

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

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SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION, 1852-3.  
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ANNIVERSARY MEETING, *November 30, 1852.*

THE HONOURABLE LORD MURRAY, Vice-President, in the
Chair.

The Office-Bearers for the ensuing year were elected.

The Right Hon. Lord CLAUD HAMILTON was elected a Fellow, and
ALLAN N. SCOTT, Esq., Lieut. Madras Artillery, a Corresponding Member
of the Society.

A Report was read from the Council on the arrangements
adopted with reference to the printing of "The Proceedings" of
the Society; and specimens of the Illustrations of Part I. were laid
on the table.

The Honourable Lord MURRAY, Senior Vice-President, then
delivered the following

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.

"It affords me peculiar satisfaction to take the Chair on this occasion, when
we are assembled to renew the active duties of another session, and to resume
the business of a Society dedicated to the accomplishment of objects alike hon-
ourable, patriotic, and of great value in their bearings on the History and Litera-

ture of our country. We are entering, indeed, upon a new era in the history of archaeological investigations. While, by the laborious and faithful collection of chartularies, and authentic historic documents of every kind, the evidences of history are restored to our use, we are also learning to read aright those other evidences, in some respects not less valuable, which are stored in the ruder antiquities of primitive ages. This Society has long performed a valuable service for Scotland, by collecting and preserving the illustrations of the national arts and manners of former ages in an available form, and liberally making them free to the inspection of the public. It is with great pleasure that I now congratulate you on the resumption of another of your functions—necessarily suspended, from various causes, for a time—the printing of the Transactions of the Society. In this respect we may be said to be fulfilling another of our most important duties, and renewing a direct and intimate interchange of good services with the students of antiquities, and the members of all the literary and learned societies with which we are in correspondence. From the form in which our new Proceedings are to be produced, they cannot fail to prove peculiarly valuable to all who are interested in archaeological research; while they must tend to give a fresh vitality to the Society, by bringing all the members into more intimate familiarity with its proceedings, and giving to such as are non-resident in Edinburgh a vehicle for the interchange of thought and speculation, and for the communication of the important discoveries so frequently lost to general use from the want of some such appropriate treasury wherein they may be placed on record. I feel assured that a society conducted with the liberal research and generous public spirit which characterizes the proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries cannot fail to be of use to Scotland. In its exertions to establish a National Museum of Antiquities, and to preserve a record of discoveries, valuable from the light they are calculated to throw on our ancient history, it is successfully aiming at a great public good. It is, moreover, encouraging a spirit of research, which requires to be cultivated, as a most important means towards the enlargement of our stores of knowledge, and the illumination of many obscure points of national history. Much, in this respect, remains to be done; and many valuable records, and historical evidences of various kinds, all of the highest importance to the intelligent investigator, are, we cannot doubt, annually lost to us by mere inattention and ignorance. In all these respects, I feel assured that this Society is destined to render important services, both directly and indirectly: directly, by its own labours, researches, and preservation of antiquities illustrative of the various departments of archaeological science; and indirectly, by the influence of its example, and the spirit of intelligent research it is calculated to incite and to keep alive.

The painful duty now devolves on me to recal to you the losses which the Society has sustained since our last anniversary meeting, in the death of some of our valued associates, including men whose names would add a lustre to any literary body. In Lord Panmure we have lost a liberal patron of literature, who repeatedly contributed his services towards the conservation of historical evidence, and freely rendered the valuable stores preserved among his own family charters and records available for the purposes of literature and the illustration of history. I trust that we shall have his place filled up by the distinguished nobleman who has now succeeded to his father's titles, and is so well fitted to carry out the same liberal patronage of literature. In the death of my old and valued friend, Mr Thomas Thomson, the Society has to deplore the loss of one whose contributions to our antiquarian literature, and to the facilities of the historical student of the records of Scotland, have conferred a boon upon the country, such as it would be difficult to over-estimate. He was a man of great and varied learning and a highly refined mind. His enthusiasm was undamped by the intricacies and the forbidding aspects of one of the most perplexing and protracted labours which ever engrossed the life-labour of the legal antiquary ; and yet, while devoting his fine mind to such labours in his study, he united to all the acquirements requisite for such pursuits, manners the most pleasing, and a warmth and geniality of feeling which have embalmed him in the memories of a numerous circle of friends and admirers. We also unite in a common feeling with many other societies and public bodies in deploring the blank which death has made in the ranks of our active and valued members, in depriving us of the services of Mr Thomas Grainger, C.E., a man of public spirit and great professional talent, whose death was justly looked upon by his fellow-citizens as a public loss ; and of Mr Robert Bryson, F.R.S.E., who, as a practical worker, had brought science to bear, with important results, on various branches of professional labour, and who furnished one of those examples in which Scotland has happily been so rich, of men rising from the ranks of her handicraftsmen to take an honourable place among her men of science.

In conclusion, I have to congratulate the Society on the prospect of soon entering upon the occupation of those apartments provided for them by Government in the Royal Institution ; and I cannot but feel that, while this will largely contribute to the best interests of the Society, it must also accomplish other important results. It will bring the Museum more directly under the notice, and within the reach, of the students of the School of Design ; and I cannot conceive any class to whom our collections can prove of more practical value than the students of art, and indeed the whole body of artists. A most important object is to be attained by the union of artists and antiquaries ; the

studies and acquirements of each are valuable to the other; and while it is of essential importance to the artist to investigate and study the objects themselves: the writings of antiquaries, their illustrations of ancient architecture, and even of primitive arts and customs, give a more accurate idea of the former *conditions of society*, and the nature of the civilization by which different periods have been characterized. Such works are promoted, and can very frequently only be executed, by means of the labours and the collections of such a Society as this."

On the motion of Dr D. Wilson, seconded by Mr D. Laing, the thanks of the Society were voted to Lord Murray for his Address from the Chair.

December 13, 1852.

Rev. WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows:—

ALEXANDER BRYSON, Esq., F.R.S.E.

HENRY RHIND, Esq.

A. K. MACKENZIE, Esq.

The Donations laid on the Table included—

A fine specimen of a Stone Querne, presented by JAMES T. DOUGLAS, Esq., and a rude Stone Bason, by WILLIAM LANGLANDS, Esq.; both of which were found, lying on a paved floor, in the ground immediately to the east of Merchiston Tower; and apparently on the line of the old Roman road, which passed through Morningside towards Cramond and the sea-coast. The paving, which lay at a depth of above three feet from the surface, covered an area of upwards of forty square yards, and was composed of unhewn stones closely rammed together.

A Bronze Pot with three feet, of the usual form commonly styled "Camp Kettles," found in deepening the River Forth at

Cambuskenneth Ford : by GEORGE HARVEY, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., R.S.A.

A Stone Celt, found at Dalhousie, East Lothian.

A curious Stone Knife or Dagger, found beside a stone cist in a peat-moss at Ashintully, Perthshire. It appears to be a natural formation of mica-schist, the peculiar shape of which has suggested its adaptation to its latter purpose as a rude but efficient stone implement: presented by ROGER RUTHERFURD AYTOUN, Esq., of Ashintully.

A Roman Bronze Ornament, in the shape of a leaf, with a loop attached, turned up by the plough in 1829, on the farm of Hop Pringle, Crookston estate, in the parish of Stow: presented by the Rev. DAVID WADDELL, Minister of the parish.

The first communication was—