair, and which has been at Terregles House for a long time; a very fine claymore (Andrea Ferrara)—*Captain Maxwell*. A sabre and a brass horse pistol that belonged to the Maxwells of Breoch from time immemorial—*Mr W. J. Maxwell*. An Andrea Ferrara blade that belonged to the Black Douglas, and supposed to be the one with which he killed the wild boar—*Mr Jos. Harper*. A battle-axe, two Andrea Ferrara claymores, and a double-barrel gun with flint locks—*Miss Copland*, Abbey House. War-pykes and scythes that had been issued to the inhabitants of Dumfries at the time of the suspected French invasion—*The Town Council*. A sword of Paul Jones—*Mr Dinwiddie*. A revolver and a breechloading pistol invented by James Wallace of Wallacehall, Glencairn, over eighty years ago. The revolver is mostly of brass, with a wooden handle, and has four stout brass barrels, which revolve so that the touch-hole of each comes in succession to the flint-lock when required to be fired. The pistol is also of brass, with a wooden handle and a flint lock. It is loaded at the breech, and the principle of the invention was intended to apply to cannon—*Mr J. R. Wallace*, Auchenbrack. Two bronze spear heads found near Dumfries, and two old pistols—*Mr James Lennox*. A silver-mounted and engraved pistol found at Dryfe Sands—*Mr J. Gibson Starke*. A brace of old pistols—*Mr H. Gordon*.

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS.—An ancient carved oak door, bearing

the initials of William, Lord Herries, and dated 1601, with an allegorical design representing an elephant with a howdah on its back, supporting a unicorn and a lion fighting; the unicorn has driven his horn into the open mouth of his antagonist, and through the head—*Captain Maxwell*. A walking cane of Lady Winefred Maxwell of Terregles, who died in 1801, with a gold top bearing a heraldic device—an eagle displayed, and a savage or wild man, with the motto, “Sequamur;” footman’s stick of the same period—*Captain Maxwell*. A cartouch that belonged to Robert Maxwell of Breoch (1804); fragments of pottery found in the moat at Carlaverock—*Mr W. J. Maxwell*. Part of the oak cornice of one of the rooms of the Castle of Dumfries, found when taking down the New Church in 1867; Provost Crichton’s baton, used during the Dumfries Meal Riots—*Mr James Davidson*. One guinea note of the Commercial Bank, Dumfries (1804), antique perforated silver needle-case, model of an old spinning-wheel—*Mr J. Gibson Starke*. A Trades’ jug, the Provost’s staff of Dumfries—*Mr James Lennox*. A seal of the Burgh of Whithorn, ditto of Whithorn Abbey, the crest of the Galloway Family (a drawing)—*Mr J. G. Kinna*. Several old plates, including one of Prince Charlie—*Mr R. Gillies*. The Stakeford Jug, several old newspapers, glovers’ minute book, handwriting of Paul Jones—*Mrs Hay*. Thirty and a half sheets of old theatrical bills—*Mr W. Anderson*. The silver gun and the silver arrow of Kirkcudbright, a Dalswinton bell, twenty-eight packets of Communion tokens, representing the different parishes in the Stewartry; scrap-book, &c.—*Kirkcudbright Museum*. The “Siller Gun” and the burgh standard weights and measures—From the *Town Council of Dumfries*. The deacon of tailors’ staff, a box made by the French prisoners when in Dumfries—*Miss Currie*. An old clock, several old cups and saucers, glass bottles, candlesticks, a carved box, &c.—*Mr Armstrong*. The shoemakers’ flag—*Mr John Wilson*. The trades’ flag—*Mr George Thomson*. The jongs which were formerly at the Market Cross, Lochmaben—*Lochmaben Town Council*. A pair of thumbikins—*Mrs Gilchrist*. The trades’ punch-bowl—*Mrs Dunbar*. The jongs from Moniaive, a spinning-wheel—*Dr Grierson*. The King’s Speech (9th January, 1716), Charter, &c., of the Earl of Nithsdale—*Mr T. A. Currie*. A small model saddle, pair of wooden compasses, powder horn dated 1782, four leather snuff mulls, one snuff-box made of the wood of Burns’ bedstead—*Mr Robert Murray*.

APPENDIX B.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, APRIL 1888.

(Those who joined the Society at its re-organisation on 3d November, 1876,
are indicated by an asterisk.)

MEMBERS FOR LIFE.

Date of Election.

- 7th July, 1883—Dinwiddie, Robert, Hawthorn Bank, Dumfries, and 117
West, Forty-three Street, New York.
6th Aug., 1887—Dobie, Miss, Penfillan House, Thornhill.
11th Nov., 1881—Douglas, W. D. Robinson, of Orchardton, Castle-Douglas.
3d May, 1885—Herries, Alex. Young, of Spottes, Dalbeattie.
3d March, 1884—Maxwell, W. H., of Munches, Dalbeattie.
6th Feby., 1880—Maxwell, Captain, of Terregles, Dumfries.
3d May, 1884—Johnstone, J. J. Hope, Captain, of Rachills, Lockerbie.
7th June, 1884—Stewart, Mark J., M.P., of Southwick, Dumfries.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- *Adair, John, High Street, Dumfries.
- 2d Feby., 1883—Adams, James, do. do.
*Allan, William, Irving Street, do.
- 5th Jany., 1883—Aitken, Miss, The Hill, do.
5th Jany., 1883—Aitken, Miss M., do. do.
5th Nov., 1886—Aitken, John C., do. do.
- 1st Dec., 1882—Anderson, William, of Netherwood, Dumfries.
1st Dec., 1882—Armistead, J. J., The Solway Fishery, do.
5th Jany., 1886—Aitken, Dr J., Asylum House, Inverness.
3d Sept., 1886—Arnott, J. M'Lellan, Fernlea, Dumfries.
3d Dec., 1886—Andson, Rev. Wm., Newall Terrace, Dumfries.
- 6th Oct., 1882—Bailey, W., *Courier and Herald Offices*, Dumfries.
7th Dec., 1883—Baird, A., Marchbank Terrace, Dumfries.
4th Jany., 1884—Baird, Mrs, do. do.
3d Dec., 1880—Barbour, James (Architect), Dumfries.
5th Dec., 1884—Barbour, Mrs J., St. Christopher's, Dumfries.
4th April, 1884—Barbour, Robert, do. do.
4th Nov., 1887—Barbour, J. H., do. do.
4th March, 1887—Barbour, Robert, Belmont, Maxwelltown.
5th Jany., 1886—Barbour, Miss, do. do.
4th Jany., 1878—Black, Charles, Arbigland, Dumfries.
1st Dec., 1876—Bowden, Major, Irving Street, Dumfries.
5th Oct., 1880—Brown, J., Drumsleet, Dumfries.
1st Jany., 1881—Brown, T., Auchenhessnae, Penpont, Thornhill.
7th Feby., 1879—Bruce, T. Rae, Dalshangan, New-Galloway.
2d Feby., 1883—Burnet, Miss, Albany Place, Dumfries.
2d March, 1883—Burnside, Miss, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.
- 5th March, 1886—Callander, Dr J., Dunscore.
4th Jany., 1878—Callander, John, High Street, Dumfries.
5th Nov., 1880—Chinnock, E. J. (Rector), The Academy, Dumfries.
7th March, 1884—Carnegie, D., Castlebank, Dumfries.
4th April, 1879—Chrystie, R., Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.
4th March, 1887—Chrystie, Miss L., do. do.
5th March, 1880—Clark, J. J., Irish Street, do.
4th April, 1884—Craig, J. (Solicitor), Irish Street, do.
5th Dec., 1884—Craig, W. T. (Solicitor), do. do.
6th June, 1885—Coghlan, J. (Inland Revenue), Castle-Douglas.
11th Nov., 1881—Coles, F. R., The Hermitage, Tongland, Kirkcudbright.
6th Aug., 1887—Corrie, John, Moniaive, Thornhill.
1st March, 1878—Coupland, W. A. F. B., Nithsdale Mills, Dumfries.

- 5th April, 1878—Culton, J., of Dildawn, Castle-Douglas.
 *Cunningham, Dr J., Dumfries.
- 5th Nov., 1886—Costin, William, Maxwelltown.
- 5th Feby., 1886—Cumming, John, English Street, Dumfries.
 *Davidson, James, of Summerville, Dumfries.
- 1st Dec., 1876—Dudgeon, P., of Cargen, Dumfries.
- 6th May, 1881—Davidson, A., Chief-Constable, Kirkeudbright.
- 5th Jan., 1883—Davidson, Dr A., Sanquhar.
- 6th Oct., 1882—Dickie, W., *Standard Office*, Dumfries.
 *Dinwiddie, W. A. (Manufacturer), Dumfries.
- 2d Nov., 1883—Dods, J. W., St. Mary's Place, Dumfries.
- 1st Dec., 1882—Dunbar, W., Castle Street, Dumfries.
- 1st July, 1882—Duncan, J., *Annamdale Herald Office*, Lockerbie.
- 5th Feby., 1886—Dryden, Dr J. H., Dumfries.
- 5th Oct., 1877—Fraser, Rev. James, Colvend Manse, Dalbeattie.
- 7th May, 1887—Fergusson, J. Gillon, of Isle, Dumfries.
- 6th Oct., 1879—Fergusson, J., 17 Castle Street, Dumfries.
- 5th Jan., 1883—Fingland, J. (Chemist), Thornhill.
- 2d Oct., 1885—Fotheringham, R. P., Corn Exchange, Dumfries.
- 2d March, 1888—Fraser, Thomas, High Street, Dalbeattie.
 *Graham, Rev. W., Maxwelltown Mause.
 *Gibson, W. G., Clerkhill Cottage, Dumfries.
 *Grierson, Dr T. B., The Museum, Thornhill.
- 2d June, 1883—Gilchrist, Mrs, Linwood, Dumfries.
- 1st Dec., 1882—Gillies, Miss, King Street, Maxwelltown.
- 2d Feby., 1883—Gilruth, F., The Academy, Dumfries.
- 6th Jan., 1882—Grierson, W., of Chapelmount, Dumfries.
- 6th Oct., 1882—Grierson, J., Town-Clerk, Dumfries.
- 7th Aug., 1886—Graham, Thomas, Post Office, Ecclefechan.
- 5th Nov., 1885—Grierson, S. E., Alpine House, Dumfries.
- 5th Jan., 1877—Halliday, W., College Street, Maxwelltown.
 *Hastings, W., 36 English Street, Dumfries.
- 3d Feby., 1882—Herries, James, Loreburn Park, do.
- 1st Feby., 1878—Hogg, James, Saughtree, do.
- 6th Feby., 1880—Hope, Sheriff, Dumfries.
- 2d Nov., 1887—Houston, James, Greyfriars' Street, Dumfries.
- 7th Aug., 1886—Hair, Archibald, Durisdeer Schoolhouse, Thornhill.
- 6th April, 1888—Hannay, Miss, Victoria Terrace, Dumfries.
- 6th April, 1888—Hannay, Miss J., do. do.
- 7th Dec., 1883—Innes, Alexander, Saughtree, Dumfries.
- 2d March, 1877—Johnstone, George, Castlemilk, Lockerbie.
- 2d July, 1887—Jardine, Alex. (solicitor), Thornhill.
 *Kerr, Dr, Dumfries.
- 5th Nov., 1886—Kerr, John, Blountfield, Ruthwell.
- 6th Jan., 1888—Kerr, Thomas, 2 Loreburn Park, Dumfries.
- 7th Dec., 1883—Laing, T., Noblehill Schoolhouse, Dumfries.
- 1st July, 1882—Laurie, J., Tynron Schoolhouse, Thornhill.
 *Lennon, W., Brooke Street, Dumfries.
- 5th Jan., 1883—Lennox, Ex-Provost, Dumfries.
 *Lennox, James, Edenbank, Dumfries.
- 5th April, 1878—Low, T. E. (Chemist), Dumfries.
 *Maxwell, John, King Street, Maxwelltown.
- 5th April, 1878—Maxwell, J. H., *Kirkeudbrightshire Advertiser Office*,
 Castle-Douglas.
- 4th Jan., 1878—Matthewson, James, 18 Copland Street, Dalbeattie.
- 6th Oct., 1879—Maxwell, W. J., Terregles Banks, Dumfries.
- 1st Oct., 1886—Maxwell, Wm. Jardine, of Terraughtie, Dumfries.

- 5th Nov., 1886—Maxwell, Wellwood, of Kirkenman, Dalbeattie.
 3d Feby., 1882—Maxwell, James, Bank House, Maxwelltown.
 5th July, 1884—Maxwell, F., of Gribton, Dumfries.
 2d Feby., 1883—Milligan, John, Friars' Vennel, Dumfries.
 4th Nov., 1887—Milligan, Miss, Irish Street, do.
 5th Nov., 1885—Macdonald, J. R. C. (Solicitor), do.
 4th June, 1887—Mackie, Dr, Thornhill.
 4th June, 1887—Mackie, Mrs, do.
 3d Sept., 1886—Miller, F., Royal Bank, Annan.
 7th Oct., 1887—Moodie, William (Solicitor), Dumfries.
 2d Dec., 1887—Moodie, John A. (Solicitor), do.
 5th June, 1886—Morgan, Miss, Shakespeare Street, Dumfries.
 2d Nov., 1883—Montgomery, J. S., Rosemount Cottage, Maxwelltown.
 2d Nov., 1883—Montgomery, Mrs, do. do.
 6th Oct., 1879—Murdoch, N., Netherlea, Dumfries.
 5th July, 1884—Murray, Robert, 14 George Street, Dumfries.
 6th April, 1883—Murray, Mrs R., do. do.
 2d Feby., 1883—Murray, Miss, Langlands, do.
 2d Oct., 1885—Mounsey, Miss, Thornhill.
 6th June, 1885—Moryson, T. A., Queen's Place, Dumfries.
 6th Oct., 1879—M'Andrew, James, The Schoolhouse, New-Galloway.
 *MacDonald, Dr, Castle Street, Dumfries.
 11th Nov., 1881—M'Dowall, William, *Standard Office*, Dumfries.
 4th March, 1887—M'Diarmid, W. R., 8 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh.
 *M'Fadzean, R. W., Inland Revenue Office, Greenock.
 6th May, 1887—M'Gowan, Thomas (Solicitor), Dumfries.
 4th Jany., 1884—M'Gowan, Mrs J. H., Ellangowan, do.
 4th Jany., 1884—M'Kenzie, Mrs, 3½ Queen's Place, do.
 5th Jany., 1883—M'Kinnon, Rev. J. D., South Free Manse, Dumfries.
 *M'Lean, J. C., High Street, Dumfries.
 5th Feby., 1886—M'Ketterick, T. C., Viewfield, Dumfries.
 5th Feby., 1886—M'Innes, Miles, Parochial Board Office, Dumfries.
 7th Jany., 1887—M'Farlan, Rev. James, Ruthwell Manse.
 4th April, 1881—M'Kie, J., Anchorlee, Kirkeudbright.
 6th May, 1882—M'Kenzie, J. C., St. Cuthbert's, Kirkeudbright.
 4th March, 1879—Neilson, J., The Academy, Dumfries.
 7th Nov., 1879—Newbigging, John, Kirkbank, Dumfries.
 *Nicholson, J. H., Glasgow Street, Maxwelltown.
 2d March, 1883—Oughton, R., Castle Street, Dumfries.
 2d Oct., 1885—Oswald, Rev. J. H., Morton Manse, Thornhill.
 5th Nov., 1885—Paterson, James, Killniess, Moniaive, Thornhill.
 4th April, 1884—Patterson, J., St. Mungo Schoolhouse, Lockerbie.
 5th Nov., 1885—Phyn, C. S. (Procurator-Fiscal), Dumfries.
 4th Feby., 1887—Rannie, D. W., of Conheath, Dumfries.
 5th May, 1884—Rae, Joseph, Templaud Schoolhouse, Lockerbie.
 *Reid, John, Greystone, Dumfries.
 2d March, 1883—Reid, Miss A., do. do.
 2d March, 1883—Reid, Miss M., do. do.
 6th Jany., 1882—Reid, F., St. Catherine's, Dumfries.
 5th Feby., 1886—Robertson, Dr J. M., Penpont, Thornhill.
 5th Feby., 1886—Robson, Robert, Penpont Schoolhouse, Thornhill.
 4th Jany., 1878—Robb, G. H., The Academy, Dumfries.
 3d Nov., 1882—Robb, Miss, 24 Castle Street, Dumfries.
 3d Nov., 1882—Robb, Miss M., do. do.
 12th April, 1882—Roddan, A., Church Crescent, do.
 *Rutherford, J., of Jardington, do.
 7th Feby., 1879—Rutherford, John, Pleasance, Kirkmichael.
 4th July, 1883—Rutherford, Dr J., Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.

- 5th May, 1883—Sawyer, Henry, Episcopal School, Dumfries.
 4th March, 1887—Scott-Elliot, G. F., of Newton, do.
 6th Aug., 1887—Scott, Rev. J. H., Sanquhar.
 7th Oct., 1881—Seiffert, C., Midsteple Buildings, Dumfries.
 *Shaw, James, Tynron Schoolhouse, Thornhill.
 4th April, 1879—Shortridge, ex-Provost, Beechwood Bank, Dumfries.
 6th Oct., 1879—Smith, James, Commercial Bank, Dumfries.
 4th Feby., 1887—Stafford, James, Mouswald, Ruthwell.
 2d March, 1877—Starke, J. Gibson Hamilton, of Troqueer Holm, Dumfries.
 1st April, 1887—Starke, Mrs., do. do.
 6th June, 1885—Stewart, Miss, The Academy, Dumfries.
 *Stobie, P., Queen's Place, do.
 11th Nov., 1881—Symington, J., Whiunyhill, Troqueer, Dumfries.
 5th Nov., 1885—Symons, John (Solicitor), Dumfries.
 2d Feby., 1883—Symons, J., Royal Bank, do.

 1st Dec., 1882—Tait, W., Church Crescent, Dumfries.
 5th April, 1878—Thompson, A., Rosemount Terrace, Maxwelltown.
 3d Feby., 1888—Thompson, Mrs., do. do.
 2d April, 1886—Thompson, Miss, do. do.
 *Thomson, J. S., 75 Plainstones, Dumfries.
 *Thomson, Dr, Dumfries.
 2d Oct., 1885—Thomson, George (Solicitor), Dumfries.
 7th Dec., 1883—Thomson, J., Midtown, Carlaverock.
 5th Nov., 1886—Turner, James, Greylands, Dumfries.
 2d Feby., 1883—Twedde, W., Parkview, do.

 1st April, 1887—Waddell, J. B., Loreburn Street School, Dumfries.
 3d Oct., 1884—Wallace, M. G., Terreglestown, Dumfries.
 5th Nov., 1885—Wallace, J. R., Auchenbrack, Tynron, Thornhill.
 4th June, 1887—Walls, William, Bridge Street, Dumfries.
 9th Jany., 1880—Watson, T., *Standard Office*, do.
 7th March, 1879—Watt, James, Milwood, Maxwelltown.
 6th Oct., 1879—Weir, Rev. R. W., Greyfriars' Manse, Dumfries.
 6th Oct., 1879—Welsh, J., Waterloo Place, Dumfries.
 5th Nov., 1885—Whitelaw, J. W., Royal Bank, Dumfries.
 2d March, 1877—Williamson, J., Geddes Place, Maxwelltown.
 23d April, 1880—Wilson, J., 3 Norfolk Terrace, Dumfries.
 3d Nov., 1882—Wilson, Mrs J., do. do.
 2d Oct., 1885—Wilson, J. R., Royal Bank, Sanquhar.
 2d Mar., 1888—Wright, W. M., Charnwood, Dumfries.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

- Bennett, Arthur, F.L.S., 90 High Street, Croydon.
 Black, G. F., Ph. D., Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh.
 Brown, J. Harvie, F.L.S., Dunipace, Larbert.
 Carruthers, W., F.R.S., F.L.S., &c., British Museum (Cromwell Road).
 Dairon, James, F.G.S., 6 Garden Street, Glasgow.
 Gill, Dr, Battershell, 9 Cambridge Terrace, Regents Park, London.
 Gray, Peter, 47 Brailsford Road, Tulse Hill, London.
 Grant, Dr J., *Bay*, The Sandovian, Cairo.
 Henderson, R., Manitoba, Canada.
 King, J. J. F. X., 207 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.
 M'Ilwraith, W., Rockhampton, Queensland.
 M'Meekan, J., Hobart Town, Tasmania.
 Robertson, Wm. K., 13 Pitt Street, Edinburgh.
 Sharp, Dr, Shirley Warren, Southampton.
 Starforth, J. (Architect), Edinburgh.
 Taylor, Dr R. H., 1 Percy Street, Liverpool.
 Thomson, Joseph, F.R.S., Gatelawbridge, Thornhill.
 Turner, R., 3 Westbank Place, Hillhead, Glasgow.



Presented
 19 OCT 1898