

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

Mr Yeats submitted a small pane of glass on which were inscribed with a diamond these lines:—

Woman, lovely woman, nature made you
To temper man. We had been brutes without you.

The pane of glass was from the house No. 2, High Shore, Banff, and it was said that some people thought the author might have been Lord Byron, although Mr Yeats did not consider that likely.

The Chairman said he saw that mentioned in some newspapers, but anyone with the slightest antiquarian ideas would at anyrate suspect a statement like that to begin with, and when one went a little into the matter, there was more reason to suspect it. In the first place, when Byron was in Banff he was a boy of seven or eight years of age, and the merest schoolboy would see, looking at the writing, that it was not the writing of a boy of seven or eight. It was written by a person who could use a pen, and afterwards a diamond, remarkably well. It was certainly written by one well accustomed to handle the pen. Then the form of the 'W' and of several other letters showed very plainly that it was written long after Byron's time. The 'W' was quite modern and the whole style of writing was long after that time. It was some one he fancied of the present generation who had done it. There were many such instances of writing upon glass in connection with persons who had no connection whatever with the places. On a window of the church of Cullen some scamp or other had written the name of Robert Burns and had tried to imitate the usual style of Burns's writing, but he himself remembered since the writing was not there—(laughter)—while the window itself had been entirely renewed since the time of Burns,

within, in fact, present memory. It was, however, of interest to see this instance and have an opportunity of demolishing it. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN thereafter read the following papers on the families of Shand and Rhind.