

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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THE HISTORICAL MACBETH.

The President stated that he had read with much interest the account of Macbeth which was given at a former meeting of the Club by Mr Cairns, Elgin. He happened to be reading an old and rare book named the "Navigation of James V." It was generally supposed that this was an account of a voyage made by the King to the Highlands and Western Islands, but that was not the case, as the book was far too elaborate for that. The book described all the heights, the rocks, the currents, and the dangers, together with the distances from one part to another round the whole coast. It was a collection of information gathered for the King's voyage, and it was most astonishing the amount of information the book contained. A copy of it was given to the French king, and he ordered it to be printed, and what was now in existence was taken from this French paper. In the book the first place mentioned after Peterhead was Rattray Head, and the next Turfness, and then Banff. Kinnaird Head was not mentioned, but the distances between the points mentioned would go to show that Turfness corresponded with what was now known as Kinnaird Head. Mr Cairns stated that it was impossible to say where Turfness exactly was, but the old document, the thought, fastened it upon Kinnaird Head. He would arrange to have the book sent on to Mr Yeats, the secretary, so that they could see the information relating to Aberdeenshire and Banffshire. It was really the oldest account of the coast of Scotland that there was, and it was very full and accurate.