

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



The support of The Strathmartine Trust toward
this publication is gratefully acknowledged.

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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1882.

MEETING AT BANFF.

THIS Club met in the Academy Buildings on Thursday. The Rev. Mr Walker, the Parsonage, having been called to the chair, the company repaired for a short time to the Museum to inspect the new cases presented by the Club. Mr Edward, the curator, and Mr Horne explained that these cases were to be filled with specimens of the fossils, minerals, and antiquities of the district in a certain order, and that it was hoped that additional cases would be procured in the course of next year. Mr Edward had provided a new feature in the Museum for the pleasure of the visitors on this occasion, viz., a number of curious and valuable books, among which may be mentioned Middleton's Bible, the last speech of King Charles I., 'Les Affaires de Conte de Bodnel' (Earl of Bothwell), and several other volumes of the 17th century. After having expressed very great satisfaction with what they had seen, the ladies and gentlemen returned to the meeting-room, and the ordinary business of the Club was proceeded with. Sheriff Scott Moncrieff read a most interesting paper, consisting mainly of extracts from the 'Memorials of the Rev. Robert Law' (1638-1684), bearing on the natural phenomena and superstitions of that time, such as remarkable storms, good and bad harvests, wonderful vegetable and animal productions, a very quaint account of the first 'Jumbo' exhibited in Scotland, instances of witchcraft and demonology and their punishment, and of prodigies in the heavens, parhelia, comets, ærial armies charging each other among the clouds, bloodshowers, &c.—all showing how even the strongest and most highly cultured minds of those days were affected by influences which have long since ceased to trouble any except the most ignorant of men. On the motion of Rev. Mr Bruce, Mr Scott Moncrieff was very heartily thanked for his paper. The gentlemen nominated at last meeting were then admitted as members and the subject of excursions during the summer months discussed. In regard to the latter it was arranged that there should be four principal excursions beginning with June, one geological, to Portsoy, led by Mr Horne; one archæological to Dufftown, led by Sheriff Scott Moncrieff; one botanical and archæological to Eden, led by Rev. Mr Bruce and Mr Spence, the secretary; and a fourth, probably to Dunnideer, under charge of Mr Yeats, the treasurer of the club. It was left to the Council to arrange the order and the exact dates of these excursions. The meeting broke up with a vote of thanks to the chair.