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Journal of the Limerick Field Club.

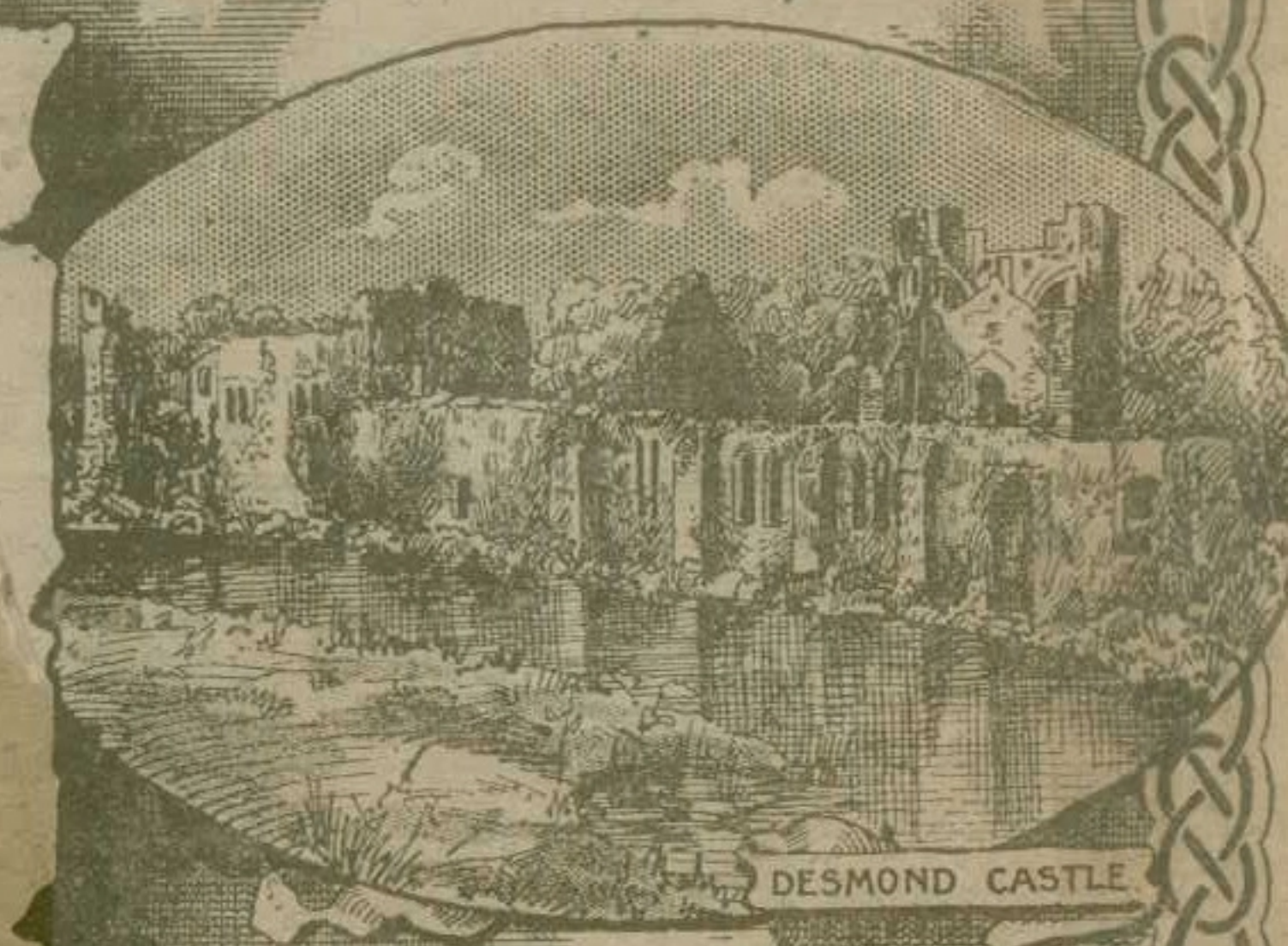
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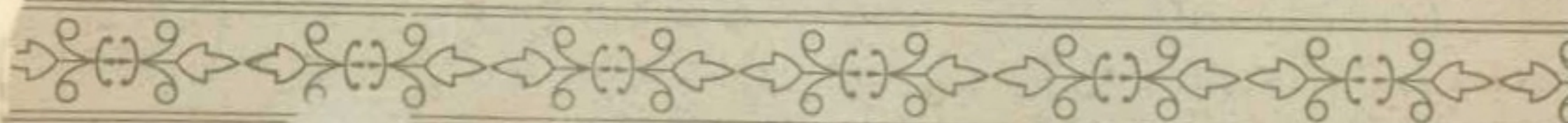
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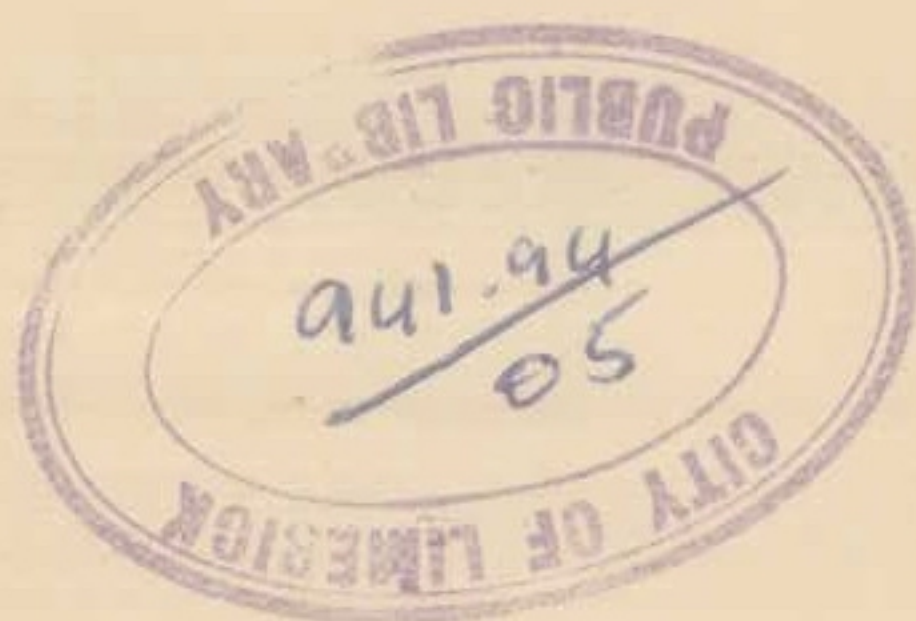
OF THE

Limerick Field Club.

VOLUME I—No. 2.

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LIMERICK FIELD CLUB.

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Archæological Section—J. GRENE BARRY, F.R.S.A.I., Sandville, Grange.

Nat. Hist. Section and General Secretary—F. NEALE, Glencore, Limerick.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Report of Committee for the year 1897, presented to the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Club, held on Tuesday, 11th January, 1898, in the Rooms of the Savings Bank, Limerick :—

The Committee are pleased to say that the working of the Club during the past year has been most gratifying, the impetus given to it in public notice and favour by the eminently successful annual meeting in January, 1897, having been maintained since. The position the Club now has in the estimation of the people is easily shown by referring to its membership as reported for a few years. Thus, in January, 1896, there were 50 members ; in January, 1897, 110, and now your Committee are able to report a membership of 214, and that on a list made up

only to the 30th of September last, the total number to this date being 240, of whom there are but two whose subscriptions for the past year have not been paid. This state of things speaks for itself, and for confirmation of the interest taken in the work of the Club, one has only to refer to the programme for the current Winter Session, in which your Committee were easily able to arrange for the holding of fourteen evening meetings, the majority of which are filled by members of our own Club. The significance of this is apparent when it is remembered that in previous years not more than six meetings have been held, and that two of those were, as in the current session, allotted by invitation to visitors from sister societies, with which the Club is affiliated in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork.

It is with much pleasure that your Committee report the formation by some half dozen members of a Club *herbarium* during the past year, and that it has attained to 500 or more sheets, these containing all, or nearly all, the wild flowers of the immediate neighbourhood, including more than twenty not hitherto recorded from this division of the country. This cannot be regarded as other than most satisfactory, and appears to be a direct result of the interest awakened in Botanical research by the course of lectures delivered last session by the President of the Club. The continuation of this work is most desirable, and should be supported by the Club and its members in every possible way. Botany is represented on the programme this session at three meetings, viz., "Mosses and Liverworts," "Irish Seaweeds," and "The Flora of County Limerick." Geology is receiving attention also, the "Physical Features of the District" being down for delineation; and Zoology is to be dealt with under "The Rock-pools of our Sea Coast."

The capture of a fine specimen of the Royal Sturgeon (*Accipenser Sturio*) was made on the 8th of July last by fishermen near the mouth of the Mague river, its length being about 10 ft., and its estimated weight between four and five cwt. The chief interest of this event lies in the fact that the sturgeon is one of the few survivors of the *Ganoid* or armour-coated fishes which flourished so abundantly in the remote Geological period of the earth's history, when the old red sandstone rocks were being laid down at the bottoms of the then existing seas. Their headquarters to-day are in the Black Sea, and it is only occasionally one finds its way into Irish waters.

The chief item of entomological interest during the year has been the occurrence of the Brimstone Butterfly (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) at Broadford, Co. Clare, where a specimen was observed on Whit Monday. It is also reported as occurring regularly every Spring at Wood Park, near Scariff. The sole food plant of its larvæ, the common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus Catharticus*), has not yet been found in this district, except on Holy Island, in Lough Derg.

It is also worth recording that, on June 3rd, an *Orthopteron* (*Tetrix Subulatus*), an insect of the grasshopper family, was taken at Mountshannon, swimming freely in water, this being the second occasion upon which one of these creatures has been so captured by one of our members. The fact of any individual of the group entering water and seeming to be at home in it, not having been noticed elsewhere, or if noticed not recorded, is deserving of mention and of fuller investigation.

Much good work has been done by the Photographic Section of the Club, as is abundantly shown this evening, its requirements being catered for this session by four meetings, for the lectures and illustrations at which the Club is under obligation to the editor of *The Amateur Photographer*, who has been at much pains to meet Limerick requirements as to dates, etc., and who really deserves the warm thanks of the Club, specially passed by this annual meeting. We shall also owe to the same source what promises to be a fine exhibition of selected photographs, being a collection of the best pictures of the year. These are known as the *Loan Collection*, and it is intended to have them on view here, under the auspices of the Club, on the 16th and 17th of next month, of which due notice will be given to all members.

The opening of an Archæological Section last year has added greatly to the general interest taken in the Club, and its studies have been a decidedly attractive element in connection with several of last season's excursions, which witnessed a most fortunate combination in the field of antiquarian and photographer, the latter rendering fine views of crumbling historic and pre-historic castles, temples, cromlechs, etc., at once permanent and portable by his art—an attainment surely not to be despised. Archæology occupies three evenings in the current session, and has during the year had the first number of the Club Journal devoted to its interests. This publication, under the able editorship of Mr. J. Grene

Barry, J.P., the Hon. Secretary of the Section, has been very well received, and most favourably commented on by the local, provincial, and Dublin press, its cost to the Club being its chief drawback. From this to finance is an easy stage, and the Treasurer will submit a cash statement for acceptance. The year has been one of heavy outlay, and the balance has disappeared from the credit side of the account, but it is hoped not permanently. Besides issuing the Journal free to all members, your Committee spent a considerable sum on each of the following, viz.:—Last Annual Meeting, organizing the Archæological Section, constructing and furnishing a photographic dark room, properly lighting the Board-room for Club meetings, and making its walls suitable for displaying diagrams, etc., all of which seems money well spent, and calculated to prove of great benefit. Printing and posting separate notices of each meeting to all members, as has been usual in former years, has been discontinued, and will result in a great saving, and the immediate future will probably see the Club once more with a good balance in its Treasurer's hands, which desirable end will be hastened by members promptly paying their subscriptions to him for 1898. Your Committee hope and believe that constructing the dark room for the use of the Photographic Section is a matter which will commend itself to the general membership of the Club, and that many besides those likely to use it will respond to the suggestion already made, and contribute specially towards its cost. Many have done so, but the list is still open for others.

The following meetings and excursions have taken place during the past year :—

MEETINGS.

January 14—Annual meeting.

February 23—"Bogs and Bog Bursts, with special reference to the recent Kerry Disaster." By Mr. R. Lloyd Praeger, M.R.I.A., &c., Hon. Sec. Dublin Field Club.

March 31—A general conference on the work of the three sections represented in the Club—Natural Science, Photography, and Archæology.

April 27—"Limerick during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth." By Mr. J. Grene Barry, J.P.

November 2—"York and its Minster." By Rev. W. E. Bentley, M.A.

November 16—"Lantern Slide Making." Contributed by *The Amateur Photographer*.

December 8—"Mosses and Liverworts." By Rev. C. H. Waddell, B.D., V.-President Belfast Field Club.

December 14—"Eugene O'Curry." By Rev. T. Lee, Adm.
 "Adare and its Ancient Monastic Buildings." By Mr. G. J. Hewson.
 "Notes on Ara." By Rev. J. F. Lynch, M.A.

EXCURSIONS.

May 20—Askeaton.

June 17—Finlough.

July 22—Broadford.

September 3—Lough Gur.

" 22—Finlough (by invitation.)

Meetings and excursions have been well attended and very successful, except that the pleasure of some of the latter was somewhat marred by wet weather.

Your Committee recommend an alteration in Rule 3, so as to provide for seven ordinary members on the Committee, and that the rules be harmonised with the enlarged objects of the Club.
