

I.

NOTES ON SOME SCOTTISH FAMILY NAMES AND ARMS. BY COSMO
INNES, ESQ., ADVOCATE, F.S.A. SCOT.

On the general subject of the origin of names Mr Innes remarked in the outset that, for the most part, places were named before persons, and long before fixed family surnames were introduced. Therefore, when a place and a family have the same name, it is the place which gives name to the people, not the family to the place. The fables as to the origin of such names as Douglas, Forbes, and Guthrie, might therefore be at once discarded. Mr Innes observed, that though the great majority of ancient family names are territorial, yet there are many exceptions; such as names derived from office, as Stewart, Sheriff, Constable, Baillie, Marshall, Porter; from trades, as Baker or Baxter, Brewer or Brewster, Webster, Lister, Souter, Hooper, Brander or Brand, Skinner, Barker, Currier or Currie, and the like. Mr Innes then referred to commercial names, and to those derived from the church. From the latter it appeared that besides Kirk and Church, we have got Clerk, Parsons, Vicar, Proctor, Bishop, Friar or Freer, and Monk. Poetry and music had furnished some contributions, as Sang, Sangster, Piper, Harper, Rymer, and Bard or Baird. The names derived from rural pursuits and occupations were next adverted to; then names from hunting and the chase. It was stated that our great names were mostly territorial, with some exceptions, such as Hamilton and Campbell, which last had no appearance of home growth, but rather resembled the Norman name of Beauchamp or Campobello. Names derived from countries, as Inglis, Scott, French, Fleming, Ireland, and others; and names from divisions of our own country, as Angus, Fife, Galloway, Buchan, were referred to in conclusion. Some observations which Mr Innes proposed to have made upon ancient family coats of arms, especially as illustrating descent or connection of families, were reserved by him to another occasion.

Mr Joseph Robertson remarked on the value and interest of Mr Innes's paper, and suggested that if members would collect the names of persons peculiar to different districts, some instructive results might be arrived at.