

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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EXCURSION.

On Saturday an excursion was held. At nine o'clock in the morning a company of twenty-six ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Museum, and left Elgin in three wagonettes by the Pans Port, which was much admired. Passing along the Fochabers road, the Order Pot was pointed out. Here it was that in old days witches were drowned. Arrived at Coxton Tower, near Lhanbryd Station, the party made a halt, and, under the leadership of Mr Taylor, an examination was made of this interesting baronial peel tower, which dates from the period antecedent to the Commonwealth. It is a square structure four storeys high, and is built, vaulted, and roofed with stone, with not a vestige of wood used in the construction, except the two doors in the basement and in the first storey. The tower is embellished with crow-step gables and turrets at the angles, and there was examined with particular interest the construction of the shot holes for the old blunderbusses of these times. A staircase to the first storey is of recent addition, and the wooden doorway to the first storey must have been reached by a ladder. Besides being protected with iron nails the door has behind it an interesting iron network gate, similar in style to the well-known one at Balvenie Castle. For many years Coxton Tower

was the stronghold of the Inneses of that ilk, who exercised the power of pot and gallows in the neighbourhood.

A short drive brought the party to Lochnabo, the very pretty loch which had been the previous day geologically described by Dr Mackie in his paper on the "Sand Barrier Lakes of Morayshire." The loch is beautifully surrounded by wood, and is of interest to students of natural history from the fact that recently it has been stocked with a new variety of trout from America. A pleasant drive through the woods by an old track brought the party through part of the parish of Speymouth to Orbliston Junction, and thence by Dipple to the old Church of Dundurcas, which, standing roofless on the left, had perforce to be passed owing to the extra time that had been taken up in examining Coxtan Tower and admiring Lochnabo. At the Pass of Sourden, where the Spey breaks through a conglomerate rock, a halt was made, and the geologists of the party, under Dr Mackie, Elgin, examined some interesting veins of barytes (sulphate of baryta), while those who were botanically inclined found on the adjacent banks many highly interesting specimens.

At two o'clock the party arrived at Rothes, where luncheon was served in the Station Hotel under the presidency of Colonel Johnston. Thereafter the party visited the Burn of Rothes, and examined the geological formations there, and returned to Elgin in the evening, via the Glen of Rothes and Birnie Kirk, having throughout the day been favoured with beautiful weather.