

The Sutherland Field Club.

Secretary's Report for the year 1880.

On the 5th. of December last year, "The Sutherland Field Club" was originated. On that occasion fifteen members were enrolled, ^{as ordinary members.} Throughout the year there have been admitted, thirteen gentlemen as Ordinary Members - three as Honorary Members. - and four as Junior Members. Of the Ordinary Members, one has removed from the country and by "Rule 3" is disqualified. One of the Junior Members has also left the country; but as, in the meantime, he has only done so temporarily, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not he be still retained in his Class.

In addition to these numbers, four ladies were proposed and admitted; but, as they do not seem to have taken any interest in the Club, nor attended any of its meetings, it may be as well to leave them out. Should this be done, ~~the~~ the list of members at the end of the first year, will consist of 27 Ordinary, - 3 Honorary, - 4 Junior members: in all 34.

Throughout the year just ended, papers on various subjects were read by several of the Members as follows: -

Member	Subject
1. Mr. Baxter	Inherent Predisposition of plants to perpetuate their own species (illustrated by section of an Elm tree)
2. Mr. Ingham	Notes on a Manuscript Book of Receipts formerly in the possession of Jean Wemyss, wife of George 1 st Earl of Sutherland

Member	Subject
3. Dr. Winchester	"Physiology of Botany"
4. Mr. Melville	"Weather Report" of 1879: also "Report of weather" from January to October inclusive.
5. Mr. Inglis	"Wild Animals of Sutherland" (Red Deer)
6. Dr. Joass	"Account of Cist containing female skeleton, with urn, &c. found at Dunrobin."
7. Dr. Joass	Notes of Excursion to Little Ferry on 24 th April.
8. Mr. Stevenson	"Remarks on Flint Implements found at Little Ferry." (illustrated with specimens)
9. Dr. Joass	"Etymology of Kintredwell."
10. Dr. Winchester	"Botanical Specimens" found on occasion of the Excursion to Leth.
11. Mr. Baxter	Notes on Specimens of Ferns.
12. Mr. Ingham	"Notes of the Proceedings in Regality Court of Sutherland in the last trial for murder in that court."
13. Mr. Robertson.	"Notes on the 'Breuch's Bible' (original Copy exhibited)
14. Mr. Ingham	"Notes on Collection of wild plants" (dried) found in garden attached to Birkdale House.

In addition to the papers read, specimens of various articles were exhibited & interesting remarks made thereon, such as, "Back of an old panelled chair (carved)" exhibited by Mr. Fowler, "Sea-Fowl" (Com. Guillemot, Com. Razor Bill, & Long Tailed Duck): "Pick Jackdaw," "Lead-Ore" found from the quarry at Stollfield near Lossiemouth. all by Mr. Lawson.

"Fossil-shells" found by Dr. Winchester & Mr. Stevenson at Shallockburn.
 "Fossil Ammonite" (fragment) found by Mr. Melville.
 "Rock Crystal" found by Mr. Baxter.
 "Fossil Tree" (fragment) found by Messrs Jno. Stevenson, on the beach at Golspie.
 "Flint Javelin" found by Mr. Baxter in Denrobin Nursery.
 "Fragments of an Ancient Urn" by same gentlemen - - - -
 "Fossils" to Do. from bed of Esk in Midlothian
 "Cannon Ball" Do. - - - in his garden in 1879
 "Money Change's Weight" by Dr. Joass.
 "Model of Bronze dagger" - Do. original found by girl digging for peat at 6½ ft. deep
 "Circulation of the Blood" was also illustrated by Dr. Winchester by means of a diagram and also in the foot of a live frog and young salmon. Mr. Baxter exhibited a drawing & section of what is supposed to have been a human dwelling or sepulchre which was disclosed in 1879 in one of the Nurseries. Part of an evening was also passed in viewing a number of "Microscopical Objects"

Our Excursions were also made in the course of the year. The 1st. to the Little Ferry to search for Flint Implements
 2nd. to the heights bordering Loch Brora on the South side. On this occasion a visit was paid to a "hill-fort" & to the Carril Pictish Tower, where the President explained & illustrated by a model the construction of these ancient buildings.
 The 3rd to the District of Loth and along the shore from Loth Station to Brora and the last to Kildonan to search for gold; but, fortunately perhaps, the finds were small in the extreme

under the auspices of the Field Club,

I must not conclude my Report without mentioning, that, a lecture on "Coal" was delivered by our worthy President.

Altogether I think the Members of the Club have reason to congratulate themselves on the growth & prosperity of the Club. Personally speaking ~~that~~ the meetings have been a source of great pleasure and instruction; and I have no doubt that many of you in fact all of you will endorse my ~~previous~~ statement.

Before retiring from office, I would make a suggestion to this effect, that, for the sake of those members prevented by distance from attending the monthly meetings, a short report of ~~the~~ the transactions of each meeting be inserted in the local or district papers. By this means they would doubtless take a greater interest in the welfare of the Club and perhaps be induced to contribute papers of ^{unproportionally} interest.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I thank you very heartily for your kindness & courtesy shown towards me as your Secretary for the year now closed.

Edoia. 7th. December 1880.