

# Transactions

OF THE

## BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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

[www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk](http://www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1887.

---

MEETING AT BANFF.

A MEETING of this Club was held on Friday evening—the President, the Rev. James Davidson, in the chair.

Major-General Gellie, Earhill; Mr John Hutcheon of Gask; Mr Kid, teacher, Hilton; Rev. W. A. Templar, Banff; Mr George Cumming, Banff; Mr Wm. Simpson, Banff; Mr C. W. Cosser, Banff; and Mr C. M' Rae, Banff, were nominated for election.

The Treasurer—Mr Hossack, Sheriff Clerk—submitted report of income and expenditure, which showed a balance in favour of the Club of £29 19s. 2d.

The Secretary (Mr Yeats) read the report as follows :

'Since last annual report was read on 29th October 1886, the Club has held six ordinary meetings, at which nine papers have been read. The subjects of these papers were 'Frendraught,' 'The Egyptian Pyramids,' 'Buchanness,' 'King-Edward, its Religious History and Old Writs, connected with its Church Lands,' 'The making of Britain,' 'Old Roads,' and 'Popular Superstitions.' From this list it will be seen that the papers read afforded considerable variety, though most of them dealt with archaeological and historical subjects. We call ourselves a 'Field Club and Scientific Society,' and some people have been wicked enough to hint that we have done very little to justify the latter part of our designation. Archaeology, according to such critics, is not worthy to be dignified with the name of a science. Antiquarians object to be thus summarily snuffed out; though in their more candid moments they may admit that their proofs are not quite so indisputable nor their conclusions so definite as say in the mathematical and experimental sciences. But even the most captious objectors will perhaps admit that Mr Bell's paper on the 'Making of Britain' and Dr Milne's paper on the same subject are not unworthy of a place among the transactions of a society calling itself scientific.

'The Club made two excursions during the summer. The first a local one—along the coast from Macduff to Melrose. This route is highly interesting geologically, botanically, and archaeologically, and with Dr Milne, Mr Forbes, and Sheriff Scott Moncrieff as guides, the time and attention of the excursionists were fully occupied.

The other excursion was to Auchterless, and embraced the Castle of Towie-Barclay, the Chapel of Seggat, and the stone-circle at Mains of Hatton. The tenants of the farms on which these interesting objects are situated gave the excursionists a hearty welcome and all the assistance in their power; and Mr Scott's kind hospitality on the occasion deserves special mention. This excursion was also the means of calling forth a paper from Dr Milne on the Castle of Towie-Barclay and the distinguished family with which it is associated. This paper is not the least of the many valuable services that Dr Milne has rendered to the Club, and forms a very important contribution to the printed transactions. The council arranged to have a third excursion to the Rathven district, but the weather, since the beginning of September, has been so unpropitious that it was considered expedient to let this excursion stand over till next year.

Three members have died during the year, and three have left the locality. Among the latter is Sheriff Scott Moncrieff, who was the first president of the Club, and has all along taken an active interest in its affairs. Five new members have joined the Club, so that the balance seems somewhat against us.

The Northern Scientific Societies have been moving in the direction of union. A regular constitution is being prepared, setting forth title, the government, the mode of working, and the objects of the proposed union, which is to be known by some such name as 'The Northern Institute for the promotion of Science. One of its aims will be to prepare lists of the Fauna and Flora of the district embraced by the Institute. This is an ambitious but a very desirable aim. Its success will mainly depend on the zeal and industry of the various local societies in working out these subjects in their own districts; and it is to be hoped that the members of this Club will do all in their power to make the part of the records relating to this part of the country as full and accurate as possible.'