

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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

www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1884.

MEETING AT BANFF.

THIS Club held a meeting in the Academy Buildings on Thursday evening, to hear a lecture by the Rev. G. Sutherland, M.A., F.R.S.E., on the Antique Treasures possessed by the Banff Museum. There was a good attendance of members present. The Rev. W. S. Bruce, president, in the chair. On opening his subject, the lecturer pointed out the value of local museums, and how much might be done towards enriching them, if those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits would hand over the various things they find to such institutions, instead of allowing them to lie about uncared for, or isolated on private mantelpieces for a short time as objects of curiosity, afterwards to fall into oblivion. A considerable number of specimens from the Museum were on the table, representative of the Stone and Bronze Periods. The former was first dealt with by the lecturer, who throughout showed an intimate knowledge of the subject which he was handling. Amongst the specimens exhibited belonging to the Stone Period were:—Flint arrow heads, of which the Museum has only a meagre collection; stone battle-axes, which were compared with specimens from India, also in the Museum; stone balls, one rudely ornamented; stone cups, ladles, and hammers. Belonging to the Bronze Period were a Palstab, a looped axe, a sword, and a spear point, and rarest of all, a stone mould for casting Palstabs, with a mould for a ring on the reverse. There were also on the table four urns. Two of the drinking-cup type, one of the food vessel class, and one conforming to no definite type; two so-called adder beads, and a string of amber beads. Of personal ornaments, two bronze armlets, one spiral silver armlet, and a hammer-headed silver pin—one of the gems of the collection—elegantly ornamented in cloisouire enamel, were exhibited. Of modern articles, sometimes confused with remains of the Stone Period, there were shown 3 socket stones, a quern, and two stone whorls. The unique brass boar's head in the Museum was also on the table, but no theory was brought forward as to its probable use, which still remains a mystery. The lecture was of a most interesting nature, and kept the audience in rapt attention for more than an hour. At its conclusion, on the motion of the chairman, a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer. A like compliment was paid to the president for his conduct in the chair.