



CURLING HALL.

James Watson's engraving

ESSAY
ON
CURLING,
AND
ARTIFICIAL POND MAKING.

BY J. CAIRNIE,
LARGS.

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TO

SIR M. SHAW STEWART, BART.

OF GREENOCK AND BLACKHALL, M. P.,

AND

TO THE CURLERS OF SCOTLAND,

THIS ESSAY

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THAT a Curling work should make its appearance in the middle of Summer, will, doubtless, surprise many; as, however, emolument is not the Author's object, and as the hot weather is by far the best for the formation of Artificial Ponds, he could not refrain from now offering this Essay to the public; and he trusts, gentlemen who wish for ponds formed on the principle recommended in this Treatise, will commence operations, and avail themselves of the warm days of Summer to complete them. The Author, from ill health, has had this Essay on Curling delayed for some weeks longer than he intended; and, perhaps, he has not been so circumstantial in some of the details as his readers may wish, but it is hoped, that what has been stated will be the means of exciting a spirit for the game of Curling on both sides of the Tweed; and should this end be attained, the Author's intentions will have been most amply gratified.

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ESSAY ON CURLING.

Invitat genialis hiems, curasque resolvit.

VING.

It will be expected, that in writing on the game of Curling, we should enter into the details of the sport, and endeavour to trace from its source, whatever may tend to give us a just sense of the rise and progress of a game that is so interesting. This part of our Essay, however, will not occupy much of our work; Curlers will find an excellent historical sketch of it in a Treatise addressed to the Duddingston Curling Society, by one of the members, of which Society we also have the honour of being a member—this work was printed in Edinburgh in 1811. We would also refer our readers to a Treatise on Curling, printed by Mr. Crawford, Bookseller in Kilmarnock; and to that very excellent work the *Memorabilia Curliana Mabenensia*, published at Dumfries in 1830. This work contains much that is interesting, and many well told facts

regarding the sport. We shall content ourselves by stating, that we believe no account of the game is on record before the year 1600, and we are inclined to think, there had been little improvement made in it till about the year 1770, since which time it has been gradually progressing, and like many matters of art has been advancing rapidly to the acmè of perfection. From all that we have seen or heard, we may say, that its introduction or commencement is involved in mystery; and we conceive, that the explanation referred to by the writers on this sport as to the interpretation of the words Klyuten, or Kalluyten, in Kilian's Dictionary, throws no light on the game we now call Curling. Kilian's definition of it is thus given:—“*Ludere massis sive globis glaciatis in equore glaciato.*” This sport certainly must have been different from our Curling, and now-a-days, from our want of frost, we should find it difficult to procure icy missiles to play with. We find the word Klyuten signifies, in the Dutch language, a clod, and had there been a want of better *materiel*, it might be argued that iced clay clods had been originally in use for Curling.* About the year 1770, in many parts of Scotland, where the game is now almost brought to perfection, the

* We may notice the remark of a noted Stone-maker on this subject. He says, “That it must have been bairns'-play, for that neither the ice, nor clod-iced blocks would have stood the nidge of an Ayrshire hammer.”

curling-stones were in their natural state as taken from the fields, or from the beds of rivers, many of them in use wanting handles, some of them having merely a hole made for the thumb, and a few only having the benefit of a polished bottom; at that time, too, the stones were variously shaped, few of them so perfectly rounded as to be admissible on the rink of 1833, and some of them of a triangular form, one of which we ourselves well remember 'yclept the cocked hat, truly formidable on the ice; for unless it was hit full, it often happened that it was not moved far from the spot, but made the rotatory motion in great perfection. At the present day, the shape of all curling-stones is, or rather must be, circular, but in some places their shape, although circular, is very uncouth; and we have a pair in our possession made at the Bridge of Allan, that from their shape and handles are known by the name of the Water Stoups. We have given in another part of our Essay some account of Curling, as it is practised in various parts of Scotland, with which we have been favoured by our friends and correspondents; and this, we hope, will not be uninteresting to the lovers of the game.

If the improvement on the formation of curling-stones of late years has been great, that on the rapid formation of ice must be a grand desideratum to every keen Curler, as we have few of the frosty winters enjoyed by our forefathers. To this improvement,

we have laid our claim, and perhaps many others before us, have thought of this simple invention. So far as we know, however, it has been left to us to be the first to introduce, and to recommend it to the attention of the Curlers and Skaters of the United Kingdom. Our claim having been disputed by the Rev. J. Somerville of Currie, we must necessarily let the Curling world know how matters stand on the subject.

On the ice we have had some unfair rubs, and many severe ones on *terra firma*. But we cannot submit to be robbed of our Curling laurels without entering into an explanation. The world perhaps will say, *audi alteram partem*, and this of all things is what we wish for, and which, we trust, we will be ere long favoured with, as our opponent has threatened to reply to what we may say on the subject, and this, we hope, will enable us to find materials for a second edition of our little Essay, with large additions, and much more critical remark on Artificial Pond making.

Before proceeding farther on this very unpleasant part of our subject, we will observe, that, although, till of late this most interesting of all amusements, so far as we know, has been chiefly confined to Scotland, it has been introduced into several parts of England, and, in different parts of America, it is practised with

all the ardour and delight which in this country are felt by the keen Curler. Perhaps the author of this Essay may be reckoned by many an enthusiast in the game; however that may be, we will stick to our text, and while we contend, that it is the best and most interesting of all sports, we have no hesitation in declaring it to be our firm belief, that the day will soon arrive when it will be a game universal in Britain wherever the Thermometer of Fahrenheit in winter falls so low as the freezing point.

Curling, although very different in the mass of *materiel*, bears more resemblance to the game of Billiards than any other of our out-door sports: and when we consider the impetus and execution done by a piece of polished granite weighing from 30 to 60 pounds, at a distance of from 40 to 50 yards, and that, too, almost with the precision of a well struck billiard-ball; is it to be wondered at, that this amusement should be year after year increasing, and that parish after parish is seen following up this the best and perhaps most manly of all games with which we are acquainted, and vying with each other, which shall carry off the palm of victory?

ARTIFICIAL RINKS.

It is upwards of twenty years since we recommended the formation of Artificial Rinks to the notice of the Duddingston Curling Society, through their secretary, Mr. Ewart, with whom we exchanged several letters on the subject, one of which, allusive to our recommendation, received from that gentleman, is still in our possession. The scheme is simple in itself, and at the time it was recommended, we stated it to be applicable for the formation of ice on any shallow level surface which would retain water; and as the Duddingston Club was extensive, we gave it as our opinion, that the pond should be made of well puddled clay, as being, by far, the cheapest material. At the time we recommended the scheme to the Duddingston Society, we commenced forming a pond; but as we had few Curlers in the parish, and as there was no person who would join us in the expense, it was not completed, nor did we again attempt it till 1827, when after returning from Edinburgh, where we had attended the Duddingston Society's dinner, we resolved on making a clay pond at our own expense. This dinner took place on the 20th December, and before the end of the month our pond was partly finished, when we had the pleasure of reporting to the secretary, that a large portion of

it was covered with ice, perfectly fitted for the purpose of Curling, after one night's frost. We had no return of frost for several days, and our pond was completed early in January, and on the 11th of that month, after one night's frost, a party of eight gentlemen had the satisfaction of enjoying Curling on it in all its perfection.

We were led to think of this simple invention from a plan we, with many other boys, have practised in our younger days, that of making ice on pavement, which we have often done to the great annoyance of his Majesty's lieges. It is necessary to mention, that at the meeting above referred to, we took an opportunity of stating our plan for the rapid formation of ice. The Preses of the day well remembers the circumstance. We believe all the gentlemen present approved of the principle, and so far as we recollect, the Rev. J. Somerville of Currie, who was one of those present, lauded the invention, and certainly made no claim whatever to the simple contrivance, observing so far as we remember, that he had great doubts as to the adhesion of layer over layer of ice; and remarking, that he would experiment and write to us on the subject. Mr. S. did write to us soon after, and stated, that it was quite impossible to form layer over layer of ice, as they would not adhere one to the other. We immediately replied to Mr. S., and explained to him the cause of his failure in mak-

ing his experiment ; and we doubt not, but our explanation, which it is here unnecessary to state, was perfectly correct and satisfactory. It was in the year 1829, early in September, that Mr. S. paid us a visit for the sole purpose of inspecting our rink, and he then expressed himself highly pleased with the plan, and with the appearance of our icy arena, which (*the reader will please to observe*) consisted not of clay alone, but of small nodules of whinstone perfectly smooth and macadamised into the clay, each bit of stone forming a small portion of the pond's surface. On this pond Mr. S. must have known we had curled, and on this stony surface he should have known that ice formed and adhered as readily as it would do on clay, on pavement, or on any other solid substance in nature ; and had Mr. S. been an attentive observer, he should have also noticed, that on the surface of our pond, when he saw it, there were two pieces of polished pavement. These last, it is possible, Mr. S. may have overlooked, but certainly he cannot have forgot, that nearly one-half of our pond exhibited a surface of stone, and of that description, too, which Mr. S. supposed was not the best calculated for rink-making, as it was not of a *porous nature*, which, we know, was one of the desiderata requisite by that gentleman ; for the author of the Mem. Cur. tells us, that the idea as to porous stone for pavement, mentioned in page 58, is Mr. S.'s, and we now know, that the very extraordinary infor-

mation in the page referred to, is also from that gentleman. It is there stated, as to letting water on artificial rinks, "to let it on in such small quantities as that it may freeze upwards; for if otherwise, when it freezes upon the surface first, and so downwards, it is sure to split and break off." This reasoning is most erroneous, for it is perfectly certain, that in whatever way water is let on the pavement, freezing must always commence on the surface, and we shall guarantee its being equally firm if put on either way, provided, that it be allowed to freeze to the bottom, which Mr. S. had neglected to attend to when he failed in forming his coating over coating of ice; and it is quite impossible to suppose, that Mr. S. would have been so sceptical as to doubt the formation and adhesion of ice on pavement, had he recollected the burrish attachment of frost to the panes of window glass, or had he observed, that ice adhered most firmly on the whinstone surface of at least 100 yards of our pond, which consisted not of stone that was *porous*, but was of that nature that was impervious to water. Nor can we imagine (supposing Mr. S. had been ignorant of all these facts,) what could have induced him to be at the expense and trouble of forming a lilliputian paved rink, which, by his statement to us, may contain about two square yards, for the *sole* purpose of ascertaining if ice would adhere to it; which experiment, had it been necessary, he

could have made with equal effect on the landing-place at his door step.

Mr. S. also wrote us of his experimenting on malleable iron and cast metal, and stated, that he was not satisfied that ice would adhere to their surfaces; but if any one is inclined to risk the trial by applying his tongue to the iron of a cart wheel in a frosty morning, he will soon be convinced, that the formation of ice will be immediate, and that this unruly member will become so firmly fixed that it cannot be disengaged without considerable pain, and the risk of damaging the velvet coating.

The first notice we had of Mr. S.'s claim, was in looking over the *Memorabilia Curliana*; and if what we have stated be correct, it may easily be conceived, that we were not a little surprised on observing the following passage in page 54 of that work. The author writes, "We have now to notice the pavement rink, an invention, or improvement upon Artificial Curling Rinks, which the Rev. J. Somerville of Currie, already so well known as the discoverer of that excellent invention, the safety gun, claims as his own idea. This he can prove," he adds, "by all kinds of evidence."

We lost no time in writing Mr. S., that he was

claiming a discovery to which he had not the least title; and that he should well know, it could only be from the difference of expense that we gave a preference to clay over pavement, in the same way as a rink of cast metal would undoubtedly be superior to a paved one, but that it would cost more money; and we begged of Mr. S. to admit by return of post, that the *principle* was ours, and that it was applicable to every shallow level surface that would retain water. The correspondence that passed betwixt us is too lengthened to be *now* introduced; Mr. S. sometimes sending us no less than two entire sheets of foolscap, regarding his claim to the discovery. In the first letter in reply to ours, he takes no notice of the *principle*, regarding which we particularly wrote him, but says, "were I captious I might lay as good claim to the clay rink, as you could do to the pavement one." After repeatedly writing Mr. S. he at length, in his reply, notices the *principle*, and his words are, "as to the principle, it is obvious, that the thinner the sheet of water, the quicker will it take the temperature of the atmosphere, and the quicker it takes the temperature of the atmosphere, the quicker will you have the formation of ice. This principle is known to you, to me, and to all the world; *I acted upon it when I formed my shallow ponds,*" &c. Here, at last, Mr. S. speaks out, and makes a truly scientific and sweeping claim, to be the projector of artificial pond-making; and he informs us,

he had acted for a period of 14 years on this principle. Now, we do not think, that, with due deference to the Reverend gentleman, he can possibly have implemented this plan of formation. Nothing can prove this more certainly than Mr. S.'s want of success; and besides, unfortunately for Mr. S.'s argument, he has furnished us with a description of his last formed belted pond, which should have been the *ne plus ultra* of perfection; but this pond, as described by Mr. S., we pronounce to be totally different from ponds formed on the principle of a shallow level, for according to Mr. S.'s own description in our possession, it consists of inequalities of surface from end to end; and we must confess, we are totally at a loss to account for this most extraordinary formation, which strikes at the root the principle of pond-making alluded to by the Reverend gentleman.

Whilst we were revising this part of our Essay for the press, the post brought us a letter from the author of the Mem. Cur., dated London, April 8, 1833. We had applied some weeks before to that gentleman, begging he would inform us from whom he received the statement regarding the ponds in Currie Parish.

The author of that work is perhaps better acquainted with this part of our subject than any other person we could refer to; and he informs us, that he had the information regarding these ponds in MS. from

Mr. S. himself. He says, he saw two of Mr. S.'s ponds, but what depth of water there was upon them he could not tell, nor does he remember any thing being said of ponds on the principle of a shallow level.* He has been so kind as to state his impressions relative to these matters in the following words:—"When I left Dumfries, I left behind me hermetically sealed, the whole of the correspondence relating to the dispute between Mr. S. and yourself; I am sorry, therefore, that I cannot go more fully into the merits. From all, however, that I know of the matter, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, and that without prejudice to Mr. S., or any other individual, to whom similar ideas may have presented themselves, that it is only fair and just towards yourself, to express it to be my belief, that the artificial rinks, whether of stone or clay, which will carry your name on curling annals through time, were your own invention, in all their stages even *ab ovo*, and farther,—that to you also is due the merit, as far as I am aware, alone, of having practically brought the same to the highest pitch of elegant perfection."

Were it necessary, we could also produce Mr. S.'s

* These ponds are described in page 56 of the *Memorabilia Curliana*, and are said to combine the *utile* with the *dulce*, and are intended for the double purposes of Curling in winter, and irrigation when that sport is ended. The author's remark regarding them is there stated. He says, "We will not dignify them with the name of artificial."

holograph writing, admitting of his failure in the formation of ice; and we claim the support of the Preses of the day, and of the gentlemen present at the Duddingston Society's Anniversary dinner in 1827, should they think we deserve it.

Although Mr. S. has not condescended to reply to our last letter, we trust he will now feel it necessary to solve some of the knotty points in dispute, by giving an explanation; and we particularly request he will admit or deny that he was present at the Curlers' meeting in 1827; and he must tell us, if at that meeting he mentioned any thing regarding his artificial ponds, formed on the principle of having a *level* surface? We wish him also to state, if his last formed pond was made on that principle? and we would ask him, whether or not he observed in 1829, when he visited us for the express purpose of inspecting our rink, that great part of its surface consisted of whinstone? He should also say, after having seen this surface, why he should have entertained a doubt as to the adhesion of ice on pavement, or have troubled the author of the *Curliana* by claiming the discovery? and we beg he would inform us, if after having practised artificial pond-making for 14 years, he has ever given Curling to a party with one night's frost? and, to conclude, we trust Mr. S. will let us know if his doubts are removed as to the adhesion of ice on malleable iron and cast metal?

We have had a letter to-day from Edinburgh, dated 2d May, 1833, from a Member of the Duddingston Curlers' Society, who gives us the following information respecting Mr. S.'s ponds in Currie Parish. The gentleman says :—

“ I have seen one of Mr. S.'s parishioners, and one of the best Curlers, Mr. —, also Mr. —, who is acquainted with the Curling at Currie, and both of these gentlemen assure me, that the Rev. Dr. S. has no pond laid either with flag-stones, or with clay ; his pond has a *natural bottom* ; the one he first made had *natural bands*, or *ridges on the top at short distances to keep the ice level, and it did not answer, &c.*”

Our readers will please observe, that this is the pond referred to by us, as Mr. S.'s last formed one ; and from the letter above, Curlers may judge of the effect of the bands ; which bands, however, Mr. S. informed us, were made of *clay*, and according to the information now received, they were *natural bands*. This letter is, in several respects, different from Mr. S.'s statement, for the banded or belted pond was made after ours of clay had been in use ; but it accords with that of the author of the Mem. Cur. as to their being *naturally* level ponds. We would say of these banded ponds, whether natural or of clay, that they are on a par. Can they be useful, or otherwise ?

Mr. S. in one of his letters gives us great credit for the rapid formation of ice by sprinkling, and this

very circumstance we take to be an admission that he had not implemented the principle with which he states he had been so long familiar.

We must inform Mr. S., however, that this sprinkling process is only practised by us when we wish to form ice in a few minutes, or to prevent the water from being driven to the ends or sides in windy weather; and Mr. S. will find, on looking at the *Memorabilia Curliana*, page 53, that we recommend running the water on the pond to the depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, which readily gives ice fit for Curling in one night's frost.

We hope, after what we have said on this unpleasant subject, that the Curlers and Skaters of Scotland will do us justice, and that they will not allow Mr. S. even the shadow of a claim to the simple contrivance; and we trust, Mr. S.'s pretensions will be no bar to our obtaining a patent for affording sport to the Curlers and Skaters of the United Kingdom, should we be disposed to apply for one. Mr. S. is well known as a keen Curler, and he has introduced several improvements that are useful. We think, however, he has failed in some. That he is a keen Curler no person will doubt, if it be true that he has carried the experiment so far as to have practised on one of the floors of his mansion, in trying the effect of soft soap and other slippery materials as a substitute for ice.

And as we are now writing on slippery substitutes, we may here notice a plan recommended by Mr. S. to preserve the ice on paved ponds; this he advises to be done (vide Mem. Cur., page 57) by means of a thin board of wood, thoroughly charged with soap and oil, which is to be placed on the rink in the very spot where the stone comes in contact with the ice. The board thus receiving the blow, Mr. S. says, will save the thin layer of ice upon the rink, and will be the means of preserving it from damage. We must say, that this, in our opinion, is not only a very dirty contrivance, but we think it would render both the ice and the curling-stones useless for the sport, and as we have the advantage over Mr. S. of being able to speak from experience on this subject, he never having curled upon a paved pond, we must state, that no such precaution is necessary. Mr. S. recommends for this pond to make two small slits or hacks in the pavement, instead of crampets; we think Mr. S. had here forgot the subject on which he was writing, for it must be evident, that the first effect of the water, when put upon the pond, would be to fill the slits or hacks, before it covered the surface; and we have only to observe, that if we use the foot iron, or the frosted shoes we have recommended, the ice will be kept comparatively clean, and there is no necessity for such Gothic contrivance.

The author of the Mem. Cur. notices a plan communicated to us, for playing on our stone-rink in the summer months; and we were about to give it a trial, as it was recommended by an ingenious friend, when we received the following letter from Mr. S., laying claim, also, to this invention. He says, "I find in a note, that a friend of yours has invented a species of Curling by means of castors; and I have no doubt the idea is the gentleman's own; but it so happens, that the idea struck me 14 or 15 years ago; and that I made experiments on this plan in a great variety of ways. One of these curling-stones, thus mentioned, is at this moment now lying before me, castors and all," &c. We were about to experiment on this suggestion, but finding it might again bring us into collision with Mr. S., we declined it, and shall wait till we hear of his success, or of his having given it up as a bad job, when we may be induced to give it a fair trial.

We cannot conclude our remarks without observing, that although Mr. S. claims being the projector of artificial ponds for the long period of 17 years at least; he never, in any part of our correspondence, alleges, that his ponds were made on the principle of a shallow *level*; Mr. S. talks of them only as shallow ponds; and when we take it into consideration, that in the Mem. Cur., they are said not to merit the

appellation of being called artificial, and that this is confirmed by two persons who are well acquainted with Mr. S.'s ponds at Currie, both of whom say they have *natural* bottoms, we must conclude, that Mr. S.'s ponds, although not deep enough to drown a cat, are not at all formed on the principle we have recommended. That this is proven, we hold cannot be denied; for Mr. S., we believe, has not yet curled on ice formed during one night's frost; and we can prove from his own writing, his want of success, both on his own plan, and on ours, which he tried with clay, and which he states to have been a complete failure. Mr. S. seems to have been unfortunate in his attempts at pond-making: and we believe he is the only person who has not succeeded; as in Glasgow, and in other places where it has been tried, there has been no want of success.

REMARKS ON MR. S.'S PAVEMENT RINK AS DESCRIBED
IN THE MEM. CUR., PAGE 54.

WHEN the author of that work was about to publish his excellent Treatise on Curling, we gave him a plan of our paved rink, which we presume Mr. S. had looked at, as he gave in a plan totally different; how far he has succeeded, our readers will judge.

Mr. S. says, "Having chosen a proper place, if sheltered from sun and wind, the great enemies of ice, so much the better, the length should be 55 yards, the breadth 4 or 5 at most. The bottom should be carefully prepared and horizontally levelled with stone and lime. The pavement is to be placed above this preparation, carefully bedded into it, and levelled horizontally with the utmost nicety. The pavement must be grooved and jointed into one another, in a manner similar to joiner-work, to prevent the alternate frosts and thaws from heaving up the edge of the pavement, and thus producing a broken and uneven surface, which would infallibly be the case, if the stones are not grooved and inserted into each other, as now mentioned. The tee should be 41 (rather 42) yards asunder, thus leaving 7 yards at each end for the stones to escape when struck. The rink should swell out at each end to allow the stones to accumulate, and the players room to stand. Around the whole rink, there must be a stone ledge from 3 to 4 inches high, to confine the water, and prevent the stones from escaping, and 2 feet broad, to allow the players to walk backwards and forwards, from one end of the rink to the other, whilst the game proceeds. At each end of the rink, exactly where the tee is to be placed, there must be a small hole perforated to receive a circular bit of iron, in the centre of which there is a cavity from which all the shots are to be measured. This circular piece of iron

is the tee, the cavity the tozee." The above is Mr. S.'s plan on paper for a rink of pavement, and we are convinced it will remain a paper rink in all time coming. Mr. S. has informed us, that to make this rink, the sum of from *L.50* to *L.60* is all that is required.

If Curlers read over Mr. S.'s description, they will find that the mason who estimated the expense must have made an error in his calculation, as none of our masons will undertake it for less than *L.200*, and some of them tell us, that it is quite impossible to do the work so as to give satisfaction. We can easily conceive that its formation would be difficult, for here are no less than three distinct levels required,—and one of the requisites, it will be seen, is, that every piece of pavement should be exactly of the same thickness. Will ever a pond be formed on such a plan? What we have said above, however, does not affect its merits as a curling pond; but we must confess, that we were almost as much astonished at this plan of formation, as we had been at the description of Mr. S.'s clay-belted pond in the high grounds at Currie,—for to our amazement a ledging of stone is placed round Mr. S.'s rink to confine the curling-stones. Every Curler certainly should know, that a ledging to confine the stones, would render the rink perfectly useless for Curling; for it is evident, that either the joining of the curb-stone with the pave-

ment, the curb-stone itself, or the curling-stone, must give way from forcible collision;—or, perhaps, the stone played, from having the benefit of the rounded ends in Mr. S.'s rink, may, by going off at an angle, find its way to the tozee a second time, and so clear the ice, putting both men and *materiel* in motion.

Mr. S. recommends the pavement-stones to be jointed after the manner of joiner-work. This also would be a very expensive process to execute, and to a certainty would produce the effect it was intended to prevent, as the flat part of the numerous joinings would give room for a lodgement of water so very near the surface, that part of the pavement would likely be displaced by every advent of frost. The colley-score also is placed on the contracted part of the rink, at a distance from the swells at the ends; and it is evident, that were a stone lying there hard hit by another, both might fly off at an angle of 45°, when they would come in collision with the ledging, before they could reach the trifling spread on Mr. S.'s pond. We could point out many more defects on this rink, but we have stated a *quantum sufficit* to guard Curlers against ever attempting to form it; and we shall conclude this part of our Essay by recommending to the Curlers of Currie, as they have a soil so favourable by its tenacity for Curling, that they should dispense with the pavement rink, as they never can want sport, with one night's frost, over a

surface so admirably calculated for rink-making, from its holding water, should they attend to *our* directions.

We are extremely sorry to have been compelled to say so much, but we have done all in our power to avoid making any unpleasant observations; and we had been perfectly satisfied if Mr. S. had admitted the principle was ours, or that we had acted on it before he ever thought of the matter.

After all that has been said, we trust Mr. S. will not continue to dispute what we claim as our simple contrivance; he and many more may have thought of the principle, but we believe it was left for us to be the first to practise, and the first to recommend it, to the Curlers and Skaters of Great Britain.

SITE FOR THE RINK.

It appears to be an ascertained fact, that some particular places, removed only a short distance from each other, exhibit very different degrees of heat when tried by the thermometer. It is not an easy matter to say from what this may proceed in all cases; but it appears, that, where there is an opening in the

hills towards the north, the cold is generally more severe there, than in situations only a short distance from it.

This is so much the case, that we are credibly informed it has been found necessary to have horses frosted after coming to a particular part of the road between Largs and Greenock, where this arctic exposure at certain seasons when frost sets in, invariably shows itself. Taking this for granted, it becomes a matter of no small consideration to find out the site where the cold is most severe; and this is best done by having thermometers placed in different situations, and by examining them all, precisely at the same time. We shall conclude our remarks on this subject, by stating what some Curlers will scarcely credit, that in the winter of 1813—14, when Napoleon invaded Russia, the thermometer showed a variation of no less than from 20 to 25 degrees, between the temperature of Largs and Glasgow; and it is needless to add, that the Montpelier of Scotland, although sufficiently cold for Curling, was, by so many degrees, warmer.

Another object to be attended to, in fixing the site, is to have it defended, if possible, against the wind; for, when exposed to a severe blast, the water may be either driven to one end or to one side, and thus the ice may be rendered uneven, and its

rapid formation much interrupted. To conclude, it generally happens that situations sheltered from sun and wind by planting, are to be found near the dwellings of gentlemen who may wish for private ponds; and to us it is no small matter to be within hearing of the sound of the breakfast or dinner bell, or to be within the reach of a basin of warm soup, or a glass of something refreshing, when the sun has passed the meridian.

CAIRNIE'S RINK.

OUR paved Rink is 46 yards in length; the ends are 6 yards broad, and to where the break commences, each end is 13 yards, consequently the intermediate portion is 20 yards long; and this part of the pond we consider sufficiently broad, if made 4 yards wide. We have had the honour of being consulted on the formation of a Rink by Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Baronet; and the only deviation from our own plan, was to recommend that his pond should be 50 yards in length, and that the width, at the ends, should be increased to 7 yards, which we should deem an ample extent for the purpose of Curling. The stones for the pavement ought to be $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and those forming the ledges or curb, one foot broad, bevelled, as shown in the plan, in order to allow the

curling-stones to escape, and so laid as to join the pavement, rising with an angle of 15 degrees, so that any stone coming forcibly upon it may run off the pond without doing injury.

The situation for the tozees is marked on the plan, and ought to be placed 5 yards from each end of the Rink. The hog, or colley-score, is placed 8 yards from this, and should commence where the break begins, as represented in the Lithographic Sketch. Our pond is laid partly on lime and gravel, and partly on a mixture of gravel and sea sand; and, if proper attention be paid in laying the pavement, the deviation from a true water level in any part of it will be very trifling. It may be necessary to remark, that a light and dry soil for the pond is what we reckon the best; all the soil, however, should be removed, before the sand, broken metal, gravel, or other material is put on it. Each piece of pavement ought to be dressed to a perfect level, and to be close below, leaving an opening, as shown in the plan, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch at the top, tapering till it come to nothing, and about one inch deep. Into this cement (which we can now, from experience, state, ought to be mastic,) must be put, having previously applied to the joints a coating of lintseed oil. It is needless to add, that the mastic should be applied only in hot weather, or when the pavement is perfectly dry. Unless the stones forming the pond hold water, we would recom-

mend that they should all have a coat of oil after they are laid, and that this should be put on during the warmest weather. We have been told that Kilmaronock pavement holds water completely, and although not so thick as what we could wish, still, from its capability of holding water, it may answer better than common pavement.

Let us suppose the rink to be complete, and that the northeast wind in November indicates an appearance of frosty weather; in this case, if the wind be moderate, the water is to be let in upon the rink in such a quantity as barely to cover the highest part of the pavement; and, if the frost continue for a few hours, we may enjoy most excellent amusement; but should it chance to blow hard, the coating must be put on differently; for from inattention to this, it is easily conceived that very much of the water will be driven to the end or side. To prevent this, we have watering-cans with roses, with one of which a man begins at one end, throwing water out from the rose, across the pond, and walking backwards; another person filling and carrying the cans, and this is continued till the pond be sprinkled over. In frosty weather the water no sooner falls than it is frozen, and this prevents it from being driven by the wind: and after repeating the sprinkling process, we, in a short time, have ice perfectly fitted for curling purposes, better than any ice that is water-borne,

as it is, in every respect, perfect, being smooth and level, free from all bias, frozen to the bottom, and there is no risk of being drowned or of catching cold from wet feet. As the stones in escaping from the pond over the inclined curb of freestone are apt to have the polish of their bottoms injured, to prevent this we recommend that slips of old canvass, or other material, be laid over the curb-stone, with the inner edge touching the pavement, and extending from the ends to within a few feet of the colley-score; so that when the pond is frozen, this cloth may become fixed in the ice, and by wetting the surface it will acquire an icy coating, over which the stones will pass without injury. It would be superfluous to say any thing as to the best mode of taking the level with the greatest accuracy—that must be left to the skill of the Mason; the greatest deviation from it on our pond does not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, and we intend making it still nearer to a perfect level. Supposing however that the deviation is to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, this pond, if covered at night with water, will be frozen to the bottom, should the thermometer be so low as the freezing point, or should it be even one or two degrees above it. From the observations we have made with the best thermometers, the pellicle of ice begins to form at 35° , and we certainly have observed that our rink was at different times frozen to the bottom, although the mercury had never fallen so low as the freezing point. We have had some very ingenious

remarks made in a communication, signed Curler, as regarded blackening the surface of the pond, for the purpose of accelerating the formation of ice, and of retaining it longer in that state ; and from the reports that have been made from observations taken at an early hour, we are inclined to think that blackening the surface of the pond may have an excellent effect. *Tentandi causa*, they shall be repeated till we are satisfied from our own observation. The young curling amateur who has so kindly thrown out many hints for improvement, has given us a plan of a pond of cast-metal, which, if it can be had to a scale, will appear in one of our lithographic sketches ; he is quite an enthusiast in the game, and we hope he may be induced to give us his collected hints, for the benefit of all keen curlers, before these sheets go to the press.

TO MARK THE TEE AND TOZEE.

A SMALL bit of brass at each end with a hole in the centre, sufficiently large to admit the point of the compasses is to be sunk, and fixed on a level with the pavement at the distance marked in the plan. This hole after the pond is frozen is to be cleared of ice, for the purpose of measuring from it the disputed

shots, and from it with the compasses 3 or 4 circular scratches are to be made, which will generally serve to indicate the winning stones without the necessity of measurement, and the outermost of these circles should be at least 3 feet from the centre of the tozee. (*Vide Lith. Plate.*)

PARISH PONDS.

At the time we formed our clay rink we were in hopes that it would have served for parish purposes, as it can be made at a trifling expense ; experience, however, soon taught us, that without improvement, it would not be so complete as we could have wished, for although we never failed to have curling with one night's frost, we found, that the clay was apt to crack, that worms and weeds, notwithstanding all our precautions, found their way through it, and that it required considerable attention to keep it in order. The question now is, can these objections be remedied or removed? We hope they may, and we beg to suggest a few hints for keen curlers to improve on ; we ourselves in the meantime shall not fail to experiment, and report progress, should our endeavours be attended with success. We intend experimenting on a small portion of ground, scooped out to the depth

of 8 inches; on the bottom of this we shall put a portion of soap-makers' waste, or any substance that will prevent the worms and weeds from rising—over which we shall lay on clay, as well puddled, and as equally wrought in as possible, to the depth of at least 4 or 5 inches, and on the surface we intend laying from 3 to 4 inches of riddled earth, with a view to prevent the clay from cracking; which after being sown with grass is to be well beat down, and levelled with the greatest nicety and care.

Should this succeed, we may anticipate having amusement for summer as well as winter, and we confess that we entertain great hopes of its answering the purpose. Should it be successful, we shall, with a little attention, find Curling in winter with one night's frost, and excellent bowling in summer, when we have dry weather.

Connected with this pond, there must be some outlets for the water, to prevent it accumulating on the surface, and the number of these necessary will depend on the quantity of ground we are to occupy. The rink, of which we have now given a description, will likely require two nights of successive frost for Skating, as we would recommend, that the ice for this elegant recreation, should be at least one inch in thickness.

Some Skaters may say, that this will not give much additional sport, as they have ice on natural ponds with a little more frost. In this, however, they are mistaken; for it often happens that we have two days' successive hard frost, which would give Skating in perfection, whereas, when we depend on natural ponds, or on ponds with a few inches of water, we may have no ice fit for Skating for the entire winter. This we have had an opportunity of noticing as applicable to Curling, as on our pond (at that time of clay) we had several days' fine amusement, when there was no Curling in the parish, and little or none, we believe, in the country. Gentlemen Skaters will likely soon have their ponds on this principle; we would suggest to them a more speedy method for strengthening the ice easily, by a force pump, by means of which coating over coating could be put on during the night, and in this way the icy arena will be completely fitted for Skating before daylight.

Another plan for a parish pond may be mentioned, and we are also experimenting on it. Masons tell us, that lime well made, will become perfectly hard and remain so even under water. If this be the case, the ground-work for a curling pond may be formed at a small expense, and when sufficiently hardened, we would advise, that it should be well coated with tar, after which, it may be either covered with earth in

the way above recommended, or it may be kept exposed to the weather, and the surface occasionally wetted, should there appear any disposition to crack. Some masons say that below the lime there should be some hard stony material, whilst others tell us, that this is not at all requisite. Our readers will observe, that connected with this surface, there must also be openings for the water to escape, which may be opened or shut *pro re nata*.

“ Abdita quid prodest generosi vena metalli,
Si cultore caret.”

We trust some keen Curler or Skater will improve on these hints ; and we have no doubt, that many parishes will soon have their artificial ponds at a trifling expense.

In some places an objection may be made, that ground cannot easily be had for the purpose of Curling to serve for an entire parish. This, however, will not apply to the parish of Largs, where to encourage the sport, the Earl of Glasgow ever has been most liberal in giving the gratuitous use of his grounds ; and to that nobleman, we, as well as our numerous and adroit scholars, shall ever feel ourselves indebted for his kindness.

UTILITY AND ORNAMENT.

OUR curling pond, when filled with water, is highly ornamental, and forms a pleasant object to look on, even in the midst of summer. The reflection of the sun's rays renders the scenery around as distinct, in a calm day, as any mirror can possibly do; and if the curb-stone be extended, the depth of water may be increased, so as to afford accommodation for the largest species of web-footed birds, and sport to the angler.

The pond, as we have now described it, may be useful by forming ice in situations where it is not easily obtained, for the luxuries of the table, and the sport being ended from the setting in of a thaw, the ice-house may be stored with the contents which can soon again be formed in quantities for curling, should the frost return.

SLIDING

THE exercise of Sliding is highly conducive to health, and tends to improve the action of the limbs in particular; and to boys and girls this rapid formation of ice will, doubtless, afford much healthy recreation in the open air.

CLEAN AND CLEAR ICE.

CURLING-COURTS are generally held where Clubs are formed; and, after the Court has met, every member, who has not been *Brothered*, must submit to that ceremony. With us the ceremony is kept a secret; and although no oath is administered, we believe it to be as well kept as that of the masons' word. It consists of certain signs indicative of frosty weather, and has a reference to the heading of this Article; it also contains an allusion to fair play on the ice, which, we think, is highly necessary, as we have witnessed more than once attempts at foul play by some of our opponents, who, when hard pressed, have had recourse to the base expedient of dropping snipe shot before the stone coming up, and, in this way, of very soon stopping its progress. No Curler, we trust, in our parish, will ever count a point he has not fairly won.

HANDLES.

Two kinds of handles are, with us, in general use, the one going through the centre of the stone, the

other a side-handle. They are equally good, but the side-handle may be put into the waistcoat pocket, whereas the through-going handles are cumbersome. The latter, however, have this advantage, that the stones belonging to them cannot be used for play without them, whereas, the screw for the side-handle is often injured by idle people, or boys, who make free with it in the absence of the owner. We prefer handles made of brass to those of wood or iron, as they are easily kept clean, and, we think, look better. Every handle should have the number of the stone cut on it to which it belongs, and the bolts should also be marked, so as to distinguish them easily.

BLOCKS FOR CURLING-STONES.

THE best blocks, whether of granite or whin-stone, are those that are hard and tough, and take a fine polish. In the selection of blocks, or in choosing stones, we would advise Curlers to be particularly careful that there be no dries in them, and this, we think, will be best ascertained by laying them for one night in water, and then exposing them to the sun, or before a fire, when, should there be any crack, or dry, it will show itself in a seam of water. We have lost several good stones from not attending to this

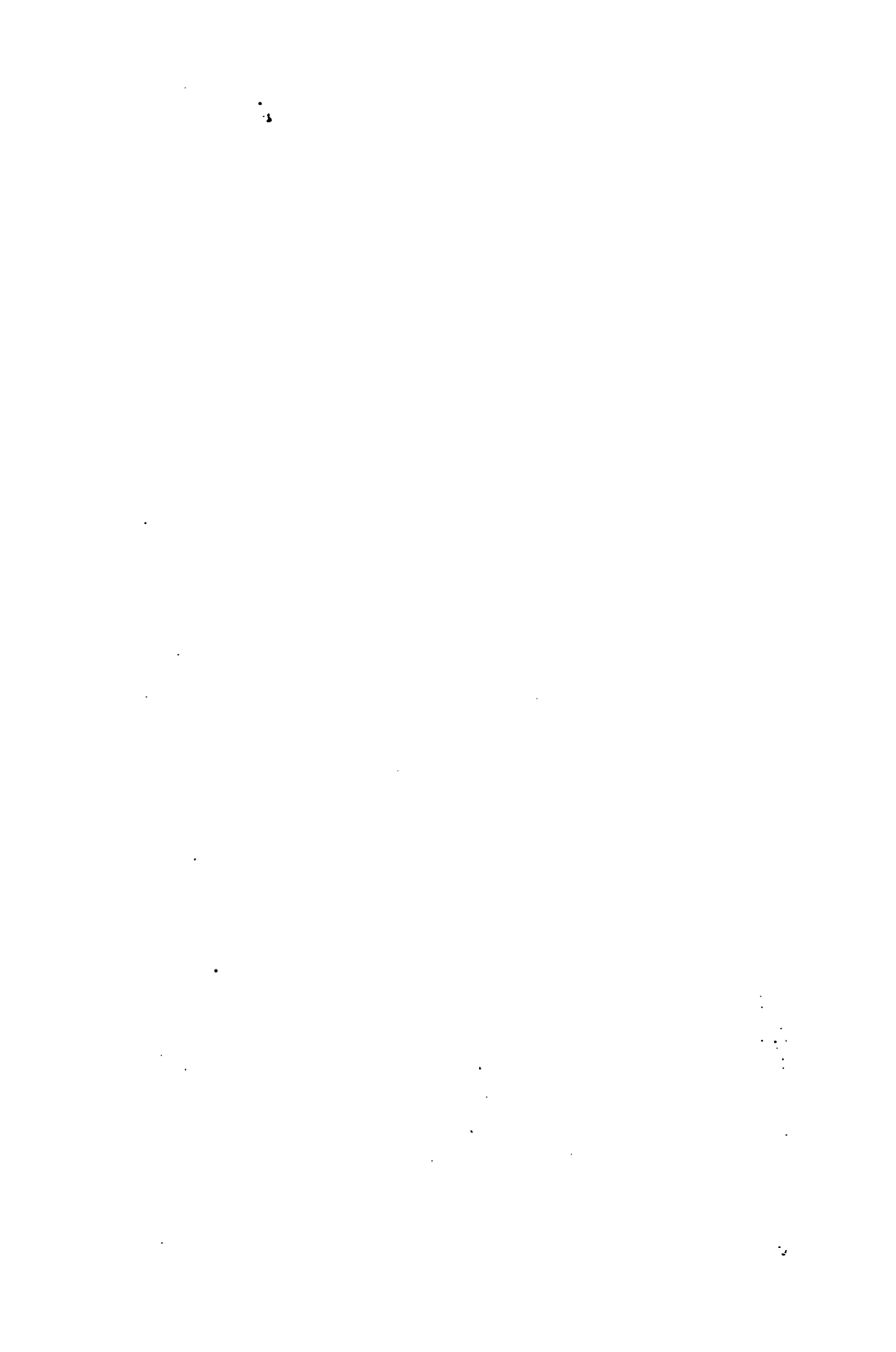
Tables.

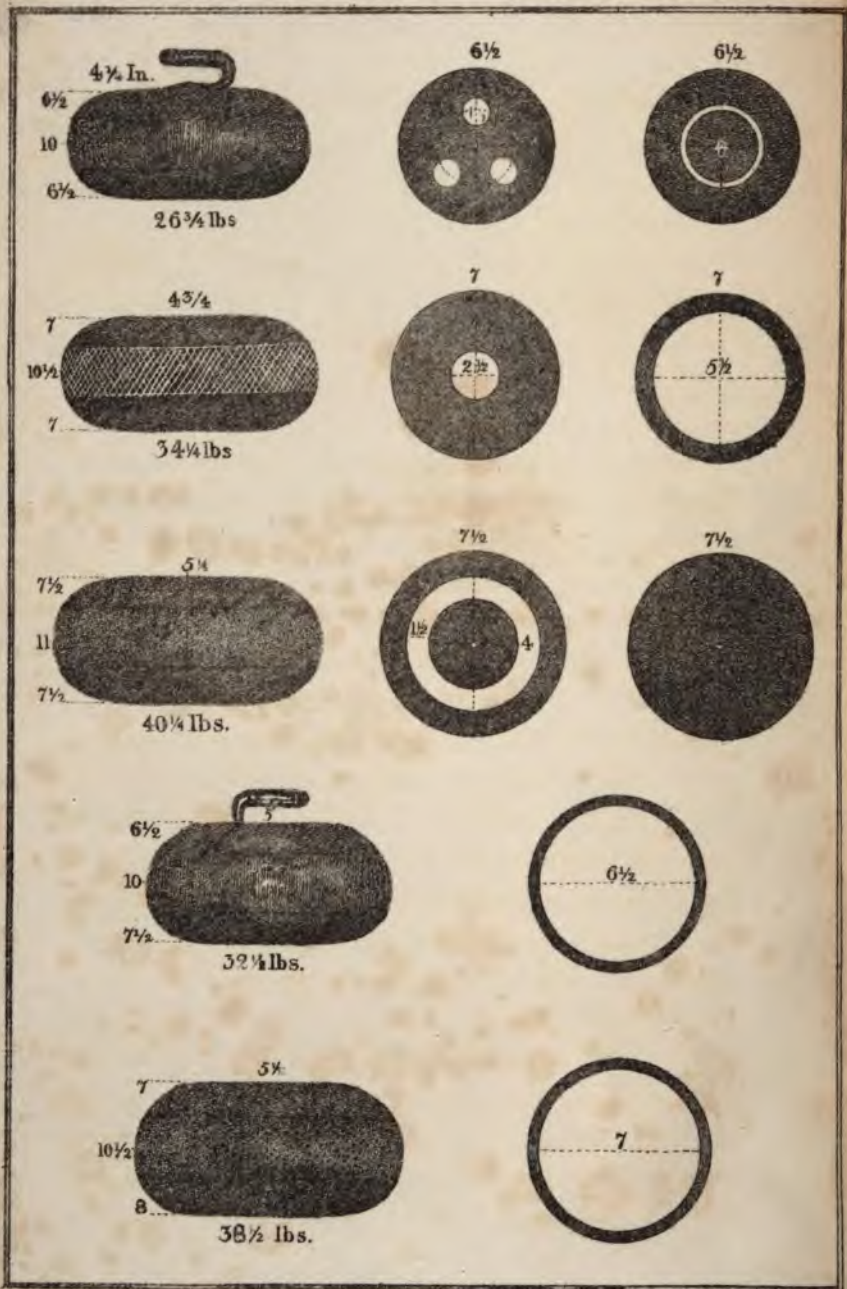
Showing the Weight of Stones of Different Heights & Diameters.

	N ^o Stone	Extreme Diam. of Sides.	Diam. of Centre.	Mean Diam.	Height.	Square Inches.	Weight.
	1	7 in.	10 in.	8 1/2 in.	4 1/2 in.	324	28 1/2 lbs. 1/2 in.*
	2	7 1/2 .	10 1/2 .	9 .	4 3/4 .	354 3/4	34 1/2 .
	3	8 .	11 .	9 1/2 .	5 .	402 1/2	40 1/2 .
	4	8 1/2 .	11 1/2 .	10 .	5 1/4 .	525	46 3/4 .
	5	9 .	12 .	10 1/2 .	5 1/2 .	605	53 3/4
	1	7 .	10 .	8 1/2 .	4 1/2 .	342	30 1/2 .
	2	7 1/2 .	10 1/2 .	9 .	5 .	405	36 .
	3	8 .	11 .	9 1/2 .	5 1/2 .	475	42 1/2 .
	4	8 1/2 .	11 1/2 .	10 .	5 3/4 .	550	48 3/4 .
	5	9 .	12 .	10 1/2 .	5 3/4 .	632 1/2	56 1/2 .
	1	7 .	10 .	8 1/2 .	5 .	360	32 .
	2	7 1/2 .	10 1/2 .	9 .	5 1/4 .	425 1/4	38 .
	3	8 .	11 .	9 1/2 .	5 1/2 .	497 1/2	44 1/2 .
	4	8 1/2 .	11 1/2 .	10 .	5 3/4 .	575	51 .
	5	9 .	12 .	10 1/2 .	6 .	660	58 3/4 .
	1	Top Side 6 1/2 in. 7 1/2 in.	10 .	8 1/2 .	5 .	360	32 1/2 .
	2	7 . 8 .	10 1/2 .	9 .	5 1/4 .	425 1/4	38 1/2 .
	3	7 1/2 . 8 1/2 .	11 .	9 1/2 .	5 1/2 .	497 1/2	44 1/2 .
	4	8 . 9 .	11 1/2 .	10 .	5 3/4 .	575	51 1/2 .
	5	8 1/2 . 9 1/2 .	12 .	10 1/2 .	6 .	660	59 1/2 .



1





circumstance ; and no Curler should neglect putting them to the proof, whether they be of Ailsa granite, or blue whin.

FORM OF CURLING-STONE.

CURLERS differ as to the extent of bottom on which their stone should run. If the ice be keen, we think one of four or five inches may be used ; but, if watery or not very keen, a bottom of from two to two and a half inches would be preferable, and with us, this bottom is now most generally adopted.

We observe that the Rev. Dr. Somerville, and the author of the Mem. Cur. are of a different opinion, and think, that stones should all run on a broad surface, seven inches in diameter at least ; Curlers, therefore, must be guided by their own judgment. As to the shape of curling-stones much must depend on the fancy of the player ; but with us, and we believe now generally, no stone is admitted on the ice that is not of a perfectly circular shape. As to the size of stones, it is no doubt certain, that on keen ice, the heavier the stone, the greater chance has it of being successful ; whilst, on watery ice, the smaller stones will have the advantage. Were it possible for Curlers to

make an arrangement, so as that all stones should be made within a few pounds of the same weight, it would tend to improve the game, and place the contending parties more on a level on all sorts of ice. The steel plate bottom is in use in some places, and on watery ice, makes a stone run as easily as it would on ice that is keen. But, as these bottoms are expensive, and as they never will be used except on watery ice, it is not likely that they will be generally adopted. It is needless to say, that it would be unfair to play a set of steel bottoms against those of stone, when the ice is watery; this, however, we were subjected to, for to our grief, we were beat by means of these bottoms by our Beith friends, none of our party entering a protest against their use but ourselves; since that time we have kept our own with the Beith Curlers, and, loose or win, we shall be always happy to meet them on the ice.

We would here refer our readers to the two lithographic tables for curling-stones, from which Curlers will be enabled to select such as they like best, both as regards their form and weight. In No. 1, the drawings at the side, marked A B C and D are on a scale of $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to the inch. A B and C represent three stones of different heights, but of the same proportions otherwise, and the table opposite each, shows the increase of dimensions necessary to give the required increase of weight. The above stones

have two soles, the one for playing on keen, and the other on damp ice, the handles being screwed on the end of an iron bolt which passes through the centre of the stone. D is intended to represent a stone which has only one side, the handle being permanently fixed, or screwed into a matrix on the upper surface, which is one inch less in diameter than the sole. By reference to the calculations in the plate, it will be seen, that the proportions are exactly the same as those of C, but as there is no metal required to be taken out of its centre to admit of the bolt for the handle, it will consequently be rather a heavier stone, the additional weight being from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pound. No. 2 shows the stones shaded with bottoms, as they are used in different places. In the upper row, the first of the bottoms runs on three projecting points scarcely visible to the eye. These points should rise about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch or less, and should be neatly rounded off. The other bottom of the same stone runs on a circle of about one inch, or less, and is intended for keen ice. These stones are highly approved of by the Wishaw players. The two stones of $32\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and $38\frac{1}{2}$, at the bottom of the plate, many think are those of the most perfect form, and have only one bottom. In place of 6 or 7 inches, however, we would give a preference to stones running on bottoms of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches for general use.

A young gentleman, who has favoured us by supplying the drawings for plates 1 and 2, observes, that the prettiest and best metal for curling-stones, is to be had in the parish of Craufurdjohn, and from the specimen we have seen, we certainly must admit that they are unrivalled for beauty. Our sea-shore, near Kelly Bridge, furnishes an excellent material for Curling, and we have no stones on our ice that run better.

We must here borrow a few remarks from the author of the Mem. Cur., who in page 42 writes—

“ We are informed there have been instances of throwing a curling-stone one English mile upon ice. It was no uncommon thing in days of yore, and there are many still alive who have done it, to throw across the Kirk Loch from the Orchard to the Skelbyland—a feat not much short of the above. Upon the occasion, we believe, of a match with Tinwald, Laurie Young, the strongest player amongst them, challenged the Lochmaben party to a trial of arm. Their president stepped out, and taking his stone, threw it with such strength across the breadth of the Mill Loch, that it stotted off the brink upon the other side, and tumbled over upon the grass. ‘ Now,’ said he to Laurie, ‘ go and throw it back again, and we’ll then confess that you are too many for us.’ The ‘ *Tutor*,’ another remarkable stone, is perhaps one of the oldest upon our ice. Skelbyland, the Craig, Wallace, Steel-cap, the Scoon, Bonaparte, Hughie, Red-cap, the Skipper, as all noted and associated with the names and feats of other days, ‘ should not be forgot.’ Old Bonaparte, who flourished cir. 1750 and downwards, was the

first who had a regular formed polished curling-stone upon our ice.——Previous to 1750, the stones upon the Lochmaben ice were of a wretched description enough. Most of them being sea-stones of all shapes, sizes, and weights. Some were three-cornered, like those equilateral cocked hats, which our divines wore in a century that is past—others like ducks—others flat as a frying-pan. Their handles which superseded holes for the fingers and thumb, were equally clumsy and inelegant; being malconstructed resemblances of that hook-necked biped, the goose.

“The *size* and *weight* of curling-stones vary of course according to the strength or fancy of the owners, and will range from under 30 to upwards of 70 lbs. weight. ‘Till lately,’ says a late celebrated Curler of the Duddingston Society, ‘the stone with which I played last was $72\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—the stone of my might!’ One or two stones approaching to this weight, regularly formed, are still to be found upon the Duddingston ice. The general, and most approved average, may now be considered to be 35 lbs. In Ayrshire they are commonly from 26 to 29 tron. To be properly equipped, however, all Curlers should be provided with two sets of stones, one certainly not above 35 lbs. for *baugh* ice; the other from 45 to 50 for *keen*.——The *shape* of curling-stones varies also according to the fancy of the owners. Some prefer a flat form, others a high. The medium is commonly adopted, being generally considered to be the best, upon the principle that a stone when well centred, *i. e.* when the centre of gravity is fairly in the middle, will run much farther than upon any other construction.——5 inches by 10 gives an elegant stone of about 35 lbs.——Every Curler should attend to have his stone duly polished and rounded perfectly from the under surface.——We finish our remarks upon stone mechanism, by giving the dimensions of Mr. Somerville’s two pair, which we consider to be the most perfect of any that we have met with for general purposes.

“Light stone for drug ice. Top or upper surface $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; middle diameter, 10 inches ; under surface or sole, $7\frac{1}{2}$ —height, 5 inches ; bevil, between top and bottom, of about one inch ; exact weight, 34lbs.

“Heavy stone for hard ice—runs upon a sole of 8 inches in diameter, and is one inch larger in all its proportions—weighs 40lbs.

“With regard to the polishing of stones, there is a method lately discovered, and as yet but partially known, which produces a most surprising effect upon their running ; and which will supersede, we think, the use of the steel-plate bottoms, and all other artificial means for this important end. It is the rubbing of the bottoms with a hone :—or what is technically called Water-of-Ayring them ; from these well known sharpening-stones being used, which are found in the bed of the Ayr. The use of these or of any hone by a few minutes of hard rubbing, produces much the same effect upon the running of the curling-stone, as it would produce upon the shaving of a razor that was blunt. —Amateurs who resolve to lose no opportunity which our but too short ice seasons afford of practising the game through wet and dry, have carried the system of polishing much further. The bottom of the stone is placed before a strong fire, first at some distance, but gradually brought nearer, till it becomes so heated as to extract all moisture or damp. Linseed oil, or tallow is then applied with a brush or feather, till such time as the stone will absorb no more. The stone is then gradually removed from the fire, so as to cool, as it was heated, by degrees. After it has become completely cold, it is then, all but the sole, immersed in a pail of water, and exposed for a night to the action of the frost. It is next essential that the oil externally upon the sole should be taken off : for this purpose, the bottom must be effectually honed with warm water.”

Every gentleman, who provides himself with a curling rink on our plan of a shallow level, should have as many stones as would serve the party filling the ice. We ourselves have a set for the purpose, extending from No. 1 to No. 30. They are of different weights and shapes, so that every player may be accommodated with those he likes best, and every stone has a name and number cut or painted on it.

We shall give the names of a few of our favourites—

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Napoleon. | 2. Nelson. |
| 3. Larga. | 4. La Libertè. |
| 5. Belle Poulle. | 6. La Forte. |
| 7. Val Plas. | 8. La Fidelle. |
| 9. Nisus. | 10. Euryalus. |
| 11. Mars. | 12. Venus. |
| 13. Rose. | 14. Thistle. |
| 15. Ça ira. | 16. William Tell. |
| 17. Conservo. | 18. Reformer. |
| 19. The Duke. | 20. Grey. |
| 21. Peel. | 22. Althorp. |

FOOTING.

VARIOUS are the foot-boards and fixtures which are in use on the ice, and we are sorry to say, that

the almost barbarous custom of wearing crampets on the feet, in many places is still continued. They not only dirty and destroy the ice, but the wearer is as it were a *locum tenens*, and can scarcely move himself out of the way of a stone sent up the ice with a velocity comparable to that of a steam carriage upon a fine railway. No person is admitted upon our ice who cannot use both legs and arms, and the most active and keen curlers will always be found the best sweepers. The only crampets we have seen which were passable upon a curling rink, were those at Ardgowan, which went over the shoe and fitted the foot very exactly, but whenever the player delivered his stone, he laid them aside. In place of foot-boards, or crampets, we invented what we call

THE FOOT-IRON,

Which does not, in any way, injure the ice. This we recommended many years ago, and it consists of a piece of strong sheet-iron, three feet nine inches in length, and nine inches broad. This iron is to be punched or well frosted on both sides, and turned up about one inch at the end. This frosting fixes the iron very completely to the ice without holing it : it is perfectly firm, and from having no pikes to move in an icy socket, there is little chance of its ever slipping. How often have we witnessed the blame of missing the mark attached to the piked foot-board,

or to the crampets; the player bentowing on them, at the time, epithets of rather coarse abuse. Besides having firm footing, another great advantage from the foot-iron, is, that it brings us more on a level with the ice, and, we believe, there is no doubt that this enables the player to deliver his stone with surer aim than when he stands raised nearly an inch or more above it. A drawing of the foot-iron is given in the lithographic sketch, and we know it is coming into use in many places, and is highly approved of. The author of Mem. Cur. recommends cloth, or carpet shoes, which, in some places, have been long used, and are the best for Curlers who cannot surge upon ice without the risk of falling; and we would advise that persons using them should be furnished with a spare pair to shift if necessary.

To conclude our remarks upon new footing, we would recommend, that whatever crampets we use, they should be made without spikes, and in the principle of our foot-iron—that of being well grounded or fastened, and made to work in the ice. This will always give the player a new footing, and enable him to walk in the ice without slipping. We cannot help remarking, that the crampet, which is a much better in the ice, has a tendency to be the best in the ice; and, we hope, that as they are getting more numerous, they will be

given up entirely, or deprived of their canine-looking prongs. To those, however, who prefer iron fixtures, we would recommend, that they should have a pair of shoes made for the purpose of walking on the ice ; and that a small plate of iron well punched, or frosted, with the frosting turned towards the ice, should be nailed on the heel, and another piece of the same description fixed on the sole of the shoe, at the ball of the foot, which will enable the wearer to walk on all sorts of ice without any risk of falling, and without doing it any material injury.

BESOMS.

EVERY good and keen Curler should have a neat and well-made broom, and, if he has a pair of curlers' legs and arms, he should know how to use it. The besoms in general use, are made of common broom, which will be improved if it be laid past for eight or ten days before it be wanted. Perhaps besoms of hair, or whalebone, would answer the purpose better. Our readers will find, that at Kilmarnock hair besoms are in general use on the ice. (*Vide Kilmarnock Curlers.*)

SPORTING-DAYS.

FROM the 9th day of January up to the 1st February of this year, there has been excellent ice on our artificial pond for fourteen days, although the thermometer, during that period, has only twice been observed so low as the freezing point, and that only for a very short space of time. We may further remark, that from our observations made with the very best thermometers, we are perfectly certain that the pellicle of ice begins to form so high as 34° of Fahrenheit,* and on one of the nights alluded to, we must state, that our pond was completely frozen to the bottom, although the thermometer was never lower than 34°

The last day, this year, we had Curling on our paved pond was the 23d March, when we had excellent ice from daylight till nine o'clock, which afforded us fine sport, and we played the whole length of the rink. We have had in all, this season, on our paved rink 24 days' excellent ice; and on the hills behind us, we should have had certainly upwards of 50; such is the difference of temperature betwixt the seashore at Largs and the elevated part of the land, not more than one mile distant from it.

* Appendix, No. I.

CURLING AT LARGS.

WE had the pleasure of introducing the game into this parish, upwards of twenty years ago. From the mildness of our climate, the use of artificial ponds is no small desideratum on the seaside. We have, however, several natural ponds with embankments, on the high hills behind, where, from the elevation, the cold is much more severe. We have few gentlemen Curlers here, but, in general, they are excellent players, although they are very indifferent sweepers.

We have surgeons, writers, butchers, fishers, weavers, masons, wrights, grocers, farmers, smiths, tailors, shoemakers, *publicans and sinners*, and the President of our rink, the minister of a neighbouring parish, is one of our keenest Curlers, an excellent player, and expends no trifling sum annually in conveying himself to and from the scene of action. We take some credit to ourselves for having formed such a band of good Curlers; and although our parish be small, we would not fear to meet two rinks of the best Curlers in Scotland; and, for that purpose, we have just come to an arrangement with an amateur, a gentleman Curler, to meet him with our party next winter in a village several miles distant.

ANTICIPATION.

THE Director here introduces in rhyme, what he expects his players to perform during the sport ; these are represented by the names of the stones played :—

LOQUITUR RECTOR.

No party politics around our Tee,
For Whig and Tory on the ice agree ;
Glory we play for, may it be our lot,
To gain the Bonspeil by a single shot.

Nisus we trust will do as he is bid,
And young *Euryalus* oft lie patlid,
Guarded by *Venus* he will rest secure,
And *Mars* behind them close the barrier door ;
The *Rose* and *Thistle* vis-a-vis shall be
To ward off *wickers* that would reach the *Tee* ;
To break their line our *Nelson* cannot fail,
Napoleon's there, have at them in detail ;
La Liberté triumphantly shall ride,
Conservo and *Reform* keep near her side,
Largs, as a player, doubtless will excel,
To move their winner we have *William Tell* ;
Of marksmen good we many have to spare,
And *Robin Hood* and *Little John* are there,
The game shall end before that it is late ;
The winning stone, he shall be named *Tam Pate*.*
In friendship we shall pass a jovial night,
And fix the day we may renew the fight.

* The Warlock player, or the Hamilton side, against Castlesemple.

We shall now proceed to notice the point of the game :—

DIRECTION.

THE Director should be, and generally is, a good Curler, although we have often seen Directors, who were not sure players ; and *vice versa*, we have often seen good players, who have caused the loss of the game by their unguarded or bad direction. We advise, and it should be strictly attended to, that not more than one person ought ever to be allowed to speak ; and should any player think he can give better direction, his advice must only be communicated in a whisper. It is a good general rule, that the Director ought not to be too severe in his remarks on the player of a bad shot, as it may tend to make him unsteady ; but too much praise cannot be bestowed on a well played one ; and the gratification of the player is greatly increased, when, before the massy granites have ceased moving, he hears himself cheered with the words—“ Tak’ yoursell by the haun’, man. I’s e gi’e ye a glass for that, lad. He’s aff, heel him out, he’d naething to do there, patlid, patlid,” and various other congratulatory expressions.

ROUTINE OF PLAY.

OPPOSING parties generally toss up for the ice. In leading, if the parties agree, we think it will be a good general rule, that the indifferent players on each side should play first; if this arrangement is not made, it will be necessary to have the players so divided, that they may be as nearly matched as possible. No indifferent player ought ever to be taken into a game when opposing a rival parish; and we attribute the loss of the game to this very circumstance, when we played against the Lochwinnoch Curlers. We were only prepared that day to oppose one rink of Curlers; and in place of seven players fourteen came to oppose us, in consequence of which (much against our inclination) many indifferent players were taken in, and we believe some of the very worst in the parish.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE game of Curling, like that of chess, is seldom played at for money; indeed, it has to us ever been rather a pleasant matter to treat our opponents, parti-

cularly, when victory was on our side. We have this year invited the Curlers of several parishes to meet us upon the artificial rink, but none of them seem much inclined to risk their fortune on our ice, which we can assure our readers is far superior to any that is water-borne, as there is no occasion for borrowing, unless it be to make an allowance for the turn of the stone as it comes up the ice. We have, in former years, had some good matches with our neighbours in different parishes ; and at present, we think, that from 14 to 20 excellent players can be found at Largs, who would not be far behind, if opposed to the very best in the county. Our small sheet of ice can only afford sport for a few, but our lads, who practise on the hills near us, can turn out many able to handle, and make the best use possible of their massy pieces of blue whinstone, and when at a push for a besom, can mend the pace of a coming stone very dexterously, by plying before it with their Kilmarnock bonnets. These hardy hill-players are not easily hurt by any exposure to cold, and it is no uncommon thing to see several of them practising on the ice, (not in crampets, but) on their stocking-soles, in the coldest day in winter.

LARGS' COMPETITION FOR MEDALS.

THE rink is to be of the usual length.

1st. Each competitor to play sixteen stones; being four at each of the points of drawing, riding, in-wicking, and guarding.

2d. In drawing, every stone counts one, which lies within the brough of eight feet diameter, made round the tee.

3d. In striking, every stone counts which moves the stone placed on the tee out of the circle.

4th. In in-wicking, one stone is placed upon the tee, and another at an angle of forty-five at two feet distance, in a proper situation for wicking, and every stone taking the in-wick of these stones, counts.

5th. The player having the greatest number of points, shall be declared the victor.

6th. In guarding, if two-thirds of the stone on the tee is covered, the player is entitled to count one.

Our medals have been gained, one by the Rev. William Vessie, Minister of West Kilbride—one by Captain Morris of Largs, one by John Arthur, Vintner, and one by J. Malcolm, Weaver—and that of this year, by Mr. John Lang of Largs: and, although self-praise is no honour, we cannot avoid stating, that we ourselves have gained two medals on our own pond, in two successive days; the one, a sweep-stake medal, the other, given by an amateur.

The first Curling in this parish, was in December, 1813, when the members formed themselves into a society soon after, as appears from their books. In the month of January, 1814, the Curlers had fine sport on the Noddle Burn, and were so delighted with it, that they adopted the name of the Noddle Club. At this time the Club consisted of fourteen members, but soon after their numbers were greatly increased. In 1813, we made part of a pond on the principle of a shallow level, but from the want of clay, it was not completed.

The book narrating the games played, with the names of the opposing parties, is still kept up, from which we shall now make a few extracts. The first is in form of a challenge to single combat, by one of the Curlers; as extempore, the *licentia poetica* will be pleaded, but it shows, that, in 1820, the player had no bad opinion of his abilities.

“ I with the Driver and John Bull,
 The Glasgow and far-famed Secunder,
 With Caledonia and Belle Poulle
 Shall beat the Club, or shall knock under.
 And just that we may wet our throttle,
 I'll lay of rum a single bottle.”

On looking over the book, we find strong proofs that Curling is a *kittle* game ; for, we find one side gaining a game of 15 shots to 2, whilst the next game was won by their opponents, gaining a slam or love game—and this shows that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.

In 1820, we find a left-handed player was admitted, and although an excellent Curler, a condition was made, that he should forfeit one gill of the best whisky every time he forgot to shift the board.

We find in January, same year, that the senior players were beat by the junior, and some wag has interlined

“ The Mice our-gangs the Rottens.”

Same day, a stone was put *hors de combat*, although struck at a distance of 50 yards and upwards.

In January, 1823, we find ourselves matched against two members of the Club with three stones

each against our five, the result favourable to us by 21 shots to 14.

On 10th December, 1823, the gentlemen of the Club dined at the King's Arms Inn, when they were honoured with the company of no less than eleven visitors. The bill of fare is mentioned in the Club-Book, consisting of hare-soup, fried whittings, a large turbot, a joint of corned beef, roasted beef, corned pork, two tongues, chickens, a fine goose, four grouse, and vegetables, dumpling, pudding, custard, jam and jellies; a moderate proportion of wine was given, and the charge to each person present, amounted to 7s. 8½d., including ale, porter, and a modicum of drams; the dinner was excellent.

At this meeting one of the visiting gentlemen, Mr. William Frazer, author of "The Pleasures of Kelburne," having composed some extempore lines appropriate to the occasion, was admitted an honorary member.

In talking of our artificial pond here, we may observe, that it is placed in the same ground where the famous battle of Largs was decided, in the year 1263, fought betwixt the Scotch and Norwegians, and the stone pillar marking the place where Haco, the Norwegian Commander-in-Chief fell, stands in our garden, having a suitable Latin inscription, written by

Mr. Frazer, the poet laureate of the Largs and Thistle Club. We have lately heard, that Largs is a Celtic word for battle-field ; but, we trust, that all the brass-mounted swords will, in future, be turned into curling-stone handles, and the steel for blades be converted into foot-irons for the ice. There is on the 8th January, 1822, a *nota bene*, “ this day there was no drink on the ice.” The next day we find, that two bottles, and all the pocket-pistols were emptied.

The Noddle Curling Club, some years ago, came to the resolution of forming themselves into a Society, to be called the Largs' Curling Club ; besides which, there is a Club called the Gogo Side Curling Club, and the old Noddle Club still meet to keep up the name. Of these the Largs' Curling Club is the most numerous, and has the largest sheet of ice on the hill.

Some of our readers may blame us for introducing this extraneous matter into our Curling Sketch, but to others it may be a subject of entertainment ; and we cannot help making one more digression, and letting the inland curlers know how we at the seaside occasionally amuse ourselves after our day's sport. We have what we call pic-nic dinners, where every Curler provides his own dish, and brings the drink he likes best. We, last season, had four of these pic-

nics, and the scene of festivity was on board of our cutter, lying high and dry upon her carriage, by the seaside. The first dinner, this season, was on the 5th November, and called forth the thunder of our artillery, when the toast appropriate to the day, and those connected with Curling were given from the chair.

In the Largs Club there are upwards of 50 members.

JAMES LANG, *Preses.*

JOHN LANG, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

Four Inspectors. Annual Subscription, 1s.

In the Gogo Side Club there are 25 members.

JOHN MORRIS, *Preses.*

JOHN LANG, *Secretary.*

Four Inspectors. Annual Subscription, 4d.

On the Artificial Pond there are nine members, who pay 10s. 6d. annually. The number is limited to ten.

REV. W. VESSIE, *Preses.*

JOHN LANG, *Secretary.*

J. C. and J. L., *Directors.*

In the Noddle Club, there are 20 members, who play on a naturally shallow pond near the sea; the ice was not sufficiently strong for Curling on it this season.

JAMES LANG, *Preses.*—R. BROWN, *Secretary.*

NEW MODE OF CURLING.

THE author of the Mem. Cur. notices (in page 62,) a new mode of Curling, suggested by the Duke of Athol ; and we are of opinion, that wanting the Skates, and with firm footing, this contrivance may be introduced with advantage, if a little modified. The missiles, perhaps, might be formed of hardwood, with steel-plate bottoms ; and were it possible, by means of a poll of wood, which might be called the ice-mace, to move the stones in every direction, and to disengage it from them, when the aim was taken, and the propelling power applied ; in that case we conceive the improvement might be considerable, for we should be enabled to take better aim, and there would be no necessity for stooping ; the curling-mace would operate in the same way as a mace on a billiard ball, and, perhaps, could give a more forcible impetus to the projected *materiel* than could be done by the present mode of throwing it.

We know not if we have been sufficiently explicit, to be well understood on this plan for Curling ; but, we think, he who can carry it into effect will merit the best wishes of every Curler ; and we shall then make Curling to resemble billiards with the advantage of having an extended ice-table to play on, and heavier materials to put in motion.

RULES OF CURLING AT LARGS.

1st. A RINK is commonly made from 36 to 44 yards inclusive. When a game is begun, neither the rink nor the stones are to be changed or altered, unless by the consent of a majority of players.

2d. The hogscore to be one sixth part of the length of the entire rink, and every stone to be deemed a hog, the sole of which does not completely clear the score.

3d. The foot-iron being properly placed, the ice is to be scratched, so as it may be constantly laid in the same place; upon the left side of the tozee, the same thing is to be done, if there be any left-handed players, by a scratch upon the right. The foot-iron may be placed near the tozee, or some distance behind it, but in every situation, the stone played should pass over it.

4th. The order of playing, adopted at the beginning, should be observed till the game is ended.

5th. All stones should be perfectly circular, and, unless broken, no stone is to be changed throughout the game, and then the largest portion of the stone

shall count. If a stone roll or is upset, it is to be placed upon its bottom wherever it stops.

6th. Every stone shall be reckoned as played, if the player part with the handle; but should he fall, and retain his hold, although the stone may have parted from the handle, he shall be allowed to play it again.

7th. A player may sweep his stone the whole length of the rink; his party not to sweep, until it has passed the hogscore; the opposite party not to sweep until it passes the tozee.

8th. Should a stone be marred by the party to which it belongs, it is to be reckoned a *burnt* stone, and put off the ice: if marred by the adverse party, it should be placed agreeably to the direction given, unless it be very evident it was marred from accident, in which case it should be played over again. Should a resting-stone be moved accidentally, it is to be put as nearly as possible in its former position.

9th. Players moving upon the ice should invariably keep to the right, in going up or coming down; and this is more particularly necessary in artificial ponds, where the curb-stone is not broad enough to allow two persons meeting to pass.

10th. A stone played out of turn should be stopped in its progress, or the head may be disputed if the stone rest so as to injure the party whose right it was to play.

11th. No measuring allowable till the end of the head, and all disputed shots to be referred to a neutral person.

12th. The Directors, hin' han's, doupers, or skipers, shall have the exclusive regulation of the game, and the players may advise in a whisper, but cannot control their direction. Each director may name a vice to take his place when he is about to play, and every player to follow the direction given.

13th. Every player to be ready when his turn comes, and to take only a reasonable time to play. If, by mistake, he play a wrong stone, it must be replaced by the one he intended to have thrown.

14th. Left-handed players are bound to replace the foot-iron upon the right side of the tozee, under a penalty of one gill of whisky for every time they neglect to do so.

15th. Any player placing the foot-iron out of the line of the scratch shall forfeit his shot.

16th. No player to cross, or go on the middle of the rink.

17th. A player with a double-bottomed stone shall not be allowed to turn it during the game.

18th. Players coming without a broom are liable to a fine.

19th. Unfair footing forfeits the shot.

20th. No piked crampets to be allowed on the ice on any account.

KEEN CURLERS.

IN our youthful days we often curled at night; fatigue was then unknown to us; we had a famous match on a sheet of water called the Drumlie meadow, near the village of Denny. Long as it is since that game took place, we well remember many of the particulars of the day. The most of us mustered on the ice before eight o'clock in the morning, and finer ice, perhaps, never was seen that was water-borne. We had taken an early breakfast, and a collection was made for a supply of *vivres* to be used on the ice during the play. These consisted of bread

EDINBURGH CURLING CLUBS, 1833.

1. *The Duddingston Society*.—In mentioning Societies of Curlers, the Duddingston certainly merits to be placed the first on the list, as containing many members who are highly eminent for scientific knowledge, wealth, respectability, and worth. This Society was instituted in 1795; and at present consists of 167 members. Each member, when on the ice, should be provided with a silver medal, with an appropriate device, and the motto—

“Sic Scoti alii non æque felices.”

Presidents.

SIR THOMAS KIRKPATRICK.	Rev. PRINCIPAL BAIRD.
SIR GEORGE CLERK.	SOLICITOR-GENERAL.
EDWARD HOGGAN, <i>Secretary.</i>	
J. JOHNSTONE, <i>Treasurer.</i>	
Rev. Dr. D. RITCHIE, <i>Chaplain.</i>	
J. M'GEORGE, <i>Medallist.</i>	

A gold medal is played for annually by the Members of this Society, and is awarded to the player who makes the greatest number of points in drawing, guarding, wicking, and riding.

We trust the day is not far distant, when this Society will have artificial ponds on the principle we have recommended, when it will not be necessary to go so far as Duddingston to enjoy the sport. We think, also, that the game will soon become general in the south, and in that case, the Curlers of the Duddingston Society will have much pleasure in substituting *nunc* for *non* in their motto.

Although we write of Curlers, we cannot avoid here mentioning that most respectable Society, the Skating Club of

Edinburgh. We are ignorant as to its first institution, but we presume icy sport will be as interesting to them as Curling is to the lovers of that game. The following gentlemen are office-bearers for 1833 :—

D. CATHCART, *President.*

J. GIBSON THOMSON, *V. P.*

A. H. GOLDIE, *Secretary.*

Council.

Sir D. MILNE, K.C.B.	PAT. SMALL KEIR.
Sir R. C. DICK, Bart.	PAT. FRAZER TYTLER.
MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE.	FR. GRANT.
Sir HENRY JARDINE.	WILLIAM C. DICK.
WILLIAM WOOD.	WILLIAM WOOD, Jun.
JAMES SIMPSON.	JOHN RICHARDSON.

MACKAY AND CUNNINGHAME, *Medallists.*

J. M'LEOD, *Skate-Maker.*

J. WILSON, *Officer.*

2. The Edinburgh Marchieston Curling Club has 36 members.
3. The Edinburgh Club is limited to 16 do.
4. The Edinburgh Clydesdale has 18 do.

Very few stones, in these Clubs, are used with two bottoms; they only answer when the ice is kept clean, which is never the case when Crampets are used. The hole in the stone collects snow, if ever so well fitted, besides it weakens the stone. We, last winter, had a proof of this, in two stones splitting through the middle—one of them an Ailsa.*

Roslin Curling Club has	20 members.
Drum do.	18 do.
Pennycuik do.	40 do.
Glencorse do.	16 do.

* We suspect they contained dries or cracks.

Newtown Club has		18 members
Calder	do.	18 do.
Carnwath	do.	30 do.
Bathgate	do.	30 do.
Falkirk	do.	100 do.

The curling-stones in these Clubs are circular, but vary much in thickness and in breadth. Thickness from 4 to 6 inches—breadth from 9 to 13 inches. They generally run on bottoms of from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches. Weight generally 36 to 42 lbs. Cramps are in general use; a few use a hack in the ice.

CURLING IN KILMARNOCK.

WE have been favoured with this interesting account by one of the gentlemen there, who compiled the Sketch on Curling.

Original Introduction of the Game.—It is not known when, or by whom, the game of Curling was introduced into this parish. The earliest notice of it, that has fallen under our observation, is contained in the life of an Ayrshire minister—the celebrated William Guthrie of Fenwick, the author of the “Christian’s Great Interest.” “He used,” says his biographer, “the innocent recreations and exercises which then prevailed—fishing, fowling, and *playing on the ice*, which, at the same time, contributed to preserve a vigorous health; and while in frequent conversation with the best of the neighbouring gentry, as these occasions gave him access, to bear in upon them reproofs, and instructions, with an inoffensive familiarity.” As early as the year 1644, Mr. Guthrie had been ordained minister of the parish of Fenwick, which was then called New Kilmarnock, and had been separated only two years previously from our parish. He continued in his office till he was driven from it by the persecution in 1665, just a few months before his death.

It is probable, that an examination of the records of some of the ancient burghs, in our neighbourhood might throw some light upon the first introduction of the game.

Qualities of Stones.—The stones most in favour with Kilmarnock players, are those brought from Sanquhar, Dumfries-shire; and Ochiltree, in this county. There are two qualities of the Sanquhar whinstone; the dark blue, approaching to black, and the grey. The admirers of the dark quality affirm, that it runs as well on damp as on keen ice, while they accuse the grey quality of acquiring a glassy over-keenness in very hard frost, and of imbibing moisture on *baugh* ice: and, although they scarcely go the length of charging it with *dourness*, they assert, that in the latter circumstances it requires some additional force to impel it to the tee. Both qualities may safely be pronounced good. The Ochiltree stone is got in the water of Burnock, and is of a light-blue grey colour, with white spots. It has not been long known here, but is fast rising in character as close-grained, and dense, and a keen runner in all states of the ice. Many Curlers, who have used it, think it equal to the black Sanquhar in running, superior to it in durability, and in not being liable to be *chipped* when struck during the game. A few specimens of Ailsa Craig stones have *recently* been introduced, to this ice. They are tolerably keen runners, but light in proportion to their bulk.

Weight.—Stones are generally made from 39 lbs. to 48 lbs. English. A few are made as light as 36 lbs., but 42 lbs. is the common weight. For forehand playing some have heavy stones. We know of one pair as heavy as 75 lbs. each. In some of the neighbouring parishes few stones are used lighter than 53, and many are of 60 lbs.

Shape.—Stones are usually made from 10 inches diameter, by $5\frac{1}{4}$ deep, to $10\frac{1}{4}$ diameter, by $5\frac{3}{4}$ deep. A very elegant and

improved shape, which we have seen, (and of which a sketch is given) is $6\frac{1}{4}$ deep, by $9\frac{5}{8}$ diameter—weight 48 lbs.—under sole, 6 inches—running on a dead level of 2 inches. Another elegant and steady-running shape is $5\frac{1}{2}$ deep, by $10\frac{1}{2}$ diameter—weight 40 lbs.—under sole, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches—running on $1\frac{3}{4}$ of level. In the parishes of Fenwick and Loudon, they are made of the enormous diameter of about 12 inches. It is of great importance that the shape be such as to throw the centre of gravity towards the centre of the bottom of the stone, of which we have already given the dimensions, although there are very few of them as yet in use.

Breadth of Sole.—In speaking of narrow-bottomed stones, (in some districts called *girdle* soled) misapprehensions have sometimes arisen from Curlers supposing that the dead level mentioned, upon which the stone runs, means the whole breadth of sole; whereas, a stone of 7 inches of sole may be so rounded in its formation as to be, in reality, very narrow-bottomed. To guard against this mistake, we give both sole and running level. The breadth of sole, of which stones are usually made, is 7 inches, running on a dead level of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and 6 inches, running on 2 inches. Stones are also made of 5 inches of sole, to run on $1\frac{3}{4}$, or 2 inches. An excellent Curler in the town has a pair of stones of 44 lbs. weight, which run on a dead level of only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch! Many Curlers here have made experiments to ascertain whether stones running on a broad or a narrow dead level are superior. It has been almost universally agreed, that a sole of about 6 inches, with a level of $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches, for running on the rest of the sole, being *very gently* rounded to its edge, is best adapted for ice, in whatever state it may be. The theory upon which the experiments have been made, is that, as every stone acquires more or less of a rotary motion in running, from the natural way of delivering it from

the hand, the smaller the circle described by the sole, the less must be its friction and chance of being turned from its course by inequalities, or biasses in the ice. Practice has confirmed the correctness of the theory. In coming to this conclusion, we are aware, that there is the high authority of Mr. Somerville of Currie, against it. "We do not gain in power," says he, "as we narrow in bottom, for two reasons;" one of which is, "the narrower the surface, the deeper the pressure, just as a narrow wheel sinks deeper in the sludge than a broad one." It is replied, that the advantage of a narrow bottom is principally perceived on keen ice, when the stone does not sink at all. In damp ice, the broad flat sole runs almost as well as the gently convex one, which we are advocating. Mr. Somerville's other objection of the greater danger of overturning stones running on a narrow level, is proven, from experience, to have no foundation. A Curler may play for a whole season with a stone of six inches of sole, running on even $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of level, without once overturning it; and that with only ordinary care in delivery, provided it be made of the approved slightly convex shape.

Position of Handle.—The handle is universally placed at the distance of a third of the diameter from one side of the stone; nevertheless, a few goose-necked ones are planted in the middle, but they are disliked by the majority of players. Handles are made of iron, wood, and brass. The plain, well-polished, naturally-bent, thorn-handle, standing at an obtuse right angle, is the decided favourite with the best players. The rule is, that the end of the handle should diverge upwards of half-an-inch from the parallel.* Formerly screwing handles were much used, as being an effectual means of preventing any one from using a stone without leave; but since the introduction of wooden boxes, for holding the stones, they are fast

* Appendix, No. II.

falling into desuetude. To preserve the bottoms of highly honed stones, boxes are indispensable; they are, therefore, in all but universal use.

Twisting.—This art is brought to high perfection here.*

Rink.—The length of rink varies from 40 to 45 yards, according to the state of the ice.

Number in the Rink.—Eight Curlers (4 on each side) play on a rink, with two stones each. In Loudon, Mauchline, Sorn, Tarbolton, Auchinleck, and Ochiltree, there are 16 players on the rink, with one stone each.

Kind of Play.—A drawing, guarding, and cautious style of play, is that preferred by the oldest and best players here. A striking style, except when the game has become intricate, is never adopted, but by the inexperienced. The skill acquired by many players, in the art of Twisting, is really admirable, while the use of the besom, in sweeping, is incessant, and its assistance expected, as his right, by every one who throws a stone.

Double-Bottomed Stones, that is, stones which, by means of a steel bolt, may be played with on the top, or bottom surface, are not used, or approved of here. It is found, that a good stone, well honed, or Water-of-Ayred, with a narrow-running level, completely supersedes the necessity for them.

Footboards are not in use. Instead of them we use *Triggers*, (or trickers,) which are flat pieces of iron, generally of a triangular shape, with pikes below to catch the ice, and an elevated hold above, to prevent the foot from slipping. A gentleman of this town, celebrated for his mechanical genius, has made a new pattern, which has met with much approbation. The principal advantage derived from the use of *Triggers*, instead

of footboards or hacks, is, that the person of the player is kept more on a level with the ice, and his stone, on that account, is surer of being fairly soled. With Triggers the player has much greater freedom in footing, and in following the stone in the moment of its delivery. A person accustomed to our mode of play, feels "cabined, cribbed, confined," and awkward, when placed on a footboard.

Crampets.—Any player, who would venture on our ice accoutred with Crampets, would be saluted with an universal guffaw. We cannot conceive how a Crampetted player can attend to the sweeping of stones, with the *eident* care usual on our rinks, without so mangling the ice as soon to make it unfit for use. Shoes, and a kind of boots, made of carpet, dreadnought, or felt, are in universal use. With felt shoes a man may walk or run on the keenest ice, well assured that his "feet are from falling free." In this opinion we differ *totò cælo* from the talented author of "Mem. Cur.," who cannot conceive how the uncrampetted broomster can stand *sicker* on the ice—compares him to the pilgrim with the (unboiled) peas in his shoes; and pronounces, that "he who cannot play a scientific game in tramps, will never play one out of them." We have no hesitation in affirming, that our friend never has *felt* the security of felt-boots, only because he never *tried* them; they wonderfully *hain* his broom, by freeing him from the necessity of constantly sweeping away the flakes arising from his tread, thereby concentrating his mental energies upon the more immediate science of the game.

Broom Cowes are obsolete. In their stead large hair brooms with long handles, such as are used for sweeping the floors of houses, are used by every one.

Steel-Bottoms.—The Dalry invention of steel-bottoms, to be used in damp ice, has found no favour in our eyes. The Beith

players were the first to introduce them to our notice ; but our good players speedily found, that the black Sanquhar stone, well honed, beat it, no match ; and so was the Dalry invention consigned, as far as regarded us, to the limbo of vanity. Concave soled stones have been tried, but are disapproved of on account of their liability to collect snow and dirt in their hollow ; and because they never can be made to run perfectly true, and are worse than flat-bottomed stones, from being turned from their course by every obstruction. The Fenwick players were the first to introduce them here, and the first to abandon their use.

Carnie's Rink.—We have not heard of one of these rinks being formed in this neighbourhood. Our ice is so close to the town, and is so abundant, that although some mention was made at convivial meetings of Curlers, about their convenience, &c., no one has ever taken up the matter seriously, or attempted to carry into effect the formation of a trial one. With your rink you must have playing earlier and later than on our lochs. The earliest day of Curling in this quarter, remembered by that venerable newspaper personage, "The oldest inhabitant," was on the 8th of November—the latest was, on the 17th of March.

Number of Curlers.—There are five Clubs in this town, containing, on an average, 25 members each, including honoraries. The number of persons, who are in possession of curling-stones, and play regularly, must be upwards of two hundred. Some parishes in the neighbourhood—Auchinleck, Sorn, Loudon, &c., can bring from 130 to 150 players to a bonspiel.

General Information.—Curling, the most social of winter amusements, is pursued with much eagerness in this town and its neighbourhood. The Kilmarnock Curling Club, one of the oldest in the town, has long been distinguished for the urbanity of its demeanour towards its juniors, and for a skill, so seldom

surpassed, that it has not been defeated above five times during a period of twenty years. The Townend Club, instituted in 1810, and consisting principally of workmen, holds a high rank for strength and dexterity of play. The Junior Club has, from its formation, been remarkable for its indomitable perseverance and daring. Unawed by defeat in their *earlier* attempts, they have gone on challenging all around them, latterly with much success, till they have arrived at great proficiency, and bid fair to stand among the highest in skill in the slippery sport. We may not pass unnoticed, of comparatively recent origin though it be, the Morning Star Club—a school for training the youth of our town at once to habits of early rising, and the mysteries of the Curling craft. Their hour of assembly is seven in the morning; and, foul or fair, there is commonly a respectable muster. At eight, they partake of coffee, and enjoy the sport till ten, when they return to business, that their seniors may take their place at “auld Scotia’s manly game.” The existence of such a club, at such hours, with such refreshments, is ample evidence, that the olden fire of enthusiasm for the game, is neither becoming dim in the breasts of the rising generation, nor in need of the stimulus of “strong drink,” to keep it alive “in the morning early,” even although it should be that

“Cauld blaws the wind frae north to south,
And drift is driving sairly.”

The Clubs keep up their proficiency in the art, in a variety of ways—by medals, matches betwixt the married and bachelors—by challenges for breakfast, dinner, &c. One feature in the constitution of the Junior Curling Club, is deserving of imitation. Mr. Gairdner, one of its members, presented the Club with an elegant silver medal, bearing a suitable inscription, to be played for annually by the whole Club, rink against rink. The director, or *hin’ haun’* player of the winning rink, is entitled to wear the medal for the year; should none of his own

rink challenge him to a single-hand match, and succeed in bearing away from him the palm of victory. It is usual for the Clubs to play against each other once a-year; and challenges are either sent or received annually from Fenwick, Mauchline, Stewarton, Loudon, Irvine, &c. Kilmarnock Curlers, in general, have no reason to complain of the decisions of dame Fortune in these icy tournaments. A peculiarly interesting bond of connexion exists betwixt the players of Kilmarnock and Fenwick, exciting them to the utmost in keeping up their numbers, and acquiring additional skill. In 1829, the lady of William Howieson Crawford, Esquire of Crawfordland, presented these two parishes with a massy silver snuff-box, in the form of a curling-stone, to be played for annually in a bonspiel betwixt them. Hitherto the luck has been on the side of Kilmarnock, but we owe it to the Fenwick players (than whom there does not exist *a core*, more good-humoured, more apt to teach their inferiors, or less inclined to make a mystery of their skill,) to say, in explanation, that while the population of our parish exceeds 18,000, theirs is only about 2000.

We must not omit, amidst our selfish exultation at our prowess, to mention, that sometimes "the melting mood" comes over us, and, aided by the fair portion of the creation, a ball is got up for behoof of the charitable institutions of the town. The rooms are always decorated with various curling emblems, and the floor tastefully chalked with representations of rinks, and the players thereon achieving wondrous feats. With the proceeds of our night of daffing, which are always liberal, the heart of the widow and the orphan is made to sing for joy.

Names of Office-Bearers of Clubs in Kilmarnock.

I.—KILMARNOCK CURLING CLUB.

MATTHEW BROWN, *President.*

JOHN DYKES, *Treasurer.*

JOHN COLVIL, *Secretary.*

2.—TOWNEND CURLING CLUB.

JAMES LAUGHLAND, *President.*
HUGH ROXBURGH, *Secretary.*

3.—JUNIOR CURLING CLUB.

THOMAS MORTON, *President.*
THOMAS DYKES, *Treasurer.*
ROBERT CUMMING, *Secretary.*

4.—SOCIAL CURLING CLUB.

ROBERT ROGER, *President.*
D. R. ANDREWS, *Treasurer.*
J. YOUNG, *Secretary.*

5.—MORNING STAR CURLING CLUB.

JOHN WALKER, *President.*
DAVID RANKIN, *Vice-President.*
J. G. COCKBURN, *Treasurer.*
JOHN MILLER, *Secretary.*

 AYR CURLERS.

AYR has had "Curlers keen," beyond the memory of man. The town and parish could turn out about 200. No established Club in Ayr till 1820. One then formed, which is limited to 50 members, filled up by ballot. Stones all circular—polished granite—the best blocks got at Ailsa—the hole for the handle not in the centre, but so far to the side, as to be balanced in the hand when lifted—great taste for pretty stones (*i. e.* finely polished) and handles, which are generally of wood, mounted with steel, brass, or silver—the handle not inclined, but quite flat and horizontal. No crampets used, only footboards, one at each end of the rink behind the tee, being a thin board, with cross bars, to suit long or short legs. Except in the Club, before-mentioned, there are no permanent directors, or regularity, except matches be previously made, which is generally the case before proceeding to the ice. The common place for playing is a mill-dam on the river Ayr, about a mile above the town. The said Club has a pond dug in a field about the same distance from town, which cost about *L.*12, but does not answer very well, being of a sandy soil, and the water escapes, the supply being small. This exclusively belongs to the Club, who have regular rules

and meetings, and an annual election of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Council. Admission of a member, 12s. 6d., and a contribution from each of 5s. yearly, which supports the expense of pond-rent, people to take care of the ice, carting, and taking care of the stones, &c. &c.

No pond, on the principle of the shallow level, has yet been attempted here, it is, however, now talked of. But in this immediate neighbourhood it is difficult to get a proper pond of any kind, there being few good situations any way near. Parish games are common in this quarter, and also all over Kyle and Carrick. The curling-stones, upon an average, about 36 lbs. weight. The Club here plays annually for a gold medal, by the same rules as at Duddingston, and they have their rules printed.* The directors at present are—

Mr. JOHN BROWN, *Preses.*

Mr. HUGH COWAN, *Secretary.*

Mr. THOMAS GIBSON, *Treasurer.*

Mr. JOHN M'TAGGART,

Mr. QUINTIN JOHNSTON, and } *Councillors.*

Mr. JAMES BROWN,

Rev. A. CUTHILL, *Chaplain.*

GLASGOW NORTH WOODSIDE.

1st. The diameter of a curling-stone should be double the depth, or thickness.—10½ inches by 5½ inches, is an excellent size for light stones, and when made of bassalt, or green stone, they weigh about 36 lbs. each: 11 inches, by 5½ inches, is a

* This medal was presented by A. C. Dunlop, Esq., late of Calcutta in 1830, and was won that year by Thomas Weir, Esq. in 1831–32. There never was sufficient ice to compete for it. Last season it was won after a keen contest, by Hugh Reid, Esq.

good size for heavy stones, which weigh about 44 lbs. each (of the same material); the former answer very well for drug; and the latter for keen ice.

2d. For keen ice, the bottom should not be less than 7 inches in breadth, and for drug ice, 5 inches.

3d. Every curling-stone should have two smooth sides, (as above,) and well rounded up the brow.

4th. We prefer a centre handle, fixed with a bolt through the stone, which gives a great command of it, and enables you to use either side; the handle should be as near the surface of the stone as possible, leaving little more than an inch to admit the hand. And

5th. Pieces of sheet-iron, pierced with alternate holes, make the most secure footing when playing the stone; this was introduced by Mr. Carnie of Largs.

The "North Woodside Curling Club" was instituted in 1820, by a few gentlemen in that neighbourhood, who were fond of Curling, and now consists of 52 members.—D. Macfie, Esq., Glasgow, is President; and Thomas Edington of the Phoenix Iron Works, Secretary. It is intended to publish soon a short account of this Club, and the rules, &c. They propose competing for a medal every winter, to be given to the best player of their number, at drawing, porting, striking, wicking, and cannoning.

The improved castings for Curling, made by Mr. Edington, answer very well, and play uncommonly straight; they are cast hollow, 10 inches by 5 inches, weigh 36 lbs. and have one *case hardened* bottom, or sole, so that they possess all the advantages of the *steel plates*, introduced at Dalry and Beith some years since. They, however, require an experienced player. Being so *keen*, they must be played with the greatest caution, and answer particularly well for *drug* ice.

We have not, as yet, succeeded with our intended Curling Rink, to be made of cast-iron plates, for playing during the

summer; now, however, that planing machines have been introduced for planeing iron, we expect to succeed, and if so, will publish an account of it with the expense.

Coats of iron, in moderate frosts, leave a slight impression on the ice, which, it is supposed, is owing to the heat generated by the friction: when the frost is intense, however, this is hardly perceptible. When Fahrenheit's Thermometer was under 28° , our obliging informant tells us that no impression was visible on the ice.

ANDERSTON.

THERE has been a Curling Club upwards of sixty years in the Burgh of Anderston, under the direction of a Preses, Treasurer, and seven Managers. There are also Clubs in the following places in the neighbourhood: Gorbals, Partick, Govan, Pollokshaws, Cathcart, and Port-Dundas, all under a regular board of Directors. The number of Members depends much upon the keenness of the frost. If the frost lye long and be hard, then there is plenty eager to try their hand, but from what I know of each of those places, they can muster three or four racks or rinks of Players of seven each.

The average size of stones in this District is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, and 2 feet 10 inches in circumference, but there are many variations according to the taste of the player. There is no rule for the breadth of the bottom; we believe they vary from 5 to 7, some are 8 inches. There are few stones to be seen with side handles here. There is no want of fine polished stones with screw handles in the centre.

The weight of the stones is various—from 36 to 45 lbs. which, I believe, is considerably lighter than in places of an elevated situation, in the interior of the country, where they

have hard frost when we have little or none, which is the cause of the stones here being made lighter. As the intention of our Club is the healthful cheering amusement of Curling, we require of every member polite kindly behaviour as brothers; no cursing or swearing will be tolerated.

PAISLEY CURLERS.

MR. J. HUTCHESON, Preses of the Paisley United Curling Society, writes—To trace back to the time when Curling commenced in Paisley, would be a task far beyond my power, but for what I have learned from two of the oldest Curlers there. One of them is Mr. William Lang, Shoemaker, who is near 70 years of age, and has been a Curler about 56 years, and is still a *keen Curler* (he being one of the players in the rink that won the medal in January last.) The other individual referred to, is Mr. John Good, Weaver, (to use a homely phrase, they call him *Johnny Gude*;) he commenced Curling as far back as 1780, and still, when an opportunity occurs, *Johnny* never fails to avail himself of his favourite sport; and since his commencement in Curling, he has made above 200 curling-stones. He remembers well of hearing, in his young days, of old Curlers mentioning the Rev. Mr. John Wither- spoon of Paisley as having been a keen Curler, and as the first person that gave what is called the *Heigh Lin* curling word, which was about the year 1757, or 1758. In the time of the two old Curlers referred to as above, there have been a number of Curling Clubs in Paisley, and Curlers under them have made considerable progress. One of them was called the Sandholes Curling Club, constituted in 1795, and consisting of from 100 to 150 members. Another Club, called the Sneddon Curling Club, was constituted in 1815, and consists of 140 members; each member, on entering and receiving the word,

pays sixpence, which goes to the fund of the Club, and is laid out for necessary articles for Curling. There is a third Club, called the Storrie Street Curling Club; and there have been others, but they have now grown obsolete. In the year 1829, a number of Curlers keen, seeing the falling off in Curling, and the dormant state of the Clubs, agreed to form themselves into a society, called the Paisley United Curling Society, and elected a Preses, Collector, and Clerk, their motto is—“Meet friends and part friends.” The Society, at present, consists of 10 rinks of 7 players each; one of the 7 being the director in most cases, he playing the “hin’ haun” stane, and having the whole direction of the game. Since the commencement of this Society, Curling has been more keenly and scientifically gone into, and some parish bonspails have been played by them. The Society rents a dam every winter for ice, in the neighbourhood; the members pay sixpence each annually; Curlers, who are not members of the Society, for each day they play, pay twopence. In 1830, a surplus of the funds of the Society being on hand, they agreed to purchase a silver medal, to be played for annually. The first opportunity occurred on the 23d January, 1833, when the members of the Society turned out 77 players, composing 11 rinks, and played for the medal in a similar manner to the sweepstakes; and after a keen contest, it was won by Mr. James Fulton’s (Grocer) rink.

The curling-stones, since the formation of the Society, have been made on much better and truer principles, more equal in weight and size, although formerly there was a considerable number of good curling-stones.

The size, now generally used, is, in depth, from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and from 10 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ diameter, average weight runs about 36 lbs. English. Not many stones here have two bottoms, still there are some; breadth of sole, now in use, is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches; most of the old stones run on from 5 to 7 inches; in

most of the new stones the handles are in the centre, the old Curlers still think it is better to be a little to the one side; for my own part I prefer them in the centre. The footing which we use in playing, is generally a board about 3 feet 8 inches long, and about 7 inches in breadth, and about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in thickness, the thinner the better. There are two pieces of wood nailed to the back end of the board to support the right foot, and one fixed on the fore part of it to place the fore foot on with iron trickers at each end of the board, to hold it firm to the ice. The Curlers here play with one stone each, and generally 7 players on one side; length of the rink is about 40 yards generally, or just as the ice suits.

BEITH CURLING.

OUR Beith correspondent, Hugh Brown, Esq., informs us, that the size and shape of the curling-stones at Beith, vary from $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in thickness, and from $9\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth. They generally run on two bottoms, the one about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 inches broad, and the other from 5 to 6 inches, and in general weigh from 36 to 45 lbs. Mr. Brown says, when I commenced Curling about thirty years ago, I do not think there were more than thirty curling-stones in this parish, now there are, at least, two hundred. At the time to which I allude, they were coarsely hammered with a rough wooden handle in the one side, now they are, with few exceptions, finished in the neatest manner, the handles mostly either of polished steel or brass, having small pieces of ornamental wood on each side, and made to screw into the centre of the stone by means of an iron bolt, which passes through from the bottom of it; the handles are all flat, any inclination upwards being entirely disapproved of. Our stones here are principally of two kinds, the one a hard

blue whinstone, which is got in the neighbourhood of the town, and the other a black water stone, which is got near Dalry. I have also lately got a few grey coloured stones from Dalmellington, which, I think, take a finer polish than any of the others; all of them are, however, hard keen stones. The length of our rinks must, of course, be regulated by the state of the ice; if it is good, our common length is 45 yards. With regard to footboards, we have a great variety; and I know of nothing connected with Curling on which there is a greater variety of opinion—some preferring a piece of thin wood, others a piece of sheet iron, others small crampets, and as to myself, if the ice were thick enough, I would prefer a cut in it to any of them. We have two Clubs in this place; the one containing about 70 members, who play with one stone, and 7 players on each side, the Preses of which is Mr. John Calderwood; the other consists of 24 members, who play two stones each, and 4 players on each side. Of this Club I have had the honour to be Preses since its formation; there are, I should think, about 50 more players in the parish, who do not belong to either of the Clubs. We have no artificial ponds in this parish, at least none on the improved plan on which yours is constructed. Kilbirnie Loch is our great place of resort; and certainly when we have a severe frost for six or eight days, I have never seen any where a finer sheet of ice than what it generally is. If there is much wind, however, when the frost sets in, it takes a considerable time to freeze, and to remedy this, we have a few shallow ponds where we generally are enabled to begin after three days' frost. The soonest that I ever knew, was on one near my house, where we commenced playing just 36 hours after the frost had set in; this, however, is not to compare with yours, where, I understand, you can have excellent playing at any time after 5 or 6 hours' frost. With regard to steel bottoms, they were introduced here about 15 years ago, and are a wonderful advantage to a weak player on damp ice; they have not,

however, come into general use, and are frequently objected to in playing a match.

BARRHEAD, LEVERN, AND NEILSTON CURLING.

Obligingly furnished by C. D., Esq.

IN Neilston parish there are the Neilston and Barrhead Clubs; there is also one called the Levern Curling Club, of which most of the gentlemen in the parish are members. It has been in existence five or six years, and Mr. Ott, Manager of the Hurlet and Campsie Alum Company, is its Preses. The Levern had the good fortune to beat the Neilston folks, last winter, on two different occasions.

Neilston Club, 48 Members—6 Rinks.

THOMAS CRAIG, *Preses.*

WALTER ANDERSON, *Writer, Clerk.*

Barrhead Club, 32 Members—4 Rinks.

ROBERT ANDERSON, *Preses.*

Stones' weight from 26 lbs. tron, to 40 ($22\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per lb.). Depth from $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 6. Breadth from 10 to 12 inches. Iron handles put on a bolt that goes through the centre of the stone, so that by turning it upside down, there are, as it were, two stones; on the one side the stone runs on about 3 inches, and on the other about 7. They have no rinks on the shallow level principle, they prefer the stones of a black colour, with a yellow diamond; but some of them have been in quest of what is called a silver grey. Of late the footing is generally upon thin boards. Forty years ago the stones were generally selected from dykes in the neighbourhood; but on one occasion, a player borrowed a shoemaker's lap, or beating-stone, which gave him such an advantage in playing, that the others declined playing with him, unless it was laid aside.

PENFILLAN, DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

From an Amateur.

WITH regard to the shape, size, circumference, and most approved thickness of curling-stones, and the size of bottoms on which they run ; with regard to the material of which the handles are made, and the manner in which these handles are fixed to the stones, I must refer you to the two stones I had the honour of sending you from Dumfries-shire ; you may take them as the model on which they are almost universally made in the south of Scotland ; there are few with two bottoms, and none with steel bottoms.

The *rinks* are generally 42 yards. Crampets have been in general use, but this winter iron plates have been introduced, the same as those used on your paved pond, and are much approved of. This parish contains a small population, and only musters five *rinks*, of eight players each. Each rink has a Director, who plays the eighth or last stone, and is called a *skip*, nobody else interfering with the Direction. There are no artificial ponds, but in many places they are much talked of, and greatly wanted ; and your publication on Curling is looked forward to with much interest by a large circle in the neighbourhood.

Two years ago this parish, (Keir,) and the parish of Glencairn, played with five rinks each—Glencairn beat by a few *shots*. This winter the Glencairn people came over to Keir with the same number of rinks, and were beat by about the same number of shots. They (Glencairn) had played a few days previous the parishes of Dumfries, Troquair, and Dunscore, and beat them all successively, so that we were not a little proud of our victory, having but a few players to choose on in comparison of the other, which has double the population. For our success, we are much indebted to our Preses, Sir

Thomas Kirkpatrick, and his son Mr. Charles Kirkpatrick, who being keen Curlers, and gentlemen of the most amiable dispositions, gave a stimulus to the Curlers of Keir, which otherwise they would not possess. I beg you will do me the favour to put down my name for four copies of your work on Curling; it is expected with impatience in this country.

DOUNE.

From a Member of the Club.

My avocations have not permitted me to be an accurate observer of the Curling matters at Doune. I was, however, a Member of the Club, and I think we mustered upwards of 100 players in Kilmadock parish. Curling has been long practised there, and I know the Doune Curlers are expert, and keen of the sport. I think the Dunblane Curlers are also excellent players, and well versed in the science of the game. The Dunblane stones are higher than those we use in Largs or at Doune. They have office-bearers at Doune: I think the present Preses is Mr. Archibald Jamieson, Surgeon, from Largs. We had no artificial ponds. The players stand on crampets. As a proof that the game has been long known at Doune, a stone was found some years ago by some labourers, when digging a field of moss. The game is, I believe, not known about Fochabers, in Elginshire, and perhaps has not yet been practised so far to the northward. Matches are played at Curling, when the ice is in order, with the neighbouring parishes. I believe that this winter the Kilmadockeans were beat by those of Dunblane. The Curling-stones about the Bridge-of-Allan are also much higher than

those now used in Ayrshire ; and many of them have handles, that are rounded on the top, somewhat in shape like the upper part of a stirrup. Had I been on the spot, I should have sent you a more particular statement. As to the stones in general, they are in size and shape much like those in Largs parish.

LOCHWINNOCH CURLING.

WE have been favoured with the following interesting communication by Mr. Andrew Crawford, Johnshill, Lochwinnoch, a gentleman well known as an antiquarian, and eminent for his literary attainments and general knowledge.

Mr. C. informs us, that the word Kuting, or Guyting, was 60 years ago in use, as a term for Curling, near Lochwinnoch and Kilmalcolm. From the information furnished us, we have made a few selections that may be interesting to lovers of Curling sport.

Mr. C. says, that as far back as hearsay knowledge reaches, there has been Curling in Lochwinnoch. Mr. Cunningham of Craigends played in 1779, with his grandfather's *stane*. His grandfather must have lived in the beginning of the last century ; the *stane* was natural without polishing, except the plain iron handle. It was three neukit. James Riddel, aged 80, says his grandfather was a keen Curler.

There was an extraordinary and tedious frost in 1745 or 1746. The inhabitants of the south side of the Loch walked over the ice to the kirk on thirteen Sundays successively. The wells, fountains, and burns, were dried up by hard frost. The people suffered great hardships. The ice was bent and *bowed* down to the bottom, because no water entered into the Loch. The Curling ceased on account of the curve of the ice. James

Buntin of Triarne, Beith Parish, (son of the Laird of Ardoch, Cardross Parish, Dumbartonshire,) was the father of Nicol Buntin, who lived in Beith, and whose burial happened in this remarkable frost. The attendants at this funeral had the drops from their noses frozen like *shuchles*, (Anglicè, *icicles*.) All events, through all the parishes surrounding Beith, for many years subsequent to that frost, were dated from *Nicol Buntin's burial*.

Dr. Wotherspoon, Minister of Beith, in 1745 was a keen and earnest Curler. He came often to Lochwinnoch while the frost lasted. He frequented Strand's Inn with his curling compeers. One Saturday, after a tough match, he, with his party, dined there, and sat till eleven o'clock at night. Strand's wife, Margaret Orr, a *douce* and a *serious Christian*, patted him, and whispered a hint about his public duty, the next day being the Lord's day. He replied loudly, "a minister, who could not shake a sermon out of his coat sleeve, is a silly cuif."

About the year 1765, there was another severe frost; and coals were taken across the Loch by Mr. Couper, the then minister of the parish, in a cart, drawn by two horses, from the Loch side, a colliery on the south side of the Loch.

Curling, during that winter, was very general among the villagers; but there were no parish games. Skating was much more general, and the Skaters were also much quicker, and more graceful in their movements than now-a-days. The natives seem to have forgotten the *Skytchers* in their enthusiasm for the ice-stane.

The Laird of Barr (Hamilton of Barr) was a Curler too. He was a middling player; but he was fond of hearing himself swear! He was a grand banner,* not from anger, but out of amusement. He used the following usual form of expression: "Lard, Gad, conscience, that is a gran' shot." The Curlers

* Swearer.

felt joy when they heard the jolly and uproarious Laird swear.

Garthland was almost constantly with the Curlers for many years about this era. He sat in the chair in Strand's Inn, generally at the Curlers' dinner. He paid all the expenses of the Curlers—their curling dinners, *drink, baiks, buns, &c.*, when he was there. He was beloved, and even adored in the parish of Lochwinnoch. One night in Strand's house, they had a curling dinner, when Daniel Orr, a lively and facetious man, sang John Highlandman's Remarks on Glasgow, which produced a burst of laughter; and Garthland shook his sides with genuine mirth.

In the end of 1783, three rinks came from Beith, and were opposed by three from Lochwinnoch. The bonspoil was arranged near the Peel. Garthland headed the first; Mr. James M'Dowall (afterwards Lord Provost of Glasgow) was the leader of the second; and Captain David (afterwards Lieutenant Colonel David M'Dowall Grant of Arndilly, in Banffshire, still living) was the conductor of the third. The three brothers, M'Dowalls, beat the strangers all to *pigs and whistles*.

One Gavin Gibson, a Beith Man, had a fine Osmund stone, and towards the *gloaming* it began to snow; Gibson let go his stone, James Riddel sprung upon the cramps, followed the wake of Gawn's *stane*, through the snow, and knocked it to flinders. Garthland *hotched and leuch, and held his sides*, as Riddel expressed it.

In the beginning of 1784, Garthland visited the Duke of Hamilton, and carried seven Curlers from Lochwinnoch to Hamilton. They were the following persons:—

HUGH M'LELLAN,
JAMES BULLOCH,
ROBERT AITKEN,
WILLIAM BARCLAY,

GARTHLAND,
JAMES RIDDEL,
JAMES CLERK.

Garthland staid at Hamilton Palace; but his retainers were lodged at the Hamilton arms. They had a basket with a dozen of wine at the ice.

His Grace, with the Hamilton party, had 21 shots; but Garthland, with the Lochwinnoch party, counted 12 shots only; of course the victory was declared in favour of Hamilton.

Immediately afterwards, the Duke returned the visit. His Grace was entertained at Castlesemple, but the Hamilton party were sent to Strand's Inn. Strand's stables were too small to contain so many horses of the Curlers and spectators from Lanarkshire. They were all country tradesmen, or small lairds.

His Grace wore a jacket and trowsers made of fine grey flannel for the ice. One of the Hamilton party was a miller, another was a man, aged above 70 years, called Hacketburn, so called from his *lairdship*, or *mailing*.

Tam Pate, a cadger, played the last stone on the Duke's rink. Tam had a three neukit stane, like a *cockit* hat. When it struck any stone it did not *stot*, or fly off like common stones, but it ran round about and lay still.

Old Riddel says, the Lochwinnoch men would not take up a stone against the strangers, on account of a quarrel happening at Hamilton, from a difference about the rules of the game. But other witnesses affirm, that Garthland considered the Curlers of his native parish rather inferior to the Paisley men. The truth seems to be, the art of making the stones perfectly had not in those days arrived at this village.

Garthland brought an army of the Heigh Linn heroes to combat the invincible Duke and his Clydesdale men. The Paisley rink were,

Two Ralstons, brothers, from the foot of the Water-Wynd. One of them kept a Tavern there.

John Paterson, Cooper. He was above six feet high. The Paisley folk called him the *big*, and sometimes *wæe cooper*. He was laird of the *Black Land* in the High Street. It was formerly

the property of Sir James Sempill of Beltrees, ambassador from King James VI. of Scotland to the Court of Queen Elizabeth of England, and about the year 1600 used as his town residence. Beltrees is in the Parish of Lochwinnoch, and is situated near the banks of the Loch in question.

James Cummin, Flesher, above six feet high. Baillie John Burns, Manufacturer, an ingenious improver of manufactures and husbandry, and the amateur maker of walking-sticks, curling-stones, and other nick-nacks; he died in 1828. One Dalgleish, Draper, High Street, Doupar, bet 1000 guineas!

These persons brought from Paisley a coil of rope, they fixed great stabs mortised in the ice, and they enclosed a space of about half an acre, by winding the rope round about these stabs. Of course they made a clear space as an arena for the victory.

The first day the weather was soft, and they did not venture on the ice; but some of the Paisley antagonists returned home. They came back on the next day. On the second day, the frost was keen; but the snow on the surface was frozen, and made a rather roughish play ground, or *crunkie* ice. Both parties were equal at the end of their work, or they had a drawn game. The Duke could not keep his spirits up even within the limits of courtesy at Castlesemple during dinner. There was a large party of the neighbouring gentry. The ladies tried all their efforts to raise his Grace's thoughts in vain, for his whole mind was chained on his fate next day.

In the evening before the important day, big with the fate of a thousand guineas!!! it began to thaw; but on the following morning it froze, and it prepared a glorious day, and ice like glass or amethyst for the champions.

The Duke gained the victory by a single shot. "That shot," as Riddel says, "was lying open, and missed by Dalgleish intendedly, it was supposed, by the private hint of Garthland, so that his Grace might gain the game." The Paisley Curlers were hyte and writhing with anger at the cheering. A Paisley

manufacturer vented his indignation, against the Duke, saying, though out of the hearing of the victorious chieftain, "It wad be weil dune to gar his feet meet the lift."

The Hamilton director issued his constant order thus, "Tam Pate play for my kow." Tam never missed a single aim. He played his every and unerring shot home to Hacketburn's *low*. The spectators dubbed Tam Pate for a warlock. The cheering which took place on the occasion at Tam Pate's miraculous play rung the heavens, yet Tam himself never gave a single smile, or uttered a *cheep* in the general joy after the victory won by his solitary shot.

Tam Pate must, by all accounts, have been a wonderful player; he came from the Kirk-of-Shots. It does not appear, however, that he played the last stone, but he may have played the last on the Duke's side, and taken out the winner on Garthland's.

Sawnie Caldwell had a tent erected on the ice near the Peel; he retailed British and Foreign spirits, buns, baiks, pies, &c., to the curlers and the crowd; and the Castleseemple family, their visitors, ladies, &c., came in a sledge to view the great game. The distance from Castleseemple house to the Peel (near which the *bonspeil* happened,) is about a mile. Old Will M'Adam was a famous Curler; he was once in a *bonspeil* between the Glen and the Muirland conjoined against the Brig-o'-Weir quoters, with 14 a-side. M'Adam was a very ugly man (like the devil) in countenance. But he was an ingenious man, up to the craft of mounting of all manner of weaving work; he was a grand quoter,* he never missed a shot; he was dignified by the Brig-o'-Weir folk with the appellation of a warlock; he was another Tam Pate.

The Duke put all his reserve away, and he was very merry at Castleseemple.

* Curler.

The Paisley players, called the Heigh Linn Curlers, played Lochwinnoch about this time, and beat them 51 shots to 40. The Lochwinnoch Curlers were induced to try it a second time, when they were licked most distinctly by 51 shots against 9. In 1784 the Lochwinnoch stones were nearly natural; they were taken from some brae, or dyke; and the Curler fixed a crooked thorn in the stone, and after the Curling sport was over, his stone was left on the top of a dyke, or by the side of the Loch.

The first improvement in stone-making at Lochwinnoch, was immediately after the Duke's visit in 1784, *in imitation of the Hamilton fashion*, for the Lanarkshire stones were bored through the centre admitting a screw. Hence these stones were called at this village *Duke-hand* for many years afterwards. They began to make them neater. John Cochrane took up the trade of polishing them. He continues the same ingenious craft to this day. He puts in an iron handle, and hews the stone to a perfect circle. William Sutherland was the second maker. He made the Castlesemple stones and many others, after the Duke's fashion, or *Duke-hand*. Garthland's stone, made by Sutherland, passed into the hands of Mr. Orr, Merchant. It was quite flat and very broad. It was broken a few years ago. The punch-bowl is still in the possession of Mr. Orr's family, over which Garthland, and the other Curlers of that period, used to regale themselves in Strand's Inn. It is a capacious bowl requiring two Scotch pints, and four gills of double rum; which was the quantity necessary to make it full of punch.

The Curlers here have now stones of an elegant form, of about 28 lbs. Tron weight, with a fine brass handle in the centre, screwed out and in when they please. They run on about 3 to 4½ inches, and steel bottoms are not used here. The average cost of one is a guinea.

In the year 1796 the Beith and the Lochwinnoch Curlers, 21 a-side, met on Lochwinnoch ice with Morrishill and Auchen-

bean as their respective champions. The Beith Curlers lost the game.

In the year 1798, two rinks came from Dalry to the Lochwinnoch ice, and were met by an equal number of the Lochwinnoch men. The game was 51 shots. They were 50 each, and Lochwinnoch lost by one shot. This was the only time the Dalry Curlers beat the Lochwinnoch men upon their own ice. A son of old Gomery Skeoch in Kilbirnie was a spectator, and when the Dalry Curlers were declared conquerors by one shot, he took off his bonnet and huzzaed in favour of Dalry. John Orr, one of the Lochwinnoch Curlers, went up to him and gave him a *fung* in the mouth, which knocked him down. Skeoch got up much surprised, saying, "What's that for!" "*Just hurra again, an' if tu dis, I'll let thee ken what it's for, if I sud hunt thee to Kilbirnie!*"

The week following the same players met at Dalry, when Lochwinnoch gained by 16 shots. The Doupars were, for Dalry, James Gregg and John Craig; and for Lochwinnoch, David Stevenson and James Riddel.

From 1798 till 1812 there does not seem to have been any match of much notoriety. The only games were with Dalry during that period, generally once or twice each winter, with various success on both sides, and always closely contested, but ending in the most amicable and friendly manner. About 1813 both parties again met on Kilbirnie Loch, with 21 players each, and Lochwinnoch was beaten by Dalry 29 shots. The Curlers of this place have not, either before or since, been so decidedly vanquished by any parish since 1784, by the Heigh Linn Curlers of Paisley. The doupars were—Lochwinnoch, John Robertson, John Logan, David Stevenson—Dalry, Mr. Harvey, Schoolmaster, James Gregg, and John Craig.

In 1815 they again met on Lochwinnoch ice, when the Curlers of this place had a considerable majority. Immediately afterwards they again met in Dalry, and Lochwinnoch gained

by a single shot only. Dalry people were lying game, and Robertson, the Lochwinnoch Doupar only to play. The stone was partially guarded, and could only be taken through a narrow port. Robertson is a sure player—another Tam Pate. He let go his *wee stane*, which came steadily through the port, and taking out their winner, lay itself the game shot. “Lord,” says Robertson, “I kent I wad tak’ it out, aye, like a bullet.” The Lochwinnoch Curlers were so overjoyed at Robertson’s successful shot, that they literally carried him from the ice to their inn upon their shoulders. Doupars, John Robertson, David Stevenson, and Lieutenant Love of Knows.

In the year 1822, the Dalry and Lochwinnoch Curlers met at the latter place, when the natives were victorious by a good many shots. The week following they met in Dalry with three rinks a-side, as usual, and were again victorious. The same evening, while both parties were regaling themselves harmoniously together in their inn, a challenge was handed into the room by a second party in Dalry, daring either of the parties to play them on the day following. The challenge, unopened, was burned. A second came back, indorsed, “not to burn this as it contains a pound note.” The Dalry party would have nothing to do with their fellow townsmen; but the Lochwinnoch men, considering themselves insulted, accepted the challenge. They met on the following day on Kilbirnie Loch, and the game, of 71 shots, was closely contested, but evening setting in, they were obliged to stop without its being finished. This game, somehow, was the cause of much misunderstanding between the two parishes, and the mutual friendship and good will which had so long subsisted between them were destined to be long suspended.

This same year, it appears, that Lochwinnoch, for the first time, turned out, in one day, 21 players against Dalry, 21 against Beith, and 14 against Kilbirnie—all on Kilbirnie Loch. Previous to that period, it was considered no small

honour to be one of the players in these parish *bonspeils*. Numbers, however, considering themselves equally expert in the game, and too much slighted, as they thought, by these curling aristocrats, determined to have a meeting with some of the neighbouring parishes on their own account, without consulting them. They were in consequence called, "The radical core," by the aristocrats. They sent a challenge to Beith, which was accepted, and the Beith *dabs* were vanquished by these Lochwinnoch radicals. Other 14, headed by Joseph Duncan, Tinsmith, were considered too heavy metal by the Kilbirnie bodies, and they would not turn out.

About the end of the Curling season, this same year, a wager was made by Andrew Lindsay of Lochwinnoch, with one Sloan, a Slater in Houston, of *L.5* to *L.2*, that 21 players from Lochwinnoch, would beat any 21 players Sloan could produce, in all the neighbouring part of the county. The game came off on Barmaflock dam, when Lochwinnoch were victors.

During this frost the Brig-of-Weir *dabs*, also, made their appearance on our ice, the game 91 shots. It was very keenly contested, Lochwinnoch was 86, Brig-of-Weir 88, when the game was decided by Lochwinnoch taking five shots at one head.

It was in this same year that a challenge, by the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire, or the Hamilton players, went the round of the newspapers, offering to play all, or any part of Scotland, for love, or for from one to a thousand guineas. Had the Lochwinnoch Curlers been supported as they were in former times, they would, most unhesitatingly, have accepted it in its fullest extent. As matters stood, they did accept the challenge for love, and offered to meet them half-way. This the Hamilton Curlers, it would appear, declined to do, as they never returned any answer to the Lochwinnoch Curlers' acceptance of their boastful challenge.

In the year 1825, the Neilston Curlers challenged Lochwin,

noch to play for 20 bolls of oat meal to be given to the poor of the parish that gained. The challenge was accepted, but the ice for that season immediately afterwards broke up, and the game did not take place. The Neilston Curlers have not since thought proper to repeat the same challenge. Mr. Davidson, the worthy Preses of the Club of Lochwinnoch Curlers, said, "Gentlemen, the plain matter of fact is this, they are afraid for their meal, because they are sure we would beat them, and that most decidedly." Notwithstanding the acknowledged prowess of the Lochwinnoch Curlers, we have great doubts as to their superiority over those of Neilston.

After the year 1822, the Curlers of Lochwinnoch attracted so much attention in the surrounding parishes, that it was considered an honour to have a game with them; and should they be vanquished, how great that honour! Not a winter passed in which there was ice fit for Curling, when they were not fully engaged with one or more parishes. But as no authentic record has been kept of these matches, previous to the year 1826, the intervening years must of necessity be passed over. The parish games from 1826 till 1832 with their several results are as follows:—

1826.

With Neilston, 63 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 20 shots.			
Brig-of-Weir	21 do.	do.	do. nearly 40 do.
Largs	14 do.	do.	do. by 13 do.*
Beith	56 do.	do.	do.

* Largs is put down as beat by Lochwinnoch in 1826. We can account for that—7 players only were to have come to Largs, and 14 were brought against us, when we were unprepared, and many indifferent, and some of the worst players in the parish were taken in to oppose them, much against our wish. Let the gentleman who took on that game bring with him three other picked players, the best in his parish, he is sure of ice on our rink with one night's frost, and then let him boast of the result, should he be successful.

1827.

With Neilston, 56 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 10 shots.

1829.

With Kilbirnie, 7 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 11 shots.

This game was for a dinner and drink.

With Paisley, 84 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 47 shots.

Beith, 63 do.	do.	do.	14 do.
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1830.

With Beith, 77 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 1 shot ;

but Beith declared it a drawn game.*

With Paisley, 84 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 63 shots.

Neilston, 77 do.	do.	do.	3 shots.
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Kilbarchan, 56 do.	do.	do.	40 shots.
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Brig-of-Weir, 14 do.	do.	do.	1 shot.
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Dalry, 21 do.	do.	do.	35 shots.
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This was rather a private game, got up by James Sloan of this place, who had formerly been a draper in Dalry. The former cordiality between the two parishes has not yet been restored.

With Beith, 77 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 16 shots.

Beith, 70 do.	do.	do.	2 do.
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But Beith people again declared this a drawn game, and since that time Lochwinnoch has given up Curling intercourse with them.†

With Johnstone, 16 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 34 shots.

* Beith Curlers claim this game.

† Claimed by Beith.

1831.

With Paisley, 77 a-side, Lochwinnoch gained by 75 shots.

Kilbarchan, 77 do. do. do. 180 do.

The town of Lochwinnoch must yield the palm to Paisley in weaving Thibet shawls—to Neilston, in bleaching muslins—to the Brig-of-Weir, in tanning hides—to Kilbarchan, in selling flax—to Johnston, in spinning cotton-yarn—to Beith, in horse-couping—to Kilbirnie, in eating veal—and to Dalry, in houking coals. But you, if you please, may give the humble merit to the parish of Lochwinnoch in excelling in Curling.

In the winter of 1829-30, the frosty season continued too long, especially for the poor weavers. The irresistible fascination of the game is what man cannot resist. The Curling mania, in that winter, was felt by many a *wabster* very sorely, and also by his dearly beloved spouse, who so testified, by her thin *chafits*, and by the *blae* colour of her face. A craftsman of this sort, in this village, uttered his complaints to his helpmate one night, and gave many a weary look to her *tume ambrie*. But she assumed a *blythe* countenance, and bade him to keep his spirits up till she should present him with a substantial supper. She bustled, set a table before him, and laid a knife and a fork; when the supper came, lo! it was a *curling-stane*.

1832-33.

The following communication was sent by one of the Lochwinnoch Curlers to the Paisley Advertiser, but the ice season having passed, it was too late for insertion.

The Lochwinnoch Amateur Curlers have had little to do with their neighbours this season. The only games were, first, that of a bett which took place on Perston Dam betwixt Mr. Salmon, Quarrelton, and Mr. Thomas Orr of Lochwinnoch—the former having the whole county to choose on for 14 players. This bett came off on the 24th January, and notwithstanding their latitude of choice, viz., the Tanner's rink from Brig-of-

Weir, which claims some pre-eminence, and another rink picked from Johnston, Slates, Elderslie, Quarrelton, &c.,—all would not do; the Lochwinnoch folk gained upon both rinks, carrying off 17 shots a-head.

CURLING IN DALRY.

ON meeting, some of the Dalry Curlers tell us, they can bring forward 14 rinks of good players. We well know some of them to be good, as we have tried them.

Kilbirnie can produce 40 players for a bonspiel.

Greenock and Port-Glasgow are progressing in the art. We had the pleasure of giving the Port-Glasgow Curlers a lesson two years ago; we believe there are several excellent Curlers in both places.

CURLING IN CANADA.

WHAT follows on this head, we were favoured with by a Kilmarnock Correspondent.

The Montreal Curling Club was instituted in January, 1807, by some natives of North Britain, to introduce their favourite national game on the St. Laurence. They were joined by several others, making in all twenty, of which number the Club, when full, is composed. The game had been previously played occasionally at Quebec, but it is believed, that no regular Club was formed so early in that city.

The rules of the game are framed on the practice in Scotland, with some few deviations. The general principles, or directions, are well expressed in this motto prefixed to the

book containing the rules, regulations, and proceedings of the Club :—

“Foot fair, draw to a hair,
Your stone being well directed ;
You'll hit your aim, and win the game ;
If you miss, be not dejected.”

The original rules of the Club have, in several instances, been altered ; as they now stand, new members are admitted by ballot, which must be unanimous, as one dissenting voice excludes a candidate.

Every Wednesday is a club-day for playing ; but members who choose may play at any other time, when ice can be found, which is often not to be met with, from the great quantity of snow that usually falls every winter, and remains so long. This is the principal impediment in Canada to the healthful and manly game of Curling, the success of which, on good ice, must ever depend on precision and skill more than on strength. Instead of *whin*, or other stones, as used in Scotland, *cast-iron* missiles are used by this Club, and also at Quebec ; they are of different sizes, from about 45 lbs. to 65 lbs. weight, and have lately been declared to be the property of the Club, *as a body*, with only one exception in favour of a particular member. They do not run so well as *whin stones* in mild weather, or when the sun shines bright and warm ; but in general answer the purpose fully as well, and possess one great advantage—that they cannot be cracked or broken.

The Club appoints a Secretary, who is also Treasurer, and whose duty it is to record their proceedings, and any thing remarkable connected therewith, from which some interesting facts may occasionally be collected regarding the change of seasons, &c. For example, on the 27th February, 1822, the ice was not fit for playing, from the effects of a hot sun ; the same year there was no play after the 19th March, and then it took place early in the morning. Other seasons were later ; and

on the last of March, 1820, a match was played on the river St. Laurence, on the current of St. Mary's, (where the ice seldom bears, and when it does freeze, is generally rough,) "from 10 morning till 1 afternoon, the ice smooth and keen, and the rink about the usual length." Also in 1807, so late as the 11th of April, a game was played on the river, a little below the Port at 5 o'clock in the morning.

The game, though very interesting to those who play, or to spectators who understand it, is yet but little known in this country; and the by-standers are apt to consider it as a puerile amusement. A Canadian farmer at Quebec, who had seen the game for the first time, gave the following description of it:—"I'ai vu aujourd'hui une bande d'Ecossois qui jettoient des grandes boules de fer, faites comme des bombes, sur la glace; apres quoi, ils crioient *soupe, soupe*; ensuite, ils rioient comme des foux; je crois bien qu'ils sont vraiment foux." To-day I saw a band of Scotchmen, who were throwing large balls of iron like tea-kettles on the ice, after which they cried, "*sop, sop*," (sweep, sweep,) and then laughed like fools. I verily believe they were fools indeed.

The technical terms of the game being unintelligible to some lookers-on, or misunderstood by others, have also been a subject of merriment; and many a grave personage has been seen to laugh heartily, on hearing one gentleman tell another, "You are a Hog, sir."*

Besides the stones already mentioned as common property, and of which every new member has to pay his proportion on being admitted, the Club had formerly a Punch-Bowl, with a wooden ladle of curious workmanship; also a Snuff-Horn, and horn spoons, all of which were unfortunately destroyed by fire, when the house of the Secretary was burnt to the ground. The only article which has yet been replaced is the

* See Appendix, No. IV.

anuff horn imported from Scotland, of which the following notice is taken in the Club-Book :—“ This is a large horn of a tup (ram,) elegantly mounted in silver, with a superb cairngorm set in gold in the lid. The weight, as it is now finished, is 4 lbs. 13 oz. avoirdupois ; and when it was taken from the tup, before its heart was extracted, must have weighed considerably more.” As this account is already, perhaps, too long, it shall conclude with an extract from a few verses on this magnificent horn, and the tup that once carried it, written by a gentleman, who is a warm admirer of the game :—

From Scotland I came, on her mountains I grew,
 The proof of a hero in love and in war ;
 Who was famed on the hills, where the wild tempest blew,
 By many a sigh, and by many a scar.

What boots how he fell, since his glory we trace,
 And his days passed in all the endearments of home !
 More blessed than the shepherds who tended his race,
 Condemned o'er the far faithless ocean to roam.

On the field where he died—in reward of their care—
 He bequeathed his proud arms, to be sent o'er the deep ;
 That midst joy and good humour, and love of the fair,
 They might think of the land where their forefather's sleep.”

Curling was sometime ago introduced into Halifax, in America, we believe by Captain Houston Stewart, R.N., who is an excellent and a keen Curler.

SONGS.

A SONG COMPOSED AND SUNG BY ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
DUDDINGSTONE CURLING SOCIETY, AT THEIR
ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

CAULD, CAULD, FROSTY WEATHER.

TUNE.—“*Cauld Kail in Aberdeen.*”

WHAN chittering birds, on fichting wing,
About the barn doors mingle,
And biting frost, and cranreuch cauld,
Drive coofs around the ingle ;
Then to the loch the Curlers hie,
Their hearts as light's a feather,
And mark the tee wi' mirth and glee,
In cauld, cauld, frosty weather.

Our buirdly leaders down *white ice*
Their whinstanes doure send snooving,
And birks and brooms ply hard before,
Whan o'er the hog-score moving ;
Till cheek by jowl within the brugh,
They're laid 'side ane anither ;
Then round the tee we flock wi' glee,
In cauld, &c.

Wi' canny hand the neist play down
Their stanes o' glibber metal ;
Yet bunkers aften send alee,
Although they weel did ettle.
“Now strike—no—draw—come fill the port,”
They roar, and cry, and blether ;
As round the tee we flock wi' glee,
In cauld, &c.

A stalwart chiel, to redd the ice,
Drives roaring down like thunder ;
Wi' awfu' crash the double guards
At ance are burst asunder ;

Rip-raping on frae random wicks
 The winner gets a yether ;
 Then round the tee we flock wi' glee,
 In cauld, &c.

Our chief, whase skill and steady arm
 Gain mony a bonspeil dinner,
 Cries, " open wide—stand off behind,
 " Fy, John, fy, show the winner ;
 " He goes—he moves—he rides him out
 " The length of ony tether,"
 Huzzas wi' glee rise round the tee,
 In cauld, &c.

But now the moon glints thro' the mist,
 The wind blaws snell and freezing,
 When straight we bicker aff in haste
 To whare the ingle's bleezing ;
 In Curler Ha', sae bein and snug,
 About the board we gather,
 Wi' mirth and glee, sirloin the tee,
 In cauld, &c.

In canty cracks, and sangs and jokes,
 The night drives on wi' daffin,
 And mony a kittle shot is ta'en,
 While we're the toddy quaffing.
 Wi' heavy heart we're laith to part,
 But promise to forgether
 Around the tee, neist morn wi' glee,
 If cauld, &c.

GRAHAME, a late poet, well known as the author of the Sabbath, a poem, in his British Georgics, has the following animated description :—

Now rival parishes, and shrievedoms, keep,
 On upland lochs, the long expected tryst
 To play their yearly bonspeil. Aged men,
 Smit with the eagerness of youth, are there,
 While love of conquest lights their beamless eyes,
 New nerves their arms, and makes them young once more.

The sides when ranged, the distance meted out,
 And duly traced the tees, some younger hand
 Begins, with throbbing heart, and far o'ershoots,
 Or sideward leaves, the mark. In vain he bends
 His waist, and winds his hand, as if it still
 Retained the power to guide the devious stone ;
 Which, onward hurling, makes the circling groupe
 Quick start aside, to shun its reckless force.
 But more and still more skilful arms succeed,
 And near and nearer still around the tee,
 This side, now that approaches, till at last,
 Two seeming equidistant, straws or twigs
 Decide as umpires 'tween contending coits.

Keen, keener still, as life itself were staked,
 Kindles the friendly strife ; one points the line
 To him who, poising, aims and aims again ;
 Another runs and sweeps where nothing lies.
 Success, alternately from side to side,
 Changes, and quick the hours un-noted fly,
 Till light begins to fail, and deep below,
 The player, as he stoops to lift his coit,
 Sees half incredulous, the rising moon.
 But now the final, the decisive spell,
 Begins ; near and more near the sounding stones
 Come winding in, some bearing straight along,
 Crowd justling all around the mark, while one
 Just slightly touching, victory depends
 Upon the final aim : long swings the stone,
 Then with full force, careering furious on,
 Rattling it strikes aside both friend and foe,
 Maintains its course, and takes the victor's place.
 The social meal succeeds, and social glass ;
 In words the fight renewed is fought again,
 While festive mirth forgets the winged hours.

DAVIDSON, a poet of considerable genius, who wrote in the dialect of Kirkcudbrightshire, in his poem on Winter, thus describes the game :—

But manliest of all ! the vig'rous youth
 In bold contention met, the channelstane,

The bracing engine of a Scottish arm,
 To shoot wi' might and skill. Now to the lake
 At rising sun, with hopes of conquest flushed,
 The armed heroes meet. Frae dale to doon
 The salutation echoes—and amain,
 The baubee tossed, wha shall wi' ither fight,
 The cap'ring combatants the war commence,
 Hence loud throughout the vale, the noise is heard
 Of thumping rocks, and loud bravadoes' roar.

THE author next gives an account of a bonspeil, betwixt two
 rival chiefs, on Loch Ken, with considerable humour :—

God prosper long the hearty friends
 Of honest pleasures all ;
 A mighty curling match once did
 At C—— W——k befall.

To hurl the channelstane wi' skill,
 Lanfloddan took his way ;
 The child that's yet unborn will sing
 The curling of that day.

The champion of Ullisdale
 A broad rash aith did make,
 His pleasure, near the Cam'ron isle,
 Ae winter's day to take.

Bold Ben o' Tudor sent him word
 He'd match him at the sport ;
 The chief o' Ken, on hearing this,
 Did to the ice resort.

Wi' channelstones, baith glib an' strong,
 His army did advance ;
 Their crampets o' the trusty steel,
 Like bucklers broad did glance.

A band wi' besoms high uprear'd,
 Weel made o' broom the best,
 Before them like a moving wood,
 Unto the combat prest.

The gallant gamesters briskly moved,
 To meet the daring fae—
 On Monday they had reach'd the loch,
 By breaking of the day.

The chieftains muster'd on the ice,
 Right eager to begin ;
 Their channelstones, by special care,
 Were a' baith stout an' keen.

Their rocks they hurled up the rink,
 Ilk to bring in his hand ;
 An' hill an' valley, dale an' doon,
 Rang wi' the ardent band.

Glenbuck upo' the cockee stood,
 His merry men drew near ;
 Quoth he, Bentudor promised
 This morn to meet me here :

But if I thought he would not come,
 We'd join in social play.
 With that the leader of the ice
 Unto Glenbuck did say :

Lo ! yonder does Bentudor come,
 His men wi' crampets bright ;
 Twelve channelstones, baith hard and smooth,
 Come rolling in our sight :

All chosen rocks of Mulloch heugh,
 Fast by the tow'ring Scrael.
 Then tye your crampets, Glenbuck cries,
 Prepare ye for the speal.

And now with me, choice men of Ken,
 Your curling skill display ;
 For never was there Curler yet,
 Of village or of brae,

That e'er wi' channelstane did come,
 But if he would submit
 To hand to nieve I'd pledge this crag,
 I should his winner hit.

Bentudor, like a warrior bold,
 Came foremost o' them a' ;
 A besom on his shouther slung,
 On's han's twa mittens bra.

An' with him forth came Tullochfern,
 An' Tom o' Broomyshaw ;
 Stout Robert o' Heston, Ratcliff, and
 Young John o' Fotheringhaw.

An' wi' the laird o' Cairnyhowes,
 A Curler guid an' true ;
 Good Ralph o' Titherbore, an' Slacks,
 There marrows there are few.

Of Fernybank needs must I speak,
 As ane of aged skill ;
 Simon of Shots, the nephew bold
 Of Cairny on the hill.

With brave Glenbuck came Curlers twelve,
 All dext'rous men of Dee ;
 Robin o' Mains, Clim o' the Cleugh,
 An' fam'd Montgomery.

Gamewell, the brisk, of Napplehowes,
 A valiant blade is he ;
 Harry o' Thorn, Gib o' the Glen,
 The stoutest o' the three.

An' the young heir of Birnyholm,
 Park, Craigs, Lamb o' the Lin ;
 Allan of Airds, a sweeper good,
 An' Charley o' Lochfin.

Bentudor a Riscarrel crag,
 Twice up the ice hurled he,
 Good sixty cloth yards and a span,
 Saying, so long let it be.

It pleased them a'—Ilk then wi' speed,
 Unto his weapon flew :
 First Allan o' Airds his whinstane rock,
 Straight up the white ice drew.

A good beginning, cries Glenbuck ;
 Slacks fidging at the sight,
 Wi's bra blue cap, lent Airds a smack,
 Then roared out, good night.

Next Robin o' Mains, a leader good,
 Close to the witter drew ;
 Ratcliff went by, an' 'cause he miss'd,
 Pronounc'd the ice untrue.

Gib o' the Glen, a noble herd,
 Behind the winner laid ;
 Then Fotheringhaw, a fidelin shot,
 Close to the circle play'd.

Montgomery, mettelfu' an' fain,
 A rackless stroke did draw ;
 But miss'd his aim, an' 'gainst the herd,
 Dang frae his clint a flaw.

With that stept forward Tullochfern,
 An' (saying, to hint, he'd try)
 A leal shot ettled at the cock,
 Which shov'd the winner by.

Clim o' the Cleugh, on seeing that,
 Sten'd forth, an' frae his knee
 A slow shot drew, wi' muckle care,
 Which settled on the tee.

Ralph, vexed at the fruitless play,
 The cockee butted fast ;
 His stane being glib, to the loch en',
 Close by the witter past.

Stout Robert o' Heston, wi' his broom,
 Came stepping up wi' might ;
 Quoth he, my abbey-burn-fitt
 Shall win the speal this night.

With that brisk Gamewell, up the rink,
 His well mill'd rock did hurl,
 Which rubbing Ratcliff on the cheek,
 Around the cock did twirl.

Now stept a noted gamester forth,
 Fernybank was his name,
 Wha said he would not have it told,
 At C—— W—k for shame ;

That e'er the chief o' Ken should bear
 The palm of victory.
 Then heezing his Kilmarnock hood,
 Unto the cock drew he.

The stanes, wi' muckle martial din,
 Rebounding frae ilk shore ;
 Now thick, thick, thick, each other chas'd,
 An' up the rink did roar.

They closed fast on ev'ry side,
 A port could scarce be found ;
 An' many a broken channelstane
 Lay scattered up an' down.

Show me the winner, cries Glenbuck,
 An' a' behind stan' aff ;
 Then rattled up the rocking crag,
 An' ran the port wi' life.

Bentudor flung his bonnet by,
 An' took his stane wi' speed ;
 Quoth he, my lads, the day is ours,
 Their chance is past remead.

Syne, hurlin' through the crags o' Ken,
 Wi' inrings nice an' fair,
 He struck the winner frae the cock,
 A lang claith yard an' mair.

The speal did last frae nine forenoon,
 Till setting o' the sun ;
 For when the hern sraich'd to her tree,
 The combat scarce was done.

Thus did Bentudor an' Glenbuck
 Their curling contest end ;
 They met baith merry i' the morn,
 At night they parted friends.

FROM the Weekly Magazine, or Edinburgh Amusement, for February 1771, Vol. XI. p. 180.

THE goals are marked out, the centre each
Of a large random circle ; distance scores
Are drawn between, the dread of weakly arms.
Firm on his cramp-bits stands the steady youth,
Who leads the game. Low o'er the weighty stone
He bends incumbent, and with nicest eye
Surveys the farther goal, and in his mind
Measures the distance, careful to bestow
Just force enough ; then balanced in his hand
He flings it on direct ; it glides along
Hoarse murmuring, while playing hard before,
Full many a besom sweeps away the snow,
Or icicle, that might obstruct its course.

But cease, my muse ! what numbers can describe
The various game. Say, can'st thou paint the blush
Impurpled deep, that veils the stripling's cheek,
When wand'ring wide the stone neglects the rink,
Or stops midway. His opponent is glad,
Yet fears a similar fate, while every mouth
Cries off the hog.—And Tinto joins the cry.
Or could'st thou follow the experienc'd player
Through all the mysteries of his art ; or teach
The undisciplined how to wick, to guard,
Or ride full out the stone that blocks the pass.

The bonspeil o'er, hungry and cold they hie
To the next ale-house, where the game is played
Again, and yet again, over the jug,
Until some hoary hero, haply he,
Whose sage direction won the doubtful day,
To his attentive juniors' tedious talks
Of former times—of many a bonspeil gain'd
Against opposing parishes and shots :
To human likelihood secure, yet storm'd,
With liquor on the table, he portrays
The situation of each stone ; convinc'd
Of his superior tact, all join to hail
Their grandsire's steadier arm, and surer hand.

G.

THE CURLERS,—A DUET.

AIR.—“*The auld wife ayont the fire.*”

LOCHSIDE.

LET feckless chields, like cruckit weans,
 Gae blaw their thums, wi' pechs and granes,
 Or thaw their fushionless shank banes,
 And hurkle o'er the ingle :
 But lads o' smeddum, crouse and bauld,
 Whase blude can thole a nip o' cauld,
 Your ice-stanes in your grey plaids fauld,
 And try on lochs a pingle.

CHORUS.

When snaw lies white on ilka knowe,
 The ice-stane, and the gude broom kowe,
 Can warm us like a bleezing low :
 Fair-fa' the ice and curling !

Soop the rink, lads, wide enough ;
 The hogscore mak', and mak' ilk brough ;
 And though the game be close and tough,
 We aiblins yet may bang them :
 Stan' on, Tam Scott ; ye've a gude e'e ;
 Come creeping up the ice to me,
 Lie here, my besom's on the tee,
 Let's hae a stane amang them.
 When snaw lies white, &c.

DAMBACK.

Johnny Gray, mak' this your rest,
 A gude calm shot is aye the best ;
 He's fled it, raging like a pest :
 O ! what's come owre ye, Johnny ?

LOCHSIDE.

Stand on, Pate Boag, and gie's a guard,
 I ken ye can play ; cautious, laird,
 Just lie ahint our stane a yard :
 I like ye weel, that's bonnie.
 When snaw lies white, &c.

DAMBACK.

Now, Rob Roy, mind the ice is gleg,
 Aim for the guard, and break an egg ;
 But O ! be cautious, man, I beg ;
 He's roaring in the corner :
 Soop, gie him heels, he's aff the ice ;
 The chields are fou, or else no wise ;
 For gudesake ! will ye tak' advice,
 And play in your auld ordnar.
 When snaw lies white, &c.

LOCHSIDE.

Now, Geordie Goudie, here's a port,
 Be canny, and we'll soop ye for't ;
 I carena though ye're twa ells short :
 Han's up,—there's walth o' powther

DAMBACK.

Now, Willie, here's a fine inring,
 Play straught, and rub him like a king :
 He's slipt his foot, and wi' a fling,
 The stane's out owre his shouter.
 When snaw lies white, &c.

Sin' I was born, and now I'm grey,
 I ne'er saw siccan wretched play ;
 Our fallows are clean wud the day,
 Their stanes like gouks are hurling :
 But bring the whisky and the baiks,
 Though fortune has played us the glaiks,
 A bumper to the Land o' Cakes,
 And her ain game o' curling.
 When snaw lies white, &c.

SIR ALEXANDER BOSWELL.

 WHITE WINTER ON ILK HILL.

AIR.—" *Killicrankie*."

WHITE winter, on ilk hill and plain,
 Is a' its powers unfurling,
 And giving Scotia's sons again
 Their favourite game o' Curling :

That game which is like nature free,
 The Caledonian's darling ;
 For ever cursed let him be,
 Wha'd tax the game o' Curling.

On ilka river, loch and pond,
 The bonspeil is contested ;
 And, though their hearts are warm and keen,
 Yet envy is resisted :
 For, when the game is at an end,
 And the glasses round are whirling,
 Then ilka ane drinks to his friend,
 And the glorious game of Curling.

Here lead the ice wi' canny care,
 And let it no be roaring ;
 Now take it dead, and hit it fair,
 Sen't aff the ice a-snooring :
 Now lay a guard, now strike a blow,
 Till a' the ice is dirling :
 Blind victory goes to and fro
 At the glorious game o' Curling.

Come, fill the glass, and send it round,
 Sae jovial, and sae hearty :
 Let mirth, unmix'd wi' care, abound,
 Amang ilk curling party :
 Aye may we play with social glee,
 Devoid of strife and snarling,
 Sae put it round, wi' three times three,
 To freedom, love, and Curling.

ROB. HETRICK, DALMELLINGTON.

THE MUSIC OF THE YEAR IS HUSHED.

AIR.—“ *Maggy Lauder.*”

THE music of the year is hushed
 In bonny glen and shaw, man,
 An' winter spreads, o'er nature dead,
 A winding-sheet o' snaw, man ;

O'er burn and loch the warlock, frost,
 A crystal brig has laid, man,
 The wild geese, screaming wi' surprise,
 The ice-bound wave ha'e fled, man.

Up, Curler ! leave your bed sae warm,
 And leave your coaxing wife, man,
 Gae, get your besom, trickers, stanes,
 And join the friendly strife, man ;
 For on the water's face are met,
 Wi' mony a merry joke, man,
 The tenant and his jolly laird,
 The pastor and his flock, man.

The rink is swept, the tees are marked,
 The bonspeil is begun, man ;
 The ice is true, the stanes are keen ;
 Huzza ! for glorious fun, man.
 The skips are standing on the tee
 To guide the eager game, man ;
 Hush ! no a word—but mark the broom,
 And take a steady aim, man.

Here draw a shot—there lay a guard,
 And here beside him lie, man,
 Now let him feel a gamester's hand,
 Now in his bosom die, man.
 There fill the port, and block the ice,
 We sit upon the tee, man ;
 Now tak' this inring sharp and neat,
 And mak' the winner flee, man.

How stands the game ? Its eight and eight :
 Now for the winning shot, man,
 Draw slow and sure, the ice is keen,
 I'll sweep you to the spot, man.
 The stane is thrown, it glides along,
 The besoms ply it in, man,
 Wi' twisting back the players stand,
 And eager, breathless grin, man.

A moment's silence, still as death,
 Pervades the anxious thrang, man,
 Then sudden bursts the victors' shout,
 Wi' hollas, loud and lang, man ;

Triumphant besoms wave in air,
 And friendly banter fly, man,
 Whilst, cauld and hungry, to the inn,
 Wi' eager steps, they hie, man.

Now fill ae bumper—fill but aye,
 And drink wi' social glee, man,
 May Curlers on life's slippery rink
 Frae cruel rubs be free, man ;
 Or should a treacherous bias lead
 Their erring steps a-gee, man,
 Some friendly inring may they meet
 To guide them to the tee, man.

REV. HENRY DUNCAN, RUTHWELL.

WHEN BIRDS AND WIMPLING BURNS.

AIR.—“*Maggy Lauder.*”

WHEN birds and wimpling burns are dumb,
 And blades are cranreuch white ;
 When i' the lift the level sun
 Frae snaw gets back his light ;
 And on ae fit the henbirds sit,
 And chittering wail thegither ;
 Blythe morn and e'en's ilk Curler keen
 'Tis snell, snell, frosty weather.

Come, ply your besoms, soop the rink ;
 The snaw-shool labour sairly ;
 Hae ! there's the trickers, mak' the tees,
 And step the hogscores fairly ;
 And, while the joke doth mirth provoke,
 Let ilk man be a brither,
 Blythe morn and e'en, a Curler keen,
 In snell, snell, frosty weather.

“ Now, forehan', draw a canny shot :
 Weel iced, sir ; just the thing :
 Lads gae him feet,—oh ! polish clean,
 It's a patlid in tee-ring.”

“ Tam !—play the same spring o'er again,
 And loss na ye your stane ;
 The ice ye ha'e, but frae bank to brae
 Ye're ragin':—ten ell gane.”

“ Oh ! lay a guard ; the ice is gleg :
 Come creeping up snail-speed :
 Oh, wha played that ?—that's like yoursel' ;
 Our stane is covered dead.”
 “ Tam ! tak' a yard, and pass their guard :
 Oh mind the inside twist ;—
 That bias crack has gart you tak'
 Hin' han's promotion list.”

And now the game gangs on like stour,
 They inwick, ride and draw :
 Ane breaks an egg on that stane's face,
 Ane's owre amang the snaw :
 The hogscore, too, gets collies a few,
 Though kittled by a brither ;
 Blythe morn and e'en are Curlers keen,
 In snell, snell, frosty weather.

I ha'e tried love, I ha'e tried war,
 I've tried to play the wardling,
 But, 'boon a' crafts or joys, to me,
 Is winter's darling—Curling :
 There's aye sic glee around the tee,
 Ilk man's a social brither,
 Blythe morn and e'en, a Curler keen,
 In snell, snell, frosty weather.

AYR ADVERTISER.

LET RUSSIA EXULT.

AIR.—“ *Let them boast of the country gave Patrick his birth.*”

LET Russia exult in her snowy glissade,
 And skim down its steep of no danger afraid,
 With her rein-deer, snow-shoe, and her sledges that flee ;

Let her boast of her spring, and its magical birth
 From white desolation to verdure and mirth,
 Caledonia! my country! fair land of the free,
 Thy hill and thy ice-covered vallies for me,
 Thou land of the ice-stone, the broom and the tee!

With a band of keen Curlers, O what can compare,
 In a bright frosty morning, as forth we repair
 To the loch, wi' the ice-stone, the broom and the tee:
 The sun that's above us, and sees all our glee,
 Is not to all men more benignant than we:
 For honour we strive, and no envious soul
 Shall ever disgrace our philanthropic roll,
 In the land of the ice-stone, the broom and the tee.

Let's toast "Winter sports, and to curling success;"
 Nor gout nor rheumatic its votaries distress,
 With our nerve-bracing ice-stone, our broom and our tee:
 We breathe healthy gales, from the north tho' they blow;
 Our blood only warms with the frost and the snow;
 Content's at our elbow—though keenly we play,
 And our motto's, "Tho' beat now, have at you next day,"
 With our ice-stones of victory, our broom and our tee.

DUMFRIES NEWSPAPER.

THE CHANNEL STANE.

AIR.—"Highland Harry."

OF a' the games that e'er I saw,
 Man, callant, laddie, birkie, wean,
 The dearest, far aboon them a',
 Was aye the witching channel stane.
 CHO.—Oh! for the channel stane!
 The fell gude game, the channel stane!
 There's no a game that e'er I saw,
 Can match auld Scotland's channel stane.

I've been at bridals unco glad,
 Wi' courting lasses wondrous fain,
 But what is a' the fun I've had,
 Compare it wi' the channel stane?—Oh! for, &c.

I've played at quiting in my day,
 And may be I may do't again,
 But still unto myself I'd say,
 This is no the channel stane.—Oh ! for, &c.

Were I a sprite in yonder sky,
 Never to come back again,
 I'd sweep the moon and starlets by,
 And beat them at the channel stane.—Oh ! for, &c.

We'd boom across the milky way,
 One tee should be the Northern Wain,
 Another, bright Orion's ray,
 A comet for a channel stane.—Oh ! for, &c.

THE ETRICK SHEPHERD.

CURLING SONG.—1833.

SOME lo'e the Spring when lav'rocks sing,
 Some Simmer dight wi' flowers,
 Some Autumn's sheaf, an' changing leaf,
 Some Winter's sangless bowers.
 That time o' year I lo'e the best,
 Whilk, maist do sair misca' ;
 Lease me to Boreas bitin' blast,
 Fu' snelly may he blaw.

When Boreas comes out frae the north,
 Joy lights the Curlers e'e ;
 His twa prime stanes out frae their berth,
 Wi' meikle pride pous he :
 Syne, turns them o'er wi' eident care,
 Their fittin' state to learn ;
 Syne, hauds them aff an ell or mair,
 Their contour to discern.

And when at length the lochs are bun,
 Wi' Boreas' brittle ban's ;
 See, see him noo, among the crew,
 Hoo buirdily he stan's.

To draw the shot is neist his lot ;
 He's patlided the tee ;
 "That's prime"—"that's wise," cries every voice,
 "The gem's our ain by three."

Then hame the Curler tak's his tramp,
 Or at the "public" ca's,
 To change his luggers gin they're damp,
 Or fortify his hause.
 Wife, weans, and bed, him welcome gie,
 He's dreaming while he snores,
 O' inwicks, guards, upon the tee,
 Ports, cannons, and hog-scores.

LARGS, June 18, 1833.

T. S.

TO THE DOUNE CURLING CLUB.

THO' winter's come, nae frosty winds
 Are songhin' yet, for a' that ;
 But wait a wee, an' syne we'll see
 A change ere lang, for a' that.
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 The ice will come, for a' that ;
 Just wait a wee, an' syne we'll see
 Braw frosty days, for a' that.

Now get your stanes in order, lads,
 An' besoms new, an' a' that,
 Your trickers stout, weel rought about,
 Ye'll need them yet, for a' that.
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 The ice will come, for a' that ;
 Just wait a wee, an' syne we'll see
 Braw frosty days, for a' that.

And whan the cauld comes fairly on,
 The pond weel damm'd, an' a' that,
 We'll ha'e some fun, if ance begun,
 On rinks as gleg as a' that.
 As a' that, an' a' that,
 We'll ha'e some fun, for a' that ;
 Just wait a wee, an' syne we'll see
 The ice as smooth as a' that.

There's no a time in a' the year
 Like frost for health, an' a' that ;
 Where ice abounds, there mirth resounds,
 The Curlin's grand wi' a' that.
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 The Curlin's grand wi' a' that ;
 Whan ere a man puts tae his han',
 His heart gets up like a' that.

Then here's a health to a' our frien's,
 Their wives, their bairns, an' a' that ;
 May ilka ane that plays a stane,
 Ne'er fend the waur, for a' that.
 For a' that, an' a' that,
 Ne'er fend the waur, for a' that ;
 May ilka ane that plays a stane,
 Ha'e peacefu' days wi' a' that.

W. S.

DOUNE, Dec. 12, 1831.

 WHEN DARK DECEMBER.
AIR.—“*Killikrankie*.”

WHEN dark December ushers in
 Its annual round of frost and snaw,
 'Tis then the curling game begins,
 So dear to Caledonia ;
 And many a happy curling core
 Assembles on the icy plain,
 There to contest the game once more,
 And victory's verdant laurels gain.

“Come, lead the ice”—the hin' han' cries,
 “And lead it straight and slow to me :
 It's grandly played—eh, man ! it lies
 Within five inches of the tee.”
 “Now strike it,” cries the other side,
 “Tak' tent and play it sure and slow :
 The chiel is wud ! it's roaring wide ;
 But never mind it—let it go.”

Here lay a guard, right cannily,
 Or draw a shot as need may be ;
 Come gi'e's an inring—that's the way
 For coming sideways to the tee.
 And aye the strife it is as keen
 As e'er at Waterloo could be ;
 Here's nought but honour to be seen :
 We only strike for victory.

Then to the tavern we repair
 To drown our strife in barley bree,
 The day's delight is ripened there,
 And crowned wi' social mirth and glee :
 Then fill a bumper to the king,
 And to the land of Curling free,
 High may the wretch like Haman swing.
 That would curtail sic liberty.

ROB. HETRICK, DALMELLINGTON.

HOW BARE THE TREES.

AIR.—“ *There's nae luck about the house.*”

How bare the trees, and waste the plains,
 All nature's face is sad ;
 Thro' woods and lavns deep silence reigns,
 And hills wi' snaw are clad.
 The breath of heav'n arrests the streams,
 That murmuring us'd to flow ;
 The sun withholds his genial beams,
 And biting breezes blow.

CHO.—Oh ! winter has its joys for me,
 When on the frozen deep,
 We Curlers keen, wi' mirth and glee,
 The icy pavement sweep.

Then forehan' stanes, on mirror keen,
 Wi' gentle progress glide,
 And many a cheerfu' face is seen,
 When near the tee they slide.
 Oh ! for a Tell's unerring aim,
 To drive them off the ice ;

Curs'd fortune mars his growing fame,
 He guards the winner nice.
 Oh ! winter, &c,

Wi' frequent shouts, and loud hurrahs,
 The game wi' glee proceeds ;
 And fortune's fickleness displays,
 As well as mightier deeds ;
 Tho' now they think the winner snug,
 Wi' double guards before ;
 Yet wi' the twist,—a ride,—or stug,
 It lies the shot no more.
 Oh ! winter, &c.

The stars of heaven begin to burn,
 And fill its vault with light,
 Then homeward hungry we return,
 And feast away the night :
 Our sport we crown wi' many a bowl,
 And mirth wi' freedom use :
 To warm the heart and cheer the soul
 Can Scotsmen e'er refuse ?
 Oh ! winter, &c.

KILMARNOCK, —

FROM ALEXANDER WILSON'S POEMS,

Printed at Paisley in 1790.

WILSON wrote the following Poem when he was a Loch-winnoch weaver, about 1787. The hero of it was Robin Stirrat at the Loch-head. Stirrat was a tall, spare, and slender man, and likewise *douce*, a character suitable to his *elevated* office ; for he was the precentor of the kirk. He was a great reader of religious books. He was *san' blin'* ; of course he committed the heroic exploit commemorated in this Poem. This achievement happened in the Millbank Glen, in Loch-winnoch Parish, near the Loch-head. A. C.

RABBIE'S MISTAK'.

A TRUE STORY.

“ SHORT is the far'est fock can see,
 Yet unco warie we soud be,
 To luk afore we loup ;
 Nor e'er, in huthron haste, advance,
 Or we'll rin monie a narrow chance,
 In black mistak's to coup.

Ae caum, blae, bitter, frosty day,
 Whan deep the glitteran snaw wreaths lay
 Abune ilk muir and feil,
 And owre the Loch's clear frozen face,
 On skytchers thrang, in airie chace,
 Flew mony a cheirie cheil.

Far aff the Curler's roaran rink,
 Re-echo'd loud, wi' noisie clink,
 Of stanes and besoms rappan ;
 Doos ficher't thro' among the stacks,
 And craws upo' the toll-road tracks,
 In hungrie mude were happan.

Sic was the day, whan san' blin' Rab,
 Arm't wi' a gun lyke onie stab,
 And pocks o' lead and pouter,
 Set out, in egger search for game,
 Resolvit to bring a maukin hame,
 In triumph owre his shouther.

Nae snifteran dog had he, I wat,
 To airt him to the lanelie spat
 Whar onie craitur lay :
 Tho' scarce twa tether-length his e'en
 Cou'd ken a middin by a green,
 Yet on he push't his way.

Alang the driftit crumpan knowes,
 A' round his glimmeran e'en he rows,
 For hares, or bits o' burdies ;
 Aft takan ilka stane he saw,
 Bare rais'd abune the glitteran snaw,
 For pussie's crouchan hurdies.

Down thro' the glen atween twa trees,
 At length slie glowran Rabbie sees
 A hare amang the bushies :
 He chaps the flint—leans on a stump,
 Aff gaed the shot wi' thunneran thump,
 And efter't Rabbie rushes.

But whan he saw (guide's ! how he stude !)
 His ain *sow* welteran in her blude,
 And sticks in anguish tearan !
 Her deean squeels maist rung him deaf,
 He hung his head in silent greif,
 And dauner't hamewards swearan."

WILSON'S POEMS, p. 196.

SONG.

In the days o' lang syne, as some auld stories tell us,
 At Yule when the fiels are a' kiver'd wi' snaw ;
 Nae Bonspeil was ken'd, but the horn brightly sparkling,
 And wild bursts o' joy sounding loud thro' the ha',
 Sounding loud thro' the ha'.—

But the watch fire blaz'd red, on the high top o' Gaitfel*
 The signal weel kend to prepare for dread fight,
 For Norseman had sworn, 'mid the circles of Loda,
 He would force us to bend at the stone of his might,
 At the stone of his might.

But wi' braid sword and targues, we met them at Largs,
 And our laddies bare aff the big stane o' his might !

To the ice of Loch Tankard,† our buirdly brow callans
 First bare the big whin-stane, and marked out the tee,
 Syne drew down the dread hog-score, the hack and the circle,
 Around which our Fathers oft sported wi' glee,
 Oft sported wi' glee.

* Gaitfel, or Goatfel, the highest mountain in the Isle of Arran.

† Loch Tankard, the ancient name of Kilbirnie Loch. The men of Kilbirnie are supposed to be the strongest in Scotland.

And ilk year sin syne, in the dark dreary winter,
 When the snell blasts of Boreas begin first to bite,
 Wi' loud roaring noise round the circles of Loda
 We bend, but in sport, at the stone of his might,
 At the stone of his might.

While our stonies loudly rattle, we are ready for battle,
 If the foe dare to try the dread force of our might.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BEGINNING AND TERMINATION
 OF A BONSPÉIL BETWIXT THE CURLERS OF L. AND K.

BY A LARGS' CURLER.

L.

MIND clean and clear's the order of the day,*
 The ice is gleg we'll have some glorious play
 From the K*** last we gained the prize,
 And here once more, I think, they'll pay the pyes.†
 Come, Robin, tak' your place, and play awa,
 I've often seen ye mak' a bonny draw,
 Just to my besom, let us soop ye up—
 Well played, man, certes, ye deserve a cup.

K.

Now, Johnie, Robin's lying in the ring,
 It's left to you to lay yoursel' beside him ;
 But you're a cannie player, and by jing,
 Wi' cannie play, its just as weel to ride him.

L.

Willy, our stane 's awa, look at me now,
 Gently inwick, or gently rest ye there,
 I like ye weel, han's up, up every kowe,
 The vera thing, man, not an inch to spare.

K.

A** ye see that, we are second best,
 Could ye tak' aff the last a single yard ;
 But, oh ! be cautious, for it is nae jest,
 At all events ye manna lie a guard.

* Alludes to fair play, and clean ice, and detestation of foul play.

† Sixpence pies are generally played for on the ice.

L.

J*n did play, but missed as we do oft.
 And now J* L* see that ye fit it fair,
 Guard this inwick we'll soop ye to the place ;
 Most excellent, you've done it to a hair.

K.

J*y, observe, and see ye mind your play,
 And crack an egg quite full upon the guard.
 Preserve us, man, ye're raging strong to-day,
 And fied the stane at least by half-a-yard.

L.

Now guard again, my heroes, mind the mark,
 I barely want ye o'er the coley score ;
 He looks weel—soop him up—he'll do the wark—
 He's clear'd it fairly by a yard and more.

K.

We've in a second, J*y, come up here,
 And lay your stane for me to get its wick ;
 Ye've done my bidding, aiblins they'll look queer,
 Provided that the road they do not steek.

L.

John, see that Mirran Bane do fill this pass,
 Let her lie there to form an angled guard ;
 Of Kelly's rum ye weel deserve a glass,
 Come here and tak' it as your just reward.

K.

Now, J*y R*d mind that ye clear the rink,
 See that the back o' Mirran ye do warm,
 As we are second let us swim or sink,
 A raging shot can do us little harm.

Seldom, it's true, did J*y miss his mark,
 In rage he play'd, but he was over keen,
 He Mirran passed, and raging up the rink
 Ran half a tether-length out o'er the green.

K

L.

Now, L*g ye seldom fail to guard a stane,
 Soop, callans, soop, until that he do stand,
 The head, my boys, I think is a' our ain,
 I wish, man, I could tak' ye by the hand.

Aft as the guard was broke it was laid down,
 And charming play we had upon the hill,
 The pies at intervals the sport did crown,
 And great consumpt of many a Highland gill.
 But hark, what shout of exultation's there,
 The game is ended, Largs the spell is thine,
 Besoms and bonnets flying in the air,
 Whilst joyous hameward they do post to dine.

Largs, tho' victorious, had not much to boast,
 May she aye serve them, as to-day she did,
 Altho' K**y now the game has lost,
 Few Curlers here can play like J** R*d.

THE following Song was composed for, and sung at, the
 Duddingston Society, in 1817, by Sir Alexander Boswell,
 Bart.

TUNE.—“*Bachelor's Bluff.*”

LET Lads dam the water in ilka how trough,
 For cheerin' frost comes wi' December;
 And Curlers o' Scotland on Duddingston Loch,
 The glorious MEDAL remember.

CHORUS.

Duddingston Loch!
 Duddingston Loch!
 Strain ilka nerve, shouter, back-bane, and hough.

Let rogues and let fools rin to cards and to dice,
 And gamblin', sit girnin' and gurlin';
 But honest men ken, that tho' slipp'ry the ice,
 Still fair play an' fun gang wi' Curlin'.

Chorus.

Then ring it round Reekie, our auld bizzin' byke,
 That the Rinks are a' measured an' soopit ;
 And out flee the Lads, to *draw, inwick, and strike,*
 Frae plough, counter, desk, bar, and pu'pit.

Chorus.

To the Kirk we maun bow, sae we needna be sure,
 For there, I trow, stands our best pillar :
 But gif o' keen Curlers ye're wantin' the flower,
 For *flour* ye maun look to a—*Miller.* (1)

Chorus.

We politics never shall mix in our brue,
 To Curlers a toothless wife's story,
 'Bout auld Whigs and new Whigs, there's unco ado ;
 But name can transmogrify—*Torry.* (2)

Chorus.

George is our King and we honour him weel,
 And George can *mak'* Lords by his Letter ;
 But we hoast a Curler, a mightier chiel,
Mac-George (3) he can write, and that's better.

Chorus.

Lazy loons crack o' a clear sheet o' ice,
 Tho' wark mak's a sonsy beginning ;
 But troth about sheets some folk needna be nice,
 Wha get twa gude stanes and lang—*Linning.* (4)

Chorus.

The *Principal's* (5) ane o' our principal hands,
 For skill at ilk *port* stands his bedal :
 Not Wellington prouder look'd o'er his brave bands,
 Than our Doctor o'er *his* and the Medal.

Chorus.

David wi' stanes wan the Philistine's head ;
 His pebbles I'm thinkin' were whin stanes :
 But our rev'rend *David* (6) can win, whan there's need,
 A *head*, wi' twa stanes like twa grun-stanes.

Chorus.

A blythe penny-waddin', I ken by the book,
 Our fathers thought sport maist bewitchin':
 But we fare as weel wi' a blythe *Penny-cook*,
 Let him be the *Clerk* (7) o' mirth's kitchen.

Chorus.

On gude beef and greens a true Curler maun feed,
 A dish for a King or a cotter;
 And sheepishly nane wad refuse a sheep's head,
 But let them no leave out ilk—*Trotter*. (8)

Chorus.

If *Scot's* (9) in the chair, we've a Curler that's true;
 If the *Knight*, (10) then the night sit out fairly;
 For mony a bowl maun be toom or we're fou,
 And past twall o'clock's risin' early.

Chorus.

(1) The late James Miller, Esq., Advocate, long known upon the Dud. ice, as a most agreeable companion and a keen Curler. Author of several songs.

(2) Archibald Torry, Esq.—a Member of Dud. Society.

(3) Mr. M'George, Master of Stones, and Medallist to the Society—a very excellent and a very keen, Curler.

(4) John Linning, Esq., of the Excise—a hereditary and most enthusiastic Curler.

(5) The Very Reverend and worthy George H. Baird, D.D., Principal of the University—an excellent and keen Curler.

(6) Dr. David Ritchie, Professor of Logic in the University.

(7) Sir George Clerk of Pennycuik, Bart.—an excellent player and patroniser of the game.

(8) Thomas Trotter, Esq., of the Morton Hall family.

(9) David Scot, Esq., son of the venerable founder of the Dud. Society, of the same name.

(10) Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, Bart., one of the Presidents of the Society—an excellent player.

CURLING SONG,

Composed extempore, in 1784, at the game played betwixt the Duke of Hamilton and Mr. M^r Douall of Castlesemple, for £1000, by an onlooker.

WHEN ice does cover stream and lake,
 And snaw the fields adorn,
 We Curlers joyfully awake,
 To hail the frosty morn.
 And a-curling we will go, go, go.

The racks we sweep from tee to tee,
 Our crisps we set wi' care
 The first stane played, for the tozee,
 Did gain it to a hair.
 And a-curling, &c.

The neist ane tries to do the same,
 And hopes to reach the spot,
 His foot it slipped, but in he came
 And lies a fine side shot.
 And a-curling, &c.

A guard, a guard, is all the cry,
 My broom do not pass by,
 Sweep, sweep, sweep, sweep, sweep, sweep, sweep,
 A shame a hog to lie.
 And a-curling, &c.

Six stanes within the circle stand,
 And every port is block'd
 But Tam Pate he did turn the hand,
 And soon the port unlocked.
 And a-curling, &c.

Bravo, bravo, the game is ours,
 The coves were tossed in air ;
 And were it for ten thousand pounds,
 We'd mak' their pockets bare.
 And a-curling, &c.

CURLING PHRASES.

Angled Guard.—Two stones guarding a winner obliquely, so that neither can be hit so as to move the winner. A stone that half covers another, which last guards the winner, and this forms the strongest guard possible.

Baugh Ice.—Ice that is not keen. Dour.

Bonspel.—Parish match against parish. In Dutch *bons* signifies thump, and *spel* signifies play.

Besoms.—A bunch of broom, or other material, called also Cowes; at Kilmarnock, they are made of hair.

Brough.—The circles or ringlets round the tee.

Bunker.—Uneven ice, as almost all water-borne ice must be.

Borrowing.—A term in use on ice that is not true, and where to play to reach the tozee, it is necessary to aim at one side of it, sometimes to the distance of several feet.

Cannie.—Cautious.

Cockee.—Same as Tee or Tozee. The mark aimed at.

Coley, or Hog-Score.—A line across the ice seven or more yards distant from the tee, over which every stone played must pass, or be put off the ice.

Crack an egg.—To strike gently, not strongly.

Creep.—To play slow, gently.

Crampet, or Crampbits.—Fastenings of iron with pikes, which injure the ice, in some places called crisps.

Curl.—The Curl. A' the Curl. The winning shot.

Curling.—Sliding stones along the ice towards a mark.

Cowes.—Same as Besoms.

Dead Guard.—A complete cover of one stone by another.

Director, leader, hin'-han', douper, or skip.—He who generally directs the proceedings of the play, and who generally plays the last stone on his side.

Dour.—Ice that is not keen.

Delivery.—The act of laying the stone down on the ice.

Draw.—To play a stone with the adequate strength, so as to reach the spot pointed at.

Fled.—A stone going wide of the direction.

Foot-Iron.—A piece of frosted sheet-iron for standing on when about to play.

Fore-han'.—He who plays the first on a side.

Gleg.—Keen ice.

- Heads up.*—Expressive of a favourable turn in the game.
- Heel him.*—Gi'e him heels, sweep him up.
- Hack.*—A cut made in the ice to give footing when playing. This can seldom be used now-a-days from the want of ice sufficiently strong.
- Head.*—The head, or termination of an end, where all the stones have been played on both sides.
- Hog-Score.*—See Coley.
- Inring, or Inwick.*—That part of the stone's circle that is nearest the centre of the ice.
- Kittle.*—To sweep keenly.
- Kuting, Coiting, Kuyten, Kluyten.*—Terms said to have been used for Curling in old times.
- Outwick.*—The outer part of the circle that is farthest from the centre of the ice.
- Patlid.*—A stone covering the tee.
- Port.*—An opening for a stone to pass.
- Polish.*—To sweep before the stone.
- Rack, or Rink.*—The icy arena used for the game.
- Rest.*—To rest, or stop at a place.
- Redd the Ice.*—Clear it, play hard.
- Ride.*—To ride, or play hard.
- Shott.*—The shott. A' the shot. The winning stone.
- Up-han's.*—Stop sweeping.
- Witter.*—Same as Tozee.

TOASTS, OR SENTIMENTS.

1. Clean and Clear.—(*A true Curler's toast.*)
2. The Tee and Tozee; what we all play for.
3. One in angle-guarded.
4. The Curlers of Scotland.
5. The Curlers of England.
6. The Curlers in America.
7. Frosty weather and icy sports.
8. The Land of Cakes and Curling.
9. Keen run stones and keen ice.

10. Curling without crampets.
11. A well drawn shot.
12. A good ride.
13. A merry inwick.
14. A patlid well covered, and guarded.
15. The circled ringlets round the tee.
16. A narrow port well taken.
17. Fair play off and on the ice.
18. Curling in Scotland with a morning's frost.
19. Curlers' wives and sweethearts.
20. Within the Brough.
21. May we never lie a hog.
22. Just-ice and fair players.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

WATER is an excellent radiator of heat. Hence when the sky is clear, the surface of a pond is often much lower than a thermometer placed on the surface of the ground. When the sky is clouded, the clouds radiate back the heat. Hence, in such weather, the surface of water does not get colder than the air. Of course, in cloudy weather, water will not begin to freeze on a shallow pond unless the air be as cold as 32° . Whereas, in clear weather, ice may appear on a pond when the air is several degrees above the freezing point. For this explanation we are indebted to THOMAS THOMSON, Esq., Professor of Chemistry, University of Glasgow.

No. II.

Many Curlers prefer handles placed in the side of the stone, but we think it must be evident, that for playing it is immaterial whether the handle be placed in the side or centre. One very great inducement for placing the handles in the centre is, that it is equivalent to having two stones to choose from in place of one; and, as in Parish matches, the distance to travel is often considerable; and as it frequently happens, a change takes place in the weather before the game commences, we think most Curlers will be disposed to adopt them. We believe the Rev. Dr. Somerville of Currie was the first who introduced handles diverging from the parallel, and we think

this is an improvement for such players as deliver the stone with the handle pointed towards the tee ; at the same time we think, that Curlers who play with an inclination of the handle towards the side will find it advantageous to adopt handles that are horizontal. We think there are more players disposed to offer a broadside than to run stem on.

No. III.

Twisting.—We believe, that at Kilmarnock they have attained to considerable proficiency in this art, and we have witnessed some wonderful shots taken on our own ice by one of our oldest scholars. When twisting, or turning the hand becomes necessary from biasses on ice that is water-borne, we think the game comes to be entirely a game of chance. It must, however, even upon the best ice, be an uncertain method of gaining the end. We apprehend straight lines are those that should be studied by the Curler, or if the advance in the science of twisting be such as to render it as certain as the play in general use, we are of opinion, that ice-bowling may come to rank amongst our winter amusements.

No. IV.

The term Hog in Curling, it is supposed, has been taken from that of Sheep that are one year old, and called Hogs—at this age they are often ill, and apt to lag behind the flock.

A D D E N D A.

THE author of the Mem. Cur. has suggested to us a scheme for the formation of an Amateur Curling Club for Scotland; and we trust he will soon, in a second edition of his work, furnish the Curlers of this country with the particulars. He has been so kind as to suggest to us some of the items connected with the plan of formation; and we sincerely wish the talented gentleman's views of this subject may be realized.

We think it would be a very desirable matter, that, connected with this Curling Club, it should be recommended, that every Curling Society in Scotland should correspond, and give in a list of their Office-bearers, the number of Curlers, matches played, and any matter connected with the game that was interesting.

From what we have collected, we believe that there were few Curling Societies previous to the formation of the Duddingston. Now, with us, and in many other places, regular books are kept, and some information that is interesting may be obtained from them, when the sporting days of the present race of Curlers are over.

We have just seen a book entitled the Commercial Directory of Renfrewshire, edited by Mr. G. Fowler, Bookseller, Paisley,—a work which, we trust, will be followed up by similar publications in the different counties. Mr. Fowler has given a

list of several Societies of Curlers in Renfrewshire, but several have not been mentioned, from their not having been given in time for publication ; and although we have noticed some of these Clubs, we shall insert that given by Mr. F. as being, perhaps, more correct. The date of institution and the number of Office-bearers in these Societies are given, and it would appear, that although Curling has been practised for a century in Renfrewshire, it is only of late years that Clubs or Societies of Curlers have been formed there.

UPPER WARD.

PAISLEY UNITED CURLING CLUB—1830.

John Hutchison, Preses, Glenlane—James Fulton, Treasurer, 69, Broomlands—John Falconer, Clerk, 2, Wardrop Street—Malcolm Whyte, Officer, 135, Causeyside.

KILBARCHAN CURLERS' SOCIETY—1829.

James Semple, Preses, Cross—John Andrew, Treasurer—James Mack, Clerk, Steeple Street—Andrew Adam, Officer, Steeple Street.

LOCHWINNOCH CURLING CLUB—1827.

Archibald Davidson, President—*Doupers*, No. 1, Robert Aitken, High Street—No. 2, James Connell, Newtown of Barr—No. 3, James Love, Hallhill—No. 4, John Connell, Calder Street—No. 5, John Shedden, High Street—No. 6, John Logan of Little Cloak—No. 7, William Connell, High Street—No. 8, John Storrie, Kirktown—No. 9, John Blackburn, Factory Closs—No. 10, John Robertson, Factory Closs, Clerk—*Carvers of Stones*, William Watt, High Street—John Cochran, Kirktown—John Gemmell, Caulderhaugh Street.

NEILSTON CURLERS' SOCIETY—1824.

Thomas Anderson, Preses, Neilston—Robert Andrew, Clerk, Neilston.

LEVERN CURLING CLUB—1830.

Archibald M'Indoe, President, Fereneeze Bleachfield—
Thomas Young, Treasurer, Barrhead—Francis Oatt, Secretary,
Hurlet.

POLLOKSHAWS CURLERS' SOCIETY—1808.

John Lohead, Preses, 3, Cross Street—Andrew Brown,
Treasurer, Thornliebank—John Wark, Clerk, 43, Factory
Street.

NITSHILL CURLING CLUB—1829.

James Hosie, Sen., Preses, Nitshill—James Hosie, Jun.,
Treasurer, Nitshill—*Managers*, appointed for Hurlet, William
M'Lintock and John Hosie—for Nitshill, Alexander Dove and
Walter Lock—for Darnley, James Fleming and William
Stewart.

LOWER WARD.

GREENOCK CURLING CLUB—26th Feb., 1830.

Hugh Mitchell, President—John M'Lellan, Jun., Treasurer—
James Baird, Secretary—William Menzies, Chaplain—William
Turner, Surgeon—John Paton, Legal Adviser—Committee,
Agnew Crawford, Thomas Carmichael, David Balderston,
William Thom, George Robertson, M. Brownlie.

PORT-GLASGOW CURLING CLUB—1818.

James M'Lean, President—John Cullen, Treasurer—George
Kalley, Secretary—Rev. Dr. Barr, Chaplain—Wemyss Orrok,
Master of Stones—William Crawford, M.D., Surgeon—James
Dykes, Legal Adviser—Committee, David Gilkison, Matthew
Brown, John Elsworth, James Kerr, George Hewetson.

We have lately visited some of the Curling villages in
Dumfries-shire and elsewhere, and would again refer our
readers to the Mem. Cur. for many of the details of the sport

in that quarter. We find, that at Moffat there are many keen Curlers ; and from their proficiency in the game of Bowls, we conclude many of them can make a good use of the Channel Stane. There is a regular Club formed at Moffat, of which Thomas Jardine, Esq., is Preses. Perhaps, from their rinks having been badly arranged, Moffat Curlers have not generally succeeded. They have been repeatedly beat by the parish of Kirkpatrick Juxta, although the population in that parish is less than in that of Moffat. The stones we saw in this quarter, are not so well finished as those in use with us, and they generally run on one bottom. In the neighbouring parishes there are many fine Curlers, and they can turn out 6 or 8 rinks fit for the bonspiel. Lesmahagow can turn out from 20 to 24 rinks of players.

That favourite Curling spot, Lochmaben, contains around it many Curlers who excel, and they have generally been successful. In 1828, although the distance is considerable, the Closeburn players went to Lochmaben, and were beat. In 1830, the Curlers of Closeburn again challenged the Lochmabeners, and beat them. In 1832, the Lochmabeners challenged; Closeburn came there, when they were conquered by a majority of 36 shots out of 105. At and near Dumfries, the number of Curlers is greater, and they have a regular Club, and Office-bearers. In Penpont Presbytery are many keen Curlers. In Keir parish, the Curlers are much indebted to Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, their Preses, for encouraging the game. The Rev. W. Menzies, and Mr. Thomas Smith of Penfillan, are V. Ps. Curling seems here to be systematically arranged, and every rink sends two members, who form a Committee in this parish. Sir T. Kirkpatrick, we believe, is Director on the Kepenoch rink—on the Penfillan, T. Kirk, is Director—Thomas Campbell on the Waterside rink—John Ferguson on Barjarg—and on Blackwood, James Ferguson is Director.

The parishes of Closeburn, Morton, Glencairn, Kirkconnel,

and Durrisdeer can turn out each 100 Curlers—Sanquhar, in the same district, upwards of 200—and Tynron can furnish 6 or 8 rinks of players. The stones we examined, generally run on about 4 inches of bottom, and are from 30 to 45 pounds in weight. In the town of Hamilton are many excellent Curlers; and they claim being the oldest Club in Scotland. The Club is called the Old Curling Club, Joseph Rowat, Esq., is Preses. This Club can produce 8 rinks of Curlers, and the town of Hamilton can supply 20 more, if wanted. We saw Mr. John Ferguson, clothier, who is a keen Curler, and we presume a good one, as he heads one of the rinks, and has several fine looking stones. Some of the stones we saw run on three points as represented in the plate, and are much approved of here. The stones generally have two bottoms.

We saw a Curling veteran at Hamilton, aged upwards of 75 years, named John Yates, who still reckons himself a good Curler, and is admitted into one of the parish rinks. He was present at the grand match betwixt the Duke of Hamilton and Mr. M'Dowall of Castleseemple, and favoured us with a song, which, he says, was composed at the time by an onlooker.

We have been experimenting with lime over a dry stony bottom, and have every reason for supposing that it will answer perfectly well for parish purposes, although we cannot suppose it can ever be so perfect, or durable, as a pond of pavement. Our pond, the greatest deviation of which was stated to be $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch off the level, has been improved, and it is still susceptible of further improvement. Mr. John Paterson, a very able builder, and skilled mason, at Largs, informs us, that the greatest deviation from the level does not now exceed $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch.

The whole of the joints are hermetically sealed with mastic, and any apparent wasting in the stones is made up with that material.

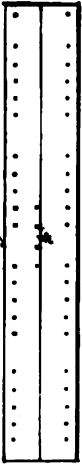
The frontispiece shows a view of our Cutter coming to her

moorings with a few selected pieces of granite for Curling sport, taken from the shore of Ailsa Craig; and on the hills behind, in the distance, the Largs and Gogoside Clubs, have their natural ponds, which supply an extensive field of ice in a frosty winter. At this season of the year, sailing in our seas is a recreation superior to what can be had in most places; and should a gale come on, shelter is afforded on every side, either from harbours, or from the numerous islands with which our waters are studded. Largs is one of the principal stations for the Royal Northern Yacht Club. We now see the Orion carrying the flag of the Vice-Commodore, and attended by the Aerial Sylph, and a numerous fleet of elegant pleasure Yachts.

Plate 3 represents Curling Ponds and their appendages, for footing, marking, measuring, &c.

FINIS.

Marking Board.

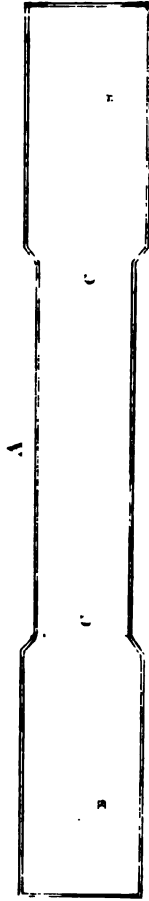


Foot Iron, 3/4 inch by 2 inches.

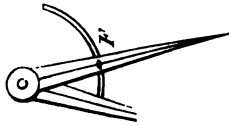


Transverse Section of Pond.

2 1/2 feet wide, with curb stems at side, rising 15 deg.



D



PLASS

is distances, 1/2 in. for the be distance and also for a round the Sprites being set with iron.

joint, for keep any one leg of the Compass perpendicular when measuring.

E. Joint for Mastic, one inch deep.



EXPLANATION.

A. Cairn's Pond, 45 yards by 18 feet at ends, and 12 in center.

B.B. Thores.

C.C. Flag or Caley scores.

D. Proposed Plan of a Pavement Sink at . Irtygowan, by Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Park 50 yards long by 21 feet wide.

E. Foot Iron, frosted on both sides by driving holes through on each side with a sharp iron, to make it catch the ice on the one side, and the feet on the other. - Plate Iron.

Kilmarnock Stone.

This Stone is 4 or 5 high by 13 diam weight 15 lbs. Under old stones marking in a dead level of 15. Mould always upwards of 1 inch from the pitted.

