

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1900.

MEETING AT BANFF.

The Club met this evening in the Reading-Room of the Town and County Club, Banff—Mr Greig presiding in the absence of the President.

Mr Alex. Scott, M.A., Hilton, was admitted a member of the Club.

With reference to a letter read at last meeting offering a set of horns from South Africa for decoration of the Town and County Club Buildings, Messrs Greig and Grant reported that they had laid the offer before the Council of that Club, who had accepted it, that the horns had now been put up in the staircase and corridor of the Building, and that they had been asked to convey the best thanks of the Club to the donor for the handsome present.

Mr Grant then read the following interesting paper by Mr W. Cramond, LL.D., Cullen, on

THE ANCIENT OFFICE OF MAIR.

The aim of the following paper is to present in succinct and collected form the leading scattered references to the ancient office of Mair that occur in old Scottish records.

DEFINITION. — Jamieson's Dictionary: — (1) An officer attending a sheriff or ordinary judge for executing summonses and letters of diligence and for arresting those accused of any trespass. This is conjoined with messenger as synonymous (Fountainhall). Acts—James I. (1426):—"Fra thyne furth it is statute and ordanit that ilk

officiar of the Kingis as maire or Kingis seriand and barroune seriand sall not pass in the countrie, na Barroune seriand in the Barronny, but ane horne and his wand." Acts—James I. (1436):—"It is ordanit that all mairis and seriandis arreist at the Schireffis bidding, albeit that na partie follower be, all trespasouris." Skene—"De Verborum Significatione":—"The Kingis maire is of ane greater power and authoritie nor the messengeris or officiaris of armes and specialiie in justice aires and punishing of trespasours." An officer of this description is now commonly denominated a Sheriff's mair. (2) MAIR OF FEE:—A hereditary officer under the Crown whose power seems to have resembled that of Sheriff-Substitute in our times. His power might extend to one district in a county or to the whole. He might appoint deputies. Acts—James I. (1429):—"A mair of fee quhether he be mair of the Schirefdome or of part sall have power to present ane sufficient person or personnis and habill to the Schiref in court to be deputis under him."

Skene views the term "mair of fee" as synonymous with Toscheoderach. Jamieson considers the latter term rather as equivalent to the deputy of the mair of fee. "Cochachderatie" is apparently a corruption of Toscheoderach. The farther back, continues Jamieson, we trace the office of Mair the greater is its dignity. (938)—Pictish Chronicle:—"Dubican, mormair of Angus." Wynton:—"Of earlys, barnys, and of marys." Robert II. granted a charter to John Wynd of the office of Mairship Principal, vic. Aberdeen, with the lands of Petmukstoun, whilk land and office Robert de Keith, son to William de Keith, Marshal of Scotland, resigned (Robertson's Index). Robert II. also granted a charter to William Herewart of the office of Mairship of the east quarter of Fife with the land called the Mairtoun. Among the Scots Maarmor seems anciently to have been equivalent to Earl. (3) The first magistrate of a royal burgh.

Douglas, after stating that "the Laird of Aswanly is called Toshdiragh," explains that "A Tochachdera in old times was equivalent to a serjeand or servitor of Court," and this

office was commonly called "ane mair of fee." Toschach is rendered by Skene and others an officer or mair. "In the tribe organisation," says the editor of the Register of the Bishopric of Moray, "there were two heads—the genealogical head or head of kin, Ceankinel, and the real leader or Toiseach. As the tribal system changed into a system of thanages the Toiseach became a Thane."

Skene's "Fordun":—"Maor, the equivalent of the Welsh maer, may fairly enough be translated steward, though it had a wider signification, but mormaer or great steward was applied in Scotland to the rank between the Ri and the Toisech, and he invariably appears as the great military chief and hereditary leader of the clans which formed the tribe of one of the larger districts into which the country was divided, and as the possessors of rights of property and superiority which afterwards formed the earldoms of Scotland. In Scotland we find the word Toisech entering into the designation of two offices. The first was the Toiseachdor or coroner. This designation occurs mainly in the Isle of Man and in Argyle, south of Linnhe Loch. The Isle of Man was divided into six sheadings, and each sheading had two officers. The first was the coroner. According to Mr Train (History of the Isle of Man), "The office of coroner is of the highest antiquity in the island. He is called in Manks Toshiagh Jioarey, or chief man of the law." He possessed a quarterland free, and received a payment of 4d. from each other quarterland. The second officer was the mair. Mr Train says, "There is likewise an officer of unknown antiquity in every parish called a maor, who collects all escheats, deodands, waifs, and estrays. His quarterland cottages and intact fees were similar to those received by the coroner. These two officers appear also in Argyle. We find the second office of mair also mentioned in Argyle under the name of sergeant or mair of fee. Thus, in the Craignish charters mention is made of the "*officium sergeandiae seu Mauri tenandriae seu balliatu de Craignish.*" The word Toisech, however, appears to enter into the designation of this office in Aberdeenshire, where we find mention

of the office of Tosechdera, and under this name the office of sergeant or mair of fee is apparently meant. Thus, in a charter of the demesne lands of Davachindora, now Auchindore, in the parish of Kildrummy, they are granted "sine aliqua custuma danda Fabrisdera vel Toshachdera," and a charter of Belhelvie, in the same county, mentions the "officium fabri et officium sergeandi," from which we may infer the identity of the Toshachdera with the officium sergeandi; in the laws of William the Lion a citation is directed to be made "per sergandum vel coronatorem vel Tosordereh," and in 1476 Walter Stewart grants to Alexander Crom Makalouen the lands of Innercabomore, "et de officio Tochoderatus de Strathawin." The "officium Derethy" mentioned in a charter of Tarves, in Aberdeenshire, was probably the same office and in the thanage of Fettercairn we find mention of "the Derayis landis."

The following notes occur in Leslie's "History of Scotland," by Rev. Father E. G. Cody, O.S.B. :—

TOSCHEODERACHE, the deputy of a mair of fee (Jamieson). — "Ane office or jurisdictione, not unlike to ane baillerie, specialiie in the Isles and Hielandes. Some alleages to be ane office pertaining to execution of summonds sik as ane quha summondis, attachis, or arrestis ane other to compeir before ony judge. Vtheris vnderstandis the same to be ane crowner. Last, summe vnderstandis it to be ane searchour and taker of thieues and limmers: for King Evenus did statute that in sindrie schireffedomes there suld be sindrie searchoures of thieues, rievvers, and of them that lye in waite in hie-streetes and commoune passages." Hector Boetius lib. 2 Aberrans pecus aut Domino furum indagatori (Tochederauch vulgus appellat) aut sacerdoti reddito: quod si triduum apud te retinueris furti reus esto. In the Civil Law they are called Latrunculatores ("De Verborum Significatione"). Mr Skene remarks upon the above extract from Sir John Skene: "It is obvious from his references that he confounds the two offices together. The Toschachdoracht was the office like a bailliary, and the Toschachdor was considered the equivalent of a Coroner, and this office was

mainly confined to the Highlands and Isles. The Toschachdera he rightly explains in his notes to the old laws as a name given by the original Scots and Irish to the serjeant or servitor of Court who put the letters of citation in force, and that this office was commonly called "Mair of Fee." (Celtic Scotland III., 279.)

Toschach, or Toiseach, means prime, head, chief. Dor, or dior, means belonging to the law. The Tochachdor is, therefore, the chief man of the law, perhaps the legis peritus or "man of law" alluded to in the first of the list of laws of King Kenneth as "institute from the beginning." Toschachdera is explained in the Dictionary of the Highland Society as a compound of Toiseach and dreuchd—office, dignity. The older form of the word seems to be Toiseadrach, or something equivalent, meaning highest dignity. Toiseach is an historical equivalent of Thane.

The late Mr James Macdonald, Huntly, in discussing the place name Auchmair, in Upper Cabrach, says:—I think the name has been originally Achadh-maor, the "field of the mair or officer." Maor means simply a deputy, and may apply to an official of any rank up to the King's deputy or mormaor, from whom, probably, the district of Mar derived the name. In Ireland the same word, though pronounced differently, appears in names of places formerly held by guardians of lands, cattle, or sacred reliquaries for neighbouring chieftains, as Ballmyre and Ballynamire, "the town of the keeper or steward," and Tigh-an-mhaeir, "the house of the keeper." (Joyce II., 114.) The position and duties of the maor we can clearly understand from an interesting communication given in Skene's "Celtic Scotland" (III., 390), on the land customs of the present day in the Lewis. The Chamberlain is represented in every town land by a maor, and he again by the maor-beg, or constable. Probably the same custom prevailed in early times in our own district. In the rental of Lochaber (1600), "the officear" appears as one of the tenants or occupiers of lands.

Chalmers's Caledonia (1807): "Marus, maer, an officer, an executor of summons, saith Skene. Bailey and Ash derive the term Mayor from the

Latin Major. In the Welsh, the Cornish and the Armoric Mawr means great, and Maer signifies one that is stationed, that looks after or guards another; a provost, a bailiff (Davies', Richard's, and Owen's Dict.; Borlase's Cornwall, p. 444). In the Gaelic Maor signifies a steward, an officer, a sergeant. Among the Scots Maor was anciently the same with baron, and Maormor meant a great baron, a lord (O'Brien and Shaw's Dict.)."

Rogers's Social Life: "The Maormar ruled over his clan, and became their supreme law-giver and judge; the subordinates of the Maormar were Maors or lesser judges. By Malcolm Canmore Maormars were designated Earls, while Maors latterly ranked as barons of bailleries, or inferior officers, by whom the mandates of provincial judges were put in execution."

The late Mr Robert Young, solicitor, Elgin, author of the "Annals of Elgin" and other works, wrote to Captain Dunbar Dunbar of Seapark in 1868: "As regards Anderson of Pittensair, 'Mair of the Earldom of Moray,' I am inclined to think that the word Mair means an official, perhaps something like a Baron Bailie, who acted as judge in the Earl's Court, civil and criminal, but I shall enquire farther into it." Soon after he sent the result of his enquiry: "I find that the mair or maire was only a superior kind of a messenger at arms, although the office seems to have been hereditary in families. Sir John Skene in *De verborum significatione* (1599): 'Marus ane officiar or executor of summondie (James I., Parl. 9., c. 3), &c.; he is utherwaies called praeco regis. . . . But now the said office is given in fee and heritage to maires of fee quha knawis nocht their office, Bot ar idle persones and onely dois diligence in taking up of their fees from them to quhom they do na gud nor service to the King.' No doubt the office had become corrupt, as hereditary offices generally do, and had been abolished. It is curious the tendency in Scotland to have hereditary offices—the ancient Corbs, or Abbots, in the Culdee Church became hereditary, the father succeeding the son, which tended to the ruin of that Church; Sheriffs became hereditary; the Lords of the Isles had hereditary physicians—

the famous Beatons of the island of Mull; the Macleods of Dunvegan had hereditary pipers—the Macrimmons of Skye; and, lastly, in the lordship of Brechin, there were hereditary blacksmiths—farther it could not go.”

Mr E. W. Robertson identifies Mair with Thane, and thus clearly explains thane and other terms: “In the grants of David and other kings to the Priory of St Andrews, the shire is continually alluded to, and the Scottish gerefa was known as the Thane or Mair, his district often as a thanage, for example the shire of Rayne, the shire of Daviot, &c., in David I.’s charter to the Bishopric of Aberdeen can be identified with these tuanages. The word shire originally denoted a district of much smaller extent than it has done for several centuries. Thanages were such of the Crown lands as were held by vassals paying a rent instead of military service, the rest of the Crown lands being in the actual occupation of the King. This obtained in the time of the Alexanders. The thanes held their lands “in capite” of the Crown, and paid their reddendo to the Sheriffs, who accounted for them to the Exchequer. By the close of the reign of Alexander III., almost all had been converted into ordinary feudal tenures. The words shire and sheriff were probably introduced into Scotland about the same time as thanage and thane, that is, early in the twelfth century.”

“Thanes were originally stewards over the King’s lands. They became ultimately hereditary tenants of the King, and the title and lands descended accordingly.” (Memorials of Angus and Mearns, by Andrew Jervise. Edited by Rev. James Gammack, LL.D.)

Here follow brief references to Mairs and Mairships from the reign of David II. :—

David II. (1329-70) granted a charter to Robert Balbreny of Innerechtie of the office of mair and the lands of Innerechtie, co. of Forfar (Robertson’s Index). It has already been noted that William Herewart obtained the office of Mairship of the east quarter of Fife, with the land called the Mairtown, by charter from Robert II (1370-90); and it is interesting to observe that his predecessor, William Mair, seems to have had his surname from the post that he or his

ancestors held. The charter to William Herewart provided that if need be he could substitute in his room another sufficient and fit person for performing the said office, for whom, however, he was to be reckoned answerable.

1380.—Cristinus clericus, marus scire de Donyng (Dunning) (Excheq. Rolls).

Robert III. (1390-1406) granted a charter to William Fleming of the office of Mair of fee of the barony of Carale, with the land of Martown and the acre called Pulterland, belonging to the said office.

1450.—Thomas M'Chisoun, mair of the quarter of Brechin (Reg. Ep. Brech.).

1450.—David of Balbirny, mair off the quarter of Brechin (do.).

1471.—Mair of fee for the quarter of Aberbrothock—William Marshalle of Walterstoune.

1476.—Mair of Strathearn—John Comrie de eodem.

1477.—Mair of Kyle.

1480.—“James, be the grace of God, Kinge of Scottis, till our servitour, William Nuddrie, mair of fe off our landis of Brechine” (Reg. Ep. Brech.).

1485.—Mair of Carrick—Alex. M'Alexander de Dalreauch.

1485.—Mair of Carrick—John Cathcart of Carloun.

The following references to the Mairship of Murray are from an “Inventar of the papers belonging to George Dumbar anent the Mairship of Murray” :—

(1) Right of the Mairschip grantit be Thomas Earle of Murray to Simon [blank] of the said Mairschip, the casualties therto belonging to him and his aires in few and heretage with all and sundrie comodities, liberties, and just pertinents whatsumever belonging to the said office. Daitit 11th Feb. 1417. The remaining papers, consisting of charters, instruments of sasine, &c., eighteen in number, show that in 1520 John Walker (?) resigned the mairship in the hands of James, Earl of Murray, to be disposed at his pleasure. On 22nd November 1544, Robert Campbell, principal mair, resigned the “office of Merdome” and the following lands: “the Thayndaine, Brey of Murray, Lang Morganum,

and Speyside, with the hail conexes and pertients vsit and wont" in the hands of James Earl of Murray, in favour of Alexander Anderson of Pittensear." On the following day the Earl granted a charter of the mairship to Alexander Anderson and his heirs and assignees, he and they giving service "vseit and wont to Marie, Queen of Scotts, and her Shereffes of Elgine and their successors," and to the said Earl and his heirs and successors. On 30th Dec. 1570, Alexander Anderson of Pittensear granted a charter to George Dunbar of Wester Alves and his heirs of the office of Mairship, to be held from him of the Earl and Countess of Murray. In 1572, Robert Cuming and others were summoned before the Bailie of the Earldom of Murray for fees of the Mairship, at the instance of George Dunbar, "heritable mair and officiar in the lands of the said Earldome." The said Robert Cuming occupied "a pleugh of land in Craigtoune," and failed to pay to the said George Dunbar his mair's fee "of ane stowcke of bear and ane stowcke of oats for the said plewe land for crop 1572." Decree was given against Cuming in 1581 for fees of 1572 and following years by the Lords of the Court of Session.

Another decree followed in 1582 against Thomas Cuming of Alter and others in 1584 and 1586, all for the duties of the mairship against George Gordon in Steynie, Alexander Innes of Coxtou, and John Innes of Cottis.

A like list of documents relating to the lands of Pitmuxton, in Aberdeenshire, appears in Vol. III. Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff. It has been already stated that John Wynd had a charter from Robert II. of the office of principal mairship of the county of Aberdeen. From the list of deeds referred to it appears that in 1446 Agnes of Wynde resigned certain lands in Culter and elsewhere, also "the office of Mair of Fee of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, with the lands of Petmukstoune, in favour of Thomas Bisset, Mair of Fee of the said Sheriffdom." In 1512, King James IV. confirmed a charter by Thomas Bisset of Petmukstoune, and Mair of Fee of the Sheriffdom, to Patrick Lesly, burgess of Aberdeen, of the lands of Petmukstoune. In 1521

King James V. granted a charter to George Bissett, yr. burgess of Aberdeen, and Margaret Leslie, his wife, of the office of Mair of Fee of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, with the aforesaid lands. George Bissett was Mair in 1549, with Alan Balfurd as depute. Queen Mary in 1561 confirmed a charter by George Bissett to Master Gilbert Bissett, his natural son, of the said office and lands. In 1589, Master Geo. Bissett of Pitmukstoun, principal mair of fee, had a decreet of the Lords of Council and Session in his favour in regard to the rights and dues of his office. A charter was granted in 1655 by Oliver, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, to Paul Symmer of Mergie of the lands of Pitmukstoun and the office of mair of fee of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen; and c. 1662 Parliament ratified the office of mair of fee of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen to Lieut.-Colonel Paul Symmer of Pitmukstoun.

1500.—Mair of Fife—Henry Sibbald.

1501.—Mair of Elgin—William Hay.

1503.—Mair of Linlithgow.

1512.—Principal Mair of the county of Ross—Andrew Munro. Before 1529—William Scott of Balwery, mair of the west quarter of Inverkeithing and mair of Kinghorn. Before 1548—Sir William Scott of Balwery, mair. 1548—Mr William Scott, jun. of Balwery, mair of Inverkeithing and Kinghorn.

1530-1.—Payment of two merks annually allowed from the Lordship of Ardmanach to the mair of Alveth, the like sum to the mair of Glenlyon, also to the mair of Discher and Toyer and to the mair of the county of Ross. At the same time the Chamberlain of Kinclavin discharged himself with 26s. 8d., being the annual fee due to the mair of Apnadull and Strabrawyne (Excheq. Rolls).

Before 1530.—John Comry de eodem, mair of the Stewartry of Strathearn.

1532-37.—Andrew Pap, mair of Inverness.

1536.—Mair of Forfar—Patrick Montago.

1537.—Mair of Fife—Henry Sibbald.

1538.—Mairs of Fife—David Barclay, Andrew Methven.

1540-44.—Mair of Renfrew (between the waters of Black Cart and Laverane)—William, Lord Sempill.

1544.—Mair of Nairn—Alex. Thomson.

1544.—In Duncan's Protocol Book (T.C. Records of Cullen) reference is made to the "mair general of the county of Banff."

1564.—Mairs of Linlithgow—Robert Ross, John Hamilton.

1549-1574. —Katharine Kennedy of Bennane, mair and sergeant of Carrick. In 1574 she was succeeded by Hugo Kennedy, jun. of Bennane. Other references also show that a woman could hold the office of mair.

Other words occur in Latin deeds with the same or like meaning to mair (marus or marus feodi), viz., officarius, serjandus, and satelles.

Mariscallus ex feodo de Renfrew is the designation of Robert, Lord Sempill, who was mair of fee between Black Cart and Lavenerane (1572).

From the Register of the Great Seal, 20th March 1575-6, we learn that in the Court of the county of Banff, 3rd November 1575, George Ogilvie of Dunlugas obtained a decree against Alexander Ogilvie of Boyne for £17,994 17s. 8d., and 5 merks expenses, and George Pyper, mair (marus) of the said county, by precept of Robert, Earl of Buchan, chief Sheriff of Banff, sought and found not the goods of the said Alexander at the towns and lands of Craig of Boyne.

1578.—Mair of the Regality of Arbroath—John Guthrie, jun., of Collestoun.

1579.—Thomas Arrot, mair of the King (Reg. Ep. Brech.).

1580.—Mair of Dunfermline—Jo. Welwod, portioner of Touch.

1584.—September 6th. The King confirmed a charter made by Robert, Commendator of Dunfermling, and Convent thereof, on 10th January 1579, that Jo. Welwood, senior, portioner of Touch, and his predecessors, were "principales mari et officarii" of the parish of Dunfermling and of the regality and lordship thereof, past memory of man. They appoint the said Jo. Welwood for his life, and, after his death, William, his son, and apparent heir, and his heirs male, whom failing, the heirs of the said William whatsoever, hereditary mairs and principal officers within the said bounds.

1592-3.—Serjeant of the county of Ayr—William M'Kilmun.

1592.—Mair of Fife—Jo. Philp.

1595.—Mair of Fife—Walter Brown. A denunciation was made by him, "being one of the mairs and officers of the county of Fife."

1600.—Mair of Ross—Andrew Monro of Newmoir.

1600.—Mair of Bray-Ros, on the west of the hill of Knokreavach—Kenneth M'Kenzie of Kintail.

1601.—James Neische, "nuncius," and one of the mairs of the county of Forfar.

1606.—John Hammiltoun, serjandus regius of the county of Lanark

Before 1601.—Jo. M'Acharne of Killelan, mair of fee of South Kintyre. 1601. — Andrew M'Acharne, jun., of Killelan, mair of fee of South Kintyre. The King granted to the said Jo. M'Acharne certain lands, "with the office of mair of fee of the lands and lordship of South Kintyre."

An extract from the Retours of Moray (1606) shows clearly what perquisites went with the mairship of Moray:—

"Robert Dunbar, heir of George Dunbar, in LittleTarie, his father—in the office of mair, commonly called the office of mairschip of the Erledom of Murray and Westschyre of the samin, that is to say, the hail mair cornes, reikhens, and other casualities and feis quhatsumevir of the tounis and lands of Taress, Balnaferrie, Balnageithe, of the Erledome of Murray and Westschyre of the samin lyand on bayth the sides of the water of Findhorne, that is to say, furth of every parochie ane stouk of beir, ane stouk of aittis, with the cottaris reik henis of every pleuche yeirlie, together with the aiker of land, houses and biggings lyand within the town of Darnway and baronie thereof belonging to the said office of Mairschip."

In 1608, Alexander Dunbar was served heir to George Dunbar of Askleish, his grandfather, "in the office of Mairsfeed of all and sundry the lands of the Earldom of Murray within the Sheriffdome of Elgin, viz., Thanage of Murray, Bray of Langmorne, and Speyside, and that the said office of Mairsfeed is worth now by the year as much as it was worth in time of peace, and that the said office of Mairsfeed of the forsaid

Earldom of Murray is held in chief of James, Earl of Murray, in feufarm and heritage for execution of the office of Mairsfeod, to be done to our Sovereign Lord the King and his Sheriff of the Sherifffdom of Elgin and Forres, and to the Earls of Murray and their heirs and successors, Earls of Murray."

In 1614, the Taxt Roll of the county of Forfar shows that the county was divided into four quarters, each of whom had its mair or officer, to whom the Sheriff looked for executing his writs. These quarters were Dundee, Kirriemuir, Brechin, and Arbroath (Reg. Ep. Brech.). From the Reg. of the Privy Council it appears that James Young of Seytoun was mair of fee of the quarter of Dundee ante 1630, and that Alexander Bower of Inverichtie and James Bower of Inverichtie were mairs ante 1634. (Alexander Balbirnie of Inverichtie was mair of the quarter of Dundee ante 1614.) In 1647 the King granted to the daughters of the aforesaid James Bower certain lands, "with the office attached to the said lands of mair of fee of the fourth part of the county of Forfar, called the quarter of Dundee."

1621.—Mair of fee of West Ward of Stragryff and Upper Ward of Renfrew—William Cuningham of Craiganes.

1628.—Mair of Stewartry of Strathearn—Jo. Comrie, jun. de eodem.

1638.—Hugo, Lord Sempill, mair of Renfrew, between Black Cart and Laverane. In 1647, the King granted to Francis, Master of Sempill, the lands of Sempill, with the office of Coroner and Mair of fee within the bounds of Blackairt and Laverane.

References to mairs become much less frequent in the eighteenth century. An annotator adduces an instance in the Riot Act of 1715, but there can be little doubt that therein he is mistaken. The Riot Act provided that if riotous persons do not disperse when "required or commanded by an one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace or by the Sheriff of the county or his under Sheriff, or by the Mayor, Bailiff, or Bailiffs, or other head officer or Justice of Peace of any city or Town Corporate where such Assembly shall be," &c. To regard "Mayor"

as here equivalent to the ancient "Mair" would leave no place for the Provost, the most natural authority in Scotland. Similarly bailiff means bailie. The Act was apparently framed by some one not familiar with the designation of officials in Scotland.

An example, however, can be quoted of the ancient application of the word so late as 1722, viz., "John, Earl of Rothes, Sheriff-Principal of Aberdeen, to the mair of fie of the said Sheriff-dome or his deputes."

An interesting and recent reference occurs in Professor Tennant's "Anster Fair":—
"Sheriffs learned and unlearned Sheriffs mair."

The Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the meeting to Dr Cramond for his excellent paper.

A vote of thanks to Mr Greig for presiding concluded the business.