

Kenmore aka Breadalbane Games

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The Breadalbane Gathering

The first meeting of this interesting festival took place in the park at Taymouth, on Thursday the 7th instant. The object of institution of this "Gathering" - to commemorate the arrival of our beloved Queen at Taymouth Castle, on the 7th September, 1842 ; and the truly national character of the meeting, consisting of manly competitions in athletic exercises, and native dancing, and mountain music, - are more than sufficient to insure its great popularity ; and it is a subject of congratulation to our County, and to Scotland at large, that the same spirit of loyalty and lordly hospitality, which actuate the Marquis of Breadalbane and his amiable Lady, and doing such credit to our nation last year, has again led them to give every encouragement towards perpetuating the remembrance of that visit which must ever be dear to the feelings of Scotchmen.

It is impossible to imagine anything more successful than this first meeting of "the Breadalbane Gathering." The weather was brilliantly fine, "as fine - as if no party of pleasure had been plann'd for it," and the whole scene was indescribably grand and imposing. To those who have never visited Loch Tay, all attempts at description must be quite vain ; but to any one who knows the valley of Taymouth, with its mountain framework, and it's "sweeping theatre of hanging woods," it is sufficient to say, that over that scenery a day of perfect beauty reigned. All was calm and clear ; and from Benmore, who looked on in haughty distance, to Drummond hill, so rich in "leafy honors," not a feature in the grand and varied scene was wanting. The field of action was laid in the Park, on a spot which must have been intended by nature for the very purpose! On our high grassy bank, topp'd by trees, a stand was erected. It consisted of three Gothic archings, over which the Crown and the Banner were placed, on the whole was clad in rich purple heather, outside and in. Here the Marchioness of Breadalbane, with the party from the Castle, appeared at noon, when a salute was fired from the battery at the top of the hill, and the whole music in the field, consisting of the Kenmore band of bugles, and about twenty pipers assembled for the competition, struck up "God save the Queen." We never witnessed anything more striking than the entry into the Park of the Highland guard, preceded by the competitors. They had been marshalled outside by the Hon. Fox Maule, and the Lairds of Chesthill and Faskally, who were indefatigable in completing the excellent arrangements of the day, and their march in to take possession of the lists, was a very striking spectacle. The first distant sound of the pipers, playing *en masse* - it's rapid swell - and fast-coming distinctions - the banners - the glance and glitter of the claymores as the body emerged from the dark wood - the springing tread which brought on the manly column, headed by Glenfalloch, to the scene of action - all conspired to give it irresistible effect ; and the perfect order in which the respective positions were taken up by the leaders, within the fenced space, and by their followers without, was admirable. The entire face of the hill was covered with people ; the Lists was fenced off in semi-circular form, at the foot ; and the ground kept by the Breadalbane Highlanders in full dress. Altogether, there could not be fewer than 5000 people present.

The competitions were admirably sustained in all the different classes ; so much so that, in many instances, the judges had difficulty in deciding. We subjoin the names of the successful competitors, who were presented to Lord and Lady Breadalbane as each award was given. There was a short interval in the proceedings, during which upwards of a hundred of the assembled gentry partook of a sumptuous luncheon in the Castle ; and when the Games closed, at six o'clock, the Highlanders, headed by Glenfalloch, the Hon. Fox Maule, and the lairds of Chesthill and Faskally, marched to the Castle, where, after saluting Lady Breadalbane, who appeared in the balcony, they sat down at well- stored tables, spread under the green gothic arch of the lime trees, and regaled themselves, “like honest men, who had earned a good appetite by a good day's work.” Lord Breadalbane welcomed them in a most energetic manner, and the health of our Queen, followed by that of Prince Albert, and of Lord and Lady Breadalbane, were drunk in the first flowings of the plentiful stoups.

Among the guests resident in the Castle were, - the Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl and Countess of Sefton, Lord and lady Kinnaird, Lord Castlereagh, the right Hon. the Speaker, the Hon. Lord and Lady Galway, the Hon. Mr and Mrs Fox Maule, the Hon. Arthur and Mrs Kinnaird, the Hon. Mr and Mrs Dundas, Colonel and Lady Harriet Lane, Sir Alexander Campbell, Baronet, Visconte D'Arineour, Mrs and Mrs Baillie, Col. And Miss Ferguson, the Hon. Mr Stanley, Capt. Houston Stewart, R.N., Mr P. Stewart, M.P., Ponsonby, Mr Warrender, &c. &c.

Dinner was served for forty ; and in the evening there was a ball in the Baronial Hall, which was kept up with Highland spirit long after.

The moon had ceased to dance
On Acharn's rill.”

Sir Neil Menzies, Bart., President of the Society, and Lady Menzies, were present throughout the day.

The prizes were awarded as follows viz. :-

Pibrochs.

1. John M'Alister, late piper to Dun. Davidson of Tulloch, Ross Shire.
2. John M'Gregor, piper to Sir Neil Menzies, Bart., Castle Menzies.
3. Alexander Stewart, Rannoch.
4. Archibald Forbes, Killiehassie, Strathhtay.

Donald M'kenzie, Taymouth - extra prize.

Reel Playing.

1. John M'Lennan, piper, Troop House.
2. Peter M'Laren, piper to Thos. G. Stirling, Esq. of Strowan.

Putting the Stone.

1. John M'Donald, innkeeper, Aberfeldy.
2. Charles Belamy, Ayton, Berwickshire.

Throwing the Sledge Hammer.

1. John M'Donald, innkeeper, Aberfeldy.
2. Lauchlan M'Intosh, Pitlochry.

Leaping.

1. Charles Belamy, Ayton, Berwickshire.
2. Lauchlan M'intosh, Pitlochry.

Tossing the Caber.

1. James M'intosh, Ballinluig, Athole.
2. John M'Donald, innkeeper, Aberfeldy.

Reel Dancing.

- 1., John M'Alister, Ross-shire.
 2. Alexr. M'Ewen, Kenmore.
 3. Peter Fisher, do.
- James M'Donald, Crieff - extra prize.

Sword Dance.

John M'Alister, Ross Shire.

Highland Fling.

John M'Alister, Ross-Shire.

Highland Dress.

1. Alexr. Sinclair, Glenbeich.
Donald M'Kay, Killin.
2. Malcolm M'Pherson, Strouferwaw, Kenmore.
William Sibblie, Dull. Equal.

Foot Race.

- 1.. Lachlan M'Intosh, Pitlochry.
2. John M'Lachlan, Drimnacoll, Foss.
3. James Scott, Glenfincastle, and Alexr. Robertson, Edradynate, equal.

