THE TRANSACTIONS

AND

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DUMFRIESSHIRE & GALLOWAY

NATURAL HISTORY

AND

ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SESSION 1863-1864.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY R. AND R. CLARK,
1864.

"When I would beget content and increase confidence in the power, and wisdom, and providence of Almighty God, I will walk the meadows by some gliding stream, and there contemplate the lilies that take no care, and those many other living creatures that are not only created but fed by the goodness of the God of nature, and therefore trust in him."—ISAAC WALTON.

"When a man has succeeded at length in cultivating his imagination, things the most familiar and unnoticed disclose charms invisible to him before."—STEWART'S ESSAYS.

"It is my duty, if I find myself unequal to the severity of my usual exercises, to devise slighter subjects of employment, which can be resorted to in the time of necessity."—CHALMERS' LIFE.

CONTENTS.

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

THIS SOCIETY was instituted on the 20th November 1862, by a Meeting of Gentlemen interested in the cultivation of *Natural History and Antiquarian Research.*

DR. GILCHRIST of the Crichton Institution explained and stated to this meeting, that for some years past the question had often been asked why it was, that while over Scotland and elsewhere natural history and allied societies were vigorous and successful, none such existed among ourselves, and it was proposed that a circular, explaining the objects to be pursued, and asking counsel and aid to establish a society for the investigation of *Natural History and Antiquities,* should be issued to those known to be interested in such matters.

To enable them to do this, a preliminary Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. Grierson, Thornhill; Drs. Dickson and Gilchrist; and Mr. Gibson, Dumfries. These gentlemen met on the 6th September, and drew up and issued the following circular :—

"The intended union may be denominated the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Archæological Society, and might have the following objects in view—

"1. To secure a more frequent interchange of thought and opinion amongst those who have a taste for such pursuits.

"2. To concentrate, direct and render available the labours and information of those already engaged in the work.

"3. To elicit and diffuse a taste for such studies where it is yet unformed.

"4. To elucidate the resources of the district in the several departments of Natural History and Archæology.

"5. To secure means for practically facilitating the study of these branches of knowledge.

"Sir—Your opinion of the proposed Society, and if possible, your promised aid in its support, will much oblige.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"J. GILCHRIST, *Secretary pro tempore.*

"Crichton House, Dumfries, 6th Sept. 1862."

The replies to the circular having been universally favourable to the scheme, a second meeting of the preliminary committee was held on the 4th November, Dr. Grierson in the Chair, when it was proposed and agreed to, that as abundant encouragement had been afforded to the committee to proceed, a meeting shall be called for the purpose of endeavouring to constitute a Society, and to transact such other business as may be deemed necessary.

The circular was as follows :—

"The preliminary committee appointed to consider the propriety of establishing a Natural History and Antiquarian Society for Dumfriesshire and Galloway, having sent circulars to parties supposed to be interested in such an object, and having received answers of such a character as to warrant them in taking further steps for its establishment, beg to state, that a meeting will be held in the Mechanics' Hall on Thursday the 20th, at 8 P.M., for the purpose of appointing a permanent committee, and transacting such other business as may be deemed necessary.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, "J. GILCHRIST, *Secretary pro tempore.*

"Crichton House, Dumfries."

This, the initiatory meeting as already mentioned, was held *on the 20th November*, and Mr. M'Diarmid having been requested to take the Chair, and the proceedings of the preliminary committee having been explained, as has been just detailed, it was agreed by the gentlemen present—Mr. Aird, Mr. M'Diarmid, Dr. Gilchrist, Mr. Thorburn, Mr. M'Ilraith, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Caldow, Mr. M'Dowal, Rev. Mr. Goold, Dr. Dickson—to form themselves into a society for the prosecu-

tion of the objects stated in the first circular of the preliminary committee, and to be called THE DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

The preliminary committee reported, that having succeeded in the objects of their appointment, they proposed to terminate their labours by suggesting the following List of Office-Bearers to the Society for its first year :—

President.

SIR WILLIAM JARDINE of Applegarth, Bart.

Vice-Presidents.

DR. GRIERSON, Thornhill. DR. GILCHRIST, Crichton Institution.
MR. M'DIARMID, Dumfries.

Secretaries.

DR. DICKSON and MR. M'ILRAITH.

Treasurer.

MR. W. G. GIBSON.

Committee.

REV. MR. GRAY, Mouswald.
REV. M. N. GOOLD, Dumfries.
MR. CORRIE, Procurator-Fiscal.
DR. BORTHWICK.
MR. C. HARKNESS, Writer.
PROVOST CALDOW, Maxwelltown.
MR. SYMONS, Writer.
DR. STEWART, Crichton Institution.
DR. GRIERSON, Southern Counties Asylum.
MR. HOGG, Draper.

The above list being unanimously approved of, a Committee was appointed, consisting of the Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, Mr. Thorburn and Mr. C. Harkness. They were directed to meet and draw up rules to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Society, and to make inquiries for a place in which future meetings could be held.

Mr. Adamson; Mr. H. Gordon; Mr. Macdonald, Rammerscales; Rev. Wm. Fraser, Colvend; Mr. Heron, Duncow; Dr. Moffat; Mr. Dudgeon, Cargen; Rev. Dr. Menzies, Keir; Dr. Lewis, Dalbeattie; Rev. William Gordon, Ruthwell;* were elected ordinary Members.

* See the Dates of Admission and Address of Members, separate list.

Miss Mitchell, Montrose; Mr. Croall, Montrose; Mr. Joseph Parker; Mr. H. T. Wake; Capt. Anderson; Dr. J. C. Browne, Derby Lunatic Asylum; Dr. A. Mitchell, Depute-Commissioner of Lunacy; were elected corresponding Members.

December 4th, 1862.

Mr. M'DIARMID in the Chair.

The Committee appointed at the previous Meeting of the Society submitted the draft of a set of rules, which having been read and revised, were approved of, and ordered to be engrossed in this Minute.*

1. The Society shall be called "THE DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY."

2. The objects of the Society shall be to secure a more frequent interchange of thought and opinion among those who cultivate Natural History and Antiquities, to elicit and diffuse a taste for such studies where it is yet unformed, and to afford means and opportunities for promoting it; the resources of Dumfriesshire and Galloway for such objects being particularly kept in view.

3. The Society shall consist of Ordinary, Honorary and Corresponding Members. The Ordinary Members shall be persons resident in the County of Dumfries and in Galloway, present and admitted at the Meeting of the 20th November 1862, and those who shall afterwards be proposed for admission by an Ordinary Member, and be admitted at an Ordinary Meeting of the Society by a ballot, in which three-fourths of the Members present vote for the admission. The Honorary and Corresponding Members shall consist of Gentlemen not residing in Dumfriesshire or Galloway distinguished for attainments connected with the objects of the Society, who shall be proposed and admitted *at an Ordinary Meeting.*

4. The Ordinary Members shall contribute annually the sum of 5s., payable in advance, to the funds of the Society, or such other sum as shall from time to time be fixed upon as the annual contribution of Ordinary Members.

* These first rules were again revised at the opening of the Session 1863-64, and are printed here as then agreed upon, and as they now stand the rules of the Society.

5. The Office-bearers of the Society, who shall be Ordinary Members, shall consist of a President, three Vice-presidents, two Secretaries and a Treasurer, holding office for one year only, but being eligible for re-election without any intermission; and a Committee of Ten Members, the three Members of the Committee standing at the top of the list going out annually, and not being eligible for re-election without the intermission of one year.

6. The Ordinary Meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month, for the purposes of the Society, and at the Meeting on the first Tuesday of November of each year, the Office-Bearers for the following year shall be chosen by a majority of votes of the Members present.

7. Field-Meetings shall be held during the Summer months on the first Tuesday of each month, the arrangements for which shall be made by the Committee.

8. Each Member may introduce a friend to any Ordinary or Field-Meeting of the Society, such friends not to be admitted more than twice during the same year.

9. The Committee, of which three shall form a quorum, shall elect their Chairman, and shall have the management of the affairs of the Society, subject to the supervision of Ordinary Meetings.

10. One of the Secretaries shall keep a Minute-Book of the proceedings of the Society, and a register of the Members, Ordinary, Honorary and Corresponding, and shall read a Report of the Society's proceedings at the end of each Session.

11. The Treasurer shall collect and take charge of the annual subscriptions and funds of the Society, and make payments therefrom under direction of the Committee, and shall annually submit to the Committee an account of his intromissions; and the Committee shall audit the same, and report to the Annual Meeting on the first Tuesday of November.

12. Alterations or repeals of the foregoing Rules, and new or additional Rules, shall only be made by three-fourths of the Ordinary Members at any Meeting of the Society, of which notice shall have been given at the previous Monthly Meeting.

13. The Ordinary Committee shall have power to call Special Meetings of the Society.

Mrs. Adamson, Irish Street; Mr. Aitken, Painter; Mr. W. Scott, Castle Street; Mr. Crombie, Architect, all of Dumfries;

Mr. Stark, Troqueer Holm; Mr. Thorburn, Barnkin, were elected ordinary Members.

Mr. R. Gray, City of Glasgow Bank; Dr. Herder, were elected Corresponding Members.

January 6th, 1863.

Mr. M'DIARMID in the Chair.

This may be considered as the first regular Meeting of the constituted Society.

Rector Cairns, Dumfries Academy; Mr. Jackson, Nith Place; Mr. Hastings, Taxidermist; Mr. William Allan, Druggist; Dr. P. Murray; all of Dumfries. Mr. Lennon, Crichton Institution; Mr. Mackenzie, Barn Hill; Mr. Cordiner, Fraserford; Rev. G. Laing, Penpont; Rev. William M'Donald, Burnhead; Rev. James Hutton, Manse, Closeburn; Rev. H. Barclay, Manse, Dunscore, were elected ordinary Members.

Mr. James C. Whyte Douglas; Dr. C. F. Sloane, Ayr; Rev. William Grant, Ayr; Professor Harkness, Cork; Professor Ogilvie, Aberdeen; Mr. William C. Aitken, Birmingham; Mr. James Keogh, Troon, were elected corresponding Members.

The following communications were read:—

The Rev. William Fraser, Colvend, read the first paper submitted to the Society, "On the re-discovery of *Scutellaria minor* on Laggan Hill, Colvend."—See *Transactions.*

Mr. Fraser took the opportunity of congratulating the members on the success which had thus far attended their meetings, and of expressing the hope that the Society now constituted would in future be the "rallying point" for the zoologist, botanist, geologist, archæologist and the scientific and literary men of Dumfriesshire and Galloway.

On *Anthoccros punctatus.* By Mr. Croall, Sunnyside, Montrose. Communicated by Dr. Gilchrist.

Anthoceros punctatus, a rare cryptogamus plant found by Mr. Croall at Marykirk, Kincardineshire. It occurred in two localities; one in a barley-field, on the naked spots between the grain and other vegetation. The other was in a pasture-field, where it also occurred upon the naked spots. In both localities the plant was noticed in the month of October; in a week or two after, and in November, the fructification appeared. "It was generally about an inch, occasionally nearly two inches, in height, and when mature, split almost to the base, displaying the central columella, to which the bright yellow spores were attached." Specimens were exhibited.

On the Habits of the *Pomarine Skua*. By Mr. Hastings, Dumfries.

A specimen was exhibited, shot near Glencaple Quay.

He remarked that the only specimens killed in Dumfriesshire or Galloway which had come under his notice as a preserver of birds for the last thirty years, was that now exhibited, and another which was killed about the same time by a lad, who struck it with a stick while fighting with a common gull in a field in the parish of Kirkmahoe.

On the *Antiquities of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Periods*, found in Dumfriesshire, by Mr. Gibson, Treasurer. Illustrated by specimens and drawings.

Dr. Grierson, Thornhill, after some remarks on the origin of species, with a special reference to the theories of Lamarck and Darwin, exhibited some varieties of the Rat, Mole and Weasel, illustrating the modification of colour, and the importance of attending to such modification in reference to its value as a specific character.

Dr. Gilchrist read a few notes communicated by Dr. Moffat, Millriggs, on a discovery made by him of what appeared to be the remains, or rather the debris, of old armour, found in a drain near the source of the Corrie Water. Dr. Grierson and Mr. Gibson were requested to examine and report upon Dr. Moffat's communication at a future meeting of the Society.

DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY.

Portion of Wild Boar found in Lochar-moss, 15 feet below the surface.—*Mr. Thorburn of Barnkin.*

Adder Bead. From the parish of Terregles.—*Dr. Dickson.*

Fragments of supposed ancient armour found at Corrie.—*Dr. Moffat, Millriggs.*

February 6th, 1863.

Mr. M'DIARMID in the Chair.

Rev. Joseph Anderson, Glencairn; Rev. J. Underwood, Irongray; Mr. S. Gordon, Stationer, Castle Douglas, were elected Ordinary Members.

Dr. W. A. Brown, Commissioner in Lunacy, Edinburgh, was elected a Corresponding Member.

The following communications were read.

On the microscopic structure of some of the *Crustacea, and other animals and plants*, by Mr. Keogh, C.M., Troon. Illustrated by drawings and microscopic preparations. Read by Dr. Gilchrist.

Mr. M'Diarmid brought before the meeting the recent discovery of what were supposed to be human bones, in the roof of a building adjoining the ruins of Newabbey, of which it seems at one time to have formed a portion. He regretted, that although the discovery may have been of little consequence, and was certainly much exaggerated, that no scientific investigation had been undertaken.

The Secretary intimated that all communications to be read before the Society, or at least the titles of such communications, must be intimated to him a week before the appointed evening of meeting.

DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY.

Collection of Zoophytes from Montrose Bay.—*Miss Mitchell, Montrose.*

Microscopic Crustacea.—*Mr. Keogh, Troon.*

Cast of the Arms of Sweetheart Abbey.—*Mr. James Foulds, Kirkbean.*

March 3*d*, 1863.

Mr. M'DIARMID in the Chair.

Mr. Alex. Stratherne, Glasgow; Mr. J. Bryce, LL.D., Glasgow; The Rev. F. O. Morris, Nunburn Holm Rectory, Yorkshire; The Rev. J. S. Burnet, Canada, were elected Corresponding Members.

The following communications were read:—

Dumfries in the olden time. By Mr. Stark, Troqueer Holm.

He remarked that the sketch which he had given might be regarded as an outline, to fill in the details of which by papers communicated from time to time by different Members, might be appropriately regarded as an aim and object of the Society.—See *Transactions.*

On the Death's Head Moth, *Acherontia atropos.* By Dr. Grierson, Thornhill.

The principal points alluded to were, the cry or sound emitted by the moth, which he considered was caused by the folding and unfolding of the proboscis; the comparative rarity of the species in Dumfriesshire, or at least the liability of the caterpillar to be attacked by other insects, a fatality which extends more to certain species than others, and especially the tribe of moths to which the Death's Head belongs. Several specimens were exhibited collected in Upper Nithsdale.

A communication was made by Dr. Grierson, with reference to the examination made by himself and Mr. Gibson, at the request of the Society, of the remains of ancient armour, found by Dr. Moffat at Corrie Water; and notes by Mr. A. Stratherne were read; but that gentleman not having then seen the fragments, a satisfactory conclusion had not been arrived at. The Meeting requested Dr. Grierson and Mr.

Gibson to continue their investigation, and communicate with Mr. Stratherne.—See *Note, Transactions.*

Mr. Corrie, Procurator Fiscal, brought before the Society the discovery of a large number of coins and other interesting relics, which had been recently found near Cannobie by a man while ploughing. He had not yet received them, but would endeavour to afford the Society an opportunity of examining them before forwarding them to exchequer.*

Dr. Grierson, in illustration of the mildness of the season, exhibited specimens of seventeen species of plants in flower in the open air, and made a few observations on the difficulty of naturalizing plants, and the speciality of *self-naturalization* of some plants. As an illustration he mentioned the *Mimulus lutea,* which grows wild, or in a self-naturalized state, in great profusion by the sides of the Minyhive Road, and in various places in the neighbourhood of Thornhill. Also the White Butter Bur, which had established itself in several places on the banks of the Nith.

April 7th, 1863.

Sir W. JARDINE, Bart., President, in the Chair.

Mr. Robt. Scott jun.; Mr. R. B. Carruthers, Dumfries; Mr. J. Jackson, Aimesfield; Rev. D. Hogg, Kirkmahoe, were elected Ordinary Members.

The President made some remarks on the objects and advantages of the Society, throwing out various suggestions for securing its existence, and alluding especially to the advantage which would be gained by the publication, at the close of the year, of a report embodying the result of its efforts, and containing an abstract of the more important papers read during each session. He thought it advisable that the in-door meet-

* These are now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, in Edinburgh. The coins were of Alexander III., John Baliol, and Edward I. and II.

ings of the Society should terminate with the next, or May meeting, and that summer excursions should then commence.

The following communications were read :—

On a Submerged Forest in Galloway. By Dr. A. Mitchell, C.M.

The observations were confined almost entirely to the number of large trunks of trees found imbedded in the banks of the Cree near Newton-Stewart, and the peculiarity of the locality in which they were found.*

On some of the rarer Lepidoptera of the district. By Mr. William Lennon, Crichton Institution. Read by Dr. Gilchrist. Some fine and carefully-prepared specimens were exhibited.—See *Transactions.*

May 5th, 1863.

Dr. GRIERSON in the Chair.

The Rev. Robt. Wishart, Thornhill; Mr. Mitchell, Courier Office, Dumfries, were elected Ordinary Members.

Mr. G. C. Dybdahl, Copenhagen; and Mr. M'Ilraith, Canada, were elected Corresponding Members.

The Secretary reported that the Council had met Sir W. Jardine upon the 30th, relative to the management of the summer excursions, and the manner in which the proceedings and transactions of the Society might be most fitly embodied and preserved for its use.

As the publication of these proceedings would be of great importance to the Society, and would enable them to exchange their Transactions with other kindred bodies, the President proposed to undertake the printing of the Transactions of the Society during its first session, and present them to the Members as his contribution for the first year, and requested that the Minutes should be placed in his hands for that purpose, and to enable him to prepare an address to be read at the next Anniversary Meeting. This was agreed to.

* This paper had been previously read before the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh. The locality will be visited in the summer excursions of the Society, and further reported on. It is extremely interesting.

It was arranged that the first out-door excursion of the Society should be held upon the 2d of June, at Braehead, in the parish of Kirkmahoe, having for its chief object the examination of a cave which had never been explored.

The following communications were read :—

On the Relationship of the Genera of Ferns, indigenous to Britain and Denmark ; the scarcity of this order of plants and their comparative diffusion in the two countries. By Mr. T. C. Dybdahl of Copenhagen, C.M.—Mr. Dybdahl was introduced to the Meeting by the Chairman.

Jottings of the Forty-five. By Mr. M'Diarmid.

The jottings were chiefly the reminiscences of Mr. Maxwell of Carruchen, of his escape, and its incidents, after the defeat.

On the supposed origin of vitrified forts, with a description of that of Craigphadrich in Inverness-shire. By Dr. Aitken. Was read by the Secretary.

On the Fructification of *Himanthalia lorea.* By Mr. Croall, C.M., Montrose. Read by Dr. Gilchrist.

The Chairman made an oral communication regarding a supposed ancient stockade recently discovered. He observed, that about five weeks since, a man drowned himself in a tarn about two miles north of Sanquhar. In order to recover the body, the water was drained off, when it was found that a small island in the middle of the loch or tarn was artificial, and had been constructed of stakes with stones between, and had been approached by a zigzag line of stepping-stones. It was thought that the loch might be altogether artificial, forming, as it were, a moat or fosse to the little fort. Dr. Grierson was requested to procure further information, and report at a future meeting.

This closed the business of the evening, and with it the first WINTER SESSION OF THE SOCIETY.

LIST OF MEMBERS

OF THE

Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

SESSION 1862–63.

Foundation Members.

Dr. T. Grierson, Thornhill.
Dr. J. Gilchrist, Crichton Royal Institution.
Dr. J. Dickson, Dumfries.
Mr. W. G. Gibson, Dumfries.
Mr. William M'Diarmid, Irish Street, Dumfries.
Mr. M'Ilraith, Standard Office, Dumfries.
Mr. J. Thorburn, Writer, Castle Street, Dumfries.
Rev. William Gray, Manse, Mousewald.
Rev. M. N. Goold, U.P. Manse, Dumfries.
Mr. T. Corrie, Procurator-Fiscal, Dumfries.
Dr. Borthwick, Dumfries.
Mr. C. Harkness, Writer, Castle Street, Dumfries.
Provost Caldow, Palmerston, Maxwelltown.
Mr. J. Symons, Writer, English Street, Dumfries.
Dr. H. G. Stewart, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.
Dr. S. Grierson, Southern Counties' Asylum, Dumfries.
Mr. W. Hogg, Draper, Dumfries.
Mr. T. Aird, Mountain Hall, by Dumfries.

November 20th, 1862.

Ordinary Members.

Mr. S. Adamson, Writer, Irish Street, Dumfries.
Mr. H. Gordon, Writer, Dumfries.

Mr. Macdonald, Rammerscales, by Lockerby.
Rev. William Frazer, Manse, Colvend.
Mr. Heron, Duncow, by Dumfries.
Captain Anderson, Dumfries.
Dr. Moffat, Millriggs, Hutton, by Lockerbie.
Mr. P. Dudgeon, Cargen, by Dumfries.
Rev. Dr. Menzies, Manse, Keir, by Dumfries.
Dr. Lewis, Dalbeattie, by Dumfries.
Rev. William Gordon, Manse, Ruthwell, by Dumfries.

Corresponding Members.

Miss Mitchell, Montrose.
Mr. Alexander Croall, Sunnyside, Montrose.
Mr. Joseph Parker, Brompton, Cumberland.
Mr. H. T. Wake, Scotby, near Carlisle.
Dr. J. C. Browne, Derby Lunatic Asylum.
Dr. A. Mitchell, Depute-Commissioner in Lunacy, Edinburgh.

December 4th, 1862.

Ordinary Members.

Mrs. S. Adamson, Irish Street, Dumfries.
Mr. J. Aitken, Painter, Dumfries.
Mr. W. Scott, Castle Street, Dumfries.
Mr. Alexander Crombie, Architect, Dumfries.
Mr. J. Stark, Troqueer Holm, by Dumfries.
Mr. T. Thorburn, Barnkin, by Dumfries.

Corresponding Members.

Mr. R. Gray, City of Glasgow Bank.
Dr. Herder, Lunatic Asylum, Worcester.

January 6th, 1863.

Ordinary Members.

Rector Cairns, Dumfries Academy.
Mr. T. Jackson, Writer, Nith Place, Dumfries.
Mr. Hastings, Taxidermist, English Street, Dumfries.
Mr. William Allan, Druggist, Dumfries.
Dr. P. Murray, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.
Mr. W. Lennon, Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries.
Mr. J. Mackenzie, Barnhill, by Dumfries.
Mr. T. Cordiner, Frazerford, by Dumfries.

Rev. G. Laing, Manse, Penpont, by Dumfries.
Rev. William M'Donald, Manse, Burnhead, Penpont, by Dumfries.
Rev. J. Hutton, Manse, Closeburn, by Dumfries.
Rev. Mr. Barclay, Manse, Dunscore, by Dumfries.

Corresponding Members.

Mr. J. C. Whyte Douglas, Belle-isle-en-terre, Cotes du Nord, France.
Dr. C. F. Sloane, Ayr.
Rev. W. Grant, Free Church Manse, Ayr.
Professor Harkness, Queen's College, Cork.
Professor Ogilvie, 29 Union Place, Aberdeen.
Mr. W. C. Aitken, Birmingham.
Mr. James Keogh, Troon.

February 6th, 1863.

Ordinary Members.

Rev. Joseph Anderson, Manse, Glencairn.
Rev. Thomas Underwood, Manse, Irongray.
Mr. S. Gordon, Stationer, Castle Douglas.

Corresponding Member.

Dr. W. A. F. Browne, Commissioner in Lunacy, Edinburgh.

March 3d, 1863.

Corresponding Members.

Mr. Alexander Stratherne, Sheriff's Chambers, Glasgow.
Mr. J. Bryce, LL.D., High School of Glasgow.
The Rev. F. O. Morris, M.B., Nunburnholm Rectory, Hayton, York.

April 7th, 1863.

Ordinary Members.

Mr. Robert Scott junior, Castle Street.
Mr. R. B. Carruthers, Druggist, Dumfries.
Mr. J. Jackson, Aimesfield, Writer, Dumfries.
Rev. D. Hogg, Manse, Kirkmahoe, by Dumfries.

May 5th, 1863.

Ordinary Members.

Rev. Robert Wishart, Manse, Thornhill.
Mr. Mitchell, Courier Office, Dumfries.

Corresponding Member.

Mr. M'Ilraith, Canada.

August 4th, 1863.

Ordinary Members.

Mr. Harley, Cowhill, by Dumfries.
Mr. Maxwell, Breoch, by Dumfries.
Mr. Munn, Mathematical Teacher, Dumfries Academy.
Mr. A. Forsyth, Charlotte Street, Dumfries.

Corresponding Members.

Dr. Latham, Cambridge.
Mr. P. Gray, 2 Temple Street, Whitefriars, London.

Foreign Members.

Rev. J. S. Burnet, Canada.
G. C. Dybdahl, Copenhagen.

DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

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

Dr.

1863.					*Cr.*			
	To Cash paid for rent of Room, Gas, Fire, and Attendance	£0	12	0	1863. By Cash received for thirty-eight Annual Subscriptions at 2s. 6d.	£4	15	0
	Delivering Circulars	0	4	5	Donation from Mr. J. Stark, Dumfries	1	0	0
	Printing Notices and Circulars	0	17	6	Do. Miss Mitchell, Montrose	0	10	0
	Postage Stamps	0	16	1	Do. Mr. Keogh, Troon	0	5	0
	Note-paper and Envelopes	0	2	6				
	Minute-Book	0	1	6				
	To Balance on hand	3	16	0				
		£6	10	0		£6	10	0

Examined and found correct,

J. GILCHRIST.

WM. M'ILRAITH.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,

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

ETC. ETC. ETC.

1*st December* 1863.

GENTLEMEN,—The ordinary business of the Meeting being concluded, it now devolves upon me, as your President, to address a few words to you at the termination of this the first year of our existence as a Society, and the commencement of our Second Session.

But, first, let me thank you for the honour you have conferred in again placing me over you. I have already expressed my opinion that the higher office-bearers of the Society should *change;* but taking into consideration its position, and that we have just passed our year of trial, it was perhaps judged rightly that for the next session no change should be made. Next year you will act differently, it will conduce to our well-working; it is only fair that others, well-qualified, should share the honour of presiding, and it will be greatly to our advantage that we should hear, in the yearly addresses of the members who may be selected to fill this office, different views on the important subjects that may be brought under our notice.

Before making any remarks on the subjects that should be pursued, and that ought in future to interest us, I shall shortly bring before you what has taken place and been accomplished during the past year. Your Secretary, at last Meeting, gave a general outline of what had been done in the Winter Session, and this will appear in more detail when our

proceedings are printed. I shall therefore confine myself to a short notice of our summer excursions, especially as these will take a very important place while carrying through the History of the district under our charge. I had not the satisfaction of being present at the two first excursions, and my information is taken from the Secretary's notes.

The first excursion took place, according to arrangement, on the Society's day, the first Tuesday of the month "June." The place appointed for the meeting was at a cave on the farm of Braehead, in the parish of Kirkmahoe. For a day or two previous workmen had been employed, through the kindness of Mr. Jeffray the tenant, in removing an accumulation of rubbish and stones which had been collected from the adjoining fields, and thrown into the burn exactly at the supposed entrance. Unfortunately a clearance was not completed, and the meeting was obliged to delay operations until a future occasion, but satisfactory evidence having been obtained that a *cave* really existed, and that the spot upon which operations had been commenced was the entrance, the sanction of the proprietor, J. M'Alpine Leny, Esq., to pursue the researches was obtained, and full permission has been granted to continue whatever explorations the Society may think fit to make.*

As the locality at which the party assembled was noted for "*Snakes*," search was made, and six specimens of the slow-worm, as it is provincially called, were found. This species, the *Anguis fragilis*, is not generally distributed over Scotland, and in Dumfriesshire is local, inhabiting only certain places. At Craigie burn, above Moffat, on the stony sides of the hills, it is also found. Thereafter the Society visited different places of interest near, especially the *old Castle of Dalswinton*, and the famous "*Cummin's ash*," the age of

* "Our hill streams have in several places formed 'hermit-fancied caves' for their naiads out of the living rock, in the most curious style; and there is a cave at *Crofthead* of Dalswinton which deserves to be mentioned."—*New Statistical Account of Dumfriesshire*, p. 53.

which is supposed, by tradition, to be above 400 years. It was measured and found to be twenty-one feet in circumference at three feet from the ground. *Dalswinton Loch*, where the late Mr. Miller made his experiments upon the application of steam to the propelling of boats, a power now so wonderfully worked out, and enabling our Society (whether by water or land) to meet together from distant points. The only plant of real interest met with in the excursion was the *Orobanche major*,* a parasite on the broom, and consequently local. *Doronicum pardalanches*, *Anchusa sempervirens*, and *Vinca minor*, were found in the Dalswinton woods, but most probably, almost certainly, were outcasts from the garden.

Thanks were voted to Mr. Jeffray for his kindness in aiding the party in their researches, and the next meeting was appointed for the seventh of July, to explore Morton and Closeburn.

The Society accordingly met at Thornhill, and examined the natural history and antiquarian collection formed there by Dr. Grierson. The party then set out for Morton Castle, a fine old baronial edifice situate on a lacustrine bank, and listened to an interesting paper, prepared by Dr. Grierson, on the history of the castle and the great leading events of the times in which the families, to whom it has successively belonged, have played their parts.

From Morton Castle the party proceeded in a southern direction until they struck the Cample Water near the point whence it emerges from the silurian hills, in which it has its source, and enters upon the sandstones of Middle Nithsdale. On the banks of the Cample a line of basalt was noticed at various points, and at one of these it had assumed the columnar form, the only instance of this structure as yet known in Nithsdale. At another point the basalt is seen to overtop a sandstone cliff, down which the rivulet descends. The Gatelan bridge and adjoining quarries were also visited, with

* Smith. The O. rapum of Babington's Manual, p. 235.

the Crichope linn and glen, when time being exhausted the party separated. *Saxifraga hypnoides, Epilobium angustifolium, Cryptogramma crispa*, and *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, were found during the excursion.

On August the 4th, the coast line of the Solway between Colvend and Douglass Hall was the range fixed upon to be examined. Many of the party took the morning train from Dumfries to Dalbeatie, where an omnibus was in waiting, which conveyed them to Barnbarroch. Here they were met by Mr. M'Diarmid, the Rev. Mr. Fraser of Colvend, and others who had undertaken to conduct the party. One of the first objects of interest was the examination of a so-called ancient or vitrified fort overlooking the estuary of the water of Urr. The site is upon an eminence, and on this, and among the debris on the sides, were found pieces of slag, and run-together fragments of the rocks of the district, shewing that on the summit of this knoll fires had been kindled for some purpose, and that there had been heat sufficient to vitrify or melt the rocks around. Copper ore is found in the vicinity, and various old levels and mining indications exist, and the ore itself within these few years has been attempted to be commercially mined. The hills around were, and are still, partially covered with brushwood, the material in early times used for smelting; and there can be little doubt that this was one of the positions to which the ore was formerly carried and rudely smelted, perhaps supplying part of the material for some of those ancient weapons constantly turning up around. Several of these so-called forts exist also in the neighbouring country, and this examination to ascertain their true use will be profitable to the Society; and if they are proved to be ancient *smelting-places*, it may lead to the closer examination of a district where metals are now believed to be in too small deposit for profitable working.

The party then went round the coast. It is very precipitous,

but in most parts can be walked round below on the recess of the tide. On the most inaccessible parts various sea-fowl breed, and at one promontory a colony of cormorants (*Phalacracorax carbo,* Linn.) had not yet carried off all their young. The raven and peregrine falcon used to have their eyries here, and it was also a breeding-station for the red-legged crow (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*); none of the latter were seen during the excursion, and it was said they had been driven from their haunts by the jackdaws which nest in numbers in the fissures of the rocks, and among the ivy and yew which in many parts cover them.

The Botany of this coast is very rich and varied; Shakspere's samphire, *Crithmum maritimum,* so local in Scotland, is abundant on all the cliffs, and in their caves grew *Asplenium marinum* equally plentiful. The following plants were also observed:—*Carum verticillatum; Habenaria viridis; Arenaria verna* and *rubra*; *Parnassia palustris,* common; *Drosera anglica* and *rotundifolia* (*D. longifolia* grows in several localities, such as Auchensceoch Loch, but was not observed now). *Helianthemum vulgare; Triglochin palustre* and *maritimum; Hypericum elodes; Carex extensa,* salt flats, not common; *C. flava; distans; Carlina vulgaris; Raphanus maritimus,* rare; *Aster trifolium; Scutellaria galericulata; Malva moschata,* plentiful; *Astragalus glyciphyllus; Ulex nanus,* in flower; *Rubus cæsius.*

The excursion for September had been arranged to meet at Cargen, to examine the fine mineralogical collection there, and to explore the Mabie hills and woods; but a severe domestic affliction in Mr. Dudgeon's family prevented the meeting.

The October meeting, the last of the summer excursions, took place on Tuesday the 6th, in Annandale. I had the honour of meeting the Society on that day, and conducting them over a district familiar to me, but even

yet not quite mastered. The day was most favourable. We assembled from various points on Gotterby Hill, an eminence at the end of one of those long ridges of sandstone and drift which frequently stand in the middle of similar valleys. From this an extensive view north and south is obtained, to the northward shewing the Moffat range of hills, closing the upper part of the valley, and giving from their *watershed* the streams that accumulate to form the principal river Annan. On the south the lower part of the valley is laid open, and in favourable days the Solway sparkles clear like a lake between Skiddaw and the other English hills. The upper Annandale basin is separated from the lower by a meeting of the silurian sides, and the gorge at Dormont is cut through the older rock, which at one time formed a barrier, damming up the water, upon what are now alluvial lands. On the giving way of this gorge these low lands were drained, leaving the series of lochs at Lochmaben as basins, too low for the water to be entirely drawn off. Many of the other hollows *nearly* drained, became marshes, gradually filling up and producing peat, and these in after changes were again silted over with the present alluvial soils. There is a most instructive lesson to be studied here.

Corncockle Quarry was the first object for investigation, and fortunately some tracks of footmarks had been recently exposed. Several species of animals must have walked over the sands before they became hardened into stone, or were raised to their present angle of about 36°; but hitherto no trace whatever of any organic remains has been discovered, although anxiously watched for. The cover of the quarry is a tenacious clay, locally called *till*, filled with stones of various sizes, but few reaching that to which we could apply the term *boulder*. This has been considered as *glacial drift*, and it must have been carried over the sandstone beds after they were upraised in a semi-fluid state, as their edges are now horizontally cut off and smoothed, at the same time deeply

furrowed in the direct line of the valley; while the stones in the drift above are not rounded, but are smoothed, and planed, and scratched in the direction of their axis. This sandstone is now considered by the most competent geologists as the equivalent of the *permian* rocks of other districts.

Some ancient works in an adjoining moss—the "*Spedlings Flow*"—were next visited. Attention had been directed to these about two years since by the discovery of what was thought to be a *fireplace*, by parties casting peats. It was a circular platform of flat stones, bordered in front with rudely formed wood, placed in the moss about six or seven feet below the surface. Quantities of charcoal were found around, and of bones, chipped or smashed, but so small that they could not be identified. On farther examination the stones were supported upon rude beams of wood (oak), covered over with a layer of ("rice") brushwood, birch and hazel, which was again covered with a layer of bracken (*Pteris aquilina*). Upon uncovering some part of this structure before the Society inspected it, a continuance of transverse beams regularly laid was displayed, covered by their brushwood and fern. The beams were morticed and cut by metal tools. Beyond a few large flat stones, no relics of any kind, either of metal or of pottery, have yet been found.

The attention is naturally directed to the LAKE DWELLINGS, now creating so much interest; but whatever this structure may have been, the beams and brushwood were laid *upon the moss* ten feet deep below. It may have been softer than at present, or the access may have been more marshy, but when they were placed it could not have been in the condition of a *loch*. I will not allow peat to be cast from this part, and in spring, when the weather dries, will have it farther uncovered; and the members may think it worth their while to revisit it.

I last week visited Dowalton Loch, in Wigtonshire, perhaps the most remarkable and interesting discovery in Scotland in

modern times. There the structures, somewhat analogous, had been placed either in a lake supported by piles, or on a *shaky* quagmire island, surrounded by water. The time to examine the structure carefully was too short; but upon the transverse beams we found the same layer of (rice) brushwood, birch and hazel, covered again, in this instance chiefly with *heather*, but mixed with fern. Metal tools had also been employed to form and mortise; and a fire-place or kitchen-midden had been discovered where the remains of animals, sea-shells, etc., abounded.

The transition from the *Moss Dwelling* to the old Spedlings Castle was but a step for the party; but how long was the interval between the two works? In the latter we come to the substantiality of more modern building in *nine feet* thick walls, and the massive iron barricades of the windows, built in when they were built. Sometimes we have the old superiority claimed, whether for right or wrong, of imprisonment in the keep or dungeon—a structure which, if once got into, could not be escaped from, being formed narrow at top and widened at bottom; and from its position to the stair (turnpike), illustrating the *trap*, so graphically described as closing the fate of Amy Robsart.

From the season of the year, no plants of any interest were picked. *Andromeda polifolia* was found common in the mosses, but was now out of flower. The same cause acted upon the entomology, which, at an earlier season, would have been found attractive. The evening was spent, I trust, agreeably, and giving fresh inducement for excursions in prospect.

I shall have occasion to bring before you that Societies have their rising and falling, and their vicissitudes; so also is it among our members. Even in this our first short year, we have lost of those that originally joined us. One of our members has passed away, and we have to lament the loss of William Bell Macdonald of Rammerscales. He combined the

attributes of a fine temper and disposition with a readiness to join in any recreation, or amusement, or research, and to assist the party as best he could, rejoicing to instruct and give information. But we shall miss him especially in our antiquarian researches, where he would have materially given us help, and brought to bear his great learning and scholarship upon many of the questions of ancient history that will come before us. We shall miss Macdonald. His extensive library, I am glad to say, is to remain intact, and I am sure members will still enjoy its use.

And now, gentlemen, having run shortly over the doings of your first year, I would wish to call your attention to a few points which may bear upon and be profitable for a new institution to consider.

Since the time that the arts and sciences began to be cultivated, "*Societies*" for their promotion sprung up; that is, men associated themselves together for the purpose of mutually inquiring into, and discussing those subjects to which they had been directing their attention. In those early days when the conveyance of information was so dilatory; when the intercourse by letter occupied weeks or months before the interchange of opinion could be effected, or the reply to a simple question obtained; a meeting of scientific men once in a quarter or half year was of infinite importance. Thus it was that the Royal Society of London became established sometime in the beginning of 1600. The Meetings took place in the houses or lodgings of the "gentlemen," and in 1660 they met and constituted themselves a Society, "for the promotion of all kinds of experimental philosophy." Rules were draw up, and office-bearers were appointed, and *one shilling* weekly was subscribed to defray the expense of "their experiments." This assemblage soon attracted the attention of Europe; it received a royal charter; and admission to it now stands the one most coveted as a mark of scientific attainments. The

example was followed in the other capitals of Great Britain and Ireland; while numerous splits-off from the parents receive almost equal encouragement, and there are very few of the more important county towns that have not now their Scientific Societies. But all of those have had their waves of success, and even our great Societies have been swayed by the energy of some of their members, or the importance of some subject brought forward by them; but whether rising or falling, their utility remained unchallenged. As time wore on places of less importance must also have their Societies. The advantage of learning and information was more appreciated, and most of the larger towns in Scotland now have their Society, library and museum. These are not always conducted upon the best principles, but the will is nevertheless shewn, their utility acknowledged, and by-and-by the details will become improved.

The old manner of teaching Natural Science was by means of indoor lectures, illustrated sometimes by rich collections of specimens, but at others by an assemblage of trash and monstrosities, supposed in the minds of the expositors to represent nature. At the beginning of the present century some innovations were made in this system, and, if I am not mistaken, it was the late Professor Jameson, of the Edinburgh University, who first ventured to take his class to the field, and explain the mineral characters of the rocks around Edinburgh. The example was followed soon after by the private lecturers on botany, and later still by Professor Graham of the University. Edward Forbes during his short career made extensive excursions. Professor Allman takes his class out to Dredge; and Professor Balfour, not satisfied with often exploring the flora of Great Britain and Ireland, two years since took his class to Switzerland.

In 1832 it struck the mind of the late Dr. Johnston of Berwick, that a Society for the general investigation of Natural History would work as well in the field as a class;

that a country could be most advantageously so explored ; and that besides the utility of such investigation, parties were brought together and kindred tastes kindled and encouraged ; and so was founded the *Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.* This has continued until now with some waves of success and depression ; it has accumulated a large amount of local information, circulated by means of "Transactions," which are quoted and looked up to as the most reliable authority for subjects within their range. It is curious that Scotland, generally so ready to take up whatever is really useful, should not have availed herself of the border hint, but that southward similar Societies have raised themselves and prospered, doing a large amount of useful outdoor work and having a large community of members. It gives me satisfaction, then, to think that this and the neighbouring county have at length come forward, and that while, on the one hand, they have acted on the old plan of winter meetings to read papers and discuss the subjects there introduced, they have at the same time combined outdoor summer excursions. A most wise arrangement, and if, in future years, conducted with energy and system, we shall ere very long do much to record the present as well as to recall some of the past history of these counties.

The range that this Society has undertaken is of large extent and importance, and there is, perhaps, no district in Scotland that can surpass it in variety and interest. A country stretching from a sea-shore to an elevation of above 3000 feet must possess a wide zoological and botanical range, while the surface and natural characters of the country itself are extremely varied, and include rich cultivated lands and lowland woods; moss and muir, and natural woods of the wildest description ; sea-shore low, sandy, sludgy, rugged and precipitious ; lochs lowland as well as upland and alpine ; its ancient history rich in antiquarian remains, and in monastic, feudal, and border traditions.

The value of a Society such as ours in recording the

present state of the country and its productions can scarcely be overrated, and it would have been of much use to our present working had some such existed at a much earlier period. Nearly all parts of Great Britain have undergone, and are still undergoing change, within the last fifty years more than previously rapid and complete.

Early population and the chase, for food or safety, dispersed the larger wild animals known historically to have inhabited the country, and *Bos primogenius*, the wolf and the black bear, or the beaver, exist no longer. The range of the red deer, formerly extending over all our province, and much farther south, is now far to the northward. Of our wild fowl, the crane and bustard are extinct. The capercailzie was extirpated. The whole tribe of water-fowl have been materially reduced, and some will shortly fail entirely. Extension of the area of cultivation of itself would interfere with the state and numbers of the wild animals and plants, but when, as within the last twenty years, all the modern discoveries and appliances of chemical, mechanical and engineering science have been brought to bear, their influence has been so great, as almost entirely to change the natural characters of a district, and to drive away or extirpate many of the original animals and plants.

But while population and cultivation, wealth and luxury, act as destructive agents, their influence acts also in various other ways. The modern rage for "sporting," and for taking large tracts of land in the wilder parts of the country, for the sake of the game found upon it, and the preservation of the game by destruction of so-called enemies, has played a twofold part, by destroying some species almost entirely, and allowing others to increase to an extent prejudicial to many interests. The recommendation of a so-called gamekeeper is, that he should be an "accomplished trapper," a first-rate "*vermin* killer;" almost every animal or bird, not something like a grouse or blackcock, pheasant or partridge, comes within the de-

nomination "vermin," and with the exception of the fox and otter, which are preserved for other purposes, are all killed. The birds of prey which associated so well with the wild landscape, are now scarcely to be heard or seen. In Dumfriesshire, the common buzzard and peregrine falcon are now very rare. And what is the consequence? other species—the natural check having been removed—have increased to such an extent as to become really injurious. We may instance the increase of the common wood-pigeon; the flocks have now become so large, that when they attack a field of turnips, they do as much harm as preserved rabbits. In Berwickshire an association has been formed for their destruction, and in one year alone *eight* thousand were killed in various ways. Upon a Highland estate lately, the field mice increased to such an extent, that they destroyed young plantations by gnawing the bark of the young trees; the proprietor was recommended to forbid his gamekeeper to kill the owls, and it might have been added to preserve the kestrels.*

But while injury is done, benefit also arises from wealth and luxury. Valuable introductions may be instanced in the case of the *turkey, pheasant, guinea fowl; carp* and various fishes; among timber, the *larch*. *Wealth* is now endeavouring to introduce many fine trees and plants which may turn out of great importance. *Acclimatisation* societies are doing much to import species of animals and birds that will suit this climate; and comparatively private associations, such as the Oregon expedition, and that now working in Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, have introduced many hardy plants, and will continue their exertions.

The plantation of waste lands, and larger extent of young wood, has also had its influence; some birds frequenting open localities have disappeared, giving way to others not formerly known, which appeared as the woods grew.

* In 1856, 21,981 head of vermin were killed; in this was included 2132 stoats, 1942 weasels, nearly 300 owls, and 231 kestrel hawks.

Commerce and agriculture have also been the means of introducing many species, some of them not always useful. A fresh-water shell (*Dreissena polymorpha*), a northern species, has been introduced into many of the English canals and waters. A most noxious plant, *Anacharis alsinastrum*, has lately found its way to this country, and its growth is so rapid that it has in some instances filled up canals and stopped the navigation. Ballast from foreign vessels emptied on the shores has introduced many plants not before known. Foreign wood has introduced both plants and insects. Foreign field and garden seeds have also borne their part; the dodder (*Cuscuta*), sometimes so hurtful to the crops of clover, is one of these; and foreign hay is another carrier of seeds. Now, the geographical distribution of animals and plants, and their mode of getting or of being transported from one place to another, is a very interesting inquiry, and in the questions and speculations of the present times it is assuming a wide importance; to all these changes, both of former and present days, the members of the Society must direct their attention.

As already stated, the combination of indoor meetings in winter, and country excursions in summer, I think is an excellent arrangement. One of the primary objects of the Society is to elucidate the history and resources of the district within its range, and without the latter this could not be done. In winter I do not think our papers should be restricted to British or local subjects. The comparison of the works of man—whether buildings, weapons, or utensils for the field or home, or of works of art—will be found most useful wherever they may come from, and many of our members may go to far-off countries, and observations on the productions of these will often open up a more varied discussion; but in the publication of our proceedings and transactions, beyond the title or a very short abstract in the former, we should confine ourselves to papers relating to local history and productions only. I would wish them to be a record of the condition now of our

province, and a chronicle of what we can yet rescue of its ancient history. In endeavouring to carry out this, I hope to be able before next year to submit to you a plan, that at a very small expense indeed, this may be accomplished. This year your little trial volume shall be my charge, and my contribution to the Society, as I think it one of some importance to give us a standing with other similar associations.

While at this part of my address, and before alluding to our country excursions, there are two other points I would shortly notice. To carry out the history of our province, we should look to the formation of a local library and collection. I do not mean that we should at once rush into the purchase of books, or that we should stuff or preserve large animals or common things. We have neither funds nor space, but both should be kept in view. Of late years there has been a considerable number of papers, published in different periodicals, relating to the geology and zoology of the district. The authors will readily send us these; and when the object is known you will find books will accumulate. Rare specimens may occur in the departments of zoology, botany, and geology, or the typical specimens referred to in some paper should be kept to serve as a beginning; but in both I would admit of nothing that did not come under the denomination of *strictly local*, or connected with local societies. Thus the papers or transactions of other societies may be admitted when received in exchange for our own, or bearing upon some analogous custom, or of a specimen illustrating the variation or some point in the history of one collected by ourselves. But it should be urged as an absolute rule, that all foreign specimens be rejected, otherwise we shall have the little space we may hereafter possess wasted by insulated specimens that in your possession can illustrate nothing. It is the experience of societies that general collections are encumbrances, and in most instances get destroyed for want of care, or they are dispersed. Within these few years the really fine and valu-

able collection of the Zoological Society of London, chiefly presented by the late N. A. Vigors, a first-rate scholar and naturalist, and containing many unique things from our scientific exploratory voyages, has been sold. That of the Entomological Society has also been sold, and the greater part of that belonging to the Linnæan Society was sold during the last month, because there was not sufficient space to keep what had been presented to them. The collection of the Royal Society of Edinburgh is now undergoing the same process.

In the summer excursions of the Society, while the zoological and botanical products are not neglected, it will be a chief object to examine the mineralogy and geology. And I will suggest, that, during our excursions, notes of what is observed should be taken down. The exact habitats of rare plants noted, so that we shall gradually make up our flora. The same in regard to entomology. And it would be profitable, at the ensuing meetings, that a short report of the previous excursion should be read. Various opportunities will occur for this. Within our range we have, besides, various building materials of great excellence, lime and coal. Of metals, we have gold in small quantity, silver, lead and iron in work, copper and antimony. Of minerals, sulphate of barytes, etc. There is no commercial speculation so precarious as mining, and large sums of money have been sunk or lost by the employment of parties not qualified, or otherwise interested, or by gentlemen taking upon themselves to judge without sufficient experience. Antimony was formerly worked in Eskdale. Copper has been attempted to be worked in the Moffat range. In Galloway, iron is at present worked, and there are elsewhere numerous indications of both iron and copper, too small to work profitably; but these districts require yet to be minutely surveyed. Coal is always a mineral much coveted, and various attempts have been made in Dumfriesshire to find it away from the known fields. These attempts have been unsuccessful, and money has been expended which a

knowledge of geology would have prevented.* In two instances the attempts were made by sinking in the silurian rocks, deceived by the black shale beds; and in one case the mining party was so ignorant as to sink his shaft into the edges of the beds.

The age of the drift which covers large areas of the country, the raised ridges which in some part of Dumfriesshire bear the name of "*kaims*," is another point of interest; and a closer examination of this deposit, and a search for anything organic, or that would indicate the presence of man or the older animals, will repay the inquirer.

A close examination of our *peat mosses* must be undertaken. Here we have an extensive area deposited under various circumstances; and while the finding of the remains of our ancient animals may be calculated upon, the point of greatest interest for the attention of the members is the mode of the deposition and increase of the thickness of the peat, and the time the deposits have taken to accumulate. It is well known to many whom I address that the *Antiquity of Man* is occupying a large portion of scientific inquiry as well as of the general public attention, and that proofs of man's greater age, at variance with the formerly received chronology of the Mosaic account, by some of our highest geological authorities are set down as *finally established.* Now this opinion is based upon the position and the length of time supposed to be occupied in the formation of various deposits,† and among others that of *Peat.* The lower part of

* Professor Buckland in his graphic way, when taken to a would-be coalfield, exclaimed, "They have been working in the *cellars* when they should have been searching their *garrets.*"

† Mr. J. Prestwich, in concluding a lecture at the Royal Institution, 26th February last, stated, "he considered that more time and better data were required to make a sure estimate; nevertheless, he was satisfied that the evidence, as it exists, does not warrant the extreme length of time so frequently supposed;" and "the evidence, as it stood, seemed to me as much to necessitate the bringing forward of the extinct animals towards our own time, as the carrying back of man in geological time."—*Meetings, Royal Institution,* February 1864, pp. 9, 10.

the valley of the Somme, now so celebrated by the discovery of flint instruments, the work of man, from above Amiens and below Abbeville to the sea, is filled with *peat*, in some places above 30 feet in thickness; and the calculations made by M. Boucher de Perthes give the time for the formation of this thickness of peat to be "*so many tens of thousands of years*," that even Sir Charles Lyell doubts, and says, "we must hesitate before adopting it as a chronometric scale;" and he adds, "*yet by multiplying observations of this kind, and bringing one to bear upon and check another, we may eventually succeed in obtaining data for estimating the age of the peaty deposit.*" And it is to the above suggestion that I would wish most especially to direct your attention. Calculations of somewhat similar kinds have been attempted upon unascertained data. The recession of the Falls of Niagara, and the time required for cutting through the rocks between Queenstown and the present position of the Falls; the growth of coral reefs; the deposition of the silt in the Delta of the Nile, or in the alluvial plains of the Mississippi, or at the mouths of the great American and Indian rivers, may be attempted to be calculated, but we have no recorded facts that would enable us to build as *certain* the *time* which they would bring out. *Peat* is under the same conditions, and is formed under very varied circumstances — sometimes in comparatively small basin-like cavities, where much would be carried down from the wash of the sides or watershed around—sometimes a lake, with a vast accumulation of substance carried by its feeders, becomes partially drained,* changes to a marsh, and at last grows peat upon its surface. Similar results would occur by the breaking of some river gorge, which would drain the lake-like expanse in the valley above, and peat accumulates here rapidly, there slowly; and in these circumstances it is in later times generally found covered by some gravel or fine

* A lake in England lately drained has twenty-one feet of peaty mud. See also Dowalton Loch, and its sea of peaty mud.

silt carried over it by the tributary streamlets that flow into the river, now the main outfall. And what becomes of the great accumulation of peat that from one to six feet thick caps the summits of the mountain-ranges that border Alpine valleys? It is furrowed throughout into gullies, and the winter's storms daily wash it down into the chief stream of the valley, where it is collected as mosses in the bays, fills up and forms the base of meadows where the water runs sluggish, and some is carried down even to the sea. But the *time* for the accumulation of *peat* is just as varied as the circumstances of the localities where it is formed or deposited; and it is only by seeing "how these bear upon and check each other" that we can arrive at any certain results. There are very great opportunities for studying this within our range, and I trust they will be taken advantage of.

And next we come to the olden history and antiquities. In this department much has been lost and much ruthlessly destroyed and wasted, but a great deal is yet remaining. The discovery of weapons, implements, and works of art, formed by the hand of man, in conjunction with the remains of animals that lived anterior to any historic tradition of their existence in caves, and formations to which great age has been ascribed, has invested this branch of research, and the various weapons and implements of the stone and iron ages, with more than usual interest, as upon the first is also chiefly based the theory of the great antiquity of man; and we cannot too closely study, and compare together, all the forms of manufacture that occur most carefully with the position and conditions in which they are found. Next in order, perhaps, are the ancient *lake dwellings* discovered in different parts of the world, so far distant as New Guinea, and in various lakes in Europe and Great Britain. Within our own range, upon the draining of Carlinwark Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire, in 1765, various erections of both stone and wood were brought to light; and when the lochs within our range shall have been

carefully examined, it is certain, from indications already observed, that structures of some kind will be found. While close upon our boundary, in Dowalton Loch of the neighbouring county, descriptions of structures of exceeding interest were brought before the late meeting of the British Association by Lord Louvaine. In this loch, bronze implements and ornaments of both metal and earthenware have been found, teeth and the bones of different animals; and when the soft state of the bottom will allow of a closer examination, other discoveries will doubtless be made. There appear to have been different levels in the water of this loch; and, Lord Louvaine suggested that these may have been caused by the *growth of peat* impeding the outfall of the loch; and, as Sir Charles Lyell remarked, that if the antiquarian "could determine a proximate date to the lowest of these dwellings, and the ornaments that were found there, it would throw light on one of the most interesting questions of chronology, *the rate of the growth of peat.*"

The shores of our bays and estuaries have also yet to be searched for "*shell mounds.*"* The interest created by the examination of the kjokken möddings (kitchen middins) of Denmark, has called recent attention and search for similar accumulations in Scotland. Hugh Miller relates, that among "a tract of sand dunes on the shores of the Cromarty Firth, immediately under the northern sutor, in a hillock of blown sand, which was laid open about eighty years ago, by the winds of a stormy winter, there was found a pile of the bones of various animals of the chase and horns of deer, mixed with the shells of molluscs of the edible species."† But this

* "Shell Mounds of Malay Archipelago." These were situate about four or five miles from the sea on sand ridges, probably formerly the boundary of narrow estuaries running up from the sea. They contained "*cockle shells,*" and at the bottom of one mound, containing 20,000 tons of shells, a human pelvis was found, and other human remains and implements were obtained from the Chinese diggers.—*Athenæum*, 8th March 1862.

† Sketch-book of Popular Geology.

year the attention of the Rev. George Gordon, of Birnie, was directed to the subject, and several shell mounds, somewhat resembling those found in Denmark, were discovered on the shores of the Moray Firth. A description has been given of those and some others, for the purpose of directing attention to the subject, by John Lubboch, Esq.,* who had also visited and examined the Danish heaps. In these Scotch mounds, unlike the Danish, remains of pottery were seldom found. A few ornaments of bronze have been discovered; one or two bones, apparently fashioned for some purpose; some small bits of flint; the bones of domestic animals; but the accumulation of shells formed the chief contents of the mound, all edible and common, and known, with one exception, to inhabit the neighbouring seas.†

These lake buildings and shell mounds, as far as discovery goes, are just beyond tradition. Metal tools had then been used, as the wood structures often plainly indicate; but tradition, either oral or otherwise, is wanting, or so slight as scarcely to be founded upon; they form the link between the older historic period and the time when stronger and more elaborate buildings were erected; and by endeavouring to join these and to compare all together, and to hunt up such traditions and relics as may still be in the possession or recollection of parties ignorant or thoughtless of their interest and value, we may yet come to find a reliable date for those erections upon which so much is based. The field here is most ample, and although history and antiquities have mostly been looked upon as branches of study distinct entirely from natural history or geology, it is far otherwise. The early history of man and his habits, as well as that of the animals that existed wild around him, cannot otherwise be traced; and the

* Nat. Hist. Review, July 1863, p. 415.

† The exception is *Tapes decussata*, not known now in the Moray Firth, and according to Mr. M'Andrew having Caernarvonshire as its most northern range.

large wood of our mosses and alluvial lands, where it would be in vain to expect trees of similar size now to be matured, tell us that some difference in circumstances existed, though we cannot yet trace what that was.

It may be said that working out such subjects as I have alluded to, by a scientific association, will only be to gratify the pride or curiosity of its members, and will not be productive of any real good to their neighbours, or utility to mankind. We think such an assertion would be entirely unfounded.

It is possible that some of our minds may be so wedded to technicalities as to be incapable of forming profitable deductions from the facts gained; if such was the case, others will be found to utilise the *facts* which we elicit; but whether or not, without the *truth* and *facts* nothing can be done. Besides, the mind of man requires recreation. He has been ordained to follow out professions requiring great and long exercise of mind, or continued bodily exertion. Both must have change and rest; and there are few men, whether engaged in politics, or the government, or professional, or artizans, who have not some pursuit—such as the various branches of literature and science, sports of the field, etc.—which they now and then take up, different from their acknowledged vocation. With the majority these may be useful, or at least not injurious; but in too many instances gambling, dissipation and sensuality take their place, and for a short time give a supposed relief to the mind or body. Legislation has done much to repress those vices, tempted by, and incident to idleness, weariness and faulty education; but from the difficulty of finding innocent and at the same time interesting substitutes, the attempts at reform have not effected all that was desired. But advance is gradually making, and public libraries and institutions are assisting. An association of men for the investigations of the objects pointed at by this Society, will tend to turn their thoughts into different paths; the new views obtained will

keep the minds employed with subjects both curious and useful.

There is another object to combat besides those ordinary vices. A kind dignitary of the English Church has observed, that a wide-spread spirit of scepticism pervades in many instances the *scientific publications*, the popular periodical literature, the daily journals, and even the theological writings of the present day. In these, the subjects "are cleverly adapted to suit the habits and tastes of classes. So that alike in general society, and in the pastoral work, every clergyman (I would add every man), must be prepared wisely and effectively to defend the faith."* The very titles of some of our highest scientific works, unintentionally in most instances, point to doubts, for instance :—"Geological evidences of the *Antiquity* of *Man*, with Notes on the ORIGIN of Species by *Variation*." "ORIGIN of Species by means of *Natural Selection*." "*Evidences* of Man's place in Nature." "The *Negro's* place in Nature;" and many more such. The Geological evidences of man's antiquity, as I have shewn you, rest in great measure on data not proved by facts, and this is over and over again acknowledged by the author. The question of the ORIGIN *of Species* would throw aside the fiat of Creation, and the *Development Scheme* that of design or adaptation of structure. In all the controversies on *Man's place* in Nature, and whatever may be the position in which parties place the negro,† it seems to have been forgotten, or at least lost sight of, that the animal structure, high or low, was planned on the same uniform principle; that it was modified (or homologated), to suit the peculiar place the animal had to

* Bishop of Durham, quoted from the *Times*, 14th April 1863.

† "The savage lives a life without a future or a past, without hope or regret, and dies the death of a coward and a dog, for whom the grave brings darkness and nothing more."—"No ; the negress is not a woman : she is a parody of woman, a pretty toy, an affectionate brute, that is all." The above is one of the latest opinions of the negro, "after mature study and reflection." —*Savage Africa*, pp. 263, 307.

fill, or, in other words, that there was a *fore-design.* It was of no consequence whether the structure of man's brain was most nearly allied to the gorilla or any other animal, and systematists might place him with the monkeys and bats or elsewhere, as their scientific crotchets might lead. But, as far as man's *animal* place is concerned, there is no great difficulty, not of a higher organization in one sense (although the volume of his brain is always larger comparatively), but constructed on the same plan, he stands typical of the position he holds, and while *he* cannot swing like the American monkey, or climb like the gorilla, *they* cannot walk erect like cosmopolite man. His other characteristics come under another class. MAN ANIMAL is one thing: far different is MAN, into whose nostrils God breathed the breath of life; MAN speaking, intellectual, sinning, and redeemed. This is a question we must look into fearlessly, but with the greatest study and care.

It gives me satisfaction to see clergymen becoming members of our Society. Many recreations are considered unsuitable for the minister. He as well as others requires recreation; and none can be more suitable for him, or indeed for any one, than the study of the works of God. When scepticism comes through science, how much is it needed that every clergymen should cultivate the branches of science, and especially natural history and geology. The cheap publications of the day give to the multitude a diluted essence, sometimes adulterating the views of its author, or "speciously," a smattering of subjects which suggest questions, not always prompted by the best motives, and which the minister must either answer or say he cannot.

I have thus endeavoured to place before you a few of the objects that I think should engage your attention. There are many more that would occupy more time than we now have at disposal, and I may leave some for another anniversary. We have set out upon a cruise of mutual improvement and instruction. The interchange of thought and opinion among

our members, if done in right spirit, will assist in working out the great problems of Nature, and in arriving at their right solution. On our voyage, let us remember that we are on a search after truth. In our discussions let us take care not to get into personal or acrimonious arguments. Let us continually bear in mind that the WORKS of God cannot be contrary to the WORD of God, and that if we may not always be able to understand or read them aright, so much the more do we require humbly and carefully to study them. If we attend to these things, we shall never strike upon the reefs and shoals of temper, or improper controversy, or over-wisdom, but shall come safely into harbour year after year, with increased riches and greater knowledge.

TRANSACTIONS.

On the Re-Discovery of *Scutellaria minor* on Laggan Hill, Colvend. By the Rev. James Fraser.

Read 6th January 1863.

I may be permitted to express my satisfaction and pleasure, that the attempt to establish a Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society has been successfully made, and that we are here assembled together on the first night of its Meeting, and forming the nucleus of what we fondly hope will in future years be a rallying point for the Botanists, Geologists, Antiquarians and Scientific men generally of the counties.

There are some things which unite men naturally, and bind them together in a common brotherhood, irrespective of rank, or country, or profession. Religion is one of these, and it is the chief. Science is another. Similarity of tastes and of scientific pursuits draws together men of all ranks and of all professions, and makes them friends even before they are acquaintances. This is true. But while men throughout the whole world feel acquainted with those who, like themselves, are lovers of science—those whom they know only by name or through their writings—it seems every way desirable that those who are living in the same country, or in the same neighbourhood, within an accessible distance of one another or of a common centre of rendezvous, such as Dumfries, should know each other personally, and be able to communicate orally with each other on topics of mutual interest. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend," Solomon tells us. The same result is produced

by the friendly acquaintance and intercourse of scientific men with each other. The love of their respective studies, hobbies shall I call them, is strengthened; their flagging zeal is fired anew; and much useful information is communicated and preserved which else might be lost. There is no doubt that many interesting and important facts in Natural Science and in Antiquarian lore are lost, and have been lost to Science, from the want of such Associations as we have this night united together to form. I conceive that one chief object of this Society is to collect and to preserve these facts, not as mummies are preserved, to be hid out of sight, but to be brought again to light, and made available from time to time in adding to the stores of Science. For Science is essentially cumulative in its character, being made up in the first instance of numberless minute facts, which are afterwards generalized, and these generalizations are either strengthened, or overturned, or modified, by additional facts brought to bear upon them.

With these views as to the object of such a Society as ours, I am now, at the request of your excellent Chairman, Dr. Gilchrist, to bring under your notice a small botanical discovery which I made in my parish of Colvend, some eight or ten years ago. I have discovered in Colvend many rare and interesting plants, and so have other botanists before me, but one of the latest is that of *Scutellaria minor*, which grows in a bog on the south side of Laggan Hill. The species are found within the Tropics, in the Temperate Zones, and even on the borders of the Arctic and Antarctic Circles. Of these there are only two indigenous to Britain, the *S. galericulata* and the *S. minor;* and they are both found in Colvend. The former grows in many places among the shingle along the sea-shore, and by the sides of the lochs in the parish. The latter I have only discovered in one place, but I should think it will be found in other stations in Colvend, and throughout the hilly and moist

parts of Galloway. It is comparatively small, grows with a trailing rather than an erect habit, and may on this account be often overlooked; the more so that it does not flower till late in the season, August and September. Still it cannot be a plant of frequent occurrence anywhere, for Dr. Balfour told me he had never gathered it but once.* Professor Arnot of Glasgow had never seen it growing, neither had the late Professor Henslow of Cambridge, so I cannot but regard it as an acquisition within the bounds of our Society.

This station, found last year about this time, had been known some thirty years before, but had been lost sight of. In Sir William Hooker's interleaved copy of his Flora Scottica, now in the possession of Professor Arnot, I was surprised to find marked on the blank-leaf opposite the S. minor, as a station for it, "*Laggan Hill, Colvend.*" This circumstance proves the importance of such an Association as ours, to treasure up these and such like discoveries; and I do hope that when the whole province included in our range has been fully botanized, we shall have the satisfaction of seeing a flora of the two counties, Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, which I venture to think will be found as rich and varied as the flora of any portion of Scotland.

Note of the Antiquities of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Periods, found in Dumfriesshire and Galloway. By Mr. Gibson, Treasurer to the Society.

Read 6th January 1863.

As it will be important for the Society to possess and preserve a correct note and record of the antiquarian remains that have been found at various times within its range, I now submit the following list of those belonging to the three periods above indicated, which have occurred to my own observation.

In every parish in Dumfriesshire and Galloway, numerous

* Professor Balfour collected this plant abundantly in 1843 near Glenluce.

cairns or tumuli have from time to time been removed. The contents of these are very similar, viz., fragments of bones, stone hammers, celts, urns, etc., and in some cases the personal ornaments of the ancient inhabitants of the district during this early period. The antiquities of this period are not so numerous as those of the succeeding ones, the reason for which may be, that the inhabitants were not so numerous at this time, and these implements being of stone when found were thrown aside as of no value ; such was the case with the stone hammer No. 1, which was discovered lying upon a stone dyke on the farm of Whitehall, parish of Kirkmahoe. Upon inquiry, it was ascertained that some years before a cairn had been removed from the field in which it was found, and I have no doubt of its being found in the cairn, and laid upon the dyke merely as a curious stone.*

No. 2 was found on removing a cairn on the farm of Lands, parish of Tynron.

No. 3 was found on removing a cairn in the parish of Penpont.

No. 4 was found last month by some railway surfacemen, while removing the remains of a large cairn in a field near Auldgirth Bridge, parish of Kirkmahoe.

No. 8 is a flint celt found last year, along with some bones, in a cairn, in the parish of Keir. The stone celts were unquestionably weapons of war ; of which the following may be regarded as sufficient proof. Upon the removal of a large cairn on the moor of Glenquicken, Kirkcudbrightshire, the workmen came upon a stone-coffin of rude workmanship, and, on removing the lid, they found the skeleton of a man. The smaller bones crumbled to dust on exposure to the air, but the larger bones, being more compact, were taken out, when it was discovered that one of the arms had been almost

* Nos. 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 are in the collection of Dr. Grierson, Thornhill. Nos. 5, 9, and 10 in Mr. Gibson's collection. No. 12 in the possession of James Heron, Esq., Duncow.

separated from the shoulder by the stroke of a stone celt or axe, a fragment of which still remained in the bone; the celt had been made of greenstone, similar to many that have been found in various places in Scotland. In the same cairn was found a ball of highly polished flint three inches in diameter, and the head of an arrow also of flint.

No. 9 are specimens of adder beads or bead stones, numbers of which have been found in this district. Of their use various opinions have been given; one plausible theory is that they may have formed the collar of honour of some old barbarian chief, as they are frequently found in considerable quantity by the side of male skeletons in cairns.

There are many unopened tumuli, supposed to be of this period, in the moors in Kirkmahoe, the examination of which might employ some of our summer excursions.

The Bronze Period in Dumfriesshire and Galloway has furnished many fine specimens, viz. celts, swords, spear-heads, rings, tripods, etc. etc.

The celt No. 5 was found on removing the foundation of one of the arches of the old bridge of Dumfries.

No. 6 was found in the parish of Closeburn.

No. 7 was found in Durisdeer parish.

The general characteristics of these partake more of carpentering tools than weapons of war, or they may have been employed in destroying fortifications.

The bronze tripods Nos. 8, 9, 10, are examples of the many fine specimens that have been found in Dumfriesshire. A very fine one was found lately in forming the Dumfries and Lockerby Railway, on which a rude attempt had been made to mend a hole in the bottom. This one, as well as many more found in Dumfriesshire, was taken by the authorities and sent to the Edinburgh museum.

Nos. 11, 12, are twelve very fine bronze spears, found on the farm of Drumcoultern, parish of Kirkgunecon, belonging

to Mr. Heron of Duncow; there are thirteen of them, and they are all of different shapes.

The bronze swords and implements of war found in the cairns and graves of this period are broken in two, and lying by the side of the skeleton. Wilson, in his Archæology of Scotland, after describing the opening of a cairn in Galloway, in which was found a bronze sword broken in two lying by the side of the skeleton of the ancient warrior, says, "From such discoveries we are led to infer, that one of the last honours paid to the buried warrior was to break his well proved weapon and lay it at his side, ere the cist was closed, or the inurned ashes deposited in the grave, and his old companions in arms piled over it the tumulus or memorial cairn. No more touching or eloquent tribute of honour breaks upon us amid the curious records of ages long past. The elf belt and the stone axe of the older barrow speak only of the barbarian anticipation of eternal warfare beyond the grave; of skull breakers and draughts of bloody wine, such as the untutored savage looks forward to in his dreams of heaven. But the broken sword of the buried chief seems to tell of a warfare accomplished, and of expected rest. Doubtless the future which he anticipated bore faint enough resemblance to the life and immortality since revealed to man, but the broken sword speaks in unmistakeable language of elevation and progress, and of nobler ideas acquired by the old Briton, when he no longer deemed it indispensable to bear his arms with him to the Elysium of his wild creed."

Of the antiquities of the Iron Period, Dumfriesshire and Galloway have furnished many fine examples. On the opening of a tumulus in the parish of Kirkpatrick Fleming, along with an urn of elegant workmanship were found several iron rings, each about the circumference of a half-crown; a similar discovery was also made in Annandale—these frail memorials are supposed to be the money of the Britons of the first century. In a field on the farm of Corrieknows, near Annan,

quantities of ancient arms were found, consisting of swords about two feet long, edged on one side to the handle, and on the other for the half length of the blade; long spear-heads; horse-shoes, some of which were entirely circular and others curiously turned in at the heel. The farmer who found them had them all with the exception of a bronze celt turned into implements of husbandry.

A very remarkable discovery of ornaments, bronze rings, bridle-bits, and other portions of horse-furniture, was made in a moss at Middleby, Annandale, in 1737; the whole of which were secured by the zealous Scottish antiquary Sir John Clerk, and are still preserved at Penicuick House.

One of the most beautiful personal ornaments of this period ever found in Scotland was discovered by a labourer while cutting turf in Lochar Moss, about two miles to the north of Cumlongan Castle. There is an engraving of it, along with the bronze vessel in which it was discovered, at page 449 of Wilson's Archæology; at page 458 is an engraving of a bronze bridle-bit found in a moss near Birrenswerk Hill, Dumfriesshire, a locality rich in the remains of Roman and British arts, and where the traces both of Roman and native intrenchments are still visible. In the valuable collection of antiquities at Hoddam Castle, there are three Roman altars, found at Birrens in the parish of Middleby, the largest of which is in the very finest state of preservation, and is figured at page 398. Such are a few of the Antiquities of the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Periods that have been found in Dumfriesshire and Galloway.

Sir Thomas Browne says, "Large are the treasures of oblivion. Much more is buried in silence than recorded! and the largest volumes are but epitomes of what hath been! The account of time began with night, and darkness still attendeth it."

On the Finding and Position of the Relics discovered at Corrie Loch. By Dr. Moffat, Millrigs.

Communicated 6th January 1863.

In the month of September last, on crossing the moors on foot, from Millrigs, Hutton, into Eskdale, to the farm of Westside on Black Esk, at the source of the Corrie, a very heavy shower came on, accompanied with a squall; I sought refuge from the storm in a narrow dell, which had once been a corrie and the source of Corrie Water.

A corrie is a small lake between hills: this circumstance gave the name to Corrie, the source of which is at the waterfall boundary between Annandale and Eskdale.

Being sheltered from the blast, I employed the time in walking about to examine the changes which had been produced since I had been there.

I found that a drain had been brought up to Corrie Loch, to let it off, and a covered tile drain had been carried through it.

On examining the outlet, I found that the lake, at a very remote period, had been artificial. A stone wall had been built across (with space open for an off-let), secured outside, with an embankment of clay on the back.

On the east side of the drain, about two yards from the centre, and about ten from the head or northern extremity, I found what I now send to the Society.

After the drain had been cut, the soft mossy bottom had run off, and, to fill up the space, the sides had been sloped down, and laid bare the relics now sent.

On the place where I found them, a fire had once been kindled, which was indicated by the ferruginous clay having a bricky and also an unctuous appearance, dissimilar to the clay around.

I have no doubt on this spot glowed the funeral pile of

some ancient, perhaps Roman warrior, borne hither on his shield, consumed to ashes, helmet on head, and the obsequies concluded by covering the place up by his shield, and throwing a little earth over it with their spears.

The idea is not at all improbable, for there are three Roman *Castra stativa* within a mile around the spot. One on the same farm, at Carterton; one on Cowburn Hill; a third, the Rye Birren, on Westside farm: all these have a road through them from south to north. On each side are a great number of Scottish encampments, with a circular fosse almost on every hill-top around.

These interesting relics, discovered, as related, by Dr. Moffat, were placed in the hands of A. Stratherne, Esq., Glasgow. That gentleman has taken great pains in examining them, and in having the metals of which they are composed analysed; and he communicated a detailed account, which was read to the Society on 1st March last, its monthly meeting. This account we trust will form a part of the Transactions for Session 1864-1865, and it will be endeavoured then to give representations of some of the parts. Mr. Stratherne states, "I am of opinion that although some of the fragments may be, and I think are, portions of an officer's *clypeus*, or circular buckler; yet the greater portion, which consists of highly ornamented fillets, now folded and compressed, were parts of the narrow shoulder-straps worn by generals and centurions, and by which the kilt-like extremities of the *lorica* were suspended."—*W. J.*

List of Lepidoptera taken near Dumfries. By William Lenonn.*

Read 7th April 1863.

It is generally supposed that there may be found in any county of Great Britain twenty-five or twenty-six butterflies, or diurnal Lepidoptera. I have taken twenty-nine all within a circuit of eight or nine miles of Dumfries, and I have no doubt that one or two more might be found, if the locality was well examined in the proper seasons. Amongst those that I have taken, four may be considered rare or local; they are the

* The nomenclature is taken from Stainton's Manual.

following—*Colias edusa*, taken at Carlaverock; *Thecla quercus*, taken at Comlongan; *Polyommatus artaxerxes*, taken at Dalscairth; *Polyommatus alsus*, taken at Glenmills.

Colias edusa is seldom taken so far north as Dumfriesshire; in some seasons it is pretty common all round the south coast of England. *Thecla quercus*, as far as known, has never been captured in Dumfriesshire until I took it at Comlongan four years ago. *Polyommatus artaxerxes* is another that I have never heard of being taken in this locality until I took it at Dalscairth four years ago. *Polyommatus alsus* is a very local insect, but generally plentiful where it is found; it is a great favourite with almost all collectors, perhaps on account of its being the smallest of all the British butterflies; it is no doubt a very beautiful little insect when fresh from the chrysalis.

The marsh ringlet, *Cœnonympha davus*, is a very interesting butterfly; it is very common in Dumfriesshire, and yet, strange to say, no one up to this time has ever been able to find either the caterpillar or chrysalis. A great many caterpillars are night feeders, and require to be sought at night with a light; if this plan was adopted, perhaps it might be found.

Any one will see, after glancing over my list of captures, that the localities around Dumfries are pretty well represented in Lepidoptera, although it can scarcely be taken as a criterion of the fertility of the district, as many of the localities have been but imperfectly examined.

Colias edusa,	Glenhewan, Carlaverock; very rare
Pieris brassicæ,	Very common
Pieris rapæ,	Common everywhere
Pieris napi,	Common everywhere
Anthocharis cardaminis,	Common in bogs and edges of woods
Lasiommata megæra,	Common everywhere
Hipparchia semele,	Whitehill, Terregles
Hipparchia janira,	Common everywhere
Hipparchia hyperanthus,	In woods and thickets generally distributed

Erebia blandina,	Comlongan and Carlaverock *
Cœnonympha davus	Tinwald Downs and Dalscairth
Cœnonympha pamphilus,	Common everywhere
Cynthia cardui,	Tinwald Downs, Terregles, and Glenmills
Vanessa atalanta,	Generally distributed
Vanessa io,	Common at Dalscairth
Vanessa urticæ,	Abundant everywhere
Argynnis adippe,	Dalscairth and Lochaber
Argynnis selene,	Dalscairth and Tinwald Downs
Argynnis euphrosyne,	Tinwald Downs; not so common as the former
Melitæa artemis,	Common in Lochar Moss
Nemeobius lucina,	Moloch Glen, Dalswinton; rare
Thecla quercus,	Comlongan; rare
Thecla rubi,	Tinwald Downs and Dalscairth
Chrysophanus phlæas,	Common everywhere
Polyommatus alsus,	Glen Mills; I never found it elsewhere †
Polyommatus alexis	Common all over the country
Polyommatus artaxerxes,	Dalscairth and Glen Mills; not common ‡
Thymele alveolus,	Glen Mills; not common
Thanaos tages,	Common at Glen Mills
Pamphila sylvanus,	Tinwald Downs and Dalscairth
Procris statices,	Dalscairth; not common
Anthrocera filipendulæ,	Lochaber; not common
Smerinthus ocellatus,	Lochaber and Comlongan
Smerinthus populi,	Carlaverock and Lochaber
Sphinx convolvuli,	Castledykes; not common
Chærocampa elpenor,	Near Sandyknowe Tollbar; not common
Macroglossa stellatarum,	Crichton Institution Garden
Sesia bombyliformis,	Dalscairth and Lochaber; not common
Hepialus humuli,	Common everywhere
Hepialus velleda,	Tinwald Downs; not common
Hepialus hectus,	Dalscairth; rather scarce
Hepialus sylvinus,	Terregles Meadows; not common
Hepialus lupulinus,	Common everywhere
Cossus ligniperda,	Dalscairth; not common
Cerura furcula,	Tinwald Downs, Comlongan; not common

* Very abundant in Annandale. In thousands on the moors at the head of Dryfe Water, and extending across Eskdale Muir to the borders of Roxburghshire.—W. J.

† By the river Annan below Spedlings Castle.—W. J.

‡ Buitle Hill, near Dalbeatie.—W. J.

Cerura vinula,	Near Tinwald Downs and Lochaber
Notodonta dromedarius,	Kirkconnel, Lochaber, and Comlongan
Notodonta ziczac,	Tinwald Downs and Terregles Meadows
Pterostoma palpina,	Near Douay Vale Moss ; not common
Leiocampa dictæa,	Dalscairth ; not common
Leiocampa dictæoides,	Crichton Institution Garden ; rare
Lophopteryx camelina,	Commonly distributed
Clostera reclusa,	Dalscairth, and near Gastown
Pygæra bucephala,	Generally distributed
Dasychira fascelina,	Tinwald Downs and Dalscairth ; not common
Demas coryli,	Lochaber ; not common
Orgyia antiqua	Common everywhere
Lithosia complana,	Marchmount ; not common
Gnophria rubricollis,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Euthemonia russula,	Dalscairth ; not common
Arctia caja,	Abundant everywhere
Nemeophila plantaginis,	Tinwald Downs and Dalskairth ; not common
Phragmatobia fuliginosa,	Whinneyhill ; not uncommon
Spilosoma menthastri,	Common everywhere
Spilosoma papyratia,	Terregles ; not common
Spilosoma lubricepeda,	Kirkconnel ; not common
Lasiocampa rubi,	Common on the heath
Lasiocampa quercus,	Generally distributed
Eriogaster lanestris,	Lochaber ; not common
Pœccilocampa populi,	Castledykes ; not common
Odonestis potatoria,	Common everywhere
Saturnia pavonia minor,	Generally distributed
Thyatira batis,	Castledykes ; not common
Cymatophora diluta,	Terregles ; not common
Bryophila perla,	Crichton Institution
Acronycta psi,	Common everywhere
Acronycta leporina,	Heath Hall ; not common
Acronycta aceris,	Terregles ; not common
Acronycta ligustri,	Terregles ; not common
Acronycta rumicis,	Common
Acronycta menyanthidis,	Sandyknowe ; not common
Leucania conigera,	Terregles ; not common
Leucania comma,	Marchmount
Leucania impura,	Marchmount
Leucania pallens,	Common everywhere
Leucania lithargyria,	Common
Gortyna flavago,	Kirkconnel ; not common
Hydræcia petasitis,	Near the Glen Mills ; not common

Hydræcia micacea,	Carlaverock
Hydræcia nictitans,	Comlongan ; not common
Axylia putris,	Terregles ; rather common
Xylophasia rurea,	Common everywhere
Xylophasia polyodon,	Common
Xylophasia hepatica,	Glen Mills
Heliophobus popularis,	Near Lochar Bridge
Charæas graminis,	Tinwald Downs and Lochaber
Cerigo cytherea,	Whitehill, Terregles ; not common
Luperina testacea,	Kirkconnel
Memestra brassicæ,	Common everywhere
Apamea basilinea,	Common
Apamea gemina,	Common everywhere
Apamea fibrosa,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Apamea oculea,	Abundant everywhere
Miana strigilis,	Common
Miana furuncula,	Common everywhere
Celæna haworthii,	Near Clumptown ; very rare
Grammesia trilinea,	Terregles ; not common
Caradrina cubicularis,	Common
Rusina tenebrosa,	Dalscairth ; not common
Agrotis valligera,	Lochaber ; not common
Agrotis puta,	Kirkconnel Moss
Agrotis saucia,	Dalscairth ; not common
Agrotis exclamationis,	Common
Agrotis corticea,	Marchmount
Agrotis nigricans,	Dalscairth ; not common
Agrotis tritici,	Near Tinwald Downs
Agrotis obelisca,	Tinwald Downs ; very rare
Agrotis porphyrea,	Kirkconnel ; not common
Agrotis lucernea,	Crichton Institution ; not common
Agrotis suffusa,	Kirkconnel Moss
Triphæna ianthina,	Common everywhere
Triphæna fimbria,	Common everywhere
Triphæna orbona,	Abundant everywhere
Triphæna pronuba,	Abundant everywhere
Noctua glareosa,	Kirkconnel ; not common
Noctua augur,	Common
Noctua plecta,	Common
Noctua rhomboidea,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Noctua brunnea,	Kirkconnel
Noctua festiva,	Common
Noctua umbrosa,	Dalscairth
Cleora lichenaria,	Near Carlaverock Castle ; not common
Boarmia repandata,	Kirkconnel

Tephrosia crepuscularia,	Dalscairth ; not common
Pseudoterpna cytisaria,	Carlaverock ; not common
Geometra papilionaria,	Near Dalscone ; very rare
Iodis lactearia,	Lochaber
Ephyra porata,	Near Tinwald Downs ; very rare
Ephyra punctaria,	Terregles ; not common
Asthena luteata,	Dalscairth
Asthena candidata,	Dalscairth
Asthena sylvata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Venusia cambrica	Dalscairth ; very rare
Acidalia rusticata,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Acidalia virgularia,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Acidalia subsericeata,	Near Sandyknowe
Acidalia remutata,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Acidalia inornata,	Tinwald Downs ; very rare
Acidalia emarginata,	Near Tinwald Downs ; very rare
Cabera pusaria,	Common everywhere
Cabera rotundaria,	Lochaber ; very rare
Cabera exanthemata,	Common
Macaria liturata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Halia uavaria,	Common everywhere
Strenia clathrata,	Carlaverock and Dalscairth
Numeria pulveraria,	Tinwald Downs
Fidonia atomaria,	Common everywhere
Fidonia piniaria,	Common
Aspilates strigillaria,	Near Tinwald Downs ; not common
Aspilates citraria,	Near Terregles ; not common
Abraxes grossulariata,	Common all over the country
Ligdia adustata,	Near Terregles ; not common
Lomaspilis marginata,	Common
Hybernia rupicapraria,	Not very common
Hybernia leucophearia,	Common
Hybernia aurantiaria,	Lochaber
Hybernia progemmaria,	Common
Hybernia defoliaria,	Kirkconnel ; not common
Anisopteryx æscularia,	Common everywhere
Cheimatobia brumata,	Very common
Cheimatobia boreata,	Lochaber ; not common
Oporabia dilutata,	Common everywhere
Larentia didymata,	Very common
Larentia cæsiata,	Near Dalscone ; not common
Larentia olivaria,	Near Terregles ; not common
Larentia miaria,	Very common
Emmelesia alchemillata,	Dalscairth
Emmelesia ericetaria,	Terregles ; very rare

Eupithecia haworthiata,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Eupithecia castigata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Eupithecia satyrata,	Glen Mills ; not common
Eupithecia irriguata,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Eupithecia innotata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Eupithecia indigata,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Eupithecia nanata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Eupithecia vulgata,	Rather common
Eupithecia absynthiata,	Glen Mills ; not very common
Eupithecia minutata,	Near the Craigs
Eupithecia tenuiata,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Eupithecia abbreviata,	Near the Craigs
Eupithecia exiguata,	Glen Mills ; not very common
Eupithecia togata,	Glen Mills ; not common
Eupithecia sobrinata,	Whinney Hill ; not common
Eupithecia pumilata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Eupithecia rectangulata,	Very common
Lobophora viretata,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Lobophora lobulata,	Near Tinwald Downs
Labophora polycommata,	Crichton Institution
Trachea piniperda,	Near Glen Mills ; very rare
Tæniocampa gothica	Common everywhere
Tæniocampa rubricosa,	Near Dalscairth
Tæniocampa instabilis,	Common
Tæniocampa opima,	Dalscairth ; not common
Tæniocampa populeti,	Near Terregles ; not common
Tæniocampa stabilis,	Common everywhere
Tæniocampa gracilis,	Kirkconnel ; not common
Tæniocampa munda,	Near Marchmount
Orthosia lota,	Common everywhere
Orthosia macilenta,	Near Terregles ; not common
Anchocelis rufina,	Terregles ; rather common
Anchocelis pistacina,	Dalscairth
Anchocelis lunosa,	Tinwald Downs
Anchocelis litura,	Common moist places
Cerastis vaccinii,	Very common
Cerastis spadicea,	Crichton Institution Garden
Scopelosoma satellitia,	Common everywhere
Xanthia citrago,	Dalscairth ; not common
Xanthia cerago,	Tinwald Downs
Dianthæcia conspersa,	Near Terregles ; not common
Polia chi,	Crichton Institution
Miselia oxyacanthæ,	Common everywhere
Phlogophora meticulosa,	Common everywhere
Euplexia lucipara,	Common

Aplecta herbida,	Near Terregles ; not common
Aplecta nebulosa,	Common
Aplecta advena,	Crichton Institution Garden
Hadena adusta,	Castledykes
Hadena protea,	Common at Dalscairth
Hadena dentina,	Generally common
Hadena oleracea,	Common
Hadena pisi,	Lochar Moss near Georgetown
Hadena thalassina,	Rather common
Calocampa exoleta,	Crichton Institution Garden
Xylina semibrunnea,	Near Dalscone ; not common
Xylina petrificata,	Dalscone ; rare
Cucullia umbraticæ,	Common at Crichton Institution
Anarta myrtilli,	Dalscairth and Tinwald Downs
Hydrelia uncana,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Abrostola urticæ,	Near Dalscairth
Abrostola triplasia,	Terregles ; not common
Plusia chrysitis,	Very common
Plusia bractea,	Lochaber ; very rare
Plusia festucæ,	Near Terregles ; not common
Plusia iota,	Crichton Institution
Plusia gamma,	Common everywhere
Gonoptera libatrix,	Very common
Euclidia mi,	Common at Dalscairth
Euclidia glyphica,	Dalscairth ; not so common
Phytometra ænea,	Glen Mills ; not common
Ourapteryx sambucaria,	Crichton Institution Garden
Epione advenaria,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Venilia maculata,	Glen Mills and Lochaber
Metrocampa margaritata,	Rather common
Elliopia fasciaria,	Near Tinwald Downs ; not common
Eurymene dolobraria,	Dalscairth ; very rare
Selenia illunaria,	Crichton Institution
Odontopera bidentata,	Crichton Institution ; common
Crocallis elinguaria,	Common everywhere
Ennomos tiliaria,	Lochaber ; not common
Ennomos fuscantaria,	Crichton Institution ; not common
Ennomos erosaria,	Lochaber ; not common
Ennomos angularia,	Terregles ; not common
Himera pennaria,	Near Terregles ; not very common
Amphidasis betularia,	Dalscone and Marchmount
Thera juniperata,	Whinney Hill ; not common
Thera simularia,	Dalscairth
Thera simulata,	Whinney Hill ; not common
Thera variata,	Rather common

Thera firmaria,	Tinwald Downs ; not very common
Ypsipetes impluviata,	Very common
Ysipetes elutata	Common everywhere
Melanthia rubiginata,	Lochaber
Melanthia ocellata,	Rather common
Melanthia albicillata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Melanippe hastata,	Tinwald Downs ; not common
Melanippe montanata,	Very common
Melanippe galiata,	Glen Mills ; not common
Melanippe fluctuata,	Very common
Anticlea badiata,	Very common
Anticlea derivata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Coremia ferrugaria,	Very common
Coremia quadrifasciaria,	Glen Mills ; very rare
Scotosia dubitata,	Crichton Institution
Scotosia undulata,	Rigfoot and Tinwald Downs ; very rare
Cidaria psittacata,	Crichton Institution
Cidaria miata,	Lochaber ; rather common
Cidaria picata,	Terregles ; very rare
Cidaria suffumata,	Near Gastown
Cidaria silaceata,	Terregles ; not common
Cidaria prunata,	Very common
Cidaria testata,	Common at Crichton Institution
Cidaria populata,	Dalscairth ; not common
Cideria fulvata,	Common everywhere
Cideria pyraliata,	Very common
Pelurga comitata,	Near Terregles ; not common
Eubolia cervinata,	Glen Mills
Eubolia mensuraria,	Very common
Eubolia plumbaria,	Near the Craigs
Carsia imbutata,	Near Tinwald Downs ; very rare
Anaitis plagiaria,	Glen Mills ; not common
Chesias spartiata,	Glen Mills ; very rare
Odezia chærophyllata,	Glen Mills

Dumfries in the Olden Time. By James Stark, F.S.A. Scot.

Read 3d March 1863.

To describe Dumfries as it existed in old times is one of the leading objects of this Society, and will form the subject of many papers from different members. But it is often useful, and may be eminently so at present, to take up a branch of inquiry as a whole. We thus more readily estimate the character of the whole, see the relative value of the parts, and have our attention drawn to special objects for investigation.

The present paper will be directed to the *exterior aspects* of the town as it existed in old times, leaving to other opportunities the "inner life" of the place, should materials be found for that purpose.

The first origin of the town is uncertain. It was made a royal burgh about seven hundred years ago. The effect of this it is not very easy for us in the present day to estimate. It was one great privilege, for instance, to send representatives to Parliament. But this privilege is now extended to towns which are not royal burghs; and, on the other hand, there are royal burghs which have lost the privilege. Then again the royal burghs sent members to the Convention. But the Convention of Royal Burghs was an important body; and its powers were large and undefined. There was also the internal distinction of freemen and unfreemen. And other privileges there were, once highly valued, but now gone or thought little of.

But we may safely state generally, that for a town to be made a royal burgh was then a great distinction. There were not twenty in all Scotland.

The royal burghs at that time south of the Forth, besides Edinburgh, Stirling and Linlithgow, were Lanark, Peebles, Haddington, Jedburgh and Selkirk. To these William the Lyon added Ayr and Dumfries.

At this early period, therefore, the town of Dumfries would be of importance as a place of trade, and the head burgh of a district. It was also the site of an old castle or fortress.*

It is beautifully and advantageously situate; and, as a place of trade, has maintained its position amidst many changes for centuries. It is situate on a gentle elevation, skirted on the north and west by the winding Nith, which on the west divides it from Galloway, whence its cattle-markets and connected trades are largely and continuously supplied. On the other sides it was surrounded by

The Town Wall,

the course of which was this,—on the north it ran from the Moat-house in an almost straight line to the Mount on which St. Mary's Church now stands. Here it formed a somewhat acute angle, and afterwards described nearly an oval, till it reached St. Michael's Church,† a little to the eastward of which it turned by a sudden bend towards the Nith, and terminated on the banks of that river, a little to the westward of the place where the Infirmary now stands.

This is the description which is left to us of the town wall; and though not very minute is sufficient to give us an idea of its course.

Near to St. Michael's Church was a port or gate, called the South Port, leading to Caerlaverock and the south. A short way to the south of the Crystal Mount was the East Port; and on the north was the North Port.

The Nith was bridged by the fine old bridge of Dervorgille, four hundred feet in length, or about a quarter

* In a charter from the Crown, supposed by Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, vol. iii., p. 135, *note*, to have passed between the years 1175 and 1189, King William grants to Joceline, Bishop of Glasgow, *toftum illum apud Dumfries quod est inter vetus castellum et ecclesiam.*

† Near to St. Michael's Church on the New Road is a wall which appears to be a portion of the old Town Wall.

more than it is at present, and thirteen and a half feet in mean breadth. And at the end of the bridge as it now stands, three arches having been removed, was a gate or port, where the duties and customs on goods and cattle coming into the town were taken up and brought to account in the Monastery.

The Nith has the usual characteristics of a mountain river, and varies very considerably from time to time, both in bulk or quantity, and flow. These changes would be still more marked in former times, the channel of the river being then broader. There were, accordingly, fords or passages by which the river might be crossed at low water. Two of these, on either side of the bridge, would seem to have allowed entrance into the town, the town wall not being carried on here. But the defenceless state of the town at this place was perhaps a matter of less consequence than the convenience of its being open, the country on the west being friendly as the territory of the lords of Galloway.

Here, then, lay the fair town of Dumfries, with its spacious High Street, stretching like a back-bone and spinal marrow to the parish church of St Michael's, not very much short of half a mile; and crossed after the fashion of an Anglo-Saxon village by the Friars' Vennel to the west, and by a street which, we presume, must have existed in old times, leading to the East Port. This might be what is now Chapel Street, etc.

The principal structures of the town were the Castle and Parish Church, the Market Cross, Council Chamber, and Tolbooth, and the Monastery of Grey Friars, with the Old Chapel and Lady Chapel—all now, it is believed, mere *historical antiquities*, existing only in books and records, corroborated, it may be, by present names of places, or the discovery of some fragment of the ancient structures.

This circumstance, that so many of the ancient buildings have now ceased to exist, gives a peculiar character to anti-

quarian research here, our labours being in this way, in many cases, directed rather to resuscitate the extinct than to examine the tangible and existing.

The Castle

stood at the top of the High Street, on or near the site of the *New Church*, the ground between the church and the river being the *Castle Gardens*. It was a large and massy structure, and had a command of the whole adjacent country.

Its origin and early history appear to be unknown. But we may reasonably conjecture that it did exist at an early period, and was at least the occasional residence of the old lords of Galloway. Perhaps when Uchtred, in the middle of the twelfth century, founded at Lincluden his Priory of Nuns, it stood as the guarantee for their safety. And the remarkable designation of Alan, probably his descendant, as Alan de Dunfries, which occurs in an early charter, seems to show a very intimate connection with the town. The foundation of a Monastery, with grounds, in the very heart of the town, by Alan's daughter, points the same way, even though we may suppose that the Monastery stood on the site of a still earlier ecclesiastical foundation.

Alan, lord of Galloway, died in 1234. Thirty years after this, Alexander III., King of Scots, received *at Dumfries* the homage of the then King of Man ; and this would probably be in the castle. And from the old Law Book *Quon Attach*, c. 72, we learn that something in the nature of a parliament or general council was held at Dumfries.

But in 1305, the undoubted fact appears that the justiciars appointed by King Edward of England held their Assize or Circuit Court in the castle, and the red Comyn met his death in the Monastery. A disturbed period of our history followed, and the place was taken and retaken. At length in 1312, when it came into the hands of Bruce, he directed it to be dismantled, to render it unserviceable in the event of its again

falling into the hands of the English. The same thing appears to have been done with Caerlaverock; and Lochmaben, Bruce's town, was made a royal burgh. This was a great blow and sore discouragement to the fair town of Dumfries. And though its great natural advantages enabled it to surmount this and other calamities, the castle ceased from that time to afford a residence for royalty or any place of public meeting.

Accordingly when in the wars of York and Lancaster, Queen Margaret of England fled to this country with her son, the Abbey of Lincluden afforded them shelter, not Dumfries, though indeed they were welcomed there. And it was at Lincluden, not Dumfries, that the great Border meeting under the Earl of Douglas was held for the revision of the Border laws.

When King James IV. came to the circuit court held at Dumfries in August 1504, he put up, as we gather from the Lord Treasurer's accounts, at "William Cunynhams burgess of Dumfriese,"—the King's Arms Hotel, in all likelihood, of that day. And King James VI. put up, it seems, at Terregles. But this monarch was entertained in the town on two occasions:—once, in the "painted hall belonging to the Cuninghams," for so it is described to us, Provost Francis Irvin presiding; the other occasion was when he passed through to England in 1617.

The last remains of the ancient castle were demolished in 1719, and the materials taken to assist in building the New Church.

The Monastery

founded by Dervorgille must have occupied a considerable space of ground in the town, having besides the old church a dormitory, refectory and other buildings and conveniences, all enclosed, like the castle, within its own walls and gates. It was erected for the order of Franciscans or Grey Friars; and not improbably on the site of an earlier ecclesiastical foundation.

It was here, Spottiswood tells us, John Duns Scotus the subtle doctor was clothed with the habit of St. Francis. But of course the great event in its history was the death of the red Comyn in the church, with that of Sir Robert Comyn in the sacristy.

The effusion of a layman's blood seems to have damaged the character of the place. But the friars still lingered on, and in 1504 King James IV. gave them 14s., probably a piece of the nature of our half sovereign. The buildings, or some of them, appear to have survived the era of the Reformation; for Arthur Johnston, the Scottish physician and poet, speaks of them as existing in his time. He says:—

> Surgit in hac ædes, cui cedunt templa Dianæ
> Vel venerabilius Græcia si quid habet,
> Proditor hic patriæ Brussii virtute Cuminus
> Concidit, et sacram sanguine tinxit humum.
> Scotia Drumfrisii reliquis altaria prefer,
> Hic tibi libertas aurea parta fuit.

O Scotland, I prefer this spot of earth to all others in the land, for here thy precious liberty had its birth-place!

The materials were at length all taken and used, as in the case of Kelso Abbey and others, in the construction of houses in the neighbourhood.

The Market Cross.

This is the next object of interest conspicuous by its absence. It was taken down within memory, and perhaps escaped an earlier fate by being removed from its original position to a more shady side of the mid-steeple. Here was the chief market-place of the town for provisions, and the common place of resort. And here accordingly the laws were published in old times, proclamations made, summonses executed, and whatever of a secular nature which required publicity or solemnity was ordinarily done. So here too a party of dissentients, opposed to the union with England,

testified their abhorrence of that measure by publicly burning a copy of the Articles of Union. Dumfries was not by any means singular in the feeling which dictated this step, the union being looked upon as a surrender of the national independence, and likely to affect the religion of the country.

The fruit and vegetable stalls remain to attest the existence of the ancient structure, and the neighbourhood is still a place of resort on hiring and other market-days.

The Old Council Chamber

is said to have stood on the site of the old Deanery. In very old times the diocese was divided into several deaneries, and this may have been the *Deanery of Dumfries.*

The Old Parish Church of St. Michaels.

This, like other St. Michael churches, stood on an elevated ground at the south end of the town; and its fine tower would form a beautiful and very marked feature. There was probably no other turret, tower or spire then to be seen in the town but this, and the massy buildings of the castle at the town head.

But though adjacent to the town, the church lay perhaps outside the town wall. And if so, the church of the monastery would naturally be regarded as the church of the town. This may the more easily account for the meeting together there of Bruce and Comyn and their friends on the memorable day of Comyn's death. But from that time the parish church appears to have at once become the resort of the Bruce or Scottish party.

The Old or Sir Christopher's Chapel

was another edifice by the side of the town wall. It was the chapel erected by Bruce's sister, the widow of Crystal or Christopher Seton, who was taken by the English, brought to Dumfries and there condemned and executed.

There is no reason to doubt but that the patriot Seton suffered at the common place of execution at that day. This place and its neighbourhood appear to have gone under the name of the "*Hullerbass,*" the termination of this word being a corruption perhaps of bourse or place of meeting. The term has been happily transmuted into the Lover's Walk—which it still bears.

This beautiful little chapel, so significant in its form of the purpose for which it was erected, gradually went to decay, and the remaining materials were taken to assist in fortifying the town at the time of the rebellion of 1715.

Our Lady Chapel.

When King James IV. passed through Dumfries in one of his many pilgrimages to St. Ninians he went to Our Lady's Chapel at the end of the town, and there made his offering, but we have no particulars of its locality or structure. It was perhaps when this chapel was erected, that Sir Christopher's Chapel got the name of the Old Chapel.

Of the *streets* and *private dwellings* we have some account, though comparatively recent, in the "Journey through Scotland in 1723."

"I passed the river Nith from Galloway," says the author, "to Dumfries, over a fair stone bridge . . . . the finest I saw in Britain next to London and Rochester. There is a street that leads from the bridge by an easy ascent to the Castle,* which is on the east of the town, and hath a commanding prospect of the town and adjacent country. And from it the High Street runs by an easy descent to the church at half a mile's distance. This High Street is spacious, with good stone buildings on each side; those on the north side having their hanging gardens to the river side. The Exchange and Town House are about the middle of the street towards the south, and besides this great street, Lochmaben Street

* The Friars' Vennel.

hath very good houses. This is a very thriving town, and hath a good face of trade."

In conclusion, to sum up all in a few words, let us take the table of our fancy—for the reality is now gone from our eyes—and picture on it a plan of the fair town of Dumfries surrounded by the town wall on all sides but the west, where the winding Nith flows past in all the width of the fine old bridge, 400 feet in length, or about one-fourth more than it is at present. At the town head stands the massy and commanding Castle with its walls and gates; and near it the Monastery wall enclosing the conventual buildings. Then see the spacious High Street down to the parish church of St. Michaels about half a mile off; with the Market Cross on the breast of the town, and near it the town-council buildings: on the one side the town the large and convenient cattle-market and, perhaps, the Lady Chapel; and on the other side of the town the common place of execution with, perhaps, ground for the May Games, and the old or Kirsty's Chapel with all its sad yet glorious recollections.

Such was the fair town of *Dumfries in the olden time.*