

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

“HORN SILVER.”

The Secretary also read a communication from Rev. Dr Milne, in which he said:—“In one of his etymological papers, the late Mr Macdonald confessed that he was puzzled by the term “horn silver.” I wished, if possible, to help Mr Macdonald with the meaning of the term, but did not succeed in finding it till after his death. It may

still have an interest for some of his friends, and I send it to you to let it be known through the Banffshire Field Club. It was a payment made annually to the owner of a castle for affording protection against thieves to the cattle of his tenants. He had an enclosure with a high strong wall, into which the cattle could be driven in time of danger, when the men-at-arms in the castle took them under their protection. The owners of the cattle paid so much per head for this service, and as the cattle were horned, the payment was called "horn silver." The instance I met with was in England, on the border, where live stock were in great danger from the rogues on the north side of the dividing line."