

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

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SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION, 1858-59.  
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ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 30th November 1858.

THE HON. LORD NEAVES, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Office-bearers of the Society for the Session were elected, as follows:—

Patron.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President.

THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF BREADALBANE, K.T.

Vice-Presidents.

COSMO INNES, Esq., Advocate.

The Hon. Lord NEAVES.

Professor J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D.

Councillors.

JAMES T. GIBSON CRAIG, Esq.

FRANCIS ABBOTT, Esq.

THOMAS THOMSON, Esq., W.S.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY OF

ARCHIBALD T. BOYLE, Esq.
 JOHN MACKINLAY, Esq.
 THOMAS STEVENSON, Esq., C.E.
 GEORGE SETON, Esq.
 ALEX. WHITE, Esq.
 JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq., R.S.A.

Secretaries.

JOHN STUART, Esq., General Register House.
 JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D.
 DAVID LAING, Esq. } *for Foreign Correspondence.*
 J. M. MITCHELL, Esq. }

Treasurer.

THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq.

Curators of the Museum.

ROBERT FRAZER, Esq.
 BARRON GRAHAME, Esq.
 JAMES JOHNSTONE, Esq.

Librarian.

JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq.

Auditors.

ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq.
 ALEX. CHRISTIE, Esq., A.R.S.A.

The following Gentlemen were balloted for and elected Members of the Society:—

GEORGE LOGAN, Esq., W.S.
 ROBERT ADAM, Esq.

Lord NEAVES then delivered the following

OPENING ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—The study of Antiquities may be considered as important in two principal ways: 1. As a help to history as to those periods which exhibit historical records; and 2, As a substitute for history as to those earlier periods of which no written memorials remain.

I. As to the Historic period the labours of the antiquary may be considered to possess a peculiar value, in consequence of the enlarged views which have latterly been taken of the objects of history. The historian does not now think it his chief duty to narrate merely the lives and actions of princes, the results of battles, or the events of political revolutions. He finds it a more pleasing and a more instructive task to present from time to time a picture of the social condition and mental character of the great body of the people. The progress of civilisation is the principal object which he seeks to illustrate; and in discharging this function, the study of antiquities is of paramount and indispensable importance. The implements used by a nation, whether for purposes of war or of peace, their household furniture, their bodily dress and ornaments, their customs at marriage and burial, their laws and usages in their dealings and transactions, in enforcing bargains or in repressing crimes, their diversities of rank and status, as noble, priestly, or plebeian, as bond or free, as rulers and subjects, lords and vassals: all these are not merely matters of the utmost interest as objects of curiosity, but they serve as valuable lights thrown upon the pathway of history, and essential elements for settling the doubts and clearing the obscurities with which it is attended. It is the antiquary who must supply this information. The rules of the division of labour and the laws of mind require that the study of these things, in order to be fully mastered, should be pursued independently, with a minuteness and detail, and with a special taste and enthusiasm, which the general inquirer cannot attain. It is in this way alone that accurate results can be reached, which the historian and philosopher find ready to their hand, and apply to their highest use. The researches of antiquaries in this department of their science have been eminently serviceable. The industrious examination and comparison of monuments and inscriptions, of coins and seals, tapestries and illuminations, charters, records, and private writings, have led to the discovery of peculiar traits of manners and customs, and to explanations of popular tendencies and public events, which have afforded the best illustrations of national character and progress.

II. The importance of antiquities is equally great in reference to the pre-historic period. But this branch of the science requires for its prosecution peculiar qualifications to guard and develop it. It is necessary to

know the customs and usages, the remains and traditions of many other nations, before we can draw safe inferences from what we meet with in our own country, and in this respect lies the great distinction between a scientific antiquary and a mere trifle in antiquities. Where the principles of the science have been acquired, and a sufficient review has been taken of the whole subject, it may be possible, from very slight indications, to reconstruct, with a fair approximation to accuracy, a bygone period of society, somewhat in the same way, though scarcely with the same perfection or completeness, as the skilled osteologist can present to us an entire specimen of an extinct animal from the examination of a toe or a tooth. But in these pursuits caution must ever go hand in hand with knowledge. The credulity of antiquarian zeal has long been a favourite, and to a great extent a legitimate, subject of ridicule. We are ever prone to believe that we see the things which we are eagerly in search of, and it requires strong checks to restrain this tendency. In painting and sculpture, in furniture and armour, there has always been a manufacture going on of modern antiques, which it requires great skill to detect; and in the department of discoveries, antiquaries have been too frequently ready dupes or self-deceivers. The Roman prætorium, with Aiken Drum's lang ladle, was doubtless drawn from the life by one who had probably been often imposed upon himself by the artifices of others, or by his own enthusiasm. And it is only a few years ago since certain learned antiquaries on the Rhine were led by some workmen to believe that a reversed rim of a bucket placed upon a skull exhibited the remains of a Frankish King wearing the iron crown of the Lower Empire! Those things will happen occasionally in the best regulated systems, and when they do occur we have only to laugh at them good-humouredly. But the seldomer they happen the better.

One of the most important subjects of antiquarian research is language; which is, indeed, the most certain and significant of all the signs of pre-historic events. An identity or close affinity between the languages of two nations, now situated at a distance from each other, is a conclusive proof that they were formerly the same, or near neighbours. The study of the language of the gipsies, and its comparison with the dialects of Hindostan, have left no doubt that that singular people emigrated from the great Eastern peninsula or its vicinity. And, on a larger scale,

there is proof—not so palpable indeed, yet, when fully brought out, equally plain and convincing—that all the great nations from India to the extreme West are closely affiliated together. The resemblances, it may be observed, are often very capricious. Thus, in comparing the Celtic and the Sanscrit languages, we find large classes of compound words beginning in Gaelic with the prefixes “do” and “so,” and in Sanscrit with the syllables “du” and “su,” and which indicate respectively the absence or presence, the abundance or deficiency, of the quality which the latter part of the word expresses; and yet this same characteristic is scarcely, or only partially, to be found in any of the other cognate languages which are interposed between the East and the far West. It is as if we saw some great primitive rock cropping out, as it sometimes does, at two remote extremities, and dipping out of sight or reach under the intermediate strata.

The science of comparative philology, which has been so much matured by recent inquirers, has latterly been engaged in the interesting and promising task of tracing the social condition of the Indo-Germanic nations at the commencement of their dispersion; and this it is attempting to do by collecting those names of arts and sciences, of substances and commodities, of personal and intellectual relations, which are found identical in all or most of the scattered forms of speech into which the great mother-tongue has been broken up, and which, it may therefore be inferred, had come into use before the successive swarms had left the parent hive. Remarks of a similar kind may, I think, be extended with advantage to our own country, and more particularly to our vernacular language, as compared with the sister Teutonic tongues. The names of places in Scotland, when examined with minuteness and care, seem to point at important information. Little as I know of Celtic, I cannot doubt that many of those names in the north-east of Scotland belong to a Celtic dialect materially different from what is now spoken in the Scottish Highlands; and in the same way I think valuable inferences might be drawn from some of our Teutonic names of places, which have now ceased to be intelligible even to ourselves, though still speaking a cognate language. In order, however, to conduct these inquiries with advantage, it is necessary, of course, to observe the greatest accuracy and discrimination; and here I would venture on two remarks:—*First*, That

the whole Teutonic languages are radically the same in their roots, formations, and inflections. *Second*, That while all are thus radically the same, the languages of the different tribes are distinguished by minor differences or disguises, which enable us to tell the one from the other—

Facies non omnibus una
Nec diversa tamen, qualem decet esse sororum.

These rules being kept in view, it is possible, I think, on the one hand to discover the prevailing character of any dialect, and at the same time to trace the existence in it of words which may have been imported from some other family of the race, and this circumstance may lead to inferences as to the sources from which the corresponding ideas, or the things that they represent, may have been derived. It might be too rash, from the diversity of the English word *tythe*, and the Scottish word *teind*, which are radically the same words, both meaning tenth, or *decima pars*, to infer that as the Scottish word has not been derived from an Anglo-Saxon source, but may be traced most probably to some of the low German dialects, the ecclesiastical tribute thus expressed has not come to us directly or purely from England, but has been derived or modified through some communication with countries on the other side of the German Ocean. But it would, I think, be interesting and useful to classify the peculiar Scottish expressions for different arts, usages, and articles of commerce, and to scrutinize each with the view of finding whether in any respect they differ from the general type of the language, and whether they bear special and distinctive marks of being derived from some of those continental countries which undoubtedly were very early the seats of prosperous commerce and advanced civilisation. The French origin of some names of arts or manufactures give obvious and unequivocal proof of their origin. It is well known, also, in a general way, that much of our phraseology was borrowed from the language of the Church, but the details of this process have never been well digested. Our laws and customs might thus, in like manner, be traced, in a great degree, to their native places of origin.

Nor could there well be a more interesting subject of discussion than the legal antiquities of Scotland, illustrated by all the lights which the last half century has furnished. To take an important example :—It is well known that a schism prevailed among lawyers as to the relative

precedence of the contracts of hire and sale, the most of them saying that sale went before hire, and a few that hire went before sale. It would, I believe, be curious to look into the state of this controversy in the fifteenth century, when we might find some special explanation of that invaluable measure in our Scottish Statute-book (the Act 1449) in favour of the "puir people that labouris the ground;" an Act that may be considered the Magna Charta of Scottish tenancy, and thereby one great source of Scottish intelligence and prosperity. In the fifteenth century, a security of tenure was thus given to agriculture which was wanting in most other countries, and which, I believe, was only created in France for the first time by the Code Napoleon. All this, I think, and a great deal more, seems to be legitimately embraced within the purposes of this Society; and we need not despair of seeing those purposes gradually accomplished in a manner at once honourable to the institution and auxiliary to the highest objects of history and social advancement.

The names of the Members of the Society deceased during the current year were reported from the Chair, as follows:—

| <i>Members deceased.</i> | <i>Admitted</i> |
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| ALEXANDER BLACK, Esq., Architect, | 1849 |
| JOHN YOUNG CAW, Esq., Manchester, | 1851 |
| HON. ROBERT HANDYSIDE, Lord HANDYSIDE, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, | 1856 |
| JAMES MAITLAND HOG, of Newliston, Esq., | 1841 |
| JAMES HUNT, of Pittencrieff, Esq., | 1855 |
| Rev. JOHN JAFFRAY, | 1849 |
| JAMES JARDINE, Esq., C.E., | 1818 |
| WILLIAM C. PATRICK, of Ladyland, Esq., | 1849 |
| WILLIAM SIMSON, Esq., Banker, | 1851 |
| JOHN SLIGO, of Carmyle, Esq., | 1828 |
| GABRIEL SUBENNE, Esq., | 1825 |

Mr ROBERT CHAMBERS proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Lord Neaves for his able and suggestive address; which was seconded by Mr Cosmo INNES, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr JOHN STUART (Secretary) made a statement in reference to the affairs of the Society. The Museum, he said, had been visited by 19,125

individuals during the course of the past year, being 2096 more than the number of visitors during the previous year. As the Members were aware, they had now the near prospect of getting possession of their new Museum-rooms in the Royal Institution. The arrangements were now pretty nearly concluded, and they might expect that, in their new premises, the Society would acquire a more national character—that they would both obtain accessions to their number and gifts to their Museum. It would be the business of the members to do what they could to promote its interests. He trusted that a new era would soon open in the history of the Society, that many new Members would come forward, and that some of those many objects of antiquity which abounded in most of our Scottish houses, and were merely isolated curiosities while there, would find their way to the national collection, where they would be classified and arranged, and where they would serve to illustrate the national history. He trusted, also, that Members would contribute papers on subjects of interest, so that the arrangements of the Society might be matured as soon as possible.

Mr ROBERT CHAMBERS suggested that a communication be made to the Photographic Society, with the view of inducing the amateur photographers and others, now so thickly scattered over the country, to send to their Museum copies of any photographs they might make of subjects of archæological interest.

The Members and visitors afterwards adjourned to the Museum, where tea and coffee were served.

MONDAY, 13th December 1858.

ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq., in the Chair.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business of the meeting, Mr Laing said, "The Society having since their last meeting been deprived of an old and most useful associate, by the death of Mr ROBERT FRAZER, he begged to propose—

“That the Meeting record in their Minutes a notice of the loss which the Society has sustained by the unexpected death of Mr ROBERT FRAZER, one of their older members (having been elected in the year 1828), as expressive of their grateful feelings for his Honorary services, displayed in the zealous and unremitting care of the Museum, as one of the Curators, for a period of twenty years.”

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The following gentlemen were then balloted for, and elected Fellows of the Society:—

CLAUD HAMILTON, Esq.

JOHN HILL BURTON, Esq., Advocate.

The donations included the following:—

The Calvarium and thigh-bones of a human skeleton, found a few days before in a cist at Lundinmill, near Largo. By Mrs DUNDAS DURHAM of Largo. The cist was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface of the Links, and was much nearer the beach than those previously discovered (see Proceedings, pp. 76), being, indeed, close to the sea-beach.

Cast of an Ivory Relievo, forming the binding of a Latin Evangelarium, formerly belonging to the Library of the Minster at Hamburg, and now preserved in the Public Library, Hamburg. It is described, with a fac-simile by Professor Petersen, in the “Review on Christian Art” (German), vol. i. 1858. By Professor PETERSEN.

Proposals for Cleaning and Lighting Edinburgh, MS. volume dated in 1735, with the original Signatures of a number of the principal Inhabitants, small 4to. By D. H. ROBERTSON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.—See Communication p. 171.

A Hand-bell found four feet below the surface of the ground, when trenching, at Rosemount, near Tain, Ross-shire. By — MURRAY, Esq. of Rosemount. The bell measures 5 inches in height) exclusive of its iron handle), by 6 inches in diameter, and bears the following inscription:—

G I F T E D · B E · D O N A L D · M A C K E I N Z I E ·
O F · M E D A T ·
T O · T H E · C H V R C H · O F · L O G I ·
E D R · 1 6 9 6 · I · M ·

The "Church of Logi" is that of Loggie-Easter in the shire of Ross; and the initials apply to John Meikle. (See the Communication at p. 195.)

Report of Excavations made upon the site of the Roman Castrum at Pevensey, in Sussex, in 1852, under the direction of M. A. Lower and C. R. Smith. London, 1858, small 4to. By CHARLES ROACH SMITH, Esq., the Author.

Hawick and its Old Memories, with an Appendix, compiled by James Wilson, Town-clerk of Hawick; 8vo, Edinburgh, 1858. Select Views in Edinburgh, by Patrick Gibson; 4to, 1818. By JAMES DOUGLAS, Esq., younger of Cavers, F.S.A. Scot.

The following Communications were then read:—