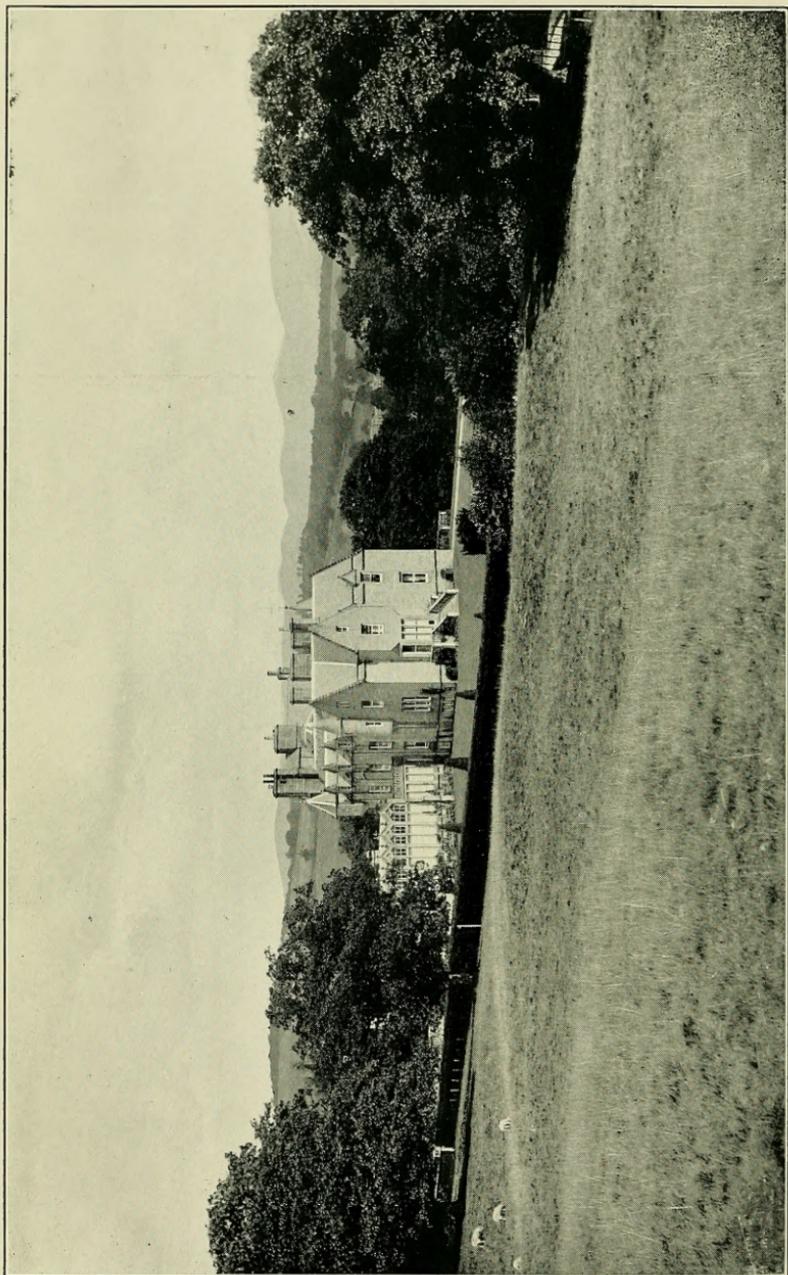


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DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY
NATURAL HISTORY & ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY.

FOUNDED 20th NOVEMBER, 1862.

TRANSACTIONS
AND
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
1921-22.

THIRD SERIES, VOLUME IX.

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

Members working on local Natural History and Archæological subjects should communicate with the Honorary Secretary. Papers may be submitted at any time. Preference is always given to original work on local subjects.

Enquiries regarding purchase of *Transactions* and payment of subscriptions should be made to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr M. H. M'Kerrow, 43 Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.

Exchanges, Presentations, and Exhibits should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Ewart Public Library, Dumfries.

G. W. S.

ERRATA.

The references occurring between pp. 41-104 to Recovery of Ringed Birds should be to pp. 28-32 (not 23-27).

PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
Dumfriesshire and Galloway
Natural History & Antiquarian Society.

SESSION 1921-22.

14th October, 1921.

Annual Meeting.

Chairman—Mr G. MACLEOD STEWART, V.-P.

The Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the past session were submitted, the former having to record the deaths of the following members of the Society: Mr T. G. Armstrong, Mr T. L. Kennan; Mr J. C. R. Macdonald, W.S.; Provost William Nicholson, Mr John Symons, and Mr John Copland. In the former year 218 members had paid a subscription of 5s, whereas in the year being closed 229 subscriptions at 10s had been received, so that the raising of the subscription had not apparently acted adversely on the Society.

The Treasurer's Report showed a substantial balance on hand, due partially to the account for printing the *Transactions* not yet being due.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, moved the election of office-bearers and members of Council (see p. 3).

The President then took the chair, and read as his Presidential Address, extracts from his supplement to "The Birds of Dumfriesshire" covering the ten years which had elapsed since its publication.*

* As a large amount of matter has accumulated since the reading of this paper, I have completed the collection to 1st December, 1922.—H. S. G.

Notes on the Birds of Dumfriesshire.

By Mr HUGH S. GLADSTONE, F.R.S.E., F.Z.S.

INTRODUCTION.

My book on *The Birds of Dumfriesshire* was published in June, 1910, and in the following year the *Addenda and Corrigenda* thereto was issued. As more than ten years have now elapsed since this latter appeared and as, during that period, I have received a good deal of additional information on the subject, the time seems opportune for bringing the original work up to date. With this object in view, it has been thought expedient to include in this brochure the additions and corrections which were given in the *Addenda and Corrigenda* and thus, in spite of repetition, to make the present publication an inclusive supplement to my original book.

The outstanding event of the period under review is the European War of 1914 to 1918, which convulsed the whole world, and which did not facilitate so peaceful a pursuit as the study of Birds. During the greater part of that period I was away from home and I am conscious that my ornithological correspondence was therefore not as comprehensive as it was previously. I tried, however, to keep in touch with local ornithology and some of my notes have already appeared in the *Scottish Naturalist* and elsewhere.

The war itself cannot permanently have affected our local Birds: probably Hawks, Crows and other so-called "Vermin" increased in the absence of shooting tenants and gamekeepers, and it has been suggested to me that this is why the Barn Owl has recently become more common locally. The enforced breaking up of land for growing corn may have done something to increase our stock of granivorous Birds. Heather burning which, under an order issued in 1917 by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, was made legal thereafter annually between 1st October and 30th April, undoubtedly destroyed a great many nests and eggs, not only of Grouse, but also of other birds of less

economic value. Our shore-shooters on the Solway state that Wild-fowl were never more plentiful and attribute this to the constant practice of big guns elsewhere on the coast: such changes, nevertheless, can only be regarded as temporary. A war-time innovation—"Summer-time"—first appointed in 1916, bids fair, however, to become an annual institution and ornithologists who study the hourly behaviour of birds will have to bear this in mind. Nor can I refrain from mentioning the practice, which has certainly become more general in recent years, of turning down poultry almost broadcast. It is to be feared that the intermingling of these domestic fowls with wild birds, and especially with game birds which are of the same family *Gallinæ*, will render the latter liable to contract those diseases which are known to infect poultry. Apart from the loss of natural food, which must be occasioned to wild birds by the introduction of hordes of chickens, I apprehend that the spread of Fowl-diseases amongst other birds is a contingency which is highly probable and the effects of which time alone will show.

When dealing with the various species of birds individually I shall remark, whenever occasion arises, on any change in their local status and I cannot agree with one of my correspondents who complains of the general decrease in the numbers of all our smaller birds which, he alleges, is due to teachers encouraging the formation of school collections of eggs. I most certainly deprecate this method of inculcating the love of Natural History upon the youth of the county, and I have reason to believe that our little colony of Great-crested Grebes at Lochmaben has already suffered in the process. It is difficult to account for the ups and downs of our avian population; for that the numbers of different species vary from time to time I think there can be no doubt. The Starling, which is believed to have been quite common locally at the end of the eighteenth century, was more than a rarity in 1840 and not till 1865 did the species resuscitate and gradually attain the numerical strength in which it was found throughout the county in the early years of the twentieth century. The ravages of Grouse-disease

may be described as almost periodic. The numbers of our annual immigrants are often alleged to be influenced by climatic conditions. It has been suggested that the occasional irruptions of Sand Grouse and Crossbills are due to overcrowding at the normal haunts of those birds. The scarcity of such species as the Swallow or the Land-Rail, or of our Barn Owls or Ring Ouzels locally, may at times be patent and is attributed to one reason or another but to none satisfactorily. Whatever the cause, I feel sure that if it were possible to take an annual census of Birds visiting, or resident in, any given area it would eventually be found that the numbers vary far more than is generally supposed; not decade by decade or year by year, but from time to time. There are so many factors which influence bird-life that variation in numbers is inevitable and one malignant circumstance may be ruinous. It has always seemed strange to me that in spite of all the investigations into the life-history of Birds so little should have as yet been done as regards the diseases of Wild Birds. I should not be surprised, when this subject comes to be studied scientifically, to learn that disease is the prime factor which controls the ups and downs of our Bird population to which I have referred.

Had I drawn on my note-books so as to include ornithological records from the whole Solway area I could have made this paper considerably longer and more widely interesting: I have, however, confined myself strictly to the County of Dumfries. Many of the observations now made should be compared with statements I have already published and the whole paper should be considered in conjunction with my *Birds of Dumfriesshire* published in 1910. I have adhered to the ornithological arrangement therein adopted and have avoided the vexed question of scientific nomenclature. I should perhaps add that, although I hope I have succeeded in gathering together all the items of interest as regards our local birds up to date, I have not attempted to modernise such information as I gave in 1910 concerning the distribution extraneous to Dumfriesshire of our visitors and visitants.

The page references throughout are to my original book

going through which *seriatim* there are the following remarks to be made on the following sections :—

THE ORNITHOLOGISTS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.

WILLIAM MACGILLIVRAY'S name should be spelt with a capital G : a rule not generally observed. (p. xxv.)

The epitaph on DR. GEORGE ARCHIBALD'S tombstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries, runs *Clarus in arte fuit medica*, and so on. In my book the word *medica* appears *em dica*, which is nonsense. (p. xxvii.)

DR. JOHN STEVENSON BUSHNAN was not a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He wrote Vol. XXVII. (not Vol. II.), published in 1840, of the first edition of Jardine's Naturalist's Library. I have quoted, p. 72, his description, of the very curious capture of an Eagle on Moffat Water, which appeared originally in his *Introduction to the Study of Nature* : 1834 : p. 237. (p. xxviii.)

It was in 1830 that WILLIAM THOMAS CARRUTHERS of Dumfries sent Sir William Jardine a small collection of birds from Madeira. (p. xxix.)

Mention perhaps should be made here of :—

DUNCAN, REV. HENRY, D.D., b. 1774, famous as the founder of Savings Banks. He was born at Lochrutton, Kirkcudbrightshire, and in 1798 became minister of Ruthwell where he spent the rest of his life. He contributed nothing to our knowledge of local Birds but as his book *Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons* (4 Vols.), 1836-7, is included by Messrs Mullens & Kirke Swann in their *Bibliography of British Ornithology*, his name is here mentioned : he died 19th February, 1846.

In 1910 I failed to recognise the Rev. James Grahame as a Dumfriesshire poet (p. xlix.), but subsequent enquiries have convinced me that he is qualified to rank as such and his

ornithological knowledge entitles his name to be included here :—

GRAHAME, REV. JAMES, b. in Glasgow 22nd April, 1765.¹ After a distinguished school and college career in Glasgow he was apprenticed to a Writer of the Signet in Edinburgh and in 1791 was admitted as a W.S. In 1795 he, however, became an advocate and in 1802 married the eldest daughter of Richard Grahame of The Moat, Annan, who was town-clerk of that burgh. His success as an Advocate being limited he resolved to become a clergyman and in 1809 went to London. He was appointed to a curacy in Gloucestershire and later to St. Margaret's, Durham, whence he was transferred to Sedgfield in the same county. His health, however, declining he went to Edinburgh and later to Glasgow where he died 14th September, 1811. Besides other poetry he published *The Birds of Scotland* (1806) and *British Georgics* (1808) which exemplify not only ingenuity and ease but also ornithological knowledge. The latter work was written at The Moat, Annan, and it is perhaps remarkable that his *Birds of Scotland* had the uncommon distinction of a German edition published at Korneuburg in 1909.

WILLIAM HASTINGS, the taxidermist, is described as being “ in a good way of business from 1860-1885.” He, however, in a paper read to the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society on 6th January, 1863, states that he had then been a preserver of birds for thirty years. (p. xxxi.)

¹ Mr Frank Miller, author of the *Poets of Dumfriesshire*, informs me that the following note was sent to him by the late Mr Thomas Grahame, grandson of the Rev. James Grahame:—“ There is a difference of opinion as to whether his ancestors came from Perthshire (and were Highland Grahames) or Dumfriesshire, but two antiquarian members of the family hold the latter opinion and maintain that his grandfather (who married a Miss Margaret Buchanan of Ballat Easter, a Highland lady) was a cadet of the family of Blatwood, and, coming from Hoddam at the beginning of the eighteenth century, settled in Glasgow.

Here there may be added another taxidermist :—

WILLIAM HOPE, a native of Jedburgh, b. 16th June, 1845 : started life as a groom in the service of the Duke of Buccleuch at Drumlanrig, and after about seventeen years' service he set up business as a taxidermist at 44 George Street, Edinburgh. The American Bittern which was shot near Drumlanrig Castle on 25th March, 1873, passed through Hope's hands and was sold by him to Mr J. H. Gurney of Keswick Hall, Norwich. (p. 238.) He mounted Mr C. J. Hoggan's 42 lb. salmon, which was caught at Waterside (Keir) in 1885, and at that period described himself as "stuffer to the Edinburgh Museum." He was awarded international gold and silver medals for his work in 1882, 1884 and 1890. He died in November, 1908.

As an ornithologist of Dumfriesshire by birthright, although he contributed nothing towards our knowledge of the birds of the county and was not a member of our local Natural History Society, we must mention :—

IRVING, DR. GEORGE, b. 1856, son of Mr Thomas Irving, farmer of Paddockhole (Hutton and Corrie). He was educated at Lockerbie and Dumfries Academy whence he went to Edinburgh University where he graduated M.A. On completing his medical course he set up practice in Lockerbie in 1884 and a year later was appointed medical officer for Dryfesdale. He took a great interest in local affairs and for a time was a member of the local School Board : he was also an ardent Freemason and an active member of the Lockerbie Bowling Club. He was a keen oologist and amassed a large collection of eggs which was given by his widow, after his death on 24th April, 1921, to the burgh of Lockerbie. It is to be regretted that many of these eggs, some of which it is almost certain were of local origin, are mostly without data.

SIR WILLIAM JARDINE'S collection of birds (8673 skins, besides a few miscellaneous lots) was sold at auction by Messrs Puttock & Simpson on Thursday, 17th June, 1886, and realised £217 2s 6d. His collection of British Birds, which

he had sold previously to the Edinburgh Museum, comprised four hundred and thirty-two specimens. (p. xxxiii.)

REV. WILLIAM LITTLE was a native of Jedburgh. He assisted J. F. Stephens, the author of *Illustrations of Entomology* (1828-32), and in 1838 published "Localities of Scottish Coleoptera" in *The Magazine of Zoology and Botany*. His collection, "perhaps the finest local entomological collection ever made," was sold in London, after his death, for £500. (p. xxxiv.)

There must here be added :—

MARTIN, DR JAMES WILLIAMSON, b. 3rd September 1863, third son of William Martin of Dardarroch (Glencairn). Educated at Edinburgh and after graduating as M.B. went to West Africa, where, after two years' residence, the climate seriously affected his health. He then travelled extensively and visited Canada more than once before returning home where he took up a practice at Leith. He was there but a short time and about 1897 he came to Holywood where he remained for the greater part of his life. He was a keen supporter of our local Natural History and Antiquarian Society, of which he was an Hon. Vice-President for many years. For a time he served on both the local School Board and the Parish Council and during the Great War he was, for a time, attached to the R.A.M.C. at Rhyl. He died 17th December, 1919. His "List of the Birds of Glencairn" published in the *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 13th December, 1901, p. 140-156, entitles him to being mentioned here.

There may also be added :—

MAXWELL, WILLIAM JAMES, b. 29th December, 1849, a member of a very old Roman Catholic family in the Stewartry; educated at Dumfries Academy, went to Liverpool to learn business but in 1875 succeeded his brother Mr Robert Maxwell of Breoch (who had succeeded his father Mr Thomas Maxwell) as factor on the Estates of Terregles and Caerlaverock and held this position for some forty-five years,

being also factor, for shorter periods, on Auchenskeoch Estate, Kirkcudbright, and Carradale in Kintyre. He rendered much public service in local affairs and was always an ardent student of natural history. He was elected a member of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society in 1879 and his knowledge of ornithology is evidenced by his papers, published in our *Transactions*, on "The Destruction of Beasts and Birds of Prey" (7th March, 1884) and "Natural History Notes" 14th January, 1892). He died on 7th October, 1919.

SIR JAMES STUART MENTEITH was born 19th August, 1792. His father died 3rd December, 1847, aged seventy-nine. (p. xxxvi.)

SIR JOHN RICHARDSON, the intrepid Arctic explorer, is buried at Grasmere, Westmoreland. His father, Gabriel Richardson, who was an intimate friend of the poet Burns, died 26th January, 1820. (p. xxxvii.)

We have to add here the name of the late Robert Service, than whom no one has done more to elucidate the Fauna of the Solway Area :—

SERVICE, ROBERT, b. 23rd May, 1854, at Netherplace, near Mauchline, Ayrshire, came to Maxwelltown at an early age. Educated at the old Free Kirk School, he in due course entered his father's business as a nurseryman. A keen field-observer, all his spare time was spent in the study of the fauna and flora of the Solway Area. In 1876 he was the principal of those who reorganised the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, and was elected Secretary. In 1882 he was offered the appointment of naturalist to an expedition undertaking the exploration of Eastern Africa, which, however, he declined for private reasons. In 1892 and 1895 he gave valuable evidence to the Royal Commissions appointed respectively to investigate the vole plague in Scotland, and the salmon fisheries of the Solway. On the death of his father in 1901 the conduct of his business devolved almost entirely on him-

self, but in 1903 he was induced to act as honorary secretary and curator of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Museum. His work became more than one man could overcome, and in 1910 he was stricken with paralysis; his recovery was but partial, and he died on 8th May, 1911. His knowledge of the local fauna and flora was unsurpassed, and though his observations never took a more concrete form, upwards of two hundred valuable papers by him on these subjects are to be found in the scientific magazines of his day. Personally, I may say that without his generous assistance my book on *The Birds of Dumfriesshire* could never have been written.

There must be included here a short notice of:—

STRICKLAND, MRS CATHERINE DORCAS MAULE, second daughter of Sir William Jardine, 7th Bart. of Applegarth (*q.v.*, p. xxxii.), b. 22nd June, 1825; m. 23rd July, 1845, Hugh Edwin Strickland, the celebrated naturalist. Upwards of forty of the one hundred and one illustrations in her father's *Contributions to Ornithology*, 1848-1852, were drawn by her; as well as several illustrations in her husband's book, *The Dodo and its Kindred*, 1848. While pursuing geological studies, Hugh Strickland was knocked down and killed by an express train on 14th September, 1853. After her husband's death she and Sir William Jardine edited his *Ornithological Synonyms*, Vol. I. *Accipitres*, 1855.² She eventually gave her husband's natural history collection to Cambridge University in 1867. She *d.s.p.* 6th August, 1888.

LIST OF CORRESPONDENTS.

In 1910 I gave a list of correspondents (pp. xliii.-xlvi.) who had helped me in the compilation of my book; of these many are now dead, but to those of my original correspondents who have assisted me in this present publication I renew

² I possess pp. 1-32 of what was presumably intended for Vol. II. of this work; these papers deal with the *Caprimulgidae*, and break off at No. 94, *Chordeiles Sapiti*.

my thanks and I must now, in addition, acknowledge the assistance which has been given me by :—

- Aitken, J. M., M.B.E., Lockerbie.
Akers-Douglas, The Hon. A., Dumfries.
Armistead, W. H., Dalbeattie.
Arnott, James, Kirtlebridge.
Baxter, Miss, Fife.
Bedford, Her Grace the Duchess of.
Bell, John, Eastriggs.
Bell, W. A., Eskdalemuir.
Blackwood, G. G., Edinburgh.
Blair, Rev. C. Patrick, Wanlockhead.
Brook, E. W., Annan.
Calder, T. M., Auldgirth.
Campbell, Rev. J. Marjoribanks, Torthorwald.
Carmont, The late James, Dumfries.
Chill, Maj., Tynron.
Dickson, C. W., Auldgirth.
Dickson, Walter S., Moniaive.
Dixie, Sir Beaumont, Bart., Annan.
Duke, Rev. Ernest H., Middlebie.
Evans, The late W., F.R.S.E., Edinburgh.
Finlayson, Rev. W. L., Kirkpatrick-Juxta.
Fulton, Rev. W. W., Keir.
Galbraith, C. E., Kirkmichael.
Gaskell, Capt. W. R., Tynron.
Gass, N., Kirkpatrick-Fleming.
Gilchrist, Rev. A. S. G., M.C., Applegarth.
Gill, E. L., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Goldie-Scot, A., Moniaive.
Greaves, A. R., Tynron.
Grove, W. M., Holywood.
Hammond-Smith, Dr, London.
Henderson, John, Moffat.
Henderson, Thomas, Lockerbie.
Higgens, J., Dorset.
Hoggan, C. E., Keir.
Irving, H. C., C.B.E., Ecclefechan.
Irving, Mrs M. R., Perth.

Jackson, James, Thornhill.
 Jourdain, Rev. F. C. R., Abingdon, Berkshire.
 Kerss, John S., Ruthwell.
 Keswick, Mrs, Holywood.
 Lascelles, Lieut.-Colonel A. E., Auldgirth.
 Logan, C., Holywood.
 M'Connel, Cecil, Sanquhar.
 Macmeikan, W., Dumfries.
 Matthews, F. Berkley, Westerkirk
 Milligan, George Ernest, Thornhill.
 Moir, Rev. Alexander, Mouswald.
 Paterson, J. L., Ruthwell.
 Portal, Maurice, Hampshire.
 Ralston, Mrs, Thornhill.
 Rintoul, Miss L. J., Fife.
 Robson, George H., Dumfries.
 Russell, George, Dumfries.
 Sharpe-Gordon, H., Tinwald.
 Smith, W. Macgregor, Lochmaben.
 Stafford, Rev. J. O., Gretna.
 Stitt, J., Sanquhar.
 Tweedie, A., Annan.
 Tweedie, John, Moffat.
 Wilson, George B., Eskdalemuir.
 Wilson, James, Glencaple.
 Wood, R., Durisdeer.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

It would be tedious to enumerate the various magazines and books published since 1910 which have been read so as to keep my book up to date. The following are the more valuable publications from a local point of view :—

MR JOHN CORRIE, in 1910, published a topographical work entitled *Glencairn (Dumfriesshire): The Annals of an Inland Parish*, which contains, on pp. 180-185, a list of local birds.

The late WILLIAM EVANS'S many contributions to *The Annals of Scottish Natural History* and *The Scottish Naturalist* have been of much assistance and perhaps the

most useful of his papers, all of which I have gratefully perused, is "Our Present Knowledge of the Fauna of the Forth Area" published in *The Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh*, Vol. XII., pp. 1-64d.

T. GARNETT'S *Observations on a Tour Through the Highlands and Part of the Western Isles* (2 Vols.), 1800, contains in Vol. II., p. 262, a reference to "Eagles" [? Ospreys] at Loch Skene.

MR ROBERT GODFREY contributed a paper, "A Night in the Dumfriesshire Hills," in the *Naturalists' Chronicle* (Cambridge) 1897, pp. 81-4.

The late H. GOODCHILD in *The Avicultural Magazine* of December 1909, pp. 52-8, contributed a paper entitled "Wild Birds about Hoddom."

The Catalogue of Dr Grierson's Museum, Thornhill, 1894, is a publication which should be included here.

DR JAMES KING HEWISON was the editor of the volume of the *Cambridge County Geographies dealing with Dumfriesshire* (1912) in which, on pp. 44-46, there is a list of local birds.

The Catalogue of the Birds contained in the Collection of Sir W. Jardine, is dated with a query [? July, 1847]. This catalogue is of great rarity. I only know of one copy containing a title page and this was given me by Lady Hooker, Sir William's second wife. I have learnt that the catalogue was drawn up by Sir William and his secretary, Miss Kent, just before he died; in fact, the proof sheets were not passed till a month after his death and it was never rightly published; though two hundred and fifty copies were delivered at Jardine Hall: these, I believe, were subsequently all destroyed. The date [? July, 1847] is therefore clearly wrong, and should read 1874. (p. lv.)

SIR WILLIAM JARDINE'S "MS. Calendar, January-May, 1829," has been printed, with comparative notes, in the *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.* (Third Series) Vol. VI., 1919, pp. 88-124. (p. lvi.)

The references to the various volumes of Jardine's *Naturalist's Library* refer to the first edition and to the ornithological section of that work. This observation should,

of course, be remembered throughout my book wherever such references occur. (p. lvi.)

I have been wrong in stating that Sir William Jardine's "Note of Rare Birds that have occurred in Dumfriesshire and Galloway" appeared in the *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, of 5th May, 1868. I should have referred to this as 1871, p. 39. (p. lvi.)

The correct title of the *Kirkcudbright Advertiser* is the *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*. (p. lvi.)

It is interesting to know that ALEXANDER GOODMAN MORE was (*circa* 1861) supplied with a list of birds breeding in Dumfriesshire by Sir William Jardine. (p. lviii.)

The following papers by the late ROBERT SERVICE should be added, as containing useful information regarding local birds:—

"Bird Notes," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 20th March, 1908.

"The British Skuas, with special reference to their local occurrence," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 6th November, 1908.

"Notes on the British Starling," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 28th January, 1910.

"Rare Birds of recent occurrence," *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 19th February, 1909.

Robert Service also contributed "Some Zoological Notes" in *Dumfries and Round About* by W. Dickie [N.D.], 3rd edition, pp. 167-170.

His paper "The Vertebrates of Solway—A Century's Changes," appeared in *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 16th November, 1900, pp. 15-31: not in 1890. It was also printed for private circulation [N.D. 1901], pp. 1-23. (p. lxi.)

His paper on "The Waders of Solway" appeared in the *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc., Glasg.*, 1905-06, Vol. VIII., pp. 46-60, and not in the *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. Soc.* (p. lxi.)

JAMES SHAW contributed a paper to *Science Gossip*: 1891, pp. 178-9, entitled "Avifauna of Upper Nithsdale."

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CLIMATE.

The Dumfriesshire portion of Loch Urr is not entirely in Glencairn Parish, part of it being in Dunscore. (p. lxvi.)

I have already referred to the war-time legislation which permitted heather-burning up till the end of April and which enforced the breaking up of land for growing corn. It must also be remembered that during that period an abnormal amount of timber was felled locally, and this latter change in the physical features of our county is likely to have a more far-reaching effect on our Avifauna than the first named.

The following comparative tables are of interest:—

In 1909.	Acres.		In 1922.	Acres.	
Arable Land		133,732			132,391
Permanent Grass ...	121,889			113,471	
Mountain and Heath Land used for Grazing	378,223			390,613	
		500,112			504,084
Woods (1905)		30,275	(1916).		16,425

The above figures do not take into account the acreage occupied by water, roads, houses, foreshore, tidal-water, etc., of the county and the discrepancy between the total acreage as shown by the two comparative tables is remarkable. The Forestry Commission informs me that the figures for 1916 are the latest available, that they were rendered voluntarily and that in a great many cases the information requested from proprietors and others was not given.

I regret that the meteorological observations taken in recent years at Cargen, Kirkcudbrightshire, have not been kept up in the same detail as formerly. I have therefore had recourse to the records kept at the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, as published by the Scottish Meteorological Society, and for which I am indebted to the Medical Superintendent of the Institution, Dr. C. C. Easterbrook. It may be noticed that Colonel R. F. Dudgeon has published a table³ showing "Fifty Years' Rainfall at Cargen, near Dumfries," which shows that the mean of fifty years was 44.18 in.; the wettest year 1872, with 63.50 in.; and the driest year 1880, with 30.77 in. Cargen lies about a mile and three-quarters south-west of Crichton Royal and the rain-gauges at the two stations stand respectively at 80 and 140 feet above sea-level. There can be no doubt that the fact of Cargen being on the lee side of Criffel and the hills adjoining it causes a heavier rainfall than at Crichton Royal, but otherwise there can be but little difference between the observations made at these two stations.

³ *Journal of Scottish Meteorological Society* (third series), Vol. XV., 1910; pp. 155-7.

Observations taken at the Climatological Station, Crichton Royal, Dumfries.

(Established 1909). One mile south of Dumfries. Lat. 55° 4' N. Long. 3° 36' W.

Height above Mean Sea Level of (1) Barometer Cistern, 160 feet; and of (2) Rain Gauge Site, 140 feet.

Year.	BAROMETER.			THERMOMETER.			RAIN.		DIRECTION OF WIND.*								Cargen Rainfall, Inches.	
	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Days.	Inches	Calm, No Wind.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.		N.W.
1910	29.661	30.55	28.25	47.3	80	12	190	43.8	69	39	100	16	68	29	215	48	146	56.21
1911	29.781	30.68	28.62	48.4	86	20	181	37.3	191	56	127	41	90	51	368	20	151	49.86
1912	29.707	30.46	28.83	47.4	80	11	221	40.1	...	39	195	21	181	31	359	89	183	54.37
1913	29.765	30.55	28.40	48.1	78	17	199	33.2	...	50	189	31	146	49	346	119	165	47.28
1914	29.728	30.57	28.30	48.6	82	21	192	31.3	1	62	95	58	106	81	321	187	184	46.71
1915	29.725	30.65	28.29	46.7	77	18	173	32.8	...	111	158	77	110	49	201	187	232	45.75
1916	29.663	30.35	28.54	47.6	78	23	228	37.5	13	111	119	73	42	54	273	216	197	51.45
1917	29.793	30.51	28.59	46.5	78	11	190	32.4	32	149	111	95	79	55	246	163	165	52.92
1918	29.749	30.44	28.84	47.5	80	5	204	39.3	43	63	117	101	87	125	274	149	136	51.75
1919	29.743	30.61	28.58	46.1	77	13	172	27.9	60	125	114	102	68	101	198	183	144	36.45
1920	29.761	30.52	28.60	47.7	77	20	211	38.9	72	66	82	136	98	117	283	160	84	52.12
1921	29.879	30.65	28.99	48.9	82	21	193	38.1	61	57	95	99	80	104	308	153	138	49.17

* These observations were taken twice daily in 1910; thereafter thrice daily and therefore total 1,095 in an ordinary, and 1,098 in a leap, year.

The severe winter of November, 1916, to February, 1917, comparable with that of 1894-5, must not be forgotten for, although its full severity was not experienced locally, it played sad havoc among the smaller insectivorous birds. In 1919 we had a snowstorm on 26th April and the drought that year, which extended in some parts of the county from May till August and which has been compared with the drought of 1823 "the year of the short corn," doubtless affected Bird-life. A natural phenomenon which may be mentioned here is the eclipse of the sun, which was at its height about 10 a.m. on 8th April, 1921, and which upset the Birds a good deal. At Capenoch I saw Chickens going to their sleeping quarters; flocks of Starlings flew to their accustomed roosts, as did several of the smaller birds; a cock Pheasant crew and went off to his roosting place; but a Chaffinch sang throughout the eclipse. Perhaps what struck one most was the extraordinary, almost deathly, chilliness and it is not surprising that the phenomenon should have had a disturbing effect upon Birds generally. A drought, which at one time promised to vie with those of 1826 and 1919, was experienced from May to mid July in 1921 but was not so severe locally as elsewhere in Great Britain. A general paucity in the number of our summer migrants was reported to me but, with the exception of Ring Ouzels, Swallows and Sand-Martins I cannot, from personal observations, confirm this though I think that all our summer visitants were later than usual in putting in their appearance. The snowstorm of 14th January 1922 was, in some parts of the county, the worst experienced for twenty-five years.

MIGRATION.

I have nothing fresh to add to the section dealing with migration, but the following recoveries of "ringed" Birds in Dumfriesshire may be of interest. This system of "ringing" promises to be most valuable as helping to solve the riddle of migration, but, when it is remembered that the present total of available statistics is considered as quite insufficient to form any conclusion, it is obvious that the records in any one county, such as ours, can in themselves only be regarded as interesting occurrences. I should be glad if this scheme could be helped by workers locally, for the more birds that are ringed the more are likely to be recovered. The fact that a ringed bird may be reported within a year, near the place of marking, is in itself interesting, though it is doubtless more exciting to hear of its re-capture a long distance off. If recovered some subsequent year near the same place it may be that the bird has migrated and has returned to its old haunt; surely an interesting record: if its recovery is delayed for some years it gives us some definite evidence as to another question—the longevity of wild birds—a problem which is, as yet, quite undecided.

Recoveries of Birds ringed in Dumfriesshire and subsequently re-captured: and of Birds ringed outside the county and re-captured therein:—

Recoveries of Birds ringed in Dumfriesshire and subsequently recaptured, and of Birds ringed outside the County and recaptured therein.

<i>Species.</i>	<i>Ringed at</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>Recovered at</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>From place of ringing about</i>	<i>After period of</i>
Mistle-Thrush	Thornhill (Morton)	19/5/13	Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	27/1/164	250 miles S.W.	2 years 8 months
Mistle-Thrush	Thornhill (Morton)	22/5/13	Briquetbort, Normandy	9/11/135	450 miles S.S.E.	5½ months
Song-Thrush	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	29/4/11	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	29/1/126	330 miles S.W.	9 months
Song-Thrush	Caperoch (Keir)	—/5/12	Borisokane, Co. Tipperary	1/11/127	220 miles S.W.	6 months
Song-Thrush	Thornhill (Morton)	27/4/13	Enniskeen, Co. Cork	22/1/148	315 miles S.W.	9 months
Blackbird	Capenoch (Keir)	22/7/10	Kilkeel, Co. Down	7/2/129	125 miles S.W.	1 year 6½ months
Blackbird	Capenoch (Keir)	8/7/10	Capenoch (Keir)	28/11/1210	Within 1 mile	2 years 4 months
Blackbird	Tynron	12/5/10	Crumlin, Co. Antrim	25/12/1211	110 miles W.S.W.	2 years 7 months
Blackbird	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	14/5/13	Moffat	7/5/1412	Within 5 miles	1 year
Whinchat	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	25/6/12	Gironde, France	15/9/1213	720 miles S.S.E.	2¾ months
Swallow	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	28/5/12	East Earshaig (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	—/6/1414	Within 3 miles	2 years
House Martin	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	26/6/13	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	17/8/1515	Within 1 mile	2 years 2 months
Yellow Bunting	Tynron	23/6/13	Thornhill (Morton)	15/7/1416	Within 5 miles	1 year 1 month

4 *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. X., p. 61.

5 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 224.

6 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VI., p. 99.

7 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VI., p. 212.

8 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 335.

9 *Op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 312.

10 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 10.

11 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XI., p. 158.

12 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 46.

13 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VI., p. 212.

14 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 111.

15 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 268.

16 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 111.

Recoveries of Birds ringed in Dumfriesshire—continued.

Species.	Ringed at	on	Recovered at	on	From place of ringing about	After period of
Starling	Gosforth, North-umberland	26/10/13	Canonbie	3/2/1417	50 miles W.	3 months
Starling	Mull of Galloway, Wigtownshire	26/2/14	Gretna	26/11/1518	80 miles E.N.E.	1 year 9 months
Cormorant	Castle Loch, Wigtownshire	14/6/19	Annan	24/9/1919	50 miles E.	3 months
Cormorant	Castle Loch, Wigtownshire	14/6/19	Eastriggs (Gretna)	27/6/2020	60 miles E.	1 year
Mallard	All those ringed in the County	—/—/—	Have been recovered therein	—/—/—21	— — —	mostly within 9 months
Stock Dove	Capenoch (Keir)	30/1/13	Capenoch (Keir)	22/8/1322	Within 1 mile	7¾ months
Lapwing	Capenoch (Keir)	18/5/12	Rathkeale, Co. Limerick	13/1/1323	290 miles S.W.	8 months
Lapwing	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	29/5/12	Prestatyn, Flintshire	27/1/1324	140 miles S.S.E.	8 months
Lapwing	Thornhill (Morton)	9/5/13	Chaffpool, Co. Sligo	9/2/1425	210 miles W.S.W.	9 months
Lapwing	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	12/6/13	Morbihan, France	25/1/1426	530 miles S.S.E.	7½ months
Lapwing	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	27/5/17	Summerhill, Co. Meath	20/1/1927	190 miles S.W.	1 year 7 months
Lapwing	East Cheshire	21/6/12	Newbie (Annan)	21/1/1828	150 miles N.N.W.	5 years 7 months
Lapwing	North Preston, Yorkshire	6/5/12	Annan	24/2/1329	150 miles N.W.	9½ months

17 *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. VII, p. 334.
 18 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 266.
 19 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XIII., p. 242.
 20 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XIV., p. 130.
 21 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XIII., p. 295.
 22 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 165.
 23 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 12.
 24 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 12.
 25 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 338.
 26 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 338.
 27 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XIII., p. 127.
 28 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XII., p. 156.
 29 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 12.

Recoveries of Birds ringed in Dumfriesshire—continued.

Species.	Ringed at	on	Recovered at	on	From place of ringing about	After period of
Lapwing	Rockcliffe, Cumberland	25/5/13	R. Sark (Gretna)	14/10/1330	Within 3 miles	4½ months
Woodcock	Langholm	Spring, 1911	Instow, N. Devon	End January, 1912 ³¹	300 miles S.S.W.	9 months
Woodcock	Langholm	Spring, 1911	Berehaven, Co. Cork	Early 1912 ³²	370 miles S.W.	8 months
Woodcock	Langholm	26/4/12	Tarras (Langholm)	23/1/1733	Within 3 miles	4 years 9 months
Woodcock	Langholm	26/4/12	Tarras (Langholm)	23/1/1734	Within 3 miles	4 years 9 months
Woodcock	Langholm	1/5/12	Tuam, Co. Galway	30/1/1435	260 miles S.W.	1 year 9 months
Woodcock	Langholm	1/5/12	Antrim	25/12/1536	120 miles W.S.W.	3 years 8 months
Woodcock	Drumlanrig (Durisdeer)	2/5/12	Drumlanrig (Durisdeer)	26/11/1337	Within 2 miles	1 year 7 months
Woodcock	Drumlanrig (Durisdeer)	2/5/12	Thurles, Co. Tipperary	1/2/1538	250 miles S.W.	2 years 9 months
Woodcock	Beuchan (Keir)	8/5/12	Capenoch (Keir)	1/5/1339	Within 2 miles	1 year
Woodcock	Lann (Tynron)	—/5/12	Drumlanrig (Durisdeer)	13/11/1340	Within 7 miles	1 year 7 months
Woodcock	Canonbie	2/5/13	Rowanburnfoot (Canonbie)	11/10/1341	Within 1 mile	5 months
Woodcock	Canonbie	3/5/13	Penton, Cumberland	12/1/1442	Within 2 miles	8 months
Woodcock	Canonbie	7/5/13	Canonbie	12/12/1343	Within 1 mile	7 months

30 *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. VII., p. 225.

31 *The Field*, 10th February, 1912, p. 273.

32 *Op. cit.*, 24th February, 1912, p. 377.

33 *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. XI., p. 186.

34 *Op. cit.*, Vol. XI., p. 186.

35 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 339.

36 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 270.

37 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 225.

38 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 45.

39 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 13.

40 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 225.

41 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 47.

42 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 339.

43 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 338.

Recoveries of Birds ringed in Dumfriesshire—continued.

Species.	Ringed at	on	Recovered at	on	From place of ringing about	After period of
Woodcock	Canonbie	7/5/12	Burnside (Gretna)	12/12/1344	Within 10 miles	1 year 7 months
Woodcock	Canonbie	8/5/13	Brampton, Cumberland	4/12/1345	12 miles S.E.	7 months
Woodcock	Canonbie	8/5/13	Blarney, Co. Cork	30/12/1346	320 miles S.W.	8 months
Woodcock	Auchenbainzie (Penpont)	19/5/13	Mayney, Elgin	12/9/1347	140 miles N.N.E.	4 months
Woodcock	Drumlanrig (Durisdeer)	3/6/13	Ross Barony (Kirk-michael)	17/11/1348	13 miles S.E.	5½ months
Woodcock	Canonbie	11/5/14	Kilnaboy, Co. Clare	2/11/1449	290 miles S.W.	5 months
Woodcock	Ewes	28/7/14	Roxburgh	—/10/1450	Within 10 miles	3 months
Woodcock	Ewes	28/7/14	Morpeth, Northumberland	13/11/1451	60 miles E.	3½ months
Woodcock	Carlisle	10/5/11	Langholm	9/12/1152	18 miles N.	7 months
Woodcock	Carlisle	14/5/11	Ecclefechan (Hoddon)	25/11/1153	17 miles N.W.	6½ months
Woodcock	Wigtownshire	7/5/13	Moffat	28/7/1454	60 miles E.N.E.	1 year 4 months
Redshank	Rockcliffe (Cumberland)	18/5/12	Dornock (Annan)	17/7/1255	Within 7 miles	2 months
Redshank	Capenoch (Keir)	Spring, 1913	Glencaple (Caerlaverock)	22/1/1456	18 miles S.E.	8 months
Curlew	Cleughhead (Durisdeer)	19/7/12	Moniaive (Glencairn)	1/5/1457	Within 7 miles	1 year 9½ months
Curlew	Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta)	25/6/16	Glenties, Co. Donegal	19/10/1658	185 miles W.S.W.	4 months

44 *British Birds Magazine*,

Vol. VIII., p. 47.

45 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 338.

46 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 339.

47 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 165.

48 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 225.

49 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 46.

50 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 46.

51 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 46.

52 *Op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 223.

53 *Op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 187.

54 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 112.

55 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 338.

56 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VI., p. 100.

57 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 46.

58 *Op. cit.*, Vol. X., p. 233.

Recoveries of Birds ringed in Dumfriesshire—continued.

Species.	Ringed at	on	Recovered at	on	From place of ringing about	After period of
Black-headed Gull	Dhu Loch (Penpont)	12/7/09	Carluke, Lanark	27/11/09 ⁵⁹	35 miles N.	4½ months
Black-headed Gull	Cleughhead (Durisdeer)	26/6/10	Paisley, Renfrew	1/8/10 ⁶⁰	45 miles N.N.W.	1 month
Black-headed Gull	Cleughhead (Durisdeer)	26/6/10	Darlington, Durham	7/2/11 ⁶¹	105 miles S.E.	7 months
Black-headed Gull	Cleughhead (Durisdeer)	29/6/10	Perth	1/8/10 ⁶²	85 miles N.N.E.	1 month
Black-headed Gull	Dhu Loch (Penpont)	28/6/11	Troqueer, bright Amisfield (Timwald)	17/7/11 ⁶³	16 miles S.S.E.	20 days
Black-headed Gull	Dhu Loch (Penpont)	28/6/11	Cockermouth, Cumberland	20/7/11 ⁶⁴	14 miles S.E.	23 days
Black-headed Gull	Dhu Loch (Penpont)	28/6/11	Dhu Loch (Penpont)	—/3/12 ⁶⁵	45 miles S.S.E.	8 months
Black-headed Gull	Cleughhead (Durisdeer)	2/7/12	Several recorded in Dumfriesshire	13/6/16 ⁶⁶	Within 3 miles	4 years
Black-headed Gull	Ravenglass, Cumberland			67	46 miles and more N.	within 1 to 7 months, and one after 11 months and another after 15 months
Black-headed Gull	Denton Fell, Cumberland		Several recorded in Dumfriesshire	68	40 miles N.W.	and 3 birds near Annan (27 miles), 13, 31, and 34 months respectively.

59 *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. III., p. 251.
 60 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IV., p. 114.
 61 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IV., p. 336.
 62 *Op. cit.*, Vol. IV., p. 336.
 63 *Op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 128.
 64 *Op. cit.*, Vol. V., p. 128.
 65 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VII., p. 14.
 66 *Op. cit.*, Vol. X., p. 223.
 67 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 211.
 68 *Op. cit.*, Vol. VIII., p. 215.

This table does not include reports of birds which have been recovered shortly after being "ringed" in the immediate vicinity: such records are of no value. I have already said that no conclusion must be drawn from the above returns but it is permissible to note that our emigrants show a tendency to move south or south-west. The greatest distance travelled by any Dumfriesshire bird, a Whinchat, is 720 miles, but this journey was probably not completed and is as nothing when compared with the distances known to have been overtaken by Swallows "ringed" in Great Britain and recovered in S. Africa.⁶⁹ It will be noticed that the records of the Swallow and the House Martin illustrate their proverbial fidelity in annually returning to their old homes: this pleasing trait, as is shown by the table, is not peculiar to these birds. It is certainly curious that all the Mallard "ringed as nestlings" in the county should have been recovered therein: and instances of unexpected, possibly erratic, direction of migration are afforded by the locally "ringed" Woodcocks which were re-captured at Elgin and at Morpeth, by the Woodcock from Wigtownshire which was recovered at Moffat, and by the Lapwings which were found locally but which originated from East Cheshire and from Yorkshire; while the movements of the Black-Headed Gulls are remarkable for their diversity of direction. The Lapwing from East Cheshire affords the instance of the longest period elapsing between the dates of "ringing" and of recovery: namely, five years and seven months: but perhaps the most remarkable record is that of two Woodcocks of the same brood, which were "ringed" on the same day near Langholm, and which were both shot on the same day, four years and nine months afterwards, within three miles of where they were originally "ringed."

"FLIGHT-NETS."

I have quoted (p. lxxv.) H. A. Macpherson's statement (from p. 466 of his *History of Fowling*) where he says Irving Murray was "a Crimean veteran." This, I have since

⁶⁹ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol., XVI., p. 82.

learned, is not the case though Murray may have been engaged in transporting troops to the Black Sea during the war; he had often been in Constantinople and knew the Eastern Mediterranean well. He died 16th July, 1905, aged eighty-two, and was buried in Ruthwell Churchyard.

During the Great War the use of "flight-nets" seems to have become more general, and this is doubtless due to the increase in the value of the catch being sufficient, during recent years, to repay the labour of setting the nets. The nets used locally are not more than fifty yards long, some ten feet in depth and set, about four feet from the ground, on poles. Those which I have seen in Caerlaverock parish have been placed on the "merse-land," where the wild-fowl resort at night and, though of course Geese are the booty most desired, all sorts of birds are liable to be caught. It is for this very reason that the use of these engines of promiscuous destruction is deprecated: valueless birds are often entangled and when it is on record that a hundred Gulls have been taken at a single "haul," it will be readily understood how fatal, on occasion, these nets are to Birds. The unfortunates which become enmeshed in their toils die lingering deaths and it cannot be claimed that there is the slightest element of "sport" in the use of these "flight-nets" which, in my opinion, should be prohibited by law.

PROTECTION.

The section devoted to this subject (pp. lxxxvii.-xci.) is rendered out of date by the Wild Birds Protection (County of Dumfries) Order, 1922, which is here appended:—

COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

THE WILD BIRDS PROTECTION ORDER, 1922.

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon me by the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880 to 1908, and upon application by the Joint Committee of the County and Burghs of Dumfries (to whom the administration of the said Acts has been delegated by the County Council of Dumfries in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889), I,

the undersigned, His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland, do hereby make the following Order :—

1. This Order shall apply within the County of Dumfries.

2. The " Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880," shall apply to the following Wild Birds as if they had been included in the Schedule to the said Act, viz. :—

Blackcap.	Garden Warbler.	Osprey.
Bullfinch.	Goosander.	Peregrine Falcon
Buzzard.	Hawfinch.	Quail
Crossbill.	Jay.	Raven.
Dipper.	Kestrel.	Redstart.
Duck, Tufted.	Merlin.	Siskin.
Flycatcher, Pied.		

3. The taking or killing of any of the following Wild Birds is hereby prohibited throughout the whole year, viz. :—

Bittern.	Grebe, Little.	Owl, Short-eared.
Buzzard.	Grebe, Slavonian.	Owl, Tawny.
Chough.	Kestrel.	Peregrine Falcon.
Dotterel.	Kingfisher.	Shrike.
Duck, Sheld.	Kite.	Siskin.
Eagle, Golden.	Lapwing.	Titmouse, Long-tailed.
Eagle, White-tailed or Sea.	Merlin.	Woodpecker, Great Spotted.
Goldfinch.	Osprey.	
Grebe, Great-crested.	Owl, Barn.	
	Owl, Long-eared.	

4. The taking or killing of the Woodcock is hereby prohibited between the first day of February and the first day of October in each year.

5. The taking or killing of any Wild Bird and the taking or destroying of the eggs of any Wild Bird are hereby prohibited on all Sundays throughout the whole year.

6. The taking or destroying of the eggs of the following Wild Birds is hereby prohibited, viz. :—

Bittern.	Gull, Common.	Pochar.
Blackcap.	Hawfinch.	Quail.
Bullfinch.	Jay.	Raven.
Buzzard.	Kestrel.	Redstart.
Chough.	Kingfisher.	Shoveller.
Crossbill.	Kite.	Shrike.
Dipper.	Lapwing.	Siskin.
Dotterel.	Mallard.	Skylark.
Duck, Eider.	Merlin.	Snipe.
Duck, Sheld.	Nightjar.	Teal.
Duck, Tufted.	Osprey.	Tern, Arctic.
Eagle, Golden.	Owl, Barn.	Tern, Common.
Eagle, White-tailed or Sea.	Owl, Long-eared.	Tern, Little.
Flycatcher, Pied.	Owl, Short-eared.	Tern, Sandwich.
Garden Warbler.	Owl, Tawny.	Titmouse, Long-tailed.
Goldfinch.	Oyster Catcher.	Wigeon.
Grebe, Great-crested.	Peregrine Falcon.	Woodcock.
Grebe, Little.	Plover, Golden.	Woodpecker, Great Spotted.
	Plover, Ringed.	

7. The whole of the County of Dumfries is hereby exempted from the operation of the Act of 1880 as to the under-mentioned Birds :—

Greater Black-backed Gull. Lesser Black-backed Gull.
Cormorant.

8. The Wild Birds Protection (County of Dumfries) Order, 1920, is hereby revoked.

9. This Order, which may be cited as "The Wild Birds Protection (County of Dumfries) Order, 1922," shall remain in force until further order.

Given under my hand and Seal of Office at Whitehall this 14th day of February, 1922.

(Signed) ROBERT MUNRO,

His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland.

In terms of the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880 to 1908, the Joint Committee of the County of Dumfries and Burghs hereby give Public Notice of above Order by the Secretary for Scotland.

JOHN ROBSON, Clerk of the Committee.

County Buildings,
Dumfries, 16th February, 1922.

It will be noticed that the local Order of 1908 (pp. lxxxvii.-lxxxix.) has been considerably amended by that now in force. Several birds have been added to the Schedule, others have been protected throughout the whole year and the taking of the eggs of a number of additional species has been made illegal; the taking of the Lapwing's eggs has been entirely prohibited and the bird itself is protected throughout the year; the Greater Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Cormorant can now be killed at any time of the year; but the most pleasing clause is that prohibiting the taking of any wild birds, or their eggs, on all Sundays throughout the year. The present Order contains an innovation in the last paragraph, in that no definite date is fixed for its expiry: it is now simply enacted that "this Order of 1922 . . . shall remain in force until further order."

On 25th November, 1913, a Departmental Committee

was appointed "to enquire into what action has been taken under the Wild Birds Protection Acts for the protection of Wild Birds, and to consider whether any amendment of the law or improvements in its administration are required." This Committee reported on 4th July, 1919, and in 1920 there were appointed English and Scottish Committees to advise respectively the Home Secretary and His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland "on matters connected with the administration of the Wild Birds Protection Acts." The day, therefore, seems nearer when "the various (and it is to be regretted varying) County Council Orders for the protection of birds may be drawn up by a competent committee of ornithologists so as to apply to the individual requirements of every county in Great Britain and Ireland and thus ensure the effectual protection of our British Avifauna." (p. lxxxvii.)

It must be recorded here that in 1918, under Defence of the Realm Regulations 2 R., the Board of Agriculture for Scotland issued an Order, authorising the killing, taking, sale or purchase of Wild Geese in the County of Dumfries up to 31st March; this Order was made with a view of securing these migratory birds as food for the country during the stress of the Great War and can be regarded only as a war-time measure.

LOCAL MISNOMERS AND NAMES.

The following additions may be made to the list of local misnomers and names which I compiled in 1910:—

The late James Shaw, Schoolmaster at Tynron Upper School, in a list of "Words, new to me, collected from the Dumfriesshire dialect during the last thirty years (1864-1894),"⁷⁰ has included "Brichtie" or "Brisky" for the Chaffinch: "Bullfit" for the House-Martin or Swift: "Gunner" for the Yellow-Hammer: and he adds that "Nightingale" was another name for Moth.

I have heard the Kestrel called the "Brown Hawk," and my excitement was aroused when I was told the "Bittern"

⁷⁰ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 1893-4, pp. 139-159.

had nested in 1911, near Closeburn, but investigations revealed the fact that this was but another name for the Common Snipe. Recent reports of the occurrence of the "Spoonbill" have been found to refer, on investigation, to the Shoveler. When at Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in February, 1921, I was told that "Black Teal" or "Norwegian Teal" were very plentiful and these proved to be immature Goldeneye. I first heard the Tree-Pipit called "Sod-Lark" in 1922.

In my original index I should have included "Glead" or "Gled" as an old-time name of the Kite.

NUMBER OF SPECIES.

The table showing the number of species which are known to have occurred locally requires alteration. I am now of the opinion that the Red-backed Shrike should not have been included as an "occasional visitor" but as "of doubtful occurrence"; and I have also placed the American Wigeon, which was shot in 1918, in this category. The Glossy Ibis, shot in 1911, is an addition to our list of "very rare or accidental visitors" and the Mandarin-Duck; shot in the winter of 1913-14, must rank as an "introduced species."

The Birds of Dumfriesshire may therefore now be classified roughly as:—

Residents (<i>See</i> qualifying remarks, p. lxxx.)	...	...	...	...	70
Summer visitants	...	...	...	...	31
Winter visitants	...	...	...	...	31
Occasional visitors	...	...	...	...	29
Very rare, or accidental visitors	...	...	...	...	57
[Introduced Species]	...	...	...	...	[11]
[Of doubtful occurrence]	...	...	...	...	[31]
					218 [42]

In 1910 I drew attention (p. xcix.) to the fact that the hand-rearing of various species of wildfowl at Netherby, Cumberland, might make itself felt in Dumfriesshire. The Mandarin-Ducks, which are mentioned above as having been shot in the winter of 1913-14, must have come from Netherby

and it is highly probable that the American Wigeon, shot in 1918, came from there also. Sir Richard Graham wrote to me in 1921 as follows :—" In 1914 I had about 20 full-winged hand-reared American Wigeon, got by crossing common Wigeon with an American drake Wigeon. The same way as I bred most of the Pintail and Gadwall, by crossing a Mallard duck with a Pintail drake, and a Gadwall drake; which takes about three crossings. When the war came the want of food, together with the search-lights from the Gretna Munition Works, drove most of the ducks away. Prior to 1914 the following were about the numbers of pairs breeding near Solway Moss :—Wigeon, 10; Pintail, 12; Shoveler, 4; Tufted, 4; Gadwall, 5. There were no Summer-duck, Pochard or Garganey. The ducks that still breed on, or near, Solway Moss that used not to breed, are Common Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, and Tufted. I hope and think these will increase. . . . I have seen no American Wigeon or Mandarin on the ponds the last two years; but a pair of flying Mandarin were seen this Spring at Netherby; but their nests, however, are so easy to find, I doubt them rearing any young ones."⁷¹ Pintail are reported to me as far more numerous than formerly, in the Solway Firth, in winter and I think that, perhaps, the Shoveler nests in Dumfriesshire less rarely than it used to do: otherwise the wildfowl experiments at Netherby would not appear to have had any effect on our local fauna. It is certainly very curious, since Wigeon, Pintail, and Gadwall now breed freely on, or near, Solway Moss, that nests of none of these species should as yet have been found in Dumfriesshire.

THE INDEX.

The following additions and corrections must be made :—
Americana, Mareca.
 Bittern *for the Common Snipe* p. 389
 Black and White Woodpecker, and Black and
 White Spotted Woodpecker; *for the Wood-*
pecker, British Great Spotted p. 157

⁷¹ Sir Richard Graham; *in litt.*, 22nd July and 11th August, 1921.

Black Teal for the Goldeneye	p. 287
Blue Pigeon for the Stock-Dove	p. 305
Brichtie, or Brisky, for the Chaffinch	p. 79
Brown Hawk for the Kestrel	p. 217
Bullfit for the House Martin, p. 65, or the Swift ...	p. 151
Creeper for the British Tree Creeper	p. 44
Duck, Mandarin. <i>falcinellus</i> , <i>Plegadis</i> . <i>galericulata</i> , <i>Æx</i> .	
Glead, or Gled, formerly for the Kite... ..	p. 209
Gunner for the Yellow-hammer	p. 101
Ibis, Glossy.	
<i>kleinschmidti</i> , <i>Parus palustris</i> : should not be re- ferred to p. 41, but	p. 40
Laughing Duck for the Common Sheld-Duck ...	p. 262
Moor-hen	p. 356
Norwegian Teal for the Goldeneye	p. 287
Pickmire for the Black-headed Gull	p. 429
Sod-Lark for the Tree-Pipit	p. 51
Spoonbill for the Shoveler	p. 269
Titmouse, British Willow	p. 40
Wigëon, American.	

The following should be deleted :—

<i>dresseri</i> , <i>Parus palustris</i>	p. 40
Titmouse, British Marsh	p. 40

THE MAP.

Finally, it may be pointed out that in the map the darker of the two shades of blue, used to denote the sea, indicates the water below low water mark.

In concluding these introductory remarks, I should like to add how much I shall welcome, at all times, any communications that may be addressed to me relative to our local Birds.

THE BIRDS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.

The MISTLE-THRUSH (p. 1). On 2nd January, 1912, a very mild day, several of these birds were in full song at Capenoch (Keir). A nest of the Mistle-Thrush was found in 1910, so early as 20th March, near Thornhill (Morton). Early in September, 1911, I noticed straggling parties of these birds on Capenoch moor and expect that they were congregating prior to leaving the locality. In 1921 I was surprised to see similar flocks so early as 8th August.

On 5th April, 1913, I found a nest of this species, at Capenoch (Keir) only four feet from the ground in a young larch.

Mistle-Thrushes in 1910 were said to be increasing in the suburbs of Dumfries.⁷²

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 23 *antea*.)

The BRITISH SONG THRUSH (p. 2). On 31st May, 1911, I saw one singing, near Penpont village, not as usual perched on a tree but on the ground.

In 1912 a nest, with full complement of eggs, was found at Capenoch (Keir) on 21st March.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 23 *antea*.)

The FIELDFARE (p. 4). Flocks were seen at Capenoch (Keir) on 13th May, 1911, and a pair was reported to me in June, 1910, at Racks (Torthorwald).

On 7th November, 1911, when shooting at Bierholm (Keir), I witnessed a remarkable migration of Fieldfares: it was about 2 p.m., and I was facing down the valley of the Nith: flock after flock, of twenty to forty, kept on coming up the valley and passed overhead. The birds made an incessant chattering and were flying quite low, some twenty feet above me, the spot where I stood being about 150 feet above sea level. During the two hours or so that I was present the flocks kept on passing, and I do not know for how long this had been going on before I came, or for how long it continued after I left: while I was there I reckoned that over 4000 Fieldfares must have passed me.

⁷² *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 15th October, 1910,

The BLACKBIRD (p. 5).⁷³ In 1909 a nest with two eggs was found at Millpool (Kirkpatrick-Durham) in the first week of January.⁷³ In May, 1910, I found two nests on the ground, in a young plantation, near Capenoch (Keir).

Pied specimens were seen near Castledykes (Dumfries) on 25th April, 1912, near Isle (Holywood), in August, 1912, and near Glengower (Holywood) on 9th June, 1914. A Blackbird with white wings was seen near Sanquhar in 1918, and a partially white cock Blackbird was seen near Seaforth (Annan) in the spring of 1921 for the third year in succession when, curiously enough, a similarly abnormal hen Blackbird was seen at the same time. Mr John M^r Burnie has informed me that he frequently saw a piebald Blackbird in his garden in Ardwall Road, Dumfries, in the spring of 1922.

A white Blackbird was seen at Closeburn, for the fourth year in succession, in 1911. In the spring of 1911 I saw a bird of the year, at Capenoch (Keir) which, though white with pale coloured legs and beak, had normally coloured eyes. White birds were seen at Closeburn in February, 1912; at Eccles (Penpont), in September, 1912; and at Penfillan (Keir), 13th October, 1912. A white Blackbird was seen at Whitecroft (Ruthwell) in September, 1917, but disappeared after three or four weeks.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 23 *antea*.)

The RING OUZEL (p. 7). Of late years this species has become far less abundant than formerly. I am unable to give any reason for this decrease and can only say that this statement is derived not only from my personal observations but from the opinion expressed by the majority of those of my correspondents who are in a position to judge. The species may now, indeed, be described as a scarce, or local, summer visitor to the upland districts of the county.

The WHEATEAR (p. 8). A female was seen at the Bobie Loch (Keir) on 22nd September, 1910; a somewhat late date, but Mr Cleberg assures me that he saw a Wheatear in

⁷³ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* (Third Series), Vol. V., pp. 230-231.

his garden at Bellevue House (Dumfries) on 25th December, 1919.

The GREENLAND WHEATEAR (p. 9). A bird believed to have been of this sub-species was captured near Dumfries on 4th October, 1913, and died after being kept for three weeks in a cage. It was at first thought to have been an Isabelline Wheatear⁷⁴ and it may be noted that, up to date, the Isabelline Wheatear has been recorded only four times in Great Britain.⁷⁵

The WHINCHAT (p. 10). First seen at Capenoch (Keir) in 1913 on 29th March; an early date for its arrival.

(Recovery of ringed bird, see p. 23 *antea*.)

The BRITISH STONECHAT (p. 11). Though not uncommon in the littoral parishes, still seems very local elsewhere. One was seen near Crossford (Glencairn) on 25th February, 1912, and a pair are said to have nested there in 1907 and 1908. Two were seen near Kinnelhead House (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) on 29th October, 1915. The Stonechat is such an uncommon bird in Tynron parish that it is certainly of interest to record that I identified a female near Barr on 26th January, 1922. Two pairs were seen not far from Capenoch (Keir) in the early spring of 1922 and although diligent search was made for their nests it was not till June, when their young ones were seen, that it was known they had nested.

The REDSTART (p. 12). This species was more than usually common in 1919 and in 1920. I first saw one on 18th April, in the latter year, an early date for its arrival.

[The BLACK REDSTART (p. 14). My late correspondent, Mr William Evans, had in his possession the nest and white eggs of the Yellow Bunting found by Mr R. Service at Duncow, near Dumfries, on 16th June, 1886, which helped to

⁷⁴ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 11th October, 1913.

⁷⁵ *A Practical Handbook of British Birds*, ed. by H. F. Witherby, Vol. I. (1920), p. 445.

disprove the previous allegation that the Black Redstart had nested in that neighbourhood.]

The BRITISH REDBREAST (p. 16). During the winter of 1911-12 a bird with a white head and back was seen near Stenhouse (Tynron). The "daily newspaper with the largest circulation" duly published, in 1912, the stirring news that "the late Mrs Barr had a visitation from a robin in her garden at Penpont for three consecutive years. It was known by a white feather in one of its wings."⁷⁶ A Redbreast with a white head was seen at Capenoch on 12th March, 1912, and such abnormalities are not of rare occurrence.

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles in 1920 found a Redbreast's nest at Blackwood (Keir) which was entirely suspended from the lowest branch of a young spruce about two feet from the ground: the nest was domed like that of a Chiffchaff but with the entrance hole rather high up and large in proportion to the size of the nest.

In March, 1922, a pair of Redbreasts made their nest in a coil of an old rope hanging on the wall of the coal hole adjoining a house in Glencaple (Caerlaverock) and before the end of the month four eggs had been laid and were being incubated.^{76a}

[The NIGHTINGALE (p. 18). It is interesting to note that the first, and so far (1922) only, specimen recorded in Scotland was obtained on the Islé of May on 9th May, 1911.⁷⁷ An old statement which I have hitherto not recorded, that this species had been heard in Dumfriesshire, is made in *A Treatise on British Song-Birds* by Patrick Syme, 1823, p. 112. I do not credit this statement and only mention it here to show that it has not escaped my attention.

The late James Shaw, schoolmaster at Tynron Upper School, has given "Nightingales" as a local name for Moths.⁷⁸]

⁷⁶ *Daily Mail*, 31st August, 1912.

^{76a} *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 12th April, 1922.

⁷⁷ *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, 1911, p. 132.

⁷⁸ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 1893-4, p. 152.

The LESSEK WHITETHROAT (p. 20). The late George Stout, who was familiar with the species in Fair Isle, was confident that he saw a Lesser Whitethroat near Lockerbie House (Dryfesdale) on 31st July, 1912.⁷⁹ Mr James Bartholomew, who is a cautious and reliable observer, believes that he saw two Lesser Whitethroats at the bridge over the Evan at Beattock on 6th May, 1915. Mr E. W. Brook informs me that this species nests annually near Kinmount (Cummertrees) and that in 1921 he knew of three, or four, pairs. An egg which was taken there in 1912, or 1913, and which he sent me for identification, was undoubtedly that of a Lesser Whitethroat.

The BRITISH GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN (p. 23). In 1919 a Gold-crest's nest containing young birds was found at Dalmakerran (Tynron) so late as 8th September.

The CHIFFCHAFF (p. 26). I was told, in 1921, that this species nested near Castlemilk (St. Mungo) and also in Middlebie parish.

The WILLOW WREN (p. 28). On 21st May, 1911, I found a nest of this species, near Capenoch, which contained spotless eggs. In 1922 a Willow Wren made its nest and reared its brood in a honeysuckle, growing over the door of the coachman's house at Capenoch, ten feet and four inches from the ground; such an elevated situation is very exceptional.

The WOOD WREN (p. 29). Mr J. A. Harvie-Brown, in his *Fauna of the North-West Highlands and Skye*, points out that Yarrell stated in 1843 and 1845, that "not one record exists." of this species in Scotland. As it was regarded as a Scottish bird both by MacGillivray and Sir William Jardine, it is indeed difficult to say why Yarrell should have disregarded these competent ornithologists. At any rate I am prepared to abide by their decision as to its presence here in the early part of the nineteenth century.

An albino Wood-Wren was caught at the end of July, 1910, near Drumlanrig (Durisdeer).

⁷⁹ *Scottish Naturalist*, 1912, p. 210.

[The REED WARBLER (p. 30). This species, to date, has only been recorded on migration eight times in Scotland.]

The GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (p. 31). In the spring of 1911 this bird was heard and seen in the Cairn Valley on several occasions. Mr James Bartholomew informed me that he first saw this species at Kinelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) on 19th May, 1914. In 1921 I saw one pair of Grasshopper-Warblers near Floors (Penpont), on 21st May and another pair near Loch Urr (Glencairn) six days later.

The DIPPER (p. 34). Mr J. W. Sharpe wrote to me on 8th May, 1912, that he had found a Dipper's nest containing one egg and one young one in a Kingfisher's nesting hole, on the Scottish side of the river Sark. The late Cecil Laurie, in 1917, found a Dipper's nest on the Cairn, from which the young had only just flown, so late as 6th September. Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles informed me on 5th May, 1920, that a Dipper at Blackwood (Keir) had hatched its first brood and was laying a second clutch in the same nest. In a nest which I watched in April, 1912, incubation lasted fifteen days, and the young left the nest fourteen days later.

Mr A. Hay Borthwick informs me that a pair of Dippers nested, in April, 1922, at the pool in Capel Burn which has been the annual breeding place of this species since 1785.

The BRITISH LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE (p. 37). Two nests, both of them made in oak trees, were found in 1911 at Barjarg (Keir). At least five pairs nested near Blackwood (Keir) in 1921 and the reports from various parts of the county show that the species is now no less common than it was ten years ago.

The BRITISH WILLOW-TITMOUSE (p. 40). *Parus atricapillus Kleinschmidti Hellmayr*. My records under the head of the British Marsh Titmouse (pp. 40-42) should probably apply to the British Willow-Titmouse, which species differs in having a brownish-black, not glossy blue-black, head; a more graduated tail, and brown edgings to the secondaries.

A specimen of "*Parus palustris* obtained at Jardine Hall" is thus recorded in *A Catalogue of the Birds contained in the Collection of Sir William Jardine*: "1874, p. 78. 3121, a." In view of the comparatively recent distinction between the Marsh and the Willow-Tit it would have been most interesting to have examined this specimen had it passed, with the "Jardine Collection" in 1876, to the Edinburgh Museum. Dr. W. Eagle Clarke, however, informs me that, provokingly enough, this collection, now in the Royal Scottish Museum, does not appear to have contained specimens of any of the Titmice. The first specimen that I personally examined in the flesh was shot near Clonrae (Tynron) on 20th July, 1911: it was sent to Mr H. F. Witherby who identified it as a juvenile British Willow-Titmice. One was shot in August, 1912, and another in January, 1913, at Grennan (Penpont). On 14th September, 1919, I watched a family party of Willow-Tits, busy on the herbaceous borders at Capenoch, for over an hour. In 1920 a pair nested in a rotten thorn tree, growing close to Scaur Water, near Capenoch gardens. It was at once noticed that the birds had excavated their nesting hole for the diminutive chips were lying at the foot of the tree. As soon as the young were flown I cut down the portion of the tree, in which the nest was, and sent it to the Royal Scottish Museum.

It may be noted here that on 25th January, 1920, Mr T. G. Laidlaw identified a Marsh Titmouse near Duns Castle in Berwickshire.⁸⁰

The WREN (p. 43). When cutting some shrubs at Capenoch on 2nd June, 1921, the foresters inadvertently lopped off a branch of rhododendron on which was a wren's nest full of young birds. The men moved the nest to another bush some fifteen yards away and, much to their gratification, the old birds were not alarmed by their change of residence but continued to feed the nestlings which they successfully reared.

Two abnormally coloured Wrens were repeatedly seen, throughout the autumn and winter of 1921, in Kirkmahoe

⁸⁰ *Scottish Naturalist*, 1921, p. 86.

parish; one near Sunnybrae was white, the other near Newlands was of a very pale snuff-colour.

The BRITISH TREE-CREEPER (p. 44). I should have added that this bird is often simply called the " Creeper " and that the Northern form of this species has occurred at Fair Isle, and possibly in the Orkneys and Shetlands.

The WHITE WAGTAIL (p. 46). I saw a bird of this species at Loch Urr (Glencairn) on 22nd May, 1911.

The TREE-PIPIT (p. 51). Seen at Capenoch in 1920, on 21st April; a somewhat early date for its arrival here.

The eggs of this species measure normally 21.9 by 15.7 mm., but on 10th June, 1922, Major Chill showed me a nest, at Shinnelwood (Tynron), which contained five eggs, one of which, the first to be laid, measured only 14.7 by 10.5 mm.

A local name for this species is " Sod-Lark."

The MEADOW-PIPIT (p. 52). Unusual quantities were seen at Capenoch on 20th April, 1920, doubtless immigrants *en route* farther north. On 15th April, 1921, a flock of about forty were seen here which, from their perching in trees and other peculiar traits, were evidently on migration and a similar movement, on a large scale, was observed on 18th April, 1922.

The GOLDEN ORIOLE (p. 54). This species, so far as is known, has only occurred twice in Dumfriesshire and as regards its first occurrence near Kirkconnel in June, 1872, a record in the *Scottish Naturalist*⁸¹ is interesting, for it is there stated that this specimen was " exhibited at a recent meeting of the Thornhill Society of Enquiry." This Society, now almost forgotten, used to hold its meetings at Thornhill in the Grierson Museum, of which the foundation stone was laid on 22nd June, 1869, and which was declared open to the public in July, 1872. The Society had its first meeting on 5th September, 1872, Dr. T. B. Grierson being chairman, with Mr Bain, gardener, and Mr Reid, accountant, as joint secretaries. The Golden Oriole was exhibited at the fourth

⁸¹ *Scottish Naturalist*, 1873, p. 10.

meeting, on 18th October, 1872, and the Society held its sixty-fourth meeting in August, 1879, after which date I have not been able to trace its existence.⁸²

The GREAT GREY SHRIKE (p. 55). One was obtained near Dumfries in the winter of 1907. Mr George B. Wilson informed me that one was seen on 24th February and on 1st March, 1911, in Canonbie parish, not far from Scotch Dyke. A Great Grey Shrike is said to have been seen at Burnt Fir Wood (Kirkmahoe) at the end of October, 1914, and a male was shot at Capenoch (Keir) on 16th November, 1915. Mr E. W. Brook informs me that a bird of this species was caught at Kelhead Quarry (Cummer-trees) in December, 1920, and was kept alive, though minus its tail, till the end of April, 1921.

[The RED-BACKED SHRIKE (p. 56). On mature reflection I have come to the conclusion that this species must be placed within square brackets. I have recently discovered that Mr Robert Brown, in 1874, included "the Lesser Butcher Bird" in a list of the Birds of Upper Nithsdale,⁸³ but there is no really satisfactory evidence as to the occurrence locally of the species. The Red-Backed Shrike has not "been known to breed occasionally in south-east Scotland," though it has been alleged to have done so.]

The WAXWING (p. 57). The specimen found in a cupboard at Capenoch (Keir) has been ascertained to have been sent home from Russia in 1854. In the winter of 1913-14 there was a remarkable incursion of Waxwings to Great Britain. A local paper commenting on the appearance of the species near Maxwelltown and Newabbey, in the neighbouring county of Kirkcudbright,⁸⁴ stated that there was a belief that such visitations were always followed by the outbreak of a great war.⁸⁵ Superstition credits the

⁸² Compiled from a collection of newspaper cuttings in the Grierson Museum, Thornhill.

⁸³ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 11th March, 1874.

⁸⁴ *Op. cit.*, 24th December, 1913.

⁸⁵ *Op. cit.*, 7th February, 1914.

Waxwing with this unenviable reputation⁸⁶ and it is surely curious that August, 1914, should have seen a verification of this tradition. I find that since 1914 the Waxwings which have visited Great Britain have only been stragglers, and that the winters when the species has occurred in considerable numbers are 1686, 1834-35, 1849-50, 1866-7, 1872-3, 1892-3, 1903-4, besides, as already stated, 1913-14.⁸⁷ Possibly some of these dates may synchronise with wars but this I have not investigated. It may be noted that the Chinese, of olden times, believed that the southerly arrival in multitudes of Pallas's Sand-Grouse foretold the irruptions of the Tuh-Kiueh horde.⁸⁸

On 24th January, 1921, two Waxwings were seen and shot at Grennan (Penpont). At first they were thought to be Fieldfares but, on closer approach, their crested heads and lemon-yellow-tipped tails gave them away. Only the two birds were seen in one of the unfenced thickets (or "sklinners" as they are called) on the moor. The birds were singularly tame and fearless and kept to the tops of some old ash-trees below which there was an abundance of berry-bearing bushes. On dissection the birds proved to be male and female and both were young birds. The appearance of this species locally is generally associated with severe winters but on this occasion the weather was unusually mild.

Two Waxwings were seen near Glenairlie Bridge (Durisdeer) on 26th November and a single bird near Dumfries about 23rd December, 1921. One of the most striking events of the autumn was the extensive incursion of Waxwings to Great Britain from the middle of November onwards and from all quarters the species was recorded from Caithness to Norfolk and from east to west. Early

⁸⁶ Rev. Charles Swainson: *The Folk Lore and Provincial Names of British Birds* (1886), p. 48.

⁸⁷ *A Practical Handbook of British Birds*, edited by H. F. Witherby (1920), Vol. I., p. 281.

⁸⁸ *Notes and Queries*, 12 S. IX., p. 139.



TWO PIED FLYCATCHERS AT THE NEST.

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in 1922 several Waxwings were seen near Langholm and a flock of seven on 9th January, 1922.⁸⁹

The SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (p. 58). It is interesting to note that Sir William Jardine in a letter, dated 1840, to an English correspondent, comments on the comparative rarity of this species in Scotland at that date. At a meeting of the "Thornhill Society of Enquiry" on 12th August, 1874, "Mr Robert Brown mentioned that he had met with the Spotted Flycatcher several times near Thornhill. . . . it is a bird that is generally rare in Scotland."⁹⁰ In the following year, at a meeting of the same Society, Mr John Corrie stated "he had been fortunate in finding a nest of the Spotted Flycatcher . . . in the parish of Tynron: this bird is but rarely met with in the district."⁹¹ The species is now a common summer-visitant to Dumfriesshire and in 1919 was first seen at Capenoch on 12th May, a rather early date.

A newly-flown albino Spotted Flycatcher with pale-coloured legs and beak, and with pink eyes, was captured in Dumfries on 17th July, 1919; it died after being kept in a cage for three days and was then sent to me for identification.

The PIED FLYCATCHER (p. 59). In June, 1906, my friend, Mr Digby Legard, and I were engaged in taking a series of photographs of Pied Flycatchers on Shinnel Water near Bennan (Tynron). On 22nd June we were surprised to find three birds in attendance on one brood, and the following is an extract from my note-book:—"The female we had at first noticed had but little white on her wings and, while she was on the nest, we saw her conspicuously-coloured mate perched up aloft. To our astonishment a third bird then visited the nesting-hole and I was able to take a photograph."⁹² The plumage of this *tertium quid* appeared somewhat darker and more contrasted than the female's, but not

⁸⁹ *The Shooting Times*, 28th January, 1922, p. 15.

⁹⁰ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 15th August, 1874.

⁹¹ *Op. cit.*, 17th July, 1875.

⁹² See illustration facing this page.

so dark as the male's. Whether this third bird was a very old female, or a young male, I do not know. The darker of the two birds was the more assiduous in its attentions to the nestlings: we timed them to be fed sixteen times an hour by the darker, to four times an hour by the lighter, of the two. The undoubted male bird put in an appearance about once an hour, but never carrying food, though on previous occasions he had entered the nesting-hole for this purpose." On reflection, and after critical examination of the photograph which I obtained at the time, I am of the opinion that the "new-comer" was a male, unless "it" may have been a barren female assuming the plumage of the opposite sex. In any case this would appear to be one of those inexplicable instances of the unresented presence of a third individual together with a pair of normally monogamous birds, of which there are records in some twelve or fourteen other species at least.⁹³

In June, 1915, a pair of Pied Flycatchers were seen feeding their young near Langholm; this is a new locality for the occurrence of this species and farther east in the county than previously recorded. I am informed that in 1918, 1919, and 1920 Pied Flycatchers were seen near Craigieburn (Moffat). Though I cannot say that the species is actually increasing in its old haunts it is certainly holding its own. Since 1912 a certain row of sycamores near Capenoch (Keir) has been annually resorted to and, near these trees, on 11th May, 1920, I saw an exceptionally beautiful male, which had probably only just arrived.

The SWALLOW (p. 61). In 1915 a pair of Swallows made their nest in a saucer lying on a beam in the barn at Noggetshaws Farm (Annan).⁹⁴

On 25th July, 1918, a Swallow was seen at Jardington, which "was of cream colour below and light yellow on the back and upper parts of the wings,"⁹⁵ and a white Swallow was seen at Capenoch (Keir) in September, 1918.

⁹³ *The Ibis*, Vol. III. (1921), p. 324.

⁹⁴ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 14th July, 1915.

⁹⁵ *Op. Cit.*, 7th August, 1918.

On 28th October, 1911, six or seven Swallows were observed skimming over the surface of the river Annan near the town,⁹⁶ and Mrs Ralston assures me that in 1922 she and her gardener saw a Swallow at Dabton (Morton) on 10th November: this is the latest date of which I am aware for the presence of this species in the county.

The scarcity of Swallows visiting Dumfriesshire in 1921, which was reported to me from various parts of the county, was not peculiar to the locality but was commented on in many parts of the British Isles.

The following is a list of the first appearances of the Swallow near Capenoch:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>First seen.</i>	<i>Notes.</i>
1911	19th April	
1912	14th April	
1913	15th April	3rd April, Langholm ⁹⁷
1914	14th April	
1915	20th April	
1916	13th April	Before 12th April, Beattock ⁹⁸
1917	27th April	
1918	19th April	
1919	22nd April	
1920	28th April	
1921	22nd April	
1922	18th April	

(Recovery of ringed bird, see p. 23 *antea*.)

The HOUSE MARTIN (p. 65). A white Martin is recorded as hatched near Ecclefechan (Hoddum) in the spring of 1914.⁹⁹

The late James Shaw gives "Bullfit" as "a local name for this species or the Swift."¹⁰⁰

(Recovery of ringed bird, see p. 23 *antea*.)

⁹⁶ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 8th November, 1911.

⁹⁷ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 9th April, 1913.

⁹⁸ *Op. cit.*, 12th April, 1916.

⁹⁹ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 7th September, 1911.

¹⁰⁰ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 1893-4, p. 144.

The SAND-MARTIN (p. 67). Was first seen at Capenoch in 1913 on 3rd April and in 1920 Sand Martins were seen at Lochmaben on 30th March, a somewhat early date for its first appearance locally.

In 1918 I counted 197 nesting holes in the sandy bank of Scaur water opposite Bierholm (Keir) but in 1921 there were only 36. From various parts of the county I have received reports of the decrease of this species, which in 1922 appeared to be extraordinarily scarce.

The HAWFINCH (p. 70). There seems reason to suppose that this species bids fair to become established in the county. One is said to have been seen near Powfoot (Cummertrees) in August, 1912, and a brood was hatched out near Lincluden (Kirkcudbrightshire) in 1917. On 4th July, 1919, Dr. Easterbrook showed me a fully fledged Hawfinch which had been picked up that day in the grounds of the Crichton Royal Institution (Dumfries). On 19th November, 1919, one was found dead near Ecclefechan (Hoddom), and in February, 1920, a Hawfinch was seen near Lincluden just outside the limits of Dumfriesshire. On 26th April, 1920, one was seen by Lieut.-Colonel Lascelles near Blackwood (Keir), and Mrs Ralston saw a Hawfinch at Dabton (Morton) in July, 1921. On 22nd January, 1922, I was sent a Hawfinch which had been found dead near Drumlanrig Castle (Durisdeer) the day before: the bird, on dissection, proved to be a male and it appeared to have met with an accidental death. A Hawfinch was seen near Dabton (Morton) on 4th May, 1922, and a young nestling which could almost fly was caught at Capenoch on 2nd July, 1922, but died after being kept in a cage for a few days.

It may be added that Sir Herbert Maxwell has stated that he saw Hawfinches for the first time in Wigtownshire in 1919.

The BRITISH GOLDFINCH (p. 72). Still holds its own and was reported to me as nesting near Crossford (Glencairn) in 1911. In 1919 I saw a nest near Druidhall (Penpont) and I expect this species breeds with us far more commonly than is supposed. In 1912, 1918, and 1919 I came

across flocks or (to use the appropriate old-time term for such associations) "charms" of Goldfinches in the autumn and winter. In the autumn of 1920 these birds were reported from Newabbey, the opposite side of the Nith from Dumfriesshire, as "here daily in dozens, whereas previously a pair seen was always worth talking about." These Goldfinches were apparently attracted by the seeds of the common ragwort, a plant which had spread at an alarming rate during the previous year or two, and which had rapidly established itself on the sites of pine-woods cut during the war.¹⁰¹

Mr William Wright informs me that thousands of Goldfinches are now to be found near Dornock and Eastriggs (Gretna). He suggests that this is because much land has gone out of cultivation, due to the advent of the Government munition factory, and the consequent increase of thistles; and he also points out that a large part of the area is now strictly protected from trespassers and is thus rendered attractively quiet to birds in general.

The SISKIN (p. 74). On 26th January, 1920, I saw a nice little flock feeding on the alders growing by Shinnel Water near Barr (Tynron), and on 5th June, 1922, I saw a male bird near Floors (Penpont) engaged in carrying material for nest-building.

The HOUSE SPARROW (p. 75). Mr J. Corrie informs me that a cream-coloured bird was seen near Moniaive (Glencairn) in June, 1911. A Piebald House Sparrow was seen near Dumfries in May, 1912.¹⁰² A white Sparrow was seen near Seaforth (Annan) in the spring of 1921, and a similar bird was reported to me from Cumrue (Kirkmichael) at the end of October, 1921.

The Rev. C. Patrick Blair wrote to me, on 31st May, 1921, from Wanlockhead (Sanquhar):—"This can hardly be called 'a sparrowless community' as for three successive years—1913, 1914, and 1915—sparrows returned, nested, and brought forth young in the same place. In the same

¹⁰¹ *Scottish Naturalist*, 1921, p. 42.

¹⁰² *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 18th May, 1912.

years two other pairs nested in different places in the parish, but since 1915 none have been seen."

The CHAFFINCH (p. 76). A "Shelfie wholly white, with the exception of a small brown bar across one of the wings," was recorded as frequenting Cleughbrae Mill Farm, near Ecclefechan (Hoddom) during the winter of 1910-1911;¹⁰³ it mated the following spring, but none of its progeny were white. A cream-coloured Chaffinch was seen near Broomfield (Sanquhar) in 1918.¹⁰⁴

According to the late James Shaw, local names for the Chaffinch were "Brichtie" and "Brisky."¹⁰⁵

The BRAMBLING (p. 80). Early in January, 1912, unusually large flocks frequented the beech trees at Closeburn: elsewhere in the county, at that time, the species was more than usually common. Bramblings are irregular in both their numbers and their winter visits to the county, but in October, 1922, I was told that there were large flocks to be seen near Dumfries.

It may be noted here that in May, 1920, the Brambling was found nesting in Sutherlandshire:¹⁰⁶ previous reports of its having done so in Perthshire in 1866 and in Ross-shire are on record,¹⁰⁷ but have not been generally accepted.

The LESSER REDPOLL (p. 83). Three nests at Friars' Carse (Dunscore) were reported to me in 1910. Two pairs were seen on Kelhead Moss (Cummertrees) in May and June, 1921.

The TWITE (p. 85). A pair of these birds were seen at Scaurbank (Keir) on 2nd April, and one was seen on Kelhead Moss (Cummertrees) in the middle of May, 1921.

¹⁰³ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 11th February, 1911.

¹⁰⁴ *The Augur*, 26th February, 1921, p. 19.

¹⁰⁵ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 1893-4, p. 143.

¹⁰⁶ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1920, pp. 181-2.

¹⁰⁷ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. XIV., pp. 211-12.



ROOK'S NEST

on the vane surmounting the spire of St. John's Church, Dumfries.

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The COMMON CROSSBILL (p. 91). The late Colonel W. H. Feilden informed me that in November, 1853, he shot three male and four female Crossbills at Raehills (Johnstone): at that time there were plenty in the woods and he was told that they had bred there for several years. A flock of six were seen near Craigdarroch (Glencairn) early in November, 1911, and a pair were sent to me for identification from Drumlanrig (Durisdeer) on 5th February, 1912, when I was told there were a good many there. Seven were seen near Moffat in November, 1915, and I am informed that in 1918 Crossbills nested near Craigdarroch (Glencairn).

The TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL (p. 99). The alleged occurrence of this species in 1882 near Rothiemurchus, Inverness-shire,¹⁰⁸ would (if good?) make the Dumfriesshire record the third, and not the second, of its occurrence in Scotland.

The CORN BUNTING (p. 100). I saw several of these birds at Breccoes (Keir) on 8th August, 1910. The small colony of Buntings near Sanquhar is said to have first established itself there about 1901, and from fourteen to twenty pair now nest there annually.¹⁰⁹ In the littoral parishes the species is said to be increasing.

The YELLOW BUNTING (p. 101). On 7th June, 1918, a Yellow Bunting's nest was found at Capenoch (Keir) in a bed of forget-me-nots. The plants had to be removed, so the nest was taken up and placed in another bed about fifteen yards off. The bird did not forsake and six days later hatched her five eggs. In 1920 Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles found two nests near Blackwood (Keir) which were built in young spruce firs about four feet from the ground.

In reference to the rhymes current locally as regards the connection of this species with his Satanic majesty, "Chambers says that this bird (called Devil's bird in the North of Scotland) is the subject of an unaccountable superstition on the part of the peasantry, who believe that it drinks

¹⁰⁸ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. V., pp. 24, 25.

¹⁰⁹ *The Augur*, 26th February, 1921, p. 19.

a drop, some say three drops, of the devil's blood each May morning, some say each Monday morning."¹¹⁰

The white eggs of the Yellow Bunting with the nest found in 1886, which were thought to be those of a Black Redstart (see p. 38), passed into the collection of the late Mr William Evans.

The late James Shaw gives "Gunner" as a local name for this species.¹¹¹

(Recovery of ringed bird, see p. 23 *antea*.)

The SNOW-BUNTING (p. 103). In 1921 I was sent a female Snow-Bunting, from Durisdeer, which had been shot on April 30th.

The STARLING (p. 105). A nest with young birds in it was found at Kirkland (Closeburn) in 1912, on 3rd February.

A white specimen, a male, with pale yellow beak, pink legs and feet, but normally coloured eyes, was obtained at Kirkland (Tynron) on 10th June, 1911, and a slate-coloured bird was shot near Craigs (Dumfries) the same year. A cream-white Starling was seen near Stepends (Penpont) on 9th October, 1914, and a similar bird was seen near Sanquhar in the winter of 1919-20. One with white head and breast was reported from Langholm in January, 1922,¹¹² and a very light coloured Starling, almost white, was seen near Lochmaben in the winter of 1921-22.

In 1914 I heard a Starling imitating the crow of the farm-yard cock, and on another occasion heard one copying the call of the Herring Gull. I have been told that a Starling at Dalmakerran (Tynron) used to imitate the peculiar whistle of the shepherd to a nicety.

In 1911 Starlings proved a great pest at the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries. They nested in the ventilators of the houses, and it was estimated that fully a half of these,

¹¹⁰ Rev. Charles Swainson: *The Folk Lore and Provincial Names of British Birds* (1886), pp. 70, 71.

¹¹¹ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 1893-4, p. 148.

¹¹² *The Shooting Times*, 28th January, 1922, p. 15.

or some one hundred and eighty, were thus utilised. The noise of the parent birds when feeding their young greatly annoyed the patients, and the mess they made was so disgusting that it was thought necessary by the Board of Directors to put up copper wire screens at a total cost of £12 to £15, in front of each of the three hundred and sixty ventilators, to prevent the birds repeating the nuisance the following spring.

Starlings fluctuate considerably in their numbers: in the spring of 1912 they nested more numerous than usual near Capenoch. An enormous flock, said to have been of many thousands, was seen near Conheath (Caerlaverock) on 7th March, 1914.¹¹³ Great flocks were reported from the hills near Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) on 28th October, 1914, where it was suggested that they were feeding upon the Heather Beetle,¹¹⁴ and on 29th October, 1914, a flock, so large as to darken the sky, was recorded near Annan.¹¹⁵

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 24 *antea*.)

[The CHOUGH (p. 110). When at Barjarg (Keir) on 29th July, 1913, I saw a very old and faded stuffed specimen of a Chough. There was nothing to show that this bird had been obtained locally and, as an antecedent of the present proprietor had relations in Cornwall, it may have come from that part of Great Britain.]

The BRITISH JAY (p. 111). This species is extending its range from the south of the county where it would appear to have become established and to be increasing. One was reported from Carronbridge (Morton) in June, 1911, and I heard of one near Barjarg (Keir) on 22nd October, 1911. At Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe) Jays were increasing and two pairs are said to have nested in 1912. In October, 1912, several were seen near Newtonairds (Dunscore) and one was seen at Dardarroch (Glencairn) from 1st to 7th October,

¹¹³ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 14th March, 1914.

¹¹⁴ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1915, p. 179.

¹¹⁵ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 4th November, 1914.

1912. Three were seen at Capenoch (Keir) on 26th October, 1912; they stayed throughout the winter and one was unfortunately trapped but the remaining pair were seen, on and off, till March, 1913; another was trapped at Clark Hill (Keir) on 17th May, 1913. A pair were seen at Drumlanrig (Durisdeer) in the spring of 1918. The Jay in 1919 is reported from Glencaple (Caerlaverock) as "now as common as it was scarce some years ago: it is to be seen and heard in every wood."¹¹⁶ On 28th October, 1920, I saw a single Jay near Capenoch but, as far as I know, it was never seen again. Jays were reported to me in 1920 as being in Closeburn parish and two pairs were seen near Duncow (Kirkmahoe) where, early in 1921, there was still a pair. In 1921 I heard of three or more pairs near Hoddum, two pairs at Newlands (Kirkmahoe) and the species was described as nesting annually in Ruthwell parish and "as becoming a pest" near Kinmount (Cummertrees). On 24th July, 1922, I saw five Jays, apparently a brood which had been hatched in the vicinity, near Capenoch: about the same time I also heard of others having been seen in different parts of Upper Nithsdale, and on 14th November, 1922, I saw one at Maxwellton (Glencairn).

It is worth mentioning that across the Nith, at New-abbey, Jays are so firmly established that seventeen were killed in a single day's covert shooting in October, 1919.

The MAGPIE (p. 114). A pair were seen near Morton Mains (Morton) on 10th June, 1912, by Mr A. O. Curle. The species undoubtedly enjoyed a rest from persecution during the war and increased proportionately. Several were seen in Glencairn in 1914, and they had become so numerous in 1915-16 that energetic and successful measures were taken for their suppression. A pair nested in a thorn bush, on Penfillan Moor (Keir) in 1919, but both were shot. In the autumn of 1919 I frequently saw Magpies not far from Capenoch but in the spring of 1920 the vigilant gamekeepers had disposed of most of them, though a pair was seen near the Clone (Tynron) on 31st January, 1921. There can be no

¹¹⁶ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 8th January, 1919.

doubt that, if left in peace, this species would become numerous but the fact that it is an inveterate egg-stealer is sufficient to seal its doom.

The JACKDAW (p. 116). Mr George H. Robson informs me that he shot a pied Jackdaw in 1904, near Dumfries, and he kindly sent me one, obtained on 22nd October, 1910, which had five white primaries in each wing. A pied specimen, a bird of the year, was shot on 9th December, 1911, near Shearington (Caerlaverock) and is now in my collection; another with white feathers in each wing was sent me by Mr George H. Robson, from Dumfries, on 16th May, 1912.

The usual nesting place is in a hole of some kind but occasionally a nest may be found in a young fir tree from fifteen to twenty feet high: in such cases huge edifices are often made and at times two or three nests may be seen in the same tree.

A Jackdaw's nest, taken out of a chimney at Murray House, Langholm, in 1922, contained twenty-nine clothes pegs.^{116a}

The RAVEN (p. 117). Nested as usual at Glenwhargen (Penpont) in 1912, but I am told that they did not do so in 1913. They bred there in 1919, but not in 1920, though I often saw individual birds that summer and, on 12th October, I watched a Raven for some time being mobbed by a pair of Carrion Crows near Chanlock (Penpont). They nested at Glenwhargen (Penpont) in 1921 and 1922.

The Ravens at Craighoar (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) deserted their nest in 1912; in 1913 they reared a brood but in February, 1916, were driven away by a pair of Peregrines before they laid any eggs.

In 1921 I knew of a nest, in Kirkconnel parish, in a tree.

From the various reports that I have received there would still seem to be some twelve to sixteen sites within the limits of the county which are visited annually for nesting purposes.

^{116a} *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 6th May, 1922.

The CARRION CROW (p. 120). On 22nd May, 1919, one of my gamekeepers found a Carrion Crow's nest near the Aird Loch (Tynron), containing two young ones, and shot an old bird. On 24th May he sent his assistant to wait near the nest and during the evening he shot three old birds. On 1st June the gamekeeper again visited the nest, found one young bird dead in the nest, the other almost ready to fly and shot a fifth old bird: this is one of the most remarkable instances of the provision of foster parents which has come to my notice.¹¹⁷

The HOODED CROW (p. 122). One, a female, which I shot at Auchenhessnane (Tynron) on 8th December, 1910, was the first that had been seen in the parish. Hooded Crows, though not infrequently met with on our littoral in autumn and winter, do not seem to be becoming more common inland though I occasionally see individuals when out shooting.

The ROOK (p. 124). An albino, a bird of the year, was shot near Lockerbie House (Dryfesdale) on 15th May, 1911, and a piebald Rook was seen near Dumfries in May, 1912. On 15th May, 1920, I saw a bird with white wings near Sanquhar: it was subsequently seen more than once in the neighbourhood, and I am told that it nested at Littlemark (Sanquhar) in May, 1921. A "brown Crow" was reported to me as seen near Thornhill (Morton) in the spring of 1921 and again in 1922.

In March, 1921, a pair of Rooks (not Jackdaws as originally reported)¹¹⁸ made their nest on the vane which surmounts the spire of St. John's Church, Dumfries, and duly reared their brood: the spire is 128 feet from the ground.¹¹⁹

In 1911, when going through a quantity of letters to Sir William Jardine, I came across the following references to Rooks which I should certainly have utilized in my book on

¹¹⁷ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1919, p. 166.

¹¹⁸ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 19th March, 1921.

¹¹⁹ See illustration facing p. 56.

The Birds of Dumfriesshire had I known of them in time :—
A list of Rookeries in the following parishes was drawn up
in 1844 :

Dalton Hook, Halldykes, Old Walls,† Corrieland
(Drysdale *sic*).

Balgray,*† Jardine Hall,*† Dinwoodie† (Applegarth).

Shaw*† (Hutton).

Raehills (Johnstone).

Park Woods (Kirkpatrick).

Leitherhall, Miln,*† Girthhead*† (Wamphray).

Craigieburn*† (Moffat).

The sign * indicates that the Rookery so marked was in
existence in 1908, and † that it existed in 1921 : possibly
others now to be seen were known by other names in 1844.

A rookery of about twenty nests existed close to Capenoch
in 1847 and there were a few nests in the oak trees
round the house till about 1884. The tremendous gale of
January 25th-27th in that year blew down the old nests and
the Rooks did not return after that date. My grandmother
was anxious for them to come back but not so her game-
keeper. It was suggested that if baskets were put up in the
trees it might attract them but I expect that this effectually
scared them away and I can imagine the glee with which the
gamekeeper would therefore join in the proposal to erect the
baskets.

In Sir William Jardine's correspondence, in 1858, the
following Rookeries are mentioned : " Amisfield (Tinwald),
partly cut down; Raehills (Johnstone), destroyed by hurri-
cane of 1857; Woodcockair (Annan), partially destroyed by
the same cause; Halleaths (Lochmaben), partially destroyed
by some of the trees being cut down." The Rookery at
Jardine Hall was extensive and, about 1870, people used to
come from Liverpool, and other parts of Lancashire, for the
Rook shooting in the spring.

The economic value of the Rook, from an agricultural
point of view was, and is still, a fertile subject for discus-

sion. The damage done by Rooks to crops is referred to in an Act of Parliament of James I. of Scotland (May, 1424). It was estimated in 1827 that the damage done by Rooks to seed-wheat in Kirkmahoe parish amounted to £350 annually, besides injury to the potato crops. On 22nd March, 1844 [not March 23rd, 1855, as I have previously recorded], the members of the Lockerby (*sic*) Farmers' Club, on account of "the great amount of damage done annually to turnips and other crops by Rooks and Wood Pigeons," requested proprietors in the district to reduce the number of the former as far as practicable. Sir William Jardine, it is interesting to note, seems to have been in favour of checking, but not of exterminating, the Rook.

Mr W. F. Graham of Mossknowe (Kirkpatrick-Fleming) tells me that the rookery in "Sand-pit Wood," near his home, was deserted in the spring of 1916. A great explosion occurred early one morning at the Government factory at Dornock, some four miles off, and a few hours later the Rooks collected together, flew round once or twice, and then left the rookery; the nests all had eggs but the birds never came back to them. Rookeries which were nearer to Dornock than the one near Mossknowe were not deserted but Mr Graham points out that his rookery was on much higher ground than the others and that it faced towards Dornock. Sound-waves of great explosions have been found to travel long distances from the centre of the disturbance and birds are known to be affected thereby. The immediate cause of their disquiet is unknown, but it is supposed to be due either to actual perception of the sound of explosion or to shock caused by air-wave concussion.

In the spring of 1922 several Rooks were picked up dead in certain rookeries near Dumfries. The carcasses of some of these birds were submitted to an analyst who, on examination, discovered phosphorus in large quantities in their stomachs; it would seem probable that these Rooks had eaten some poisoned food put down, presumably, to kill rats.

Mr C. Mackay Sanderson has sent me the following

list of Rooks killed in Dumfriesshire in 1911 under the auspices of the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association:—

<i>Estate.</i>						<i>Number of birds killed.</i>
Auchen Castle	..	..	..	..	..	72
Balgray, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	533
Burnfoot	..	..	..	..	..	560
Castlemilk	..	..	..	..	..	515
Comlongon	..	..	..	..	..	350
Dinwoodie	..	..	..	..	..	240
Dumerieff	..	..	..	..	..	400
Gillesbie	..	..	..	..	..	420
Halleaths	..	..	..	..	..	676
Hoddon	..	..	..	..	..	805
Jardine	..	..	..	..	..	400
Kinmount	..	..	..	..	..	130
Kirkwood	..	..	..	..	..	1200
Mount Annan	..	..	..	..	..	721
Murraythwaite	..	..	..	..	..	260
Raehills	..	..	..	..	..	107
Wamphray	..	..	..	..	..	500
Total	..	..	..	..	..	7949

It is to be regretted that, since 1911, similar figures are not available.

In 1921 Mr Sanderson published a letter¹²⁰ urging co-operation in the destruction of local Rookeries, and gave it as his opinion that Rooks were increasing. Thanks to the kind assistance of numerous correspondents throughout the county I have been able to prepare the following table showing the numerical strength of our Rookeries in 1921 as compared with the list I drew up in 1908.

I cordially thank all those who have assisted me but, at the same time, I must point out that I have had very great difficulty in getting returns from certain parishes. There can be no doubt that the systematic harrying of the Rooks at their long established haunts has driven them elsewhere to nest and it is these newly-formed Rookeries which it is most difficult to detect: the totals that I have given may therefore, I think, be regarded as a minimum rather than a

¹²⁰ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 23rd March, 1921.

maximum. It will be noticed that in some cases the information at my disposal has only justified me in entering the number of nests as "some" and I may here point out that when I have received more than one estimate of the numbers of any Rookery I have added these estimates, divided the total thus gained by the number of my informants, and giving the resulting figure in my census:—

Parish and Place.	Nests in	
	1908.	1921.
ANNAN—		
Mount Annan	1000	300
Greenbank	some	20
The Moat	30	49
Fruids Park	40	20
Solway Cottage	0	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1070	409
APPLEGIRTH—		
Jardine Hall	1020	900
Balgray	120	120
Hewke	64	100
Sibbaldbie	70	70
Hallhills	0	190
Lammonbie	0	120
Dinwoodie	0	60
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1274	1560
CAERLAVEROCK—		
Wardlaw Hill	100	280
Hutton Hall	50	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	150	280
CANONBIE—		
Crow Wood	some	0
Irvine House	3	0
Auchanrivok Bank	10	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	0
CLOSEBURN—		
Castle Wood and Blackrigg	350	280
Sheep parks, belts, &c ..	150	100
Brattles belt	200	120
Sand River belt	50	50
Park Wood	0	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	750	554
CUMMERTREES—		
Murraythwaite	220	0
Glenstuart	150	300/400
Cummertrees Station	50	0
Hoddam	200	0
Hoddam Castle	150	0
Forkhill	200	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	970	400/500

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.

67

Parish and Place.	Nests in	
	1908.	1921.
DALTON—		
Denbie House	90/100	90/100
Kirkwood	800/900	1020
Dormont	200/300	400/500
Braehill banks	0	30/40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1090/1300	1540/1660
DORNOCK—		
Robgill Tower	150	0
Stapleton	180	190
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	330	190
DRYFESDALE—		
St. Michaels	80	70
Lockerbie Burgh	some	0
Bishopcleugh	50	12
Underwood	100	100
Old Walls	0	150
Croftheads	0	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	230	632
DUMFRIES—		
Castle Street	2	0
Dalseone Bank	40	0
Signpost Wood	60	24
Castledykes	141	36
Elsewhere in Burgh of Dumfries	some	82/96
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	243	142/156
DUNSCORE—		
Dalgonar	150/200	250
Laggan	some	0
Upper Linburn	40	0
Friars' Carse	700/1000	450
Sundaywell	30	0
Greenhead	30/40	20/30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	950/1310	720/730
DURISDEER	0	0
ESKDALEMUIR—		
Crurie	0	200
EWES—		
Sorbie	12	0
Unthank	some	0
Mosspebble	some	0
The Mause	some	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12	0
GLENCAIRN—		
Caitloch	100	0
Barbuie	10	0
Dalwhat	1	0
Snade	100	120/130
Shancastle	10/12	0
Gilmerston	60	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	281/283	160/170

Parish and Place.	Nests in	
	1908.	1921.
GRETNA—		
East Scales	50	75
Scales Bank	20	10
Gretna Hall	some	200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	70	285
HALF-MORTON	0	0
HODDAM—		
Knockhill	250	300
Aitchison's Hill	30	0
Shortrigg	50	0
Crossfield	2	2
Kirkeconnel Hall	150	150
Relief	100	100
Burnswark	150	100
Newfield	100	100
Hoddam Parish Kirk	8	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	840	752
HOLYWOOD—		
Gribton	200	200
Broomrigg	some	0
Cluden Bank	20/30	83
Portrack	200/300	300/400
Cowhill	200/300	200/300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	620/830	783/983
HUTTON AND CORRIE—		
Cowburn	40	106
Paddockhole	30/35	90
Shaw	200	350
Marygill	40	52
Upper Hutton	10	20
Balstack	0	27
Whiteknowe	0	80
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	320/325	725
JOHNSTONE	0	0
KEIR—		
Bardennoch	130	0
KIRKCONNEL—		
Gateside	0	7
KIRKMAHOE—		
Carnsalloch	200	0
Cullivate	170	240
Duncow	300	220
Castlehill	65	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	735	525

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.

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Parish and Place.	Nests in	
	1908.	1921.
KIRKMICHAEL—		
Over Courance	some	0
Kirkmichael Estate	100	196
Kirkmichael Glebe	0	50
The Barony	0	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100	346
KIRKPATRICK-FLEMING—		
Broats House	50	0
Mossknowe	450	20
Wyseby	200	0
Hayfield	50	0
Grahamshill	90	50
Springkell	6	0
Woodhouse	800/1000	200
Kirkpatrick House	20	60
Hillhead	0	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1666/1866	342
KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA ..	0	0
LANGHOLM—		
Greenbank	100	} 150
Townhead Kirk	90	
Erkinholm	20/30	
Langholm Burgh	60	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	270/280	200
LOCHMABEN—		
Broadchapel	100	100
Broomwood	200	100
Bruce's Castle	150	0
Thornietwaite	some	0
Corneockle	0	200
Millriggs	0	200
Old Spedlings	0	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	450	631
MIDDLEBIE—		
Craigs	70/100	0
Waterbeck Village	some	0
Burnfoot Cover	100	80
Braes by Kirtle Water	80	0
Donkins, near Kirtlebridge	some	90/120
Eaglesfield	0	30
Torbeck Hill	150	200
Gilmartin	150	250
Blackwood House	some	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	550/580	650/680
MOFFAT—		
Craigieburn Wood	200	465
Heathery Haugh	50	13
Archbank	34	38
Ballplay	40	0
Parish Kirk	70/80	15

Parish and Place.	Nests in	
	1908.	1921.
MOFFAT (continued)—		
Emu Villa (Beech Grove) .	26	22
Laurencefield	some	0
Dumerieff	some	0
Shortwood End	some	0
Alton	0	78
Millmeadows	0	127
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	420/430	758
MORTON		
	0	0
MOUSWALD—		
Brocklehurst	110	0
The Manse	24	3
Beyond the Burn	70/80	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	204/214	303
PENPONT		
	0	0
RUTHWELL—		
The Manse	100	100
Summerfield Farm	120/130	108
Comlongon Castle	80	13
Nether Locharwoods	80	40
Peter's Plantation	230	0
Belriding Farm	0	9
Stragging Walk	0	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	610/620	320
ST. MUNGO—		
Castle Milk	200	0
SANQUHAR—		
Glengenny		33
Littlemark	400	170
Twentyshilling		100
The Manse	120/130	120
Blackaddie	0	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	520/530	463
TINWALD—		
Amisfield	some	150
Dalruscan	140	90
Carse Glen	400	280
Glenæ	some	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	540	520
TORTHORWALD—		
The Manse	some	0
TUNDERGARTH—		
Whitstonhill	50	130
Wylie Hole	50	80
Pearsby Hall	100	140
Burnheadwood	10	0

Parish and Place.	Nests in	
	1908.	1921.
TUNDERGARTH (continued)—		
Grange	50	120/130
North Burn	some	0
West Wood	60	0
Dixons	0	54
Cudscroft	0	250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	320	774/784
TYNRON	0	0
WAMPHRAY—		
Milnehouse	300	125
Near Wamphray Rly. Station	10	0
Girthhead	150	150
Shawwood, Fingland ..	20	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	480	324
WESTERKIRK—		
Westerhall	some	0
Douglas Bank	some	0
Burnfoot	50	0
Kemra Bank	30	0
Glendinning	0	8/10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80	8/10

From the above figures it will be seen that in 1908 there were upwards of 16,488 to 17,555 Rooks' nests in Dumfriesshire, as compared with 15,503 to 15,999 in 1921. I have already pointed out that I think these figures may be taken as a minimum rather than a maximum but, in any case, it appears that, within the last thirteen years, there has been a decrease in our local Rook population.

The SWIFT (p. 151). Arrived at Capenoch in 1912, on 5th May; in 1913, on 1st May; in 1914, on 25th April; in 1918, on 10th May; in 1920 and 1921, on 1st May; and in 1922, on 7th May: prior to 1914 the 3rd of May was the earliest date I had recorded for the arrival of this species in the county. Individuals were last seen in 1911, on 13th August; in 1912, on 11th August; in 1913, on 8th August; in 1918, on 10th August; in 1919, on 6th August; in 1920, on 12th August; in 1921, on 18th August (the latest date on which I have ever seen the species at Capenoch); and in 1922, on 13th August. The numbers that nest under the roof of my home have, since 1910, only varied annually from six to eight pairs.

“ Bullfit ” is given, by the late James Shaw, as “ a local name for either this species or the House Martin.”¹²¹

The NIGHTJAR (p. 152). Was first seen in 1913, at Lann (Tynron), on 11th May; and in 1915, on 10th May, near Thornhill (Morton): these are somewhat early dates for the arrival of the species locally. The crepuscular habits of the Nightjar do not favour its ready observation but it is not uncommon, though of local distribution, in the county and its nest is not infrequently found when cutting bracken on the moors.

In 1922 I found a nest on Capenoch Moor containing two newly hatched Nightjars on 14th August: this is an unusually late date.

The BRITISH GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (p. 157). I have heard this bird called the Black and White Spotted Woodpecker and the Black and White Woodpecker. Individuals were seen in the autumn and winter of 1910 at Carnsalloch (Kirkmahoe) and Auchengibbert Wood (Tynron). In the spring of 1911 it was reported to me from Carnsalloch (Kirkmahoe), Closeburn Hall (Closeburn), Denbie (Dalton), Raehills (Johnstone), Capenoch (Keir), and Auchengibbert Wood (Tynron) where they nested in the same decaying tree as in 1910. In 1912 it was reported from Closeburn, Hoddom, and Capenoch. In the spring of 1913 the Spotted Woodpecker was heard at Denbie (Lockerbie) but it is not known to have nested there. In May, 1914, it was heard and seen at Capenoch; and on 12th July, 1914, was seen for the first time at Newtonairds (Holywood). It nested at Lann (Tynron) in 1916 and a bird was seen near Chanlock (Penpont) on 12th November, 1918. It nested near Ruthwell in 1919 and was seen again near Chanlock on 19th January, 1920. In May, 1920, the Woodpecker was often heard at Capenoch and a male was unfortunately shot there on 30th June. The species is now firmly established in the county and, from the various reports with which I have

¹²¹ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 1893-4, p. 144.

been favoured, would appear to be resident in suitable localities.

The KINGFISHER (p. 162). I occasionally see one on Scaur Water and on 5th September, 1911, I saw one on the river Sark. Kingfishers were numerous near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in the winter of 1916-17,¹²² and more so in 1917-18.¹²³ The species is thought to be increasing on the Annan where at least three pairs were known near Jardine Hall in the early spring of 1921, and it is, I think, more often seen on the Nith and its tributaries than ten years ago.

The ROLLER (p. 165). Has occurred on three occasions in the county, not twice. First, prior to 1839; secondly, near Bankhead (Ginwald), October, 1864; and thirdly, near Auchenbrac (Tynron), 23rd June, 1910. The contents of the stomach of this last specimen were identified for me by the late Robert Service as follows:—“(1) Nine specimens of the Dipteron, *Anthomyia pluvialis* (?), or a nearly allied species. (2) A quantity of Beetle remains, all of them being Geodephagous, and not less than sixteen individuals. (3) One ant, *Formica curricularia*. (4) One (head only) of the beetle *Carabus nemoralis*. (5) One specimen of *Brosicus cephalotes*. (6) One specimen of *Aphodius rufescens*. (7) Numerous vegetable fibres. All of these could have been picked up in some woodland path at the time of year the bird was shot.” The Roller, which has been recorded from the mainland of Scotland on some twenty or twenty-five occasions, does not appear to have occurred in this country since this specimen, shot at Auchenbrac (Tynron), was obtained.

The HOOPOE (p. 166). Is alleged to have been seen near Carnsalloch (Kirkmahoe) in December, 1910; a very unusual, though not unprecedented, date for the local appearance for this species which may be described as only an occasional visitor to Scotland, though a passage-migrant in

¹²² *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 10th February, 1917.

¹²³ *Op. cit.*, 9th January, 1918.

England, where it nests occasionally in the south coastal counties.

The CUCKOO (p. 168). The breeding habits of this species have recently been closely studied by Mr Edgar Chance who, amongst other things, has shown that under exceptional conditions a Cuckoo will lay so many as twenty-one eggs in one season.¹²⁴

Although the Cuckoo was reported in 1911 as heard at Glenmaid (Kirkmahoe) on 31st March,¹²⁵ I very much suspect some mistake. The following is a list of the first appearances of the Cuckoo locally :—

Year.	First seen or heard.	District.	Notes
1911 ..	17th April ..	Beattock	.. Personally I did not see a Cuckoo till 30th April.
1912 ..	26th April ..	Capenoch	
1913 ..	24th April ..	Auchenbainzie	.. <i>D. & G. Standard</i> , 26/4/13.
1914 ..	19th April ..	Auchenbainzie	.. <i>D. & G. Standard</i> , 25/4/14.
1915 ..	23rd April ..	Capenoch	
1916 ..	24th April ..	Capenoch	
1917 ..	21st April ..	Capenoch	
1918 ..	26th April ..	Capenoch	
1919 ..	20th April ..	Dumfries	.. <i>D. & G. Standard</i> , 23/4/19.
1920 ..	24th April ..	Capenoch	
1921 ..	28th April ..	Capenoch	
1922 ..	21st April ..	Dumfries	.. <i>Scotsman</i> , 27/4/22. Not heard at Capenoch till 30th April.

The BARN OWL (p. 173). In 1910 I wrote :—“ The Barn Owl has decreased in this county almost to vanishing point. During the first half of the nineteenth century, there is abundant proof that it was quite common, if not the commonest of our four resident species of Owls, but all later observers remark on its decrease.” I am now able to say that this species is regaining its numerical strength though it still appears to be somewhat local in its distribution. Several of my correspondents in Annandale, Nithsdale and in the south of the county have remarked the increase of the Barn

¹²⁴ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. XIV., p. 218; and Edgar Chance: *The Cuckoo's Secret* (1922).

¹²⁵ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 5th April, 1911.

Owl. Mr R. Wood has sent me a photograph, taken in July, 1919, in the goods shed at Carronbridge Railway Station, of three nestlings. Mr James Bartholomew has recorded the occurrence of a Barn Owl at Kinnelhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta).¹²⁶

In August, 1911, an Owl (of what species is not mentioned) is stated to have flown against and smashed the thick glass look-out window of the cab of a railway engine which was travelling at express speed between Kilmarnock and Carlisle.¹²⁷

The SHORT-EARED OWL (p. 176). In the spring of 1912 Voles were reported to me as more than usually numerous in Closeburn parish, by Mr Borland, who further stated that his shepherd had seen a pair of Short-eared Owls near Auchencairn. The species is occasionally seen in Lochar Moss and near Springkell (Kirkpatrick-Fleming). In 1921 I was informed that Short-eared Owls were nesting in Sanquhar and Kirkconnel parishes and a specimen was sent me from near Langholm, with the remark that this species had not been seen since the Vole plague of 1891-3, but that it was now plentiful in that district.

The MARSH HARRIER (p. 184). Carse Wood, where a fine old male Marsh Harrier was killed on 5th May, 1898, is in Tinwald, not in Kirkmichael, parish.

The HEN HARRIER (p. 185). A bird, confidently reported to me by two observers as of the Harrier species, was seen at the junction of the Scaur and Nith (Keir) on 26th October, 1917. An unidentified hawk, alleged to have been a Hen Harrier, was seen near Cummertrees in February, 1920.

Colonel Crabbé informs me that a Hen Harrier was shot by his keeper near Duncow (Kirkmahoe) in March, 1920, which unfortunately was not preserved: it was thought to have been a female and a male was said to have been seen

¹²⁶ *Scottish Naturalist* (1916), p. 38.

¹²⁷ *Thornhill News*, 14th August, 1911.

in the vicinity but escaped. I heard rumours of a pair of these birds being seen, in the late summer of 1920, near Courance (Kirkmichael) and Mr Maurice Portal informs me that on 1st September, 1920, he saw a Hen Harrier near Loch Etterick, in Closeburn parish, which adjoins Kirkmichael. On 3rd September he saw a male and two females, one of which appeared to be an old bird, quartering the moor above Townfoot loch (Closeburn). The keeper on the beat subsequently told me that he had seen Hen Harriers all the summer and it has been suggested that these birds bred there in 1920, but satisfactory evidence of this is not forthcoming.

The COMMON BUZZARD (p. 188) P. J. Selby states in 1831 that "in the hilly districts of Dumfries, Selkirk and Peebles, it is very numerous in the breeding season, and almost every precipitous dell or rock contains an eyry."¹²⁸ William MacGillivray writes that in the autumn of 1832 he saw several Buzzards circling over the upper part of the valley of Moffat Water.¹²⁹ I am confident that in those days the species was comparatively common and although I am not aware that the Buzzard has nested of recent years in Dumfriesshire I think it is now seen more frequently in autumn and winter than ten years ago. One was seen at close quarters at Capenoch (Keir) on 5th November, 1910, and I saw another at Chanlock (Penpont) on 8th November, 1911. One was seen near Langholm on 10th June, 1913, and another on Capenoch moor in June, 1920; having been seen in these months leads me to expect that Buzzards may possibly have nested not far off. One was shot near Closeburn in October, 1920, and that season I more than once met with Buzzards in the upper valley of Scaur Water. During the years 1915 to 1920 four Buzzards were seen in Moffat parish,¹³⁰ but nothing is recorded as to

¹²⁸ *Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumberland and Durham*, Vol. I. (1831), p. 248.

¹²⁹ W. MacGillivray: *Description of the Rapacious Birds of Great Britain* (1836), p. 136.

¹³⁰ *The Scotsman*, 26th February, 1921.

their having nested. In March, 1921, two pairs were reported to me as "probably nesting" in Wamphray parish and a similar report reached me in April, 1921, concerning one pair in Applegarth parish, but it is certainly curious that I should be unable to state definitely that the Buzzard nests within the limits of the county.

The ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (p. 192). A bird of this species was shot at Craigielands (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) early in June, 1914. Mr N. E. Douglas Menzies of Newtonairs (Holywood) informs me that a Rough-legged Buzzard was trapped near there in February, 1920.

[The GOLDEN EAGLE (p. 194). It is so far satisfactory to be able to state definitely that a pair of Golden Eagles nested in 1921, in a neighbouring county, within sixteen miles of the boundary of Dumfriesshire. The two eggs which were laid proved to be unfertile, and the birds did not re-visit their eyrie in 1922. It is alleged that about 1917 an Eagle was seen not far from where the pair nested in 1921, and that she laid a single egg which was taken: I have no definite proof as to this allegation, but as regards the 1921 occurrence there is no doubt, and I have myself seen and handled one of the eggs laid on this occasion.]^{130a}

The WHITE-TAILED EAGLE (p. 198). In my *Birds of Dumfriesshire* (p. 202) I quote the story, told by the Rev. F. O. Morris,¹³¹ of an Erne being drowned by a salmon which was too large for it to carry off: I have only recently come across the original tale:—"Some years ago [*circa* 1825] a large salmon was found dead, and an immense eagle [Sea Eagle] drowned beside it, with the claws of the one stuck into the back of the other, upon the banks of Moffat Water. A few days before, a party of young men had started

^{130a} *The Scottish Naturalist*: 1922, pp. 99, 100.

¹³¹ Rev. F. O. Morris: *History of British Birds*, 1870, Vol. I., p. 13.

on a Sunday night to spear salmon by the light of a blazing torch; Moffat water, from its general shallowness, and the nakedness and level character of its banks, offering unwonted facilities for this sport. The parties had scarcely begun to search the pools, when they were astonished with some strange noise that came ' splash, splash ' upon them; and soon a huge pair of wings appeared, magnified by the uncertain light, and accompanied with other startling and uncertain noises. The phenomena floated past, almost among their feet, and the young men terrified and impressed with the idea that an apparition had appeared to warn them of the danger of misspending the Sabbath day, left their sport and returned home. The circumstance was kept a profound secret, until the discovery of the cause of the phenomena relieved the youths from the fears which it had excited."¹³²

[The GOSHAWK (p. 204). When writing to me on 3rd February, 1921, regarding the ancient distribution of the Goshawk in Scotland, Mr J. E. Harting says:—" I have just been looking into your *Birds of Dumfriesshire* to see what is said about the Goshawk. It seems to me that Prof. Cosmo Innes is in error in his translation [of Roger Avenel's charter to Melrose Abbey¹³³] when he writes that the family of Avenel ' reserved the eyries of Falcons and Tercels.' In the Latin original the words *accipitrum et sperveriorum* show that the birds were Goshawks and Sparrow Hawks, both nesting in trees, and it may be inferred that the Peregrine was not intended, otherwise the genitive plural *falconum*, instead of *accipitrum*, would have been used to denote the species. Moreover, no trees were to be cut down *in which such birds had formed eyries*, therefore these were evidently not falcons. If the Latin had been *accipitrum aut sperveriorum*, it might be argued that the terms were synonymous, but as the conjunction is *et* obviously the reference is to two different species, the first named being the

¹³² J. S. Bushnan: *Introduction to the Study of Nature*, 1834, p. 237.

¹³³ *Scotland in Middle Ages*, 1860, pp. 129, 130.

Goshawk, the more valuable of the two. Robert Gray's argument [that Sparrow Hawks were not much valued in falconry] is fallacious in as much as the document in question shows that Sparrow Hawks were valued by the falconer, and on that account were specially protected." Mr Harting's criticism, of the authorities I quoted in 1910, is most interesting and it may be that the Goshawk did indeed breed regularly in Eskdale in the thirteenth century.]

The SPARROW HAWK (p. 206). On 11th November, 1913, a Sparrow Hawk pursued a House Sparrow into a public-house on the Whitesands in the town of Dumfries, where both birds were captured.¹³⁴ Shooting at Laight (Tynron) on 26th September, 1918, a Partridge was wounded and disappeared round a hill pursued by a female Sparrow Hawk. Immediately after, when walking the hill in line, the Sparrow Hawk rose and was shot, when it was found that it had killed, and had commenced to eat, the Partridge. On more than one occasion I have found the remains of Woodcock which appeared to have been killed by Sparrow Hawks. On 24th April, 1919, I saw a Sparrow Hawk, at Capenoch, fly off with a Woodcock which it had just killed and, when shooting at Ardwell, Wigtownshire, on 13th January, 1922, I saw a Sparrow Hawk in actual pursuit of a Woodcock. In 1921 I heard of a case where a Magpie had been the victim of a Sparrow Hawk.

The PEREGRINE FALCON (p. 212). Peregrines nested in several of their accustomed haunts in the spring of 1911, and I knew of one eyrie in a new locality; the two eggs were, however, taken after they had been laid three weeks. A pair nested at Craighoar (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) in 1911, but the male was shot on 4th May and the nest with three eggs was deserted. Peregrines nested at Glenwhargen (Penpont) in 1913, 1918, 1919, 1920 (when a second pair attempted to nest in a neighbouring glen), in 1921 and 1922. From the reports I have received there would seem to be as many eyries now annually tenanted as in 1910, but it is melancholy reading

¹³⁴ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 12th November, 1913.

to hear of birds of this species having been shot near Brocklehurst (Mouswald) in 1913 and in September, 1918; near Gribton (Holywood) on 27th November, 1919; near Dalawoodie (Holywood) in December, 1919; a pair, young birds, near Comlongon (Ruthwell) in 1920; and it is probable that others, of which I am not aware, have been killed elsewhere in the county.

Mr George Robson informs me that on six or seven occasions, in the winter of 1918-19, he saw a male Peregrine Falcon come from the direction of Criffel to the spire of St. Michael's Church, Dumfries, where it presumably roosted.

Pigeons are a favourite prey of the Peregrine and, near an eyry in Gareland Cleuch (Kirkconnel), the remains of a number of homing-pigeons and ten metal rings were found in 1921.¹³⁵

The MERLIN (p. 215). In 1910 I knew of a case where the female of a pair of breeding birds was shot from its nest on the ground: the survivor found a mate and the old nest of a Carrion-Crow was utilised for its second matrimonial venture. In 1911 a pair of Merlins bred in the old nest of a Carrion-Crow in a Scots fir, some thirty or forty feet from the ground, near Kilmark (Tynron). I have already recorded the fact that this species, locally, does not uncommonly breed in trees in disused nests of other species.

Where afforded protection the Merlin would appear not to be decreasing and I knew of several nests in the county in 1921: a brood, which was hatched out near Capenoch that year, afforded me frequent enjoyment in July when the young were receiving tuition from their parents.

[The OSPREY (p. 219). I have recently come across a reference, in a book published in 1800, which may refer to Ospreys rather than to Eagles:—"Loch Skeen, is 1100 yards in length, and about 400 in breadth, there is a little island where eagles bring out their young in great safety, as the water is deep and there is no boat on the lake."¹³⁶

¹³⁵ *Pall Mall and Globe*, 2nd June, 1921.

¹³⁶ T. Garnett: *Observations on a Tour through the Highlands and Part of the Western Isles of Scotland*, Vol. II. (1800), p. 262.

A well-known ornithologist informs me that on 14th May, 1911, he saw two big birds of prey, flying towards Loch Skeen, which "from their long pointed wings, white breasts, etc.," he was "inwardly confident were Ospreys" but which he "would not dream of recording as such."]

The CORMORANT (p. 221). In 1908 the late Mr R. Service wrote to me that he had never heard of Cormorants breeding at Lochmaben but I have since been confidently informed that from 1898 till 1903 five pairs nested in trees on the island in the Castle Loch and another pair on a Scots fir in the wood bordering the road to Annan. Although since that date the Cormorants have not bred at Lochmaben they may almost be regarded as daily visitors and I saw one there on 28th May, 1921.

A Cormorant was shot on the Nith near Drumlanrig (Durisdeer) on 2nd December, 1912; and one, shot at the Far Loch (Keir) on 12th September, 1921, was the first I had ever seen there.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 24 *antea*.)

The GANNET (p. 224). One, in beautiful plumage, was picked up near Hoddam in the winter of 1910-11. A Gannet, apparently about three years old, was caught about four miles south-west of Beattock (Moffat) on 26th June, 1912. A mature female, which had killed itself by flying against some telegraph wires fifteen miles inland, was picked up on 5th June, 1913. On 6th May, 1914, a Gannet was found with a broken wing, near Sanquhar, its captor wished to take it alive but it bit him so severely in his leg and thumb that he killed it. A Gannet alighted near Dumfries boathouse on 15th May, 1919, and allowed itself to be captured. One or two were seen near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in the winter of 1920-21, and one was seen near there in January, 1921. A young Gannet, which had flown against the telegraph wires along the Cairn Valley Railway, was picked up alive near Snade Mill (Glencairn) on 16th October, 1921.

The COMMON HERON (p. 225). There was a Heronry at Jardine Hall (Applegarth) in 1870, but not a large one. Mr

Andrew Chapman informs me that a pair nest there annually now.

The number of nests at Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe) was only three in 1910, and it is sad to have to confess that Herons are subjected locally to much persecution. The former Heronries at Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe) and Flaskwood (Langholm) are now deserted, and there would appear to be a decrease at Crurie (Eskdalemuir) and at Halleaths (Lochmaben) where the species is zealously protected. From time to time I have heard of a pair of Herons having nested in some wood or other, and in 1910 I gave it as my belief that Herons which happened to nest in a new locality were often given no chance of returning a second year; this belief has been confirmed by experience. I have, moreover, been informed that during the past four years, no less than ninety Herons were shot on a single loch, and this statement will show the treatment which is, on some properties, meted out to this bird. It is possible that when drawing up the list of "Heronries existing in Dumfriesshire in 1908," I included certain localities which were, as a matter of fact, only resorted to sporadically; it is, in any case, significant of the persecution to which the species has been subjected that, from the figures sent in to me, I find that heronries of three, or more, nests can now only be recorded as below:—

ANNAN—					
Woodcockair	..	..	..	..	6 nests
ESKDALEMUIR—					
Crurie	..	..	..	..	6 nests
KIRKPATRICK-FLEMING—					
Hollee Wood	..	..	..	..	4 nests
LOCHMABEN—					
Halleaths	..	..	..	..	20 nests

The BITTERN (p. 233). A bird of this species was shot at Gribton (Holywood) by Mr George Logan in the winter of 1916-17.

The GLOSSY IBIS: *Plegadis falcinellus* (Linnaeus). On 26th July, 1911, a man employed to scare Rooks at Crurie (Eskdalemuir) shot an Ibis from a flock of four. It was seen in the flesh by Mr A. Hay Borthwick, who had often seen the

species in Egypt, and who at once informed me of the occurrence.

The Ibis is but an irregular visitor north of the Alpine range of Central Europe, and only some twenty-six records of its occurrence in Scotland have been recorded.

[The SPOONBILL (p. 239). Mr John Harkness has informed me that about 1865 a bird believed to have been a Spoonbill, since it was identified as such by Irving Murray who had become familiar with the species while employed in the Eastern Mediterranean, was shot at Priestside (Cummer-trees). Recent reports which I have received as to the local occurrence of the " Spoonbill " have, on investigation, proved to have referred to the Shoveler.]

The GREY LAG-GOOSE (p. 239). In 1907 I was sent some eggs from the Outer Hebrides, of which three hatched out: one of the birds lived till 1917 and the other two are still alive.

Grey Lags are the most numerous of the Grey Geese which now visit Glencaple (Caerlaverock) and eighteen have been killed by three guns in a single night.¹³⁷ In the winter of 1920-21 Grey Lag-Geese were more than usually numerous near Glencaple, but seemed to be particularly wary: on 22nd January, 1921, I counted one lot of 410 and was told this did not represent one half of the " stock." I am led to believe that the winter of 1920-21 was one of the most productive ever experienced by the Solway wildfowlers, and though Geese and Wildfowl were more than usually abundant in the winter of 1921-22 the weather was not propitious for making large bags.

A flock of 33 Grey Lags passed over Capenoch Kennels within gun-shot on 22nd April, 1920, which is about the average date for their emigration. In 1911 Grey Geese were seen so late in the Solway (on the Cumberland side) as 3rd and 25th July,¹³⁸ but " pricked " or wounded Geese sometimes remain all the summer and thus lead to extraordinary

¹³⁷ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 4th February, 1920.

¹³⁸ *Zoologist*, 1912, p. 182.

dates being recorded for the late stay, or early arrival, of the species.

On 28th January, 1921, I was sent the feet of a Grey Lag-Goose which had been shot the previous day near Glencaple (Caerlaverock). The feet of this bird were peculiar: the webbing between the toes being absent except for a narrow strip of web between the toes of the left foot. This may be taken as evidence that the peculiarity was not congenital and, in the absence of any sign of disease, expert opinion could offer no better explanation than that the abnormality might have been caused by frost-bite or by accident. In my opinion, however, it seems more probable that it may have been due to a crude attempt to mark the Goose, possibly for purposes of identification, when in its summer haunts. It may be noted, by way of comparison, that a Mallard, with "only partially webbed feet," was shot in North Uist on 13th January, 1902;¹³⁹ when I stayed with the late Dr J. A. Harvie-Brown at Dunipace, in May, 1908, these two feet were preserved in a glass case hung in the bedroom in which I was sleeping. Another instance of a similar malformation, but in a domestic duck, has been recorded.^{139a}

The WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (p. 242). One was shot near the mouth of Lochar Water (Ruthwell) in 1912.¹⁴⁰ Mr Wilson, whose experience of wild-fowling at Glencaple (Caerlaverock) extends for over thirty years, stated early in 1920 that he had only seen this species in one winter, on which occasion he killed three with two shots.¹⁴¹ He told me later that a bird of this species was shot near Glencaple early in December, 1920; that on 2nd January, 1921, he saw a flock of thirty-two or thirty-three; and that on 22nd February, 1921, he saw a lot of three. Mr Wilson informed me, on 22nd December, 1921, that the "Geese" were never more plentiful and that there was "a fair sprinkling" of White-fronted.

¹³⁹ *Annals of Scottish Natural History* (1902), pp. 208-9.

^{139a} *The Magazine of Natural History* (1834), p. 316.

¹⁴⁰ E. W. Brook: *in litt.*, 19th February, 1921.

¹⁴¹ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 4th February, 1920.

The BEAN GOOSE (p. 244). Although described in 1920 as "fairly common at Glencaple (Caerlaverock),"¹⁴² I am of the opinion that this species is less often met with locally than either the Grey Lag or Pink-Footed Goose.

The PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (p. 246). A Pink-Footed Goose was killed at Glencaple (Caerlaverock) on Christmas Day, 1905, but one of the four wildfowlers there, speaking from thirty years' experience, stated that he had not seen above half-a-dozen.¹⁴³ A Pink-Footed Goose, shot on the Nith below Kenneth Bank, on 15th January, 1919, and sent to me for identification, proved excellent eating. A Goose of this species was caught in the flight-nets near Glencaple on 16th January, 1921, another was killed there some little time before, and in January, 1922, several were obtained.

The BERNACLE GOOSE (p. 250). In 1912 twelve of these birds were seen at Lantonside (Caerlaverock) so early as 6th September, a very early date for the appearance of this species. Three Bernacles were seen at Locharfoot (Dumfries) in June, 1920, and a similar number, at the same place, on 22nd May, 1921: but these may have been "pricked birds."

Twenty-eight Bernacles were killed with six shots by three guns at Glencaple (Caerlaverock) one night in January, 1918.¹⁴⁴ When shooting near Caerlaverock on 5th January, 1920, I reckoned that I saw quite 500 Bernacles. The species, however, is not so abundant on our shores as it was at the end of the nineteenth century.

On 19th March, 1913, nineteen Bernacle Geese were struck dead by lightning near Aldermanseat (Gretna).¹⁴⁵

A Bernacle Goose was shot on 1st January, 1895, near Shieldhill (Tinwald), some twelve miles from the sea.

The BRENT GOOSE (p. 253). A small flock were often seen near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in the winter of

¹⁴² *Loc. cit.*

¹⁴³ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 4th February, 1920.

¹⁴⁴ *Op. cit.*, 9th January, 1920.

¹⁴⁵ *Scottish Naturalist*, 1913, p. 161.

1916-17.¹⁴⁶ One was shot near Lantonside (Caerlaverock) in January, 1918;¹⁴⁷ another near Caerlaverock in December, 1919.

A Brent Goose was seen in Scaur Water, near Capenoch (Keir), some eighteen miles from the sea, on 5th October, 1910.

The WHOOPER SWAN (p. 255). A flock of twenty-three Swans, believed by my informant, Mr A. Goldie-Scot, to have been of this species, were seen on Loch Urr (Glencairn) on 9th November, 1911.

The date of the ominous appearance of "the White Swan" on the loch at Closeburn, within twenty-four hours of which it is alleged that the heir of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick (second Baronet of Closeburn) died, may be hazarded as 1686, the year of Sir Thomas' third marriage. It may be of interest to note, in connection with the above story, that this loch was drained by Mr Douglas Baird in 1859.¹⁴⁸ In Germany the Swan has been regarded similarly as a bird of ill-omen:—"At Kemnitz in the Mark a night watchman averred that he could always tell when someone in the village was about to die. On such occasions just before he cried midnight, a white swan came up out of Plessow lake and walked to the churchyard. When he saw it he did not dare call the hour. Once it appeared, went to the churchyard, but passed on to the residence of the baron. He ran home, roused his family and told them of the portent. Sure enough within the week the baron died!"¹⁴⁹

The COMMON SHELD-DUCK (p. 262). Has greatly increased owing to the protection afforded it by the local County Council Wild Birds Protection "Order" which prohibits the taking of its eggs and protects the bird throughout the year. A local name for this species is "Laughing-Duck."

¹⁴⁶ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 10th February, 1917.

¹⁴⁷ *Op. cit.*, 9th January, 1918.

¹⁴⁸ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 24th May, 1913.

¹⁴⁹ Charles de Kay: *Bird Gods* [1898 ?], p. 201.

[The MANDARIN - DUCK: *Æx Galericulata* (*Linnæus*). A pair of these Ducks were shot on the river Sark in the winter of 1913-14, and passed into the possession of Mr Cleeborg. The species, which is a native of Formosa and central and southern China, was for long kept in semi-domesticity at Netherby (Cumberland) where it used to nest full-winged and whence doubtless the above-mentioned pair had strayed. Sir Richard Graham has informed me that all his Mandarin Duck have now been killed.¹⁵⁰]

The MALLARD (p. 265). The best night's "fighting," that I have heard of being obtained locally, was got at Shieldhill (Tinwald) in the winter of 1894-5, when forty-six Mallard were shot in one evening.

On 25th January, 1912, a pure white duck was seen, in company with several normal Mallard, near Drumlanrig (Durisdeer): the hand-rearing of "Wild Duck," however, deprives such records of much of their interest.

It is well known that the females of this species occasionally assume the plumage of the male but it is always interesting when exact data as to such occurrences are forthcoming. Mrs Keswick of Cowhill informs me that a Wild Duck, which was hatched in 1914, was hand-reared and subsequently mated with an Aylesbury Drake and later with a Buff Orpington Drake. In nearly all the ducklings obtained from these unions the "Mallard-strain" predominated. In 1919 the Wild Duck laid her last clutch of eggs and in the following year took on drake's plumage: thereafter the change became more marked after each moult, so that in the winter of 1922 she had completely assumed the plumage, including the curly tail-feathers, of her opposite sex.

I cannot help thinking that Mallard have increased locally of recent years: this supposition is not only borne out by my "game-book," but also by the number of pairs to be seen on our lochs in the breeding season.

A brood of seven ducklings was seen on the pond near Lincluden House, just over the boundary of Dumfriesshire,

¹⁵⁰ Sir Richard Graham; *in litt.*, 4th January, 1921.

on 9th November, 1920: the extraordinary mild autumn of the year had much to account for, but this is a most remarkably late date on which to see a brood of young Mallard.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 24 *antea*.)

The SHOVELER (p. 269). Mr Maurice Portal informs me that he shot a Shoveler near Torduff Point (Gretna) in August, 1911, and that in July, 1912, three young birds were seen there. I am indebted to the Hon. Aretas Akers Douglas for the information that Shovelers have nested near the "pool" on Craigs Moss (Dumfries), and that he has seen Shovelers occasionally when shooting there in August.¹⁵¹ A Shoveler was shot in August, 1920, near Raehills (Johnstone), and a pair were seen near Caerlaverock on 12th May, 1921. I am informed by Mr George Russell that a pair of Shovelers nested not far from Mouswald Place (Mouswald) in 1921 and 1922. A young Shoveler, one of a brood of three, was shot near Murraythwaite (Cummertrees) on 17th August, 1922.

Mr James Wilson sent me a male which he had shot near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) on 24th January, 1912: he described it as a "Spoonbill," and added that it was very rare. I was told that "on 19th October, 1913, one male and twelve female Shovelers were seen at Dalswinton loch (Kirkmahoe)," but possibly some of the alleged "females" were young males. Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles saw a male, close to the Water of Æ near Elshieshields (Lochmaben), in December, 1917. A Shoveler was killed near Dormont (Dalton) in the autumn of 1920. The species is well known as an autumn and winter visitant to the Lochmaben lochs.

The PINTAIL (p. 272). This species is more frequently met with locally than formerly and in February, 1911, I saw a lot of upwards of a hundred in the estuary of the Nith opposite Carsethorn, Kirkcudbrightshire. Sir Richard Graham informs me that Pintail, originally from a stock of pinioned wild-birds, now nest freely at Netherby (Cumberland) and that before the war they were increasing;¹⁵² it is almost certain that his experiments have made a difference

¹⁵¹ Hon. Aretas Akers Douglas: *in litt.*, 21st January, 1921.

¹⁵² Sir Richard Graham: *in litt.*, 4th January, 1921.



PIED RING-DOVE.

Shot at Closeburn, 23rd April, 1915.

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in the numbers of the species which occur in Dumfriesshire. The first Pintail ever killed at Capenoch was shot on 13th October, 1921, and proved to be a young male just on the point of changing into adult plumage. The species is not often seen on the Lochmaben lochs but is met with annually in most of the littoral parishes and, near Glencaple (Caerlaverock), two or three lots of over one hundred were seen from 15th to 19th April, 1921.

The TEAL (p. 274). Mr E. W. Brook informs me that, in 1920, he knew of a Teal's nest which was two-and-a-half or three miles from the nearest pond or ditch. The species breeds fairly abundantly throughout the county, but its nest is not easy to find. On 4th July, 1921, I saw from forty to fifty Teal at the Dhu Loch (Penpont).

The AMERICAN BLUE-WINGED TEAL (p. 276). The specimen, now in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, and which is recognised as the bird obtained locally in 1858, is not a male as has been generally accepted, but a female. The illustration in my book is sufficient evidence of this, and Dr Eagle Clark has also carefully examined the bird at my request.

[The GARGANEY (p. 279). Mr E. W. Brook tells me that someone sent him a Garganey in the winter of 1920-21, but, though probably obtained locally, it was very badly packed with no clue as to from whom or whence it came.

Mr E. L. Gill, curator of the Hancock Museum, Newcastle-on-Tyne, informs me that on 3rd and 4th October, 1921, he saw a young Garganey drake hanging in a poulterer's shop near to the Museum. On inquiry he was told it had come from "close to Dumfries," but neither he nor I have been able to ascertain any farther information about this interesting specimen, and I am therefore unable to say if it was actually obtained within the strict limits of Dumfriesshire.]

The WIGEON (p. 279). It is interesting to note that Sir William Jardine, when on a tour in Sutherlandshire in the summer of 1834, was the first ornithologist to ascertain that this species nested in Great Britain.

The Wigeon has been found nesting in Roxburghshire, within five miles of Dumfriesshire, so that its breeding

locally may be expected any spring. I have, however, as yet no definite record of its having nested in the county and this is the more curious since, as Sir Richard Graham informs me, Wigeon now breed (thanks originally to his experiments with pinioned birds) in increasing numbers near Netherby, Cumberland.¹⁵³ One of four pinioned birds which I turned down at Capenoch laid eggs in 1912, all of which were unfertile, and in Autumn the birds escaped.

In 1913 a male Wigeon was seen at Penfillan (Keir) on 12th May; a pair was seen near Lann (Tynron) on 1st June; two pair on Waterside Moor (Keir) on 9th June; and a pair near Capenoch on 11th June: these dates and the fact that pairs were seen together were hopeful, but no nest or young were discovered. Mr Maurice Portal informs me that a young male was shot at Loch Etterick (Closeburn) on 1st September, 1920, and that another was seen; these birds were rather late hatched and he thinks that, without doubt, they had been bred in the immediate neighbourhood.

On 13th October, 1910, a female was shot out of a lot of seven or eight at Crawfordton Loch (Glencairn), and on 14th September, 1917, I shot a young male at Auchensell Loch (Durisdeer). Three Wigeons were shot at Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe) at the end of January, 1912, the first killed there for years. A male, shot at Newtonairds (Holywood) in October, 1920, was the first ever seen there. Wigeon are common winter visitants to the Lochmaben lochs and our local shore-shooters tell me that the species is now more numerous than ten years ago.

[The AMERICAN WIGEON: *Mareca Americana* (Gmel.). I am informed that a male of this species was shot by Mr James Kirkpatrick near Longbridgemuir (Ruthwell) about the end of November, 1918, and, though it found its way to the kitchen, was identified before being so inappropriately dealt with. It was not alone but in company with five or six more birds which, to Mr Kirkpatrick, seemed of the same species.

¹⁵³ Sir Richard Graham: *in litt.*, 4th January, 1921.

The American Wigeon, as a genuine visitor to Great Britain, can only be regarded as an extremely rare straggler, which has been satisfactorily recorded on only some three or four occasions. Though individuals were seen in Stirlingshire and Fife, in the winter of 1919,¹⁵⁴ it must be remembered that Sir Richard Graham has bred this species, as well as many other rare ducks, full-winged, at Netherby, Cumberland. The occurrence, therefore, of any rare duck in Great Britain must nowadays always raise the question as to whether it is a genuine visitor from some distant clime or whether it did not first see light on one of the Netherby ponds or at some other place where exotic wild-fowl are allowed to breed full-winged. In view of this, and because I cannot be absolutely certain of the identification of this Dumfriesshire specimen, I prefer to place this record of the American Wigeon within square brackets.]

The POCHARD (p. 281). This species would appear to occur locally every year. A lot of forty to sixty visit a loch near Newtonairds (Dunscore) from November to March: in 1912 they were first seen on October 31st, when nine were shot out of some forty. Pochards are also met with annually in winter near Kinmount (Cummertrees), as well as in several of the littoral parishes. The species is a common winter visitant to Lochmaben where, on 10th July, 1921, when in company with Mr J. H. Gurney, I saw a little party of five males and two females on the Castle Loch.

The TUFTED DUCK (p. 282). A pair of Tufted Ducks nested at Auchencrieff Loch (Dumfries) in 1913, and Mr Maurice Portal informs me that he saw three young birds on Townfoot Loch (Closeburn) on 3rd September, 1920.

On 4th October, 1920, I shot an immature Tufted Duck at the Bobie Loch, Capenoch: this is the first time I have killed this species there. A Tufted Duck was seen on Starn Loch (Penpont) on 16th April, 1921; and on 28th May, 1921, I saw one pair on the Castle Loch, and three males and two females on the Kirk Loch (Lochmaben). The species, from

¹⁵⁴ *Scottish Naturalist*, 1920, pp. 13-14, 55-56.

reports to hand, would appear to be now more generally distributed throughout the county as a breeding species than in 1910.

The GOLDENEYE (p. 287). May, I think, more properly be described as :—A scarce but regular winter visitant, frequenting the Solway only when the inland waters are frozen.

I see females, or immature males, nearly every November and December on the lochs near Capenoch, but males of this species in full plumage are comparatively so rarely seen that it is worthy of record that I flushed one off a small loch near Capenoch on 5th November, 1910; another was seen on the same loch on 14th November, 1911. Two Goldeneyes were seen near Lochanhead (Kirkpatrick-Juxta) on 28th October, 1915, one of which appeared to be a male in advanced plumage. Goldeneyes were unusually plentiful near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in the winter of 1916-17,¹⁵⁵ where, in February, 1921, I ascertained that the immature of this species were known as "Black Teal" or "Norwegian Teal."

The LONG-TAILED DUCK (p. 290). Within the last forty years this species has become a much less rare visitor to our coast. A female was shot near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) on 14th December, 1912. A party of six were seen near there in 1918-19, and an immature male (of a lot of four which included one adult male) was shot by Mr James Wilson on 17th November, 1919, and sent to me.

The COMMON SCOTER (p. 293). Mr E. W. Brook informed me that on 16th November, 1920, he shot four Scoters in the Solway, off Cummertrees, whose breasts and legs were so covered with "tar" that they seemed to have difficulty in flying: probably this "tar" was, in reality, crude oil.

A male Scoter was seen on Scaur Water, near Chanlock (Penpont), some twenty-four miles from the sea, on 9th August, 1921: a very early date for the appearance of the

¹⁵⁵ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 10th February, 1917.

species locally and an unusually inland locality for its occurrence.

In 1910 I stated that the Common Scoter was only known to breed, so far as regards Great Britain, "in one locality in Ireland"; since that date the species has been recorded as having bred on another Irish lough and also in Caithness, Sutherland, Cromarty, Ross, Inverness, Perthshire, Tiree, and Shetland.¹⁵⁶

The GOOSANDER (p. 296). Although this species is an annual winter visitant to our larger lakes and rivers, males in full plumage are rare as compared with females and immature males. A fine male was shot in the winter of 1920 on the Annan at Johnstone Bridge.

The RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (p. 299). This species is a winter visitant to the Solway and it is therefore, perhaps, of interest to note that Mr J. Edgar shot a female Merganser on 17th October, 1912, at Craigshields (Kirk-michael), which is some twelve miles from the sea.

The SMEW (p. 301). Mr George Robson informs me that he saw an adult male near Dumfries in January, 1912, and an adult male in full plumage was shot near Caerlaverock in November, 1918.

In a glass case, at the Buccleuch Hotel, Thornhill, there is an immature Smew; this case came from the Isle (Holywood) but with no data, in 1915, and the bird may or may not have been killed near there.

The RING-DOVE (p. 303). On 22nd March, 1844, the members of the Lockerby (*sic*) Farmers' Club urged the local proprietors "to kill Woodpigeons wherever they are to be found . . . on account of the great amount of damage done annually by them to turnips and other crops."

In October and November, 1910, this species was locally more than usually numerous. On different occasions I counted from the dining-room window at Capenoch (Keir) one hundred, ninety-two, seventy-seven and seventy-two

¹⁵⁶ H. F. Witherby: *A Practical Handbook of British Birds*, 1922, Vol. II., p. 372.

feeding beneath the oak trees, and on 31st October I shot forty-four under the same trees with the aid of decoys. In the winter of 1911-12 Woodpigeons were even more abundant and many died from "pigeon-diphtheria" in Glencairn, Closeburn and Langholm parishes. On 25th January, 1912, I shot 106 and 1 Stock Dove, all of which were perfectly healthy, at Tibbers (Penpont). In August, 1918, two guns shot 125 at Floors (Penpont). I have never known Woodpigeons as scarce at Capenoch as they were in 1920-21, when only six were shot: the average number killed yearly in the preceding eighteen years was 114: with a minimum of 39 in 1916-17 and a maximum of 209 in 1911-12. The scarcity of Woodpigeons is not, however, a matter of general complaint; indeed from Annandaie, and elsewhere in the county, I am assured that the species of late years has largely increased. It might have been expected that the extraordinary quantity of timber felled during the war would have deprived these birds not only of roosting places but also of nesting sites.

A very pretty pied, almost white, specimen, was shot at Closeburn on 23rd April, 1915, and is now in my collection; it had been seen for about three years.¹⁵⁷

A nest containing young birds was found at Capenoch stables in the second week of October, 1920, and I have heard Woodpigeons "cooing" in every month of the year.

The STOCK DOVE (p. 305). Is becoming more and more widely dispersed throughout the county. Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Lascelles, in 1920, found four nests at Blackwood (Keir), two of which were in pollared elms, one in a hollow tree and the fourth in an old squirrel's drey.

A correspondent, writing to me from Kirkconnel, refers to this species as the "Blue-Pigeon," a local name which it may be advisable to record here since the Rock Dove is often termed "Blue-Rock."

(Recovery of ringed bird, see p. 24 *antea*.)

The TURTLE DOVE (p. 310). One of a pair was shot by J. Anderson at Horseclose Wood (Ruthwell) on 24th

¹⁵⁷ See illustration facing p. 88.

May, 1909. An immature female was shot near Rockhall (Mouswald) by Mr Jardine Paterson in October, 1910.

It is permissible to note that in 1912 a Turtle Dove nested in Cumberland, only half a mile from our border, within three miles of Gretna Green,¹⁵⁸ and that on 14th May, 1921, a female was shot near Carsethorn (Kirkcudbright).¹⁵⁹

[The CAPERCAILLIE (p. 315). A report that a bird of this species was seen near Comlongon (Ruthwell) in October, 1911, is not confirmed.]

The BLACK GROUSE (p. 318). In the autumn of 1843 some Blackgame were sent, under the charge of John Shaw head gamekeeper at Drumlanrig, to Prince Albert for turning down on Bagshot heath.

The curious variety of a Greyhen, which I have recorded as shot "by Sir Sidney Beckwith on the moors above Beattock Bridge in Annandale," was obtained on 21st August, 1828. An abnormally plumaged Blackcock was shot at Clonrae (Tynron) on 10th November, 1910: I thought that this was a specimen of a cock assuming the plumage of a hen but Mr H. F. Witherby, to whom the bird was submitted, was satisfied that the curious plumage was due to lack of pigment.¹⁶⁰ An almost exactly similar bird, which was thought to be a hybrid between a Grouse and a Blackcock, was shot in Lochar Moss in December, 1911.

In May, 1921, Mr J. Bryce Duncan flushed a Greyhen off her nest, near Newlands (Kirkmahoe), which contained but one dwarf egg, measuring 27 mm. by 21 mm. : the nest was not disturbed, but on visiting it some days later Mr Duncan found it had been deserted and that no more eggs had been laid.

I find that the bag of 247 Blackgame, killed at Glenwharrie (Kirkconnel) on 4th October, 1869, and which I thought constituted the record, has been exceeded at Cannock Chase (Staffordshire), where 252 were killed, about

¹⁵⁸ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1912, p. 186.

¹⁵⁹ *Op. cit.*, 1921, p. 125.

¹⁶⁰ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. V., p. 59.

1860, in one day.¹⁶¹ The year 1910 proved an exceptionally good one: ninety-five Blackgame were killed near Langholm on 11th October; and one hundred and fourteen at Auchencrab (Tynron) on 25th October in that year.

On 12th November, 1919, while driving Blackgame at Ford and Aird (Tynron), a Blackcock, with a harem of Greyhens, lit just out of shot of the guns and gave us a pretty exhibition of his spring "display"; these out of season performances have been termed displays of pseudo-erotism.

In the autumn of 1908 Mr Bell-Irving came across some Blackgame near Winterhopehead (Middlebie), which were described as sitting about "on the grass looking queer . . . stupidly drunk"; it was suggested from the effects of eating Rowan berries.¹⁶²

A Greyhen, which was picked up as a "piner" at Lann (Tynron) on 21st July, 1921, was forwarded to the *Field* Office for report as to cause of death. Examination there showed that it was suffering from gapes, an extremely rare disease in the Grouse family, and also from tuberculosis of the liver and spleen.¹⁶³ It is curious that on 23rd July, 1905, I should have found a Lapwing, near Capenoch, which proved to be "the subject of advanced tuberculosis,"¹⁶⁴ and that in December, 1912, I should have been sent the feet of a Woodcock, from Thornhill (Morton), which were reported on as follows:—"Had the subject been human and not avian, I should not have hesitated to have described the conditions as due to tuberculosis."¹⁶⁵

A Blackcock, a bird of the year, was picked up at Dalgonar (Penpont) on 11th October, 1921. A post-mortem examination showed that the proximate cause of death was pneumonia of both lungs, but the *cæca* contained numerous nematode worms (*Trichostrongylus pergracilis*) similar to those found in Red Grouse, and it may be noted that these

¹⁶¹ Captain Aymer Maxwell in *The Gun at Home and Abroad*, Vol. I. (1912), p. 43.

¹⁶² *Avicultural Magazine*, N.S., Vol. VII. (1908-9), p. 144.

¹⁶³ *The Field*, 20th August, 1921.

¹⁶⁴ *Birds of Dumfriesshire* (1910), p. 374.

¹⁶⁵ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. III., pp. 349, 376.

parasites have been identified in other specimens of Blackgame which have been examined.

The RED GROUSE (p. 326). When King George IV. visited Scotland in the autumn of 1822, the grouse supplied to the royal dinner-table at Holyrood came from Sanquhar: James Kennedy, in his first book of poems, commemorates this in the following lines:—

“ Lang will heath-clad, lofty Lowthers
 Shed the halo of its fame;
 Sportsmen tell a sportsman brother
 Here was killed the Royal Game.”

The shooting season of 1910 was an excellent one in some parts of the county. At Langholm, where the moors are particularly well studied from a sporting point of view, the remarkable total of over ten thousand Grouse, shot between 12th August and 5th October, was obtained. The best day's bag was one thousand one hundred and ninety, killed off Middlemoss (Ewes). The year 1911 proved even better on the Langholm moors, where upwards of twenty thousand five hundred Grouse were shot before the end of October. Some of these moors extend into Roxburghshire, and the bag of two thousand five hundred and twenty-three, killed by eight guns at Roanfell on 30th August, cannot be claimed as a Dumfriesshire record. On Middlemoss (Ewes) one thousand three hundred and thirteen were shot on 4th September, 1911, beating the record of the previous year by one hundred and twenty-three birds. The year 1912 was an exceptionally good year for Grouse in Dumfriesshire, and one thousand three hundred and ninety-one were killed at Middlemoss (Ewes) on 28th August. Good years are often followed by disease and it is remarkable here, although strictly outside the boundaries of Dumfriesshire, that only one hundred and ten Grouse were killed in the day in 1913 at Roanfell (Roxburghshire) where, on 30th August, 1911, the record bag for Scotland had been obtained. It was hoped in 1921 that the good bags of 1912 might be repeated locally but, although extraordinarily good sport was obtained farther north in Scotland, the Dumfriesshire moors fell far short, in most places, of their average annual totals of Grouse.

The final Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Grouse Disease was published in August, 1911, and it would be impossible here to attempt to show how exhaustively this monograph has been compiled. "Grouse disease" has been found to be due to the ravages of a threadworm, *Trichostrongylus pergracilis*, which infests the *cæca*. It is obviously difficult to cope with diseases of wild birds, but it is demonstrated clearly how important it is to keep moors in good condition by considerate and systematic burning; and also, how dangerous it is to attempt to keep more Grouse on a moor than the ground will carry in early spring, at which period the food supply is likely to be at its lowest. The variety of plumage in the Red Grouse is dealt with fully in the Committee's Report. In Dumfriesshire the males would appear to be for the most part of the red form, though the white-spotted form is occasionally met with. Of the females, the commonest form is the buff-spotted, though the red form is at times found.

A white Grouse was shot, out of a covey of six or seven normal birds, on the Burnfoot Estate (Ewes) on 16th August, 1875.¹⁶⁶ On 30th August, 1911, a Grouse marked LHS—1911—91 was shot at Tinnis Hill (Ewes),¹⁶⁷ but it has never been ascertained by whom this bird was marked or whence it came.

On 16th September, 1921, a hen Grouse which was well nourished but which had a curiously deformed beak, was shot at Auchenhessnane (Tynron). The deformity was one of those very rare cases of congenital cleft lower-mandible, similar to the cleft lower-lip occasionally found in children.

Red Grouse have often been recorded as sitting on thorn-bushes and the like but I think it is remarkable that, near Capenoch on 25th September, 1922, I shot an old cock Grouse from the top of a Scots-fir. The tree was about thirty feet high and was on the edge of a plantation adjoining a strip of moor. The Grouse must have been sitting on its unusual perch for some time before my attention was drawn to it by its "crow" and I shot it as it flew off the tree.

¹⁶⁶ *The Field*, 2nd October, 1875, p. 372.

¹⁶⁷ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1912, p. 236.

The PHEASANT (p. 336). In Scotland the Pheasant does not appear to have been preserved at a very early period. Robert Gray writes:—"The first mention of the Pheasant in old Scottish Acts is in one dated 8th June, 1594, in which year a keen sportsman occupied the Scottish throne."¹⁶⁸ Sir William Jardine considered that "upon the Scottish border and high Cheviot range they must have been early abundant; for in the old ballad of the field of Otterburn we have:—

‘ The roo full rekeles there sche rinnes,
To make the game and glee;
The Fawken and the *Fesaunt* both,
Among the haltes on hee.’¹⁶⁹

The battle of Otterburn was fought in August, 1388, and the ballad may be regarded as belonging to the fifteenth century. We have, however, no definite evidence of the existence of the Pheasant in Dumfriesshire till a much later date.

There can be no doubt that the species, which in recent years has been turned down in increasing numbers, has thriven exceedingly. Personally, I am inclined to think that this increase has had something to do with the general decrease of Blackgame and Partridges locally. I have often been shocked to see Pheasants on ground which should belong exclusively to Grouse. I flushed a cock and hen Pheasant near Langshawburn (Eskdalemuir) in the spring of 1911; and have seen others at Loch Ettrick (Closeburn), Loch Urr (Glencairn), Shinnelhead (Tynron), Polgown (Penpont), and Polskeoch (Penpont), where on 9th December, 1920, I saw a cock and hen Pheasant fully five miles away from the nearest arable land or enclosed covert. What were these birds doing there? and if this species is going to take to the moors will it not be detrimental to the Grouse? These are questions I cannot answer authoritatively; but I strongly advocate that Pheasants should be kept strictly in their place and not allowed to compete for existence with our indigenous species.

¹⁶⁸ *Birds of West Scotland*, 1871, p. 226.

¹⁶⁹ *Nat. Lib.*, Vol. IV. (Ornith.), 1834, pp. 191, 192.

In 1912 a Pheasant had her nest, close to Drumlanrig Castle (Durisdeer), ten feet from the ground in a lime tree. I was told of a Pheasant's nest, near Tynron, with three eggs, on 27th February, 1919, but I was not able to inspect it personally and I wonder if this may not have been a Woodcock's nest.

Females assuming the plumage of the male occur far more often than is generally supposed. In the autumn and winter of 1910 I obtained specimens from Capenoch (Keir) and Auchenhessnane (Tynron): a remarkably fine example was trapped at Newtonairds (Holywood) in February, 1921, and I saw one of these "mules," as they are called, near Penfillan (Keir) on 27th October, 1921, and shot one at Lann (Tynron) on 8th November, 1922. A very curious specimen of the common hybrid Pheasant (*Phasianus Colchicus* x *torquatus*) was caught at Springkell (Kirkpatrick-Fleming) in December, 1912, the bird was a female and its extraordinary plumage, which showed a remarkable combination of melanism, erythism and albinism, is thought to have been an instance of discontinuous variation or mutation.¹⁷⁰ In October, 1920, I saw a white, or partially white, Cock Pheasant not far from Thornhill (Morton) and I heard of its being seen near there again about Christmas day and also in the spring of 1921. A hybrid between a common and a Golden Pheasant was shot near Craigs (Dumfries) in January, 1912.

Pheasants are well known to stray widely from where they are reared. Birds which were hand-reared and ringed at Capenoch were shot, within four months, three and four miles from where they were turned down.

On 3rd December, 1910, I shot and winged a hen Pheasant which took refuge in a rabbit hole; it was necessary to dig down three feet before recovering it.

The PARTRIDGE (p. 341). A pale variety was shot near Courance (Lockerbie) in October, 1906; and a male, which has a cream-coloured head and is generally of an

¹⁷⁰ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. VII., p. 25.

abnormal pallor, was shot near Caerlaverock on 3rd October, 1912, and is now in my collection.

The year 1919 was a very late season in the south-west of Scotland and one nest, near Dumfries, was only hatched out on 1st September.¹⁷¹

An instance of a Partridge and a Greyhen sharing a nest was reported to me, in 1920, from the farm of Pottholm (Westerkirk).

The QUAIL (p. 344). The late Sir Emilius Laurie of Maxwellton told me that it was about 1870, and not in 1838, that he shot a Quail on Braco farm (Keir). A pair were said to have been seen near Braehead (Torthorwald) in July, 1910, but I was not able personally to verify this report. Mr Cleeberg informs me that, in 1914, he turned down ten Quail near Dumfries but that they all disappeared.

The LAND-RAIL (p. 349). Two nests with partially incubated eggs were found in 1910, so late as 8th and 9th August, in a hay field near Beattock (Kirkpatrick-Juxta).¹⁷²

The SPOTTED CRAKE (p. 351). One, which had killed itself by flying against the telegraph wires, was picked up in Holywood village on 24th August, 1910.

The WATER-RAIL (p. 354). I saw a Water-rail at Byreholm (Keir) on 4th February, 1911. One was killed by coming in contact with the telegraph wires, near Holywood Station, early in November, 1912. Mr E. W. Brook shot a Water-rail near Powfoot (Cummertrees) on 8th January, 1914. I shot one at Morton Holm (Morton) on 10th January, 1919, and it proved excellent eating. On 11th December, 1919, a Water-rail was caught at Girharrow (Glencairn), and, after being identified, was released.¹⁷³ On 7th December, 1920, a Water-rail was flushed near Ford farmhouse (Tynron). One was seen near Courthill Smithy (Keir) in March, 1921; about the same date another was killed near Barjarg; and on 27th and 29th December, 1921, Water-rails

¹⁷¹ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. XIII., p. 166.

¹⁷² *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, 1911, p. 145.

¹⁷³ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 13th December, 1919.

were seen near Capenoch. There can be, I think, little doubt that the skulking habits of this species create the impression that it is much rarer locally than it really is, and that after unusually heavy rainfall and consequent abnormal floods these birds are flooded out of their congenial swamps and marshes, which have been turned into lakes and water-courses, and then seek fresh quarters where they are not unnaturally regarded as rare.

The MOOR-HEN (p. 356). A cream-coloured Moor-Hen was seen at Waterside (Keir) on 16th September, 1912.

The COOT (p. 358). For the last three or four years Coots have not nested at Capenoch: there always used to be a nest at the Bobie Loch and one at the Far Loch.

The GOLDEN PLOVER (p. 365). Nested on Penfillan Hill (Keir), at an altitude of not more than 600 feet, in 1913 and 1914. Mr Myles Quinn informs me that a young Golden Plover was found, on 24th May, 1921, on Merkland Moss (Caerlaverock): I have previously pointed out that this is a remarkably low-lying locality for the nesting of this species.

A Golden Plover with a good deal of white on it was seen at Cairnmill (Penpont) on 26th October, 1912.

On 21st May, 1914, when at Townfoot Loch (Closeburn) I saw one of a pair of Golden Plovers indulge in a peculiar kind of flight: after wheeling about normally it at times ceased its direct flight and flapped its wings quite slowly up and down, but maintaining the same direction and plane, before again resuming its ordinary flight.

Golden Plovers were unusually scarce on the shore at Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in the winter of 1916-17.¹⁷⁴ When writing my *Birds of Dumfriesshire*, in 1910, I stated that "within the last ten or fifteen years Golden Plover are more frequently met with in autumn along the banks of the Nith in Mid-Nithsdale." Their annual appearance at this season was maintained till about 1914, since when I do not see anything like the same numbers: I cannot account for this change unless some particular insect food is now lacking.

¹⁷⁴ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 10th February, 1917.

The GREY PLOVER (p. 368). One was shot at the mouth of the Nith on 10th October, 1912. Mr George Robson informs me that he shot two Grey Plovers, out of a party of four, on 20th September, 1921, at Eastpark Merse (Caerlaverock) and that he killed one, near the same place, in 1919, and three others several years previously. On 22nd October, 1922, I was sent two Grey Plovers by Mr Robson which had been shot near Caerlaverock a few days before.

The LAPWING (p. 369). The flock of "at least 50,000 birds" seen "near Maxwelltown" in 1900, were on the farm of Garrel, Kirkcudbrightshire.

A cream-coloured Lapwing was shot near Craigs (Dumfries) in the spring of 1911.

On 1st August, 1911, I shot a Lapwing at Capenoch (Keir) whose feet had become entangled in sheep's wool; one foot had been completely worn off and the other was pitifully distorted and swollen: the bird was in an emaciated condition. I have already mentioned (p. 91) that in 1905 I found a Lapwing, near Capenoch, in a state of "advanced tuberculosis."

On 8th August, 1911, I found a young Lapwing which had not yet acquired its power of flight and which must therefore have been hatched at an unusually late date. The first "Plover's egg" was found near Capenoch (Keir) in 1910, on 26th; in 1911, on 28th; in 1912, on 23rd; in 1913, on 27th; in 1918, on 28th; in 1919, on 27th; in 1921, on 28th; and in 1922, on 31st March.

From all over the county I hear that the Lapwing is decreasing as a breeding species and I regret to say that this is my experience as regards the vicinity of my home. Various remedies have been suggested to me:—First, that the killing of the birds should be made illegal: secondly, that both the killing of the birds and the taking of their eggs should be prohibited; and thirdly, that the taking of their eggs up to 15th April should no longer be legal. I confess that I am in doubt as to whether the taking of such eggs as are laid before 15th April is not actually beneficial to the welfare of the species for, it is to my mind probable that, if these eggs

are allowed to incubate the young birds will be hatched at a time when insect food is scarcer than it is later on in the year. At the same time it must be remembered that many nests are inevitably destroyed by the harrowing and rolling of the fields, which in this county commonly takes place after 15th April. As regards the killing of the birds themselves, either by shooting or by netting which is done on a far larger scale than is generally recognised, it might prove to be a hardship to wild-fowlers if the killing of these birds was to be prohibited throughout the year and throughout Great Britain. There is no bird more beneficial to agriculture than the Lapwing and it is quite certain that measures for its protection will be earnestly considered by the recently appointed Wild Birds Protection Advisory Committees when readjusting the legislation on the subject: in the meantime it may be noted that, under the latest Dumfriesshire "Wild Birds Protection Order," the taking of Lapwings' eggs is entirely prohibited and the bird itself is protected throughout the year.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see pp. 24, 25, *antea*.)

The OYSTER-CATCHER (p. 375). I saw a pair of these birds at Loch Urr (Glencairn) on 22nd May, 1911. I could find no nest, but quite possibly this had been destroyed along with many of the more accessible nests of the Black-headed Gulls. An Oyster-Catcher was seen at Auchenstroan (Glencairn) early in September, 1911, and although in spring a few pairs ascend the larger rivers to nest, the species does not seem to be extending its range as an inland breeding species.

There must have been several thousands of Oyster-Catchers at Caerlaverock, feeding at the edge of the tide, on 5th January, 1920, when I was there after Geese. After night-fall the sibilant calls of these birds and other waders reminded me of the melody one hears on a summer's day when above a wood where Thrushes and Warblers are in full song. The pleasures of that evening, though almost blank from a shooting point of view, will not soon be forgotten. Sitting on the merse I identified the rush of wings of many different wild-fowl overhead, Mallard, Teal, Wigeon and the

unmistakable rattle of the Golden-Eye : the call of the Sheld-Duck showed the suitability of its local name of "laughing duck" : an occasional Snipe proclaimed its presence by its cry of "scape" and ever and anon the hound-like cries in the distance of Bernacle Geese gave hopes that my vigil might be substantially rewarded.

The WOODCOCK (p. 383). A Woodcock with white primaries was shot in Capenoch Big Wood (Keir) about 1880, and a light lavender-coloured Woodcock, shot near Sanquhar on 3rd December, 1910, is now in my collection, thanks to the generosity of Mr A. R. Greaves.

In 1911 I was informed of a Woodcock's nest with four eggs so late as 29th June at Craigmuir in the neighbouring county of Kirkcudbright.

In the spring of 1911 over fifty young birds were picked up at Langholm and ringed "B. Q." In 1913 several nests were found in young plantations at Capenoch in February and March; and at the end of June four nests, each containing four eggs, were found in the bracken on the moor. This is not direct evidence that the bird is double-brooded, but illustrates the period during which it nests, and testifies to the wisdom of protecting the species between 2nd February and 30th September. The spring of 1918 was a good nesting season, and in June more nests than usual were found at Capenoch; but in 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922 the numbers of our breeding Woodcock seemed to be below the previous average and possibly the felling of many of our woods may be held responsible for this diminution.

There can be no doubt that during the last decade more Woodcock have been shot annually in Dumfriesshire than formerly. On 29th November, 1910, twenty-two were shot near Drumlanrig (Durisdeer) and, in the same month, twenty-eight were killed one day at Springkell (Kirkpatrick-Fleming) and thirty-three in a day's shooting at Langholm. Since 1910 I have several records of thirty and upwards being shot in a single day. Thirty years ago it was thought that hard frost brought the Woodcock to us as "weather migrants" but nowadays a hope for their presence is inspired by the

continuance of open weather. In January, 1916, during a spell of very hard frost and a slight fall of snow, the Woodcock did not leave, but congregated in little lots of three to four, on the "black" patches under Oaks, Birches, etc., near running water, and were most confiding, being often seen running on the ground and feeding. In January, 1917, after a break up of frost and snow, Mr A. R. Greaves saw eight 'cock at a burst drain in his garden at Dalmakerran (Tynron). The seasons 1917-18, 1918-19, and 1919-20 were disappointing from a shooting point of view, but in 1920-21 Woodcock were more than usually plentiful in Dumfriesshire; possibly because we were fortunate in not having as much snow as elsewhere.

Shooting at Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe) on 6th December, 1919, I saw a Woodcock kill itself by flying against a single telegraph wire: though I have seen Partridges, Pheasants, Grouse, and other birds killed thus I have never before seen a Woodcock immolate itself in this way.

As already mentioned (p. 96), I was sent the feet of a Woodcock, from Thornhill (Morton) in December, 1912, which appeared to show signs of tuberculosis.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see pp. 30, 31, *antea*.)

The COMMON SNIPE (p. 389). Before 1870, bags of from thirty to forty couple of Snipe were not infrequently obtained on Lochar Moss, and I have been told that sixty-one couple were shot there by three guns one autumn day in 1868 or 1869. The late Cecil Laurie and I shot thirteen and a half couple on Breccoës farm (Keir) on 8th August, 1910. Of recent years Snipe have been extraordinarily scarce locally; possibly the unusually severe winter of November, 1916, to February, 1917, may have played havoc with the birds but, whatever the cause, the species has been conspicuous by its absence and has not, as yet, shown any sign of attaining its previous numerical strength. During the drought of June and July, 1921, Snipe collected together in large quantities wherever there still remained suitable feeding-ground: on 4th July I flushed from fifty to sixty at Clonhie (Penpont) and on 22nd

July put up twenty-four from a small ditch below Low Lann farm (Tynron).

In 1920 a Snipe's nest with three eggs was found near Low Lann (Tynron) so late as 28th July : this was presumably a second laying and the eggs were hatched next day.

A Snipe ringed "1908 H." was shot at Springkell (Kirkpatrick-Fleming) in October, 1910, but it has never been ascertained where this bird came from.

Confident reports in 1911 that "the Bittern bred freely" in certain parts of the county naturally excited my curiosity, which was entirely damped on learning that in spring the Snipe was known locally as "the Bittern."

The JACK SNIPE (p. 392). A bird of this species was shot, in 1921, at Auchenhessnane (Tynron) on 16th September : this is the earliest date, of which I am personally aware, for the local appearance of this winter migrant.

The DUNLIN (p. 393). In the spring of 1911 I saw several of these birds, obviously on their breeding grounds, near Loch Urr (Glencairn) and also near Langshawburn (Eskdalemuir). I saw three Dunlins at Townfoot (Closeburn) on 21st May, 1914, and two pairs at Shiel Loch (Penpont) on 25th April, 1921. Probably the species nests in the remote parts of the county more widely than is generally supposed.

The LITTLE STINT (p. 395). I am informed that one was shot at the mouth of the Annan about 1903.

The KNOT (p. 400). One, "in white plumage," was shot out of a flock of fifteen, at Powfoot (Cummertrees) on 21st November, 1912.

The RUFF (p. 401). I am informed that a Ruff was shot at the mouth of the Annan about 1903. One was shot near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in September, 1911, when this species was described as "getting quite common" near Caerlaverock, and it was alleged that a pair nested there in 1910 and 1911.¹⁷⁵ I have made full enquiry into these allega-

¹⁷⁵ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 4th October, 1911.

tions and all that I can ascertain is that in 1911 a pair of birds were repeatedly seen from May onwards and that in September one Ruff, believed to have been a young bird, was shot, out of a lot of five, on Kirkconnell merse opposite Caerlaverock.

The COMMON SANDPIPER (p. 404). I have never seen this species inland locally as late as in 1910 when, on 18th August, I shot one on the river Scaur near Capenoch.

The GREEN SANDPIPER (p. 406). I am informed that a Green Sandpiper was shot at the mouth of the Annan about 1903. A pair of these birds was seen at Morton Loch (Morton) on 8th August, 1911, by my friend, Mr Henry Birkbeck who is intimately acquainted with the species in Norfolk. A Green Sandpiper which was seen in the flesh at the shop of Messrs Small & Son, bird stuffers, Edinburgh, by Mr W. Evans, on 25th November 1912, had been shot at Dalswinton (Kirkmahoe). Mr E. W. Brook informs me that he shot a bird of the species at Meinfoot (Cummertrees) on 29th December, 1913.

The REDSHANK (p. 408). I saw a pair near Waterside (Keir) on 15th March, 1911, which is an early date for their appearance so far inland. Redshanks continue to increase as an inland breeding species and they are now seen at seasons which formerly would have been regarded as extraordinary. A pair was seen at Peelton (Glencairn) in 1912, on 28th February; and in 1917 I saw a single bird at Byreholm (Keir) on 31st January and again on 3rd February. These birds usually leave their inland breeding haunts in July or August, but in 1917 I heard a Redshank calling near Byreholm on 31st October.

I am informed by Mr J. Bartholomew that this species nested for the first time on Kinnelhead farm (altitude above 1000 feet), in Kirkpatrick-Juxta parish, in 1911. I saw a Redshank near Langshawburn farm (altitude about 1200 feet), in Eskdalemuir parish, on 24th May, 1911, and a pair near Shiel Loch (altitude about 1500 feet) in Penpont parish, on 25th April, 1921.

A partially white Redshank was frequently seen near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in the winter of 1918-19.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 31 *antea*.)

The GREENSHANK (p. 412). One was shot near Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in November, 1912, and Mr George Robson informed me that he shot a Greenshank, and saw three others, near Caerlaverock on 10th September, 1921.

The BAR-TAILED GODWIT (p. 414). Mr E. W. Brook informed me that at the end of December, 1920, there were several thousand Bar-tailed Godwits frequenting the Brewing-Scar off Cummertrees, and a very large flock was still there in March, 1921.

The BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (p. 415). On 19th October, 1921, Mr E. W. Brook's brother-in-law shot 38 Redshanks, 2 Starlings, and 1 Black-tailed Godwit at one shot, with a punt-gun, at Waterfoot (Cummertrees). Messrs Rowland Ward have informed me that the Black-tailed Godwit proved, on dissection, to be a female.

The COMMON CURLEW (p. 416). It is hardly correct to say that "the curious rippling crescendo note of the Curlew in spring is reserved for those who know the bird at its breeding-haunt," for I have heard this note in autumn and winter when on the Solway mud-flats; doubtless, however, it is best known to those who are familiar with the bird at its breeding-haunts among the hills. Curlews usually arrive at their nesting-ground towards the end of February but in 1919 I saw several, at Morton Holm (Morton), on 10th January. Those birds that have bred up in the hills usually come down to the lower ground about July, but in 1910 I saw two at Auchenhessnane (Tynron), on 26th September; and in 1921 I saw two, at the same place, so late as 10th October. I am of the opinion that the species is increasing and that it now nests at lower altitudes than it did ten years ago.

On 12th June, 1911, I spent an amusing half-hour watching a pair of Curlews buffeting an old blackface ewe which was taking much too close an interest, as they thought, in their progeny.

The white Curlew which visited Shinnel Water from

1904 to 1911 was seen there annually from 1912 to 1919 and in 1920 was reported to me, by Major M'Call, as on the farm of Cairnhead in the neighbouring valley; in the spring of 1921 I was told that this bird had been seen, by more than one shepherd, in its old haunts on Shinnel Water. On 17th April, 1922, I went to Cairnhead (Glencairn) and, to my intense satisfaction, renewed the acquaintance which I had made with this remarkable bird in 1910. The shepherds assured me that it had been seen annually there, or at the head of Shinnel Water (Tynron), since first observed in the spring of 1904. I was able to get quite close to it and through my field-glasses, at under seventy yards, I could distinctly make out that its eyes were dark, its legs and bill flesh-coloured and that there were a very few brown feathers at the back of its head and neck. The continuity with which this bird has been seen annually at practically the same spot is most interesting; not only, as showing that the Curlew can attain the age of at least eighteen years in a wild state but also, as demonstrating the regularity with which migrants return to their old haunts.

Mr George B. Wilson has informed me that every spring for the last three years (1919-21) a white Curlew has been seen in the vicinity of Garwald (Eskdalemuir).

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 31 *antea*.)

The WHIMBREL (p. 420). I am informed that a bird of this species was shot at Powfoot (Cummertrees) in January, 1919.

The BLACK TERN (p. 421). In my *Birds of Dumfriesshire*, I quote Sir William Jardine as having stated in 1843:—"In Scotland we are not aware of specimens being obtained, and no breeding station exists." It is therefore interesting to note that Sir William should have written to Professor Newton, on 7th April, 1871, that the species "has been frequently shot at the mouth of the Nith and Annan."

The COMMON TERN (p. 424). On 4th August, 1910, three Terns flew over my head while near Low Lann (Tynron). I was unable to ascertain to which species they belonged but the appearance of any Tern, twenty miles inland and far from any known breeding place, during fine summer weather is remarkable. Two Terns were seen near Capenoch Kennels

(Keir) about sixteen miles from the sea, on 7th June, 1916. A Common Tern, which was correctly identified, was picked up dead near Gateslack (Durisdeer) on 5th April, 1920. Two "Terns or Sea-Swallows" were seen near Kirkconnel on 23rd July, 1921,¹⁷⁶ and a Common Tern was found near Eliock (Sanquhar) on 1st August, 1921. Terns occasionally visit the Lochmaben Lochs but I have no information as to their identity.

The LITTLE GULL (p. 428). A bird of this species was shot at Lochbrow (Johnstone) on the River Annan, by Mr George Gibson, in October, 1913, and has been described as having been shot on the River Annan near Lockerbie, in the first week of February, 1914.¹⁷⁷ A Little Gull is alleged to have been seen in April, 1917, among a flock of Gulls following the plough on a farm in Holywood parish.¹⁷⁸

The BLACK-HEADED GULL (p. 429). Although "Pickmire" is recognised as a Scottish Border name for this species, it was not till 1921 that I heard it so used in Dumfriesshire.

As three eggs are the usual complement laid by this bird, it may be of interest to record that on 26th May, 1914, I found a nest with four eggs at Loch Urr (Glencairn).

Mr Andrew Chapman informs me that in his opinion the "reedy loch" (recorded by Sir William Jardine in 1843 as a "haunt of these birds")¹⁷⁹ was Perchhall Loch, and that the "artificial piece of water" (to which Sir William says the Gulls went the year after it was made) was the loch in Corncockle wood which continued to be a gullery till about 1890, when the loch was drained.

When writing *The Birds of Dumfriesshire*, in 1910, I took considerable pains to ascertain the number of Black-headed Gulls then nesting in the county and in 1914 I instituted enquiries, as to the local status of the species, which

¹⁷⁶ *The Augur*, Vol. I., No. 6, p. 8.

¹⁷⁷ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1915, pp. 155 and 231.

¹⁷⁸ *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 18th April, 1917.

¹⁷⁹ *The Naturalist's Library (Ornithology)*, 1843, Vol. XIV., p. 295.

were duly published.¹⁸⁰ I made farther enquiries in the spring of 1921, and, thanks to the co-operation of my correspondents, I am able to give the following tabulated results. The details which I have received show—not only by the greatly reduced total but also by the fact that the birds, disturbed at their accustomed haunts, have attempted to breed in new situations—that the species has been systematically harried. This is probably due to a growing misconception that the Black-headed Gull is an injurious bird and also to the knowledge (promulgated by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland in their circular letter of 24th April, 1917) of the value of its eggs as food. It has been very difficult to determine the existing colonies of Black-headed Gulls in Lochar Moss parochially and it is highly probable that I may not have received details of some of the newly formed, and more out-lying, gulleries in the county :—

Parish and Place.	Nests in		1921.	* NOTES.
	1908/9, or	/10. 1914.		
CAERLAVEROCK—				
Eastpark Foreshore...	400	0	20	Left in 1921 for gulleries in Dumfries and Torthorwald.
Bowhouse Point ...		8	8	First nested in 1913.
CLOSEBURN—				
Townfoot Loch	3/400	6/800	250/300	
DUMFRIES—				
Craigs Moss			20	
DURISDEER—				
Cleughhead	160/180	0	0	Loch partially drained 1914.
Muiryhill	40/60	0	0	Gulls ceased to nest 1911.
ESKDALEMUIR—				
Langshawburn or Moodlaw Loch.....	200	100	45	
Tanlawhill or Hart-fell Flow	200	30	214	
Foulbog	20	6/8	0	
GLENCAIRN—				
Loch Urr	1300	1200	1250	In 1911 about 1140.
Stranshalloch Loch...	25/40	80/100	40/50	

¹⁸⁰ *The Scottish Naturalist* (1914), pp. 203-4.

Parish and Place.	Nests in			NOTES.
	1908/9, or /10.	1914.	1921.	
JOHNSTONE—				
Mollin Farm			100	Came from Kirkpatrick-Juxta in 1921.
KIRKMAHOE—				
Black Loch	over 500	0	0	Loch is now drained.
KIRKMICHAEL—				
Holehouse			120	Came from Kirkpatrick-Juxta in 1921.
KIRKPATRICK-FLEMING—				
Raeburn Moss...In hundreds		200	100	
KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA--				
Stidriggs Back Moss			100	Came in 1920.
MOUSWALD—				
Brocklehirst Moss.....	200	600	50	
PENPONT—				
Dhu Loch	800	0	0	Loch partially drained in 1914.
Clonhie			6/20	Came in 1920.
Shiel Loch			40/80	Came in 1917.
RUTHWELL—				
Longbridgemuir...a gullery		0	80	
SANQUHAR—				
Black Loch	200	200	100	
Polvaird Loch				Came here 1917, but left 1920.
TORTHORWALD—				
Rockhall	800	600	20	

From the above figures it will be seen that in 1910 the total number of Black-headed Gulls' nests in the county was estimated at from 5145 to 5300; in 1914 from 3624 to 3846; and in 1921, from 2563 to 2737.

(Recovery of ringed birds, see p. 32 *antea*.)

The COMMON GULL (p. 434). As regards a complaint in 1852 of the damage done to the turnip crops in Berwickshire by this species, Sir William Jardine wrote:—"In our own district, at a distance in a direct line of about twelve miles from the sea, the Common Gull, since we can remember, during winter and spring, daily wends its way inland considerably farther than our locality, and as regularly may be seen returning toward evening in its wedge-formed groups. These during the forenoon frequent the fallows, and often follow the

plough; but their chief resort is the pasture land, and their chief, almost only food, is worms or snails, etc. We have never heard of or suspected their attacking turnips or other vegetable produce."¹⁸¹ Common Gulls have, however, been seen eating both growing and pulled turnips.¹⁸²

The LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (p. 436). This predacious species is still allowed to breed on Lochar Moss, where I am told that in 1921 there were 60 nests at Rockhall (Torthorwald), 10 on Craig's Moss (Dumfries), 130 at Mid-Locharwoods, and 120 at Longbridgemuir (Ruthwell). Raeburn Moss and Nutberry Moss (Kirkpatrick-Fleming) are, I believe, still resorted to annually by Lesser Black-backed Gulls for nesting purposes.

The GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (p. 438). It is not surprising to learn that this voracious bird has been seen to take young Sheld-ducks which were nearly full-grown,¹⁸³ and it has also been accused of killing farm-yard ducks. The Great Black-backed Gull is thought to be increasing on the Solway and in stormy weather it ranges far inland: on 3rd January, 1922, I shot a fine old male near Capenoch (Keir).

The GLAUCOUS GULL (p. 439). Writing to Professor Newton, on 7th April, 1871, Sir William Jardine says that this species "occurs now and then in winter away up the rivers inland: I have no doubt it frequently occurs in the Solway Firth." I am not aware of its occurrence locally since 6th February, 1892.

The ICELAND GULL (p. 440). Mr William Wright informs me that in the winter of 1918-19 he saw what he thought was a Gull of this species at the mouth of the River Annan.

The KITTIWAKE GULL (p. 441). The appearance of this species inland may be described as unusual rather than as "remarkable." A Kittiwake which was killed at Cairn-

¹⁸¹ *Contributions to Ornithology*, 1852, p. 40.

¹⁸² *Scottish Naturalist*, 1917, p. 110.

¹⁸³ *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, 16th August, 1911.

head (Glencairn) in December, 1917, was sent to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington: the place where it was obtained is some twenty-two miles from the sea.

The POMATORHINE SKUA (p. 443). The two specimens "obtained in Gretna parish in 1892" are now in the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.¹⁸⁴

The ARCTIC or RICHARDSON'S SKUA (p. 445). On 4th September, 1912, a very wild day, while driving grouse at Glenmanno (Penpont), I saw a Skua, which I think was of this species, battling against the wind. I am told that of late years Skuas have not infrequently been seen on the Solway as, for example, near Caerlaverock in October, 1920, but of what species has not been ascertained.

The RAZORBILL (p. 448). During the latter half of May, 1913, after heavy gales, many Razorbills were washed up dead along the Solway shore.

The COMMON GUILLEMOT (p. 449). In the late autumn of 1893, after severe storms, a bird of this species was picked up in an exhausted condition on Ulzieside farm (Sanquhar).¹⁸⁵ Many Guillemots were washed up dead all along the Solway shore towards the end of May, 1913, after heavy gales. One was obtained, on the Cairn, near Dalquhairn, Kirkcudbright, on 26th November, 1921.

The BLACK GUILLEMOT (p. 451). My statement that this species nests in "precipitous cliffs" is misleading: it nests, in some places, on low rocky islands, but is not known to breed within the limits of Dumfriesshire.

The LITTLE AUK (p. 452). In the winter of 1911-12 there was a visitation to Scotland of Little Auks, but not on such a large scale as "the wreck of the Little Auk" in 1894-5.¹⁸⁶ A female shot on 26th December, 1911, at Glencairn (Caerlaverock) was sent to me by the fisherman who shot it. On 14th and 15th December, 1914, two Little Auks were

¹⁸⁴ *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 6th November, 1908, p. 18.

¹⁸⁵ *The Augur*, 1921, No. III., p. 20, and No. V., p. 19.

¹⁸⁶ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1912, pp. 77-81.

found dead in Kirkpatrick-Juxta parish: the one near Stidriggs, the other near Kinnelhead, and a third is believed to have been seen swimming in the Earshaig burn.¹⁸⁷ On 22nd November, 1916, a bird of this species was found dead not far from the foot of Queensberry (Kirkpatrick-Juxta). A Little Auk was picked up exhausted, on 16th November, 1920, near Drumlanrig (Durisdeer) and about the same date one was seen near Glencaple (Caerlaverock).

The PUFFIN (p. 453). I have seen a stuffed Puffin, in the possession of Mr J. T. Waugh of Sanquhar, which was kept alive for a year, after being caught about 1908 on the farm of Corsebank (Kirkconnel), some thirty-three miles from the sea. One was sent me by Mr Jeffs from Dumfries on 27th May, 1913, and during the latter half of that month, after heavy gales, a good many Puffins were washed up dead all along the Solway shore. Two Puffins were caught in the nets at Caerlaverock in December, 1918.

The GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (p. 454). My friend, the late Cecil Laurie, who had often seen Great Northern Divers in Norway and elsewhere, was confident that he saw one of these birds on the Cairn below Maxwellton (Glencairn) early in September, 1917; this is a remarkable date for the appearance of this species locally.

The GREAT CRESTED GREBE (p. 459). Several pairs nested at the Lochmaben lochs in 1911, and I had the pleasure of seeing one there, on the Castle Loch, on 6th June. In May, 1912, upwards of forty Great Crested Grebes were seen on the Castle Loch (Lochmaben); but, in April, 1920, I have reason to fear that this stronghold of the species was raided, and that at least two nests were robbed. In 1921 the birds were even more disturbed and, on visiting the lochs in May, I could only account for about six pairs. Steps have now been taken which, it is sincerely hoped, will free this little colony from molestation in the future.

A Great Crested Grebe was shot on Cairn Water near Dardarroch (Glencairn) on 28th February, 1912. Two, a pair, were shot at Glencaple (Caerlaverock) in January, 1920.

¹⁸⁷ *The Scottish Naturalist*, 1915, p. 95.

I am told that Great Crested Grebes are occasionally found in the Solway fishing nets, and one was picked up dead, at high water-mark, near Powfoot (Cummertrees), on 3rd April, 1921.

The RED-NECKED GREBE (p. 461). *The Catalogue of the Birds contained in the collection of Sir William Jardine* was printed in 1874, not 1847, as indicated.

The SLAVONIAN GREBE (p. 462). My statement, made in 1910, that the Slavonian Grebe had bred in "Argyllshire," is erroneous; it was recorded as having nested in 1908 and 1909 in Inverness-shire.¹⁸⁸

The BLACK-NECKED GREBE (p. 463). Mr E. W. Brook informed me that on 3rd August, 1921, he saw a single bird of this species on the Powfoot Lakes (Cummertrees).

The LITTLE GREBE (p. 464). I found a Little Grebe's nest at Glengar Loch (Penpont) on 18th May, 1914, at the Bobie Loch (Keir) in 1920, and at the Far Loch (Keir) in 1922. The species, however, does not always nest on the same lochs in succeeding years, and I have as yet received no information as to its nesting in Eskdale.

The STORM PETREL (p. 466). One was picked up dead, about 1890, near Hoddam, in the winter.

LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL (p. 468). The specimen recorded as picked up "by Mr John Jardine" was found by him on 16th November, 1830, about three miles north of Jardine Hall (Applegarth) "after one of the most violent storms of thunder, wind, and rain that had for many years visited Dumfriesshire."¹⁸⁹ A Leach's Fork-tailed Petrel was found dead, after a severe gale, in a wood near Courance (Kirkmichael) in October, 1905. One of these birds was found on the road between Cummertrees and Annan on 15th November, 1911, having killed itself by flying against the telegraph wires.

¹⁸⁸ *British Birds Magazine*, Vol. III., p. 380.

¹⁸⁹ *Edinburgh Journal of Natural and Geographical Science*, 1830, Vol. III., p. 46.

11th November, 1921.

Chairman—Dr. W. SEMPLE.

**The Marriage of John, Lord Maxwell, and
Elizabeth Douglas in 1572.**

By Mr DAVID C. HERRIES.

In an important unfinished work on the eastern part of Dumfriesshire by Mr Robert Bruce Armstrong, of which the first part was published in 1883 under the title of "A History of Liddesdale, Eskdale, Ewesdale, Wauchopedale, and the Debateable Land," there occurs this passage (pp. 81-82):—
"A custom, although not peculiar to the border, may here be noticed. At the junction of the White and Black Esk there is a place still called 'Hand-fasting Haugh,' where in former days a fair was held, to which the young people of both sexes resorted in great numbers, between whom engagements were then made by joining hands, or 'hand-fasting.' The connection so formed was binding for one year only, at the expiration of which time either party was at liberty to withdraw from the engagement, or in the event of both being satisfied, the 'hand-fasting' was renewed for life. The custom is mentioned by several authors, and was by no means confined to the lower classes, John, Lord Maxwell, and a sister of the Earl of Angus being thus contracted in January, 1572."

What is found in such a work as this if uncontradicted is apt to be copied into lesser works. I propose, therefore, to examine that part of this passage which relates to Lord Maxwell, and I think I shall be able to show that it is founded on a mistaken interpretation of an expression used by a writer, who is believed to have been a contemporary of this Lord Maxwell.

We are asked by Mr Armstrong to believe that a daughter of the great house of Angus—a girl, as we shall see, who was under age and in whose concerns such potentates as the Regent and the Lord Chancellor of Scotland were interested—was allowed in January, 1572, to go to "Hand-fasting Haugh," there to be taken by Lord Maxwell on trial for a year with a view to legal matrimony if that young gentleman

—himself a minor—should graciously approve of her at the end of that time.

Mr Armstrong gives as his authority Chalmers's *Caledonia*, vol. iii. note p. 104. What Chalmers says is as follows¹:—"John, Lord Maxwell, was contracted to the Earl of Angus's sister by 'hand-fisting,' in January, 1572, and Morton gave a banquet at his castle of Dalkeith on that occasion; but the feast was spoiled by the Queen's party in Edinburgh Castle, who intercepted the wine and other provision on the way to Dalkeith." If Chalmers by "hand-fisting" understood the same thing that Mr Armstrong did, he must have believed that the Earl of Morton, then Lord Chancellor and soon to be Regent, was so elated at Lord Maxwell's readiness to take his niece Elizabeth Douglas on trial for a year, that he was eager to celebrate the occasion by a feast. Chalmers, however, says that the "hand-fisting" took place at Dalkeith and not at "Hand-fasting Haugh."

Chalmers gives as his authority *The Historie and Life of King James the Sext.* p. 160. This work was printed under the editorship of Mr Malcolm Laing in 1804 from a manuscript belonging to Lord Belhaven, the work of an unknown author, who is believed to have been a contemporary with the events he relates.² This *Historie* says:—"At this tyme Johnne, Lord Maxwell, was contractit in marriage with ane sister of Archibald Earle of Angus. And Moirtoun hade provydit for ane bankett to have bein maid in Dalkeith, for feasting of sum nobill and gentle men to that handfasting. And as the wyne was kairtit in Leith to haue bein caried to Dalkeith, with stoir of venisoun and uther great provisioun, the same was sa notified to the people of Edinburgh, that thair horsmen sortit, apprehendit the same in the way, with

¹ I quote from the new edition of the *Caledonia* recently published, where (vol. v., p. 104, note n) the story about Lord Maxwell is reprinted without any comment.

² Another version of this History was printed under the same title for the Bannatyne Club in 1825 from a manuscript belonging to the Marquess of Lothian. Here the story of Lord Maxwell's marriage is related in almost the same words as in the Belhaven version.

some siluer veshell, and broght the same saifly to Edinburgh. The Earle of Moirtoun having sustenit this small lose, for recompence thairof, directit sum men of his to the lands pertaining to the capitane of Edinburgh in Fyffe, quha brunt and distroyed all his coirnes and housses to his great enorme lessiou. Bot the toun of Dalkeith, appertaining to Moirtoun, that same nyght sustenit and incurrit als mikle skayth for that interpryse, be burning and slaughter; quhilk was done upoun the 8 February, 1571."³

Now it will be observed that this anonymous writer distinctly says that Lord Maxwell was "contractit in marriage," while the custom mentioned by Mr Armstrong was by his own account not marriage but only a preliminary to a possible marriage in the future. And as one of the meanings⁴ of the word "hand-fasting" was to engage in a contract of marriage, it is, I think, clear that the anonymous writer uses it in this sense and not in the sense in which Mr Armstrong understood it.

Let us now see who were the parties to this marriage.⁵ The bridegroom, John, Lord Maxwell, was the posthumous son of Robert, Lord Maxwell, by his wife, Beatrix Douglas, the second of the three daughters and co-heirs of James, third Earl of Morton. He was born the 24th April, 1553, and succeeded to the family honours and estates about 1555 on the death in early childhood of an elder brother. He was therefore between eighteen and nineteen years of age in January, 1572, and was still under the guardianship of curators, who were Edward Maxwell of Tinwald, Robert Maxwell of Cowhill, and William Douglas of Whittingehame. The bride, Elizabeth Douglas, was the sister of Archibald, the eighth Earl of Angus, and the daughter of David, the seventh Earl, who had died in July, 1557, after having held the earldom for a few months only. I do not

³ That is the 8th February, 1571-2.

⁴ See under *Handfast* and *Handfasting* in Murray's *New English Dictionary* and Jamieson's *Dictionary of the Scottish Language*.

⁵ See under the titles of Douglas, Earl of Angus and Maxwell, Earl of Nithsdale, in the *Scots Peerage*, ed. Sir J. B. Paul.

know the date of her birth, but the marriage contract of her parents was dated the 8th May, 1552, and she had an elder sister. She must therefore have been well under age in January, 1572. Her brother, Lord Angus, is said to have been born about 1555.

The contemporary evidence concerning this marriage, in addition to that afforded by the *Historie* already quoted, is as follows:—The King at Leith, the 6th February, 1571-2, confirmed a charter dated at Dumfries, the 4th February, 1571-2, whereby John, Lord Maxwell, with the consent of his above-named curators—in fulfilment of his part of a marriage contract between Archibald, Earl of Angus; James, Earl of Morton, Chancellor and Great Admiral of Scotland; Elizabeth Douglas, sister german of the said Archibald; and John, Earl of Mar,⁶ Regent of Scotland, and the said Earl of Morton, as curators of the said Archibald, on the one part, and the said Lord Maxwell with consent of his curators, on the other part, dated at Leith, the 13th January, 1571-2—granted to the said Elizabeth Douglas in liferent, in her virginity, certain lands, in consideration of the marriage contracted between himself and her, and to be solemnized.⁷

From this confirmation we learn that the marriage contract between Lord Maxwell and Elizabeth Douglas was signed at Leith the 13th January, 1572, and presumably after the signature the party adjourned to Morton's castle of Dalkeith for the banquet which was spoilt by the capture of the provisions by the Queen's party in Edinburgh. We learn, too, that the marriage was still to be celebrated when Maxwell granted his charter on the following 4th February. As early as the 18th January, 1572, Lord Hunsdon, writing from Berwick to Lord Burghley, mentions that—"On Sunday Lord Maxwell will marry the Earl of Anguyshe's sister"⁸—but this was a premature report, for in some "advyses off the presente state off Skotland" sent by Sir William Drury, Marshal of

⁶ Mar's daughter, Mary Erskine, was, after his death, married to the eighth Earl of Angus, in June, 1573.

⁷ *R.M.S.*, 1546-1580, No. 2012.

⁸ *Cal. of Scottish State Papers*, vol. iv., p. 91.

Berwick, to Lord Burghley, the 26th February, 1572, it is said that—"On Sunday, the 17th [February], Lord Maxwell was married at 'Dalkys' to the Earl of Angus' youngest sister; which Lord Maxwell is now at the obedience of the King."⁹

Enough has been said, I think, to show that this marriage followed the course usual in such cases. It was probably arranged in the first place by the guardians of the two most concerned without much reference to their inclinations. Then followed the usual contract of marriage signed at Leith, the 13th January, 1572, and it may be that the two principals then went through a form of clasping each other's hands or "handfasting" in token of their betrothal. Then in fulfilment of the contract came the usual charter of lands in life rent as dower for the bride executed by the bridegroom at Dumfries, the 4th February, 1572; and no man in his senses would grant lands for life to a woman whose connection with himself might end perhaps in a year's time. Finally came the wedding at Dalkeith Castle on the following 17th February. But though there was nothing unusual about the marriage itself, the circumstances in which it was celebrated were not ordinary even in those days. As we have seen Morton so resented the jest of the spoiling of his feast in celebration of the signing of the contract, that he sent a force to burn the lands of Kirkcaldy of Grange, the Captain for the Queen of Edinburgh Castle. Kirkcaldy's people took very prompt vengeance by burning Morton's good town of Dalkeith on the night of the 8th February.¹⁰ The wedding ceremony on the 17th in the Castle surrounded by blackened ruins must therefore have been a somewhat dismal affair, and the host was probably not in the best of tempers.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 135. These advices are endorsed by Lord Burghley, "ad vi Martii," no doubt the day he received them.

¹⁰ The account in the "Historie of King James the Sext" receives confirmation in a letter from Lord Hunsdon to Lord Burghley, dated 11th February, 1572, in which this burning of a great part of the town of Dalkeith is mentioned (see *Cal. Scottish State Papers*, vol. iv., p. 112).

The Earl of Morton, Chancellor and afterwards Regent, was the uncle of the bride, being her father's younger brother. He was also the uncle, by marriage, of the bridegroom. He had married the youngest of the three daughters and co-heirs of James Douglas, third Earl of Morton, a marriage to which he owed his title and his castle and lands of Dalkeith. Lord Maxwell's mother was the second of these co-heirs, and after the execution of his uncle, the Regent Morton, in 1581, he succeeded in getting himself created Earl of Morton and in obtaining some of the Morton lands, a business which led to much trouble later on, owing to the subsequent rescinding of the Regent's forfeiture.

The rest of the career of this Lord Maxwell or Earl of Morton is related in Sir William Fraser's *Book of Carlarverock* and in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. His end came some twenty years or more after his marriage with Elizabeth Douglas, when he was defeated and slain by his hereditary foes, the Johnstones, at Dryfesands, near Lockerbie, in December, 1593. In the *Book of Carlarverock* there appears a letter from Lord Herries, dated 11th December, 1593, inviting Sir John Maxwell of Pollok to the "buriall" of Lord Maxwell "vpon Soneday, the penult of December instant," and no doubt some sort of funeral celebration was held on that day at the family burial-place at Lincluden. No "buriall," however, took place; for some years later, on the 16th February, 1597-8, the Privy Council considered complaints that had been made that the "bodyis of umqhile James, Erll of Murray, and Johnne, Lord Maxwell," had been "sa many yeiris unburyit, to the offens of God and sclender of his worde." The Council ordered the representatives of those lords to cause them to be "bureyit in the accustumat buriall placeis of thair predicessouris, within twentie dayis nixt eftir thay be chargeit thairto, under the pane of rebellion and putting of thame to the horne."¹¹ The Earl of Moray mentioned was the "bonnie Earl of Moray," who, like Maxwell, had come to a violent end, having been killed by his enemy,

¹¹ *R.P.C.*, vol. v., pp. 444-445.

the Earl of Huntly, and his followers in February, 1591-2. The object, no doubt, in each case of leaving the bodies of these lords unburied and exposed was to incite their clans and followers to take vengeance for their deaths.

Elizabeth Douglas survived Lord Maxwell for many years, and had two more husbands. Her second husband was Alexander Stewart of Garlies, father by a previous marriage of the first Earl of Galloway. He died in 1596. Her third husband was John Wallace of Craigie, the marriage contract being dated the 31st October, 1597.¹² Soon after this last marriage she married her daughter, Margaret Maxwell, to her step-son, John Wallace, her husband's eldest son and heir apparent by a former marriage.¹³

In addition to the misfortune of losing her first husband by a violent death, much anxiety and grief must have come to her through the conduct of her eldest son, John, Lord Maxwell, who was beheaded at Edinburgh in 1613 for the "murder under trust" of the Chief of the Johnstones. She lived, however, to see her second son, Robert Maxwell, restored to the family honours. This son in 1620 received from the King, in lieu of the title of Earl of Morton, that of Earl of Nithsdale, with precedence from 29th October, 1581, the date of his father's creation as Earl of Morton. After this time his mother seems to have called herself Countess of Nithsdale. She died at Edinburgh in 1637, sixty-five years after her marriage to Lord Maxwell. "The Earle Nithsdale her son gave her a sumptuous buriall and after transported her corps to the Colledge Kirk of Lincluden to be interr'd with her first husband in a Vault therein."¹⁴

¹² *E.M.S.*, 1593-1608, No. 762.

¹³ *Ibid.*, No. 763.

¹⁴ *Terregles MS. Family History of the Maxwells*, printed in the Herries Peerage Case Minutes of Evidence, p. 299.

NOTE.

Robert Chambers (*Domestic Annals of Scotland*, 1859, vol. i., p. 79) quotes from Crawford's *Memoirs*, 215, as follows:—"These three scuffles [between Kirkealdy and the Earl of Morton] went all under one name, and were ever after called *Lord Maxwell's Handfasting*."—EDITOR.

Some Letters of Patrick Miller.

By Mr R. C. REID.

In these days when our country has just emerged from the greatest war in its history, it is not without interest to look back a little more than a century, when our long struggle with the French Revolution and Napoleon was drawing to a close. That struggle had not the intensity of the one through which we have just passed, neither were our exertions on so tremendous a scale, but it was much longer and more exhausting. Further, it is extraordinary how the same conditions have repeated themselves, and when from old diaries and correspondence we can recreate the conditions of a century ago, we find our forebears actuated by the same motives, filled by the same fears and doubts, and dominated by the same patriotic instincts as ourselves; we can follow them from initial success, through waning confidence and dogged dismay, to an ultimate triumph as great as our own.

It is not often that the veil that covers the past can be lifted, but recently, during researches relating to the trials of Patrick Miller's steamboat, a bundle of his letters that throws some light on those times came to light, and were shown to me. They throw but little light on his steamboat or his other inventions, they tell us scarce any of the local gossip that renders so racy the correspondence of C. K. Sharpe. But they give so much insight into his character, his temperament and opinions, as to enable us to envisage a very clear picture of the man himself. At least one of the letters is of autobiographical value. Forty-nine in number, all the letters save four, from the pen of Mrs Miller, are written by Patrick Miller to his eldest son, Patrick Miller, junior, known as "Peter" in family circles. Peter was a worthless fellow who had been placed by his father in the Army. Later, as will be seen, he entered Parliament with the rank of a Captain in 1790 as the representative of the Burghs, and became a hanger-on at the Court of the Regent. Recklessly extravagant, he failed to bring off a marriage which would have re-established his finances, and had to resort to his father. These

letters are full of exhortations and indignant recriminations between father and son relating to the latter's extravagance, nor is there need to dwell on this aspect save in so far as it illustrates the father's character. But what is of most interest are the references to Miller's successful efforts to improve agriculture, and his estate of Dalswinton, a very notable performance, eclipsed, however, by his steamboat. Only echoes of his inventions are to be heard.

“ Your father went for Carron on Wednesday evening.

I had a line from him since he got the length of Linlithgow, and was to breakfast at Carron¹ next morning. I wish from the bottom of my heart the experiment may answer his expectation.”²

But the perfecting of the steam engine dragged. In 1790 Miller writes :

“ I have had little time to attend to the business of the steam engine. By a letter from Mr Taylor³ after trying the wheels which I ordered to be made, I found the vessel was made to go seven miles an hour. This is a great deal on the first tryals considering the vessel was not built for the purpose.”⁴

Miller was a deputy governor of the Bank of Scotland, and seems to have used that Bank to finance his experiments.

“ Your father went to Edinburgh on Sunday to be present at the election of the Bank of Scotland, when the Treasurer of the Navy was chosen governor and himself deputy.⁵ Here their interests clash again. This same Treasurer had lent your father as sincere a hand in the business of his ships, as he has [asked?] him to clear some thousands in this Bank. I wish from my heart he had been content with steering the helm in his own line. It would have saved him much money and much uneasiness which he now feels by not knowing how to dispose of them.”⁶

Two months later, Miller was again in Edinburgh, “ finally to settle and send off the experiment.”⁷

Two of these letters give an account of the founding of the County Club “ to cultivate good neighbourhood and to obtain, twice a month for gentlemen when they go to Dumfries, the

certainly of meeting with a number of sensible respectable neighbours and friends.”^{7a}

“ The other day a club was established at Dumfries. The list consisted of 33 members of very respectable character. The first meeting is to be on Wednesday, after which no member can be submitted but by ballot, and one blackball prevents admission. Mr P. Johnstone of Carnsalloch, his brother Mr A. Johnstone, and Mr Murray of Murraythwaite are on the list, and, being absent, I did not hesitate to subscribe for them, being confident they will all highly approve of the principles on which the Club is founded.”

Then follows a list of the original members :—

- Mr Dalzell [advocate, of Glenæ].
- Mr Sharpe [of Hoddam].
- Sir R. Laurie [of Maxwelton].
- Sir R. Grierson [of Lag].
- Mr Mathew Sharpe.
- Mr P. Miller, junior [of Dalswinton].
- Mr W. Miller [younger brother of above].
- Mr M'Maxwell (?).
- Mr John Maxwell.
- Mr Staig [provost of Dumfries].
- Dr. Gilchrist.
- Dr. Burnside.
- Capt. Hamilton.
- Capt. Craik [younger of Arbigland].
- Mr P. Johnstone [of Carnsalloch].
- Mr A. Johnstone [brother of above].
- Mr G. Maxwell, Carruchan.
- Mr Adam Gordon.
- Murraythwaite.
- Mr C. Menteith [of Closeburn].
- Mr M'Murdo [of Drungans].
- Mr James Yorston.
- Mr And. Yorston.
- Mr Alex. Fergusson.
- Mr R. Fergusson [of Craigdarroch].

Mr Henderson (junior).
 Col. Goldie [of Goldielea].
 Major Dirom [of Mount Annan].
 Col. Ross.
 Mr Edward Maxwell.
 Major M'Murdo [younger, of Drungans].^{7b}

To this list were added by ballot :—

Dr. W. Maxwell, Terraughty.
 Mr Craigie, sheriff.
 Mr J. Aitken, sheriff-substitute.
 Col. de Peyster.
 Mr Archibald Gordon of Halleaths.
 Mr W. Carlyle, advocate.
 Mr John Yorston.
 Mr John Clerk of Locharwoods.
 Mr Graham, junior, of Mossknowe.
 And Mr David Newall, secretary.^{7c}

With a son in Parliament, it is not surprising that these letters contain some allusion to current politics. "Peter" Miller entered politics under the ægis of the Duke of Queensberry, who was attached to the party of Charles James Fox. The Duke was a great territorial magnate, whose visits to Drumlanrig were infrequent and fleeting. After the gaieties of London, he seems to have found the society of the county rather tedious—and "genteel."

"The Duke gave a ball on Monday, now a fortnight. The company was very genteel and full, although not so numerous as was expected. He was very pleased with it. There was a supper, too, which was as much admired as any part of it. We were at two of the Assemblies which were given by the Hunt. The Duke was made one of the stewards. He seemed to enjoy everything very much, and said he found himself very happy, and spoke of spending more of his time here. However, he went off the second day after his Ball."⁸

From time to time references to the Duke occur, such as :—

"The Duke of Q. arrived on the 18th. I was at Dumfries when he came in. The Magistrates and Trades

with colours flying and drums beating, many gentlemen, and a great concourse of people went out of town to meet him. The populace unharnessed his horses and dragged him in his carriage through the streets. When he got to the King's Arms, I paid my respects to him."⁹

The election took place in the spring of 1790, and all Miller's friends began to rally round his son.

"You have got no more uniform steady friend than Mr Staig¹⁰ has been from the beginning. Col. Goldie,¹¹ Sir S. Hannay,¹² and your old fellow traveller has started for the Stewartry, and mean to use their joint interest against Col. Stewart.¹³ Our friend seems to have known nothing of this business, altho' I heard S.'s intention 3 or 4 months ago. How it will turn out, time will show; but many are of opinion they cannot desert S."¹⁴

"Mr Johnston^{14a} appeared for himself about 4 weeks ago, and had all the successes I dare say he expected for a man who had come a great deal too late. Old Terrauchtie¹⁵ threw all his interest into the scale, but it would not do. However, he has consoled himself with looking forward, and at his time of life I think he shows a good deal of courage. Sir Robert's¹⁶ friends, however, thought it necessary for him to be on the spot, and accordingly he came about 8 weeks ago and dined at Dalswinton with a good many of his friends and ours. . . . Your sister and I spent 3 days last week at Drumlanrig Castle. They are preparing for the Duke, who is daily expected. He has had great success at Newmarket, and is in high spirits. He means to be very brilliant here, but the brightest star I fear will be eclipsed by that time—in short, Mrs M'Murdo's¹⁷ situation obliges her to leave Drumlanrig, which, I think, will be a great loss to all."¹⁸

Hearing that Parliament was to be dissolved, Mrs Miller wrote to her son that the Duke desired him at Dumfries at once. The Tory candidate was Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall, who was defeated by Captain Miller, the Whig candidate, in a contest rendered memorable by an "Election Ballad" of Robert Burns. Miller, senior, of course exerted

himself on his son's behalf, and the Tories seized on one of his actions to try to unseat his son by a Petition for Bribery and Corruption. Miller's reply to the charge is given in one of these letters :—

“ I have never submitted to the meanness of desiring a man to change or vote for you who had said he was engaged for the other Party. On the other hand, many of those who had promised again and again in the most public and explicit manner to vote for you, had voted against you. As for the affair of Mr Blair's letter,¹⁹ I am satisfied that nothing but what is honourable for him and for me can arise from it. When this political contest had commenced I was not acquainted with Mr Blair personally. One day in the street of Dumfries a gentleman introduced me to Mr Blair, saying that he was happy to find that he had resolved to support your interest in Kirkcudbright. This, Mr Blair confirmed himself in the gentlest and most explicit manner. As he is a man of family and character, I considered this a most fortunate event, and I thanked him most warmly for this proof of his friendship for you and me, assuring him that both of us would be happy at all times to show we were not unworthy of his friendship. After this meeting and conversation I received the account of Mr John Gordon the writer's death, who, you know, managed my business in the law way. Mr Blair being also a writer, I must have been a mean fellow if, after the recent mark of his friendship and my professions of gratitude, I had hesitated a moment to render him any little service in my power. It cannot be counted a great service, for my business in the writer way is not great, and Mr Blair for his trouble can only charge what the late Mr Gordon was in the practice of charging. Sloan, one of the magistrates of Kirkcudbright, had been a servant to Mr Blair's father, and to him owed everything. His language to the son was uniformly that he considered the political contest for Kirkcudbright as of no consequence to himself, but that he would be happy on all occasions to promote Mr Blair's interest. Birk-whistle,²⁰ as Sloan's friend, spoke the same language.

When Mr Blair wrote the letter (which I do not recollect anything of) he [was] not acquainted with the real character of these men, concluded they would be happy to have the opportunity of testifying their friendship to him by declaring openly for you. . . . Now I maintain, after giving you a true and full account of all that I know of our politics, that if the Johnstones should persevere in their Petition after being acquainted with the facts, they are mad."²¹

Meanwhile Captain Miller had taken his seat and received paternal advice as to how to conduct himself :—

“You will have taken your seat in the House as Independent a Member as anyone in it. Knowing this, consult your prudence on any occasion and act with the manly confidence that it should inspire, never, however, forgetting that Modesty belongs to Youth.”^{21a}

In spite of the pending Petition, the young M.P. set out for a tour with Mr Coutts in France, where he loitered. His father engaged Mr Cullen (afterwards Lord Cullen) as counsel, as Mr Douglas was representing the Duke, and urged his son to return—“The best cause may be lost by indolence and inattention.”²²

The same letter contains a reference to an election echo :—

“The people concerned in carrying off Mr Wells have been tried by the Justiciary Court. Those absent are fugitive. Those of them found guilty are sentenced to be whipt and banished 7 years. Lindsay the writer to 3 months imprisonment and a fine of £50, and others banished.”²³

While the Election Petition was still pending, the Duke performed another political quick-change turn. Formerly a Tory, he was dismissed from his position in the Royal Bed-chamber by Pitt. He at once threw himself into the struggle over the Regency Bill, leading the minority, and at the 1790 elections revenged himself on Pitt by obtaining the return of Captain Miller. But by February, 1792, the Duke earned all the scornful allusions of Burns by again changing his politics,

placing his protege, Captain Miller, in a very awkward position."²⁴

Miller at once wrote his son full instructions as to how to act should the Duke ask him to change his vote :—" Remember in the present strange situation of public affairs to keep your sentiments to yourself."²⁵

Like many other Whigs, Miller was opposed to the Continental War. His attitude was much the same as that of Burns, but when in 1803 a French invasion of the country threatened, no one was more patriotic or public-spirited than Miller."²⁶ But in the early stages of the war he was full of misgivings :—

" Before the war broke out no person in the Kingdom foresaw more clearly the consequences which would follow from it; but other persons have as good a right to entertain a different opinion, and therefore I never allow myself to engage in a dispute on that hand. The time will come when, I think, all the nation will be of the same sentiments on this subject, but it is not writing or speaking that will bring about that period. The expense and events of the war must produce it."²⁷

Miller had not long to wait to see his forecast coming true :—

" The war has begun to have the effects which might have been foreseen. The Glasgow Arms Bank has stopped, and J. Dunlop of Garnkirk,²⁸ reckoned one of the richest men in that town, has also stopt. . . . The country has been filled with an immense circulation of Paper on the faith of Capitals no way proportioned thereto, and has been kept up by all ranks of men hastening to get rich."²⁹

The cautious and thoughtful ex-banker had already taken steps to arrange for what is now called a " geographical distribution of investments " If the country was faced with bankruptcy, some at least of his capital would be invested abroad. So in Kentucky, on the banks of the Green River, he bought a block of land, as Mr Pulteney and many others were doing.³⁰

" Such are my thoughts on Europe at present and of

this war that if I could raise money and get free of property in this country, I would think it right to invest more in America. I have little doubt that from climate and soil in process of time the banks of the Ohio and the Miseyssippie (sic) will become the best populated parts of America and in time the centre of Power and Consequence."³¹

To this subject he frequently returns. He had already sold the colliery of Pitnacree, in which he was interested :—

“ I must borrow everything, and I am in debt for the price of the lands in Kentucky. The price of Pitnacree is not paid till Whitsunday, 1794, and this is not a time for borrowing.”³²

Again he returns to the subject in another letter :—

“ If we are to persevere in the war it is impossible to say what may be the consequences to the credit and industry of Great Britain. My fears are so great that I would be pleased to have some more of my property transferred from this to the other side of the Atlantic. It would be wise to secure something in that quarter. . . . I feel much inclined to lay out four or five thousand pounds more in America.”³³

Every letter, indeed, takes a darker view of public affairs :—

“ Our affairs on the continent wear a gloomy aspect, and every day I wish more and more that our governors may see, before it is too late, the small chance there is of conquering such a people as the French have on many occasions shewn themselves to be. . . .”³⁴

To a thoughtful and active-minded man like Miller, his rustication at Dalswinton must have been a constant cause of irritation to one accustomed to take a leading part in anything that attracted his energetic interest. His worthless son was merely a Parliamentary cypher — “ a creature of the Duke,” Burns called him in 1790. It does not surprise us, therefore, that Miller should have longed to have been in Parliament—an ambition never gratified :—

“ Was a seat to be obtained without difficulty I should like to be in Parliament for one year or two, as an Indepen-

dent member. I am disposed to think the Duke will give his interest to Sir Robert Laurie, and that in that case he could carry the county."³⁵

Two years later Sir Robert Laurie stood for the county, and began a systematic canvass :—

“ When Sir Robert applied to me for my vote, I told him plainly that I entertained opinions so different from him in regard to the present administration and the present war (which, if continued much longer, would, I was afraid, ruin this nation) that I would not only *not* give him my vote, but if any other candidate, tho' a stranger to my way of thinking, should offer himself, he might depend on my vote."³⁶

Had Miller lived at the present day, he would have been described as a Little Englander, a friend of every country save his own. Certainly his outlook on affairs would have given ample scope for the taunt. His younger son, William, was in the Army, but wished to send in his papers, with the full concurrence of his father, provided it could be done honourably :—

“ There is nothing a wise man values to be obtained in the Army. Rank is not the criterion of merit, but the consequence of money or political servility."³⁷

It appears that William only thought of getting rid of his commission when the French published a decree that no prisoners were to be taken or quarter given to the English. All this was well known to Miller, who approved as long as it was effected “ without impeachment of his character or honour ” :—

“ I cannot think it right to run the risk of one's life voluntarily in a war of which we disapprove.”

Surely this passage would make a fine text for the present-day conscientious objector. Yet in spite of this peculiarity of character Miller was a true patriot. The very next sentence from the same letter rings true :—

“ On the other hand, if we were attacked by the French or any power whatsoever, I would think meanly of any man that would hesitate a moment to take arms in defence of his country."³⁸

Seven years later Miller was faced with that very same contingency—a French invasion—and his instant and magnificent answer to his country's call is too well known to quote here.

Towards the close of 1795 Miller's eldest son became engaged to Lady Mallet, daughter of Lord Lisburne, a contemplated union to which his father readily consented, agreeing to allow the couple £500 a year and to vest £20,000 on them at his death. The subject was productive of a characteristic letter from Miller³⁹ :—

“ The way in which I rank these requisites [for a happy marriage] are :

“ Firstly—Strict probity and good principles, and a good education, moral and religious.

“ Secondly—Good sense and good temper.

“ Thirdly—Good looks, in which are included health, elegance of manners, and good taste in dress; which last is a talent very different from expense and extravagance in dress.

“ Fourthly—The female accomplishments that adorn and are useful in life.

“ Fifthly—Connections which should be respectable and not high in Rank . . . as the latter is in general accompanied with such a portion of folly and expectation as to be incompatible with true domestic happiness.

“ Lastly—Fortune.”⁴⁰

But the marriage never took place, and at the elections of 1796 Captain Miller retired into private life, and at once became a source of financial embarrassment to his father.

The remaining letters show Miller struggling with financial stringency, resolutely carrying out his estate improvements, and resisting the increasing demands of his son. He had purchased Dalswinton in 1785, without seeing it, and he has recorded that when he went to view his purchase he was so much disgusted that he meant never to return to it. He at once set to work to improve it. In 1790 there is mention of “ the building of the new house.”⁴¹ To improve the sheep stock he followed the example of Sir John Sinclair and

others, and purchased some Spanish sheep. The Spanish ram⁴² at once died :—

“ Indeed from the beginning he appeared diseased.

He never walked like a sound sheep.”⁴³

Indeed in his first purchases of sheep he seems to have been let in badly :—

“ Mr Cunynghame^{43a} has been with me. He says he does not think we have about 4 lambs of the Spanish breed. Two of the Spanish ewes have not lambs. . . . The death of one of the Spanish sheep has cooled my ardour something, more especially that all my people think the animal was not sound when delivered to my servant. I have been unfortunate in another respect. The man who bought me the Cheviot and Culley’s breed⁴⁴ from Northumberland, thought fit to bring also a score from Eskdale Muir. This last kind has had a scab and violent itching, which has occasioned them, by rubbing, to tear off the wool. Some of them have been, you may say, naked during the severe colds, and sundry’s have died. But what is worse, I fear the disease is infectious, and that it will communicate to all my stock. Sir Joseph Banks, I think, discovered a remedy for this disease. Sir John Sinclair will know. Apply to him for advice, and send me the receipt. Tell him that the first good day I will go through my parks and make out an account of my sheep and produce, which I will send him.”⁴⁵

But his troubles with sheep were not yet over. At the following lambing his dogs got out and “ destroyed the few lambs I had got.”⁴⁶ By that time his garden was well advanced, and the boggy land near the house had been turned into a loch, so it was fitting to find him sending for melon and celery seed and a couple of female swans.⁴⁷ A two-oared boat, modelled on a London wherry, was added.⁴⁸ All this was very costly, and in 1796 he complains of difficulty⁴⁹

“ not only to carry on the necessary improvements on the estate, but to pay off £1400 and odds, the sum I was obliged to keep for making good the late Mrs Maxwell of Dalswinton’s jointure.”⁵⁰

Every economy was practised :—

“ I go very little from home, and but rarely see anybody here. The more prudently one lives in these times it is the more commendable.”⁵¹

Personal expenditure was reduced to vanishing point :—

“ I have given up my carriage. I keep only a pony to enable me to attend to my farming. I have given up all visiting and entertaining. I don't drink a bottle of wine in a month, and I wear a coat that about nine months ago cost 21s 6d, and I expect it will last me and be decent for 9 months longer. It cost a sixpence more than General Goldie's.”⁵²

The “ New Poor ” were known a century and a quarter ago, and Miller at this period seems to have had a constant apprehension that his affairs might have to be placed in the hands of Trustees.⁵³ Yet through all that time of anxiety and embarrassment, Miller never once swerved from the object to which he had put his hand—the improvement of the estate. If at first his resolution may have weakened or the cost seem too high, he was soon to see the fruits of perseverance :—

“ The advantages to be derived from improving this estate became every hour more evident ; but the expense of the improvements is great, and the time required to bring them into a state so as to make suitable returns, distant. Enclosing, liming, breaking and removing stones, grubbing out thorns, brushwood, etc., are all necessary work, which, with the keep of so many horses, with the wages of so many ploughmen and labourers, require much money every day. If I can hold out I have every encouragement from what has been done. The first taken in-field on the Townhead Hill, 16 acres, produced hay that at our price of 1s a stone would have sold for £10 an acre—a great return from land that 3 years ago paid me only 1s an acre.”⁵⁴

How the financial returns of the expenditure worked out he also indicates :—

“ By improving this estate I can after the first years outlay draw 15 to 18% on the money laid out and on the money paid for the ground ; and at the end of 4 or 5 years

I could sell the ground for double the price of what it costs me."⁵⁵

No wonder the ex-banker prosecuted his improvements with vigour, and one cannot but draw a comparison with the recent agricultural boom of the present day. Miller was not the only impoverished laird who took over and worked his own farms:—

“ Col. Maxwell, Sir William’s eldest son,⁵⁶ is become a farmer, but I am told he works with and as hard as any of his servants. Mr Wm. Grierson, Sir Robert’s 2nd son, farms in the same way. He sows out his own green [crop], directs his servants as to the best methods of drilling, dibbling, ploughing, etc., and in the season of early labour is never in his bed after 5 in the morning.”⁵⁷ Whatever financial returns he may have obtained, at least one of his forecasts seems somewhat too roseate:—

“ When I bought Dalswinton I gave for the farm of Pennylands £1200, and when the lease expired a few years since I wished to let it. I had different offers—the highest was £85 (where the former rent was £45), which I would not accept, and determined to improve it myself. Now, in consequence of my labour and attention to this object, I expect in 2 years, if I can go on, to bring back all the money I have expended or may yet expend, to within £1100 or £1500, and then to let the farm at £900 or £1000 a year. This I consider the greatest thing done in the agricultural way to the same extent in Scotland.

Price of Pennyland	...	...	...	...	£1200
Expense of improvement not got back	...	...	...	...	1500

£2700

If let at £1000 a year and sold at 27 years’ purchase—
£27,000—gained £24,300.”⁵⁸

The last letter of the series shows Mr Miller in a different light, reminiscent and bellicose. For once he had inverted the usual trend of the correspondence and asked his son to help him to borrow money. The son seems to have replied with

egregiousness and some insult, jeering at the amateur and gentleman farmer, and wanting his father to sell Dalswinton.

“ No person in looking over that letter [written by Peter and dated 18 Dec., 1809] could have conjectured that an answer so foreign to the purpose could have been written after a month’s consideration. I wrote for your assistance how to borrow, and not for your advice how to gain money. You know that you could not make three or four shillings a day by your own exertions, and yet such is your folly and conceit that you think yourself qualified to give advice to a man of experience for the better management of his affairs, who has not only made his own fortune from nothing but who has also assisted many other men by his advice to make a great deal of money. And this advice is given on a subject of agriculture to a man who in the last six years has brought a rent of land from £45 to be worth £700, and who can in two years more by an additional outlay of £800 to £1000 raise that rent to £900 or £1000. Before offering any further remarks upon your letter, I must make you acquainted with a part of my history, which from delicacy and a regard for my best friend I kept secret for many years. I had every reason to fear that had I continued in the house of Mansfield & Co. I would very soon have had a serious difference with that friend to whom I lay under the greatest obligations and for whom I had the most sincere and warm friendship. Rather than hazard the risk of such an event taking place, I determined to leave the house under the pretext of bad health. When I did so, I resolved to take the benefit of my habits and experience to improve my fortune by every honourable means which should appear calculated to produce that effect. A life of useless sloth was ever despicable, if not criminal, in my estimation. With a view to profit I bought Pilmacree, the most extensive colliery in Scotland, lands in America to the extent of 22,000 acres, and the estates of Dalswinton and Ellisland, with a design to sell all as soon as I could do so to advantage. After seeing Dalswinton I was so disgusted with the appearance of it

that I had nearly left it never to return. A mere accident detained me for two or three months. During that period I made some improvements. I was pleased with the change, and made others; and although I had never any great desire to be a Laird, I felt an inclination to keep what I had brought from a state of sterility and deformity to one that was useful and beautiful. Of late I have endeavoured to eradicate this petty selfish feeling, and I now consider it as an unmanly prejudice, and can return to my first intention of selling without reluctance. To what purpose do you make the commonplace remark upon the gentleman farmer, the gentleman manufacturer, the gentleman merchant, and the gentleman banker? It is known to every schoolboy. In the three last characters I have acted, but it was in a laborious way. If I had acted other ways, you would be now a day labourer or a muckman. As a farmer I have not yet acted. I have brought a great extent of ground from a state of nature or exhaustion to one fit for a farmer to act on."⁵⁹

Whether or not the reference to "the muckman" brought the correspondence to an abrupt close, this is the last letter in the bundle. For six more years Miller lived at Dalswinton, dying in his 84th year, esteemed and respected by his neighbours. On his reputation and achievements there is no need to dwell. It is to be hoped that they will some day be dealt with in an authoritative Life.⁶⁰

Notes.

1 Miller was a shareholder in the Carron Company, and later pushed its interests very actively. The company had just brought out a new gun, christened a "Carronade," of which tradition vaguely attributes to Miller the invention. There is nothing to support the claim, though as an energetic shareholder he successfully pushed the merits of the gun with the Admiralty, and even fitted out a ship to demonstrate its great utility at short range. Commenting in one of these letters (3rd May, 1794) on the capture of some French frigates, he states:—"One French frijate is said to have carried 44 guns, 24-pounders; unless our ships are armed with Carronades of a larger calibre, that frijate should have been a match for any two of ours armed in the ordinary way." The invention is ascribed both to

General Robert Melville and to Mr Charles Gascoigne, manager of the Carron Company. Their precise shares in the invention cannot now be ascertained, but the Carron Company presented General Melville with a model of the gun, on which he is described as the inventor.

2 Mrs Jean Miller to her son, 28th November, 1789. This visit to Carron was in November, 1789, for the trial of the second steam-boat. At the trial the paddles broke down. New ones were made, and on 28th December a speed of seven miles per hour was attained—in the circumstances a wonderful result.

3 A most important letter on the relations between Miller and Symington. Taylor stated that Miller was so disappointed that he at once called for accounts, and applied to Boulton and Watt for an engine. Watt declined, as he did not think steam navigation practicable. This letter now first published shows that Miller was pleased with the progress made. Taylor really did very little towards the invention, the idea of employing steam came from William Symington, who in 1787 proposed to apply his engine to drive road cars and boats on canals. The suggestion that this engine should be used for Miller's experiment came from Taylor, whose brother was in partnership with Symington as mining engineer. That was Taylor's contribution, and in the circumstances it was an inspired public service. The engine employed on Dalswinton Loch in 1788 was exactly the same as the one patented by Symington in 1787. But to Patrick Miller belongs the credit of actually applying steam engine power to a boat. He contributed the ideas, the perseverance, and the funds.

4 Miller to his son, 6th January, 1790.

5 Henry Dundas, Treasurer of the Navy and M.P. for Midlothian in 1788, became Viscount Melville in 1802. He was elected governor of the Bank of Scotland in 1790, and Patrick Miller succeeded him in the office of deputy governor at same date.

6 Mrs Miller to her son, 3rd April, 1790.

7 *Ibid.*, 3rd June, 1790.

7a 3rd May, 1794.

7b 2nd March, 1794.

7c 23rd May, 1794.

8 Mrs Miller to her son, 28th November, 1789.

9 Miller to his son, 26th June, 1784.

10 David Staig, Provost of Dumfries, 1783-6, and for several other periods down to 1817.

11 Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Goldie, to whom Walter Riddell disposed Woodley Park (Goldielea), 3rd September, 1794. Believed to be identical with Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Goldie of Crooks, nephew of Patrick Heron of Heron (Kirkeudbright), and brother of Joseph Goldie of Craigmuie. "Colonel Tam" (*Election Ballad Second*, 1795).

12 Sir Samuel Hannay, a well-known man in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. Three brothers were: William, of Bargally; John, of Rusco; and Johnstone, of Torrs.

13 Colonel William Stewart, of 3rd Foot, of Afton (New Cumnock), M.P. for Kirkcudbright, 1786 till his death, March, 1795. Brothers were: Colonel James, of Lockins, and William, of Castlestewart. He commanded the 1st Brigade of Infantry in the Peninsular War, 1794.

14 Mrs Miller to her son, 3rd April, 1790.

14a John Johnstone of Denovan and Alva.

15 John Maxwell of Munches and Terraughtie, born 7th February, 1720 (old style); died in 1814, aged 95. As a landed proprietor, factor, and public character, he was a man of great local influence. A letter of his, dated 8th February, 1811, to Mr Curwen, gives a vivid picture of agricultural conditions in the Stewartry in his early youth.

16 Sir Robert must be Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwelton, unless it refers to Sir Robert Herries, banker, London [Dumfries County], re-elected for Dumfriesshire, 1790, against John Johnstone, who seems to have been immensely rich, a brother of Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall (member for the Burghs, 1784-90), whom young Patrick defeated in 1790. John Johnstone of Denovan had been M.P. for Kirkcaldy, 1774-80. He commanded the artillery at Plassey, 1757, and bought Alva (Stirlingshire).

17 Wife of John M' Murdo, friend of Burns and chamberlain at Drumlanrig for William, Duke of Queensberry, from 1780-97. For notes on the family of M' Murdo, see Ramage's *Drumlanrig*, p. 394.

18 Mrs Miller to her son, 3rd June, 1790.

19 Alex. Blair of Dunrod, 1766-1844, W.S., admitted 1790. Only son of Hugh Blair of Dunrod (Kirkcudbrightshire). He became agent to Patrick Miller, senior, and so continued to act for his trustees after his death. The legal succession continued in direct line through Hugh Blair, his son (1806-1878), and Patrick, son of Hugh (1836-). The agents of the Duke of Buccleuch are still, I think, the successors.

20 Alex. Birtwhistle, merchant, doing a good foreign trade at Kirkcudbright, and Provost of the burgh. See *Burns* (ed. Wallace).

To end the wark, here's Whistlebirk,

Long may his whistle blaw, Jamie.

—*Election Ballad for Westerha'*.

And there'll be roaring Birtwhistle,

Yet luckily roars in the right.

—*Ballad Second.*

21 5th December, 1790.

21a 17th December, 1790.

22 9th February, 1791.

23 The masterful seizing and carrying off of Wm. Walls on Sunday, 27th June, 1790, is worthy of being retold, because, as the *Scots Magazine* (vol. 52, p. 46) remarks, it presents a picture of burgh politics degrading to human nature, and, it is to be feared, not peculiar to Lochmaben. Walls was known to be a supporter of Miller, and as councillor was entitled to vote on 8th July for a delegate, who in turn would take part in the Parliamentary election for the five Burghs, which was fixed for the 12th July. The names of the persons implicated were:—

1. John Lindsay, writer and messenger at arms, Lochmaben (agent for Sir James Johnstone, the Tory candidate).
2. Duncan Henderson, Bridge-end of Dumfries.
3. John, his son.
4. Wm. Steedman, lately come from America to Lochmaben.
5. John Dobie, son of John Dobie, late of Tundergarth.
6. John Lockerby, residenter in Lochmaben.
7. Peter Forrest, wright or joiner, Lochmaben.
8. Jas. Thorburn, mason in Buchrig, near Lochmaben.

(Of these, 2, 3, 4, and 5 did not appear for trial, having absconded.)

The story, as given by the prosecution, is as follows:—Walls had previously been approached by Lindsay, Johnstone's agent, and offered £200 if he would take a walk with him on the day of the election, but had rejected the suggestion with indignation. Not for £2000 would he consent he said. Walls, thenceforward suspicious, slept for safety at the house of William Neilson, his son-in-law. On the date libelled, Sunday, 25th June, Neilson requested him to take a walk in a park at Broomrig or Brownrig, where they had some cattle. Walls was nervous, having observed a chaise in the burgh. Neilson and William Graham, another councillor, his companion, assured him that the chaise had gone, and that, besides, "they would not attempt violence on the Lord's Day." This was about five in the afternoon. While they were reading a book, the coach appeared. Walls threw off his coat and ran, but he was caught and thrust into the bottom of the coach and kept there by Steedman, Dobie, and Thorburn, the others riding on horseback. They kept him down, shutting his eyes and mouth till they passed through Lockerbie and reached Ecclefechan. There two additional horses were put to the chaise, and four fresh horses were obtained at Gretnahall. So the four-in-hand continued in fine style to London, where they arrived on the 29th of June. They carried him to the house of Mr Johnston, perfumer. (Who he was is not stated, but we may suspect him a London Scot. One Alexander Johnston, son of Patrick, of the Shire of Galloway, in 1727, when 23, turned his steps to London and became a druggist. He succeeded his uncle as "chymist," made a

fortune in Turkey rhubarb, and used it to buy Carnsalloch. His eldest son, Peter (of Carnsalloch), was M.P. for Kirkeudbright a little before this date, 1782-86, and it is not unlikely that Johnston, perfumer, was a very near relation of the laird of Carnsalloch.) While in London, his captors tried to induce Walls to sign a paper declaring that his trip was voluntary and made on business. He refused to comply. Johnston, unwilling to lodge the party longer, recommended them to an acquaintance at Leatherhead, in Surrey, which they reached on the 30th. There they kept him till 3rd July. Meanwhile George Williamson, messenger of the Court of Justiciary, armed with a warrant, was in pursuit, and overtook the captive about twenty miles beyond London, at Leatherhead, and arrived back in Dumfries with him on the evening of 5th July (S.M., 52, 359).

Lindsay, Lockerbie, Forrest, and Thorburn appeared on the 31st January, 1791, to thole their assize. The defence was that Walls had absconded willingly, to escape a promise which was repugnant to him.

The jury found Lindsay, Lockerbie, Forrest, and Thorburn guilty. The last three were condemned to be whipt through the streets of Edinburgh on Wednesday, February 23, and, after three weeks' liberty to settle their affairs, to banish themselves furth of Scotland for seven years. Lindsay was fined £50, with three months' imprisonment and seven years' banishment (S.M., 53, 46).

Lest anyone should regard this incident as an isolated and very exceptional outbreak, two other similar cases may be cited. In the same year, 29th September, 1790, at the election of magistrates for Lochmaben, one of the magistrates was suddenly seized on pretence of legal diligence for a debt and carried off to Annan jail. It was only there that particulars of the debt were produced. It amounted to £6 or £7, and it was settled at once. Probably the election was over by this time, but there is no information on the point (S.M., 52, 515).

The other case resembles that of Walls, and relates to the election for Dumfries County. Charles Charteris of Amisfield, freeholder in Dumfriesshire, was reported upon in 1788 as: "Old. Not rich. Thought will go with the Duke of Queensberry" (Polit. State, 102). In view of the election on 24th July, he was abducted on the 23rd or very early on the 24th. The panels in the case in the Court of Justiciary on Monday, 24th January, 1791, are given as follows:—

Duncan Henderson, Bridgend; John, his son; John Brayen, mason in Dumfries; Jas. Walker, boot-catch to Mary Bushbie, widow of John M'Vitie, innkeeper, Dumfries; Peter Forrest, Lochmaben.

The accusation runs that they did on the above date break or enter into the house of Moraria Charteris, widow of Pat. M'Kie of Drumbowie, in the Friars' Vennel, some by a window by means of a ladder, and opened the doors to the others. Some had sticks or bludgeons in their hands. Charteris, then in bed, they dragged out

in his shirt, without any clothes, and put him in the post-chaise standing ready with four horses in the Friars' Vennel, bruising both his arms and tearing his shirt. Some of the peaceful persuaders entered a second chaise of four, and together they rattled out of the town and over the New Bridge of Cluden, two miles out, he having nothing on but his shirt, nor either wig or nightcap upon his head. At Newbridge, however, clothes were got for him, and he was carried to the house of James Irving of Gribton. Afterwards the journey was resumed, the blinds sometimes down, and a handkerchief occasionally upon his eyes, and he threatened if he should call for assistance. They crossed the Nith by Auldgirth Bridge and passed down the North side [through Kirkmahoe] to Locherbridge, and by Crochmede to Lochmaben and Lockerby. There the team of four was reduced to two, and they took him to Castlemilk, belonging to Wm. Robertson Lidderdale, Esq., where they detained him till late in the night of the 24th. Thence they passed to Borland of Dryfe, and on the evening of Sunday, the 25th, they brought him home again to Amisfield. The Hendersons had absconded, and an advertisement offering a reward of £200 failed to produce them. The precognition of witnesses was transmitted by Mr Miller, yr. of Dalswinton. He stated that "clamant outryes in the county obliged him to apply for military assistance to protect gentlemen in the exercise of their rights." The panels Brayen and Forrest pleaded not guilty, and their defence seems similar to that in the other case, which came on a week later. Charteris, it was said, had made promises to both sides (Johnston and Robert Lowrie), and to save his honour his family arranged the affair. The general opinion will be that, if it were so, his friends took a strange way of dissembling their love. The judgment of the Court, however, is not readily available. I am indebted to Mr A. Cameron Smith for the whole of this note and for much other help in identifying those named in these letters.

24 17th February, 1792.

25 13th March, 1793.

26 See his letter of 3rd August, 1803, to Deputy Lieutenant Staig, given in Hogg's *Life of Rev. J. Wightman*, p. 151.

27 16th May, 1794.

28 Mr James Dunlop of Garunkirk, merchant in Glasgow, and a great coal proprietor.

29 28th March, 1793.

30 Pulteney bought a block of land in the back part of New York State, and also a tract on the Tennessee (13th March, 1793).

31 13th March, 1793. This far-seeing and accurate prediction deserves to be classed with the most notable anticipations of the future.

32 11th June, 1793.

33 23rd April, 1793.

34 23rd May, 1793.

35 14th June, 1794.

36 3rd June, 1796.

37 18th June, 1793. A similar view is expressed on 27th June, 1794. "For my part I would rather have £200 clear of my own than hold any commission in a service where money and political interest are, in general, the only guides to preferment."

38 20th June, 1794.

39 27th December, 1795, and 16th January, 1796.

40 16th October, 1797.

41 14th April, 1790.

42 Spanish sheep, or the fine woolled Negrette and Paular breeds from Spain, were kept by Mr Stewart of Hillhead, who seems to have introduced them first to these parts (Singer, p. 359). By 1812 they had not yet become properly acclimatised, which may account for Miller's experience. They produced a fine merino wool. It was soon found that crossed with the Ryeland breed they did very well, General Dirom having a flock at Burnfoot (*ibid.*, 607).

43 13th March, 1792.

43a Mr John Cunningham, father of Allan, was Miller's steward until his death in 1800.

44 Culley's breed is, of course, the modern Border Leicester. In 1767 Matthew and George Culley, pupils of Robert Bakewell of Dishley, Leicestershire, started farming in Northumberland, bringing north with them a small flock of the improved Leicester sheep which Bakewell had rendered famous (*Scottish Journal of Agriculture*, 1921, October, p. 408). It is recorded that by 1812 Miller's Border Leicesters were flourishing on his farm of Pennyland (Singer, 370).

45 3rd May, 1792.

46 8th April, 1793.

47 29th March, 1794.

48 2nd June, 1794.

49 3rd June, 1796.

50 Major Wm. Maxwell, 1765-1786, was ruined by the stoppage of the Ayr Bank in 1772. His wife, Mary Boscawen, daughter of Viscount Falmouth, apparently survived him, and the estate, when purchased by Miller, was no doubt burdened with her jointure.

51 1st July, 1798.

52 11th June, 1799.

53 19th March, 1799. It is possible that these statements were not very real, but were expressed in his letters to his son to ward off further pecuniary demands. But such a reading is totally alien to Miller's character.

54 28th November, 1798.

55 8th April, 1799. It is worth recording that Miller paid for Dalswinton £25,000 in 1785, and it was sold by his executors in 1822 for £120,000.

56 Michael Stewart Maxwell (1768-1803), Colonel of the Dumfriesshire Light Dragoons, second son of Sir William Maxwell, 3rd Baronet of Springkell.

57 16th October, 1801.

58 17th November, 1809.

59 20th December, 1809.

60 Mr J. Macfarlan, of the Patent Office, who has contributed to recent volumes of these *Transactions*, has, with his usual generosity, been of the greatest assistance in the editing of these letters.

9th December, 1921.

Chairman—Mr JAMES DAVIDSON, V.-P.

Co-operation and the Origin of Flowers.

By Mr G. F. SCOTT-ELLIOT, F.R.G.S., F.L.S.

Co-operation seems to be a universal law of nature.

The body of each plant and of every animal, the life of every individual, the well-being of every association whether of plants or of animals, and indeed the general life of the world, depends upon co-operation and upon ruthless specialisation.

In Britain there is a marked co-operation in the display of flowers. From the first spring mornings, when the cold and austere reserve of winter begins to pass away in sunshine and soft weather, until quite late in October, flowers follow one another continually; each has its own hours of the day and its favourite month, but yet many can adapt themselves to the caprices of our uncertain climate.*

Time of flowering seems to coincide in a remarkable manner with the appearance of those insects which carry the pollen. The queen bee and wasp in early spring find flowers ready for them. The first broods, second and later broods, all the great developments of insect life in early summer, in midsummer, and in late autumn, agree with correspondingly

* I have been favoured by Mrs Williams of Dornells with a list of no less than forty flowers in bloom on the 31st October, 1921.

large maxima of flowers. Here is a subject well worth investigation by younger naturalists of this Society.*

Within limits, every insect seems always to find its daily honey. Those factors which induce a flower to bloom seem also to govern the appearance of the necessary insect.†

In the great Composite order, there is marked co-operation between the flowers of the same plant. All the florets are massed together; thus the insect can visit a maximum number in the shortest possible time and with the least trouble to itself.

Insects are often industrious: *Bombylius Discolor* has been observed to suck 34 separate flowers of *Pulmonaria* in one minute.¹ Moreover, even volatile or stupid insects, if they have once alighted on a Composite head are pretty sure to visit several flowers and may be therefore of some use. So it is not surprising to find that the insect clients of Composites are not only numerous but varied. The Dandelion has 111 species of insect visitors,² and other common flowers of this order are sought by almost a hundred distinct and separate kinds of insects.

There are many other advantages in the Composite arrangement; the buds are easily protected; less material is required for forming pedicels or protective sepals, and so on.³ In fact the Composites are a very successful order. Bentham & Hooker says of them—“*Ordo omnium vastissimus.*” The number of known species of *Compositæ* is given by Uphof as 14,324; the order is found all over the world and in practically every association.⁴

What was the origin of the capitulum of *Compositæ*? This obviously leads to a very interesting question. What was the original flower?‡ What was the primitive inflorescence? Where, when, and in what sort of climate did it grow?

It might perhaps be thought that these are not suitable

* More observations are required here (first series).

† Here again more observations are required (second series).

‡ In this paper by “flower” is to be understood “angiospermous.”

questions for a local Natural History Society. That is not my opinion; reference will be found throughout this paper to important points on which local observations are very much required. Indeed, I hope that some of our members may be induced to carry out observations either in the field or in their gardens.

For the most primitive type of flower, we will accept the evidence and description given by Messrs Arber & Parkins in a valuable paper with illustrations.⁵ The most archaic orders agree in the following points. There is no clear distinction between sepals and petals, and there is an indefiniteness in their number. The parts of the flower (or some of them) are attached to the axis spirally, not in circles as in all the more usual modern types. Indeed in *Calycanthus*, there is a continuous spiral attachment of sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels. All these flower leaves were free and independent of each other; there was neither cohesion nor adhesion. The flower-axis was more or less elongated with internodes between the insertions of the various parts. The pollination was carried out by insects, and some of the perianth parts were, or rather became, more or less coloured to attract insects.

In the paper above referred to there is continual reference to a possible Cycadlike ancestor allied to the fossil Bennettites.

Others have tried to show that the ancestor was either a tree or, at any rate, a woody shrub or undershrub (Sinnott & Bailey).⁶ But, as a matter of fact, many genera to-day contain both herbaceous and woody species; plants usually herbaceous in our climate become woody perennials at the Cape of Good Hope. Then again, is a Birch or Oak seedling in its first year a herb or a shrub?

We may perhaps assume that the original ancestor had a rosette habit (Cycadlike), but it may quite well have been something very insignificant; it had two cotyledons

It may also have had a single terminal flower.⁷ As to the time when, it is clear that in the Neocomian or Aptian strata at the base of the Cretaceous era, true flowering

plants were in existence. During this last period they became dominant and spread all over the earth as then habitable. As to the place where, there is really no evidence at all. In Portugal and the United States remarkable discoveries have been made, but that does not really give any satisfactory basis for speculation as to the original birthplace.

The most important question, however, is in what sort of climate did the first of all flowers unfold its petals?

During the Jurassic era, which preceded Neocomian times, equable, warm, wet, temperate conditions seem to have extended very far North and also to the extreme South. Cycadlike plants and various Gymnosperms, as well as Ferns and Fernlike plants, were abundant, and give an impression of a mild, moist climate in which vegetation was luxuriant.

It seems, in the first place, unlikely that a completely new type of plant would have any chance of developing amidst rapid-growing ferns, Cycads and the like. One has to remember that an evolution of the crust of the earth has been steadily proceeding through all the geological ages. The surface has been thrown into folds, thrust up into mountains, and let down into rifts and deep sea abysses.

Accompanying this evolution and the consequent changes in rainfall, in wind directions, in sea currents, in the accumulation of snow fields, etc., there has been a slow development, ending in the almost infinite variety of the world's climates to-day.

One cannot possibly assume such diversity of conditions in the Jurassic period. Yet there may have been even then ridges or hills of no great altitude which were exposed to strong sunshine and drying winds.

As a working hypothesis let us suppose that a climate of this nature, similar to that of Palestine or the Riviera, did exist in the Jurassic period or possibly at a still earlier date.

Our original Cycadlike ancestor was endeavouring to grow there, and would undoubtedly find that these conditions were novel and uncomfortable.

Its sporeleaves may have resembled the male sporeleaves of Bennettites or of certain Cycadlike fossils. The sporangia

were in all probability inconspicuous so as to escape the eyes of marauding insects.

True flowers are conspicuously coloured to attract insects. Colour and scent are surely characteristic of our ideas of a flower.

The first question is, then, how did the ancestors' leaves become coloured?

In almost all flowers a group of chemical substances called the anthocyanins are responsible for colouring. Strong sunlight directly produces this material (anthocyan), as has been proved by many observations.

Even in Scotland I have found that if Foxgloves are grown in dry, exposed, and sunny situations, which is, of course, not their natural habitat, their leaves and bracts tend to become purplish red.

In very dry exposed places, such as railway tracks, dry banks, rocks specially by the sea, many other plants show this anthocyanic reddening.*

A large proportion of arctic and high alpine plants are also stated to show similar changes in colour of the foliage and stems.⁸ Many other observations could be quoted, but the following three may be sufficient. Becker in his monograph on *Anthyllis* remarks on the reddening of the calyx in sunny and dry climates⁹; Farmer finds that the leaves of *Hydrocharis* become red in sunlight¹⁰; and Macfarlane found that the pitchers of *Nepenthes* were more richly coloured in sunny positions.¹¹

So far as flowers are concerned, the effect of Alpine sunshine is quite well known. Bonnier and others found that plants from high altitudes in the Alps lost much of their brilliancy when grown in the plains, and also that others taken from low altitudes and grown in gardens at great elevations became richer and deeper in colouring. Moreover, in these short Alpine meadows, there is an extraordinary profusion of blossoms. On the Salampe Alp, at 1950 metres, where blizzards and snowstorms alternate with blistering

* More detailed observations are required (third series).

sunshine, 8873 distinct and separate flowers have been picked in a square of stony soil measuring 30 centimetres each way.¹²

Near Alexandria, in Egypt, on certain dry limestone hillocks, I once saw a profusion of rich reds, glowing crimson, golden yellow, blues and purples of quite indescribable beauty; the plants which produced them were all small and quite insignificant. Other places also remarkable for similar gorgeoussness were the sandhills near Concepcion in Chili, the Karroo in South Africa, and Switzerland.

All these habitats correspond to that which we have assumed as the primæval flower climate.

In Scotland, it is my impression that on the seacoast on dry, wind-exposed rocks, the maximum of richness and profusion in colour will be found.*

Moreover, though this is not the place for any detailed and complete account of anthocyan, it is (I think) safe to say that under strong sunshine, which might be injurious to the delicate contents of living cells, certain organised bodies in the protoplasm produce intense respiration. Under this excessive respiration the anthocyan (which are glucosides) are formed from the sugars already existing in the protoplasm.¹³ It is also usually believed that the red anthocyan so produced acts as a light screen, thus protecting the underlying cell-contents. In this case, then, the "evil" directly produces a remedy against itself.

It is well known that respiration is more intense in flowers, and that their temperature is often considerably higher than that of the air surrounding them.

In certain interesting experiments of Colonel Rawson, it was found that the flowers of *Tropæolum majus* became purple when exposed only to overhead light, whilst they were red under light at medium elevations, and yellow if the sun was only allowed to reach them when close to the horizon.¹⁴ These observations should be repeated and extended.† The

* Here also detailed observations are required (fourth series).

† More experiments are required (fifth series); they would probably be best carried out in a small garden.

obvious explanation is that with direct overhead light there is the least, and with the sun at a low angle the most, absorption of light by the earth's atmosphere.

In all scientific questions, it is of the utmost importance to consult the practical business man. Horticulture is a quite enormous industry. One problem which many gardeners have tried to solve is the best method of inducing a plant to flower profusely and before its proper time.

The following are some of the processes which are found satisfactory :—

1. By the use of radio-active water.¹⁵
2. By exposure to the vapour of ether or chloroform.¹⁶
3. By injection of alcohol. The Farnese acacia may be induced to flower 29 days earlier than usual by the injection of 5 per cent. alcohol in the leaf.¹⁷
4. By severe cold; after being kept for some days under moderately hot conditions, the temperature is suddenly reduced to below the freezing point. After a short period it is again raised to an even higher temperature than it was originally. In this connection an interesting case has been recorded recently. Certain Zinnias were badly frozen in May and cut down to the root. They responded from July to November by a quite unusual profusion of blossoms, which also varied greatly in colour.¹⁸
5. By a hot water bath of nine to twelve hours' duration at a temperature of 30 degrees to 50 degrees. By this method Wisteria flowers can be obtained on Christmas day.¹⁹
6. By ill-treatment, such as cutting or piercing the tissues. Fruit trees have been pruned from time immemorial; to-day one method is to pierce the bud with a fine sewing needle and inject a little water.
7. By drying up the plant.

To these seven horticultural methods, one may attach the following two observations :—

8. In a nursery, trees are often observed to flower

precociously at five, four, or even three years old. This is said to be a certain sign of ill-health.*

9. A certain orchid, *Gastrodia Elata*, which is a rootless saprophyte, only flowers when attacked by the Honey-fungus *Armillaria mellea*.²⁰

It would seem at first sight that all these heroic methods and observations are too hopelessly different to admit of any common explanation. All nine of them, however, involve a critical and dangerous time for the plant, which has to undergo an exceedingly unpleasant experience.

Moreover, as regards Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, it is known by direct experiment that treatment of this kind increases the intensity of respiration. The crisis in the life of the plant, the effort to get over the injury, produces an intense respiration, which then induces precocious and profuse flowering.

Now let us return to our Cycadlike ancestor of all flowers growing in a dry climate and in strong sunshine, to which uncomfortable conditions it was quite unaccustomed. It would surely be subject to excessive respiration, and some at any rate of its petals would turn red.

But, besides excessive light, there would be two other evils, of which the effect must next be considered, namely, the loss of water in transpiration and the ravages of the Jurassic insect.

The obvious effect of strong transpiration, especially in dry, exposed, and windy situations, is a dwarfed, stunted condition. Whereas in tropical jungles certain Rotangs are said to grow to a length of 200 metres, one finds on exposed summits in Tibet and the Caucasus hardly a single plant which is one foot, and a very large proportion which are only about one inch, in height. *Euphrasia Officinalis* on the Caucasus may be from one-half to three-quarters of an inch tall, and yet a perfect plant with flowers and seeds.²¹

In this country dwarfing also varies precisely with ex-

* My own observations only refer to Conifers. More detailed information is wanted, especially of deciduous trees (sixth series).

posure.* I have noticed this especially at Sligo Bay and on rocks near the seashore.

On the Pyrenees, a tree of *Juniperus Nana* may be 16 millimetres in height though 57 years of age.²²

This dwarfing is the result of suppression of internodes; elongation from the bud stage is prevented. Kerner von Marilaun was, in fact, able to produce internodes on the stems of typical rosette plants, such as Shepherd's Purse, Dandelion, and Houseleek, by growing them in a moist and humid atmosphere.

The physiological explanation of this effect of a dry climate or of wind is quite simple.

It has been shown by direct measurements that the thickness of the epidermis outer wall varies directly with the transpiration. The leaves of the Bracken, for instance, show well-marked differences in exposed and in sheltered places.²³ Exposed plants in general have thicker cell walls as compared with the flora of sheltered places.†

Such thicker and stronger cell walls will tend to prevent elongation. Moreover, transpiration itself depends on the difference between the pressure of water vapour in the intercellular spaces within the plant and that of the outside air. Wind removes at once any vapour leaving the stomata, and may increase transpiration five times, as has been proved by direct experiment.²⁴

Transpiration in excess not only increases the resistance to expansion in growth, but decreases the water pressure, to which elongation is due.

And so the flower ancestor would be under a continual temptation to refrain from producing internodes between its sepals and petals. It would thus form a circle of sepals and a circle of petals. We would expect that the numbers of each of these would be either three or five (arising from one-third or two-fifths phyllotaxis), or two and four if the

* Exact and detailed observations are again wanted (seventh series).

† There are but few observations on this interesting point in Great Britain (eighth series).

leaves were opposite. The vast majority of flowers do have three, five, or four sepals and petals.

The Jurassic insect was in all probability a vegetable fiend. When the petals became red, all the more pollen-eaters and ovule-devourers would be attracted to it.

What exactly is the effect of insect enemies to-day, especially upon foliage buds? In the Big Bud of currants, and in many other galls due to animals, there is a marked suppression of internodes.* Naturally, whatever sugar or other material is removed by the insect is no longer available for growth. According to M. Molliard, double flowers can be produced by infecting ordinary single flowers with eel-worms.^{25†} The same author has recently stated that *Alyssum Densiflorum*, described by Lange as a new species, is nothing but *A. Maritimum* suffering from severe attacks of an *Aphis*, and in consequence remarkable for short branches and a very condensed inflorescence.²⁶

So the Jurassic insect's visits would encourage a circular type of flower and also promote intense respiration, for this is a result of all injuries. It seems, then, that the original father and mother of all flowers, if it lived in strong sunshine, in a windy place, and was attacked by insects, would first become coloured and then be induced to refrain from forming intervals between the insertions of the flower leaves.

The same influences would tend towards the formation of such inflorescences as the spike and the head of *Compositæ*. Of 1259 species in the British flora, there are some 114 *Compositæ* and 383 other species, with one or other of these forms of display, that is over 40 per cent. of the total.

We have here, then, an explanation of the origin of that variation which led to the true flower. It is a very simple one, and indeed obvious as soon as it is once pointed out, but that does not show that it is incorrect.

It is hardly original, for Professor Henslow has men-

* Here again is an opportunity for entomologists and botanists in this country (ninth series).

† As to the relation between double flowers and mites or eel-worms, more experiments would be useful (tenth series).

tioned insects as a possible cause of variation, and the great Lamarck fully realised the effect of environment; all plants subject to these conditions (excessive sunshine, dry climate, and insect enemies) would vary in the same way. So long as they lived in this environment there would be no reversion.

Such a variation is not a freak to be promptly swamped by crossing. It should not be called a "mutation," for this expression means an inexplicable miracle.

The formation by De Vries of a five-leaved clover explains how such a variation once formed could be rapidly improved and fixed. The ruthless shears of natural selection would keep all changes in the right direction, i.e., towards economy and efficiency.

Once true flowers were formed, they would surely develop rapidly.

The Cretaceous was practically a new world with an increasing diversity of climates and of physical conditions. So the new type of plant and its insect clients would multiply and divide into orders, genera, and species until all habitable parts were occupied.

Do we not see in the life of any plant, from the germination of the seed until death, a continual adjustment to the ever-altering conditions of its environment? Every action of the outside world must be countered by a fitting reaction of the plant itself, at least, if it is to survive.

This side of Lamarck's theory is surely obvious, and the rapid domination of true flowers in the chalk period is just what one should expect.

Yet flowers did not develop until the earth was ready for them. The unspecialised adaptable plant found itself in a very evil state, suffering from the attacks of insects also still of a generalised type.

The co-operation of new physical conditions, of a suitable vegetable, and of appropriate insects, have resulted in the modern world of flowers.

Nor was there any necessity (so far as we can tell) for these three independently evolved factors ever to have co-

existed; here, however, questions arise which are outside the limits of the natural sciences.

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20th January, 1922.

Chairman—Dr. W. SEMPLE.

Sir John Macbrair.

A Friend of John Knox.

By JAMES KING HEWISON, D.D.

The surname Macbrair, which signifies in Gaelic the son of the friar (*brathair*), is not only reminiscent of that age when the Gaelic language was still spoken in South-west

Scotland, but also of that time when Church officials gave their names to their children and servants, such as Macpherson, Macnab, Maclery, Macvicar, Machorist, and others. Not all such surnames, even in a time when the ancient Church was becoming more corrupt, were the result of such conduct as is implied in the following note of legitimations in *The Register of the Privy Seal* (xvi. 84):

“ 1542-3, Feb 1. — John, Matthew, Thomas, and James Hepburn, sons of the reverend father in Christ, John, by the divine compassion, Bishop of Brechin.”

In early Gaelic times these probably would have been known as either Macgillespies, sons of the servant of the bishop, or as Gillespies only. A Mac-espuig, son of the bishop, holding Ernespie (*earrannespuig*), the bishop's land, is a possible name which does not appear. In the south-west, the writer has not come across the name Macgillbrair, as he has seen MacGilblaan, Gilcudbricht, and others such connected with Church saints and Church officials, some of whom had been married.

Bishop Spotswood in *The History of the Church of Scotland* (London, 1655, p. 97) informs us that “ John Mackbrair was a gentleman of Galloway.” In all likelihood he was related to that eminent family, the Macbrairs of Almagill and Netherwood, who gave bailies, provosts, chaplains, a sheriff, and other good citizens to the Burgh of Dumfries from the 14th century onward. The baptismal name, “ John,” was in that family.

Mr R. C. Reid, in his Annotations upon Edgar's *History of Dumfries*,¹ says that this Friar John was a member of the Almagill family, but does not indicate his exact place in the appended genealogical tree; unless he equates him with John, son of Thomas in 1575.

In the sixteenth century Thomas, Herbert, and James Macbrair served as chaplains in Dumfries, and Sir Herbert was a witness to a deed in the “ Freir Kirk ” there. (The popular title, “ Sir,” was often given to chaplains who had not taken a full University course and the degree of Master.

¹ Vol. i., p. 199.

They were known as "Pope's Knights") John Macbrair was incorporated in St. Salvator's College, St. Andrews, in 1530, became a Determinant in the following year, and ultimately took his degree of M.A., the entry being "Johannes Makbrair Galvidiæ, xiid." (Maitland's *Early Records of St. Andrew's University*, pp. 127, 228.) Thereafter he entered holy orders.

In a criminal process against Lockhart of Bar and others, recorded in Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*,² we next find Macbrair mentioned on 16th July, 1550, as "Mr, *alias* Sir John M'Brair, formerly Canon of Glenluce" Abbey—a Cistercian House.

What, in the meantime, actuated his conduct and constrained him to enter the ranks of the reforming party in Scotland is unknown. Probably the corruptions of the time led to that result. According to the Wodrow MS (to be afterwards cited), "he left his country for religion" and went to England in King Edward's reign (1547-1553) to be "a preacher of the Gospel," not improbably in 1539, Wodrow thought. He may have meant to write 1549. At that period there existed as Abbot of Melrose (1526-1541) a very notorious monk, who went by the suggestive but unenviable soubriquet of "Abbot Stottikin." This Abbot, Andrew Durie (1500-1558), according to Knox,³ was a notorious free liver, opponent of the Evangel, and humorous poetaster, and died while maundering about a game at cards. He became Bishop of Galloway, Abbot of Tongland, and Dean of the Chapel Royal in July, 1541. Whether the cantrips of these "fenzied friars" of Tongland, Glenluce, and Melrose influenced Macbrair is not yet known. As likely as anything, Abbot and Canon could not agree, and the association of the latter with the Reformers may date from 1541 at the latest. He probably did not break openly with the old church till some time after this.

In May, 1549, Macbrair was lying in prison in Hamilton Castle, having been apprehended and imprisoned on a charge

² Vol. i., p. 352.

³ *Hist.*, vol. i., p. 261 (Wod. Soc. Ed.).

of great and sundry crimes and heresies. Assisted by John Lockhart of Bar and two others, he broke prison and escaped to Bar. In July, 1550, his accomplices were denounced as rebels (*Pitcairn Criminal Trials I.*, 352).⁴ He found shelter in the Lollard Country with Andrew Stewart, Lord Ochiltree, whose daughter John Knox married in 1564. Archbishop John Hamilton, "a dissolute scoundrel" (Fleming, *Reformation*, 51), boasting of his purgation of the Diocese of Glasgow of its plague of heretics, one of whom, Adam Wallace, he had burnt at the stake in 1550, declared: "In proof of this, he himself in his own proper person stormed the place of Ochiltree (*i.e.*, Lord O.'s castle), and, in spite of its owner, dragged from thence to bonds and imprisonment a certain Apostate, Macbraire by name, an arch-heretic, and mulcted his supporters in heavy penalties. Likewise another man, Wallace (Valassium), a native of the same diocese, professing heretical opinions and persisting in his heresy, being convicted and condemned by a public convention of all orders of prelates in the Kingdom, he delivered to the secular court to be burned, and thus he caused the plague of heresy to be punished, which the See of Glasgow was quite unable to do."⁵

Events were hastening quickly to the consummation of Reformation principles. George Wishart suffered martyrdom on 1st March, 1546; Cardinal Beaton was murdered on the 29th May following; and John Knox, with his pupils, was holding the Castle of St. Andrews for the rebels against the popish persecutors between these two dates. Knox surrendered to the French fleet on 30th July, and was carried away with his compatriots to the galleys on the Loire, only to be released in 1549. It may be asked, was Macbrair among the prisoners? We meet him next in close conjunction with Knox "after 1547." A list of preachers licensed by Archbishop Cranmer to preach in England is preserved in the Record Office, London. It is entitled: "The names of

⁴ Lockhart became surety for Macbrair in 1550 (*L.H.T., Acc.*, ix., 459).

⁵ Fleming, *Reformation*, p. 202, citing *Liber Officialis Sancti Andree*, p. 167.

certayne persons that have hadd license to preach under the ecclesiastical seale since Julye in Anno 1547.⁶ Among the number are five Scotsmen, namely, "John Bythe, Scottishman, Mr. of Arts"; "John Ruthe, Scottishman"; "Thomas Gilham, Scott. Bachelor of Divinitie"; then come two together, as if licensed at the one time: "John Knoxe, Scott.; John Mackbraier, Scott., Mr. of Arte." This probably occurred between February and April, 1549, when Knox returned to London to be graciously received and honoured by Archbishop Cranmer and the Privy Council, the latter voting on 7th April, 1549, that five pounds be paid to "John Knock, preacher, by way of reward." Knox was appointed preacher at Berwick, then removed to Newcastle, and in 1551 was appointed one of six Chaplains to King Edward Sixth. Meantime Macbrair had fallen on evil times in Scotland, and barely escaped martyrdom, as previously narrated.

The death of King Edward in July, 1553, changed the situation, and brought the papists back to power and persecution. Knox fled to Dieppe and Geneva early in 1554. Many illustrious Scots and Englishmen, sufferers for their faith and for political freedom, were exiles in Switzerland, France, Flanders, and Germany. In 1554 some English refugees found shelter in Frankfort upon Maine. In September of that year "John Makebraie" was among the number. They founded a Reformed Church there under the ministry of Mr Valaren Pullan, a native of Brabant, who, formerly a pastor in a "Church of Strangers" (French and Walloons) in Strassburg, had been outed there, fled to England for safety, and then had to seek exile again in Frankfort on the death of Edward. Before he left London he had published his little Liturgy (*Liturgia Sacra, &c.*), and again he re-published it in Frankfort in September, 1554, with the approbation of his elders and five "Angli" who worshipped with them. Among the latter number was Macbrair. Their adherence ran thus:

6. *Knox*, vol. vi., xxvi.

“Subscribunt etiam Angli ob Euangelium profugi, totius
Ecclesiæ suæ nomine

Joannes Makbræus. M.

Joannes Stannto.

Vuilliermus Hamonus.

Joannes Bendallus.

Guil. Vuhytinghamus.”

These new strangers and “exiles on account of their faith” enjoyed the hospitality of the Church of Pullan with the consent of the chief magistrate. Their numbers having increased considerably by an influx of other learned and eminent men, they resolved on having a special service and pastor of their own, and, this being permitted, they resolved on 24th September, 1554, to call Knox from Geneva. The letter of invitation was signed “John Bale, Edmond Sutton (and) John Makebraie,” and other eighteen gentlemen. Knox responded, came, and began ministerial duty. But troubles soon arose over the use of the Liturgy (which it is not necessary now to discuss), and although an honourable concordat was agreed upon, the peace was ultimately broken on the arrival of some new hot-heads, whose views ultimately prevailed. Knox and Macbrair signed a letter on 3rd December, 1554, in which they and others declared: “And as touching our Booke, we will practise it so farre as God’s worde dothe assure it, and the state of this countrie permit.” The party opposed to Knox took a mean advantage of their opponents by accusing Knox of high treason against the Emperor, King of Spain, and the Queen of England, based on old pronouncements of the Reformer, and the Magistrate, to prevent further dispeace, desired Knox to leave Frankfort. He took leave of his brethren there on 26th March, 1555, and returned to Geneva to undertake the ministry there till the end of summer. Meantime the English Church at Frankfort was disrupted and its members scattered.

In Knox’s own account of these “proceedings of the English congregation of Frankfort in March MDLV.,” he names six of his accusers, but Macbrair was not one of those mentioned. (*Knox* iv., 3-72.) No doubt his sympathies were

with his great countryman. Calvin thought that his friend, Knox, had been dishonourably treated. According to Strype (*cf.* Wodrow MS. *postea*), Macbrair succeeded Knox as the English pastor in Frankfort "for about a year."

Macbrair's subsequent movements and history are obscure. According to Bale (*Scriptores*, 229), he became a pastor in Lower Germany, and wrote an account of the Church there. On the death of Queen Mary in 1558 the Protestant party in England again became ascendant, and Macbrair returned as a preacher.⁷

Mr Richard Welford, M.A., a well-known Newcastle antiquary, in his *Men of Mark. 'Twiixt Tyne and Tweed*, Vol. III., p. 131, gives the following account of John Macbrair's coming to the North of England. This was brought about "Through the influence of Dr. Best, Bishop of Carlisle. . . . Lord Scrope, writing from Carlisle to Secretary Cecil, on the 15th July, 1564, informs him that 'a chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle, a Scotsman, named Mawbraye, and two of the Prebendaries of the same church, preached several days to great audiences, who liked their sermons and doctrines.' A year later Mr Magbray obtained the Dean and Chapter [Durham] living of Billingham, near Stockton, vacant by the deprivation of Prebendary George Cliff, and on the 28th November, 1568, on the death of the Rev. William Salkeld, his friend, the Bishop of Carlisle, inducted him to the vicarage of Newcastle."

"Neither of these livings being too well endowed," continues Mr Welford, "Vicar Magbray was allowed to hold them both. It was soon found, however, that Newcastle received most of his attention, and that Billingham was neglected. He kept a curate in his Teeside benefice, but the curate did not do his duty, and grave scandal accrued. In the Act Books of the Court of Durham, under a date not given but presumably in 1573, is the record of a case in which the churchwardens of Billingham complain that for two Sundays running they had no service, and that the parishioners

⁷ According to Strype, he preached at St. Paul's Cross on 3rd September, 1559.

had to obtain neighbouring clergymen to baptise and marry. At a visitation of the clergy held in St. Nicholas' Church, Durham, in February, 1577, the church of Billingham was represented by two of the churchwardens only. For this neglect Mr Magbray and the curate were excommunicated. The following year he appeared personally as vicar of Billingham at a General Chapter held in Heighington Church; his excommunication having in the meantime been purged or withdrawn. Soon afterwards—date uncertain—he resigned the living of Prebendary Cliff, the previous vicar. His withdrawal from Billingham may have been concurrent with his resignation of the vicarage of Newcastle, which happened on the 5th April, 1578, 'in the Galilee of Durham Cathedral, before the Bishop sitting in person in Visitation.' Of this, however, there is no evidence. He became repossessed of his living of Newcastle after no long interval, and he is heard of at Billingham no more."

He died in Newcastle in the early part of November, 1584. "November, 16, John Mackbray, preacher, and some time curate," is the entry by which the keeper of St. Nicholas' Register of Burials recorded his interment. Agnes, his wife, died in 1586.

Mr Welford claims for Vicar Macbrair that he "belonged to the school of John Knox, and, like his exemplar, was a fluent and earnest preacher. . . . The latitude of thought and expression which characterised his ministrations became, in after years, the subject of animadversion by Dr Jackson, one of his successors in the vicarage."

The Dr Jackson here referred to was Dr Thomas Jackson, a native of the County of Durham, born in 1578. In Bishop Barnes' Injunctions (Surtees Socy. Proceedings, Vol. xxii., p. 21), an extract from Dr Jackson's works is given. Speaking of the "Inordinate Liberty of Propheying" in Vol. iii., p. 273, Dr Jackson, after extolling Bishop Barnes' system of examining Licensed Readers "how they had profited in their learning," goes on to say: "But since the liberty of prophesying was taken up, which came but lately into the Northern parts (unless it were in the towns of Newcastle

and Barwick, wherein Knox, Mackbray, and Udal had sown their tares), all things have gone so cross and backward in our church that I cannot call the historie of these fortie years or more to mind or express my observations upon it but with a bleeding heart.”

Richard Barnes was Bishop of Durham from 1575 to 1587. His immediate predecessor in the Bishopric (who occupied the see when Macbrair had the vicarage of Newcastle given him by the patron of the living, the Bishop of Carlisle) was James Pilkington.

I have seen no reference to any family that Macbrair had.

He frequently figures as a witness in his parishioners' wills, and Mr Welford, in his *Chronological Hist. of Newcastle and Gateshead*, gives an instance of a piece of gold, value 10s, being left him for a funeral sermon.⁸

Of his works Dempster makes no mention.

APPENDIX.

A Wodrow MS. in Glasgow University Library (Press Mark BE7-d-24) a quarto volume, contains biographies of 21 men famous in the Reformation Age, and among the number that of John M'Brair (No. 4). It runs thus: “Which brings me to gather what I can as to John M'Brair or M'Bray as the Forraigners call him—Mr Knox and Calderwood Take no notice of him, Taking him To be the same as far as see wt M'bee. However, B. Spotswood Takes notice of him as a honoured man Before and at the Reformation, and I find traces of him among the celebrated preachers in England upon Queen Elizabeth's accession. I shall begin at B. Spotswood's account of this usefull person. He tells us He was a gentleman in Galloway qch probably agrees To what Gesner says of M'Bee — *ex preclara quadam Scotorum familia*. He was Forced to leave his country for Religion; whether it was In the 1539 at the best I cannot say. But he went to England and was a preacher of the Gospel

⁸ For the Newcastle portion of this article I am indebted to Mr John Oxberry, Gateshead.

there in King Edward's Reigne. Upon Queen Maria's accession he was forced to Retire wt others To Germany. Spotswood sayes He fled To Frankfurt and served The English Congregation there as a minister; afterwards, adds the Bishop, ' he was upon some occasion called to the charge of a church in the Lower Germany; he continued there the rest of his dayes. Some Homilys he left on the prophesy of Hea (Hosea?) and a History of the Beginning and progress of the *English Church*.' Whether this be ye known pamphlet of qch in Mr Knox his life, The History of The Beginning and Progress of the Troubles of the English Church at Frankfort, qch was not printed till after 1570 about the midle of Q. Elizabeth's reigne, I know not. But I am Ready to Think the Bishop is misunderstood as to Mr M'Brair's Dying in Germany, since it's certain enough He Returned To England after his exile as the rest of the worthy persons Forced away By the Marian persecution. Mr Strype, *Memoires*, Vol. 3, named him among the exiles at Frankfurt. The passage deserves a Room here, because I do not find it taken nottice of By any other Historians :—' At Frankfurt wre Mr Isaach a Kentish Gentleman In whose House wer Harboured Richard Chambers and Thomas Samson (*cf.* . . . Introduction) Dean of Chichester who were the first two who desired earnestly Jouell (Jewel) upon his first coming over to make a public Confession of his Fault. In subscribing this Chambers who was Treasurer of the Contribution money for maintaining the exiles gave sustenance to the said Jouell. However many persons of Quality as Sr Francis Knoules afterwards Threasurer to Q. Elizabeth's Chamber and Henry his Son, However (?) Samford, Rob. Croucas (?) Robt. Horn, late dean of Durhame, David Whitehead, an ancient revrend divine once Recommended by Cranmer To be A Bishop of Armaugh, Thomas Lever, a grave learned man of St. John's Colledge Cambridge, who afterwards went to Arou (Zürich?) in Helvetia and was there minister of another Congregation of the English, another Scots preacher, John Makebray, who was the first that preached the Gospel to the English at Frankfort for about a year and then went to another Church

in Lou Germany.' This passage plainly enough intimates to us that this goodman is not to be confounded with Ith. Macahabeus who was at this Time at the K. of Denmark, but being pitched on for the first minister to the English at Frankfurt shows he was of no small Reputation when Chosen by so many good Judges. As Mr M'Bray was abroad at the English exile so upon Q. Elizabeth's accession He Returned To England. Accordingly Strype In his life of B. Grindal notices yt, 'on Sept. 3, 1559, John Makbray a Scotsman, and lately an exile, preached at Paul's Cross.' Whether he continued in England, when he had Been it seems much of his life, when there was great scarcity of good preachers, or came down to Scotland for there was need of him, I do not know: there appears no footsteps I meet of his being in Scotland. Let me only add Gesner's account of him (*Bibliotheca Instituta*, Tiguri, 1583): '*Joannes M'Bray natione Scotus scripsit Anglorum ecclesie originis et progressum lib. I. : Explanationem suae fidei lib. I. In Germania floruit 1558 (Baleus) Forte idem cum Machabee.*' (Machabæus was John Mac-Alpine.—J. K. H.) I wish I could have given Better and longer Account of those usefull persons, but I chose Rather to give those leane truths Than altogether to overlook ym (them)."

10th February, 1922.

Chairman—Provost ARNOTT, V.P.

The Dumfries Register of Marriages, 1616-1632.

PREFATORY NOTE.

My friend, Mr Henry D. Paton, Edinburgh, has kindly transcribed on my behalf the earliest portion (1616-1623) of the Dumfries Marriage Register—a blank occurs here (1623 to 1635). Mr Paton's high standing as a professional Searcher of Records should guarantee the absolute accuracy of any transcription carried out by him, so we have for this

portion something of much more assured value than the work of an amateur such as myself.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

15 Claremont Crescent,
Edinburgh.

Ane register of the Mariages solemnizat within the Kirk of Drumfreis declairing the yeir of God and day of the monethe thay war mariet upon Begining wpone the 12 of May, 1616 yeiris.

[1616]

The foirsaid day and yeir of God was mareit James Brown and Janet Young.

Also Johne Fischer and Marioun Burges parrochiner of Tinvauld.

16 of May—Herbert Morisoune and Margrat Spence mareit.

19 of May—Williame Turnour and Marioun Fergusoun mareit.

Also Williame M'Kie parrochiner of Dunskoir & Margrat Maxwell of this parrochin.

23 May—Thomas Maxwell of Keltoun and Janet Walker.

6 of Junii—Robert Patirsoun and Issobell Corsbie baithe of this parrochin.

Johne Gibsoun and Katrein M'Kririe baithe of this parrochin.

11 July—Thomas Battie and Janet Scharp mareit.

14 July—Herbert Callie and Janet Weir mareit.

22 July—Robert Schortrig and Katrein Beck mareit.

5 Agust—James Anderson and Iffie Cairnes mareit.

13 Agust—Robert Neilsoun merchant and Agnes Rorisoun mareit.

9 October, 1616—George Rae and Blenche Carrudders mareit.

15 October—Williame Irving and Janet M'Burnie mareit.

20 October—Johne Newall & Margrat Maxwell mareit.

Last October—Pitir Forsythe and Janet Cunynghame mareit.

3 November—James Jakson and Margrat Wilson mareit.

5 November—Johne Fareis and Agnes Richertson mareit

24 November—Clemet Rodden and Jeane Bell mareit.

22 December—Herbert Airthour and Jonet Rae mareit.

- 27 December—Herbert Williamsoun and Jonet Lowrie mareit.
[1617]
- 4 February, 1617—Williame Murray & Hellein Maxwell mareit.
- 9 February—Johne Hannay and Jonet Anderson mareit. Alexander Forrest and Mallie Kirkpatrick.
- 11 February—Johne Dicsoun & Nicolus Maxwell mareit.
- 12 February—Johne Reid and Bessie Burges mareit.
- 24 February—William M'Burnie resawit testimoniell to be mareit wpone Margrat Smythe parrochiner of Dunskoir.
- 9 March—Andro Maxwell gluver & Janet Greir mareit.
- 26 Appryle—Thomas Patoun and Janet Fergusoun mareit.
- 5 May—Robert Gilmer of this parrochin and Margrat Clerk of the parrochin of Torthorrald resawit testimoniell.
- 18 May—Thomas Hope and Janet Newall mareit.
- 26 May—Robert Fischer parrochiner of Sanquhar and Janet Dun mareit.
- 3 Junii—Johne Crafurd and Agnes Brenzer mareit.
- 10 Junii—Johne Furmunt and Janet Hendirsoun mareit : witnesses Adam Currur Johne M'Kleir.
- 17 Junii—Thomas Gilkers and Janet M'Klein mareit : witnesses Patrick Kae Thomas Battie.
- 7 July—Charles Murray & Janet Lowrie mareit.
- 14 July—Alexander Corrie and Marioun Etkin mareit : witnesses Adame Currur Williame M'Gowne.
- Herbert Gledstaines and Bessie Sitleintoun mareit : witnesses Johne Gledstaines Thomas Craic (? htoun).
- 12 Agust—Andro Kririe parrochiner of Carlevrock and Margrat Tod mareit : witnesses Herbert Dicsoun Thomas Spence.
- Cudbert Greir and Janet Quantance mareit : witnesses Cudbert Greir at Cors, Thomas Kirkpatrick corduner.
- 17 Agust—Andro Miller parrochiner of Lochruttoun and Margrat Skott of this parrochin mareit : witnesses Johne and Robert Millers Lochruttoun.
- 14 September—Johne Cailze and Agnes Weir mareit : witnesses Herbert Calie John Copland yunger.
- 15 October—Robert Davidson miller and Janet M'Kaun mareit : witnesses Hew Hannay Thomas Battie.

- Sunday, the last of November—Johne Stewart parrochiner of Minigoff & Grisell Glencors mareit: witnesses Mr Herbert Gledstaines Gilbert M'Quhen.
- 9 December—Johne Nicolsons and Janet Michelsons mareit: witnesses James Guffock Johne Craford.
- 21 December—Simon Adamsons corduner & Janet Durhame parrochiner of Troqueir mareit: witnesses Johne M'Kie James Maxwell corduners.
- [1618]
- 3 February, 1618—Edwart Bell and Janet Tuidup mareit: witnesses Herbert Dicsone Johne Crafuird officer.
- 10 February—Johne Ranyng merchant and Jonet Corsan mareit: witnesses Mr Johne Maxwell bailze Mr Cudbert Cunynghame.
- 19 May—Johne Maxwell parrochiner of Troqueir & Issobell Maxwell of this parrochin mareit: witnesses Thomas Maxwell of Keltoun William Barte.
- 24 May—James Kirkpatrick cuick and Katrein Neilsone mareit: witnesses Adame Sturgioun Robert Reid taylour.
- 2 Junii—Johne Cuick parrochiner of Closburne and Katrein Battie of this parrochin mareit: witnesses Georg Thomson Johne Blacklock.
- Michell Jakson and Janet Broun baith of this parrochin mareit befor the forsaid witnesses.
- 2 Junii, 1618—Robert Smyth and Jeane Edyer wer maryed both parrochiners.
- 2 July, 1618—Johnne Braidfoote and Helene Fouller both parrochiners were maryed.
- 6 September, 1618—Johnne Greir and Kathrene Kae both of this parish were maryed.
- Edward Halyday paroshiner of Kirkpatrik Flemyng and Jonet M'Fadyean of this parrosh wer maryed.
- 7 September, 1618—Johnne Greir and Kathrene Kae both of this parrosh were maryed (sic).
- Adam Corsan younger of this parrosh and Margaret Cathcart of the parroshin of Glencarne were maryed.
- 27 October, 1618—James Luke and Agnes Schankilaw both of this parroshin were maryed.

Mr John Corsan of this parroshin and Margaret Maxwell of the parroshin of Aplegirth were maryed in the kirk of [left blank].

Robert Latimer and Elspet Chirrie both of this parroshin were maryed.

James M'Gibboun and Issobell Edyer both of this parroshin.

John M'Cornik paroschiner of Kirkmaho and Agnes Hamiltoun.

20 December, 1618—Thomas Scot and Agnes Edyer both of this parroshin wer maryed.

[1619]

5 January, 1619—William Thomsoun and Helene Russell both of this parroshin maryed.

. . January, 1619—John Maxwell and Janet Currou both of this parroshin were maryed.

19 January, 1619—William Hammiltoun parroschiner of Troqueir and Geills Maxwell were maryed.

14 February, 1619—David Bell and Agnes Lowrie both of this parroshin were maryed.

John Moorehead and Agnes Robsoun both of this parroshin were maryed.

2 February, 1619—Williame Lorimer and Jonet Dargevell both of this parroshin were maryed.

Thomas Meeke and Jonet Davidsoun both of this parroshin were maryed the 4 of May, 1619.

James Creychttoun of Carko parroschiner of Sanquhar and Florence Maxwell of this parroshin were maryed in the kirk of Kirkpatrik of the Moore the 27 of Junii, 1619.

David Fraser and Jonet Jonstoun both of this parroshin were maryed the 6 of Aprile.

Mr Williame Rig and Margaret M'Kie both of this parroshin were maryed the 18 of Aprile, 1619.

Stevin Young and Geills Maxwell both of this parroshin were maryed the 2 of Junii, 1619.

Archbald Biglen and Issobell Branzer both of this parroshin were maryed the 4 of July, 1619.

Williame Turnour and Marjorie Wilsoun both of this parroshin were maryed the 15 of May, 1619.

John Conquie of this parroshin and Kathrene Rannald parroschiner of Troqueir were maryed in Troqueir.

- Adam Henrysoun and Agnes Blak both of this parroschin were maryed the 1st of Junii, 1619.
- Adame Bell of this parroschin and Margaret Fade parroschiner of Kirkmichaell.
- Robert Diksoun Helene Maxwell both of this parroschin were maryed the 6 of Junii, 1619.
- David Ranyng and Marioun Maxwell both of this parroschin were maryed the 13 of Junii.
- Homer Glencorse and Euphame Tweedhope both of this parroschin were thryse proclaimed.
- Andro M'Cornok and Agnes Irvin both of this parroschin were maryed 25 May, 1619.
- John Kirkpatrik parroschiner of Kirkmichaell and Margaret Din of this parroschin were thryse proclaimed and maryed the 29 of September, 1619.
- James Maxwell and Jeane Thomsoun both of this parroschin were thrise proclaimed.
- Robert Mitchelsoun and Elspeth Davidson both of this parrosch gave up there names the 3 of Junii, 1619, and were maryed the 22 of Junii, 1619.
- Harbert Conynghame and Elspeth Maxwell both of this parrosch gave up their names the 18 of July and were maryed in the kirk of Buthill on our testimoniall the 3 of August, 1619.
- James Keltoun and Bessie Tait both of this parrosch gave up their names the 25 of July.
- Johne Mertene and Agnes Din both of this parrosch gave up their names upon the 3 of October and were maryed upon the 26 of October, 1619.
- Johne Scot and Euphame Halyday both of this parrochin gave up their names upon the 10 of October and were maryed in our kirk upon the 26 of October, 1619.
- Thomas Dikson and Bessie Anderson were thryse proclaimed and maryed.
- Robert Sanderson and Bessie Jarden were thryse proclaimed.
- Thomas Milney [? M'Ilney] and Issobell M'Burnie were lauffullie proclaimed and maryed upon the 1 of February, 1621 [sic].

John Sanderson and Agnes Neilson both of this parrosch were proclaimed.

Johne M'Kinnell and Margaret Watson both of this parrosch were lauffullie proclaimed and maryed.

William Tailfeare of the parroschin of Kirkmahoe and Jonet Fraser of this parrisch were maryed in Kirkmahoe the 30 of November, 1619.

[1620]

Johne Bek parroschiner of Troqueer and Bessie Libodie of this parroschiner [sic] were after lauffull proclamatioun maryed 25 of January, 1620.

William Conynghame and Agnes Kirkpatrick were maryed the 18 of January, 1620.

Richard Kirk and Euphame Neilson both of this parroschin were lauffullie proclaimed.

Mungo Greacie parroschiner of Newabbay and Jonet Williamson of this parrosch were maryed the 13 of January, 1620.

William Wilson and Nicolas Wardlaw both of this parroschin were maryed the 11 of January, 1620.

Johne Irvin and Jonet Lawrie both of this parroschin were maryed upon the 8 of February, 1620.

Johne Craig parroschiner of St. Mungo and Marion M'Michaell of this parrosch were maryed the 1 of February, 1620.

Mr Cudbert Conynghame and Issobell Williamson, both of this parroschin were maryed upon the 16 of February, 1620.

John Henryson and Jonet M'Illie were lauffullie proclaimed.

William Craik and Elizabeth Gibson were maryed upon the

Thomas Beatie and Jeane Greacie parroschiner of Glencarne were maryed in Glencarne.

Patrick Maxwell of this parrosch and Margaret Hutcheon parroschiner of Kirkmahoe were maryed upon the 22 of February, 1620.

Johne Fergusson and Marion Fade both parroschiners were maryed the 22 of February, 1620.

James Fergusson and Margaret M'Burnie parroschiner of Halywod were maryed in Halywod the 25 of Aprile, 1620.

- John Gowdie and Agnes Diksoun both parroschiners were maryed the 8 of June, 1620.
- Thomas Glessen and Marion M'Burnie were maryed the 13 of Junii, 1620.
- Mr Francis M'Gill minister and Elizabeth Duncan were maryed upon the 30 of May, 1620.
- William M'Cree and Bessie M'Cleere were maryed the day of 1620.
- George Moffet of this parroschin and Jonet Bek parroschiner of Terregles were both maryed in Terregles the 5 of October, 1620.
- Mr Adam Kae minister and Marion Richardson were maryed the day of 1620.
- Johne Moffet of this parroschin and Kathrene Lockerbie in Kirkmaho were maryed in Kirkmaho.
- Johne M'Clwne and Malie Tweedhope both parroschiners were maryed the 20 of Junii, 1620.
- James Maxwell and Jonet Paterson parroschiners were maryed the 27 of Junii, 1620.
- Johne Carlile and Kathrene Gilmerson parroschiners were maryed the 6 of August, 1620.
- Richard Schortrig parroschiner of Kirkmaho and Margaret Hill of this parroschin were proclaimed.
- David M'Cleere and Kathrene M'Cleere both parroschiners were maryed the 17 of September, 1620.
- John Johnestoun and Jonet Larrok both parroschiners were married the 3 of August, 1620.
- James Rule and Jonet Maxwell both parroschiners were maryed the 9 of August, 1620.
- Robert Jarden and Marion Lewres were maryed the 6 of August, 1620.
- Alexander Porter and Agnes Black both parroscheners were maryed the 13 of August, 1620.
- James M'Brair and Jeane Orde [? Corde] both parroschiners were maryed the 27 of August, 1620.
- George Thomson and Agnes Edzer both parroschiners were maryed the 27 of September, 1620.
- William Maxwell and Agnes Schortrig both parroschiners were maryed the 24 of September, 1620.

- Robert Maxwell and Jonet Gibson both parroschiners were maryed the 19 of October, 1620.
- Harbert Irvin of this parroschin and Anna Broun parroschiner of Irngray were maryed in Irngray.
- Bartill Maxwell and Margaret Creichtoun bot parroschiners were proclaimed.
- Thomas Allane and Jonet Wilson both parroschiners were maryed the 15 of February, 1621.
- Johne M'Dill and Jeane Simson both parroschiners were maryed the 27 of November, 1620.
- James Rae and Margaret Rule both parroschiners were maryed the 29 of November, 1620.
- William Fouller and Issobell Maxwell both parroschiners were maryed the 30 of November, 1620.
- Thomas Gibson and Agnes Beatie both parroschiners were proclaimed.
- Thomas Wallas parroschiner of Kirkmaho and Elspeth M'Kachie of this parroschin were maryed.
- William Bell parroschiner of Tinwald and Jonet Ireland of this parroschin were maryed the 6 of December, 1620.
- [1621]
- Thomas Scot and Jonet Poole both parroschiners were maryed the xj of February, 1621.
- Johne Williamson of this parroschin and Agnes Lawrie parrochiner of Mortoun were proclaimed.
- Thomas Maxwell of this parroschin and Jonet Maxwell parrochiner of Troqueir were maryed in Troqueir the xj of Februar, 1621.
- Harbert Arthour and Margaret Bighame both parroschiners were maryed the 18 of January, 1621.
- Johne M'Burnie and Elizabeth Edzer both parroschiners were maryed the 4 of February, 1621.
- Robert Stot [? Scot] parroschiner of Troqueir and Jonet Tait of this parroschin were maryed in Troqueir the 8 of February, 1621.
- George Guild and Kathrene Dikson both parroschiners were proclaimed.
- William Grier and Jonet Thomson both parroschiners were maryed the xj of Aprile, 1621.

- Thomas Mitchelson and Elizabeth Young both parroschiners were maryed the 3 of May, 1621.
- Thomas Armstrong and Margaret Allan both parroschiners were maryed the 8 of Aprile, 1621.
- Johne Blak and Jonet Irvin parroschiners were maryed the 8 of Aprile, 1621.
- George Irvin and Marion M'Burnie parroschiners were maryed the 18 of Aprile, 1621.
- William Mertene and Agnes Slumen parroschiners were maryed the 23 of Aprile, 1621.
- Johne Halyday and Margaret Forsyth parroschiners were maryed.
- Johne Dikson and Agnes Hachill parroschiners he of Carlaverok and shee of this parrosch were maryed
- Homer Hanyng and Jonet Harper parroschiners were maryed the 27 of May, 1621.
- Johne Maxwell parroschiner of Kilbein and Jonet Duren ours were maryed 7 September, 1621.
- Johne Lawson of this parrosch and Kathrene Kennedy parroschiner of Lochmaben were maryed.
- Mathow Lawrie ours and Marion Blakstok parroschiner of Rivell were maryed the
- William Gibson and Agnes Lig parroschiners were maryed the
- Robert Mitchelson and Elison Broun parroschiners were maryed the 17 of August, 1621.
- William Hereis of Maidinpape and Agnes Jonstoun were proclaimed.
- Robert Creichtoun of Ryhill and Agnes M'Brair were proclaimed heir and maryed in Troqueir the 3 of August, 1621.
- Johne Young of this parrosch and Bessie Wricht parroschiner of Lochmaben were maryed on our testimoniall the . . .
- William Weir and Elspeth Gledstanes parroschiners were maryed the 12 of August, 1621.
- William Mertene and Marion Waker parroschiners were maryed the 30 of August, 1621.
- Adame Bell and Jonet Libodie were proclaimed.

- Johne Little and Margaret M'No parroschiners wer maryed the 21 of August, 1621.
- Symon Padzen and Agnes M'Kinnell parroschiners wer maryed the 2 of September, 1621.
- Harbert Corsen and Jonet Wheldell parroschiners wer maryed the 19 of August, 1621.
- Robert Richardson and Margaret Maxwell parroschiner of Halywod wer maryed ther 28 August, 1621.
- Johne Black and Issobell Wat parroschiners were maryed the 20 of September, 1621.
- David Dikson and Agnes Hanyng were maryed in Holywood.
- Johne Halyday and Bessie Bell parroschiners were maryed the 23 of October, 1621.
- George Irvin and Jonet M'Kie parroschiners were maryed the 18 of November, 1621.
- James Weir and Jonet M'Gachen were maryed in Edinburgh the
- William Wat parroschiner of Terregles and Agnes Greir ours were maryed the 6 of November, 1621.
- Thomas Lawrie and Jonet Peeres parroschiners were maryed the 18 of November, 1621.
- Robert Russall and Jonet Halyday parroschiners were maryed the 4 of December, 1621.
- John Wallas parroschiner of Kirkmaho and Bessie Rodden ours were maryed the 20 of November, 1621.
- William Swan ours and Jonet Murray parroschiner of Dronok wes maryed ther the 11 of December, 1621.
- James Bell parroschiner of St. Mungo and Jonet Wilson ours were proclamed.
- David Gibson and Jonet Wricht parroschiners were maryed the 6 of December, 1621.
- Johne Maxwell and Agnes Maxwell were maryed the 13 of December, 1621.
- Johne Neilson and Helene Mertene parroschiners were maryed the 3 of December, 1621.
- Johne Din and Jeane Gairnes parroschiners were maryed the 4 of December, 1621.

[1622]

- Johne Maben parroschiner of Carlaverok and Margaret Greecie ours were maryed 17 January, 1622.
- Archibald Carriddes and Jonet Ker parroschiners were maryed the
- Robert Currou and Jonet Hislop parroschiners wer maryed the 12 of February, 1622.
- Johne Smyth and Margaret Porter parroschiners were maryed the 19 of February, 1622.
- Mr James Halyday of Pitlochie and Marion Maxwell Lady Wauchop were maryed in Troqueir the 20 of January, 1622.
- Johne Carmik and Marion and Marion [sic] Conkie parroschiners were maryed the 19 of February, 1622.
- John Nevin and Helene M'Brair parroschiners were maryed the 7 of February, 1622.
- Thomas Gibson and Agnes Beatie parroschiners were maryed the 28 of January, 1622.
- William Clerk and Margaret Edger were maryed in Halywod.
- William Sturgeon and Helene Litle parroschiners were maryed the 24 of February, 1622.
- Roger Dungalson and Marion Aitken parroschiners were maryed the
- James Din and Bessie Scheill were maryed in Edinburgh.
- Peter Hunter and Margaret Maxwell parroschiners were maryed the 13 of July, 1622.
- James Broun and Grissell Broun parroschiners were maryed the 25 of Junii, 1622.
- Johne Jonstoun and Jonet Jonstoun parroschiners were maryed the 16 of July, 1622.
- Thomas Hereis parroschiner of Terreglis and Margaret Edzer ours were
- William Wricht parroschiner of Troqueir and Kathren Anderson ours were maryed the 30 of Junii.
- Johne Roome baillie and Elizabeth Maxwell were maryed in Tindwall the 2 of July, 1622.
- Johne Milligen our parroschiner and Agnes Douglas of Durisdeir were maryed in Durisdeir on our testimoniall.

Johne Hairstanes and Agnes Gledstanes both our parroschiners after 3 proclamations were maryed in Car-laverok.

Homer Wilkin of this parroschin and Jonet Roger parroschiner of Kirkpatrick-Juxta after 3 proclamatiouns were maryed ther.

Johne Gilmor and Margaret M'Clellane both of this parroschin were

Robert Schortrig and Margaret Anderson both our parroschiners after dew proclamatioun were maryed in our kirk the September, 1622.

Harbert M'Kie and Kathrene Edzer were maryed in the kirk of Troqueir.

Johne Millighen and Margaret Paterson both parroschiners were lauffullie proclamed in our kirk.

Edward Hammiltoun our parroschiner and Jean Thomson parroschiner of Troqueir were lauffullie proclamed in our kirk and maryed in Troqueir.

James Weir merchand and Margaret M'Cleene both of this parrosch were after proclamatioun maryed in our kirk the of December, 1622.

Michaell Lin and Jonet M'Burnie both of this parroschin were proclamed in our kirk and maryed in Kirkmahoe.

[1623]

Robert M'Kinnell and Agnes Halyday both of this parroschin were after proclamatioun maryed in our kirk the 19 January, 1623.

Johne Williamson and Agnes Ranyng both our parroschiners were after dew proclamatioun maryed in our kirk 2 of February, 1623.

Edward Maxwell brother to the goodman of Portrak and Jonet Richardson daughter to John Richardson merchand were after dew proclamation maryed in our kirk the ellevint day of May, 1623.

Williame Mertein and Issobell M'Dowall both of this parroschin were after dew proclamation married in our kirk the ellevint day of May, 1623.

- Johne Bell parroschiner of Drysdale and Jeane Burges of this parroschin efter lauffull proclamation maried in our kirk the xvii day of Junii, 1623.
- Moyse (Nic)oll parichoner of Air and Marion Makmollen of this pariche efter lauffull proclamatiōe wer maried in this kirk the alevint of Junii, 1623.
- Johne Fergisone of Blakstone in the parischone of Glencairne and Jonat Greir of this pariss efter lauffull proclamatiōe were maried in our kirk the 22 of Junii, 1623.
- Johne Makbrair and Helen Libodie efter lauffull proclamatiōe were maried in our kirk the 8 July.
- James Douglas and Jean Douglas after lauffull proclamation wer maried in our kirk the 13 July.
- George Scharpe and Agnes Lawrie efter lafull proclamatiōe were maried in the kirk of Mortone the 22 of July, 1623.
- William Lawrie and Janet Blaiklok after lauffull proclamation wer maried in our kirk the 7 of September, 1623.
- William Cairnes of Troqueir and Margaret Stot of this pariss after lauffull proclamation wer maried in Troqueir 7 September, 1623.
- William Mairtein and Janet Thomsone after lauffull proclamation wer maried in our kirk 28 September, 1623.

[The record is here blank till 1635, after which marriage entries are mixed with kirk session minutes.]

18th March, 1922.

Chairman—Mr JAMES DAVIDSON, V.-P.

The Black Water of Dee.

By Mr ROBERT WALLACE.

PART I.—GALLOWAY UPLIFTS IN NEOCENE TIMES.

In the South of Scotland there are no marine deposits of the Tertiary Ages to guide us in reconstructing the physical conditions of Scotland during that vast era. From the Shales

at Carlisle we have a glimpse of the Liassic Seas, and from the Glacial moraines of the Pleistocene Period abundant proof of the geographical and climatic conditions prevailing at this late stage. But between these two ages there is a vast hiatus—a great silence of nearly five million years. Sedimentary deposits are found in Central Europe which establish twenty ages during this hiatus in Scotland.

If the Scottish area was not submerged during these vast periods, it is evident that it must have been a land surface which had become deeply marked by prolonged denudation. Assuming that the Southern Uplands were partly submerged under the chalky seas of the Cretaceous Period,* these soft deposits would be speedily removed, laying bare the old pre-Cretaceous land surface.

The physical features of Galloway should thus show us at least four distinct phases of land sculpture accomplished by persistent denudation.

1. All land forms which are due to deposition or denudation throughout all the pre-Cretaceous Ages. This is an important and intricate study rapidly summarised by W. A. Gauld in his *Galloway: An Introductory Study*, pp. 24.
2. All denudation or earth movements throughout the Tertiary Ages.
3. Land sculpture due to Ice movements and morainic deposits of the Pleistocene Period.
4. Any effects accomplished in post-Glacial time.

This paper is concerned wholly with the second group, viz., an examination of those physical features of Galloway which have been imprinted during the Tertiary Ages, especially those of later date—Miocene and Pliocene.

Pre-Glacial Land Forms.

It is evident that before a true estimate of any changes in land sculpture due to Glacial conditions can be obtained we must first be able to visualise the pre-Glacial topography of the particular region under study.

From the date of the retreat of the Cretaceous Sea to the

* *The Growth of Europe*, by Professor G. A. J. Cole, p. 29; *Building of the British Isles*, by A. J. Jukes-Brown, chap. 12.

advent of the first Glacial stage represents a great stretch of time—according to Dr. W. J. Sollas, exceeding three millions of years. Allowing a lengthened period for the volcanic activities of the Eocene and Oligocene Ages, there still remains about two million years. Surely this was ample time for the rivers of Galloway to hallmark their hills with their irresistible flood plains imprinted in bold character and majestic outline, proclaiming the great message of continental evolution.

Not only would these records of Tertiary river-work occupy a permanent place on this elevated tableland wholly beyond the obliteration of the Icework of a brief Glacial stage, but this topography must also be of an evolutionary nature—stage by stage—according to the laws of River Development laid down by W. M. Davies, I. C. Russell, H. Mac-kindar, and other authorities.

Southern Upland Gaps.

In dealing with the pre-Glacial river system of Central Scotland, H. M. Caddell in his *Story of the Forth* boldly carried the Argyleshire streams across Scotland into the Forth estuary.

Dr. Gregory followed by establishing an older route for this Argyle-Clyde River through the Biggar gap into the Tweed valley. He also showed the predominating effects of pre-Glacial excavation to anything that could be produced in Glacial or post-Glacial times. Dr. Mort opened up a physiographic study with a paper on *North Arran*, describing in that island penplains as a result of erosion. Later on, in his *Rivers of South-West Scotland*, he continues the plains and valleys through the Galloway gaps, dwelling particularly upon the source of the present Black Water of Dee.

Thus it is evident that the plateau of the Southern Uplands was the testing ground of any older Scottish drainage system. And from the peculiar nature of the rocks along its valley floor the Black Water of Dee offered unique facilities for the study of uplifts and of river captures.

The Cooran Dee.

This Galloway Dee rises between the wild crags of Craignaw and Dungeon on the western bank and the Kells

range on the eastern. It flows through the Loch of Stroan and joins its master stream, the River Ken, at Parton Ferry. From this point to the sea the combined river takes the name of Dee from its tributary water and drops that of Ken, the master stream. For the sake of brevity we shall style our present-day tributary as the Black Dee or the Cooran Dee. It has two distinct types of topography. These types are :—

1. The upper portion from its source in the Round Loch of the Dungeon down the Cooran Lane to the foot of the Loch of Stroan flows swiftly along the bottom of a steep walled V-shaped valley. The valley excavation is of great depth; consequently it represents a river of maturity long before the advent of the Ice Age.
2. The lower portion escapes with difficulty from Loch Stroan outlet, meanders the Mossdale flood-plain, tumbles over the Hensol cataract, and finally steals silently into the Ken near Parton Ferry. It does not lie in a deep valley, but is only about twelve feet below plain level. It is a thing of yesterday—full of contradictions and surprises—never in harmony with its channel; undoubtedly it is the greatest misfit in Galloway.

Geological Structure.

Galloway, in common with the rest of the Southern Uplands, is composed almost wholly of hard greywackes alternating with softer shales. They represent a deep sea deposit of mud and ooze during the Ordovician and Silurian Ages.

These great masses of sediments on the ocean floor were finally elevated, subjected to immense pressure from the south-east, and thrown into numerous folds. This folded plateau stretched from St. Abb's Head on the North Sea to Portpatrick on the Irish Channel.

During this period of lateral pressure massive cores of molten granite rocks were forced or intruded up amongst the layers of greywackes and shales. As the ages rolled on and continental conditions supervened, the greater portion of these palæozoic deposits were removed by sub-aerial denudation. Galloway became part of a vast peneplain stretching west-

ward into Ireland. As the rocks of the Upper Silurian Ages were removed the granite massifs were exposed, and these gave rise to a new set of physical features.

In the area considered in this paper there are three bosses of granite:—1. The Loch Doon granite, where our stream takes its rise. 2. Cairnsmore of Fleet granite, along which the Upper Black Dee runs for about nine miles. 3. The Bengairn-Screel range which stretches along the Solway margin westward to Barcloy. These three granite masses are very much harder than the surrounding greywackes and shales, and consequently they stand out in great relief amidst the denuded greywackes. Dr. Mort in his paper on the *Rivers of South-West Scotland* points out that the ring of metamorphic rock which surrounds each granite area is more resistant than the granite itself, and consequently, as a result of denudation, may retain a higher altitude. He cites the metamorphic rock of the Merrick as being higher than the adjacent granite. For the same reason the metamorphic ring is extremely difficult for a stream to erode—it forms a powerful barrier. The altitude of the northern granite outcrop surrounding the Cooran Lane is over 2200 feet. The central block, Cairnsmore of Fleet granite, gives as an average altitude (Shaw Hill) 1253 feet; while the southern group, Screel Hill, close to the Solway, is only 1100 feet. Between each granite mass are the greywackes and shales, severely denuded to low altitudes.

The Cooran Gap.

To get a true estimate of the significance of this deeply eroded ancient valley now traversed by a mere trickle of water—the Cooran Lane—let us examine two sections.

The valley floor of the Cooran Gap rests upon the 1000 feet contour. It is over three-quarters of a mile wide. It contains three lochs, one drained south by the Cooran, and two tapped at the north by the Doon. Its valley walls are very steep and of great height. On the east, Corserine reaches 2668 feet, while on the west, Mullwharchar gives 2270 feet, and the Merrick 2754 feet. This gives a vertical cutting of at least 1600 feet. Considering the breadth of the

Gap, three-quarters of a mile, and its length, nearly three miles, and the great resistance of these granite rocks, the Cooran Gap represents the largest, the deepest, the oldest, and the most elevated of all the Gaps in the Southern Uplands.

The other section at Craigenallie, further down the stream, is of a different nature, but equally emphatic. The eastern bank gives a relief of 2400 feet, and the western 1800 feet, while the stream runs along the 700 feet contour. This shows an excavation of 1700 feet of metamorphic rock—the hardest in Britain.

There are at least four distinct types of windgaps due to the different forces at work in their formation—each type taking that distinct peculiarity of form characteristic of the producing agent. Authorities have already agreed that the windgaps at Biggar, at Cumnock, and at Carsphairn are stream cut. Not only so, but they are also agreed that these three have been cut by a “ through ” or a consequent stream imposed upon the ridge. For want of a better name, may we call them “ consequent ” gaps.

The Gap at Cooran is of that same bold type—cut by a consequent. Indeed there is no alternative, no theory of downthrow or uplift, or fault could truthfully account for the phenomena of the Cooran. Undoubtedly that deep-walled Gap of the Dungeon, with its steep precipitous sides and its floor of treacherous morass, was the handiwork of the oldest and largest river crossing the Southern Uplands.

The lower or Mossdale portion of the present Dee, from the Stroan to Parton Ferry, gives no valley, or plain, or gap corresponding in size or age to the Cooran excavation. Many of the features of Mossdale area are post-Glacial, but even those that are admittedly pre-Glacial are of poor relief. They are too “ young ” or “ immature ” to rank as contemporary with the ancient Cooran Gap.

The Screef Gap.

There is another ridge of granite hills confronting these rivers in their south-easterly course. This range stretches from Criffel, westward, to Bengairn, near Kirkcudbright, and

runs nearly parallel with the Solway. The rocks are very hard, and in some cases rise above the 1800 feet contour.

In a former paper* it was shown that the consequent Ken originally traversed this ridge, thereby excavating the Doach Gap.

Dr. Mort, in his paper on the *Rivers of South-West Scotland*, suggested that the original Ken eroded this gap. Closer examination confirms his bold suggestion. Similar evidence is available to prove that the consequent Cooran Dee also traversed the granite barrier through what is now the Screele Gap.

The 1000 Foot Plain.

Let us visualise the geographical features of a 1000 foot plain.

1. The great width of one mile in extremely hard rock that was cut in the floor of the Cooran Gap suggests a large stream—one that had travelled from a distance.
2. The correspondence between the 1000 feet peneplain of Arran and that of the Cooran valley floor would imply Arran as the only possible source of this master stream on its elevated path.
3. The maximum height of Arran (2866 feet) against the Merrick of 2764 feet indicates an older slope or platform—hence the thousand feet stage would be a second stage, not a first.
4. The predominant flatness along the top of the Screele range points to the former existence of a vast plain slightly over the 1000 feet contour. When it is considered in connection with the flat gap at Cooran and the plain remnants in Arran, it may be concluded that that peneplain represented the base-level of a previous cycle of erosion.
5. The undulations of the plain as at Bengairn representing a hillock of 100 feet, and the absence of marine deposits, infer that the plain was due to sub-aerial erosion—in other words, part of a huge river system.

* “The Galloway Dee,” *Transactions*, 1918-19., pp. 78-88.

6. The great width of the Cooran Gap caused by the stream working in a lateral direction argued another barrier to the south-east. This barrier (the Screele granite), with its wider plain structure, also implies lateral erosion, necessitating another barrier further south.
7. If the river were continued in its natural course to the south-east the barrier would be found in the hard volcanic rocks of the Lake District.
8. Of all the rivers crossing the Southern Uplands, only the Cooran-Screele was beheaded at this early stage. It follows that the piracy could only have been effected by a neighbouring river.

The 650 Foot Plain.

Eventually another uplift set in, which elevated the previous base level at least 400 feet. Immediately the river system of Galloway was rejuvenated. The streams ceased meandering on plains, and began anew to erode deep V notches into the old plain. This continued all the time of the uplift. When equilibrium was restored a new plain was produced agreeing with the 650 feet contour line above present sea level.

The peneplain character of this lower platform is more conspicuous and of greater area than that of the few remnants of the older 1000 foot stage. Along the South-West of Scotland and the North-West of England this second plain is continually asserting itself.

The Galloway streams worked out these peneplains in great detail, but the Cooran-Dee-Screele has engraved a clearer record of geographical development during the Pliocene Period than that given by any rival stream.

This ancient river has left us a marvellous record of physiographic changes. It has registered an extraordinary series of misfits, captures, and contradictions. This is due to the obstructions which it met on its path—three distinct series of obstructions in the form of bosses of granite. They formed greater handicaps than were imposed on any other Scottish stream.

A reconstruction of this 650 foot plain gives us two

distinct types of scenery in accordance with the two different types of rock upon which it has been imposed :—

1. The Dornell and Laurieston plains resting upon the softer greywackes and shales.
2. The Gelston scenery imposed upon the highly resistant plutonics.

In the first case—that of the greywackes—very little of the original plain is left. On the eastern bank of the valley the highest points are the Livingstone and Dornell Hills, none of them quite 600 feet, while on the western side the Devil's Dike at Barstobrick is only 525 feet. Between these heights lie the Kirkconnel Moor and the Beoch Moor, the Woodhall Loch, the Glentoo and Bargatton Lochs. The moors and lochs have an average altitude of about 250 feet O.D., so that the scenery is mild and the relief of the Dornell Hills is not pronounced.

The second type of scenery in the Gelston area, is of a more impressive character. The denudation has been slight, and the plain effects are very pronounced.

On the western bank the valley wall rises up at an acute angle to the 1000 foot plain, now stretching along the tops of Screel Hill, Bengairn Hill, and Bengour. On the eastern bank the valley wall rises with the same steep gradient, but only reaches the 650 foot level.

This latter level, the Gelston Plain, extends eastwards, and embraces other two rivers, the Ken and the Urr. Beyond the Urr it rises to the 1000 foot level. Maidenpap (1000) and Cuil Hill (1350) mark the continuance of the 1000 foot plain.

The 1000 foot plain has been denuded down to a 650 foot plain over a width of seven miles, and this vast erosion has been accomplished by three streams. They must have been forced to accomplish lateral erosion by some barrier further to the south-westwards, a barrier which we find in the volcanic rocks of the Lake District.

The later work of this stream, the Black Dee, its other plains and captures, will be dealt with in a further communication.

WIGTOWN.		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Loch Ryan Lighthouse	..	5.13	1.13	4.34	1.13	1.96	.44	2.99	3.28	1.74	2.42	4.74	4.16	33.46
Mull of Galloway	..	2.43	.87	2.61	.61	1.51	.20	2.61	3.01	1.82	3.05	3.49	2.49	24.73
Logan House	..	5.49	.69	3.78	1.12	1.88	.48	3.97	3.91	2.30	3.75	4.57	3.73	35.65
Killantingan	..	3.80	1.00	2.50	1.70	1.20	.55	3.95	4.30	2.57	3.27	5.65	2.95	33.44
Corsewall	..	5.95	.68	4.28	1.21	2.51	.34	4.32	2.66	.97	3.45	4.49	4.95	35.81
Monreith	..	6.20	.56	4.43	1.08	1.08	.46	4.33	3.56	1.15	3.87	3.16	4.00	36.50
Ardwel House	..	5.40	.71	3.77	1.12	1.93	.25	4.20	4.43	1.82	4.26	4.24	3.59	35.77
Glennace	..	5.26	1.05	5.40	1.56	2.80	.46	4.40	2.43	3.43	3.84	3.40	4.46	37.35
Whithorn (Glassterton)	..	6.15	.52	4.63	1.10	1.67	.35	4.00	5.46	2.26	3.15	2.17	3.97	37.03
Kirkcowan	..	6.78	.75	5.08	1.89	2.93	1.02	5.93	5.30	2.57	4.84	3.17	6.08	48.34
KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.														
Knockbrev	..	6.74	.52	5.23	1.46	1.81	.61	4.22	5.64	2.55	3.20	2.43	4.38	38.19
Creetown (Cassencyry)	..	6.77	.73	5.29	1.33	2.23	.42	5.67	5.48	3.86	3.79	3.76	5.66	43.99
Pahure (Bargaly)	..	9.11	.74	7.27	1.99	3.07	.90	5.24	7.87	2.28	3.60	4.77	6.83	53.67
Little Ross Lighthouse *	..	4.25	1.21	3.76	.94	1.43	.22	2.39	4.47	1.17	2.55	1.19	2.46	36.04
New-Galloway (Glenlee Park)	..	14.33	1.24	12.00	1.87	3.01	.26	5.71	8.10	2.72	5.00	4.50	11.63	70.27
Dalry (Glendaroch)	..	10.49	.89	9.51	1.66	2.84	.29	5.26	7.76	2.71	4.56	4.45	8.30	58.72
Dalry (Garroch)	..	13.38	1.71	11.96	2.05	3.67	.24	5.66	6.77	3.77	4.63	4.54	10.30	68.68
Carsphairn (Shiel)	..	15.42	1.72	13.70	2.81	4.06	1.19	6.38	9.77	3.70	5.80	5.94	13.96	84.45
Carsphairn (Knockgry)	..	10.64	.96	9.26	2.20	3.01	.72	4.74	8.13	2.73	4.04	5.00	8.61	60.04
Auchenairn, Torr House	..	8.53	.62	7.23	2.03	3.12	.42	4.48	8.39	2.46	3.91	2.17	6.21	43.67
Dalbeattie, Southwick	..	9.05	.61	6.09	1.47	3.43	.40	5.17	6.61	2.48	2.74	2.93	5.47	46.50
" Kirkennan	..	8.35	.50	6.60	1.37	2.33	.37	4.46	7.81	2.37	2.62	2.37	5.52	45.77
" " " "	..	7.57	.50	6.11	1.81	2.79	.37	4.72	7.72	2.21	2.17	2.44	4.39	42.80
" " " " "	..	8.44	.52	6.27	1.68	3.29	.57	5.20	8.42	2.06	2.98	2.79	6.00	48.82
Kirkpatrick-Durham, Glenlair	..	4.94	.42	3.61	1.63	1.63	.14	4.02	6.92	2.03	3.10	3.46	7.01	37.16
Corsock, Monyburne †	..	8.21	.42	6.82	1.26	3.32	.45	6.27	7.40	2.25	3.35	3.05	6.27	49.17
Dumfries, Cargen	..	8.72	.60	6.82	1.52	3.25	.54	6.18	7.23	2.44	3.40	3.08	6.44	49.32
Lochnuton	..	7.89	.60	5.59	1.02	2.80	.54	5.06	7.08	2.03	3.08	2.92	5.61	43.71
Dumfries, Lincluden House...	..	7.08	.38	5.75	1.05	2.80	.48	5.00	6.94	1.92	3.21	2.37	5.63	43.46
" " " " "	..													

* Little Ross Lighthouse.—There is great difficulty in getting a satisfactory exposure for a rain-gauge near a lighthouse, and the amount measured is usually low. The total for Little Ross has been printed in "British Rainfall," with a query.
 † Corsock.—The amounts are low in some months, notably April. On the evidence before us the observations must be accepted.

Meteorological Observations taken at Jardington, 1921.

By J. RUTHERFORD of Jardington.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT JARDINGTON, NEAR DUMFRIES, IN 1921.

Lat., 55° 4' N.; Long., 3° 36' W.; Elevation, about 60 feet above sea level.

	THERMOMETERS IN SCREEN 4 FEET ABOVE GROUND.										BAROMETER.			RAINFALL.									
	MAXIMUM.		MINIMUM.		DAILY MEAN.		DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH.		NUMBER OF DAYS AT OR BELOW 32° DEG. IN THE SHADE.		NUMBER OF DAYS AT OR BELOW 32° DEG. ON THE GRASS.		LOWEST TEMPERATURE ON THE GRASS.		HIGHEST.		LOWEST.		TOTAL DEPTH.		GREATEST FALL IN 24 HOURS.		NUMBER OF DAYS WITH 0.1 OR MORE INCHES RECORDED.
	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Days.	Days.	Deg.	Deg.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	1/100	Days.	Days.
Jan.	53	39	47	37	36	42	18	12	20	30	29	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	7	28	8
Feb.	57	37	46	33	38	40	12	19	19	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	8	8
Mar.	55	41	49	39	37	43	16	19	18	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	27	27	27
April	75	43	57	46	36	46	8	11	25	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	13	13	13
May	74	54	69	52	41	50	4	2	28	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	17	17	17
June	80	59	70	57	47	59	0	..	34	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	8	8	8
July	88	58	78	63	53	63	3	..	42	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	15	15	15
Aug.	80	57	66	57	49	57	2	..	40	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	22	22	22
Sept.	73	58	64	60	46	55	1	..	38	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	12	12	12
Oct.	75	42	60	60	46	53	2	4	26	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	21	21	21
Nov.	57	37	45	43	32	38	7	12	19	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	16	16	16
Dec.	56	39	49	49	36	42	9	10	22	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	25	25	25
							59	93													43	212	212

43.16 in. of Rain is 3.57 in. above the Mean recorded here during the last 23 years.

Field Meetings.

27th May, 1922.

Birrenswark.

This excursion was arranged in conjunction with the Dumfries Branch of the Geographical Association, and about 40 took part in it, travelling by motor char-a-banc via Lockerbie and Ecclefechan. Before ascending the hill a meeting was held in a sheltered spot, and Mr John Murray, Rector of Annan Academy, delivered an address on the significance of Birrenswark, geographically and historically, which he illustrated by a set of sketch maps. Under Mr Murray's guidance the company subsequently explored the hill.

On returning to Ecclefechan, Mr R. C. Reid moved a vote of thanks to Mr Murray for his address and the trouble he had taken to ensure the success of the visit.

Most of the company before leaving Ecclefechan visited Carlyle's house. Miss M. Carlyle Aitken, niece of the Sage, added greatly to the interest of the occasion by her personal reminiscences of the exhibits.

Mr Murray's address was as follows :—

The Significance of Birrenswark.

By John Murray, M.A.

In all I have to say this afternoon about our chosen area, I would wish to make one small stipulation—my main object is geographical, not archæological; geographically historical, not antiquarian. I think this is necessary in view of the fact that, though our friends of the Antiquarian Society are with us, and though I belong to both bodies, the following notes were put together prior to the joint excursion arrangement.

No area of similar dimensions offers, within our county, such a variety of interest to geologist, geographer, archæologist, and historian as does the Birrenswark district. The story which gathers round it epitomises the county's record, be that record of rocks or of warfare. We look down on a

landscape which enshrines the tale of a Borderland in geology, in pre-history, in medieval conflict. Beyond the swelling ridges at our feet the clansmen from the north conducted their last raid, and before their time the battles of Irving and of Johnstone, of Douglas and of Maxwell, of Bruce and of Percy, carry the mind away back over the dim centuries into "the mists of antiquity, out of which looms the sullen splendour of more classic arms." For the Roman eagle, by way of the Kirtle Valley yonder, penetrated from the north-England province in its endeavour to add Caledonia to the banner rolls of the Legions. Within a stone's throw of the hill crest we have clear evidences of the Roman skill in camp making, and the great defensive works at Birrens are not far off. Peel and beacon hills remind us of the stern days of Border warfare, while the earthworks so liberally scattered on sister summits bear us in imagination back to the days when the valleys below us lay under marsh and forest. It would be more than interesting for the student just to sit here with a map and try to identify the sites of the forts and of the Border towers. I do not think I am far wrong when I say that 15 of each is a fair estimate.

It would appear, then, worth our afternoon's study to consider this remarkable view point. And first, just a brief sketch of its geological history. The hill itself is a mass of basaltic lava surrounded by Upper Old Red Sandstone. The formation belongs to a period of volcanic activity intervening between the silurian and Old Red Sandstone epochs, and a line of vents occurs in a narrow belt between Langholm and Carruthers-town by Waterbeck, Middlebie, and Dalton. To the north of us the nearer ridges are of the Wenlock and Ludlow type of upper silurian, the further and higher hills belong to the Birk-hill shale and Llandovery type of upper silurian. To our immediate south the valley is basally Upper Old Red Sandstone, part of the very narrow strip from Langholm to the Annan Valley. Beyond it is the Middlebie portion of the lava outflow. Further south by the Mein Valley is a broad belt of lower carboniferous sandstones and limestones. Nearer the Solway and forming the well-known sill are the marls and

sandstones of triassic age. It is not necessary to look east or west, since the country is banded diagonally N.E.—S.W., and a N.W.—S.E. cross section is sufficient for our purpose. We stand then on the meeting-line of silurian and younger formations—a geologic borderland, and the basaltic upwelling remains a silent, inarticulate witness of crustal activity in the record of the rocks.

Dumfriesshire a Buffer Area.

Dumfriesshire's part in the history of Scotland has been largely determined and conditioned by its geographical position and its topography. 'Twere presumption to descant on these to the present company; a sentence or two must suffice. The county's fate has been in the main that of a buffer area—in very early times between Neolithic west and Celtic east, later between Celts and Angles, still later between Scots and English. And the fact that the shire is situated on the great western corridor of Britain has intensified all that resulted from its buffer position. Within the ancient area the Birrenswark site is nodal; it has hence focussed history upon itself; it has, as has been already said, epitomised the county's record. Of the three longitudinal hollows which notch the Solway—stretching spurs of the southern uplands, the Annan Valley, by reason of its central position and the importance of its terminals, is indubitably the chief. Within the corridor one basin, on account of its peculiar topography, is historically determinative. Where the Annan curves round the Hoddam ridge just at the junction point of the Mein Water there is provided a physical setting almost unique. No scene of such circumscribed limits can offer the associations, literary and historical, such as are offered within the circle of three miles radius which takes in St. Mungo and Brydekirk, Hoddam and Ecclefechan, Mainhill and Scotsbrig, Robgill and Kirkconnel, Birrens and Birrenswark, Repentance Tower and Bonshaw.

Besieged by Agricola.

To come to the hill itself, the earthworks surrounding it, though undoubtedly Roman, may in all probability occupy sites of British forts, and the presence of hill fortification on many of the surrounding eminences is strong corroborative

evidence. The conspicuous position, the tabular summit, the strategic site, are, of course, geographical factors sufficient in themselves to condition the selection of Birrenswark as a place of strength in early British times. However invitingly easy it would be, in accordance with local patriotism and a superficial historical geography, to assert that the Romans entered Scotland by the western gateway and penetrated northwards by the Kirtle Water and Annan Valleys, I cannot bring myself to regard this as accurate history. It would be nearer the truth to hold that, about 82 A.D., the great Julius Agricola, having entered Scotland by the eastern gateway and having constructed his chain of forts between Forth and Clyde, conducted a punitive expedition against the South-western Selgovæ, who had in all likelihood aided their kinsmen, the Brigantes, in their opposition to the advance of the Romans through Northern England. This expedition brought Dumfriesshire, and incidentally Birrenswark, into the light of history. The fortifications round Birrenswark, as we see them, are unquestionably Roman—the archæologist tells us that. The late Mr Barbour, our foremost authority, had no doubts about the matter, and the Historical Monuments Commissioners agree. To the geographer, the interest of the north and south enclosures lies in their hill-crest-ward defensive formation. It does not require much acumen to surmise that a hill like Birrenswark, possessing every imaginable advantage, could not but be the rallying point for the assailed Britons, the site of their stand against the disciplined invader. Here they were besieged by Agricola, and here the great Roman general and administrator caused to be constructed the works known to antiquarians as the north and south camps. They are thus earlier by at least half a century than the mighty camp at Birrens. It may reasonably be conjectured that, after the establishment of the latter, the south camp at the Hill became a sort of summer camp. Its better state of preservation and its obviously fuller plan favour this assumption.

Just a word on the Birrenswark system. It is claimed by some that a fairly complete triple circumvallation has girt the

hill—at the 700 feet level, at the 900 feet level, and at the hill crest. A later and careful survey does not quite favour this. At the 700 feet level the two most conspicuous and most important items are the great north and south camps. It would be rather an unwarranted assumption to hold that these are linked by a complete rampart. At all events we have the works themselves. A cursory survey and a glance at the plan* will serve a better purpose than explanation. Noteworthy are the curious mounds guarding the entrances to both camps, especially the "Three Brethren" of the South Camp, which, after 1900 years, still keep silent ward against phantom forces of savage Celts, as these pour precipitously down the slope. The mound at "B"* is not Roman. Jonathan Oldbuck holds it is an old sheep pen. Not so the redoubt at "C."* It is obviously Roman, though its purpose is not clear. Ascending the hill face we reach at the 900 feet level the second line of circumvallation, for the most part a single rampart, strengthened by a redoubt at the three entrances—one to the north, two to the south. The tabular summit is broken in two by a low saddle. Within the western section is the enclosure marked "D,"* quite probably designed for the last stand. Within the eastern section is a mound "E,"* said by some to be a cairn of the Bronze Age. Altogether a remarkable, nay even unique, system, of which we ought to be justly proud.

In the Dark Ages.

Leaving Roman times, we come to what are termed the Dark Ages, somewhat obscure in Scotland as well as in the rest of Europe. The period is, however, associated in Scottish history with the consolidation of the Kingdom. Closely connected with the welding together of the four early Scottish Kingdoms is the Battle of Brunanburgh (937). Before its date Dalriada and Pictland had amalgamated (844), but Strathclyde and Lothian still maintained separate existences. With Lothian held by the Angles, the position of Strathclyde was insecure, and Brunanburgh represents the final episode

* This refers to Fig. 70—Birrenswark, on p. 96 of the Historical Monuments Commission's Report for the County.

of a struggle, which, had England been successful, might have resulted in the conquest of South-western Scotland, and in its junction politically with the South-east, already Anglian. Now the site of the decisive battle, wherein a host of Scots, Picts, Galwegians, Irish, Danes, and Cumbrians fought against Athelstan of England, is somewhat doubtful. That it lies within our county is maintained by that acute historian, Dr. Neilson, and what I have to say is little more than a summary of his argument. Of the fight we possess at least 20 different accounts, some of little value, some of none at all. From the multitude of counsellors the first point emerges—the battle took place in the west. The names of the combatants and the presence of the western Celtic corridor would justify that. Besides one of the most authentic accounts mentions that the Norsemen after the defeat fled back to Ireland by sea. In the narrowing down process we are aided in the next step by the fact that one account distinctly states that the fight took place near the Solway. Indeed a revised version of the same account tells us that the battle was decided beyond the Solway on the northern side. Further, Dr. Neilson calls attention to the evidence furnished by the famous Egil's Saga, and the incidents therein recorded and the details given fit Birrenswark to a nicety. Two "borgs," i.e., earthworks, one on the south and one on the north, are referred to, and the flat top of the hill on which the final struggle took place is insisted upon. Even the difference in slope between the two hill faces is stated. One piece of evidence is worth mention. Egil tells lovingly of the heroic death and of the burial of his brother Thorolf, and he expressly notes that a great mound was thrown up. And does not Birrenswark possess such a tumulus in the saddle between the crests? It is Thorolf's grave, and the excavation made on it in 1899 confirms this view. Altogether we are, I think, justified in saying that we have a good claim to enrol in our shire's annals the name of a battle of first-rate importance in the country's history.

The Border Feuds.

During the long and stern feud between the English and Scottish Borderlands, Birrenswark stood in the heart of things. Yet, strange to say, the hill surveyed only, without enacting, proceedings which were medieval and early modern history in the making. In this matter it shares the fate of many another site geographically unique. While the valley at its feet resounded to the march of armies, the gloomy mass stood aloof. In 1138 David I., on his way back from the defeat at the Battle of the Standard, followed the line of the Roman road. The English army which suffered the check at Stirling Bridge in 1297 passed north by the Annandale route, and indeed was surprised by the Scots in a night attack at Hightae. After his victory at Falkirk in 1298, Edward I. retired via Lochmaben to his own land. In 1302 and 1306 his armies again used the pathway. Edward II. came by way of the valley in 1310, and his host in brave array marched up the dale to the defeat at Bannockburn. Bruce used the route repeatedly on his inroads into England. In 1346 David II. passed by this way to the disaster of Neville's Cross. James V.'s army came down the valley to the shame of Solway Moss in 1542. In more recent times one section of Prince Charlie's army went south via Moffat and Annandale, and in the retreat a portion of the Jacobites followed the line of the valley north once more.

Then, lastly, what am I to say of the literary associations of the district? It will be surely unnecessary to speak of these. Moreover, the historical geographer is on rather insecure grounds if he ventures to assert dogmatically that environmental conditions affect character, and that therefore Carlyle is a typical son of a typical region. That we are getting to know more and more about the influence of environment must be his present refuge. From our view point we can see Mainhill, Repentance Tower, Scotsbrig, Annan, all intimately associated with Annandale's greatest son and Scotland's greatest intellect. Mainhill was occupied by Carlyle's father from 1815 to 1825. The period covers the time of Carlyle's teaching at Annan, the Kirkcaldy mastership,

the beginning of the sturm and drang epoch in his life as we read of it in "Sartor Resartus," and the start of his love affair. The small farm on Repentance Hill, to which a portion of the family removed in 1825, saw the visit of Miss Welsh, and presents the stage scenery for "The Everlasting Yea." In 1826 the Carlyles removed to Scotsbrig, like Mainhill and Repentance, on the heights. Here his father died in 1832, and his mother in 1853. Over the Solway plain we look to Annan, whose "Hinterschlag Gymnasium" gave Carlyle the training for his University career, and where he afterwards acted as mathematical master. Beyond the town is the Solway shore, where at Newbie he spent a summer, and where at the old pier he landed from the boat which in the far-off days plied between Liverpool and Annan. Take that illuminating book, Sloan's *Carlyle Country*, as your guide; it will impress you most vividly with the geographical setting and background of the literary associations of our chosen area.

22nd June, 1922.

Earlston, Knockreoch, and Dalry.

It took stout hearts to brave the weather this Thursday, but those who took part in the excursion to visit the remains of ancient stone works on Knockreoch, in Kells parish, had no reason to regret their temerity, and were agreed that the day had not only been successful from an antiquarian point of view, but enjoyable from a merely human one. Leaving Dumfries at 10.30, a party of eighteen travelled by char-a-banc *via* Hollywood and Glencairn, over the hill road to Dalry. Although the sky was black and heavy rain fell, the eye was gladdened everywhere by the prolific masses of blossom. Hawthorn and rhododendron in particular did their utmost to make this spring surpass all within living memory for the gorgeousness of its natural apparel. Nor was interest lacking in the places passed. In Hollywood the extent of the ancient Meiklewood Muir, which began near Newbridge, was commented upon, and credit given to the enterprise of the

Maxwells of Gribton, who brought labourers from Ireland and made some of the richest land in the parish of Holywood out of the bleak stretches of heather and whin. This was about the middle of last century. Proprietors in Dunscore soon followed their example, and traces of the muir have now almost disappeared. Of the great wooded area that extended throughout this part of the county, names only indicate its existence. Besides Meiklewood there is Holywood, Bishop's Forest in Irongray, and in Kirkmahoe The Forest. Of vast extent, it had disappeared by the middle of the 17th century, writers of the 18th century describing the land as bare and woodless, while replanting began about towards the close of that period. In Dunscore the farm of Rosefield, originally Corse and the adjacent Corsehills, were pointed out as indicating the presence, in pre-Reformation times, of a wayside cross. As there is a tradition, at least, that here also was a chapel, it was the opinion of one of the members that its ruins were the Preaching Walls, from which Blackadder spoke before the famous communion. The lands, too, which gave one of the greatest friends of Robert Burns his territorial designation—Glenriddell—were pointed out.

In Glencairn a brief halt was made at Shancastle or Maxwelton Mote, conveniently situated by the roadside, and, defying water underfoot as well as overhead, a rapid examination of this example of defensive structure introduced by the Normans was made. Measuring on the top some 70 feet by 60, one could well imagine the steep smooth sides rising from their ditches and crowned by a palisade of stout timber, forming a very sufficient defence for the wooden tower that sheltered the Norman overlord against the crude weapons of the day. Gaup's Mill, too, at the ford over the river, with its tradition that there Bruce declared he'd "Kep the Gaup," was noted with interest. And so they ran rapidly through Moniaive by the Castlefern Water, past Woodlea, Auchencheyne and Craigmuaie, to the wide sheep lands, and over the watershed to the Blackmark Burn, then across the Lochinvar Burn, and so down to the valley of the Ken and St. John's Clachan of Dalry.

Earlston Castle.

By this time the optimists of the party were feeling justified, for the weather had cleared, and after greeting Mr Alexander Milroy and Mr G. P. H. Watson, architect to the Ancient Monuments Commission, the short journey to Earlston Castle was accomplished. At Earlston they were warmly welcomed by Colonel Murray Kennedy of Knocknalling, on whose invitation the excursion had been made, and the Castle of the Gordons was inspected. It presents a good example of the L-shaped type of house built by the landed proprietor towards the close of the 16th and beginning of the 17th centuries. It had cellars, a large dining hall on the first floor, bedrooms and attics above. Comfort was beginning to replace the need for defence, and at Earlston can still be seen the panelling of early 18th century date, which indicates the elegance and taste of the residents of Earlston Castle. The ancient oak associated with Queen Mary still stands near by to recall that Mary gifted the lands of Earlston to Bothwell. When misfortune befell her and she took her sad way into England, it is said that she looked at Earlston, shuddered, and passed on. From the Hepburns the estate passed to the Sinclairs, and from them by marriage to the Gordons of Airds, whose territorial designation it became. Three successive lairds wrote their names large in the covenanting history of the district, having an hereditary interest in religion as descendants of Alexander the first of Airds, an early adherent of the Reformation. William Gordon and his son, Alexander, were both at Bothwell Bridge, and William met his death there. Alexander escaped by clothing himself in woman's apparel and rocking a cradle while the King's troops searched the house. He escaped to Holland, but returning he was taken prisoner, charged with complicity in the Rye House Plot, and threatened with torture. He was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, the Bass Rock, and Blackness until the Revolution. The Gordons remained owners of Earlston until 1799, when the lands were purchased by William Forbes of Aberdeen, with whose descendants they remain.

At Earlston Castle the visitors were entertained to a light

lunch by Colonel Kennedy, and Provost Arnott of Maxwelltown called upon the members to accord him a hearty vote of thanks for his kindness and the trouble he had taken to make the excursion a success.

Burial Cairns of the Bronze Age.

The visitors then proceeded to their final objective. Passing Milton Park Lodge, and crossing the Ken they proceeded up the Polharrow Burn, through the Forest of Buchan, and passing Knocknalling they stopped at Knockreoch. These lands had been in the possession of Colonel Kennedy's family for over 400 years. Gilbert Kennedy, second Laird of Bargany, infested "his well beloved brother, Johnne," in them on 17th October, 1476. It was to visit certain tumuli noticed by Colonel Kennedy on Knockreoch that the excursion was planned, and Colonel Kennedy, on a horse, led the way over the hills. After a mile or so the Colonel pointed out various heaps of loose boulders, roughly circular and placed, it seemed, in irregular lines; farther on a large tumuli was reached, and climbing the opposing hill slope another and still more extensive group of these structures was found. Mr G. H. P. Watson had no difficulty in pronouncing the structures to be burial cairns of the Bronze or early Iron Age, usually associated with hut circles, for these people seemed to live beside their tombs, or rather bury beside their dwellings. Only one or two of the 60 or 70 tumuli seen appeared, however, to have been the remains of huts. Archæology has not yet revealed much concerning the inhabitants of these huts and graves. With them are associated stone circles and cup and ring marks, of which so many examples exist in Galloway. Every indication showed that they were not the same as the supposedly earlier people who buried their dead in great chambered cairns, which were constructed with an entrance, and in which repeated interments took place. These smaller tumuli usually contain one burial, and there may be found cists or earthen vases containing burned bones. The conditions of life of such a people were freely discussed, Mr G. F. Scott-Elliot strongly contending that the whole land would then be forest, and these early inhabitants hunters living on the

chase. Many similar groups of tumuli have been found, not only in the south-west, but throughout Scotland, all at similar elevation, showing that the people were widely spread.

Dalry.

During the leisurely inspection of those traces of early and primitive man the weather remained fine, and the hill walk was greatly enjoyed. Returning to Dalry, a welcome repast awaited the visitors, and they then, under Mr Alexander Milroy's guidance, visited the points of interest there. The older portion of the Clachan of St. John's town at the cross roads was pointed out, and the development of the village sketched. The back street was the product of a middle period, while the front street, originally a path from the old Clachan to the church, was a product of the last century, encouraged by John, 9th Earl of Galloway, who gave feus at an extremely low rate. Mr Milroy pointed out at the old Clachan the site on which stood the inn in which James IV. lodged when passing through Dalry on his frequent expeditions to Whithorn. This building he remembered as a ruin. He also showed the visitors the stone seat so prized that it was for some generations the subject of a family feud. Tradition associates it with the Knights Templar, who dedicated a chapel near by to St. John the Baptist. This stone is known as St. John's Chair, but whether it floated here miraculously from Palestine or was carried with him by the fiery Forerunner on his desert journeys is not known. Sufficient that its local fame has been not less than that of the Coronation Stone at Westminster, and with no less reason. The first slated house in the village, called Archibald Douglas's slate house, was pointed out, and the Underhill which had borne that designation since the 15th century. The party then proceeded to the Moat, larger but similar in all respects to that already described at Shancastle, except that it has a legend to the effect that it was surrounded by a great serpent, to vanquish which the local smith clad himself in armour. He succeeded, and the river ran red with blood for many days. The Covenanter's stone in the churchyard and the Kenmure aisle were next visited, the fine

example of iron grilling in the latter raising discussion as to the method of its manufacture. The type is peculiar to Scotland. Finally the party noted the fine avenue from the church to the gate, and learning that each tree was planted by an elder, after whom it was named, the comment was made that if each town councillor in Dumfries would undertake a similar duty it would not be long ere the Whitesands and St. Michael's Street, and even the Annan Road, were beautified with permanent memorials to themselves.

A rapid drive back through drifting rain concluded the day, and the members separated well content with their outing.

26th August, 1922.

Mossdale and Loch Ken.

In response to the invitation of Mr and Mrs G. F. Scott-Elliot, about thirty people took part in this joint excursion with the Dumfries Branch of the Geographical Association. Leaving Dumfries at 1 p.m. by motor char-a-banc, the party visited the forts at Gerranton and Croft's Moat, Parton Old and New Churches, and Parton Moat, all of which are described in the Report of the Ancient Monuments Commission. Continuing up the east side of Loch Ken to the bridge near Balmaclellan, the party viewed Dalarran Holm. Here the Ken sweeps right across the flat floor of its steep-sided valley from west to east. Since it touches both steep sides one must cross the river here to move northward—that was in olden days when dense thickets clothed the hillsides. Here Mr G. F. Scott-Elliot asked his audience to picture the Sea Kings in their shallow flat-bottomed craft arriving from the sea. Finding the water too shallow they must leave their craft here. This the Galwegians know and so form up on the firm bank of the river with the marshy holm behind them and the river in front. The ship-men, nothing daunted, leave their boats and attack—only to meet with disaster and to leave their leader dead upon the holm. Here lie his bones

even to this day—so says local tradition, beneath the great block of whinstone which was put up to commemorate the battle.

The bridge crossed, the party moved through New-Galloway south along the western shores of Loch Ken. A little way below the village a quarry was examined where the junction of granite and whinstone had been laid bare. The outer masses of granite showed much variety of texture and colour, whilst the whinstones had been changed to harder, almost crystalline rock by the tremendous heat of the molten granite—in fact it was “baked whinstone.” Time was now pressing, and signs of coming rain caused the party to abandon the leader’s original intention of a walk from New-Galloway Station along the railway and banks of Dee to near Loch Stroan, and thence over the Cree Hill to Drumwhill, a place suggestive in its structure and setting to a Swiss chalet. Instead, the whole party motored direct to Drumwhill, passing over the “Raiders” Brig and the almost equally famous one near Woodhall Loch.

At Drumwhill Professor G. F. Scott-Elliot welcomed the party to tea.

Dr. Burnett, the president of the Geographical Branch, moved a vote of thanks to both host and hostess, and the hearty response showed the deep gratitude of the party for the generosity of the dwellers at Drumwhill.

After tea, in spite of wet grass, most of the party followed the indefatigable leader down to the shores of Woodhall Loch. Here the Professor pointed out the rings of plants that encircled—ring enclosing ring—the whole loch. Along the water’s edge lay the broad-leaved water lilies, then a broad band of bulrush with the water lapping between the stiff bayonet-like blades; another ring of marsh plants lay along this edge—the marsh bean and others—then a broad band of marsh grasses, cotton grasses, &c., with bog-myrtle near the edge of the flat. On the slope meadow-sweet, rushes, great wild valerian, marsh thistles, and other plants brought the rings up to the woodland types where willows and birch and other plants made the first stand for firmer ground. Scots

pine was also seen striving for a foothold amongst the marsh. The wooded shores were examined, and it was seen how the birch and pines had given place to trees of even stronger growth — oaks and beeches. Amongst the many plants associated with these trees — wood sage and others — the woody nightshade was shown. All too soon the road was reached, and the tired but satisfied visitors said good-bye to host and hostess, and embarked for the ride homewards. Thus was spent an enjoyable and instructive day in grey Galloway.

7th September, 1922.

Hollywood, Cowhill Tower, The Isle, Blackwood, Dalswinton, and Quarrelwood.

Shortly after one o'clock the party, numbering about 40, and under the guidance of Mr R. C. Reid, Mouswald Place, set off from Greyfriars' Church, Dumfries, in a motor char-a-banc and three private cars. Dr. King Hewison was one of the party, and his remarks on the various places passed en route added to the interest of the outing. Leaving by way of the Glasgow Road, the site of the house in which Jeannie Deans is said to have died was passed on the hillside to the left of the main road just after passing the Irongray road end, and shortly afterwards the excavations of Hollywood Abbey—just behind the present church—were reached. Here Colonel Clarke, factor on the Cowhill Estate, kindly showed the party round.

Hollywood Abbey.

Not much is known of the Abbey. The date of its foundation is uncertain, but it seems to have been before the year 1180. Previous to this, however, there seems to have been a cell occupied by a monk named Congall, hence the name Dercongall, meaning "the oak wood of Congall." The abbey was also known by the name of "Abbas Sancti Nemoris." A large part of this grove remained in the time of Charles I. The foundation could not have been much

earlier than 1180, as the monks belonged to the Premonstratensian Order, which was established about 1120. This Order, sometimes called Norbertine, was founded about that time by St. Norbert, in the diocese of Laon, France. The Order was a mixture of the monastic and canonical life, and followed chiefly the rule of St. Augustine. It was also sometimes called "candidus ordo," because their garb was entirely white.

According to Dugdale, the Abbey was founded by John, Lord of Kirkconnell, of the Maxwell family. According to another account it was founded by Devorgilla, wife of John Baliol, Lord of Barnard, as a cell to Soulseat. The former seems the more probable. The monks of Holywood possessed extensive lands in Nithsdale and East Galloway, and their spiritual power extended over the present parishes of Holywood, Dunscore, Penpont, Tynron, and Kirkconnel. The Maxwell family were their bailies and protectors. Thomas Campbell, the last abbot, was prescribed by Regent Murray in August, 1568, for assisting Queen Mary in her escape from Lochleven.

The present excavations which have been conducted since the spring under the supervision of Messrs Dick Peddie & Co., architects, of Edinburgh, and at the expense of Major Keswick of Cowhill (the firm in question are preparing a report on their work), have been confined to what must have been minor and possibly domestic buildings with additions at much later dates. Part of a farm steading once stood on the site of the Abbey. The main portion of the Abbey lies within the present churchyard, and consequently cannot be touched, though finds of antiquarian interest are occasionally made by grave-diggers.

The principal portion excavated showed the foundation of a square building which it is possible may have been the chapter house of the Monastery. A pillar erected on the site of the entrance to the Abbey, and which stands within the churchyard, gives credence to this idea. Information as to the brass tablet that used to be on the pillar is desired. Another interesting discovery was that of two built converging water

channels which join on the north side of the road and were found continuing on the other side of the road for a few yards, and reaching a depth of 15 feet. The theory propounded regarding them is that to the north of the Monastery, where there is still some hollow and rushy ground, there may have been a small lake, and that the water from here was used by the monks to drive a water mill to grind their corn. Near the water channels there is also a well, and higher up there is another one of later date.

Small articles were not found very profusely, and those of interest have been removed by Major Keswick to Cowhill. He has kindly consented to the Antiquarian Society taking charge of the pottery and glass fragments. These and the other finds were viewed at Cowhill Tower. Amongst them were an interesting grave cover, with a sword incised upon it suggesting the grave of a Knight of Jerusalem, also a sculptured head, probably an ecclesiastic, dating from the 13th century, and which has now been built into a doorway on the west side of Cowhill Tower. The figure is high-cheeked, and shown with a short clipped beard, and is in all respects similar to other sculpture found at Whithorn Priory. Several pieces of moulded stone of a 13th century date were also found, in addition to a considerable amount of broken pottery and a few fragments of glass, the former being described by an expert as belonging to the 15th century. One of the pieces shows an early type of greybeard jug, one of the handles being moulded with a bearded face, the beard forming the handle. Another fragment was of a shape quite unfamiliar to the expert to whom it was submitted.

Skulls and human bones were found in large quantities in the place mentioned as a chapter house, but they seemed to have been put in anyway. In the field beyond, graves in regular layers were exposed.

At the manse the visitors were shown some sculptured fragments, which had been found at various times on the site of the Abbey, consisting of the boss of a cross and two portions of a cross shaft showing sculpture with human figures, suggesting Adam and Eve, and serpents or dragons, but without any interlaced work.

Time did not permit the party to see the two old bells of the Abbey now in the church tower but never rung.

Cowhill Tower.

On proceeding to Cowhill the afore-mentioned pottery, glass, and stone fragments were viewed, also all that remains of this historic tower, which was burned down by the returning Jacobites after the rebellion of 1745. Above the doorway is a marriage stone bearing the date 1597, and the initials R. M. and B. M. The present house occupies a better site, and the harmony of its style has not been spoiled by additions and alterations made by the different members of the family, in whose hands it has now been for many generations. These additions all conform to the same style, and include what, but for the recent date it contains, would be one of the best fakes on record.

Major Keswick and Colonel Clarke were heartily thanked on the call of Mr R. C. Reid for their kindness in showing the visitors the excavations at Holywood and the various items of interest at Cowhill.

The Isle.

At the Isle Tower the visitors were received by Brigadier-General W. E. R. Dickson, C.M.G., C.I.E., and Mrs Dickson. The General, whose hobby is printing, had a very interesting souvenir for his visitors in the form of a neat little printed folder—his own work—giving a concise history of the tower.

The tower at the "Isle," which measures 19 ft. by 22 ft., is one of the oldest inhabited buildings in Scotland, and was originally built, it is believed, in 1414 as a fortified post guarding one of the fords over the Nith. The remainder of the house is more modern, but portions date back to the seventeenth century. The tower contains three stories, reached by a narrow winding stair, with the right-hand twist so that the defenders should have the advantage of sword play if an entrance were forced. There is also a dungeon, now an excellent larder, and the original iron gate is still there. It is described in detail in the Report of the Ancient Monuments Commission.

The Isle and adjoining lands were granted to a Ferguson, the ancestor of the present owner, by King Robert the Bruce. The legend is that the Bruce, during the period he was a fugitive in the south-west, was once caught in a flood in the Nith, and was saved from drowning by one of his followers, a Ferguson, who got him on to an elevated piece of ground near the site where the tower was subsequently built. For this service the King, when he obtained undisputed possession of the throne, granted to Ferguson the lands adjacent to where the incident took place, directing that the property should be known as the "Isle," and granting permission to the Fergusons to bear the lion rampant of Scotland on their arms. The tower, in its present form, appears to have been completed in 1587. This is shown by a carved stone over the old gate at the entrance to the tower, bearing the lion of Scotland on a shield and the letters "J F" and "B R," with the date "1587" and two sprigs of holly.

Another old stone inscription of some interest is that on the courtyard side of the tower, consisting of the letters "AL M A F 1700." This refers to the marriage of Agnes Laurie (sister of Annie Laurie of song fame) to Alexander Ferguson of Isle.

A Ferguson of Isle was a member of the Scottish Parliament at the time of the legislative union with England, and was one of those who opposed the measure stoutly.

Another interesting association of the Isle is the fact that Burns stayed here in the older portion of the house, abutting the tower, while Ellisland was being built.

In olden days a branch of the river flowed round the west side of the tower.

On the party completing a tour of the tower and the other buildings, General Dickson kindly invited the visitors to view the magnificent collection of rugs he recently brought from Persia. These were greatly admired, and possibly coveted by most of the party, in particular one pictorially depicting various figures in world history. Henry VIII. was there, his value doubtless being assessed in Mohammedan eyes by the number of his wives.

General and Mrs Dickson were cordially thanked for their kindness on the call of Provost Arnott, Maxwelltown.

Allan Cunningham's Birthplace.

Striking the main Glasgow Road again at Portrack the visitors journeyed to Blackwood House, where they were met by Mr R. G. D. Thomas, whose permission to view the grounds was much appreciated. Before doing so, however, Mr A. Cameron Smith, H.M. Inspector of Schools, Dalmuir, and a native of Kirkmahoe, gave a brief history of Allan Cunningham's connection with the place. The site of the house in which Allan was born can not be fixed accurately, but from writings in his family it appears to have stood somewhere on the drive leading to Blackwood and within view of Auldgirth Bridge. It is marked by a yew tree or trees, and is near a gate leading into the holm. As there are several yew trees, it is not certain where the site was. Here Allan Cunningham was born in 1784, and when he was about two or three years old his father removed to Dalswinton. His father was a rather superior worker on Patrick Miller's estate. He lived at Sandbed, and at this fireside, it is reported, Burns first repeated "Tam o' Shanter." From here his father went on to the roads, and lived near Dalswinton. The Cunningham family, of four sons, were all clever, and all of them were writers. Their mother was Elizabeth Harley, daughter of Deacon Harley, who had a son, Dr. Harley, of Castle Street, Dumfries, whose son, Alexander, married Elizabeth Maxwell, and became Harley Maxwell. Continuing, Mr Cameron Smith gave a brief résumé of Allan Cunningham's work and his association with Cromek.

Blackwood.

Mr G. W. Shirley gave some particulars of Blackwood House, and of the Coplands of Colliston, who until recently owned it.

Sir John Copland, a Northumberland knight, took David II. prisoner at the battle of Nevill's Cross in 1346. In consequence of this his family bore the motto, "Regie Vici," which was in 1731 reduced to "Vici," and later became "Vici in Recto Acer." The oldest stone in St. Michael's Churchyard

—dated 1620—is that commemorating William Copland of Colliston, and two of the family were prominent Provosts of Dumfries, one playing a leading part in the building of the Midsteepie, the Caul, and the town mills. He also appears to have built the house in Queensberry Street, now a grocer's shop, through from Union Street, and bearing his coat of arms, with that of the Cunninghams, on the wall. It was he who acquired Blackwood from Sir John A. Anstruther of Newark in 1704, and he disposed it to his second son, Thomas. It passed on in the family until the last survivor of the family, Miss Copland, of Colliston, now of Newabbey, sold it recently.

The present house was built between 1750 and 1780, and has had various additions since. The walls at the back are six to seven feet thick, not for defensive purposes, but because they once were destroyed by fire while being built.

The grounds of the house were next viewed, and before departing the party awarded Mr Thomas a hearty vote of thanks on the call of Mr Reid for his kindness.

Hightownhead Fort.

Over Auldgirth Bridge, which Carlyle's father helped to build, the party passed to the old British fort situated about 200 yards south-east of Hightownhead Farm, near Dalswinton. The fort is an oval of stones, 163 feet by 109 feet. On the south side there have been three walls, the middle one being best preserved. Inside the oval are smaller circles of stones, one of 20 and two others of 15 feet diameter, suggestive of hut circles. The fort was approached by a passage still clearly evident through the wood.

From the Fort to Dalswinton House was not a long journey, and there the party were invited to tea by Mr and Mrs Landale. After tea, the company gathered on the lawn, and Mr A. Cameron Smith read the following paper on

The Estate of Dalswinton.

By A. Cameron Smith.

[In transmitting his MSS. to the Secretary, he expresses an earnest hope that any whose eyes this paper may reach, and who may possess or know of family or other papers bear-

ing upon the history of Kirkmahoe, will communicate with him at his address.]

The present mansion has nothing to suggest antiquity, having been originally built by Patrick Miller, shortly after he entered into possession in 1785. The castle upon the same site was probably in existence in 1250, the year in which John Comyn gave the Monks of Melrose a new passage to their lands and grange across the Nith at Friars' Carse. Who possessed the barony before John Comyn is unknown, but a survey of the position from a military point of view gives ground for believing that, in any age, the site was an ideal one, and especially so in times when natural strength was of the first importance. On the S.-W. the Nith was a fairly secure barrier against the wild Galloway Celts, and one of its branches might flow along the base. On the S. and E. the water was continued in the marsh which Patrick Miller converted into a loch, and though undefended on the N.-W. in the immediate vicinity, the range of hills and the narrow pass at Auldgirth secured to the Castle an area of rich land sufficient to maintain a garrison. Perhaps the oldest habitation would be a lake-dwelling upon the marsh, and certainly when the loch was cleared out some 70 years ago quantities of oak and grains of wheat and barley were found at the bottom.

The enclosure between the castle and the Auldgirth pass has been the scene of three military incursions. In the first Wallace, chasing the English from Sanquhar Castle, overtook them near Comyn's castle of Dalswinton, and routed them in Dalswinton Forest. In the second, Edward III. of England, with his invading host and his secretariat, camped somewhere on the slope upon which the castle looked, and dated from the "Forest of Dalswinton, 11th July, 1335," the grant of an honour conferred upon that Wm. de Montague, who, two years later, was created 1st Earl of Salisbury. Edward was perhaps not altogether satisfied with the performance of his custodian, David de Strathbogle, Earl of Athole. Seven weeks later, however, he gave explanations which were accepted by his English sovereign, and three months later

he was killed in the north by his enemies of the national party. The castle was immediately thereafter committed to Sir John de Moubray. Unfortunately no plan or picture of the castle has been preserved, but the ruins stood till the present mansion took their place. The high standing of its possessors indicates a place of considerable importance. It was compared in one report with the castle of Roxburgh. Another report made for the English warden between 1563 and 1566 mentions "the Ould Castle of Dawswynton, vi miles above Dumfries uponn theast syde of the watter of Nytht. It haitht been in oulde tymes a notable strength, pertyning to the Comyng, whoo of a nobleman of Scotland was so trew Yngles. But the ground ys subgett to mynding (capable of being mined), and far up in the cuntre. Loughare Brige is four miles from Dumfries. Above the same is a straite (narrow) ground for fortification, and is the second passaige in Nythisdale furtht of England to Dumfries." This appears to indicate some continuity in the castle's existence from Comyn till it was superseded as a dwelling place by another, which may be distinguished as the old House of Dalswinton, and was built early in the 17th century, in conformity with more peaceful prospects, on the level ground, and of which only the stair turret remains.

Of the third military incident, a more satisfactory description is furnished by the records. It belongs to the time of the rough wooing of the infant Queen of Scots, fostered by the English party, who, however, spoke of the project as the "godly marriage." Lennox and Wharton, assisters of the godly marriage, with many assured Scots, including Maxwell of Caerlaverock, set out from Dumfries in the early morning of 23rd February, 1548, and brought their footmen to a point 8 miles from Dumfries. They are, of course, English miles, and the spot should be near Brandyburn Brae, where there is a hollow near the river with the suggestive name of the Deadman's Hole. In advance of these, 1200 light horse passed on under young Henry Wharton and burned Durisdeer, and when dangerously isolated from the infantry they were suddenly attacked by Maxwell

and some of the "assured Scots." "Upon the field near Dusdere," says the record, though the pass of Auldgirth fits the description exactly, "hoising a black pensill" (pennant), these turncoat Scots "thrust in between the English horse and foot, enemies appeared on all the surrounding hills, and compelled our horse" (writes Wharton) "to take to the mountains and find some other passage to rejoin us." The only road which suggests itself is the "lime" road across Gawain Moor and down the Pennyland road. "And did rejoin the foot who stood firm though the enemy came within 1000 yards of them. For, making towards the place where the Earl of Lennox and Lord Wharton were coming forward with the footmen near to the old castell of Dauswinton, sometime the house of the Cumins, they bruided it abroad that the English horsemen were quite overthrown."

Joined by the cavalry, the English made short work of the Scots, caught in the rear perhaps, drove them into the Nith, and above 500 were slain and drowned. Another account says, "400 killed, besides sundrie drowned." There is a reported graveyard between the stables and the present village which may give some clue to the place of the conflict.

I shall now retrace my steps and endeavour to give a summary of the various families who possessed Dalswinton. As I have said, the records do not explain how the Comyns came into possession. Tradition says that the early owners were the Thanes of Galloway, who would be Alan, Lord of Galloway, or Thomas, his brother, Earl of Athole, both sons of Roland, son of Uchtred, son of Fergus, Lord of Galloway. Riddell of Glenriddell thought Devorguilla owned it. She was a daughter of Alan. On the other hand, the oldest or one of the oldest charters belonging to Dumfriesshire gives to Bruce in 1124 Annandale "up to the march of Dunegal de Stranid." Now earliest Dalswinton seems to have extended to the natural boundaries, the watershed and Lochar Moss. We know the date when Carnsalloch and Dursquhen were wadset off it to dower a daughter of Dalswinton to a Maxwell of Caerlaverock in the end of the 14th century. Also when Dalswinton was given by Bruce to the Stewarts and

Duncow to the Boyds it is quite clear that the latter, Duncow and Clerklands, had till then been part of Dalswinton, a fourth part in fact, "service to be done perteyning to a fourth part of Dalswinton." Dalswinton therefore included all the land west of Lochar Moss, between Dumfries and Auldgirth, and between the Nith and the watershed. One would suppose that Kirkmichael was part of Annandale, and the only march between Annandale and Stranid, which could have required definition, must have been the Amisfield gap. Dunegal's family owned Closeburn and Upper Nithsdale, but only Dalswinton marched with Annandale. Though the conclusion that Dunegal was Lord of Dalswinton seems strongly suggested, it does not exclude a possibility of later possession by the Lords of Galloway, and there are presumptions in favour of this which need not be discussed in this short paper.

When Bruce felt himself securely settled in his kingdom he gave Comyn's lands, three-fourths of them at least, to the Stewarts, who were long known as of Garlies and Dalswinton, and held the barony until they became Earls of Galloway. They were descended from the 2nd son of Walter the 4th High Stewart, as the royal house traced from the eldest son. Walter, the first of Dalswinton, also received Garlies from his nephew, John Randolph, Earl of Moray, who fell at Neville's Cross. There also were taken Sir John of Dalswinton and Sir Thomas Boyd, partners in misfortune as well as neighbours in peace. The next John of Dalswinton and Carnsalloch was Warden of the Marches.

Shortly after Neville's Cross Scottish nationality slowly recovered, and Dalswinton was captured by the Scots for the third time. This exploit is attributed in Wyntown's Chronicle to Hoge (Roger) of Kirkpatrick—

Hoge of Kirkpatryck Nyddysdale,
 Held at ye Scottis fay all hale,
 Fra ye Castell of Dalswintoun
 Wes taken, and syne dwyn down,
 Syne Karlaverok tane had he.

If Dalswinton was "done doun," I have already given reasons for thinking that it rose wholly or partially from its ruins.

Passing now to the end of the Stewart dynasty in Dalswinton we find that half of the barony was disposed in 1624 to one John Rome (pronounced Room in Shakespeare's time and in the records spelt accordingly), and this part of the barony has always been distinguished to recent times as Dalswinton Rome. Rome was a merchant burgher of Dumfries, and "Drave an Advantageous Trade of Drowing." Serious financial difficulties arose out of a settlement he made for the children of his second marriage with Elizabeth Maxwell, who was a sister of John Maxwell, variously known as of Tinwald, of Templand, of Shaws (Closeburn), and of Friars' Carse. The stone built in at the foot of the avenue bears their initials—I. R.—E. M.—and the date—1626. It was expected that this would prove to be a marriage stone, but I have just come upon the date of the marriage contract, dated, Dumfries, 30th September, 1622, so four years earlier, and two years before he came into final possession of Dalswinton Rome. His charter is dated 3rd November, 1624, and we may now conjecture that the date 1626 was set upon a new house, that which stood till a hundred years ago. The last occupant must have been Janet Miller, the beautiful Countess of Mar, five days a Countess, though in the only notice of her death which I have been able to find she is described as the Lady of the Right Hon. Lord Erskine. She died at Dalswinton on August 25th, 1825, just ninety-seven years ago. The meadow where she pastured her cows is still known as the Lady's meadow.

Rome appears to have made much the same mistake as Patrick Miller, settled sums upon younger children in excess of what the estate could carry. Rome died in 1637 and left a legal problem which outlasted some half-dozen proprietors and provided a plentiful crop of litigation till 1703, that is for sixty-six years. Hurrying over individuals who held brief possession of the titles we come to John Maxwell of Dalswinton, advocate, a shady character, of mysterious origin, who knew the inside of the Tolbooth of Edinburgh. He and Sir John Dalzell of Glenae were married to sisters, Jonet and Agnes, daughters of James Nisbet of Restalrig. From all

his associations it may be suspected that he was a Royalist. In the disposition of Dalswinton, which he took to himself, he stipulated that the daughter who should succeed should be bound to marry one of the name of Maxwell. His eldest daughter Marion complied with this condition by marrying Hugh Maxwell, writer in Edinburgh, a young son of George Maxwell, 6th of Auldhouse (East Kilbride), Minister of Mearns. Hugh was a dour Presbyterian, who transmitted to his son George an intense dislike for the professors of the old religion. Hugh seems to have been a strenuous, religious, and litigious character, persecuted with imprisonment, fines, and quartering in Covenanting times, and on the other hand, taking the law upon his relations, including his own second daughter, Rachel, "because she took some wabs of plaiding out of her own kist, whereof she had the keys."

George, who followed him in 1704, commemorated his marriage on a stone which may be seen built into the wall at the Back Lodge entrance. It bears the initials—G. M.—J. C.—and the date, 1710. There also exists a bell with their names in full and the same date, 1710. Nevertheless it was in 1700 that he married Jane Campbell, daughter of Lord Neil Campbell, second son of Archibald, Marquis of Argyll. She was thus grand-daughter of the "great Marquis," who suffered in 1661. During George's time and his father's the peatmoss lying east of the Shaws burn, on Shaws and Pennyland, was the scene of conflicts of a dangerous nature between the tenants of Dalswinton and Duncow. This strife finally ended in litigation about 1743, after which the proprietor was allowed to build a march dyke in peace. This indicates roughly the date at which "enclosing" began in the parish. The boundary from Birsy's Grave to Quarrelwood was then laid down, but for long there was little love lost between Dalswinton and Duncow.

The last of the Maxwells, Major William, unfortunately took a £500 share in the ill-fated Ayr Bank, which had a branch at Dumfries. There was no limited liability then, and a more fortunate banker, Patrick Miller, came on the field with the "many-pounders of the bank," and became laird in

1785, and what was a more lasting title to remembrance became the benevolent landlord of Robert Burns in May, 1788, the term before the 14th October, on which the first steam-boat gasped and clicked upon the loch at five miles per hour. Miller, unfortunately, gave up steam for the cultivation of fiorin grass, and the tower which he erected in 1810 in honour of the Rev. Dr William Richardson of Clonfeacle parish, Ireland, is only known by the title, "Miller's Maggot," and the farmers pursue fiorin as a weed to be exterminated. It has been said that the greatest lawyers sometimes fail to draw their wills clearly. It is nothing to be surprised at that the banker should make a mess of his financial affairs. Being himself a younger son, he had always rebelled against the favour shown to eldest sons. In his endeavour to deal equally with his children he based the money burdens on a war valuation of the estate. The result was a case of multiple-pounding which lasted at least 30 years after his death in 1815, and when last called in the courts all the original litigants were dead. It must have been a by-word in the courts at the time when Scott was writing "Redgauntlet," and doubtless suggested the by-play made with the multiple-pounding case of Poor Peter Peebles.

Long before the case was ended the tenants of Dalswinton were meeting at Dalswinton village to celebrate the marriage of a handsome and gallant Lieutenant of the name of Macalpine, who had added the name of Leny, in accordance with the will of his mother's brother, Robert Leny of Glyns, Stirlingshire. The date was 1829, and the bride Miss Marion Agatha Downie, 3rd dr. of Robt. Downie, Esqr., of Appin, M.P. for Stirling Burghs at that time. This gracious lady's praises may be read in the verses of Allan Cunningham and Hannah Johnstone. The dinner was at 4 o'clock, and there were 23 toasts detailed in the report, though the reporter admits at the end that some of the toasts he did not remember clearly and others may be out of order. Some of the toasts were of a general nature, as for instance, "May the unmarried be soon married, and the married be happy," proposed by Mr Lawrie, farmer at Shaws. Allan Cunningham was not for-

gotten, proposed appropriately by Geo. Douglas M'Ghie, and the Rev. Mr Wightman, not yet Doctor, proposed the memory of "the late venerable Patrick Miller, Esq., that revered and beloved name."

At this point strictly antiquarian interest in Dalswinton might fittingly be assumed to terminate, but he could not conclude without observing that the barony had a perfect record of attachment and affection for its lairds. Mr and Mrs Landale, their host and hostess of that day, had acquired a barony which had remained intact since before 1400, and he hoped there was in store for them also a remainder of that feudal loyalty which had been the ancient, unbroken tradition of Dalswinton.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr Cameron Smith for his paper, on the call of Mr R. C. Reid.

A similar compliment was paid to Mr and Mrs Landale and family for their hospitality on the initiative of the Rev. Dr. King Hewison, who touched on the historic setting of the gathering and the memories and thoughts it inspired. When they reflected on that, he said, the party would give their very heartiest thanks to those who permitted them to come and see these places. It had given him the highest satisfaction to be present, and if the same feelings as he had were shared by the others, then Mr and Mrs Landale were receiving very great thanks indeed.

Mr Landale, in reply, said Mrs Landale and he were very glad to see the party, and would like them to see anything there was to be seen.

The old tower, the gardens, and the loch on which the first steamboat sailed were then visited.

On a height on Clonfeckle farm, overlooking Dalswinton, stands a monument in memory of Dr. Richardson of Clonfeacle, Ireland, who introduced fiorin grass, commonly known as *agrostis stolonifera*, to this country. At that time it was considered of great value, now it is looked on more as a weed, and is a more permanent memorial to the

doctor than the one of stone. In addition it is an eloquent tribute to the progress made in agriculture since then.

Quarrelwood was the next place of call, and here the party saw the interesting but poor remains of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, or, as it is perhaps better known, the Cameronian Kirk. Of an octagonal shape, and with particularly high doors for an old building, little of it remains, and the remnant is being used for housing pigs.

The Rev. W. M'Dowall, Kirkmahoe, gave a brief account of the causes that led to the formation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church or the Cameronians. This, he said, was one of their first churches to be built. Cameron had preached there, and in consequence the people were fined some thousands of pounds for allowing that. From Quarrelwood several other churches took their origin—Scaurbridge, Hightae, Springholm, Castle-Douglas, &c. The population of Quarrelwood at that time (1720) was between 200 and 300, and Duncow had a population of about 200. The church fell into decay, and its successor was Martyrs' Church, Dumfries. In his reminiscences, Mr M'Dowall told a story of three Covenanters who were being pursued by dragoons, and who sought refuge in a public-house in the village. The landlord took them in, sat them at a table, and brought flagons of wine, and bade them be merry. Within a few minutes the troops arrived, and seeing three apparently jovial revellers passed them by with hardly so much as a second glance.

On the call of Mr Shirley a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr M'Dowall, and the party continued its way homeward through Kirkton Village, arriving about 9 p.m.

EXHIBITS.

11th November, 1921.—Mr James Flett—Specimens from a hoard of coins found by Mr James M'Ilwraith, Craigengilan, near a large oak tree there about the year 1913. They were silver coins of Edward I. and II.

Miss E. K. Banner—Specimen of Kauri gum from a New Auckland forest as (1) on the tree and (2) prepared for sale.

9th December, 1921.—The Secretary—A half-guinea of William III., 1698, found at the Old Brewery, Whitesands, Dumfries, at a depth of six feet. It was in the line of the old "watergang" to the Sandbeds Mill.

Mr John Gladstone—Specimen of *Alchemilla conjuncta*. Bab., found by him and Mr W. Scott on the Cample Water. This interesting find appears to be one of the plants which Dr Grierson of Thornhill planted in favoured spots, and which seems to have succeeded in establishing itself.

PRESENTATIONS.

14th October, 1921.—Mr Robert Dinwiddie—A fine bronze flanged axe found on Cairnsmore, the only specimen recorded from that district. Size, 6 3-5 in. long by 2½ in. broad at face; the flanges expand the axe at the thickest part to 1½ in.

11th November, 1921.—The Secretary—A piece of leadwork found in the shingle on the bank of the Nith opposite Lincluden (near the Fishers' Lodge), on which are modelled two figures, one a man with a Balmoral bonnet playing on an old-fashioned fiddle; the other with a tasselled cap playing on bagpipes. Fragments of brass or bronze covering adhere to parts of the design; the reverse is smooth, while air-holes appear on the front. Size, 4½ in. by 3½ in.

9th December, 1921.—Mr R. C. Hastings, Dumfries—Coin of Ludovick XIII., King of Navarre, 1675, found in the allotment ground on the Glasgow Road, Maxwelltown.

18th March, 1922.—Mr Thomas Kirk, 16½ Galloway Street—A B-shaped flint striker.

Abstract of Accounts

FOR YEAR ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER, 1921.

I.—On Account of Capital.

Sum Invested at close of Account	£278	17	6
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II.—On Account of Revenue.

CHARGE.

Annual Subscriptions	£122	17	6
Interest on Investments	14	0	0
<i>Transactions Sold</i>	..	..	..	..	1	18	6

£138 16 0

DISCHARGE.

Balance from last Account	..	..	..	..	£4	1	1
Rent and Insurance	..	..	..	..	13	6	0
Books Bought	4	4	6
Advertising, &c.	13	3	3
Miscellaneous	8	9	4

43 4 2

Sum due by Treasurer	£95	11	10
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III.—Donations towards Publication of *Transactions*.

Sum received at close of last Account	£107	17	0
Received during year	3	15	0

£111 12 0

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