

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President briefly commented on the report, and referred in suitable terms to the loss sustained by the Club in the death of the Rev. James Davidson. He then said—

Ladies and gentlemen — In conformity with the custom of this Club, it is now my duty before resigning the office which I hold and handing it over to my successor, to make you an address. In the first place, let me very heartily thank you for the honour you have done me, and if my thanks come a little late, you will know, I am sure, that it is not any insensibility of feeling that has deferred the expression of them. On two of the three meetings you have held since the last annual report, I was absent in London; and circumstances prevented my attending the third, when the very admirable paper by Dr Cramond on the 'Making of a Banffshire Burgh,' which I have since studied with great interest, was read. I am desirous of

making this personal explanation lest future students of your transactions might misapprehend my true feelings. The Secretary has read to you the annual report, which is the official record of our year's work: the papers that have been read are such as to maintain the character of the Club, and do credit to it. But I cannot help expressing a little surprise, and perhaps some regret, that this year's contributions, admirable as they are in the antiquarian and literary side of our industry, were not supplemented by something in the way of scientific research. There is no depreciation of the antiquarian and literary side when I say this; but I wish that we could raise up another Banffshire naturalist, or secure from the botanical learning, which I have every reason to believe is still in our ranks, some scientific contributions, to add, let me say, symmetry to the records of succeeding years. I am quite disposed to admit the force of a remark I find in an old annual report, to the effect that the rocks and fields we have always with us, while our antiquities are crumbling away; and after this expression of opinion, I feel rather guilty in adding my own humble effort in the direction of county antiquities; but in this must be my excuse, that every man must work according to his own lights and opportunities; and if I can by any word of mine induce some of our younger members, with zeal, time, and opportunity at their command, to turn their attention to the wealth of natural lore at their gates, I venture to hope that I shall have done the Club some service. Finally, before turning to the particular subject of my address, let me add a few words to what you have heard in the report about the loss we have sustained by the death of our former President, the Reverend James Davidson. Most of you, I dare say, had known him longer than I, but I knew him to my own benefit also, and his position amongst us in this Club, and the work that he has done for us call imperatively, I feel, for some tribute of acknowledgment, in addition to that which has already been worthily paid him, when I am briefly reviewing the occurrences of the past year.