

MONDAY, 11th February 1907.

DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D., LL.D., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows:—

EGERTON BECK, M.A. (Cantab.), Barrister-at-law, 2 Pinfold Road, Streatham, London.
GEORGE JAMES LIND, Merchant, Oporto, Portugal.
ROBERT SCHAW MILLER, W.S., 14 Rosebery Crescent.
THOMAS CHARLES SMITH, 31 Hermitage Gardens.
JOHN THOMAS THORP, LL.D., 57 Regent Road, Leicester.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By CHARLES EDWARD WHITELAW, F.S.A. Scot.

Bead of vitreous paste, globular, with opposite sides flattened at the orifices of perforation, rather more than half an inch in diameter, the decoration a mottled mosaic on a ground of pale blue; from Scurdargue, Rhynie, Aberdeenshire.

(2) By D. HAY BARCLAY, St Andrews.

Collection of Implements of quartz, quartzite, chert, and other stones, including seven Arrow-heads, four broken Arrow-points, thirty pointed Tools, trimmed and knife-like flakes, eight Scrapers, two Borers, one minute Implement of "pigmy" type worked along both edges, and two small cores, from Buenos Ayres.

(3) By Rev. R. K. D. HORNE.

Large Padlock, with spring keyhole cover and key, from Corstorphine.

(4) By Rev. J. B. MACKENZIE, F.S.A. Scot., Kenmore.

Two Gun-Locks, marked INNES, and made for fulminate before the invention of the percussion cap. Mr Mackenzie supplies the following quotation with reference to the application of fulminate to the firearms of the early nineteenth century :—

“The credit of inventing copper caps has been claimed for Manton. But the discovery of a fulminate by which the percussion principle could be applied to firearms—a discovery which created a revolution in the whole craft of gunmaking—was made, not by a gunmaker, but by a minister of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. Alexander John Forsyth. He announced his discovery in 1803, and patented it in 1807. But it was not till 1818 that the percussion cap began to come into use among sportsmen ; and it was not till two-and-twenty years later that the War Office awoke to the fact that the flint lock had everywhere, except in the army, been superseded by the percussion.”

(5) By Sir ARCHIBALD H. DUNBAR, Bart., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Scottish Kings : a Revised Chronology of Scottish History, A.D. 1005–1625. With Notices of the Principal Events, Tables of Regnal Years, Pedigrees, Calendars, etc. 2nd edition. 8vo. 1906.

(6) By GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D., and ALEXANDER PARK, F.S.A. Scot., the Authors.

The Roman Forts on the Bar Hill, Dumbartonshire. 4to. 1906.

(7) By the Hon. Lord GUTHRIE, F.S.A. Scot.

Photographs of Five Documents connected with the Imprisonment, Trial, Sentence, and Release of George Buchanan by the Inquisition in Portugal. No. 8 of ten copies privately printed. 4to. 1906.

(8) By JAMES MACDONALD, W.S., F.S.A. Scot.

Les Murs Romains entre l'Écosse et l'Angleterre. Par Edouard Mariette. 8vo. Paris, 1906.

(9) By Dr A. R. URQUHART, the Editor.

Auld Perth, being the Book of the Faire in aid of the City and County Conservative Club. With a Revised Bibliography. 8vo. 1906.

(10) By Rev. JAMES KING, M.A., B.D., the Author.

The Edwardian Walls and Elizabethan Ramparts of Berwick. 8vo. 1906.

(11) By D. W. KEMP, Trinity.

Souvenir of the Quin-centenary of the Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland. 1905.

There were exhibited :—

(1) By Mrs TRAILL, 23 Duke Street, Edinburgh, through Alex. J. S. Brook, F.S.A. Scot., who has supplied the following descriptions :—

Silver Highland Brooch, of the usual form of a flat circular band, measuring on the outside diameter $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches and $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches on the inside. It is decorated on the front with inlaid niello work consisting of four circles, with anchor-shaped patterns between, all linked together with outside and inside circular niello lines. Two of the circles are filled with engraved interlaced work, one with an engraved eight-pointed star, and the fourth with an ornament resembling six heater-shaped shields, with their points toward the centre. The spaces between the circles and anchor-shaped ornaments are filled with engraved foliaceous decoration. The pin is of the type customary on such Highland brooches. The back of the brooch is plain, and has engraved on it "1766. D: S. L."

This brooch is of a pattern of which there are a number of specimens. Many of them, of different sizes, have been made, and have been the work of regular tradesmen, as appears from the hall-mark of Glasgow on them, while others seem to have emanated from travelling tinkers and workers in metal who plied their trade over the west of Scotland. This brooch, however, is not hall-marked, and the character of its workmanship leads to the belief that it is the work of the latter class.

The traditional story attached to it is that it was worn by the Chief of the Clan Glengarry, and was handed on from father to son. It was

lost in 1833, and found in a pawnshop in Oban in 1835 by Charles Hay Forbes, who had married Jemima, third daughter of Alastair Ranaldson Macdonell of Glengarry, who died in 1828.

Heart-shaped Silver Brooch, of the Luckenbooth type ; an elaborated heart-shape, surmounted by an antique crown. It measures 2 inches at its greatest length and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches at its greatest breadth. On the back are engraved the initials M. R.

This brooch is said to have belonged to Jemima Macdonell, mentioned in connection with the previous brooch.

Brass Brooch, in the form of the eighteenth century Highland brooch. It is almost circular in form, and measures from $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches outside diameter, and from $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches inside diameter. Both back and front are rudely engraved with an ornament of rather indeterminate character, consisting of foliageous interlaced ornament and other meaningless lines and dots, evidently the work of an unskilled workman.

This brooch was dug up in Tiree by the late William Skene, LL.D., prior to 1859.

(2) By WILLIAM RANKEN, Esq., Edinburgh, through ALEXANDER J. S. BROOK, F.S.A. Scot.

An antique Gold Verge Watch, in large 22-carat gold case.

The case of this watch is reminiscent of the name sometimes applied to these old watches, viz.—a turnip. It was made by Brounker Watts, who was apprenticed in 1684 to Joseph Knibbs, a famous London clock and watch maker. In the papers of the Clockmakers Company it is recorded that Brounker Watts was admitted as a freeman in 1693, and the date mark on the case shows this watch to have been made in 1730, so that he had evidently followed his trade for many years. The movement is rather deeper in the pillar than the ordinary type of that period, allowing plenty of room for the works, and markedly in contrast to the watches of Swiss construction of about a century later, which could not be made thin enough to meet the popular taste. There is

much ornamental work on the movement, the balance cover being elaborately pierced and engraved. The pillars of the movement are of a unique pattern, having silver masks introduced, surmounted by a moulding. The steel bolt and spring combined, for opening and shutting the movement, is also very tastefully finished; the rest of the movement does not call for any special mention.

This watch belonged to James Kettle, writer in Edinburgh, brother of the present owner's great-great-grandparent, who died in 1793.

An antique Silver Pair-cased Watch, by James Duncan, London.

It has not been possible to trace the maker of this watch, and the date of its manufacture can only be ascertained from the hall-mark on the case, which shows that it was stamped in London in 1775. The movement, although smaller, is almost a counterpart of the last, except that the ornamentation is not so rich nor so artistic. The pillars also are plainer, being square-shaped though rather pleasing in design. The dial and hands are evidently the originals, being of the type most used then. The latter, moreover, are very tasteful in design. The old watch and clock makers did not hesitate to take considerable time and care to produce artistic work even in such small details as the hands and pillars.

The most interesting feature about this watch is that in the back of the outer case are inserted what may be described as three sampler watch-labels bearing inscriptions (fig. 1).

The first is a piece of very fine canvas or netting sewn on coloured silk now much faded. The border, which is scalloped, encloses a star, both of which are lines sewn with brown silk and probably attached to the background with gum also. In the centre in four lines is the sentiment, "Think on me with affection," the letters being painted on the squares of the netting in white water-colour.

The second is similar in the method of its manufacture to the first, but the pink silk background has retained its colour better, and has a wavy pattern woven in on the back where there is a square line panel with twisted silk thread showing on the front at the corners only. There is a square border with cut corners, on the front within which are

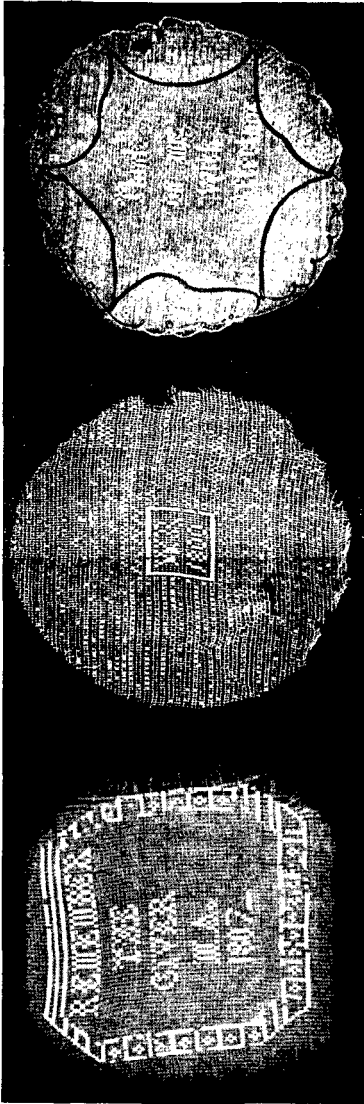


Fig. 1. Three Sampler Watch Labels.

the words in five lines, "Remember the giver M. A. 1807," the letters being painted on the squares of the netting in white water-colour like the last label.

The third has probably been made like the other two, but it appears to have lost its silk background, which renders the lettering, "W. R. 1800," produced in the same manner as the other two, rather indistinct.

It may be inferred from the inscriptions on these labels that the watches were the gifts of ladies; and whereas now such inscriptions would be engraved on the metal cases, then (one hundred years ago) they took the much daintier form of labels got up to resemble embroidery.

Embroidered silk sampler labels of similar appearance to the above, with the name of M'Cabe of London, have frequently been found in that great watchmaker's old pair-cased watches dating about the commencement of the nineteenth century.

Besides these sampler labels there are four others of the same period and of the ordinary

type, viz., those of John Durward, 6 Leith Street, New Edinburgh (1816); Jas. Ritchie, 3 Leith Street, Edinburgh, undated and one dated (1813 and 1837); and Hinners, 53 South Bridge, Edinburgh (undated).

This watch belonged to Wm. Ranken, flint glass manufacturer, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, 1777-1811.

A gold French Verge Repeating Watch. There is neither maker's name nor date-mark on this watch, but its construction belongs to the latter part of the eighteenth or the beginning of the nineteenth century, and is of a type at one time very popular in France. It is much more artistic in its appearance than the other two watches, and although larger in diameter is not nearly so clumsy. The dial has a white enamelled centre for the hours, and is surrounded by a dark blue enamelled background. On this there are the figures in relief in gold of a draped female and a cupid, and also, at the bottom of the dial, a sporting dog about to spring on a wounded duck. On the repeating mechanism being set in motion the figures of the draped female and the cupid, each with raised arm, strike in dumb form the two bells, after the fashion of the figures Gog and Magog in St Dunstan's Clock, Fleet Street, London. While the movement is partly the same in construction as the other two, it is neither so heavy nor so solid in its different parts, and of course it has the additional complication of the repeating work; but it is still in perfect preservation and absolutely unaltered.

On the top of the pendant being pushed in and released, the watch strikes the last hour and also a double stroke for each quarter past, the two figures keeping time with the strokes.

This watch is in almost perfect preservation, and shows no trace of any alteration whatever.

In the back of the case is the watchmaker's label of James Melrose, 34 Nicholson Street, Edinburgh, and written on the back of this is "July 9th 1827, Captain Smith."

This watch descended to the present owner through his grandfather, Captain John Smith, Leith, 1791-1856.

Pair of Pistols with powder-flask, bullet mould, and key in mahogany case. Pistols of this class are usually, on account of their small size, called ladies' pistols, and specimens of them dating about the commencement of the nineteenth century may still be found. The length of each pistol from butt to muzzle is $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches. The barrel, which can be screwed off from the breech-end, is made of blued steel and measures $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length. It carries a bullet of a bore of 100. The butt is made of walnut, and is chequered to give a firm grip. It is finished with an engraved ornamental silver mount and has a plain lozenge-shaped silver shield evidently intended for a crest or initial. The breech-end is made of engraved iron and has a flint-lock with flash-pan of the usual type, and a folding trigger and safety bolt which bolts both flash-pan and hammer. The government mark proving the efficiency of the pistols is stamped underneath on action and barrel. Upon the breech-end is engraved the name of the maker, M'Farlane. It appears from the Edinburgh directories that in 1823 there was a John M'Farlane, gunmaker, 9 Parliament Square; in 1825 the same name appears at 4 South St Andrew Street, and in 1829 at 17 Greenside Street. In the case are the original powder-flask and key for unscrewing the barrel, and also a bullet mould which is evidently a later substitute for the original one. The pistols are magnificent pieces of workmanship, and are in perfect condition; in fact, they show no traces of ever having been used.

The following communications were read:—