

## THE CLAN MACNAUGHTON AND THEIR CHIEF.

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WE are glad to see the growing interest in Celtic and Highland questions, the most recent illustration of which we find in the general meeting, on Thursday, the 8th March, of the Clan Macnaughton, in the hall of the Literary Institute, Edinburgh, for the purpose of electing a chief, vice-president, and bard, and for taking steps to elucidate their history and promote their social intercourse and general welfare; also to form a Clan Macnaughton Association, the objects of which are intended to be anti-quarian, social, and charitable. Some forty or fifty ladies and gentlemen responded to the invitation sent out, many of whom had come considerable distances to be present. Mr Alex. Macnaughton, 39 York Place, having been called to the chair, Mr Daniel Macnaughton stated that there were between seventy and eighty letters of apology, some of them from people 80 and 90 years of age. He also read a letter from the Lyon Clerk-Depute, Mr R. R. Stodart, in regard to the chiefship of the clan, in which it was stated that there could be no doubt that Sir Francis Edmund Macnaughten, Bart. of Dundarave, county Antrim, was entitled to occupy the position. There was also submitted a report by a committee who had been appointed at a preliminary meeting to investigate this matter. The origin of the clan, it was stated, was involved in obscurity, but authorities admitted that it was very ancient, and that the misfortunes by which it was overtaken arose mainly for its unswerving loyalty to the causes it from time to time espoused. Some authors appear to come to the conclusion that the clan was Scoto-Irish, or belonged to the Dalriads of Argyllshire, who came from Ireland; others held that it was Pictish or Caledonian. It would have been impossible, it was remarked, to have traced the chiefship back through the labyrinth of intricacy which surrounded the early history of the clan; but fortunately there was an admirable stepping-stone more than half-way down the long period that had elapsed since the clan first came on the scene in connection with the early annals of Albion. That stepping-stone was Gilchrist Macnaughton, who, in the year 1267, received from Alexander III. a patent granting to him and his heirs the Castle of Fraoch, in Loch Awe, and hence *Eilean Fraoch* was long the war cry of the clan. In his day, Gilchrist Macnaughton was chief, and that being the opinion also of the Lyon Clerk-Depute, the committee did not consider it necessary to go further back. Among Gilchrist's descendants were Duncan Macnaughton, who in 1330 embarked for the Holy Land with the heart of Robert the Bruce; Sir Alexander Macnaughton, who in 1513 accompanied King James to the fatal field of Flodden, where he was slain; John Macnaughton, who joined Viscount Dundee with a body of the clan, and greatly contributed to the victory at Killiecrankie. This John left two sons, who died without issue, and the representation of the clan fell to the descendants of John, the third and youngest son of Alexander Macnaughton, who fell at Flodden. This John, who was known as "Shane Dhu," had settled in county Antrim; and the lineal descendant of that branch of the family at the present day was Sir Francis Edmund Macnaughten, Bart., whom the committee had no hesitation in saying was the

hereditary chief of the clan. In that opinion, as already stated, the Lyon Clerk-Depute coincided. The thanks of the committee were recorded in the report to Mr R. R. Stodart, of the Lyon Office, for his courtesy in making these inquiries. The Chairman having made a few remarks, the nomination of the Chief of the Clan was made by Mr Macnaughton, banker, Callander, in these terms :—

The meeting having considered the report of the committee and other information laid before it, finds that the Chief of the Clan Macnaughton is Sir Francis Edmund Macnaughten of Dundarave, Bushmills, Ireland—a lineal descendant of the ancient line of chiefs of the clan, and otherwise qualified to occupy the position of chief, and the meeting confirms him in that position accordingly.

This was seconded by Mr Duncan G. Macnaughton, Stirling, and was unanimously agreed to. The nomination as vice-president of Mr Alex. Macnaughton, 39 York Place, Edinburgh, who was the originator of the present movement, was also cordially accepted. It was resolved to defer the appointment of a bard for the clan until the next meeting in 1879. On the motion of Mr D. Macnaughton, Stonefield, Blantyre, it was unanimously resolved “That an Association be formed to be called ‘The Clan Macnaughton Association.’”

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LITERARY FAME !—A paragraph under this heading appeared in our last issue, in which it was stated, on the authority of a biography of the late Mr Macphun, publisher, Glasgow, which appeared in the *Glasgow Highland Echo* of 22d September 1877, and which has never been contradicted, that “Macleod & Dewar’s Dictionary was entirely compiled by the Macfarlanes (father and son); and the late Mr Macphun, for whom the work was got up, to secure the Dictionary a literary status and rapid sale, offered ‘Tormod Og’ and Dr Dewar £100 each for the mere use of their names on the title-page;” that they “accepted the bribe, and robbed the Macfarlanes of their well-merited reputation.” We are now informed, on the best authority—“Tormod Og’s” eldest son, John N. Macleod, Kirkcaldy—that the paragraph, in so far as it refers to his famous father, has no foundation in fact. Mr Macleod writes :—“Without any disparagement to the late Principal Dewar, I know as a fact, and can testify along with others thereto, that nearly the entire burden and labour of compiling the Dictionary fell on Dr Macleod; that it was compiled in the Manse of Campsie, where, also, the late respected Mr P. Macfarlane took up his abode and residence, as his amanuensis and corrector for the press.” We have no hesitation in accepting this statement as the actual facts of the case, and we much regret having published the objectionable statement, founded on the false information supplied by the *Echo*, which, however, until it was reproduced by us, has never been contradicted by those interested. Though sorry for having published what we are now informed, on such good authority, is contrary to the facts, we are glad to be placed in a position to clear, as far as we can, the fair fame of “Tormod Og” from the charges unfortunately taken over by us from the *Highland Echo*. The words “bribe” and “robbed” were, of course, only used in a *literary sense*.