

sciences in general."\* They met weekly in the evening during the session, from November to July, for reading papers and discussions; and also, as the season advanced, made occasional excursions into the neighbouring country. The chief promoters of the scheme were three brothers named Baird, from Berwickshire; but John the eldest must be considered the founder. He drew up an elaborate code of laws in eighteen chapters, and, as the first president, made a statement of the proposed plan and objects of the society at their inaugural meeting on the 14th January 1823. Among the original members occur the names of James Hardie, J. Grant Malcolmson (both Indian geologists), and Dr John Coldstream; and, at a later period, those of Charles Darwin† (of Shrewsbury, 1826), John Hutton Balfour (1827), and Hugh Falconer (1828), with others who have since become distinguished in the scientific and literary world.

The latest notice of the society which I find is the session of 1829-30, up to which time the Bairds, although they had left the University, appear as occasional contributors. In 1829 they had all returned to Berwickshire, John Baird having been appointed minister of the parish of Yetholm, and his brother Andrew of that of Cockburnspath. There they renewed their intimacy with their early friend, Dr G. Johnstone of Berwick, equally devoted to the study of natural history. Occupied with the duties of their several professions, they could only meet now and then, and from this occasional intercourse grew the society about to be described.

On the 22d September 1831, at Bank House, near Coldingham, Dr Johnstone,‡ the Rev. J. and A. Baird, Dr William

\* Since this was written, I find the above confirmed by James Hardy, a former president of the Berwickshire Club, on the authority of Dr Wm. Baird. "History of the Club," vol. v. p. 404.

† The first paper contributed by him, entitled "On the Ova of the *Flustra*," in which he announces that he has discovered organs of motion, and, secondly, that the small black body hitherto mistaken for the young of *Fucus loreus* is in reality the ovum of *Pontobdella muricata*, exhibits his early habits of minute investigation.

‡ Although not a member of the Plinian Society, Dr Johnstone appears to have made communications to it. On the 9th December 1828 the Rev. Andrew Baird read a notice by him of two plants supposed to be new to the