Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
25 Apl. 1880

The seventh and last meeting of the winter session was held here at 8 o'c. p.m. Nineteen members were present and Mr. Nelson occupied the Chair.

The Secretary explained that this meeting in the ordinary course fell to be held on 2nd April but that owing to the General Election he had postponed it till this date.

After the minutes of previous meeting had been read and approved of – Messrs. R.W. Millar, Queen St; J. Wilson, Inland Revenue; Alan B. Crombie and James Crombie, Architects were duly elected Ordinary members. Mr. Henry Kerr, Manchester the well known Ornithologist was on the nomination of Mr. W.L. Gibson elected a Corresponding member.

The Secretary announced that he had received on behalf of the Society 4 Nos. of the Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences; Three Annual Reports by the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States; Two pamphlets from Mr. E.S. Morse, Salem, Mass., one on "Traces of an Early Race in Japan" the other

on "Dolmens in Japan"; and two papers on the "Salmon Disease", read before the Royal Society of Edinburgh by Mr. A.B. Stirling, Curator of the Anatomical Museum – all of which donations ~~the Secretary~~ were laid on the table. A Radiometer from Mr. W. J. Gibson was exhibited, and the Chairman explained its construction and its scientific value.

The following list of Field Meetings was then agreed to :– First Saturday of May – Thornhill Museum; First Saturday of June – Colvend; Second Thursday of ~~August~~ July – Enterkin Pass; Second Thursday of August – Annan district; first Saturday in Sept. – Criffel.

A proposal by Dr Gilchrist, of which consideration had been delayed from the Feb. meeting, ~~was then taken up~~, to have a map of the Society's district printed, was then taken up, and after considerable discussion it was agreed that owing to the state of the Society's funds, the matter should be adjourned sine die.

In the absence of Mr. Rutherford through serious illness, the Secy. read that gentleman's

communication entitled "Observations on the Salmon Disease (Saprolegnia ferax)" The paper in part recapitulated in substance some remarks on the same subject made by Mr Rutherford at last meeting, and also stated the result of subsequent observations. Considerable discussion followed, the most of the speakers agreeing with Mr Rutherford's conclusions.

The next paper was by Dr Gilchrist and was read by Dr. J. W. Kerr. It was on "the application of the Observant powers" and treated the subject in a very interesting manner.

Mr. Lennon's paper entitled "Note on Rare Beetles - second notice" was read by the Secretary. It noticed a number of rare beetles which had been found in the district, and the localities where they had occurred.

Votes of thanks were passed to the authors of the papers, and ordered to be transmitted to them and thereafter the meeting separated, thus concluding the business of the winter Session.

Mechanics Institute, Dumfries
July 8th 1880

See p. The "Observatory Committee met this evening, present – Messrs Rutherford, Lennox & Service. Mr. Service stated that he had been in communication with the Observatory Shareholders and that they invited this Committee to meet them, and explain the Society's views on the subject of the Museum, to-morrow afternoon. The Committee agreed to offer the following suggestions in writing to the Shareholders before holding a joint meeting: —

1. That the Society deposits in the Museum all the Antiquarian & Natural History Specimens, and books, now in its possession, or that may afterwards come into its possession, and that these articles remain and be labelled as the property of the Antiquarian Society.

2. That the members of the Society do all that lies in their power to aid in forming and maintaining (with fresh specimens when necessary) a natural history collection representative of the natural productions of Dfs. Shire and Galloway and also do what they can to advance the interests of the Museum amongst the general public.

3. That the Directors allow the Antiquarian Society to hold its meetings within the Observatory.

4. That the members of the Society be admitted free to the Observatory on as many days in each week as may be agreed on.

5. That the above arrangement be terminable whenever either party gives the other — months notice.

or alternatively

That all articles be deposited permanently on condition that proposals three and four be taken as a permanent arrangement.

Mechanics Institute, Dumfries
July 23rd 1880

The "Observatory Committee" met here this evening at 8 o'c - present - Messrs. Starke, Thomson, Adamson, Stobbie, Halliday and Service. The Secretary stated that he had forwarded the proposals agreed to at last Committee meeting to Mr. Sharpe the Secretary to the Observatory Shareholders and that he had received

a note from Mr. Sharpe which stated that the proposals had been laid before his Committee but that they would like to have a personal interview with this committee before coming to any decision.

The Secretary was then instructed to intimate to the Directors that this Committee would meet with them on any Friday or Saturday.

Observatory Museum
Aug. 6th 1880

The Committee met here this afternoon at three o'clock for the purpose of meeting with the Shareholders' Committee - present Messrs. Robb, Lennon, Halliday, Maxwell, Scrace, Jackson & Rutherford. For the Shareholders - present - Messrs. Dudgeon, Hutton, J.W. McGowan, & Sloan. The proposals which had already been submitted on behalf of the Society were then discussed in detail, after which the Chairman intimated that Mr. Sharpe would be instructed to prepare and forward to the Society a draft minute of agreement

for their consideration. Mr. Rutherford then on behalf of the deputation thanked the Directors for granting the interview and for their courtesy in hearing their statements and the deputation then withdrew.

Mechanics Institute
24 Sept. 1880

The usual Committee meeting preparatory to the Annual Meeting was held here this evening – present Messrs. Starke (presiding) Kerr, Stobbie, Adamson, Lennon Maxwell & Service.

It was agreed that to ensure a better attendance the Annual Meeting which falls to be held on 1st Oct. should be postponed till the 8th Oct..

The Treasurer submitted his apes for the past session and it was agreed to leave the appointment of Auditors to the Annual meeting.

As two years have elapsed since

the last "Transactions" were printed, it was agreed to recommend that preparations for printing another ~~volume~~ part should be proceeded with, and that the President, Secretary ~~and~~ and Mr. Lennon should be appointed a Committee for this purpose.

It was also agreed to recommend that in future instead of only one Vice President, two or more should be appointed. The Committee recommend the following gentlemen for the Office Sheriff Hope Dr. Guerson & Revdt. Fraser

The Chairman then read the draft minute of Agreement proposed by the Observatory Shareholders. A few minor alterations were made and its further consideration was delayed till the Annual Meeting

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Mechanics Institute
Oct. 8th 1880

The annual meeting beginning a new Session was held here at 8 o'c. P.M. Twenty two members were present & Mr. Starke occupied the Chair.

The minutes of meeting held on 23rd april were read and approved.

The following gentlemen were nominated and duly enrolled as ordinary members:— Messrs. Scott of Broomlands; Martin, Town Clerk; Gray Philips, Rosefield; John Costin, Lauriehowe; Brown, Crumslet; A.E. Truckell Maxwelltown; Stansfield, Inland Revenue; and J. Longmore Industrial School.

The following books & other articles presented to the Society were laid on the table — The Shell Mounds of Omori; Report of the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories of Idaho and Wyoming; the 12th and 13th Annual Reports of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology; Report for 1878 of the Smithsonian Institute & a pair of old Manacles recently found in Glasgow St at a depth of 6 feet. a set of 12 microscopic Photographs mounted

in gilt frame was presented by Mr. F. W. Grierson who received a vote of thanks for his handsome gift.

Mr. Grierson brought under the notice of the meeting, a remarkable deposit of peat recently exposed near Rae St in excavating foundations for new houses, and he exhibited a number of specimens found there by Dr Gilchrist and himself a few days ago, consisting of various pieces of birch and other woods; a piece of wood impregnated with a green fungus supposed to be the Peziza crucifera; clay foundation soil pierced with roots; various nuts, seeds, and several fragments of coleopterous insects. Mr. Rutherford exhibited a fine stone celt found lately on the farm of Whitehill, Kirkmahoe ~~where it was discovered~~ during the course of drainage operations. It was stated that numerous "bog Oaks" had been cut through in the same stratum.

Mr. Jas Culton, Wildawn sent for exhibition a very fine albino specimen of the Common Mole, of a pale cream colour with orange coloured patches on the abdomen and throat. The Secretary also laid on the table the old minute: book of the former Society, a collection of Seaweeds and flowering plants and several publications. These and a few other articles had been in the possession of the late

Procurator Fiscal and ~~had been~~ were recovered through the courtesy of Mr. Fenton.

The Secy. reported that there had been in the Societys Cabinet for many years past four fine old books of the sixteenth Century entitled respectively "Roma Sotterranea" "Corpus Doctrin Christiae", "Contraversia Eucharistia" and "Biblia Polyglottae". These all bore an inscription setting forth that they formed part of the Hutton Library belonging to the Presbytery of Dumfries. He had lately written to a member of the Society - Rev Mr. Underwood of Irongray to ask if they were really the property of the Society and he had received a reply to the effect that they had been missed from the Presbytery Library for a long time, and he was glad they had turned up, for they were of great value, and Mr. Underwood requested that they be handed over to the Presbytery which the Secretary said he had done.

Mr. Adamson read his annual statement of the his intromissions with the Societys funds, showing that the Income had been £21. 3. 8 and the expenditure £20. 4. 6 leaving a balance of 19/2 to the Societys Credit. On the motion of

the Chairman the Report was adopted, and Mr. Adamson thanked for the efficient way in which he had performed his duties.

The Secretary then read his Report on the past Session, which was cordially approved of.

A proposal brought forward by the Committee was next discussed, that a small committee should be apponited to prepare a selection of the Society's Proceedings and Transactions for publication as two years since the last portion was printed had now elapsed. It was agreed that the President Secretary and Messrs Robb & Lennon should form the Committee for this purpose. The Committee were also instructed to consider whether a Catalogue of the Society's collection of books & specimens could be printed at same time.

Mr James Lennox then moved that Rule 5th should be altered to the effect that in future three Vice Presidents should be apponited instead of one, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

or more

The meeting then proceeded to the Election of Office Bearers and Committee of Management for the ensuing Session and the following gentlemen were elected — President J. Gibson Starke Esq. of Trogues Holm; Vice Presidents - Sheriff Hope, J. Nelson Esq. The Academy, and T. R. Bruce Esq of Glogarie: Secretary - Robert Service; Assistant Secy. James Lennox. Treasurer Wm Adamson - Members of Committee - Messrs. Watt, Maxwell, A.B. Crombie, Halliday, J.W. Kerr, Lennon Robb and Dr Erichson. Auditors - Messrs Moodie & J.W. Kerr.

The last business on the programme was the draft minute of agreement proposed by the Observatory Shareholders, and it led to a long discussion, being eventually remitted to the Committee for further consideration and to be reported on at the next meeting.

The meeting then adjourned

Mechanic's Institute
Dumfries.
5th Nov. 1880

The second meeting of the Session was held here at 8 oc P.M. Twentytwo Members were present and Sheriff Hope presided.

The minutes of previous meeting were read, and after some discussion were approved of.

Rector Clunnock and Mr. Milne, Cuira Villa were elected Ordinary members.

Mr. W. G. Gibson presented to the Society a number of pieces of Samian Ware which were found in the ashpit of a Roman Villa near Carlisle, at a depth of 10 feet. Mr. Gibson also exhibited a silver Scoto. Scandinavian Brooch found at Drumcoltran in Kirkgunzeon. Mr. Wilson exhibited a very fine cast skin of the Adder which he had picked up at Woodhead of Troqueer. In this specimen even the skin of the eyes and the inside of the mouth was quite intact. Mr. Milne sent a fine Gold Lion of James I (of Scotland) which was found recently

in the neighbourhood of Dumfries. A magnificent collection of thirty six plates of original coloured drawings of Fungi were sent for exhibition by Mrs. Gilchrist Clark of Speddoch. These represented nearly 100 species of Fungi found in this district and were remarkable for accuracy of colouring and delineation. For her kindness in affording the society an opportunity of examining this fine collection, the secretary was instructed to convey to Mrs. Gilchrist Clark the special thanks of the members.

The Secretary introduced to the meeting Mr. John Fairley, a young gentleman belonging to Dumfries, who has for some time past been travelling on the west coast of Africa, and Mr. Fairley then exhibited and explained the uses and purposes of a large collection of articles of native workmanship, mostly procured in the Ashantee and Niger countries. On the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Fairley was awarded a special vote of thanks for his kindness in bringing his collection to the meeting.

The following Report from the Committee on the Observatory proposals, was then

read, and after a few slight amendments had been made, was adopted, and the Secretary was ordered to communicate its contents to the Astronomical Society :—

"The Committee to whom it was remitted to consider the Draft minute of Agreement between this Society and the D. & M. Astron. Socy. beg to report that in their opinion the same sh.d be approved of by this Socy. subject to the following alterations and modifications

(a) In article 1 or 4 provision should be made for members of this Socy. borrowing for study at their own homes those books which are the property of this Socy. It is also suggested that specimens to illustrate papers read at the winter meetings of this Socy. sh.d be lent out for this purpose on application when convenient.

(b) In article 2 the last proviso making it obligatory on the part of this Socy. to provide at its sole cost the necessary cases in which to put their

"property sh." either be deleted or the words "when the Socy. has funds in hands for this purpose" be added. It is suggested that the proviso be deleted as this Socy. intends to hand over a large and valuable glass (fronted) case in which to hold its property, and the Socy. is not at present able to undertake a further contribution of the same kind.

(6) In article 8 the words "do what they can to popularize the Museum" &c sh. be deleted. It may be said that this proviso is so vague that no meaning could be clearly attached to it, or enforced, but it might on this very account, give rise to unpleasant discussion and recrimination.

(7) In article 4 the Secy. of this Socy. sh. be empowered to sign orders because he will best know the bona fides of any application for study, and be more accessible

to the members of this Socy. (amended to "orders may be signed by one or other of the Secretaries of the two Societies"). At the end of this article the words should be added "with all the privileges open to the public or visitors".

(6) In article 5 the period in which the agreement may terminate should be extended from one to three months. It cannot be to the advantage of either party that the property of this Socy. sh.d be hastily removed, or have to be transferred to unsuitable accomodation for want of time to find better.

(7) In article 6 the astronomical Socy. sh.d undertake ordinary reasonable care in the custody of the property of this Society. At all events this Socy. sh.d be enabled to pay the premium for insurance of its property against fire, either by payment of a proportion, if all the contents of the museum are insured, or by

payment of premium for separate insurance. Subject to these objections the Committee consider that the Agreement offers a fair basis for cooperating for the benefit of each other, and of the public, in maintaining in this district a practical as well as theoretical study of those subjects in which they are all interested."

In name of the Committee

(Signed) J. G. Starke

A paper by Dr Gilchrist descriptive of the peat deposit recently exposed near Lorebrunst. was read by Mr. J. W. Kerr.

The Secretary next read a short paper which had been sent him by a member who did not wish his name mentioned. The paper was a protest against the removal of the last stone of the megalithic circle which once stood on Greystone Flat. At the desire of the meeting Sheriff Hope undertook to see the tenant of the place, and report.

A long and interesting letter from

Mr. McIlwraith, Brisbane (corresponding member) was read by Mr. Moodie. It was entitled "First Impressions of Queensland", and described such members of the Flora & Fauna, as had been commonly met with during the few months Mr. McIlwraith had resided in the Colony. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Graham a hearty vote of thanks was ordered to be communicated to Mr. McIlwraith for his letter, and the meeting thereafter adjourned.

Mechanic's Institute
Dumfries
3rd Dec. 1880

The third meeting of the Session was held here at 8 o'c. P. M. 22 members were present and the President occupied the Chair

The minutes of last meetnig were read and approved of.

The following gentlemen were then nominated as new members and duly elected. — Messrs. J. D. Faviley, Dair, Scott,

Barbour, and Lawson.

The following donations to the Society's collection were then announced — collection of Graptolite Fossils, by Mr. Gracie; A rare old book Mr. Rutherford; and Boss of Groined arch from Melrose Abbey by Mr. Milne.

Mr. Shaw exhibited a large stone Celt recently found on Bennan. Mr Service exhibited a Raven shot the preceding day in the Stewartry.

Mr. Wilson read a paper on "Carnivorous Plants" illustrated with diagrams & dried specimens of the plants described.

Mr. Shaw read a paper on the "Botany of Symon and its relation to other districts."

The Chairman read a paper entitled "the Volunteers in Dumfries at the close of last Century".

Votes of thanks were passed to the authors of the papers.

Mr Wilson asked when the proposed Fauna & Flora was likely to be gone on with, and after some discussion the

matter was remitted to the Committee on Transactions.

Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
4th Jan 1881

The fourth meeting of the session was held here at 8 oc P.M. The attendance was small, only 11 members being present. Rev. J. Fraser occupied the Chair.

In the absence of the Secy. Mr Sam Chrystie read the minutes of last meeting which were approved of.

Mr. Shaw, Tynron presented to the Society a copy of the Graphic containing an article written by him on the growth of grass in annuals. Mr Wilson presented six old coins, and Mr John Rutherford, Pleasance, Kirkmichael sent for presentation to the Society a fine collection of geological specimens &c amongst them being a fine slab of Locharbriggs

Sandstone, with several footprints of a (supposed) Reptile; a massive stone hammer; antimony Ores &c. For these a special vote of thanks was ordered to be transmitted to Mr. Rutherford.

Mr. John Maxwell exhibited a branch of the Cork tree, and a curious stone - probably water-worn, of nearly the exact shape of the human foot. Mr. Rutherford of Jardinetown exhibited a number of photographic slides for the magic lantern.

A proposal to make arrangements for a lecture by Mr. Joseph Thomson was remitted to the Committee with power.

A Circular from the Secretary of the British Association for the advancement of Science requesting the appointment of two delegates to represent the Society at the meeting at York in autumn of 1881, was then read, and remitted to the Committee for further consideration.

A paper by Rector Chumnock, consisting of a translation of the Title page, and notes on the general matter of the book which Mr. Rutherford presented to the Society at last meeting, was read by Mr. J. W. Kerr.

The Chairman then read a comprehensive paper ~~by himself~~ on the Carices of Colvend

Mr Lennon read a paper describing the ~~occurrence~~ finding of Carabus glabratus on Carrinemore of Fleet in June 1880.

Votes of thanks were passed to the authors of these papers, and the meeting adjourned.

Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
Feb. 4th 1881

The fifth meeting of the Session was held here at 8 oc p.m. Nineteen members were present and Dr. Watt, Rotchell House presided.

The Secretary read the minutes of previous meeting, and which were approved of.

The Secy. announced that he had received for presentation to the Society four parts of the Transactions of the Epping Forest and county of Essex Field Club, and which he laid on the table.

The Report

of the Committee appointed to select such of the Transactions of the past two Session as they thought suitable for publication was given in by the Secretary. The following are the papers the Committee proposed to print:—

1 "Local Anthropology" - Mr. McIlwraith
2 "Effects of the weather of 1879 on Animal life. Mr. R. Service
3 "Notes on Rare Birds" - Mr. Hastings
4 "Carices of the Stewartry". Mr. McAndrew
5 "Notes on a collection of Trichoptera from the Stewartry". Mr. J. G. Bennie
6 "Observations on the Salmon Disease". Mr. Rutherford
7 "Notes on Rare Beetles" - Mr. Lennon

On the motion of Mr. Maxwell the Report was unanimously adopted.

The Circular which had been sent to the Society requesting the appointment of two Delegates to attend the meeting at York in the autumn, was again made consideration. and Dr Grierson and Dr Sharp were appointed, and failing either of these gentlemen, the Secretary was instructed

to arrange with any other members of the Society who might be intending to visit York.

The amended draft minute of Agreement between the Society and the Observatory Shareholders, was read by the Secretary and unanimously agreed to. The Chairman and the Secretary were appointed a Committee to see the various arrangements carried out.

Mr. Scott, Castle St laid on the table for exhibition five specimens of the Knot and Black Scoter, both obtained at Carsethorn.

Mr. McAndrew, New Galloway communicated "Notes on the Bryology of the Glenkens" which was read by Mr. J. Wilson. Mr. Adamson next read a paper on "the Cuckoo". Specimens of the Cuckoo, and of its egg were shown by the Secretary.

The meeting then adjourned.