

Allan Home,

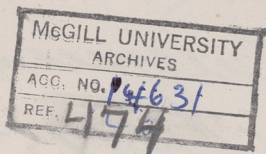
Stamford.

23<sup>rd</sup> May. 1895.

My dear Sir I have pleasure in enclosing  
some news regarding "Parta". It appears  
that Kipling admits the "vegetable  
region", and I have little doubt the  
rest will come in due time.

This is a very great satisfaction  
and relief to me, for Kipling's opinion  
here is undoubtedly pretty strongly  
believed in. Since the major part  
is admitted the mind is perhaps  
as I have said of less consequence,

I don't know of the repetition  
of his objections to Steens. Lewis &c.



makes the thing any stronger, and perhaps the lith of this is taken out of it by the "tu quoque" argument of the paper. Be this used way, the vegetable origin of Sarsaparilla (after 60 years of blind guessing) is in a fair way of becoming the established view.

I am so sincere with  
that your health is keeping good,  
and wish but wishes.

Yours very truly  
James Reid.

W. Dawson M.D.



Reed  
Bluesgrass  
Me/1954



PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL  
SCIENCE.

THE monthly meeting of this body was held on Thursday evening in the Lecture Room, Tay Street. Mr Henry Coates, the President, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. It was intimated that the Council have resolved to place in the Museum a bronze tablet in memory of the late Dr Buchanan White, and the President said that he hoped further subscriptions would be given to enable them to carry out this praiseworthy design. Mr John Purdie, Birnam, was nominated as a member of the Society. The following donations were intimated, viz. :—A specimen of the little auk from Colonel Campbell, General Prison; another from Colonel Smythe, Methven Castle; and a third from Mr W. A. Paterson, Craigie; fossils from the old red sandstone from Mr James Reid, Blairgowrie; piece of granite from Loch Rannoch, from Mr J. Deas; and a series of numbers of the *Geographical Magazine* from Canon Farquhar.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the donors, and, in doing so, took occasion to intimate that Mr T. M. M'Gregor has promised to present to the Society his large collection of insects, the result of the hard labour of many years. This was a gift of very great value, and they were deeply indebted to M'Gregor for his generous liberality.

Mr R. Dow exhibited specimens of *Silene Noctiflora* a plant which, he said, was new to Perthshire. He also gave an account of *Agave Americana*, the so called American Aloe, a specimen of which flowered at Rossie Priory during the past summer.

Mr T. M. M'GREGOR exhibited specimens of insect illustrative of mimicry amongst the Lepidoptera.

The PRESIDENT then read, on behalf of Mr James Reid, Blairgowrie, a paper on *Parka decipiens*, a fossil of the Old Red Sandstone. This fossil, Mr Reid said had long been a puzzle to geologists. Some thought it to be the seeds of a plant; others that it represented the egg packets of a crustacean; and the latter settled belief appeared to be that it was the spawn of *Pterygotus*. It was only during the last two or three years that the true nature of *Parka* had been made out by Sir William Dawson and Penhallow, working upon materials sent them from Scotland by Mr Reid and others. The result of a microscopic investigation by Dawson and Penhallow was the discovery that *Parka decipiens* was a Rhizocarpian plant, allied to the modern genus *Pilularia*, possessing a creeping rugose stem, linear leaves, and sporocarp, with contained spores and prothalli. Some of the disks on being boiled in nitric acid to remove the opaque outer coat presented an inner transparent structure. This upon being broken up in water, disclosed a mass of amber-coloured spores of two kinds, viz., macrospores and microspores. Prothalli in various stages of development were more sparingly obtained. In the latter part of the paper Mr Reid replied to some objections which had been raised by Mr Kidston, of Stirling, to the conclusions of Dawson and Penhallow, contending that these objections were not valid.

In the course of the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, Mr Kidston, who was present, repeated his objections, maintaining that the Rhizocarpian nature of *Parka* had not been made out, that it was not proved that any organic union existed between *Parka* and the plants found in association with it, and that the conclusions of Dawson and Penhallow can only be received as more or less probable guesses, and not as demonstrated facts. He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to Mr Reid, who had done good service in calling their attention to this important point.

Mr ARTHUR S. REID, M.A., F.G.S., Trinity College, Glenalmond, then read a paper on "Sandpipes in the Chalk."

The author having described the mode of occurrence and nature of sandpipes, pointed out their interest as examples of subterranean chemical denudation and their geological value as often preserving strata that had since been removed by denudation. The probable mode of formation of the pipes was carefully gone into, and the reason for the disproportionate increase in length as compared to breadth was explained: other examples of subterranean chemical denudation (e.g. the "green coated flints" and "tabular flint" at the base of the Thanet beds and top of the chalk) were cited and explained. Examples were adduced to prove the gradual curving down of superincumbent strata into the pipes during the process of the formation of the pipes and the consequent preservation of rocks which otherwise would have, later on, suffered denudation. The classical example of the sandpipes at Lenham and Harrietsham on the North Downs, 630 feet above sea level, which have preserved fossiliferous ironstones was described, and recent photographs of these pipes and specimens of their contents were exhibited. The fossils being all either external or internal casts could only be truly determined by taking plaster casts, by which method Mr Clement Reid had been able to identify 67 species—the whole faunas of the fauna is of Mio-Pliocene or Early Pliocene times—earlier than the lowest beds of the East Coast Crags. Outliers have been traced by the southern chalk escarpment to Calais, Boulogne, and Belgian Flanders. The author then cited the reasons for correlating these Lenham beds both lithologically and palæontologically with the Diestian beds of the continent—this correlation having been first made by Professor Prestwick and lately thoroughly worked out by Mr Clement Reid. Finally it was pointed out that if this correlation was, as seemed more than probable, correct, certain new lights were thrown upon the Physical Geography of the Early Pliocene period in Britain and the history of the Thames and Wealden valleys. Diagrams, specimens, enlarged photographs, and lantern slides were shown in explanation.

A vote of thanks was awarded to Mr Reid for his instructive paper.

"Perthshire Constitutional." 18th July, 1895



1895, at One o'clock Afternoon.

**THAT SHOP**, No. 8 COUNTY PLACE, Perth, with the FLAT and ATTIC above, all as occupied by Mr Kennedy, Fruiterer.

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TO BE SOLD, by Public Roup, within the SALEROOMS of Messrs THOMAS LOVE & SON, Auctioneers, St John's Place, Perth, on WEDNESDAY, the 6th day of March, 1895, at 1 o'clock Afternoon,

1. **THAT SHOP** situated at No. 203 SOUTH STREET, with BACK SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE behind, all as presently occupied by John Farrell, News Agent.

2. The SUBJECTS immediately above said Shop, and entering from 205 SOUTH STREET, consisting of a House on the First Flat of 1 Room and a Closet, tenanted by Thomas Angus, and a House of the same accommodation tenanted by Mrs Jackson, with Garrets above.

3. That **SMALL TENEMENT**, entering from 199 SOUTH STREET, consisting of a House on the Ground Flat, 2 Houses on the First Flat, and 2 Houses on the Top Flat, together with Coal Shed and Cellar in the Court, all as tenanted by Mrs Cusick and others.

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There will be Exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the BREADADBANE ARMS HOTEL, Aberfeldy, on SATURDAY, the 2d day of March 1895, at Twelve o'clock Noon,

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