Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
4th Mch 1881

The sixth meeting was held here at 8 o'c P.M. 19 members were present and Mr. Starke occupied the Chair.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved of.

The Secy. announced the following Donations:- 5 parts Annals of the New York Academy of Science; one part ~~Ep~~ Transactions of the Epping Forest Naturalists Club.

The Chairman presented to the Society the first Vol. of the Transactions of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries and Professor Jamieson's Mineralogy of Dfs shire.

On the motion of the Chairman it was unanimously ~~as~~ resolved to record the deep regret of the members of this Society at the death of Thomas Carlyle who was born in Dumfriesshire, attained a world wide reputation and who is now buried in his birthplace of Ecclefechan".

The Secretary read a communication

from Mr. Dudgeon descriptive of "An altered Trap occurring near Newton Stewart".

A paper by Mr. W. G. Gibson entitled "Elfin Pipes" was next read by Mr. J. W. Kerr. A large number of these ancient pipes was exhibited in illustration of the paper.

The secretary exhibited specimens of Daubenton's Bat, and of the Bank Vole and read a note regarding their occurrence in the Stewartry.

The Chairman next read a paper descriptive of the excavations, and objects of interest recently brought to light at Lincluden Abbey.

The members of Committee present then signed copies of the Observatory agreement and the meeting separated.

Mechanics Institute
1st April 1881

The seventh and last meeting of the Winter Session was held here at 8 o'clock. Mr. J. Gibson Starke presided.

The minutes of previous meeting having

been read and approved of, Mr. Tom Brown, Auchenhessnane, Penpont, Mr. McKie, Auchorlee, Kirkcudbright were elected members.

The Secretary exhibited a specimen, recently captured at Kenmure Castle, of the Black Var. of the Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*). Sheriff Hope exhibited a remarkable example of vegetable teratology in the shape of a round cluster of what were said to be cones of the Pinaster. There were upwards of 50 cones in the bunch, and all growing from a central point; they had been procured at Drumlanrig. The Secretary exhibited a curious mushroom, or rather trio of mushrooms, sent by Mr. Chalmers, Gardener, Terregles. One mushroom was of the usual size; and inverted on the cap of this one, and situated on each side of the stem, were two other mushrooms. Dr Grierson exhibited a very fine bronze goblet which he had recently acquired for his Museum. It had been found in Nithsdale some thirty years since, and along with it were two bronze plates and another goblet, which he was sorry to say were now irrecoverably lost. It was evidently of Romano-British manufacture and similar goblets had been found in Wigtownshire

and Wales. Dr Grierson also exhibited ~~the~~ ~~nest of~~ a very fine example of the nest of a Trap-Door Spider from Australia.

A list of Field Meetings suggested by the Committee was then submitted and approved of.

Dr Grierson then delivered a long and most interesting lecture on "The various breeds of Dogs" illustrated by a fine series of the skulls of various races. At the close a special vote of thanks was on the motion of the President awarded to Dr Grierson.

Session 1881-82

Annual Meeting

Mechanic's Institute, Oct. 7th 1881

The annual meeting was held here at 8 o'clock p.m. when 15 members were present and Mr Nelson occupied the chair.

The minutes of meeting held 1st April were read by Mr Wilson in the absence of the secretary and approved of.

Mr Seiffert, Watchmaker was duly elected an ordinary

elected an ordinary member.

Mr. F. W. Grierson exhibited and presented to the Society 12 very interesting and skilfully executed photo. micrographs, and for which he was awarded a special vote of thanks. Mr. Wilson also exhibited a barren frond of Osmunda regalis found in Lochar Moss in July last and measuring 26 inches in length.

The Secretary's Report of the past Session was read and cordially approved of.

Mr. Adamson afterwards submitted his annual Statement of the funds of the Society which was received with great applause. He stated that the balance in hand was £8.6.6 while ~~at~~ last year it was only 19/2, the Income being £17.9.2 and the Expenditure £9.2.8

The meeting then proceeded to the Election of Office bearers and Committee of management when the following gentlemen were elected. President. J. Gibson Starke Esq. of Troqueer Holm; Vice Presidents, J. Nelson Esq., J. Rutherford Esq and Sheriff Hope Mr. Adamson was re-elected Treasurer and was awarded a hearty vote of thanks for his services. A Letter was read from Mr R. Service

in which he requested to be relieved of the office of Secretary, but it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Service's resignation be not accepted, and a special and hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for the able and efficient manner in which he had performed his onerous duties during the past five years. Mr. Sam. Chrystie was elected assistant Secretary, and the other members of Committee were Messrs. Maxwell, Watt, Robb, J. W. Kerr, Lennon, Wilson, R. Chrystie, & Williamson.
In the absence of the President, his communication on "An Antiquary's Tour to Switzerland" was delayed to the next meeting.
After passing a vote of thanks to Mr. Nelson for presiding, the meeting adjourned.

Mechanics Institute
11th Nov. 1881

The second meeting of the session was held here at 8 o'c. p.m. Twenty six members were present and Mr. Gibson Starke presided.
The chairman thanked the members

for having for the fourth time conferred upon him the honourable office of President.

On the motion of the Chairman it was ~~agreed that the meeting in name of the Society~~ resolved to record in the minutes the deep regret felt by the members at the death of Mr. Gilchrist Clark of Speddoch who possessed a wide and intimate acquaintance with Scottish Archæology and was always ready to communicate information to the Society in regard to local Antiquities.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved of. Mr. Service stated that at last meeting he had wished to be relieved of the office of Secretary, but as stated in the minutes, the members would not agree to this. However he was unwilling to assume all the responsibility of the office, but was quite prepared to work with a colleague if the members would agree to a proposal which some of his friends had suggested to him previous to the meeting, and which was to be brought forward. Mr. Lennon then moved that Mr. Alfred E. Truckell

be appointed joint Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rutherford and after some discussion cordially agreed to.

The following new members were then unanimously elected:— Messrs. Robinson Douglas of Orchardton; F. Rhennius Coles, The Hermitage, Tongland; Symington, Whinnyhill School; R. Fisher, Bookseller; Fand H. L. Dickson, Dumfries.

The following donations were announced

I. The 14th. Annual Report of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology. From the Trustees of the Museum.

II. Comb of the White Ant. From Mr. James Inglis, Cachar.

III Celt of Porphyry from Auchenhessnane, Tynron. From Mr. Shaw

IV A silver Cup and an Apron from the mummy of an Inca found at Lima in Peru. From Miss Eliza Sutherland, Eastbourne, Sussex.

V Paris Miners Halfpenny. From Mr. Bailey

VI Twopennies of George III 1797. From Mr. Williamson and Mr. Scott

The following articles were laid on the table for examination:—

1. A silver Coin of one of the Philips of Spain, dated 1635, found in Rockhall Tower. By Mr. Watson
2. A Spanish Gold Doubloon of Charles III 1788. By the Rev. J. B. Johnstone
3. a small ~~coin~~ silver bearing the figures 21 surmounted by ~~an~~ the letter S, found in the site of Greyfriars Monastery. By Mr. Fisher
4. a large Round copper plate, found in St. Michael's Church during the recent renovations. By the Rev Mr. Paton.
5. A pair of live pigeons, taken from their nests in the nestling plumage, in Barloco Cave, on the occasion of the May Field Meeting. By Mr. Sam Chrystie
6. A series of all the Wasps occurring in the district. By Mr. Service
7. Edinburgh Halfpenny. By Mr. Adamson

In regard to the last mentioned the Chairman read a memorandum explanatory of the uses of tradesmen's tokens in general.

The thanks of the Society were voted to the donors of the various gifts that had been announced. The gentlemen who exhibited the interesting articles mentioned above were also thanked for their kindness.

The Chairman then read a paper entitled "An Antiquary's tour in Switzerland" descriptive of his journeyings in that country during August and September last. In illustration of the paper many beautiful photographs of Swiss scenery historic buildings, monuments, &c were exhibited, together with some exquisite specimens of Swiss wood carving, and a few pretty groups of dried Alpine plants, including the Edelweiss, Alpine Rose &c.

Mr. Rutherford next read a paper on "A Wasp's nest, and how she built it". The nest described was also exhibited, neatly dissected to show the internal structure, and Mr. Rutherford presented it to the Society. An interesting discussion followed, after which the meeting adjourned

Mechanics Institute, Dumfries
Dec. 4th 1881

The third meeting of the Session was held here at 8 o'c. p.m. Eighteen members were present and Mr. Neilson presided.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved of.

Mr. Irving Edgar, and Mr. W. McDowall were duly elected Ordinary members.

The following donations were announced. — Seven coins from Mr. Forsyth, College St; a full Series of 25 Coins from Mr. Fisher; 2 French Sous pieces of 1692 from Mr. Service; and the Bulletin of the United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Territories from Dr V. Hayden, New York

Mr. Fisher exhibited several interesting and rare old books which included a Huguenot Bible 1616, the Battle of Craignelder a Galloway legend in verse, and a curious old volume of sermons dated from 1614 to 1680.

Mr. R. Emerson, Chapmanleys sent for inspection a potato through which a stem of Couch grass had forced its way till it

looked like an ordinary potato root.

Mr. Fisher read a communication entitled "Observations on Nature and Sketches of Travel on the West Coast of Africa".

Mr. Sam. Chrystie read "an annotated List of the Birds that breed in the parish of Dumfries". A very beautiful collection of the Eggs of the various species mentioned, was shown in illustration of the paper.

Votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. Fisher and Chrystie after which the meeting adjourned.

Mechanic's Institute
Dumfries
Jan. 6th 1882

The fourth meeting of the Session was held here at 8 o'c p.m.

Thirty two members were present and Mr Clarke occupied the Chair.

Mr. Truckell read the minutes of last meeting which were approved of.

Messrs. W. Grierson, Chapelmount; Reid, Bank of Scotland; J. Thompson, Rosemount; and

Smith, Crichton Institution were nominated as new members, and duly admitted.

Mr Truckell laid on the table the Annual Report of the Glasgow Archaeological Society for 1881, received from that Society; and 20 coins of various dates and nationalities, presented by Mr Symington, Whinnyhill Schoolhouse.

Dr Gilchrist exhibited a mineral substance found near Holywood Station, which he considered was an Aerolite. Mr Frank Grierson exhibited a specimen of the Lesser Bladderwort found by him in Lochar Moss.

Mr Truckell submitted a large mass of the Common ~~Bladder~~ Barnacle (Lepas fascicularis) sent by the Rev Jas Fraser, who had found it on the shore at Colonsay. Mr Fraser had been in communication with Mr Hoadley, secy. to the Challenger Commission, on the subject, and an interesting letter from that gentleman with regard to it was read to the meeting by the chairman.

Mr Rutherford then exhibited a series of views with his magic-lantern and lantern-microscope, the latter instrument having

been constructed by himself. Mr Rutherford was awarded a hearty vote of thanks.

The meeting then proceeded to examine about a dozen microscopes of various magnifying powers, which had been brought to the meeting by Mr Rutherford, Mr J. Grierson, Mr Wilson, Mr Davidson, Rev Mr Bonman, and Dr J. P. Anderson Stuart.

The meeting then adjourned.

Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
Feb 3rd 1882

The fifth meeting of the Session was held here at 8 o'c. this evening.

Thirty members were present and Sheriff Hope occupied the Chair.

The minutes of previous meeting having been read and approved of the Rev. J. Thyrd Irving Jt. School and Mr James Herries, Dumfries Gas Office were nominated, and duly admitted new members.

Mr Service announced that he had received

as donations to the Society. Vol. I part I of the Proceedings of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science, and Vol. II part V of the Transactions of the Epping Forest and County of Essex Naturalists' Field Club.

Mr. Shaw exhibited some pieces of Trap rock from Tynron with curious cup-like markings. Mr. T. Brown, Auchenakessnan exhibited a piece of Steatite picked up at Holestane, where there is a large vein of the material. Mr. Sam. Chrystie exhibited an orange which besides the normal arrangement of segments, had a number of smaller segments forming an embryo orange in the centre of the fruit. Mr. Rutherford exhibited a Jasper found at Hightowhill in Tinwald Parish; a curious egg shaped piece of silurian rock found at Jardineton; and two trays of rare old coins. Mr. R. also read some notes regarding the latter, and an extract from an old work which explained why our sterling coinage is designated by the letters L S D. Mr. P. Stobie exhibited a volume entitled Essays on

Anatomy" translated from the French, dated 1632

Mr. Wilson read a paper entitled "The Propagation of the Filices" some splendid diagrams were shown in illustration.

Mr. J. Rhenxnis Coles read a paper on "Iceland with notes on its Flora".

Mr. R. Service read a paper on "the Local Ornithology of the last Six months".

Votes of thanks were awarded to the authors of the various communications, and the meeting separated.

Mechanics' Institute
Dumfries March 2nd 1882

The Sixth Meeting of the Winter Session was held here at 8 o'c. p.m. Nineteen members were present, and Mr. Nelson presided.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved of.

Messrs Campbell Boyd Jr. of Merton Hall, near Newton Stewart; John Cowan, Birkhill, Dfs; and W. Allan, Ironmonger, Dfs., were nominated as

new Members and duly elected.

Mr. Service, Co. Secretary laid on the table a part of the Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences, presented to the Society by the Academy.

Mr. Service laid on the table about sixty specs of North American Birds. The collection was much admired for the perfect skill with which the skins had been prepared, and was interesting as containing many species which have occurred in Britain as rare stragglers.

Mr. Wilson made a suggestion that the Society should hold a conversazione at an early date, and after some discussion it was agreed on the motion of Mr. Irving Edgar to delay consideration of the proposal till next meeting.

Mr. Service read a paper entitled "Sphinx Convolvuli in this district" and exhibited a fine pair of the Moths captured in the autumn of 1881.

Mr. J. D. Fairley being unable to be present his paper entitled "Notes on the Gold Coast" was read by one of the Secretaries. Mr. Service exhibited a box of Lepidoptera, and some Goliath beetles collected at the Gold Coast by

Mr. Fairley.

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

Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
13th Apl. 1882

The seventh (and last) meeting of the winter session was held here at 8 o'c. p.m. Thirty nine members were present, and Mr. Starke occupied the chair.

Mr. S. Chrystie read the minutes of last meeting which were approved.

The following new members were duly elected:- Messrs. Carson, Newbridge; Roddan, plumber; Allan, Chemist; & Maxwell, bookseller.

Mr. Scott exhibited an old stone whorl, a series of carboniferous fossils from Dalmellington; and an iron ladle found some years since in the moat of Carlaverock Castle.

Mr. W. G. Gibson sent some beautiful sample of kauri copal with insects enclosed.

It was remitted to the Committee to

prepare the list of summer field meetings. A proposal to hold a Conversazione in autumn was also remitted to the Committee.

Dr J. P. Anderson Stewart then delivered a long and very instructive lecture on "Digestion". On the motion of Mr Rutherford a vote of thanks was very cordially awarded to Dr Stewart.

The meeting then adjourned.

Mechanic's Institute
Apl. 20th 1882

At a meeting of Committee held here at 8 o'c. Present Messrs. Robb, Neilson, R Chrystie, J. Chrystie, Lennon, Adamson, Kerr, Serpence, Wilson, Watt, and Starke, the latter presiding.

The following list of Summer Field Meetings was arranged, the places fixed on for the months of June to Sept. inclusive to be submitted for approval to those attending each previous meeting: — May. Kirkcudbright; June, Scaurwater; July Southwick & Colvend; Aug. Skeoch Hill; and Sept. Jardinehall.

Mr Service submitted the M.S. of the

List of the Flowering plants of Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire prepared by Mr. James M'Andrew, New Galloway, which was approved of and Mr. Service was instructed to get it printed if the estimate of probable cost was considered satisfactory.

The Chairman presented to the Society the following books which he laid upon the table. "Record of Evidence taken 1863 regarding the right of the Town Council to levy Bridge Dues"; Dumfries Magazine 1776; Poems & Songs by Susanna Hawkins Vol. 9 1861 and Vol. X 1867; Catalogue of the Antiquarian Museum; Catalogue of books belonging to the Presbytery of Dumfries 1784.

Kirkcudbright

1882

After visiting, in company of the Kirkcudbright Field Naturalists Club, a number of places of antiquarian interest in the town of Kirkcudbright the party drove to Balmangan Tower and thence to the Borness Bone Cave. On returning the members of the party took tea together in the Royal Hotel Mr. J. A. Maxwell, Presiding

Mr. Service, afterwards, asked the approval of the meeting for the committee's selection of Scaur Water as the place of next month's field meeting. This was unanimously approved of. Mr. J. Commelin McKenzie and Alex. Davidson, Chief Constable both of Kirkcudbright were then duly elected ordinary members. The Chairman then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. McKie of Anchorlee for his courtesy in acting as guide to the party during the day, and the motion was cordially approved of.

Auchenhessnane
June 1882

The second Field Meeting was held at Scaur Water. The business meeting was held at Auchenhessnane, Sheriff Hope presiding. The committee's selection of Colvend & Southwick for next meeting was approved of on the motion of Mr. Wilson. The Rev. J. Sturrock Corsock, Mr. Hamilton of Ardendee, Kirkcudbr. and Mr. Duncop, Boyd Academy were duly

elected ordinary members. A vote of thanks to Mr. Brown for the use of a room terminated the business, after which the party drove to Glenquharger Craig.

Colmend Manse

July 1882

The party attending this Field meeting were hospitably entertained by Mr. Fraser at the manse. After refreshments had been partaken of Mr. Fraser was called to the chair. Mr. Service submitted a letter received from the Rev. W. Graham, Trinity suggesting that the August meeting might be held at Lochmaben. Mr. Graham's suggestion was thereupon adopted. Messrs. J. Brydges, Broom's Road, Dumfries and A. Malam, Gas Manager, Dumfries were duly elected ordinary members. Mr. Wilson proposed that the thanks of the Society should be awarded to Mr. M'Andrew for the excellent Flora he had compiled, and printed copies of which had been distributed to the members

since last meeting. This was very heartily agreed to. Mr. Wilson also brought under the notice of the meeting that the Old Canoe at Lotus which had been presented to the Society might now be removed as it was clear of water. Mr. Service undertook to have this done.

Mechanics Institute
Dumfries
~~Aug.~~ July 28th. 1882

At a meeting of committee held here at 8 oc pm. present Messrs. Adamson, R. & S. Chrystie, J. Wilson, Williamson, Service & Lennon, the latter presiding. Mr. Service read a letter from the Rev. W. Graham suggesting a picnic as part of the proceedings at the forthcoming meeting at Lochmaben. It was agreed that a picnic was not desirable. It was also agreed that the date of meeting be postponed a week to allow of a larger attendance (provided that the alteration would not inconvenience Mr. Graham).
Mr. Wilson moved that the committee recommend the Society to hold a conversazione in October

and the motion was unanimously adopted. Mr Chrystie suggested that a more accessible and comfortable place of meeting be got, and Messrs Chrystie, Wilson, & Adamson were appointed as a sub committee to report on the matter. Mr Wilson moved that the society be recommended to authorize a course of lectures on Elementary Natural History during next winter session and this was agreed to.

Bruce's ~~Castle~~ Lochmaben
Aug. 12th 1882

The members of the party attending the Field Meeting gathered within the walls of the Castle. Dr Gilchrist was called onto preside. Messrs. Duncan Lockerbie; John Lawrie, Lynron, and W. Carruthers, of the Botanical Depart.t British Museum were duly elected ordinary members. It was agreed that next Field meeting should be held at Skeoch Hill. Subsequently Mr Graham was elected an Honorary member by acclamation.

Note. The meeting at Skeoch Hill did not take place, owing to bad weather preventing the members turning out in sufficient numbers.

Mechanics Institute
Sept. 22nd 1882

At a meeting of Committee held here at 8 o'c p.m. present Messrs. Wilson, Lennon, Adamson, Watt, Neilson, R. & S. Chrystie, Service & Maxwell, the latter presiding.

A letter of apology for absence was read from Mr. Truckell. Mr. Chrystie apologised for his absence. Mr. Service read the minutes of Committee meetings held 20th April and July 28th. The former minute was unanimously adopted. Mr. Wilson said the latter minute was incorrect in so far as the following sentence was ~~not~~ omitted - "It was agreed that due notice by advertisement be given in the Standard and Herald" and he moved that these words be added. Mr. Chrystie seconded. Mr. Service explained that he had given the members "due notice"

by sending out the circulars and moved that the minute stand as written Mr. S. Chrystie seconded. On a division there voted for the amendment and four for the motion, the ~~former~~ latter thus being carried.

Mr. Adamson read a draft statement of the statement of the Society's funds. Some conversation ensued as to the date on which the subscriptions should be paid.

The subcommittee appointed to find a more suitable meeting place reported that they had looked at several places & ascertained the rents, and that they would be in a position to recommend a suitable place at the Annual meeting.

Mr. Wilson moved that the Committee recommend the Society to appoint Dr Gilchrist President for the ensuing session. Carried unanimously.

It was also agreed that Mr. Wilson be recommended to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Neilson

from the Vice President. It was agreed that the following gentlemen be ~~recommended to form~~ suggested as the Committee for the ensuing session:— Messrs. R Cherytie, Lemon, Maxwell, Robb, Watt, Neilson, Davidson & Brown.

John Maxwell

Mechanics' Institute, Dumfries
6 October 1882

The Annual Meeting was held at Eight o'clock, p. m. when Twenty five Members were present, and Mr. Rutherford one of the Vice Presidents occupied the Chair.

25 Members

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and approved of, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected ~~new~~ Members of the Society, viz:—

x J. G. Laidlaw, James Bailey, Harold Offer, Grierson, Writer, Lanni, x James Smellie, Bank of Scotland; and ~~Smiley~~ x Jas. Smellie, High Street.
8 Queens place

Thereafter the Secretaries intimated the following donations to the Society, which were handed round and examined, viz:—

—A picked dog-fish by Mr Birrell, per Mr J. Grierson, Glasgow Street; a flounder with both sides dark, taken at Carsethorn on the 22d Sept., from Mr James Lennox; a vendace and block of wood from the lake dwelling at the Castle Loch at Lochmaben, from Mr P. Waugh, Lochmaben; a "great seal" of Queen Anne impression in wax, from Mr Davidson of Summerville; coin of James I. of Scotland; bottle containing a young coal fish from Girvan, from Mr Moodie; annual report for 1880 of the Smithsonia Institution from the Secretary of the Interior, U.S.A.; four parts of the annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, from the Academy; two parts of the transactions of the Epping Forest and county of Essex field club, from the club; one part of the transactions of the geological society of Edinburgh; and three numbers of the *Field Naturalist*, from the publishers.

Mr F. W. Grierson had specimens of the following displayed about the room:—

Ranunculus peltatus—Sweet-scented Water Crowfoot—Maxwelltown Loch. *Drosera Anglica*—Great English Sundew—Lochanhead; Lochar Moss. *Drosera intermedia*—Long-leaved Sundew—Lochanhead; Lochar Moss. *Alsine verna*—Spring Sandwort—Torr Heugh, Colvend. *Vicia sylvatica*—Pencilled Wood Vetch—Cargen Glen. *Saxifraga granulata*—White Meadow Saxifrage—Douglas Hall; Banks of Cluden. *Saxifraga hypnoides*—Mossy Saxifrage—Glenquhargan Crag, Tynron. *Eryngium maritimum*—Sea Holly—Bridgehouse Bay, Borgue. *Cicuta virosa*—Water Hemlock—Castle Loch, Lochmaben (very rare). *Senecio viscosus*—Stinking Groundsel—Laggan Hill, Colvend (very rare). *Lobelia dortmanna*—Water Lobelia—Lochaber; Loch Lotus. *Scrophularia aquatica*—Great Figwort—"Lot's Wife," Colvend (very rare). *Linaria minor*—Small Toad-flax—Lochmaben Station (very rare). *Veronica anagallis*—Water Speedwell—Maxwelltown Loch, Banks of Cargen, &c. *Orobanche major*—Great Broom-rape—Auldgirth; Locharbriggs. *Lykopus europæus*—Gipsy-wort—Castle Loch, Lochmaben (very rare). *Calamintha acinos*—Basil Thyme—Castle-Douglas Road (very rare). *Utricularia minor*—Small Bladder-wort—Lochar Moss, at Racks (very rare). *Samolus valerandi*—Brook-weed—Glencaple. *Typha augustifolia*—Narrow-leaved Reed-mace—Castle Loch, Lochmaben. *Gagea lutea*—Yellow Star of Bethlehem—Near The Grove (very rare). *Allium vineale*—Crow Garlic—Cliffs, Colvend. *Isoetes lacrustris*—Quill-wort—Ironhash Loch, Colvend. *Ulmus montana*—Wych Elm—Cargen Glen.

The following, also beautifully mounted, were shewn by Mr Joseph Wilson:

Nepeta cataria—Cat mint; *Cichorium intybus*—Chicory—found at Locharbriggs.

Linaria minor—Found at Lochmaben, not previously recorded from this neighbourhood.

Ornithopus perpusillus and *Orobanche major*—found at Locharbriggs.

Listera cordata, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, *Lycopodium selago*, *L. selaginoides*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *H. albida*, *Rubus saxatilis*—which were found at the society's excursion in June.

Sedum anglicum, *S. acre*, and *Arenaria verna*—found at the July excursion.

Sagina nodosa and *Glaux maritima*—found at Glencaple.

Also the following, which were found in the neighbourhood of Dumfries, viz.: *Mimulus luteus*, *Parnassia palustris* (grass of Parnassus), *Polygonum bistorta*, *Stachys betonica*, *Lycopus europæus* (gipsy wort), *Calamintha acinos*, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, and a specimen of white heather, *Calluna vulgaris*, found in the Lochar Moss.

Also, a specimen of the *Utricularia vulgaris*, *in flower*; although not found in this neighbourhood, it is interesting, seeing that it is one of the carnivorous plants which grow in water, and are very rarely found in blossom.

Mr J. McMeekan also exhibited a number of Fossils from the Carboniferous Strata of the ~~Clyde~~ Kirkbean coast, also a frond of Lastrea Felix Mas, measuring over 6 feet in length, found at Arbigland Kirkbean in June last; Chisman exhibited a number of Fossils from the Carboniferous System.

The Secretary submitted and read the following report for the past year:—

We have pleasure in reporting that the Society has increased greatly in prosperity during the past session. Thirty-one new members have joined, and six members have been taken off the roll owing to various causes, thus leaving the roll of membership at 137—a net increase of 25. It should be noted that nearly all the new members are resident at a distance, which prevents them attending the meetings regularly, but they are almost without exception gentlemen who take an active interest in the objects for which the Society was instituted, and who form a valuable addition to its strength and capability for carrying out its aims. The meetings have been with one exception—the September field meeting, which was not held at all—very well attended, there having been an average attendance of 22 at the winter meetings, and of 21 at the field meetings, not taking the September meeting into account. The publication of a "Flora of Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire" marks an important advance in the work of the Society. The volume has attracted considerable notice from botanical students and favourable comments in some of the scientific periodicals. The members are under great obligations to Mr M'Andrew for the laborious work he undertook in its compilation. The arrangement with the management of the Observatory, whereby the articles belonging to the Society have been deposited in the museum, in return for which the members enjoy certain privileges, has wrought very well during the past year, and has conferred a mutual benefit on each institution. The articles sent to the museum since our last ordinary meeting in April are as follow :—

No. 159—April 28—Vendace, from Major Bowden.
,, 160 Do. Albino flounder, from Mr Ballantine, Carsethorn.
,, 177—June 1—Group of Zoophytes and Sponge ; Southerness.
,, 178 Do. Pipe-fish, from Mr Black.
,, 179 Do. Egg from inside of an ordinary domestic hen's egg, from Mr R. Maxwell.
,, 180 Do. Small drawing of Kirkcudbright Castle, from Mr Thomson.
,, 184—June 21—Tiger python, shot in Cachar by Mr Inglis, from Mr Service.
,, 187—July 18—*Sepia officinalis*, from Mr Irving ; caught at Loch Fishery, Gretna.
,, 191—Aug. 30—Thirty-four specimens carices.
,, 193 Do. Centipede from Mozambique, from Mrs Aitken, Church Street.
,, 194 Do. Adder—Mabie ; Mr Service.
,, 195 Do. Slow-worm, caught on Millgreen ; Mr Service.

196, Broad-nosed eel ; 197, Sharp-nosed eel ; 198, Jar with three roach ; 199, Do.; 200, Jar with one roach ; 201, Jar with perch—all got at the Kirk Loch on the occasion of the field meeting at Lochmaben.

These articles bring up the total number of specimens belonging to the Society deposited in the Observatory to 137. We would like to direct attention to the desirability of members doing something to form a collection of our local fishes, a nucleus of which has now been got together. This might be done with but little expense, and such a collection would be of extreme interest. Almost nothing is known scientifically of our local ichthyology, and we have reason to believe that amongst the fresh water fishes *Coregonus maræenuta* (the vendace) is not the only unique species to be found here. What has become of that pretty little species *Cyprinus idus*, which the late Dr Walker is stated in *Stewart's Elements of Natural History* to have found at the mouth of the Nith? We throw out the suggestion in hopes that the members may take note of it. We have also to draw your attention to a clause in the Observatory Agreement which binds us to assist to the best of our ability in forming a collection representative of the local Fauna. Although we are depositing quite as many articles as are coming to the Observatory Committee, still we think the members might contribute to a much greater extent than at present. There are no insects in the Observatory ; the birds are very inadequately represented ; and many of the local quadrupeds are awanting.

(Sgd.) ROBERT SERVICE, } Joint
A. EDGAR TRUCKELL, } Secretaries.
S. A. CHRYSTIE, Assistant Secretary.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

Thereafter the Treasurer (Mr. William Adamson) submitted his financial statement for the past Session, which shewed the Income and Expenditure to be

be as follows:—

Income.

By Balance from last year	£8	6	6
,, 92 Subscriptions at 2s 6d	11	10	0
,, 28 Do. at 5s	7	0	0
,, 2 Copies of "Transactions" sold	0	1	0
	£26	17	6

Expenditure

To Amount of Secretary's account for outlays	£9	17	7½
,, Cost of printing "Transactions," circulars, syllabus, cards, letter paper and envelopes, &c.	14	7	6
,, Treasurer's outlays	0	4	1½
	£24	9	3
Balance on hand	£2	8	3

Mr WATSON moved that the report be adopted.

Mr WILSON moved as an amendment that the report be not adopted, and quoted the rule of the society which states that accounts must be submitted to the Committee. After considerable discussion it was resolved that the Report should be received, and remitted to the Committee for Examination.

The following letter was read from J Gibson Starke Esqr of Prospect Holm, President of the Society:—

Dear Sir,—Would you be so good as intimate to the Committee of the Natural, Historical, and Antiquarian Society that I do not desire re-election as its president. This honour has been so frequently renewed in my favour that I think it only fair it should be now conferred upon another, and, indeed, you will remember that last year I accepted the position with reluctance. I shall all my life have a grateful recollection of the honourable position so spontaneously and repeatedly bestowed upon me, and I have to thank the members and office-bearers —especially yourself—for uniform kind support in discharging its duties. I have been anxious to see the Society strengthen its hold upon the district, and am glad to know that during my tenure of office it has greatly increased in prosperity, which, I trust, will continue long after my humble endeavours in its behalf are forgotten.—I am, yours truly,

J. GIBSON STARKE.

Mr Robert Service.

On the motion of Mr. ~~Watson~~ Maxwell seconded by Mr Watson it was unanimously resolved to record in the Minutes the Society's sense of the admirable manner in which Mr Starke and the other retiring Office bearers had discharged their duties during their tenure of office.

Dr. Gilchrist was elected President

and

and Sheriff Hope, Mr. Rutherford of Jardinston, and Mr. Wilson, Inland Revenue, were elected Vice Presidents, and Mr. William Adamson, Builder, was elected Treasurer, all unanimously.

The Meeting then proceeded to the election of Secretaries, when Mr. Watson moved, seconded by Mr. John Maxwell, that Mr. Robert Service be re-elected Joint Secretary. This was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. James Lennox moved, seconded by Mr. F. W. Grierson, that Mr. Alfred Edgar Truckell, be re-elected Joint Secretary.

X proposes that Mr. Truckell be elected Assistant Secretary to Mr. Service instead of Joint Secretary as heretofore Mr. Service objected to resigns his appointment

It being X ~~Mr. Service however shortly afterwards resigned and~~ After much discussion Mr. Watson moved seconded by Mr. Chrystie that Mr. Joseph Wilson be elected Joint Secretary along with Mr Truckell. This was ultimately agreed to.

Mr. S. Chrystie was re-elected Assistant Secretary.

A letter from The Revd. Mr Graham, Trinity, Edinburgh, was read, in which he stated that he had obtained the necessary consent to his opening up one of the inner fosses at Lochmaben Castle, requesting the patronage and assistance of the Society to his so doing. It was agreed to grant such.

The

The following gentlemen were appointed Members of Committee:- Messrs Lennon, George Robb, James Watt, P Stoba, J Neilson, J Watson, John Mc Meekan, and James Lennox.

The Meeting thereafter on account of the lateness of the hour agreed to adjourn till Friday Evening next, when the remainder of the business will be taken up.

J Rutherford V.P.

Mechanics' Institute, Dumfries
13 October 1882

At a Meeting of the Committee of Management held at Seven o'clock p.m.

Present:-

Dr Gilchrist - Presiding
Messrs Rutherford
Watt
Lennox
Watson
Adamson
Wilson
Tuckell

A letter was read from Sheriff Hope to the effect that while deeply sensible of the honor conferred on him, he was unable to accept the Office of Vice President.

The Treasurer's Accounts were submitted and Examined, and it was moved by Mr. Lennox seconded by Mr Wilson that the Treasurer's Accounts be altered so as to shew the outstanding liabilities. This was agreed to and it was remitted to the Secretaries to meet with the Treasurer Examine the Account more minutely, with power to them to alter the Accounts so as to give effect to the above-mentioned resolution, and report to next Meeting.

The question of the advisability of discontinuing the practice of sending a Circular to Each Member intimating the holding of each Meeting having been considered it was agreed on the motion of Mr. Rutherford seconded by Mr. Wilson, that the present practice be continued.

The Secretaries were instructed to enquire at the printing establishments in Dumfries for quotations for printing Circulars calling Meetings, and in future to give the order to such one of them as will Execute it on the most reasonable terms