

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1928.

Through the good offices of the Banffshire Field Club the town of Banff was favoured to-night with a second lecturing visit by Dr W. Douglas Simpson, the erudite librarian of Aberdeen University. The lecture, which Dr Simpson delivered for the first time, was a remarkable one concerning the Penetration Lines of Christianity in Scotland in which he propounded some original views breaking with the accepted tradition of St Columba's missionary introduction of Christianity into Caledonia stern and wild, and a representative audience of members of the Field Club and others in the Town Hall heard these results of research with the highest sense of appreciation.

Sheriff More, president of the Club, presided, and said that those of them who were present on the last occasion when Dr Douglas Simpson lectured to the Club would have the happiest memories of the enjoyable and interesting event. When they were fortunate enough to get such a busy man as Dr Simpson to come again to address them, the committee of the Club thought it would be a pity to keep such a good thing to themselves and decided to make the meeting an open one. He was glad to see, in spite of other attractions, a very considerable audience and to those who were not members he extended a cordial welcome. That night they were to have for the first time Dr Douglas Simpson's own views on the penetration lines of Christianity in Scotland and those of them who knew his work would recognise that his views would be interesting and possibly novel. It was a good thing for them to look back as far as they could to the history of Christianity in Scotland because after all the history of Scotland was very much wrapt up with the history of the religion of Scotland.

In a characteristically exhaustive treatment of his subject, with the aid of screen illustrations, Dr Simpson traced in the early history and geography of Scotland the evidences of the

influence of successive missionary pioneers, the earliest of whom, he sought to show, was St Ninian. He submitted many arguments to support the theory that the main penetration of Christianity in Scotland, like every other invasion, military or cultural, was from the south and not from St Columba's headquarters at Iona in the west as had been so long taught. St Moluag from Lismore, St Columba from Iona and St Maelrubha from Applecross all represented a later Irish influence in the Christianisation of Scotland.

On the call of Dr Murray, who expressed the Club's high appreciation of the lecture, a vote of thanks was heartily accorded Dr Simpson. Mr H. Holman was also thanked for his services as lanternist.