

Falkland 1900-2000

Year 1907

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

5th January 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Poultry Show** – “The 47th annual exhibition and competition of Falkland Ornithological Society was held on Wednesday. This year the Society extended their boundaries and hired both the Drill Hall and the Town Hall. The arrangements were excellently carried out by the Secretary, Mr William Reid jnr., and an energetic Committee. The judges were: - Game and game bantams – Mr Robert Gourlay, Coaltown of Wemyss; Soft feather – Mr Herbert Childe, Perth; Pigeons – Mr John Fulton, Newburgh; Cage birds – Mr John Adams, Dundee. The principal prize-winners were: - Robert Skinner, Crook of Devon; John B. Ogilvy, Westfield, Falkland; William Binnie, Kilsyth; John Wilson, Lassodie; William Brown, Crossgates; Alexander Millar, Markinch; R. Henderson, Strathmiglo.”

12th January 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: “**Lomond Oak” Lodge No. 387 A.G.M.** – “The annual general meeting of the “Lomond Oak” Lodge, No. 387, B.O.A.F.G., was held in the Town Hall on Thursday last week. W.M. Peter Robertson occupied the chair. The financial statement, which was submitted to the meeting, showed the Lodge to be in a very healthy condition, the total funds amounting to £327. The membership now stands at 71. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing session: - W.M., James Laing; D.M., Robert Miller; P.M., James Oswald; S.W., James Lawson; J.W., William Dowie; Chaplain, William Herd; A.P.M., William Anderson; O.S., James Walker; Secretary, Alexander Grieve jnr.; Treasurer, James Peggie snr.; Sick Stewards: - Falkland, Peter Robertson; Freuchie, John Biggs; Auditors, David

Peggie and Robert Miller; Trustees, William Gray, John Drysdale and Robert G. Dall.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Assessments** – “The parish assessments are as follows: - Poor rate, 3d per £1; school rate, 3d per £1; Registrar’s fees, 1/8d per £1; cemetery purposes, 1/4d per £1 – total, 6 3/8d per £1, proprietors and occupiers alike. This is an advance of 3/8d per £1 to proprietors and a decrease of 1/8d per £1 to occupiers as compared with last year.”

19th January 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Recital** – “A humorous and dramatic recital of outstanding merit was delivered by Mr J. Augustus Beddie, Edinburgh, in the Drill Hall on Friday last. Mr J. Richardson presided over a large audience, who, by their unstinted applause, put the seal of approval upon the evening’s entertainment. Mr Beddie’s programme, including as it did such well known recitations as “A Fight with Death” (from Ian McLaren’s “Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush”); “The Twa Courtin’s”; “The Spoken Word” (an American story); “Sandy McGlashan’s Courtship” and “Waterloo” (Conan Doyle), gave him ample scope for elocutionary powers of which he is no mean master. At the close of the recital, which lasted an hour and a half, the lecturer and the Chairman received the customary votes of thanks.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sale of Work** – “The Committee of the recent Sale of Work held by the Golf Club met in the Town Hall on Monday evening. Mr McMillan, president, occupied the chair. The financial statement of the sale of work was submitted, showing the drawings to have been as follows: - Subscriptions by members of Club and donations, £22 16s; tickets for grand prize-drawing, £49 19s. Work Stall – Mrs Gavin, £57 2s 3d; Mrs Johnston, £61 5s 8d. Cake and Toy Stall – Mrs Bonthron, Mrs Jack, and Mrs Livingstone, £25 12s 8d. Game and Produce Stall – Messrs Bonthron and Gavin, £12 4s 7d. Refreshment Stall – Mrs Peggie, £10 7s 6d. Entertainments - £6 4s 3d. Admission to Sale - £4 12s. Miscellaneous - £1 4s 6d. - £251 8s 8d; total expenditure - £31 5s 6d; total - £220 3s 2d. The Rev. A. Lyon Johnston proposed votes of thanks to the Convener, Secretary and stallholders.”

2nd March 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Popular Lectures** – “A Committee meeting in connection with the course of popular lectures just concluded was held in

Liquorstone Hotel on Tuesday evening. The Convener, the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston, presided. The minutes of the last meeting having been read by the Secretary, Mr A. Anderson, were unanimously adopted. A short statement submitted by the Treasurer, Mr J.M. Wight, showed that, although there was a slight decrease in profits as compared with former years, the income during the past session exceeded the expenditure by the sum of £4 2s 7d. This amount added to the sum in hand at the commencement of the 1906-07 course of lectures, viz., £12 5s 1d, enabled the Committee to carry forward to next year the very substantial balance of £16 7s 8d. Votes of thanks were accorded to the office-bearers for services rendered during the past year."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Crow** – “At Sunnyside, Falkland, on the 24th ult., Harriett Woodruff, widow of John Crow.”

9th March 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “A presentation took place on Monday night, at Barramore, when there was a happy gathering of the farmers and others round the district, who desired to show their goodwill for Mr Gordon Sturrock, gamekeeper, who, after five years’ service in the district, leaves on the 11th inst., to take up duty at Falkland, Fife, as head gamekeeper to Lord Ninian Stuart. The warm sentiments of the subscribers of a purse of sovereigns were spoken by Mr D. Cowan, Grenach, in few well-chosen remarks. The company were handsomely entertained by Mr and Mrs Sturrock, and it was the unanimous opinion that they will speedily make many new friends in the east country – *Rothesay Chronicle*.”

6th April 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **An Heir to the Falkland Estates** – “Great rejoicings took place in Falkland on Monday, when it became known that a son and heir had been born to Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart of Falkland, at Ovington House, London, on Sunday. A congratulatory telegram was despatched to Lord and Lady Stuart by Falkland Town Council. Flags were hoisted on the battlements of the Palace, the Town Hall, and some houses throughout the ancient burgh. The church and Town Hall bells were also rung, and in the evening a bonfire was lighted on the slopes of the East Lomond and was seen in the clear night for many miles around. Since then, Mr Gavin, the factor on Falkland estate, has had acknowledgement from Lord Ninian of the good wishes conveyed to him and his lady. He also received instructions to give the men on the estate an extra day’s pay and a holiday. This holiday was given on Thursday. On the evening of the same day, the Provost,

Magistrates, and leading inhabitants of Falkland were entertained, on his Lordship's invitation, at a cake and wine banquet in the Bruce Arms Hotel. Provost Miller presided, and among those present were: - Bailies Jackson and Sutherland, Councillors Jackson, Fraser, Lister, Angus, Robertson, Reekie, Forsyth, Horne and Williamson; Mr Charles Gulland, town-clerk, Rev. A. Lyon Johnston, Rev. J.H. Morrison, Mr George Gavin, factor for Falkland Estates, Dr Jack, Mr Charles Jackson snr., Mr Richardson, Schoolhouse, Mr J. Moir Wight, estate-office, and Mr Alex. Anderson. The loyal toasts were given from the chair, and Bailie Jackson proposed "The Imperial Forces". Major Cusin replying. Mr Gulland gave "Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart", to which Mr Gavin replied. The toast of the evening, "The Son and Heir", was proposed in felicitous terms by the Provost, who voiced the company's heartiest congratulations on the happy event, and expressed the hope that Lord and Lady Ninian's first-born would be a comfort and a credit to his noble parents. Mr Gavin suitably replied. Among the other toasts were: - "The Town and Trade of Falkland" by the Rev. J.H. Morrison, replied to Mr Jackson; "The Marchioness Dowager of Bute and other members of the Bute family", by the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston, replied to by Mr Gavin; "Educational Interests" by Dr Jack, reply Mr Richardson; "The Ladies", by Councillor J.W. Jackson, reply Bailie Sutherland; and "The Chairman" by Councillor Fraser. The proceedings were terminated by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne". Mr Mason, the host of the Bruce Arms Hotel, is to be congratulated upon the excellent manner in which he purveyed the banquet and for his table decorations. These were enhanced by a number of beautiful flowering shrubs and plants from the Palace gardens."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Treat to School Children** – "Sir John and Lady Murray entertained the school children of Falkland (numbering about 200), under the direction of Mr Richardson, headmaster, Public School, and Mrs O'Connor, Brunton House Catholic School, on Tuesday afternoon, on the lawn at House of Falkland. The treat commenced with a varied programme of races on a course marked off with flags, under the able direction of Mr D. McMillan, Newton of Falkland. After frolicking for two hours, the children sat down to a sumptuous tea, set out on tables in the quadrangle behind the house. The tea was done full justice to, and at the close Master Jack Murray, in a capital speech to the children, said he hoped they had enjoyed themselves and wished them long life and prosperity. Three rousing cheers were given for Sir John and family. Thereafter prizes were distributed by Lady Murray and the little guests each received a bag of sweets and an orange. During the afternoon a piper enlivened the company with selections. The following ladies and gentlemen were also present: - The Rev. A. Lyon Johnston and Mrs Johnston; Mr and Mrs Gavin and Miss Macdonald; Miss Fairley, Myres Castle; Miss Gulland, Falkland; Dr and Mrs Howell, London; Dr Jack, Falkland; Mr and Mrs Archibald Walker, Auchtermuchty. Tea was tastefully laid for these in the house."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Birth – Jack** – “At Canonbury, Falkland, on the 30th March, the wife of J.G. Jack, M.B., Ch. B., a daughter.”

20th April 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “The opening match of the season was played on Saturday between sides chosen by the President and Captain. The weather was bitterly cold, and only five couples started. Results: -

President		Captain	
George Robertson	0	W. Peggie	1
George Anderson	0	F. Henderson	1
J. Cochrane	1	J. Peggie	0
L. Edmeston	1	A. Anderson	0
J. Hay	1	T. Williamson	0
	3		2

1st June 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Jackson** – “At Lomondvale, Falkland, on the 25th ult., Euphemia Walker, wife of Charles Jackson, manufacturer.”

8th June 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Trifling Assault** – “At Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday – before Sheriff Armour – Thomas Peters, ploughman, Linton Cottage, Gateside, pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting a boy named Robert Brown at West Conland Farm, Falkland, on 22nd May. Mr T.W. Davidson, solicitor, Cupar, explained on behalf of the accused that the boy had been in the habit of annoying the workers on the farm, and the accused after being annoyed by him had merely pulled his ears. It was a trifling case. A fine of 5s was imposed, or three days’ imprisonment.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Reekie** – “At West Port, Falkland, on the 5th inst., Ambrose Reekie, tanner, in his 68th year, late of Cupar and Edinburgh.”

15th June 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Post Office** – “Preparations are being made for the removal of the Post Office to the shop in High Street, recently re-modelled next door to the present office.”

22nd June 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** – “A friendly 11 a-side match was played on the course at Falkland Club with Glenfarg on Saturday afternoon, and resulted in a win for the home team by one point.”

13th July 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Masonic** – “A Masonic service was held in the Parish Council on Sunday, when the preacher was Brother of the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston, R.W.M., of the local Lodge. Deputations were present from Cupar, Auchtermuchty, Ladybank, Markinch, Thornton, and other Lodges.”

27th July 1907

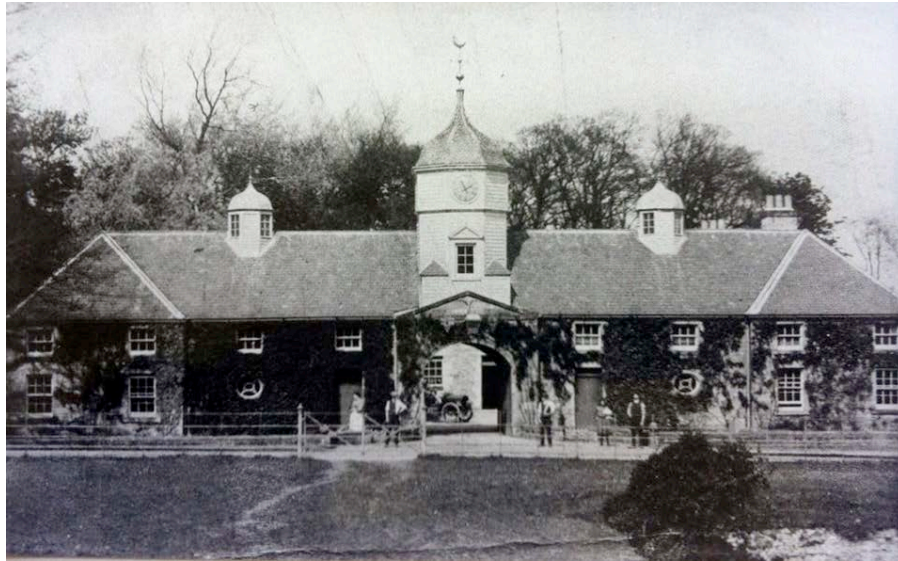
Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart** – “We understand that Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart with their son are expected home to House of Falkland in the first week of September, and that they will thereafter make it their permanent residence. A public welcome is likely to be offered them by the Provost, Magistrates and others.”

3rd August 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sudden Death** – “Mrs Edmonston, wife of a factory mechanic at the linen works of Messrs Jackson here, died suddenly on Wednesday morning. She was going about as usual, and had just returned from shopping in time for breakfast, when she dropped down, death ensuing before medical aid could be procured.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prospective Homecoming** – “In connection with the prospective homecoming to Falkland House of Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart, considerable alterations and extensions are being made to the stables etc. The work has already commenced. The contractors are: - Mr James Forsyth, Falkland,

building and mason work; Mr Alex. Fraser, Falkland, joiner work; Mr W. Peggie, Falkland, slate and plaster work; Mr Stewart, Cupar, plumber work.”



The Stables, Falkland Estate

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Marriage – Robertson and Lawson** – “At the Parish Church, Falkland, on the 31st July, by the Rev. A. Lyon Johnston, Falkland, assisted by the Rev. W.W. Clark, B.D., Edinburgh, the Rev. Andrew Robertson, M.A., minister of Mochrum, to Helen Fernie, second daughter of John Lawson, Falkland Wood.”

10th August 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart** – “Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, it is stated, contemplates standing for Parliament.”

17th August 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart** – “Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart, with their infant son, are to take up their residence in Falkland House on Saturday 31st inst. To give them a fitting welcome, the Town Council have resolved to meet them at the Fountain at Falkland Cross and present them with an address. The Cross will be surmounted by a festive arch.”



Lord and Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart's Homecoming

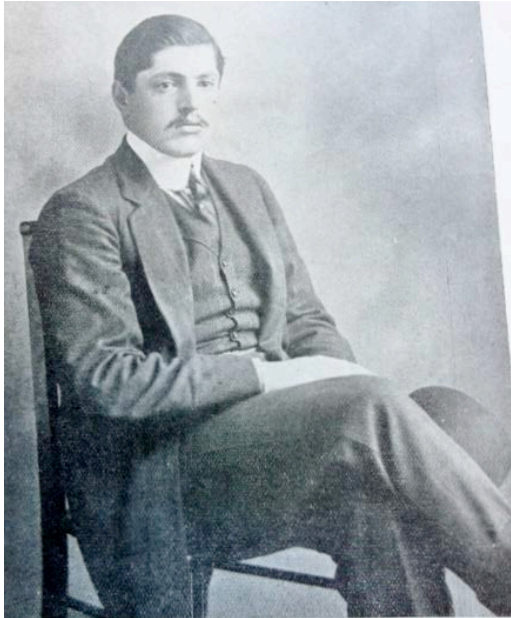


'Welcome Home' arch (photo from the Falkland Society collection)

24th August 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart** – “The Management Committee of Cardiff Conservative Association have decided to invite Lord Ninian

Crichton Stuart to contest the constituency at the next Parliamentary election. It is believed that the invitation will be accepted, as Lord Ninian has decided to enter upon a political career. He is 24 years of age, and was married last year to the Hon. Ismay Mary Preston, daughter of the fourteenth Viscount Gormanton. As stated last week, both with their infant son are expected home to Falkland House on Saturday, 31st."



Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart of Falkland, whose homecoming on 31st August 1907 with Lady Ninian and their infant heir, was made the occasion of great popular rejoicing.



Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart, and infant heir.

7th September 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cycle Accident** – “The groans of a working man lying beside his bicycle at the side of the public road half-a-mile south of New Inn attracted the attention of a picnic party driving to Falkland on Saturday afternoon. A halt was at once called, and several of the male members went to the unfortunate man’s assistance. His head and face were terribly cut and bruised. It was learned that his name was David Bonthron, that he was a drystone dyker, and that he lived with his mother at Muirhead. He was thereupon taken home by his rescuers. Medical aid was summoned, and his wounds dressed.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **A Band Excursion** – The members of the Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd Band drove from Kirkcaldy to Falkland on Saturday afternoon. The weather at the start was threatening, and except for a heavy shower experienced on the road, it kept up well during the afternoon. The destination was reached in good time, and after partaking of an excellent tea in Ness’s Temperance Hotel, the company broke up to explore the historic old town. All the houses were decorated in honour of the homecoming of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, and the visitors had an opportunity of witnessing the welcome given. A thoroughly enjoyable time was spent, and when the brake arrived home at Kirkcaldy at 10.30 all expressed themselves delighted.”

14th September 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart and a Political Career** – “At a meeting of Cardiff Conservative Association on Monday night, Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart of Falkland, who has resigned his position in the Guards to enter political life, was virtually adopted as Conservative candidate for Cardiff at the next election. His Lordship, who had a most enthusiastic reception, said he stood before them as a loyal supporter of Mr Balfour, whose policy in placing tariff reform as the first constructive plank in the Conservative policy he heartily endorsed. If returned, he would, in season and out of season, further the policy of uniting by close commercial bonds, the mother country and the colonies.”

21st September 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The New Golf Club** – “The new Clubhouse is to be opened tomorrow (Saturday) with a fashionably attended ceremony. As a result of the successful sale of work in December last, in aid of the Falkland Golf Club, a Building Committee were, some months ago, entrusted with the erection of a pavilion suitable for the requirements of the Club. It was agreed to set apart a sum of £120 for this purpose. The work is now completed, and the opening ceremony is to be performed by Lady Ninian Crichton-Stuart. As this is the first event of a public nature in Fife in which her Ladyship takes a prominent part after her homecoming to Falkland, a large assemblage is expected, and the Golf Club extends a hearty welcome to all those interested. The Club are still under a sense of indebtedness to the hearty support of a very large circle of ladies and gentlemen at their sale of work, and there is now an opportunity of seeing part of the fruit of the effort in tangible form. The site of the Clubhouse was obtained from Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart on most generous terms. It adjoins the Myre of Falkland over which the course extends. The front of the pavilion is towards the east, and from the verandah one may observe the putting performances on both the first and last greens. The elevation is of a neat and quaint design. The building is of brick, and the roof is covered with Roman tile from Dunshalt. A verandah extends along the whole of the front, and half way along each side. The accommodation consists of the main room which occupies the whole frontage, and lavatories on each side to the rear of verandah. A small kitchen with the necessary conveniences opens from the main room to the back, and there is also a toolhouse. The Committee and the contractor have all fulfilled their parts very creditably.”



Falkland Golf Club Clubhouse Opening

Extract from *The Fife News Almanac*: **Falkland Golf Clubhouse** – “A Clubhouse for Falkland Golf Club was opened by Lady Ninian Crichton Stuart in September 1907. Some half dozen years ago, a nine hole golf course was laid out on the Myre of Falkland; and as no golf course is now-a-days worthy of respect if it have not a Clubhouse, the ladies, as usual, came bravely to the front, and by means of a successful bazaar realised some £240 for the erection of this indispensable convenience. The building is a commodious, elegant and substantially built structure, with a good-sized central room, flanked by retiring rooms for ladies and gentlemen, and with a kitchen and scullery at the back, where when occasion demands, a cup of tea can be made ready. The interior is tastefully painted in pleasing tints, and the furnishings and appointments are elegant and up-to-date. The opening ceremony was Lady Ninian’s first public appearance after the festive home-coming to House of Falkland, and the pleasure of seeing Lord and Lady Ninian so soon identifying themselves with the life of the community naturally enlarged the circle of interested spectators.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football Club** – “The members of the Football Club are highly pleased at receiving a piece of ground for a football pitch from Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart of Falkland House.”

26th October 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “The retiring members of Town Council are Messrs William Horne, Charles Jackson jnr., George Robertson and Thomas Sutherland.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Farmers** – “A few of the farmers were tempted by the fine morning on Sunday to get out their carts to do some leading. Several stacks were taken in before the rain compelled them to stop.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At a meeting of the Town Council on Monday evening, a heated discussion arose over a motion by Bailie Sutherland that the factories should be assessed for water at domestic rates and upon full rental. The motion was rejected, and the assessment fixed at a quarter of the rental, as usual according to the terms of the Burgh Police Act. A letter was read from Mr George Baxter tendering his resignation as Town Officer.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Burgh Assessments** – “The burgh assessments for the current year are as follows: - Lunacy – owners, 1d; occupiers, 1d. Roads and bridges – owners, 3d; occupiers 3d. Public health – owners, 1/2d; occupiers, 1/2d. Water – owners, 3d; occupiers, 3d. Sewerage – owners, 8d; occupiers, 8d. Burgh general – occupiers, 1s. Total – owners, 1s 3 1/2d per £1; occupiers, 2s 3 1/2d per £1, which is 1/4d per £1 higher than last year’s rates.”

9th November 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council Election** – “Successful – Drysdale, 122; Sutherland, 113; Jackson, 92; Robertson, 84. Unsuccessful – Horne, 45. Mr Drysdale’s election introduces new blood.”

16th November 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Magistrates** – “The election of office-bearers took place on Friday as follows: - First Bailie, Mr Thomas Sutherland; Second Bailie, Mr Charles Jackson jnr.; Fiscal, Mr James Reekie; Treasurer, Mr James Robertson; Town Officers, Messrs George Baxter and John Walker.”

23rd November 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Elocutionary Recital** – “Mr Charles Garvice, novelist and elocutionist, appeared in the Drill Hall on Friday evening in connection with the course of public lectures. The chair was taken by the Rev. A.L. Johnston, the President, in the absence of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart. The subject was entitled “Some Humoriats, Grave and Gay.” Mr Garvice, at the opening, explained that his object would be to ask his audience to accompany him, in fancy, round a well-stocked library, from which he would select a book here and there, and recite something from it. He opened with Burns’ “A man’s a man for a’ that.” This was followed by “The Italian Guide”, by Mark Twain, and “The Enchanted Shirt”, by Colonel John Hay. The audience were delighted by the power of mimicry displayed in the rehearsal of these American sketches; and it was then a treat to hear Hood’s “Song of the Shirt” vividly portrayed. “How I Edited an Agricultural Newspaper” afforded further scope for that ability to personify and power to convey the subtle under-currents of humour possessed by the lecturer. “A glimpse at England’s greatest actor, David Garrick”, was much appreciated. The closing item was “The Mustard Plaster”, one of Mr Garvice’s own writings, and which he described as pure nonsense, but which brought forth much laughter from the audience.”



Mr Charles Garvice (1850-1920)

14th December 1907

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “*The net proceeds of the recent concert got up by Mrs Dun, Woodmill, amounted to £6 15s, and this sum has been handed over by her to the Treasurer of the Nurse Fund in Falkland.*”