

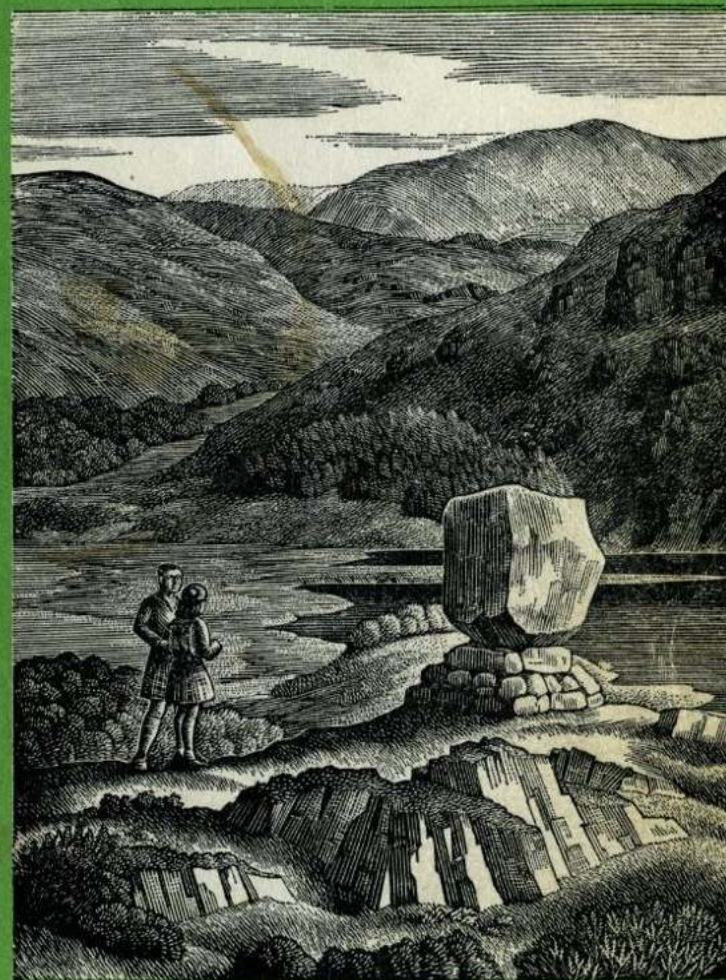
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GLEN TROOL

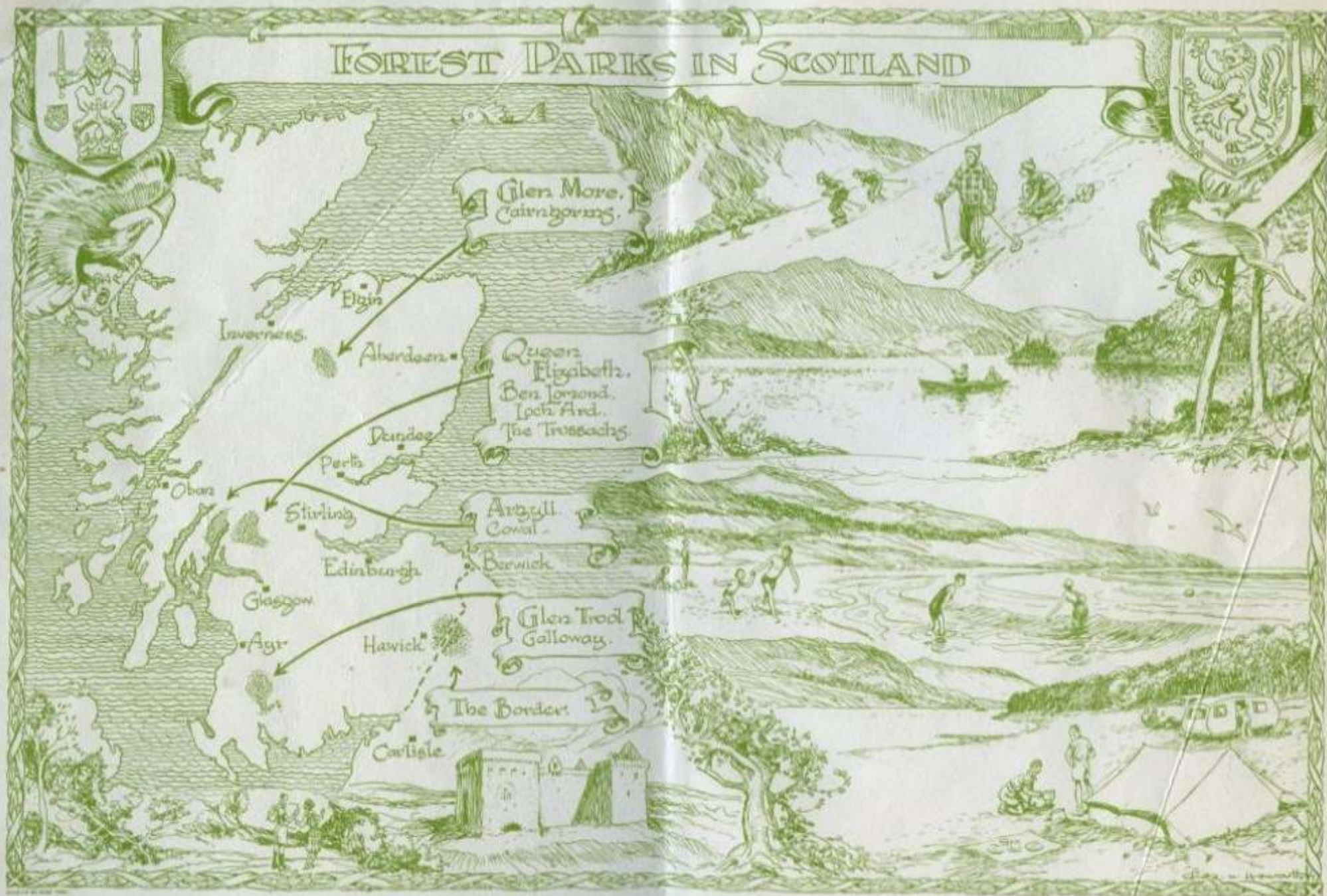


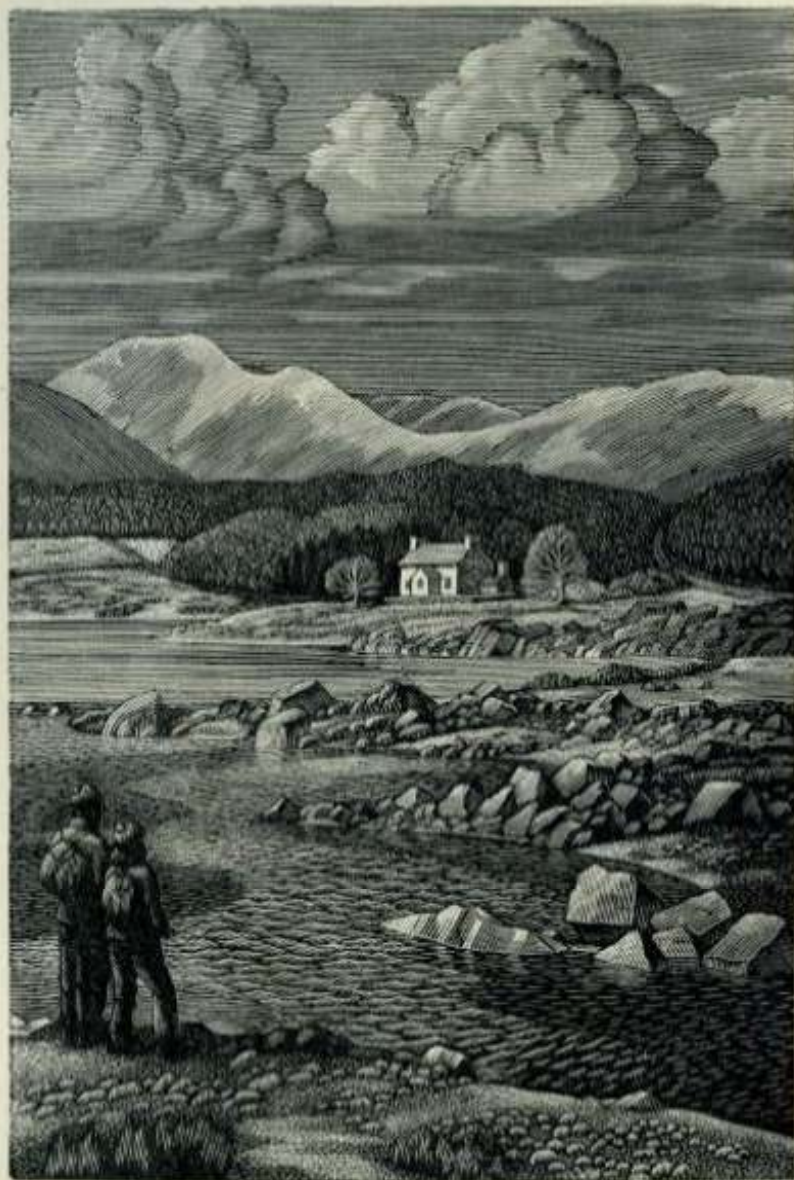
FOREST PARK GUIDE

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FOREST PARKS IN SCOTLAND





LOCH DOON AND THE MERRICK

FORESTRY COMMISSION GUIDE

GLEN TROOL

Foreword by
SIR SAMUEL STRANG STEEL, Bt., T.D.
Forestry Commissioner 1932-1949

Edited by
H. L. EDLIN, B.Sc., Dip.For.
Forestry Commission

THIRD EDITION



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THE CHAPTER HEADING VERSES are drawn from the works of Robert Burns.

FOREWORD

by

SIR SAMUEL STRANG STEEL, BART., T.D.

Forestry Commissioner 1932-1949

IN deciding to create a Forest Park at Glen Trool the Forestry Commissioners made a wise decision, and it is their hope that the charm of the scenery and the historic associations within the boundaries of the Forest Park may give great pleasure and satisfaction to all who visit it, and at the same time be of intrinsic interest to those who are especially fond of nature, by studying the bird life, the wild flowers and the various geological formations to be found in this area.

The seven forests, Glen Trool, Carrick, Cairn Edward, Dundough, The Garraries, Changue and Kirroughtree, which make up the Glen Trool Forest Park, contain a large stretch of the finest and highest hill country in the South of Scotland, a district which is entirely unspoilt and has been little changed by the hand of man, and yet is within easy reach of the populous parts of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire.

The views from the high peaks of the range of mountains surrounding the Merrick are unsurpassed, and the climb to one of these high tops is quite easy and well within the compass of most young and fit people; there are, as well, innumerable and delightful walks in the valleys on good roads and paths, suitable for older people.

The Forestry Commissioners feel especially grateful to those who have written such valuable contributions to this Guide, which should be obtained beforehand by all those intending to visit Glen Trool.



The Banks o' Doon

Ye banks and braes o' bonie Doon,
How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair!
How can ye chant, ye little birds,
And I sae weary fu' o' care!

Thou'll break my heart, thou warbling bird,
That wantons thro' the flowering thorn;
Thou minds me o' departed joys,
Departed never to return.

Oft hae I rov'd by bonie Doon,
To see the rose and woodbine twine,
And ilka bird sang o' its luvie,
And fondly sae did I o' mine.

Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose,
Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree;
And my fause luvie staw my rose,
But, ah! he left the thorn wi' me.

Burns

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THE BATTLE OF THE STEPS O' TROOL.

Of a' the airts the wind can blaw,
 I dearly lo'e the west;
 For there the bonie lassie lives,
 The lassie I lo'e best;
 There wild-woods grow, and rivers row,
 And mony a hill between;
 But, day and night, my fancy's flight,
 Is ever wi' my Jean.

I Love my Jean

AN APPRECIATION OF THE GLEN TROOL FOREST PARK

BY ANDREW McCORMICK

INCLUDED in the Glen Trool Forest Park are seven forests, Glen Trool, Carrick, Cairn Edward, Dundough, The Garraries, Changue and Kirroughtree, having a total area of over 130,000 acres, or more than 240 square miles. All these forests are places of great natural beauty, which will afford wide scope and variety for ramblers and other lovers of nature. It is gratifying to know that several proprietors and tenants of lands in the vicinity of the Forest Park have agreed to allow walkers to use fixed routes across their properties, and this concession enlarges still further the area of wild uplands made available for public enjoyment. This Forest Park is of easy access, by road and rail, from populous centres. It also contains a

great many hills which will suit the physical capacity of most of our population, leaving the others, including trained mountaineers, to seek their exercise on higher hills if they see fit.

Glen Trool itself, and its rock-strewn hinterland of the Forest of Buchan, are regions of great beauty, with wonderful streams and rock fastnesses, as the hills are appropriately called. The chain of beautiful lochs—Doon, Enoch, Arron, Neldricken, Valley, Dhu, Dee, Narroch, and the two lochs of Glenhead, with Loch Trool as a lovely pendant, make the place unforgettable. Three great climbers of the Lake District hills and of the Swiss mountains, as they stood one day at the south end of Loch Enoch and looked away over its blue-grey waters towards Mullwharchar (the hill of the hunting horn) agreed that, with its many indented bays, fringed with white sand, Loch Enoch looked like a silver tray, and was the most beautiful mountain tarn they had ever beheld.

Glen Trool, Carrick, Cairn Edward, Changue and Kirroughtree Forests vie with one another as to which is the most beautiful. The paths and roads through the delightful valley of Palnure are numerous and easily traced on most maps, and though Kirroughtree Forest, which borders that valley, may not possess the grandeur of the Glen Trool and Carrick hills or the lakescape beauty which has been added to Cairn Edward Forest by a twelve miles widened and deepened stretch of the River Ken, yet Kirroughtree has its own claims, as a unit of this Forest Park, to be equally as attractive and popular as any of these others.

As the frame has much to do with showing a picture to best advantage, so the surrounding country and its history have much to do with the popularity of a Forest Park. There are always days on which a rest may be needed, or the weather is more suitable for bicycle or motor runs, or walks on level ground.

If you could take an aeroplane and go flying in daylight on a fine autumn day high over Galloway, you could scarcely avoid being attracted by our beautiful seaboard, with its shore roads and footpaths running beside it from Ayr to Dumfries. You could not fail to notice with pride our fine arable and pasture lands, dotted with woodlands and white farmhouses and steadings, and studded with attractive towns and villages. You would be charmed to behold the purple moorlands stretching away up to the foot of the ranges of mountains which form the backbone of Galloway. And you would also with delight observe the rivers, running across from the uplands to the sea, the Nith, the Urr Water, the Dee, the Ken, the Fleet, the Cree, the Bladnoch, the Tarff, and the Luce. These, rising from inland springs and lochs, flow like molten gold and silver along the lovely valleys and glens which they have done

so much to fashion. Having seen all these beautiful things you would believe, as I do, that it would be difficult to find a place of similar size to excel it for varied, colourful picturesqueness.

Galloway is a compact province, and from that brief description you will learn that it enjoys the scenery of hill, glen, moorland and pastoral and arable land, and of lochs, rivers, and the sea. So far Galloway is quite unsullied. You may walk for days at a time on its mountains and meet no one. I have taken a motor run of eighty-five miles through these uplands and met only one motor car. Galloway is a queer kind of a will o' the wisp. It gratifies one continually, yet all the time it lures one on by developing beauty already seen, and by affording new prospects.

The charm of Galloway is manifold. Its picturesqueness is, to the casual visitor, its chief attraction. It is not, however, its natural beauty alone that wields the spell. Ere one is bound in thrall one must also have learned its romantic story and realised what manner of folks the forebears of the Galloway people were. Long ago when people of savage natures had to be contended with, it took the tough, rugged natures of strong determined men to rough-hew the destinies of Gallovidians; and even at that time, there were forebears of noble nature and beautiful character. There was Trost of the Long Knife who sacrificed the lives of his father, his brother and himself rather than reveal to Niall of the Nine Hostages the secret of the brewing of heather ale; the saintly Devorgilla who erected monasteries and bridges in Galloway, and as a widow carried about with her husband's heart in a silver casket; and the aul' wife o' Criagencalzie, who set for Gallovidians a high standard of hospitality, when to the Bruce's request 'for a nicht's rest for a wanderer'—she replied 'A' wanderers are welcome to rest here for the sake o' him wha is himsel' a wanderer'; which makes a Galloway welcome proverbial to this day.

So it results that we have in Galloway people of diverse natures—brave, determined people side by side with homely, kindly, hospitable, and generous-natured people. One must realise the sturt and strife and stress, as well as the pathos and happiness, which Gallovidians of all times have passed through, ere it can be realised whence spring all these different characteristics.

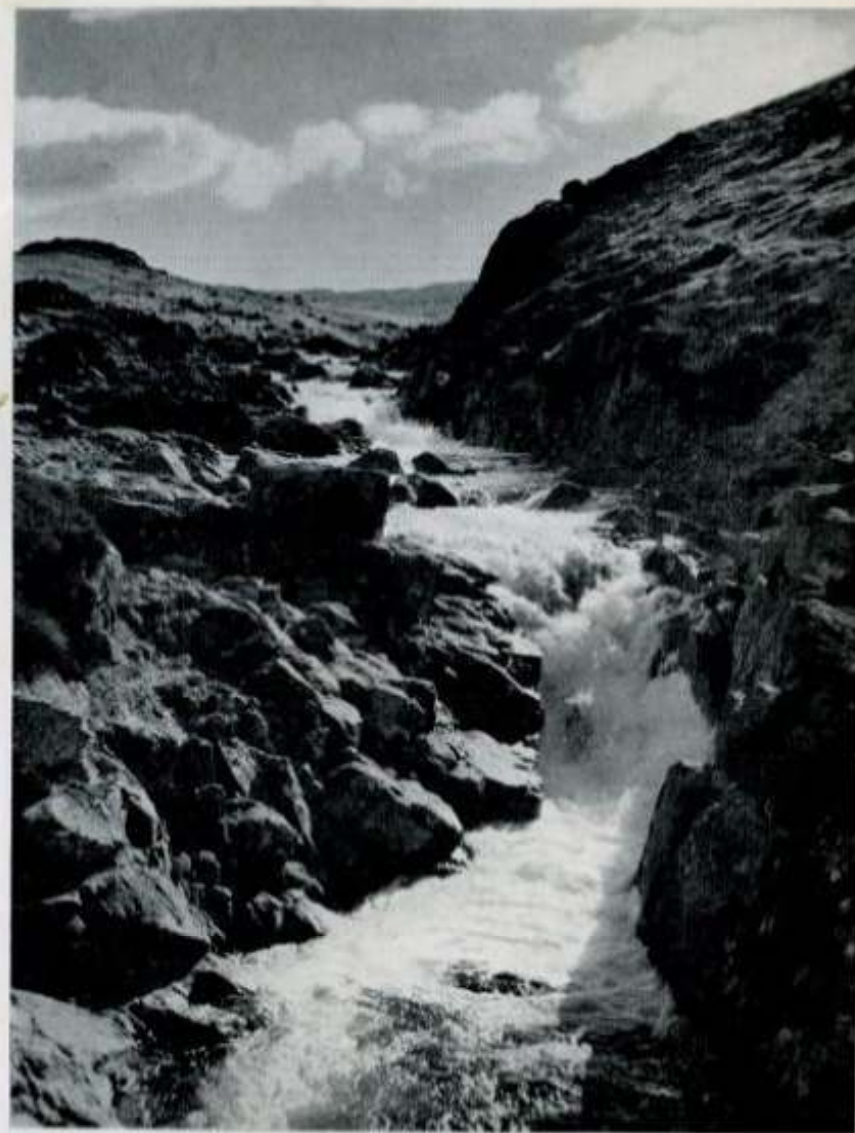
The Glen Trool Forest Park is a real paradise for hill walkers. The Merrick (2,764 feet), the highest knuckle of the Awful Hand range, is the highest hill in the South of Scotland. But there are at least ten hills of over 2,000 feet. I could arrange daily walks for a whole month—starting from my own home at Newton Stewart, and there would be little repetition in them. Our mountains are suited for anyone who is an average walker, and is sound in wind

and limb, especially for anyone who likes leisurely to ascend by the easiest route and spend the whole day rambling along a range of mountains with glorious prospects of colourful moorland and grand hills all around. Then there are the lovely glens running into the uplands for those who no longer aspire to reach the summits—and who may derive much consolation from Schopenhauer, who said that 'a church is best viewed from the outside, a public house from the inside and a mountain from the foot'.

The view from the top of the Merrick has been regarded by some as a wilderness of stones, by others as the 'riddlin's of creation', but each time I look at the view from that crest I am impressed with the fact that it would be much more accurate to regard it as one of nature's well-ordered rock gardens. The view shows why our clever Celtic forbears named that mountain range the Awful Hand, for it has many fingers and many glens running in between, and looks like a gigantic octopus with its fearsome tentacles stretching out all around. Crockett describes that view as a 'weird wild world, new and strange, not yet out of chaos—not yet approved of God'. As I saw it on a recent visit with the mist filling its awesome cauldrons and defining its eerie, knife-like cornices, it was a place of wildest grandeur. And as I climbed up the knife-like edge of the Spear o' the Merrick, a number of ravens which had evidently lost their bearings, suddenly flew out of the mist which filled the Howe o' the Cau'dron, flapped their wings around my head, and as suddenly sought shelter in the mist again. One wonders how even a goat can subsist amongst such a rocky country, and yet curiously enough at Tunskeen there lived for many a year a man called 'Tunskeen' and at Hunt Ha' a man called 'Hunty' and each of these men must have weighed well over twenty stones!

As I retraced my steps to the col, I kept repeating aloud, as I love to do, the fine, sonorous, Gaelic names of some of these Galloway hills such as Benyellary, Bennanbrack, Cairnbaber, Cairngarroch, Craigmawhannal, the Corran o' Portmark, Mullwharchar and the Garryhorn; and then I was bewailing the fact that although the speaking of Gaelic lingered in Galloway until about 250 years ago, there isn't as much as a single Gaelic proverb left to record that fact. The mist whisking round the cairn of the Merrick made it look like a volcano. Suddenly from the top there came the sweet voice of a singer, singing Marjorie Kennedy Fraser's *Eriskay Love-lilt*, with its haunting refrain:

Vair me oro van o,
Vair me oro van ee,
Vair me oru o ho—
Sad am I without thee.



The Gala Lane, above Loch Doon



Clatteringshaws Loch, with Raploch Moss and Benbrack Hill beyond



Caldons Camping Ground

That fanned the *grioshach* (peat embers), and it seemed to me that the Gaelic spirit and traditions of Galloway had found expression in her song and leapt into life once more.

But don't let the Merrick climb absorb your attention too much! I prefer to climb the Dungeon and Cragshaw. There are hundreds of hills in Galloway from the top of which you can obtain wonderful views. Some people climb the Merrick, and think they have exhausted the possibilities. Better far begin with a five-hundred-foot hill, and proceed to climb all the others; then you will secure a better idea of the benefits which accrue from such a Forest Park.

On the Kells Range there is a well, known as The King's Well, where doubtless King Robert the Bruce often quenched his thirst when hunting or being hunted. The ruins of a shelter were pointed out to me fifty years ago by the farmer of the Buchan, as the place wherein King Robert sheltered for the night before the battle of the Steps o' Trool.

According to Barbour, the Bruce was a wise leader and made great use of the element of surprise in his fights and battles. The sites of many of them are easily located and there is nothing impossible about the author's descriptions. Take, for example, the fight where the Bruce and his foster brother and another henchman routed two hundred McDouall followers at The Ford on the Buchan:

An' went him down to a morass,
Oot o' a watty that rynnand was;
And in the bog he found a place.

And fand na ford, that men mycht pass
But quhar him selwyn passit was
And sua strait wes the apcumyng,
That twa men mycht nocht samyn thring,
Na on na maner press thaim sua,
That thai to gidder mycht lang ga.

This ford could only be approached and crossed by one horseman at a time, and that is how the Bruce and his two henchmen succeeded in laying so many McDoualls low and routing the others.

Similarly in regard to Blind Harry's description of the attack Wallace made upon a Galloway stronghold:

A strenth thar was on the watter o' Cree,
Within a rock, rycht stalwart wrocht off tre.
A gait before mycht no man to it wyn,
But with consent off thaim that duelt within.
On the bak side a rock and watter was;
A strait entre forsooth it was to pass.

There is only one place on the whole length of the Water of Cree that conforms to that description, and it is the Moat of Old

Monigaff, near Newton Stewart, situated at the confluence of the Penkiln Burn and the Water of Cree.

Some people are inclined to throw doubts upon the truth of the events as described in Barbour's *The Bruce* and Blind Harry's *Wallace*. If these events didn't happen approximately as described, then other events at least as wonderful must have happened ere the Bruce's good fortune had been restored and he had defeated the most powerful country in the western world, after its soldiers had despoiled Scotland on a dozen different occasions, and reduced her to a state of direst poverty.

The sixcentenary of the death of King Robert the Bruce was felt to be a fitting occasion to erect, in Glen Trool, a memorial boulder to mark a sense of the appreciation which we Gallovidians hold of the great services which the Bruce rendered to his country, although the ancestors of some of us doubtless supported the Baliol faction. I, for one, do not know whether to admire most the attitude of those Gallovidians, many of them kinsmen of the Baliols, who remained for so long loyal to the rightful legal claimant of the crown; or the attitude of those other Gallovidians, living mostly in the uplands, who saw more clearly that the Bruce, in striking for independence, had got hold of the thing Scotland most needed. The late Professor Sir Robert Rait, Historiographer Royal for Scotland, very rightly and forcefully commended the wisdom of erecting the Bruce Memorial when he said, in dedicating it: 'On the fate of Robert Bruce in Glen Trool there depended the whole future of Scotland, and something of the future of the British race and Empire. Glen Trool is the Orleans of the Scottish War of Independence'.

It is worthy of note that the first to subscribe to the Bruce Memorial was the late Mr. Kenneth McDouall of Logan—a direct descendant of The McDouall of Logan, a kinsman of the De Baliol faction, who chased the Bruce with bloodhounds; which shows that time has salved that olden feud.

The inscription on the stone runs as follows:

IN LOYAL REMEMBRANCE
OF
ROBERT THE BRUCE
KING OF SCOTS
WHOSE VICTORY IN THIS
GLEN OVER AN ENGLISH
FORCE IN MARCH 1307
OPENED THE CAMPAIGN OF
INDEPENDENCE WHICH HE
BROUGHT TO A DECISIVE
CLOSE AT BANNOCKBURN
ON 24TH JUNE 1314

The origin of present day happenings often lies concealed in distant events. I once, when standing with an Englishman at the Bruce Memorial Stone in Glen Trool, told the story about the Bruce having, through a spy, gained information about the intention of the English forces to proceed by the south-east side of Loch Trool along the Mulldonach. This enabled the Bruce to prepare an ambush, by having his hardy hillmen placed, with boulders in position, right along Drumnaminshoch ridge; and when the Englishmen were streaming along the Mulldonach hillside the hillmen, at a signal from the Bruce, rolled the boulders on the top of the enemy and rushed down and routed them. My English friend remained in thought for a few minutes, and then said, 'Well, Mr. McCormick, I will believe that story when you produce to me a spider, taken on the field of battle, having "R. de B."—the Bruce's initials—engraved on its back'. I said, 'You are a doubting Thomas, and I will go further, and say that this spot should be a shrine to be visited not only by Scots but by Englishmen, where they should go down on bended knees and give thanks to God that the Scots were the victors of the Battle of the Steps o' Trool. Had they not been so, and had they continued to be a disgruntled people at the time of the first Great War, would the British have been the victors?' 'No', he somewhat reluctantly agreed, 'I see your point, and it is true.'

At the north-east corner of Macaterick Hill stands the great Cove Macaterick, or the 'Aughty of the Star' as Crockett, in his *Raiders*, terms it: 'This,' said Silver Sand, 'is the Aughty of the Star. You have heard of it, but few have ever seen it since the killing times. It is the best hiding place in broad Scotland. It is a commodious shelter roughly floored with small logs and arched with the same, and resembles the inside of a claybiggin.' As it had long been a safe haven for all wanderers and hunted men, doubtless King Robert often used it as a place of refuge.

The great things that pertain to history are knowledge within the reach of all. We can learn much from history books, and there was no more fair-minded historian of Galloway than the late Sir Herbert Maxwell, who, out of love for Galloway, did more historical pioneer work and more to elucidate the tangled skein of Galloway's story, than any other. He never hesitated to tell the truth, as he saw it, about Galloway, about our idols the Covenanters, about his own family and even, with engaging frankness, about himself.

The Covenanters also sheltered and held, in that wild region, their preachings and conventicles, and died for freedom of worship, as preachers' stones and martyrs' monuments—

Grey recumbent tombs of the dead in desert places,
Standing stones on the vacant wire red moor

bear witness. All over Galloway men and women preferred, like Alexander Lynn, 'to allow the winds to make whistles of their bones' rather than recant.

Strangely enough, Galloway has drawn forth few great poems, though one recalls that work of genius—Nicholson's *The Brounie of Bladnoch*, Burns' *Scots Wha Hae*, and the fact that the late S. R. Crockett, by virtue of his pen so ably descriptive of the romantic history of the Galloway uplands, drew from Robert Louis Stevenson that fine poem which contains this poignant soul-cry of the exile:

Be it granted me to behold you again in dying,
Hills of home! and to hear again the call;
Hear about the graves of the martyrs the peewees crying,
And hear no more at all.

Perhaps we get our enjoyment of our beautiful countryside all too easily. At any rate some of the best poems are from the pens of exiles.

'Guid wine needs nae bush', and so I have endeavoured to give, in the brief space at my disposal, some facts about the Glen Trool Forest Park and about Galloway and its people; but lest I be accused by some of neglecting the text of my sermon, let me, in conclusion, remind you of our Galloway slogan:

Scotland dings creation and Galloway dings Scotland.

But surely the Glen Trool National Forest Park, being the very best part of Galloway, must ding even Galloway itself, and it will prove a great boon not only to Galloway folk but to the whole nation.



COVENANTERS

By stately tow'r, or palace fair,
Or ruins pendent in the air,
Bold stems of Heroes, here and there,
I could discern;
Some seem'd to muse, some seem'd to dare
With feature stern.

My heart did glowing transport feel,
To see a Race heroic wheel,
And brandish round the deep dy'd steel
In sturdy blows;
While back-recoiling seem'd to reel
Their Suthron foes.

The Vision

HISTORY AND TRADITION

BY H. L. EDLIN

THE Glen Trool Forest Park holds few dwellings today, yet it lies at the heart of a land with a long and remarkable story. The ancient kingdom of Galloway comprised at its greatest extent the modern counties of Wigtown and Kirkcudbright, and the Carrick division of Ayrshire. Though at times it was independent, it came in turn under the dominion of Rome, Norway and England, before it gained its present status within the Scottish realm. Here there is only space to review briefly the varied people who marched across the Galloway scene, and the relics they left behind.

PREHISTORY

The shores of the Solway Firth, leading on to the Mull of Galloway and the shortest sea crossing to Ireland, attracted the men of the Old Stone Age whose settlements have been discovered around Luce Bay in Wigtownshire. They were fishers and hunters, and their remains include flint arrowheads and knives, along with the bones of fish and whales, and the bones and antlers of the deer they pursued in the native forests. These primitive people haunted the Galloway shores and rivers from 8,000 to 2,500 B.C.

Great woods of oak, alder, birch and Scots pine overspread, in those days, this hilly peninsula of south-west Scotland. When the farmers of the Neolithic or New Stone Age arrived, about 2,500 B.C., they built their homesteads on the higher ground, for their stone axes were ill-suited to the clearance of the stouter trees. They pastured their sheep and cattle on the braes, and cultivated grain crops. Their dead were buried in stone-walled chambers set within rounded mounds of earth, forming a characteristic *cairn*; examples may be seen at White Cairn near Glen Trool village and King's Cairn on the Water of Deugh, beside Dundee Forest; also at Cairnderry, Boreland, and Cairnholy near Kirkdale. The religious monuments of this era are *standing stones*, such as the pair on Blair Hill, three miles north of Minnigaff, near Newton Stewart. But despite their long residence these Neolithic people have left few monuments hereabouts.

The discovery and mastery of metals, first bronze and later iron, gave the impetus and technical advantage that impelled the Celtic peoples to advance north-west from central Europe. After conquering England, groups of warrior-craftsmen advanced over the Solway, westwards into Galloway, from about 500 B.C. onwards. Various names – Picts, Scots and Britons, were assumed by different tribes, but those who reached this region kept to their ancient name of *Gael*. This was modified, at a time when the Strathclyde Britons cut them off from other Gaelic tribes, into *Gallgaidhel* or 'stranger Gaels', rendered in the Briton's Welsh speech as *Gallwyddel* (pronounced 'gallwithel'); this gave rise to the modern name of the province. Their speech, as most of the place names still show, was Gaelic, and that tongue survived here until about 250 years ago. Nor did any of the later conquests greatly affect the Gaelic character of the people. One proof of this lies in the frequent occurrence, down to the present day, of surnames beginning with 'Mac'; Macmillan and Macdowall are typical Galloway surnames, and there are many others.

The typical ancient monument surviving from this period is the hill fort, a kind of walled township set on a peak, making it difficult

to attack. Galloway as a whole is rich in such remains; nineteen have been recorded in Kirkcudbrightshire, fifteen in Wigtownshire, and five in the south of Ayrshire. But none of these stands in, or even near, the Forest Park, though the territory is, physically, ideal for their construction. Probably their place was taken by the *crannog*, an even more defensible fort built on an artificial island of logs, set up in a shallow loch and approached only by a narrow causeway. The lochs of the Park are ideal for this purpose, and there is a notable crannog in Loch Ronald not far away. Certainly the Park was peopled, for its hills and rivers did not go un-named. Much argument has raged over the meanings of the musical words they bear, so different from other summits in southern Scotland, but nobody has seriously denied that they stem from the Gaelic.

THE ROMANS AND THE EARLY CHURCH

The coming of the Gaels to south-west Scotland is usually dated about 500 B.C. By the time the Romans arrived, in the first century A.D., the Gaels had built up a strong settlement in the Galloway lowlands, with much cultivated land. The principal tribe was the Novantae, and the River Dee found its way on to Ptolemy's map as *Deva Flumen*. In A.D. 82 the troops of Julius Agricola conquered the Celtic tribes, and Galloway remained a tributary region until the Romans withdrew from Britain soon after A.D. 400. It lay beyond Hadrian's Wall, which ran from the Solway to the Tyne, but it is now known that the Romans maintained an overlordship of the tribes to the north of that great military barrier. One of their forts, called *Leucophibia*, stood near Whithorn, and was supplied by sea from Maryport in Cumberland. Another was at Glenlochar on the Dee.

St. Ninian, who founded the first church in Scotland, was born at Leucophibia in about A.D. 362. In the year 385 he travelled to Rome, and ten years later he was consecrated by the Pope as a missionary bishop. He arrived back in Galloway in A.D. 397, and set up the tiny chapel of *Candida Casa*, the White House, where the burgh of Whithorn now stands. Later a monastery was established, and thereafter the light of the Christian faith, once established, never failed to shine somewhere in Scotland through all the pagan invasions of the Dark Ages.

Once the Roman legions had left Britain, the Galloway Gaels were threatened by attacks from the Strathclyde Britons who were their neighbours to the north. Following the Roman plan, they built a great rampart to keep them out, reaching from Loch Ryan beside Stranraer to the River Nith north of Dumfries, and thence south to Annan on the Solway. Traces of this 'De'il's Dyke' can still be seen in and around the forests of Glen Trool, Kirroughtree and

Cairn Edward; it followed the Cree valley near Bargrennan, and then struck east across the hills to Talnotry, Craigencallie, and so on towards Dalry. The dyke was eight feet broad, with a ditch on the northern face, and occasional wall forts or watch towers. It is unlikely that it was continually manned by defenders; more likely it formed a political boundary and a rallying point in times of attack. So far as the scant records go, the dyke helped to preserve the peace for over three centuries.

In A.D. 740, however, Picts and Scots from the western kingdom of Dalriada, under King Alpin, broke through the wall and invaded Galloway. The Gallovidians allied themselves to the Angles, a Teutonic tribe who were now their neighbours on the east, drove them back, and annexed the Kyle and Carrick regions of Ayrshire. In this way their rule was extended over the whole of the present-day Forest Park lands.

NORSEMEN AND NORMANS

About the year A.D. 800, the long ships of the Norse vikings began to appear on the waters of the Solway Firth. Its many estuaries and bays gave a ready foothold to a sea-going power, and the Norsemen remained as overlords of the province for the next 300 years. They gathered an annual rent or tribute from the Gaelic countrymen, a custom recorded in the name of a modern estate and forest, Penninghame; this was originally *pennig hjem*—a homestead for which 'pennies' or money were paid. Other place names of Norse origin include all the fells, from Norse *fjell*, a mountain, the River Fleet, from *fliot*, a river, and the *Rig* (or ridge) of the Jarkness north-east of Loch Trool. One of the early Norse earls of Galloway was Olaf the White, who captured Dublin in 844. In 1014 Sigurd the Stout, Earl of Orkney and Galloway, and grandson of Thorfinn the Skull-cleaver, was killed in Ireland at the battle of Clontarf.

Gradually the power of the Scottish kingdom, based on Edinburgh, came to be felt in this outlying province. This was based in a large degree on the military skill and allegiance of Norman barons who had made their way north from France through England. They brought into Scotland the feudal system, whereby each man owed loyalty to a superior, and they enforced order from the security of stone-built castles. But during the twelfth century the Norse-Gallovidian Earl Fergus still ruled the south-western province. When he died his son Gilbert claimed Wigtownshire, while another son, Uchtred, ruled over what is now the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. In a fratricidal feud, Gilbert slew Uchtred, but the final victory went to the latter's son, Ronald, who killed Gilbert and was made Lord of Galloway by the Scottish king, William the

Lion. Uchtred had a stronghold close to Newton Stewart, called *Caer Uchtred*, and this gives its name to the modern Kyrroughtree Forest, pronounced with a strong stress on the second syllable.

Alan, son of Ronald, organised a war fleet and in 1207 assisted the English king to invade Ireland. In 1220 he captured the Isle of Man from the Norse earl, Olaf, and defied the might of Haakon, King of Norway, who did not dare to face the Gallovidians on the western seas.

Meanwhile the Norman feudal system, and the Roman Catholic church, were extending their influence in the south of the province. Abbeys were built at Saulseat and Glenluce near Stranraer, around Whithorn, and at Tongland and Dundrennan near Kirkcudbright. A string of castles guarded the land and sea routes along the fertile Solway shore. Those nearest the Park were Castle Stewart and Garlies Castle close to Newton Stewart, Earlstoun Castle north of Dalry, and Loch Doon Castle, which once stood on an islet in Loch Doon. (Its ruins were transferred to the main shore when the water level was raised, in modern times, to provide hydro-electric power.) In 1292 a Galloway baron of Norman descent, John Baliol, was proclaimed King of Scotland; but he never had independent power and his inglorious reign ended with the formal surrender of his kingdom to Edward I of England in 1296.

THE CAMPAIGN OF ROBERT THE BRUCE

Scots! wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots! wham Bruce has aften led,
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to victory!
Now's the day, and now's the hour;
See the front o' battle lour;
See approach proud Edward's power
Chains and slavery!

In 1300 Edward invaded Galloway with an army, and garrisoned castles at Wigtown, Cruggleton and Buittle. But in 1306 the English power was challenged by Robert the Bruce, Earl of Carrick in Ayrshire. After being proclaimed King of Scotland at Scone, Bruce fled to Ireland, returning with a force of a few hundred patriots to Carrick in the spring of 1307. They were at once obliged to take refuge in the Glen Trool hills, then well wooded and affording sufficient cover. Bruce's first success was gained on Raploch Moss, between Clatteringshaws Loch and the modern Cairn Edward Forest. There, aided by his brother Edward Bruce and Sir James Douglas, he surprised and defeated a substantial English force.

In April of the same year Bruce again sprang a surprise on another

English force, led by Aymer de Valence, and numbering 2,000 men. As the English made their way along the narrow path between Loch Trool and the steep rock-strewn slopes of Lamachan hill, a small band of Scots ambushed them, rolling great boulders down from the crags. This threw the survivors into confusion and they were routed by the Scots at the ensuing Battle of the Steps o' Trool.

After these successes Bruce went to the north-east of Scotland, where his main support lay, leaving his brother Edward to continue a series of harassing actions against the English garrisons and any Gallovidians who supported their cause. Edward Bruce fought a further action near New Galloway, and named the hilltop cairn which preserves his memory in the modern 'Cairn Edward' Forest. Later, at Kirroghtree, he defeated a force of Wigtownshire men, led by the MacDowalls. Other battles were fought in the Glenkens district and the Dee valley, and many English strongholds were captured before this brilliant campaign ended in 1308.

Eventually Bruce's decisive victory over the English king Edward II, at Bannockburn in 1314, brought Galloway firmly within the Scottish realm. The main power over the province then passed to the Douglas family, descendants of Bruce's supporter Sir James Douglas, who became Lords of Galloway. Their power ended with the rebellion and defeat of James, the Black Douglas, ninth earl of his line, in 1455.

THE REFORMATION AND THE COVENANTERS

During the sixteenth century the Galloway nobles, led by Robert, the fifth Lord Maxwell, played a leading part in the Reformation. In 1560 the Presbyterian church was established as Scotland's official form of religion. The Roman Catholic abbeys had previously held large and valuable estates in the south of Galloway, and these may well have included some of the lands now forming part of the Forest Park. All this wealth now passed to the leading noblemen particularly the Kennedys, Earls of Cassilis, whose seat is at Castle Kennedy, close to Stranraer. Their power is recorded in the rhyme:

From Wigtown tae the town of Ayr
Portpatrick tae the cruives o' Cree
No man may think for tae bide there
Unless he ride wi' Kennedy.

The seventeenth century was a sad period for Galloway, which became deeply involved in the fierce controversies that split the Protestant churches.

The troubles began in 1597, when James VI first appointed bishops within the Scottish church; in 1603 he succeeded, as James

I, to the throne of England, where the established church already had an episcopal form of government. Throughout the reigns of James VI, Charles I, and Charles II, the struggles continued. The majority of the people refused to accept the bishops or anything associated with them, mainly because they distrusted any kind of ceremony as a return to the dominance of Rome.

In 1638 the Presbyterian leaders signed, in Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh, the Solemn League and Covenant that became their testament of faith. The Covenanters, and with them the men of Galloway, took an active part in the campaigns of the Civil War between Charles I and the Parliamentarians. But on the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, Charles II appointed afresh bishops to run church affairs. When the parish ministers refused to accept their authority, the bishops replaced them with curates, and it became obligatory for everyone to attend services conducted in the parish churches, and to abstain from any other form of public worship. This led, in 1666, to the Pentland Rising. It began with an affray at Dalry beside Cairn Edward Forest, and ended with the rout of the small Covenanter force by the Government troops, at Rullion Green, below the Pentland Hills close to Edinburgh. From that time on, any act of worship outside the approved churches was regarded as treason, to be punished by death if the offenders did not at once recant when apprehended; few were ready to do so, even if time were allowed them.

Despite heavy fines and the threat of summary execution, the Galloway Covenanters and their families continued to hold regular prayer meetings in the remote, tree-clad, hill fortresses that now make up the Forest Park. The grim end of one such meeting is recorded on the Martyrs' Memorial close to Caldon's camp site, where the stone tells its own story:

HERE LYES
JAMES AND ROBERT
DUNS, THOMAS AND
JOHN STEVENSONS,
JAMES M'CCLIVE,
ANDREU M'CALL WHO
WERE SURPRISED
AT PRAYER IN HIS
HOUSE, BY COLNELL
DOUGLAS, LIEVTNANT
LIVINGSTON, AND

CORNET
JAMES DOUGLAS AND
BY TEN MOST IMPIOUS
LY AND CRUELLY
MURDERED FOR THEIR
ADHERENCE TO SCOT
LANDS REFORMATION
COVENANTS NATIONAL
AND SOLEMN LEAGUE
1685

Peace did not come until the death of Charles II, and the revival, in 1688 under William and Mary, of the Presbyterian church as the established religion of Scotland. By then Galloway had been sorely impoverished by fines, unrest, and the costs of quartering the soldiery.

The eighteenth century was a time of slow recovery from one hundred years of turmoil associated with religious differences. During the rebellion of the 'Old Pretender', the Stuart Prince James, in 1715, Viscount Kenmure, a leading Galloway nobleman, raised forces in his support. His march from Kenmure Castle, below the present Cairn Edward forest, is recorded in Burns' lines:

Kenmure's on and awa', Willie!
Kenmure's on and awa'
And Kenmure's lord's the bravest lord
That ever Galloway saw.

He marched south to Preston and captured that town, but was obliged to surrender to superior government forces; after a trial for high treason he was executed at the Tower of London. Galloway took no part in the rebellion of Charles Edward, the 'Young Pretender', in 1745.

AN AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

Before the eighteenth century, little of the Galloway land was enclosed by permanent dykes or hedges. The early attempts by the lairds to form 'parks', as the first enclosures were called, were resisted by the common people, and gangs of 'levellers' threw down miles of new walls and banks. In 1723 a force of dragoons was called in to suppress a large gang of levellers, who were defeated at Duchrae, near Cairn Edward Forest. Eventually the lowlands were split up into substantial farms, but the hills that now form the Forest Park remained open.

Early in the nineteenth century the blackfaced sheep became the most profitable form of hill stock, replacing the hardy Galloway cattle on the braes. The whole of the uplands was then divided into big sheep farms, each at least a thousand acres in extent. The work of the sturdy shepherds was made easier by the tendency of each sheep flock to keep to its own ground or 'hirsell', seldom straying on to other slopes, even though no fences restrained the grazing beasts.

These changes in agriculture displaced hundreds of crofting families who had formerly led a hard but contented existence, tilling small patches of fertile ground, and herding cattle around

their summer homesteads, or shielings, amid the hills. To provide fresh means of livelihood, the leading landowning families enlarged the few small towns on the Park's fringes. Cotton mills were established at Newton Stewart, Gatehouse of Fleet, and Castle Douglas, but the industry did not long survive. These pleasing townships, however, owe much of their charm to orderly planning, each by a single hand.

Though there was some emigration, the change from crofting agriculture to modern farming did not at first depress the population. The number of people in Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire rose from 38,000 in 1755 to 87,000 in 1851. But modern developments, involving more machines but fewer men on the land, and the failure of the region to attract new industries, have led to steady depopulation since then. There are now only 58,000 people in the two counties, and it is one of the aims of the national forestry policy to check any further outflow. Galloway's 110,000 acres of productive forest, all established since 1920, will provide regular employment for 1,000 men, representing—with their dependants—about 4,000 people.

So the forests have returned to Galloway, as a new venture in keeping with the modern Scottish economy, and men tend trees on these hills so rich in history and the relics of the past.



THE ROMAN BRIDGE ACROSS THE MINNOCH

Farewell to the mountains high, cover'd with snow;
Farewell to the straths and green valleys below;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods;
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.

My Heart's in the Highlands

MOUNTAINS, LOCHS AND RIVERS

BY H. L. EDLIN

A KNOWLEDGE of the topography of the Forest Park will not only add to the visitor's enjoyment of its scenery, but will be essential to him if he is to wander far from the few roads to explore the wilder country that lies above them. For the features of this countryside follow no simple pattern; the hills form detached groups or rise in solitary grandeur, and the rivers that flow from them are more often separated from one another by low passes than by a high watershed that would serve as a guide to the walker. So a good map and an eye for the country are needed.

MOUNTAINS

The highest and most impressive hill group in the Forest Park is that known collectively as the Merrick-Shalloch Rhinns, or Range of the Awful Hand. The reason for this picturesque title will be realised if one stands at the head of the Nick of the Balloch pass and

looks south-eastward, when four of the highest peaks assume the outline of an outstretched hand, or possibly, on another interpretation, a gigantic foot. These are Tarfessock (2,280 feet), Kirriereoch (2,565 feet), the Merrick (2,764 feet), and Benyellary (2,360 feet); Bennan, a lesser peak further south, is the thumb of the hand, and the rugged Fell of Esconchan (1,142 feet) which rises steeply above Glen Trool, is its ultimate ending. North of the 'hand' come the broad slopes of Shalloch-on-Minnoch (2,520 feet), Shalloch (1,777 feet) and Cairnadloch (1,558 feet). The whole range stretches ten miles from north to south—ten miles of grand walking country with extensive views over the western moors and the high wilderness that lies to the east. There are steep crags and screes on Kirriereoch and the north face of the Merrick, which should be negotiated with care, but a way through will easily be found, though it may involve some scrambling.

The Merrick is usually climbed from Loch Trool. Close behind the Bruce Memorial a rough track will be seen running up the west side of the Buchan Burn. It is steep going at first, but one is rewarded by glimpses of the waterfalls, and a level stretch to the cottage of Culsharg follows. From Culsharg, climb steeply towards the ridge on the skyline, following the burn that comes down behind the cottage. Once on the ridge, bear right for the summit of Benyellary and thence proceed along the march dyke that runs across the Saddle, or Nieve of the Spit, to the Merrick itself. A fine return route runs via Loch Enoch, Loch Neldricken and the Murder Hole, Loch Valley, and the Gairland Burn waterfalls to Buchan Farm, where the road is regained at Buchan Bridge.

West of the main Merrick Range, at its northern end, lies the Polmaddie Hill Group, which looks so impressive as one crosses it by the Nick o' the Balloch road. The highest of these green, rounded, grassy hills is Craigenreoch (1,852 feet); west of it lie Polmaddie Hill itself, Pinbreck Hill (1,802 feet), and Haggis Hill (1,709 feet) in Changue Forest. To the east are Rowantree Hill (1,811 feet) and, between the Nick and the Rowantree-Straiton road, Pinbreck Hill (1,636 feet) and Eldrick Hill (1,593 feet).

The rugged grey-brown hills immediately to the south of Loch Trool, which give so strong a Highland aspect to its scenery, are the Lamachan range. The most prominent is Muldonach, only 1,827 feet high but appearing greater on account of its steep slopes, down which Bruce's men are said to have rolled great boulders on to the advancing English in 1307. The highest hill is Lamachan itself (2,350 feet) whilst also prominent are Curleywee (2,242 feet) to the east and Larg Hill (2,216 feet) to the south-west; Curleywee lies just beyond the Forest Park boundary, but is freely accessible to

ramblers. This group of hills, which is also known as the Minnigaff Range, extends south into Kirroughtree Forest, forming three ridges. South-west of Larg Hill is the ridge of Black Gairy and Craigmurchie, with Loch Middle in an intervening hollow. Due south is Garlick Hill (1,315 feet) extending over Benera to Glen-shalloch Hill. A little to the east, running south from Curleywee, come Bennan, Stronbae, and Black Benwee (1,206 feet).

East of the Merrick Range rise a number of sizeable hills whose greatest charm is their inaccessibility. Those who tramp over them cross a trackless waste of peat bogs, winding burns, crags, and isolated lochs. In the north, two outliers of Shalloch-on-Minnoch, namely, Craighasheenie (1,769 feet) and Shiel Hill (1,665 feet), both of which can be reached from the hill road from Craiglure Lodge to Ballochbeatties, lead on to the Waterhead Hills (around 1,500 feet) and Craiglee (1,714 feet). This last hill can also be approached from the east via Loch Doon and the Wee Hill o' Craigmulloch.

South of these, in Carrick just north of the Ayrshire-Kirkcudbright border, stand Castle on Oyne (1,528 feet), Macaterick (1,637 feet), Hoodens Hill (1,790 feet) and Mullwharchar (2,270 feet). Mullwharchar is a fine shapely conical hill, often seen from afar yet seldom ascended, being some five miles from a road in any direction.

South of these, and in the Glen Trool forest of Kirkcudbrightshire, is a group of remarkably rugged and craggy granitic hills, all heavily glaciated and with their summits almost bare of any vegetation save grey lichens. These are Dungeon Hill (about 1,900 feet), Craig Neldricken (of like height), Craignaw (2,115 feet) and the Buchan Hill (1,600 feet). Strenuous walking over the wild Forest of Buchan is needed to reach these peaks, which, whilst not attaining great heights themselves, give unrivalled views of the Merrick range, and the other summits that surround them.

The great range that runs right down the eastern side of Carrick and Glen Trool Forests, touching on the Park and plainly visible from nearly all its summits, is the Rhinns of Kells, and its highest peaks are Meaul (2,280 feet), the Carlin's Cairn, Corserine (2,668 feet), Millfire (2,350 feet) and Milldown.

At Cairn Edward Forest are Cairnsmore of Dee (1,600 feet), and Craignell (1,500 feet). The great hill east of Newton Stewart, which dominates the surrounding country, is Cairnsmore of Fleet (2,329 feet).

LOCHS AND RIVERS

The drainage system of the Forest Park is complex; the headwaters of streams flowing north to the Firth of Clyde or south to



Winter at the South End of Loch Doon; Loch Head Farm and the Corran O' Portmark



Minnigaff Village, Newton Stewart



New Galloway



Loch Doon in Winter; looking south towards the Rhinns o' Kells



A bend on the River Cree, below New Galloway; Kirroughtree Forest beyond



Talnotry Crag, on the Newton Stewart-New Galloway road



Glenhead, above Loch Trool, with natural oakwoods in the valley;
Curleywee and Bennanbrack hills beyond



Near the Camp Site, at Caldons, with the Fell of Eschonchan and Buchan Hill beyond

the Solway arise close together and are separated by but a slight rise in the land. Moreover, old lochs have been deepened and new ones formed to supply hydro-electric power, and streams have been so diverted that in one extreme case water that once reached the sea at Ayr must now run south to Kirkcudbright.

THE CREE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Let us start with the Cree, since its course is followed by the main road from Newton Stewart to Glen Trool and so will be familiar to most visitors. The Cree rises in Loch Moan, a broad sheet of water half a mile west of the Nick o' the Balloch road; it takes a tortuous course to the west, forming the westerly boundary of the Forest Park for most of the way, then bears eastwards to Bargrennan. Thence it assumes the character of a true lowland river, flowing softly between green reedy banks embowered with birch, oak and hazel, till it glides past Newton Stewart to reach its broad tide-swept estuary.

Below Bargrennan the Cree is joined by the Water of Minnoch, coming down from the Nick o' the Balloch. Minnoch is a stream without lochs, and hence given to great and sudden rises and falls. Among its interesting features are the falls of Black Linn, close to Glencaird House above the Glen Trool approach road, and the so-called 'Roman' Bridge, a curious stone arch of unknown date—probably a mediaeval pack horse bridge, standing isolated amidst the moors between the farmsteads of Brigton and Borgani.

Between Glencaird and Holm, the Minnoch is joined by the Water of Trool, a short stream flowing down from the Loch of Trool. This loch, around whose shores lies some of the grandest scenery of the Forest Park, is a mile and a half long by a quarter of a mile wide, and includes a tiny islet called the Maiden Isle. From the Bruce Memorial, below the rugged Fell of Eschonchan on its northern shore, one may gaze across at the steep heights of Mull-donach and Curleywee, and note the site of the Battle of the Steps o' Trool, fought between the English and the Scots under Bruce in the year 1307.

Loch Trool is fed by three main streams. One, the Buchan Burn, comes down over waterfalls close to the Bruce Memorial, and its course is followed by the main footpath to Culsharg and the summit of the Merrick. Another, the Glenhead Burn, may be descried winding down the main valley below woods of oak scrub; its glen provides an easy route eastwards to Loch Dee, and its headwaters are, in fact, diverted that way, just below a fine cataract, to help feed the Galloway hydro-electric power scheme; the two

lochs that drain into it, the Long Loch and the Round Loch of Glenhead, lie remote and desolate amidst rugged peaty moorlands.

But it is the third, central, stream, the Gairland Burn, which flows into Loch Trool from the north-east at its eastern end, that provides the best way into the romantic wilderness of lochs and crags that forms the ancient Forest of Buchan. This stream arises on Craig Neldricken, just below, but not connected to, Loch Enoch, and flows through the strangely-shaped Loch Neldricken, famous both for its silver granite sand, which was once collected for sharpening scythes, and for the rush-bordered pool at its western end, the Murder Hole of legend and fiction. Below Loch Neldricken the water proceeds over an ancient glacial moraine by the Mid Burn to Loch Valley, a large sheet of water of irregular outline; from the east comes in a lesser stream from Loch Narroch, and alongside this lies another easy route to the headwaters of Loch Dee; below Loch Valley the water falls by a series of cataracts to Loch Trool.

THE PENKILN BURN

Near the kirk of Minnigaff the Cree is joined by the Penkiln Burn, which flows down through the policies and deer parks of Cumloden House from the wild uplands around Auchinleck. Its glen, some eight miles long, provides a convenient route to the summits of the Minnigaff Range, around Larg Hill. An eastern tributary, the Pulbae or Pulnee Burn, is followed by an old cart track leading right over the shoulder of Curleywee to Loch Dee and the Glenhead of Glen Trool.

THE PALNURE BURN

The tidal estuary of the Cree is joined at Palnure, three miles below Newton Stewart, by the Palnure Burn, a stream which forms, for the greater part of its course, the eastern boundary of Kirroughtree Forest, though it actually rises beside Cairn Edward Forest, farther to the north-east and close to the high road from New Galloway to Newton Stewart. Close to the prominent Murray's Monument, below the Fell of Talnotry, is the well-known Grey Mare's Tail waterfall; many visitors assume that this is the lower fall, which can be seen from the road, but it is well worth while to scramble up the steep path to the real cataract, which lies further back, near the Black Loch. Below Talnotry, the Palnure Burn is followed by the main road for three miles, after which the stream diverges southwards through the beautiful Bargaly Glen, which may be followed by by-roads and footpaths down to Palnure.

THE DEE

Cairn Edward Forest lies for the most part in the basin of the River Dee, a large stream whose character has been greatly changed by the dams and diversions of the water power scheme. The headwaters of the Dee arise in a remote corner of Glen Trool Forest, near two little lochs, the Round Loch and the Long Loch of the Dungeon, which lie only a mile or two to the east of Loch Enoch and Loch Neldricken. Thence the stream, known as the Cooran Lane, meanders through peat bogs to the vicinity of Loch Dee, a broad but desolate sheet of water at the south-east corner of Glen Trool Forest. Below this loch the Black Water of Dee runs eastwards to the Clatteringshaws Loch, whose wide expanse, the haunt of many waterfowl, is entirely man-made and artificial, as is shown by the high dam above the main road. Fortunately the battlefield of Raploch Moss, on its eastern edge, where Bruce defeated an English force in 1307, remains unsubmerged. The stone beside which he stood may still be seen, and it now bears the inscription:

"THE BRUCE'S STONE,
UPON THIS MOSS RAPLOCH
ROBERT THE BRUCE,
EARL OF CARRICK, LORD OF THE GARRIOCH,
DEFEATED THE ENGLISH IN 1307."

The purpose of the reservoir is to store supplies at a relatively high level, so that they may be discharged downhill through a tunnel to the Glenlee power station in the Ken valley near Dalry. Consequently the River Dee below the loch is much reduced in volume; for eight miles it runs through or beside of Cairn Edward Forest, passing at length through the Stroan Loch before it joins Loch Ken at the southern end; it traverses roadless and unfenced country—a grand wilderness for the walker.

Loch Ken, which borders Cairn Edward Forest for three miles on the east, is really the swollen course of the Water of Ken, a tributary of the Dee which has been widened and deepened by the building of a low dam at Glenlochar. The purpose of this barrage is to control the supply of water to the power station at Tongland, near the mouth of the Dee at Kirkcudbright; but the rise and fall of the water is slight, and Loch Ken forms a most attractive expanse of water, with wild swans, geese, and ducks studding its calm, clear surface, with the tree-clad slopes of Cairn Edward hill rising above it. Further north, as they fall from an elevation of 705 feet down to almost sea-level, the waters of the River Dee are used repeatedly in impressive hydro-electric works to generate power.

THE DOON

Loch Doon itself is a broad sheet of water, six miles long with an average width of half a mile. It has been considerably enlarged and deepened by the building of two dams, one to regulate its original northern outflow through Ayrshire, and another to prevent its overflowing southwards before it has reached its maximum useful depth. One consequence of the raising of the water level was the complete submergence of the islet near the southern end, on which stood the ruins of an ancient castle; this has been preserved by being re-erected, stone by stone, on the western shore. Loch Doon, and that part of Carrick Forest which adjoins it, are best approached by the by-road that leaves the main highway a little over a mile south of Dalmellington, and crosses the head of the Ness Glen.

Highest of the headwaters that feed Loch Doon is the remote Loch Enoch, which is no less than 1,617 feet above sea level. The waters of Loch Enoch drain northwards by the six-mile-long Eglin Lane to Loch Doon; they do not, as some maps still suggest, follow the county boundary along the Pulskaig Burn and the Gala Lane. Both routes, however, are long and arduous approaches for the walker, and Loch Enoch is usually reached from Glen Trool, either by following the Gairland Burn up through the Forest of Buchan, or by climbing the Merrick and then descending the rock-strewn slope, dropping a thousand feet in less than one mile, between the summit cairn and the waters of the loch. This last-named approach is the most easily found and the most rewarding, for after a ridge walk with extensive views one realises the remarkable isolation of these waters amidst the untamed wastes of rock and peat, moor and crag. A unique feature of Loch Enoch is its famous 'loch-in-loch', a little pool set on an islet, its waters being at a higher level than those that surround it. This islet can only be reached by swimming the narrow strait.

No less than nine other lochs in the uplands of Carrick Forest drain into Loch Doon. The largest and most southerly is Loch Macaterick which, with its outlier Loch Fannie, has its outflow down the Black Garpel and Eglin Lanes. The Whitespout and Carrick Lanes carry the waters of Loch Riecawr and its smaller outliers—Lochs Slochy, Goosie, Ballochling, and Gower, which have recently been tapped for a public water supply scheme for the county of Ayr. North of these lochs, on the Forest Park's boundary and tapped by the Garpel Burn, lie Loch Finlas, over a mile and a half long, and its smaller outlier, the Derclach Loch. These are parted from the Loch Riecawr basin by the rough country of the aptly-named Waterhead Hills.

THE WATER OF GIRVAN

To the west of the Loch Doon drainage basin lies the narrow valley of the Water of Girvan, a stream remarkable for the way in which it avoids being captured, so to speak, by either the Doon on its eastern flank or the Stinchar to the west. Near Craiglure Lodge hardly more than a mile divides the headwaters of the River Stinchar from those of the River Doon, and yet the Water of Girvan maintains its independent course between them. Its source is Loch Girvan Eye, fifteen hundred feet up on the flank of Craigmashennie, and thence it runs north, through Cornish Loch and Loch Skelloch, to the broad sheet of windswept waters formed where Loch Lure has been united with Loch Bradan by the construction of a dam, to increase their joint capacity for domestic water supply for the town of Troon. Loch Bradan, as we may call the combined waters, is one and a half miles long and stands nearly a thousand feet above sea level; there are ruins of a castle on the islet in its centre, and a small plantation of spruce defies severe exposure on its south bank, where a track strikes in from the road that links Stinchar Bridge with Ballochbeatties. Loch Breckowie, a tributary water, lies higher, to the south amidst the Waterhead Hills.

Through Loch Bradan the Water of Girvan is carried eastwards, to resume its course down a steep and narrow valley running north to the farmstead of Knockdon. There it turns west and forms the Park's northern boundary for two miles before striking northwards again. At Tairlaw Linn, a quarter of a mile to the east of Tairlaw Farm, it plunges over a cliff, deep in a tree-hung gorge, providing what is probably the Park's finest waterfall, despite its lowly setting in a pastoral valley. Near Kirkmichael it bends towards the south-west to complete its tortuous course, reaching the Firth of Clyde at Girvan.

THE STINCHAR

The river Stinchar (the 'ch' is soft as in 'church') rises beside the Water of Girvan high on the peaty slopes of Shalloch Hill. Flowing past Craiglure Lodge it crosses the high road and runs north-westwards, falling rapidly into a deep glen which takes a westerly course through the peaceful pastures around the farmsteads of Aldinna and North Balloch. Only two lochs feed the Stinchar, Aldinna Loch on Eldrick Hill and Linfern Loch just north of the Forest Park boundary. At the picturesque village of Barr, the Stinchar is joined by the Water of Gregg, which drains Changue Forest, and then it continues south-west between green, well-farmed hills to reach the sea at Ballantrae. But its desolate upper reaches

are more characteristic of the Forest Park country, and it was, no doubt, with these in mind that Burns wrote:

Behind yon hills where Stinchar flows,
'Mang moors an' mosses many, O,
The wintry sun the day has clos'd,
And I'll awa' tae Nanie, O.



LOCH ENOUGH AND THE LOCH-IN-LOCH

Ask why God made the gem so small
And why so huge the granite?

Epigram on Miss Davies

GEOLOGY

BY PROFESSOR G. H. J. DATSH

THE seven forests comprising the Glen Trool Forest Park lie in an extremely attractive, if comparatively little known, part of south-west Scotland. Three of these forests are situated on the east side of the Cree, in the central drainage basin of the land of Galloway covering the western extremity of the Southern Uplands.

The geological structure of this area appears fairly simple, but in fact there is a complex distribution of the underlying strata. The basic rock types are of lower Paleozoic, chiefly Silurian, age and are sedimentaries which accumulated as a great thickness of shales, slates, greywackes, grits and conglomerates. These sediments were subjected to intense compression during the Caledonian mountain building period, and there is a well-marked N.E.-S.W. strike. The high degree of contortion of the strata, as the sediments were compressed into isoclinal folds, may not be readily observed in the Forest Park area, but on the coast of the Machers, as for example at the southern end of Monreith Bay, the effects are very clearly discernible. At much the same time the three well-defined granite bosses of the western portion of the Southern Uplands, the Cauldron

of the Merrick area, Cairnsmore of Fleet and Criffel, were intruded, leading to extensive contact metamorphism of the sedimentaries around their borders. Two of these areas lie within or adjoining the Forest Park, and in the Merrick-Kells area in particular is the evidence of the fact that the metamorphosed shales, greywackes and grits make up most of the high country—the Merrick itself being 2,764 feet, while the highest point of the Cairnsmore of Fleet is 2,329 feet. In the Merrick-Kells area the metamorphosed rocks form an irregular ring round a central, lower area of granite known as the Cauldron, with its several raggedly shaped lochs of which Loch Enoch and Loch Neldricken are examples. The granite of the Cauldron area has been subject to rapid chemical attack, and in contrast with the dome of the Cairnsmore has become a fairly extensive and well marked depression, with water bodies and extensive areas of peat and bog.

Movements of the Caledonian mountain building period were not the only ones of importance to this part of Scotland. The rocks now exposed throughout the area have in the past been covered as a result of submergence by younger rocks—as for instance those of Mesozoic age. These are now hardly in evidence in this part of Scotland. Except for a small patch occurring in the Stranraer district to the west of the Forest Park area, they have been worn away. During Tertiary times marked uplift occurred, there being probably two distinct periods of uplift with intervening large-scale peneplanation.

A most important phase in the physical history of the area was that of the Quaternary glaciation. The evidences of glacial activity are widespread and numerous. They are found in the higher areas of the Southern Uplands and in the lower lying country of the Machers of Wigtownshire. Visitors to Glen Trool Forest will be able to observe the overdeepened basin of Loch Trool, with the signs of ice-plucking along its enclosing flanks; the hanging valley of the Buchan Burn draining into Loch Trool, and the corries of the Benyellary-Merrick area. On beginning their approach to the Forest from Newton Stewart they can observe part of the drumlin belt running from Newton Stewart to Kirkcowan, and as they travel northwards will note the considerable quantities of glacial material in the lower reaches of the Minnoch. Analysis of the evidence of ice action has suggested that there were four distinct stages in the northward retreat of the ice, and much of this evidence is most clearly found in the drainage area of the river Cree.

The present drainage pattern was comparatively slightly affected by the activities of the Ice Age. The Cree and the Dee are consequent streams flowing down the dip slope of the earlier but now non-

existent Mesozoic cover. The rejuvenation of these rivers as a result of uplifts during the Tertiary period has been much masked by glacial deposits, but the courses now followed by the main rivers were established before the removal of the Mesozoic strata. Tributary streams sometimes flow in, almost at right-angles, where they follow the N.E.-S.W. strike of the now exposed Silurian strata. Within the Forest area many of the river courses show youthful characteristics, with numerous abrupt changes of gradient and picturesque waterfalls. Drift accumulation causes poor drainage conditions in some parts, as do true rock basins in the higher country. Greater maturity of the river courses is apparent in their lower reaches, and visitors will be able to contrast the characteristics of the Cree immediately above Newton Stewart with those, for example, of the Minnoch where they cross it to make their way to Loch Trool and into the heart of the Glen Trool Forest.

In all, the geological history of this portion of the Southern Uplands has resulted in the creation of an area of rugged and attractive topography. The approach to Newton Stewart, either from the south or by the road from New Galloway, passing the artificial lake behind the Clatteringshaws dam and following the Palnure Burn, gives opportunity to glimpse the wild beauty of the higher ridges constituting the several ranges of this much glaciated area. Equally is the special attractiveness of this area apparent in the approach from Girvan, crossing the main fault which marks the area of contrast between the geological character of the Southern Uplands and the Midland Valley of Scotland, evidenced in part by the course of the River Stinchar. Changes of level and gradient and of surface characteristics are frequent. Contrasting types of water bodies, as for instance the difference between the rock basins of Loch Trool and Loch Neldricken; differences in soil cover—some areas being virtually destitute of soil whilst others have considerable accumulations of glacial debris; resultant contrasts in the natural vegetation and in surface conditions generally; changes in the character of the rivers and streams as a direct reflection of the effects of rock structure and glacial history—all these and others contribute to the special qualities of this western portion of the Southern Uplands, and mark it off as a distinctive part of this geological unit of Scotland.

This part of South-west Scotland has no great mineral wealth, and as a result there are very few places where the extractive industries have developed. The Ordovician and Silurian rocks provide several varieties of building stone, but demands are relatively slight, and most of the Forest Park area is not easily accessible in this respect. The granite is quarried at Creetown

but this does not affect the character of the forest areas. Veins in the Ordovician rocks are known to yield small quantities of minerals, e.g. lead ore, zinc, iron and copper, but workings of these have been slight and much restricted in their distribution.

The most extensive lead mines were those near Palmure, at the south end of Kirroghtree Forest, but they were closed about sixty years ago. One of the greatest resources is that of water. The several lochs and the relatively high rainfall lead to there being copious supplies of excellent water in this as in other parts of the Southern Uplands; it yields ample domestic supplies and the high levels of the lochs make it a valuable source of power.

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BUTTERWORT, AN INSECTIVOROUS MOORLAND PLANT

A rose-bud by my early walk,
Adown a corn-inclosed baw,
Sae gently bent its thorny stalk,
All on a dewy morning.

Ere twice the shades o' dawn are fled,
In a' its crimson glory spread,
And drooping rich the dewy head,
It scents the early morning.

A Rose-bud by My Early Walk

PLANT LIFE

BY PROFESSOR J. R. MATTHEWS

THE several areas which comprise the Glen Trool Forest Park in south-western Scotland are situated mainly within the region of the 'High Moors' of Galloway, a region of much historic interest and beautiful scenery. From the botanical point of view, the term 'moor' may be employed in a descriptive sense to denote the general prevalence of a widespread grassland type of vegetation, or 'grass moor', in contrast to the heather moors so characteristic of the northern Highlands. It is due to the dominance of grassland that sheep rearing has long been one of the chief types of husbandry practised over a large part of Galloway and the Southern Uplands; indeed, the extensive grazing of sheep on the hill moorlands has been an important factor in the partial suppression of heather and,

indeed, of the original forest cover. The visitor who approaches Glen Trool from Newton Stewart along the valley of the River Cree will be able to observe a good example of the transition from the agrarian belt to the region of hill pasture.

Much of this land, including all the higher ground, which rises to a maximum of 2,754 feet on the Merrick, was never cultivated, but along the lower valley slopes evidence of cultivation remains, and occasionally the reversion of once-cultivated land to natural or semi-natural vegetation may be noted. In general, however, it is a grassy vegetation which clothes the valleys and mountain slopes, but there is evidence that it was not always entirely grassland or heather moor. Most of the lower hills in past times were more or less covered with forest of oak or birch, and pine may also have been present. Deforestation, sheep-grazing, and burning of the moorland grasses have been largely responsible for the disappearance of former forest; and although the original and vanished woodlands are being replaced, to a large degree, by trees of other kinds, the scheme of reafforestation upon which the Forestry Commission is engaged is restoring to the countryside something of its former character and interest.

The existence of former primitive woodland is proved by the recent exposure of an ancient forest of birch buried below some eighteen or twenty inches of peat at about 650-850 feet, on the valley slopes lying to the west of the Water of Minnoch and north of the High Mill Burn. There can be little doubt, therefore, that forest was once more extensive than at the present time. Fortunately, some remnants of oak and birch woods survive in different parts of Glen Trool, on the slopes of Larg Hill near Newton Stewart, and elsewhere within the Forest Park. The Wood of Cree is a further example of semi-natural woodland in which oak is the most conspicuous tree.

THE WOODLAND FLORA

These relic woodlands, though limited in area, provide a more interesting and varied flora than the extensive moorlands which lie beyond them. The commoner trees vary in frequency, but both the pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and the sessile oak (*Q. petraea*) occur, together with the hybrid between them. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) are represented, while species of birch (*Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens*) are generally abundant. In damp situations, and by the sides of rivers and streams, the alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is frequent, some of the specimens being remarkably fine. Smaller trees and shrubs are represented by gean or wild cherry

(*Prunus avium*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), rowan or mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and various willows, including the goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and *S. atrocinerea*. The commonest climber is the ivy (*Hedera helix*), but honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) also occurs. Of the plants which form the undergrowth in these woods, various grasses are conspicuous, such as the soft grass (*Holcus mollis*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and fine bent (*Agrostis tenuis*), while wetter places generally provide large tussocks of purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*). The uneven carpet of mosses includes species of *Hylocomium*, *Hypnum*, *Dicranum* and *Polytrichum*, but in wet hollows these are replaced by bog mosses (*Sphagnum*), with which the marsh violet (*Viola palustris*), marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and rush (*Juncus effusus*) are frequently associated. Accompanying the mosses on the drier and better drained slopes, the wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) appears in profusion, while the heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), wood violet (*Viola riviniana*) and common speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) are locally abundant. Other woodland species worthy of mention are the yellow pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), bugle flower (*Ajuga reptans*), ground ivy (*Nepeta hederacea*), devil's bit scabious (*Scabiosa succisa*), golden rod (*Solidago virgaurea*), herb robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and, especially on dry stony banks, the wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and wild hyacinth (*Endymion non-scripta*) are not widely distributed in these old woods of the Forest Park, though they occur in some of them; the cow-wheat (*Melanthyrum pratense*), partially parasitic on the roots of grasses, is found in the wood at Caldons, not far from the camping site in Glen Trool.

No account of the woodland plants would be complete, however, without reference to the ferns which add to the adornment of the undergrowth. The bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), whose pale green fronds change eventually to a rich russet brown, is everywhere abundant and often luxuriant. This is true also of other ferns, since the mild climate, heavy rainfall and cloudiness of the region are favourable to their growth and development. Among the commoner species are the male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and its ally *D. spinulosa*, the scented fern (*Lastraea montana*), and the lady fern (*Athyrium filix-foemina*), all of which frequently contribute to the vegetation which fringes the sides of ditches. The hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*) is widely distributed, but much more local is the beech fern (*Phlegopteris polypodioides*). Other species are likewise restricted because of their peculiar habitat, but a search of old walls will almost certainly be rewarded by the finding of the common polypody

(*Polypodium vulgare*), the wallrue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) and the black spleenwort (*A. trichomanes*). Of rare occurrence are the sea spleenwort (*A. marinum*) and the curious rustyback or scaly fern (*Ceterach officinarum*).

An isolated narrow strip of woodland deserves special mention; it lies between the main road and the shore of Loch Ken on the eastern boundary of Cairn Edward Forest. Alder and birch are the prevailing trees, with a fringe of willows by the water's edge. The wet, peaty soil supports a considerable shrubby undergrowth of sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), associated with other moisture-demanding plants, such as jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*), dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), meadow sweet (*Spiraea ulmaria*), sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), marsh bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*) and bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). This assemblage of the alder wood is quite different from that of the oak-birch woods, although a few species, including marsh violet, bugle flower, devil's bit scabious and several ferns are common to both types of woodland.

PLANTS OF MOOR AND BOG

When we emerge from the woodland communities with their varied flora, a different and a more monotonous vegetation meets the eye. Great stretches of 'grass moor' form a conspicuous feature of much of the Forest Park area. Along the valleys and covering the lower slopes, a deposit of peat of varying thickness has accumulated on top of the mineral soil and even at considerable altitudes extensive flats or glacial hollows are covered with peat. On this substratum the 'grass moors' have developed, the characteristic plant being the purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*). In many areas this widespread grass dominates the scene. The most conspicuous of its associates is sweet gale or bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*), which locally becomes very abundant; while the bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), deer grass (*Scirpus caespitosus*), cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), and heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) are almost invariably present. In some areas the deer grass predominates. Where drainage is impeded, and conditions are favourable for the development of bog, species of bog-moss (*Sphagnum*) become a conspicuous feature. It is here that the cotton grass (*Eriophorum*) appears, with the white beak-rush (*Rynchospora alba*) as an occasional associate; and on scattered hummocks throughout the bog, heather, tormentil, crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and heath rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) often establish themselves. But the bog flora may be more varied, depending to some extent on the amount of drainage. An interesting com-

munity is represented in a small fan-shaped bog, intersected by numerous drainage channels, on gently sloping ground just above Buchan farm in Glen Trool. The commonest plant of the channels is the lesser jointed rush (*Juncus bulbosus*) with its flowers often replaced by vegetative buds. More or less submerged also is the bog St. John's wort (*Hypericum elodes*), and scattered here and there are plants of the umbellifer *Carum verticillatum*. Beyond the water channels large yellow cushions of bog moss are tinted red with abundant rosettes of the sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), often associated with the bright green leaves of pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*). The many-stemmed club-rush (*Eleocharis multicaulis*) is frequent, and sedges are represented by *Carex pulicaris*, *C. echinata* and *C. flava*. The insectivorous butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*, illustrated at the head of this chapter) grows in the vicinity.

Our native insectivorous plants are always a source of interest, and visitors who botanise in Kirroughtree Forest will find both sundew and butterwort in great profusion by the main road near Murray's Monument. Here an outcrop of rock provides an unusual number of plants within a small area, including Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), purging flax (*Linum catharticum*), sea plantain (*Plantago maritima*), and *Selaginella selaginoides*.

The abundance of bracken in the woodland undergrowth has already been mentioned, and in the Forest Park, as elsewhere, this common fern, which may originally have been a woodland species, has invaded the hills. Its steady encroachment to beyond 1,000 feet on the steeper and drier slopes is a menace to the sheep farmer, for it usurps the place of the more valuable hill pasture; and not infrequently it invades the rocky slopes where the fine-leaved heath (*Erica cinerea*) and heather were once the most conspicuous occupants. These upland pastures are a brighter green than the grass moors of the deeper and wetter peat. They comprise grasses such as bent (*Agrostis tenuis*), sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), and mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*); but are characterised also by the presence of tormentil, heath bedstraw, self-heal, milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), and occasional colonies of eyebright (*Euphrasia officinalis*) and lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*). The harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) is not infrequent, and a colourful feature is sometimes provided by the beautiful mountain pansy (*Viola lutea*) or its variety *amoena*.

MOUNTAIN PLANTS

At altitudes higher than the main belt of hill pasture, the more characteristic mountain plants begin to appear. Both to the climber

and to the botanist in search of hill plants, the Merrick (2,764 feet) is likely to provide a centre of attraction. The approach along the Buchan Burn and by way of Culsharg Glen takes one over a long stretch of *Molinia* and *Scirpus* moor, but when the steeper slopes are reached at about 1,500 feet, a change in the vegetation is noticeable. Purple moor grass (*Molinia*) is less ubiquitous, and bent (*Agrostis tenuis*), fescue (*Festuca ovina*), and its variety *vivipara*, become more prominent, with matgrass (*Nardus stricta*) locally dominant. Conspicuous patches of heather (*Calluna*) and *Erica cinerea* appear, and isolated plants of the green-ribbed sedge (*Carex binervis*) stand out above the general herbage. The numerous boulders strewn over the hillside bear grey growths of lichen and dark-coloured patches of the moss *Andraea petrophila*. On some of the more precipitous rock faces, the dwarf juniper (*Juniperus nanus*) seems to hold on precariously, and the screes provide the parsley fern (*Cryptogramma crispa*). The starry saxifrage (*Saxifraga stellaris*) is restricted to moist situations by streams or springs, and as the high ridge of the corrie is reached other alpine plants make their appearance. These include the cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), the smallest of our native willows (*Salix herbacea*), the mountain sedge (*Carex rigida*), and the clubmosses *Lycopodium alpinum* and *L. selago*. Exposure to strong winds has a markedly dwarfing effect on these mountain plants, an effect which is even more striking in the case of some common lowland species which have gained a foothold on the higher summits. The familiar bent grass (*Agrostis tenuis*) appears in an unusual form when no more than two or three inches high, while the heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), and blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) become remarkably small and prostrate. Associated with these plants, the grey woolly moss (*Rhacomitrium*) is everywhere abundant and appears in an increasingly prominent rôle as the summit of the Merrick is reached.

PLANTS OF LOCH AND STREAM

A glance at the map will show that the Merrick occupies an almost central position in the combined area of Glen Trool and Carrick Forests, dominating a region both wild and magnificent, which owes much of its scenic beauty to the presence of numerous irregular and ragged lochs. In most cases the rocky shores of these lochs have prevented any extensive development of marginal swarers, though occasional clumps of the common reed (*Phragmites communis*) are found near the western end of Loch Trool, while larger colonies of bladder sedge (*Carex ampullacea*) and water horse-



Loch Enoch and Mullwharchar; note the lochan on the islet, left



The Roman Bridge across the Minnoch, east of Bargrennan



Falls on the Buchan Burn, Glen Trool



Ploughing peaty moorlands for tree planting



In the schoolroom at Glen Trool Village



View west from the Newton Stewart-Crosshill Road, near the De'il's Elbow;
Arran Peaks in background



Loch Trool and the Bruce Stone, with White Hill and Muldonach beyond

tail (*Equisetum limosum*) appear elsewhere. These sub-aquatic plants, whose shoots emerge above the surface of the water, may be accompanied by others with floating or completely submerged leaves. The yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) and water lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*) are characteristic of these highland lochs, and the floating bur-reed (*Sparganium minimum*) provides an added interest. Various species of pondweed (*Potamogeton*) are represented, and shoreweed (*Littorella lacustris*) is relatively common. Bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and marsh cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*) are not infrequent, and sluggish stretches of some of the streams and rivers provide water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and water starwort (*Callitriche intermedia*).

In a brief account of the flora of the Forest Park, it has not been possible to refer to all the species which may be found, but enough has been said to indicate the main types of plant communities and the species which comprise them. It is hoped that visitors who explore the Forest area will find interest and pleasure in the wild plants 'that bloom by mountain streamlets mid the heather' and that every effort will be made to conserve the native flora.



WHAUPS ON THE WING

The sober laverock, warbling wild,
Shall to the skies aspire;
The gowdspink, Music's gayest child,
Shall sweetly join the choir:
The blackbird strong, the lintwhite clear
The mavis mild and mellow;
The robin pensive Autumn cheer,
In all her locks of yellow

Bruar Water

WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

BY GAVIN MAXWELL

It would appear probable that no Forest Park that may be formed in the future can supply such diverse interest to the natural historian, and more particularly the ornithologist, as that comprised by Glen Trool and its associated forests. Within this area are to be found both species more usually associated with the Western Highlands, and those which one might expect to see only on the great delta marshes of the southern rivers.

Glen Trool Forest lies in the heart of the only great range of 'highland character' hills in the south of Scotland, and for this reason contains species not otherwise found south of the Highland line. This is particularly noticeable among the larger birds of prey. The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*) was resident until well into

Laverock = skylark
Gowdspink = goldfinch

Mavis = song thrush
Lintwhite = linnet

the present century, and now, after a lapse of a few decades, it is reported to be once more established in its old breeding grounds. Benyellary, in Glen Trool Forest, is perhaps a corruption of the Gaelic *iolair* (eagle) and presumably takes its name from a former eyrie. It is much to be hoped that the golden eagle in Galloway may now receive the protection which previously arrived too late to prevent its local extinction. That magnificent fishing eagle, the osprey, has vanished from the lochs of Glen Trool, never to return.

The common buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*) is an abundant and typical species of the district, possibly more numerous than in any equivalent area of the Highlands. This is a harmless species, whose size and majestic flight lead to frequent confusion with the golden eagle, but whose diet consists of the smallest mammals and even insects. In flight the two species are readily distinguishable by the effect which the buzzard gives of having a very short head, a little owl-like, and at closer quarters or through field-glasses by the characteristic 'eye' pattern displayed upon the under side of the wing. Contrary to popular supposition the wingtips of the buzzard divide, while soaring, into separate and upturned fingers, as do those of the eagle.

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is relatively numerous throughout Glen Trool Forest, and the merlin (*Falco aesalon*) is present in all these forests, together with the more widely distributed kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and sparrow hawk (*Accipiter nisus*), though in Glen Trool Forest the latter species is naturally confined to the lower ground. The hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), though not known to occur within the limits of the Forest Park, is not infrequently recorded from the near vicinity.

The three owls typical of the Forest Park area are the tawny (*Syrnium aluco*), the barn (*Strix flammea*), and the long-eared (*Asio otus*), the latter species being probably even more numerous than the tawny. It is especially numerous in Kirroughtree Forest, where it has for long nested habitually in the very plentiful disused magpies' nests. The short-eared owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) is recorded as a winter visitor.

The raven (*Corvus corax*) is, of course, common throughout the area, and nests locally. It is perhaps worth noting, among so many typically Highland species, that here the carrion crow (*Corvus corone*) retains its typical form, the hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*) being rare as a resident species south of the Highland line, except in the Isle of Man. Magpies are especially numerous in Kirroughtree Forest, where I have once observed twenty-seven in one flock. The maker of the old rhyme would have had to become an epic bard to deal with this number.

Most of the true game birds are represented, though grouse and blackgame, once present in large numbers, now occur somewhat sparingly, and the last of the ptarmigan disappeared from Galloway a hundred and twenty years ago. Since this is a bird of the bare tops, rarely found under 2,000 feet, it is to be hoped that its re-introduction may be attempted in the future. Golden and Amherst pheasants are found throughout the whole of the lower part of Kिरrough-tree Forest, where they have increased greatly since their original introduction, and have interbred to form some peculiarly beautiful crosses.

Golden plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*) nest regularly in Glen Trool Forest, and probably in Kिरrough-tree also, while the green plover or lapwing, and the curlew (known in this part of the country as 'whaup') are both typical birds of the district. Woodcock are resident, their numbers being of course greatly increased by the winter migratory birds.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the whole district is the wild-fowl, and more especially the geese, which inhabit the lower ground surrounding the Park. Kिरrough-tree Forest runs down to Wigtown Bay, and Cairn Edward Forest to Loch Ken, and on these two marshes, the one salt and the other fresh, I have personally observed every British-wintering species of wild goose except the brent. Loch Ken is a remarkable goose marsh where three species converge. A large flock of whitefronts (*Anser albifrons*) (of the pink-billed variety) inhabit the upper portion of the loch, a considerable flock of greylags (*Anser anser*) occupy the Cairn Edward shore some four miles down, and a detached portion of the Threave Castle flock of yellow-billed bean geese (*Anser arvensis*) also come up as far as this part of the loch. Adjoining Kिरrough-tree Forest, Wigtown Bay holds a considerable regular wintering flock of greylags. Individuals of these two flocks appear to interchange, and I have seen greylags apparently on passage from Wigtown Bay to Loch Ken, and also resting in company with whitefronts upon Loch Stroan. It is to this somewhat inaccessible loch in Cairn Edward Forest that the whitefronts invariably repair when harried upon their Loch Ken feeding grounds. Pinkfeet (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and barnacles (*Branta leucopsis*), though both winter residents in great numbers within 50 miles, are somewhat infrequent stragglers to Wigtown Bay. Lesser snow geese have also been recorded from this estuary.

The duck population of both Wigtown Bay and of Loch Ken is little less than astounding. The former consists in the main of a gigantic wintering flock of widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) numbering many thousands, beside which the quantity of mallard and pintail (*Dafila acuta*)—both numerous—appears insignificant. Loch Ken

is as notable for its diving duck population as its surface feeders, and from one spot on the edge of Cairn Edward Forest I have observed eleven species in view simultaneously. Goldeneyes (*Clangula glaucion*) are especially numerous here, appearing to gather at Loch Ken before their northward spring migration, and when the late days of March are warm and sunny their strange and beautiful courting display may often be observed at close quarters.

Among mammals, perhaps the most notable attraction of the Park is the presence of red deer (*Cervus elephas*) living under feral conditions—unique in any district of Scotland south of the Highlands. Although, unlike the remarkable English deer forest of Martindale, the deer in this area were originally introduced, they have been wild for many generations, and exhibit heads characteristic of the average West Highland forest. Fallow deer are occasionally seen as wanderers from the Cumladen Deer Parks, near Newton Stewart.

Roe deer are common throughout the lower ground of the Park, and some unusually strong heads have been recorded from Kिरrough-tree Forest. Foxes and otters are common, but the true wild cat no longer lingers even in the most remote districts of Glen Trool Forest. Both brown hares and blue mountain hares (the latter turning snow-white in winter) are present, the blues being confined to the higher ground of Glen Trool, Kिरrough-tree, Dundough and The Garraries. The blue hare, where it is plentiful, forms the staple food of the golden eagle.

Red squirrels are comparatively common on the lower ground—the invasion of the grey squirrel not having reached Galloway. Wild goats, the descendants of domesticated herds, may occasionally be encountered on the uplands of Kिरrough-tree and Glen Trool Forests; but they are timid and difficult to approach. Their general body colour is black and white, and the males carry enormous sweeping horns.

To do justice to the birds and mammals of the Park and its immediate surroundings would require a volume, and it has been possible in this brief survey only to mention a few of many interesting species characteristic of the ground.

The thummart, wulcat, brock and tod,
Weel kenn'd his voice through a' the wood,
He smelt their ilka hole and road
Baith out and in,
And weel he lik'd to shed their bluid,
And sell their skin

The Two Herds

Thummart = fourmart or polecat
Tod = fox

Brock = badger



MULLDONACH FROM THE WOODS OF LOCH TROOL

Let lofty firs, and ashes cool,
My lowly banks o'erspread,
And view, deep-bending in the pool
Their shadows' wat'ry bed:
Let fragrant birks, in woodbines drest,
My craggy cliffs adorn;
And, for the little songster's nest,
The close embowering thorn.

Bruar Water.

THE FORESTS AND PLANTATIONS

BY J. R. THOM and H. L. EDLIN

THE Glen Trool Forest Park comprises the following seven individual forests:

Forest	Total Area	Area of Woods and Plantations,	Total area intended to form woods and plantations
		1964	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Cairn Edward (part).	15,032	9,250	9,600
Carrick	32,945	10,205	14,000
Changue	3,127	1,935	2,400
Dundeugh	5,966	4,994	5,000
The Garraries . .	10,321	3,214	8,500
Glen Trool . . .	51,392	20,436	26,500
Kirroughtree . . .	11,940	7,903	9,500
	<u>130,723</u>	<u>57,938</u>	<u>75,500</u>

Planting first began at Cairn Edward Forest in 1922, when the Warren, lying on the shores of Loch Ken, was planted. Scots pine, European larch, Douglas fir, Norway and Sitka spruces were all used in these initial plantings. Growth has been rather irregular on this area, and there was a disastrous fire in 1926 which destroyed one hundred acres of young trees. In the early years planting was done by spade; a cut was made, followed by another at right-angles, the plant being slipped into the intersection of the two cuts and the soil being pressed firmly around the root collar. In 1928 a system of turf planting was introduced, and widely used for certain species, especially the spruces. This method was used to plant up the greater part of Cairn Edward, Changue and Kirroughtree Forests. Briefly, it involved the cutting of drains at twenty feet intervals. Turves approximately fifteen inches square were cut from drain turf and laid out at five or six feet intervals, depending on the species to be planted. A notch was then made in each turf, followed by another at right-angles, the plant being then inserted and threaded through the turf with the roots spread out underneath, thus leaving the plant firmly embedded in the turf.

This hand method has now been largely superseded, except for the actual operation of planting, by machinery. With a specially adapted hill draining plough coupled behind a crawler tractor, large areas of land can now be ploughed. This has provided efficient drainage and also an upturned furrow on which the forest trees have been planted. By this method considerable areas of land formerly classified as unplatable have now been prepared for planting. Carrick and Glen Trool Forests, at which planting began in 1947, have been treated largely by this method, and large areas still to be planted will be ploughed by the same means, which combines cheapness in operation with greater efficiency in preparation.

Many of the forest trees used to form the plantations come from the Kirroughtree Nursery, laid down in 1931. Here the seed of the various coniferous species is sown in the specially prepared seedbeds, protected from drought and frost, and tended with care until the young seedlings are ready to be raised from the seedbeds. They are then transplanted to allow the better formation of a fibrous root system. After a period of one or two years in the transplant lines the young trees are raised and despatched to the forest. As the young trees can only be handled during the dormant period, when no growth takes place, the nursery is a source of great activity during the winter months, and visitors at that time will see literally millions of seedlings and transplants being raised and despatched to the various forests. Much of the work is done by girls, who become highly skilled at seed sowing, transplanting and weeding.

Kirroughtree Nursery now covers over 31 acres, and carries a stock of young trees, seedlings and transplants, that averages ten million. Every year, some four million transplants are sent out for planting in the neighbouring forests, while every spring about fifty pounds of tree seed is sown. The labour force is normally about fifty people. Visitors are always welcome to look round the nursery; they should apply at the forester's office, close beside Daltamie House, where there is also a small forestry museum.

Even this big output is insufficient to maintain the Park's current annual planting programme, which calls for about 5 million plants yearly. Consequently many are drawn from another, more recently established nursery, which covers 58 acres. This is situated at Bareagle Forest, close to Dunragit Station, and draws much of its labour from the town of Stranraer.

Cairn Edward Forest perhaps shows most interest to the casual visitor. Here many of the trees are now nearing one hundred feet in height, and a considerable amount of forest produce is coming out — pit props, fencing stakes, light poles, and saw logs. The various paths on the Bennan Hill give delightful vistas amongst the resin-scented Douglas fir now being thinned out to provide timber. The climb to the top of the Bennan Hill will be found to be well worth while, giving as it does a magnificent view of Loch Ken shimmering below on the edge of the forest. An extensive system of forest roads is at present under construction to allow timber lorries into the forest, and these roads will be extended as more and more areas reach the thinning stage, so that eventually the whole forest will be readily accessible to walkers. The Douglas fir, originally introduced from America in 1827, grows well on the Bennan and appears to be well suited to this forest. This species can be recognised by the long slender light brown buds, and by the orange-like smell left when the needles are bruised by the hand. This tree produces a heavy volume of timber when grown on suitable sites, as on the lower slopes of the Bennan Hill.

Both the Norway and the Sitka spruce have been extensively planted at all the forests in the Park, and at Cairn Edward the visitor is able to see the possibilities of these species as timber trees. Extensive thinnings to allow the remaining trees more light, air, and growing space, have now been made at this forest; and a constant supply of mining timber is finding its way to the Ayrshire and Lanarkshire coalfields. Norway spruce gives the whitewood of commerce and can be distinguished from the Sitka by its more vivid green and comparatively blunt needles. This is the tree largely used for Christmas trees. The Sitka spruce, native of Alaska, has a much more silvery-blue appearance, with very sharp-pointed needles. The

timber from both species is used for packing cases, building purposes, paper pulp and wallboard. A small plantation of *Picea omorika* or Serbian spruce is situated on the slopes of the Bennan at an elevation of 700 feet. This plantation of a hitherto uncommon species is growing well, and appears to be keeping pace with the neighbouring Norway spruce.

European larch has been disappointing on the whole, and the small areas planted cannot be taken as typical of what can be achieved by this tree. Considerable damage was caused by the Larch Canker, a fungus attacking the stem and branches, which results in disfigurement and in some cases the eventual death of the tree. Heavy thinnings to allow more light and air into the crop are a possible remedy, and this has been partially successful at Cairn Edward. The contrast with the more vigorous-growing Japanese larch is most striking, and visitors should not fail to visit the excellent plantations of this latter species. The rich dark purple-brown colour of its stems in winter contrasts vividly with the more sombre green of the Douglas fir, and gives a pleasing patchwork effect to the hillside when seen from afar. The larches are distinguished from other conifers in that their needles fall during the winter months. It is during these months that the European and Japanese larch can be most easily distinguished, the branches and twigs of the former showing up as a straw yellow colour, while those of the Japanese are a purplish crimson.

Scots pine has been planted on heather-covered ground at all the forests, and is particularly noticeable at Kirroughtree. To the visitor travelling from Newton Stewart to New Galloway, the clumps of Scots pine stand out clearly amongst the darker colour of the Sitka spruce. The Scots pine is our only useful native conifer, and thrives well in north and east Scotland. The younger plantations in the South show promise, and large areas have been planted at most forests, both pure and as a mixture with Sitka spruce. Scots pine has a bluish-green foliage, with the needles arranged in pairs. The timber is used for many purposes, including building, fencing and box-making.

During the last few years the Lodgepole pine has been planted extensively, because it is well suited to the western climate. Its original home is on the west coast of North America, where the Indians once used its straight poles for their "lodges" or wigwams. Its needles lack the bluish tint seen on the very similar Scots pine.

Broadleaved trees have not been planted on a large scale at any of the forests in the Park, as soil conditions are not favourable, but every opportunity has been taken to introduce them, where possible, to make a contrast with the darker foliage of the conifers. The

slender and graceful birch is found at Glen Trool in its wild state, and, in addition, the gean (wild cherry) has been planted near to roadsides, with the rowan, beech and red oak. Visitors wishing to see broadleaved trees in any quantity are advised to spend a day at the nearby forests of Fleet (at Gatehouse of Fleet), or Kilsture (on the main road from Wigtown to Whithorn), where plantations of oak, beech and ash have been laid down.

It will be evident at Kirroughtree that here and there viewpoints have been left unplanted so that the dark majesty of Cairnmore of Fleet and Craignelder will not be obscured by trees. Again, it will be noticed that the plantations along the road at this forest are unfenced, giving a pleasing feeling of natural woodlands. However, a word of warning may not be out of place, as damage to the forests can be severe, either through carelessness by the casual visitor or by the grazing of animals from neighbouring land.

All plantations have to be fenced against sheep. When the plantations reach a certain height the fences can be dispensed with, as then there is little or no risk from grazing animals. However, danger from fire, the forester's greatest enemy, is always present, and elaborate precautions have to be taken to prevent the work of many years being destroyed in a fierce blaze of a few hours. Along the roads the visitor will see water tanks placed at strategic points, to provide water for the operation of the mobile fire pumps stationed at all large forests. All the forests are covered, during dry weather, by look-out men on fire towers, who can send radio messages to the forest offices, and also to parties of men at work in the woods; so help can be speedily summoned and motor transport brings it smartly to the scene of any outbreak. In addition, stands of brooms for fire beaters can be seen along the edge of the plantations, ready to be used should a fire start from the roadside. Unfortunately, even now many of the worst fires are caused by a carelessly-thrown match or an unextinguished picnic fire or cigarette, and too much emphasis cannot be placed on the danger of forest fires from these sources, particularly in the spring and early summer months.

Where large blocks of forest warrant it, fire traces are ploughed or screefed, that is, scraped bare of vegetation, as at Kirroughtree or Cairn Edward, especially at the latter forest near to the railway line. A change in the planting of certain species acts as a good fire break, and belts of Japanese larch have been planted with this object in view. The fast growing Japanese larch kills out very quickly all vegetation under its branches, and thus may prevent a fire from spreading along the ground. Another type of fire trace, seen here and there, is the grazing strip; cattle are pastured on a fenced-in strip of land along a road, where their grazing keeps the grass short and green.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW FORESTS

Today, and for several years to come, the visitor will see the new forests that make up the Glen Trool Forest Park at a very interesting stage of their development. The work now in progress will gradually create one of the greatest reserves of growing and standing timber in Scotland. We have seen that the formation of new woodlands demands a wealth of technical knowledge; when it has to be done on the grand scale it calls also for skilful planning. Not only have the hills to be re-clothed with trees, but the glens have to be re-peopled by the workers who will tend them, and good roads have to be constructed to link the woods with the distant markets for their timber. All this has to go forward at a pace that will ensure constant, rather than intermittent, work for all concerned; while regard must be paid to the needs of those who wish to enjoy the magnificent scenery of these wild uplands, and also to the claims of agriculture on the better land in the valley bottoms.

By no means all of the vast area comprised within the Forest Park is destined to become plantations. The high peaks, and much of the rocky and peaty moorland around them, will remain as they are today, as a great natural wilderness attractive to the hill walker. Hardy hill sheep will continue to graze their scanty pastures, and some of the larger farms will remain as centres from which these flocks can be managed. Another type of ground that will only be altered slowly, if at all, by the afforestation schemes, consists of the fringes of the lochs and rivers, and the natural woodlands of broadleaved trees; these will be maintained very much as they now are although, where possible, the woodlands will be rendered more productive by skilful management.

Elsewhere, the formation of the new woods is going ahead speedily; and the great size and scattered character of the Park renders it necessary to proceed from several centres. One of the most active is that in Glen Trool Forest proper, on either side of the public road up the valley of the Minnoch, from Bargrennan north towards Straiton. The centre of operations is the Forester's office close to Glentool village, while the labour force is largely at hand in this community nearby. Every year a new area of ground, exceeding one thousand acres in extent, is scheduled for planting, and the great tractor-drawn ploughs go in to dig the drains and throw up the turves. They are followed, some months later, by the squads of tree planters, each of whom, each day, inserts several hundreds of young spruce, larch, or pine into the prepared ground; in all, over 1½ million trees are planted annually at this one forest. Planting is done in the colder months, while in the summer the young trees are

weeded. For the first year or two you may not notice them, in fact a second look will often be needed to make sure that the land is in fact planted, for the lush growth of grass, bracken or heather conceals both trees and drains. But after only four or five years have slipped by, the brown stems of the larches, the bluish green of the pines, and the softer green of the spruces will begin to weave their own pattern of colour amid the bright web of the Galloway landscape, and it will appear plain to all that a new source of wealth is springing into being on these hitherto virtually unproductive hillsides.

To the north, the Carrick area is being afforested from three distinct centres, whose plantations will gradually approach one another, although expanses of hill grazing may remain between them. The north-western area is around Pinvalley, along the road that crosses the Nick o' the Balloch pass, and this draws its labour from Barr. In the centre, there is another scheme around Tairlaw, on both sides of the road that runs south from the village of Straiton. On the north-east are the plantations along the western shore of Loch Doon which is approached by a by-road from Dalmellington.

At Kirroughtree Forest, the main expansion is now taking place in the valley of the Penkiln Burn, four miles north-east of Newton Stewart, on the road to Auchinleck. In Cairn Edward Forest, planting is now proceeding on the rugged uplands between Clattering-shaws Loch and the Palnure Burn, not far from the high road from Newton Stewart to New Galloway.

As each new area is taken over, forest roads are constructed to give access for men, plant and machines; and at two or three points rivers have had to be bridged. These roads make it much easier to patrol the plantations at times of fire danger, or to reach an actual fire, while later on they will prove invaluable for hauling out poles and timber quickly and economically.

After planting and weeding are completed, the young woods spend several years in their early growing stage, but from fifteen to twenty years after planting, the thinning-out process must begin. This may be seen at Changue, Kirroughtree, and the Bennan portion of Cairn Edward Forest, which adjoins Loch Ken. Taking Cairn Edward as an example, each year the Forester in charge has to organise the thinning of about 400 acres—over half a square mile—of young woods. This yields some 180,000 hoppus feet of timber, weighing about 6,000 tons, and involves selecting and felling about 40,000 individual trees. Yet so rapid is the growth of these plantations that only three years later he must come back over the same ground again, to remove a like quantity, and this will continue for many years.

To aid the foresters in judging how fast the woods are growing, and how much timber can safely be removed, sample plots have been established, in which all the trees are measured at intervals of a few years. If you step into Cairn Edward Forest at the point called 'Lochside' half way down the west shore of Loch Ken, you will see three of these plots, each treated in a different way, used to assess the rate of growth of Norway spruce. The most rapid growth recorded at the forest, however, is in a sample plot of Douglas fir. In 1961, only thirty-seven years after planting, the larger trees here were over eighty feet high, and each held more than ten hoppus feet of timber, thus being big enough for the sawmill. An acre of such plantation has produced over 5,000 hoppus feet of timber, or more than 160 tons, in less than forty years; and it will continue to grow at this rate, or even faster, for another thirty or forty years. A growing market today is that for pulpwood for paper making, while similar small logs also go to the mills that make wall-board. One such mill is situated at Annan, between Dumfries and Carlisle.

Hence the activity that the visitor will see along the roadside beside Loch Ken, and elsewhere in the Forest Park, is a continuous one. Every year axe and saw will take their toll of the tall trees, and horses and tractors will drag the long poles out to the forest roads, where skilled workmen will cut them up into the right sizes for various markets. Large quantities of small material are bought each year by local farmers, in the form of fence stobs and strainers, net stakes, tripod poles, and shed or rick poles. Another big demand is for pit-props for the collieries, while the bigger logs yield saw timber, of dimensions that steadily increase as the woods grow older.

EMPLOYMENT

The increased activity that forestry has brought to this Galloway countryside is perhaps best measured in terms of employment. This naturally varies from year to year but the numbers engaged are sure to increase further as more and more plantations reach the thinning stage. Whereas, in the past, only a handful of gamekeepers and shepherds found work on these lonely hills, the workers regularly employed by the Forestry Commission at the end of 1963 are shown overleaf.

These figures do not take into account those people who are employed by timber merchants on tree felling, hauling out the logs, or sawing up the timber; hence the total amount of employment arising from the new forests is even greater than the above figures suggest.

<i>Forest</i>	<i>Total Number of Workers</i>	<i>Number of Commission Houses</i>
Cairn Edward	58	33
Carrick	29	14
Changue	12	22
Dundeugh	17	16
The Garraries	13	1
Glentrool	89	46
Kirroughtree	56	12
Total for the Forest Park	274	144

HOUSING AND FOREST VILLAGES

To a fairly large extent the people who work in these new forests have come from existing centres, such as Newton Stewart and New Galloway. Some have been accommodated in the older houses and cottages taken over with the land, and where the ground is suitable smallholdings have been formed for forest workers. At all the Forests new houses have had to be built, both for the supervisory staff of foresters and for the forest workers. Some of these houses are dotted about the woods, and attract little attention, but at three points larger schemes have been found essential.

One of these is Barr, where a group of twenty houses for men employed at Carrick and Changue Forests has been built, on a very accessible site just across the river from the old village. The second is New Galloway, where nineteen houses for the workers in Cairn Edward Forest have been set up in a hillside group, near the town centre, and between the road to Newton Stewart and that to Carsphairn. In the third instance, there was no large centre of population on to which a new community could be grafted, and a completely new village had to be set up.

This is Glentrool situated beside the road from Newton Stewart and Bargrennan to Straiton, and in the heart of Glen Trool Forest; it stands near the point where the road to the camping site and Loch Trool strikes off to the east. The site was carefully selected so that the village would be conveniently placed for work in the forest, yet also accessible from other parts.

Building began in 1952, and the lay-out gives room for forty-seven houses grouped around a central school, with playgrounds. Building began in 1952, and on 24th October, 1953, when the first houses were ready for occupation, the new village was formally opened by the Earl of Galloway, Lord Lieutenant of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The houses, which are brick-built with harled walls

of attractive colours and roofs of cedar shingles, are spaced amid fair-sized gardens and, both individually and as a group, attract the eye; their architecture follows traditional Scottish styles, which blend in well with the magnificent landscapes around them. Some are of four rooms and others of five, and all alike are planned on modern lines, with ample cupboard space.

Certain social amenities, including a church, a post office, a bus service, a community hall, and an hotel, were already available at the hamlet of Bargrennan nearby. Others have since been provided, such as a busy shop and a flourishing school. Another site close by has been reserved for a possible later expansion.

In conclusion, while the forests of the Glen Trool Park are among the more spectacular of the developments in tree-growing in Galloway, they are by no means the only ones. Other new forests that may catch the visitor's eye as he travels by road are Laurieston, rising above Woodhall Loch between New Galloway and Kirkcudbright, and Penninghame, in Wigtownshire, three miles north-west of Newton Stewart. These are all part of a vast programme to ensure Scotland's future timber supplies by putting the least fertile ground to its most productive use.



LOCH TROOL

And art thou come?—and art thou true?
O welcome, dear, to love and me!
And let us all our vows renew,
Along the flowery banks of Cree
Here is the Glen

ROADS IN AND AROUND THE FOREST PARK

BY H. L. EDLIN

I. A ROUND TOUR OF THE PARK

No public road crosses the great hill range of the Merrick, which forms the heart of the Glen Trool Forest Park. In order to see all of its many faces, and its features of historic and scenic interest, it is necessary to use the roads that encircle these grand hills. The full circle covers 76 miles, and rewarding diversions can add another 60 miles to this. A long summer's day is needed to cover it fully—allowing for the many halts needed to take in the superb views.

In the account that follows it is assumed, for convenience, that the motorist starts at Newton Stewart; but the story is broken into sections so that the route can easily be picked up by those who begin elsewhere. Those staying at the camp site, for example, can begin at Glen Trool Village, with Section B; those coming south from



Newton Stewart



Looking east over Glen Trool Forest towards the Merrick Range



Barr Village beside Changue Forest



Birches beside Loch Ken



The Wood of Cree, a natural oakwood in Glen Trool Forest, seen across the River Cree from the Bargrennan-Newton Stewart road



In Glen Trool Forest, looking north along the Bargrennan-Maybole road towards the Merrick hills



Natural birchwoods on the way to Glen Trool

Ayr will start at Dalmeilington, for Sections E and F; and those who come west from Dumfries will come in at New Galloway for Sections G and H, continuing as appropriate.

A. NEWTON STEWART TO BARGRENNAN AND GLEN TROOL VILLAGE (10 miles)

Leaving Newton Stewart by the main road, A714, north west towards Girvan, the way runs first above the deep valley of the River Cree; this is seen down on the right with the village of Minnigaff beyond. Next you cross open fields to the hamlet of Challoch, and just beyond this reach the outskirts of Penninghame Forest, close to Penninghame House. This name is a very old one; it was once spelt Pennegem, and is a Norse term derived from *pennig heim* meaning 'the homestead for which pennies (money) are paid'—hence a rented farm. The modern forest, on the poorer land of the estate, was begun in 1950, and the main trees to be seen are Sitka spruce and Japanese larch. 'Challoch' is from Gaelic *teallach*, a smithy.

The River Cree now comes into view again on the right, its broad bed, which appears shingly in summer but is filled to the brim by winter floods, is here fringed by wide reed beds. On the farther bank stands the Wood of Cree, an old natural stand of oak, and down the middle of it plunges a foaming white cataract, one of the three local falls called 'The Grey Mare's Tail'.

A little farther on, the road drops to a gravel terrace just beside the stream, and on the left it is bordered for two miles by a beautiful strip of birchwood. Decorative conifers, such as hemlock, silver fir, Douglas fir, and cypress, have been planted below these birches to take their place later on. At Clauchaneasy, a Gaelic name meaning 'stone dwelling by the waterfall', the character of the country changes. The fringing fields are suddenly replaced by rough moorland, the broad river becomes a hill burn, and the rugged summits of Lamachan and the distant Merrick dominate the landscape to the east.

Bargrennan, the next hamlet, has a church, a post office and shop, an inn aptly named 'House o' Hill', and a meeting hall. Here the route diverges left and runs through spruce and larch woods to Glen Trool Village. This was built by the Forestry Commission in 1953 to house its workers close to the woods; the buildings, with their colour-washed gable ends, are well designed and attractively laid out. There is a shop and a village school, and on certain days of the week a bus links the community with Newton Stewart. The forest office is situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther on.

B. GLEN TROOL VILLAGE TO CALDONS CAMP SITE AND BRUCE'S STONE (7 miles outward, 14 return, *no through route*)

Just north of the village, a road signposted 'Glen Trool', runs east through the fields of the Glencaird Estate, past tall woods of pine, spruce, beech, and larch, to regain the moorland. It crosses the River Minnoch by a modern concrete bridge close to falls called the Black Linn. Then it passes young plantations to reach the natural woods of oak and birch that beautify the glen of the Water of Trool.

Those who wish to reach the Camp Site, or to see the Martyr's Memorial, must turn off right at a clear signpost, and cross a couple of bridges. The Caldons camping ground then lies straight ahead, with the Warden's office at the head of the brae. To find the memorial, leave your car just after the first bridge, and strike off right (west) along a clear path that follows a stony ridge through a native oakwood. A concrete causeway leads to the memorial, which is surrounded by a low stone wall.

For the main route to Bruce's Stone, we return to the north side of the river, and go on, in the same direction as before, to the grounds of Glen Trool Lodge. The road skirts these as it climbs, and the tall woods of pine, oak, beech, silver fir, spruce and larch, fringing the loch now seen far below, heighten the wild grandeur of the scene.

Cars must be left at a signposted park (no charge) as there is no turning place beyond. A short walk now brings you to Bruce's Stone, splendidly sited on a bluff giving grand views over the loch. Downstream, it winds in majesty towards woodland and the open plain, and you will realise why the Gaels called it *loch an t' sruthail*, the river-shaped loch. The romantic tree-clad islet set in its heart is called the Maiden Isle.

Straight across the loch you see the steep, rough slopes of Mull-donach, the Tawny Hill, 1,627 feet. It was down these slopes that in A.D. 1307 Robert the Bruce and his warriors rolled stones to break up the English force who were following a narrow track beside the loch shore; they descended to rout them in the Battle of the Steps o' Trool. 'Steps' here means 'steeps'.

The eastward view reveals the broad valley of the Glenhead Burn, fringed with native oakwoods, many of the trees being of the sessile kind, *Quercus petraea*. The farmstead of the Buchan, built about 1856 in the style of a castle, is seen just below. To reach the fine Buchan Falls, follow the gravelled road downhill round hairpin bends, to cross a bridge. One inscription thereon records the fact that both road and bridge were built by Randolph, Ninth Earl of Galloway, in 1851. Another repeats Sir Walter Scott's lyrical words:

Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,
Land of the mountain and the flood,
Land of my sires! What mortal hand
Can e'er untie the filial band
That knits me to thy rugged strand?

The path leading to the falls, which is clearly signposted, runs off to the left just beyond the bridge. A steep, but rewarding climb for half a mile reveals a rare succession of foaming cataracts in a deep rocky cleft. They are at their best after heavy rain, when the Buchan Burn is in spate. 'Buchan', by the way recalls the days when the Comyn family, Earls of Buchan in north-east Scotland, were overlords of this wild forest.

Another path, running behind the Buchan farmstead, forms the main approach route for rambles in two directions. You can strike south-east up the Glenhead Burn for the ascent of Lamachan Hill (2,350 feet) and its outlier Curleywee (2,212 feet) or cross the low watershed to Loch Dee. In either case you can strike the hill track that runs south to Drigmorn, with a road thence to Newton Stewart. Or else you can strike north-east up the Garland Burn to Loch Valley, Loch Neldricken, and remote Loch Enoch, hidden away amid the crags, high on the shoulder of the Merrick.

The main path up the Merrick is easily found. Close to Bruce's Stone stands a metal shed, and just beside it a well-trodden track begins its climb up into the valley of the Buchan Burn, above the falls. It runs on to the ruins of Culsharg, an old shieling, to gain the ridge of Benyellary (*beinn iolair*, hill of the eagles) which leads on to The Merrick (*tiu meurig*, the 'Finger' of the Range of the Awful Hand). This peak, at 2,764 feet, is the highest in the south of Scotland, and so commands tremendous views, yet it cannot be seen from Glen Trool itself. Culsharg was used as a shieling, or summer cottage, by shepherds as late as 1947.

C. GLEN TROOL VILLAGE TO STRAITON, THE NICK O' THE BALLOCH, AND LOCH BRADAN (18 miles direct, Glen Trool Village to Straiton)

Describing the main route first, take the road due north from Glen Trool Village (turn *right* if you come from the Camp Site). This runs up the western side of the Water of Minnoch, winding through plantations of the blue-green Sitka spruce, and the handsome Japanese larch—glistening blue-green in summer leaf, but showing bare russet twigs in winter.

After three miles the road reaches open hill pastures, part of the great sheep farm of Palgowan, the homestead of which can be seen

on the right, just across the Minnoch. This farm has been kept in being so that its flocks can make use of the high-lying grasslands on the Merrick and its neighbouring peaks, which extend well above the upper limit of tree planting. The sheep must come down in winter, and so a broad expanse of dale land is kept under agriculture.

This open stretch provides a magnificent view of the Park's highest peaks, the famous Range of the Awful Hand. Working from south to north, that is from right to left as one faces the hills, the succession is: Bennan, Benyellary, The Merrick, Kirriereoch Hill (2,565 feet), Carmaddie Brae (1,957), Tarfessock (2,520), Shalloch-on-Minnoch (with twin summits, 2,520 and 2,163), and finally Shalloch itself (1,777).

Two miles beyond Palgowan the road crosses into Ayrshire, and continues up the Minnoch valley to Rowantree, where it forks. Take the right-hand road, and follow its bends up the Shalloch Pass, to cross the watershed at 1,421 feet, the highest point touched by any public road in the Park. Two small plantations, one on either side of the road, are 'pilot plots' established by the Forestry Commission Research Branch to see what trees will thrive here, in advance of full-scale planting. The first stream crossed as the road begins its descent northwards is the River Stinchar at *Stinchar Bridge*. Still falling steadily the road runs down eventually into the valley of quite another stream, the Water of Girvan. A series of bends leads down through plantations of Japanese larch, Sitka spruce, and the hardy Lodgepole pine from western North America, and there are fine views towards the plain of Ayrshire to the north. Then suddenly the moorlands and forests are left behind, and the road drops into a sheltered pastoral valley, which is followed for three miles into *Straiton*.

(i) *Diversion to Loch Bradan (2 miles outward, 4 return)*

From *Stinchar Bridge* (see above), a county road runs off to the right (east) and crosses rough country to Loch Bradan, still at 1,000 feet above sea level. This gives one a glimpse of the great wilderness of rock and peat that extends eastwards for six miles to Loch Doon, a waste that is steadily being tamed by the Forestry Commission's giant tractor-drawn ploughs, as they make it fit for tree planting. Loch Bradan now includes Loch Lure, the two having been joined when the outlet was dammed to provide water for the county of Ayr. At the same time an ancient castle was swallowed below the rising waters, which actually form part of the Water of Girvan's stream. (Day tickets for trout fishing are obtainable from the Forestry Commission, on application at Talaminnoch Cottage on the main road, a mile north of *Stinchar Bridge*).

(ii) *Diversion to Nick o' the Balloch, and Straiton.*

(Distances: Rowantree to North Balloch—4 miles, 8 return.
Glen Trool Village via North Balloch to Straiton—20 miles)

At Rowantree take the *left* fork, signposted 'Girvan', and climb to the Nick o' the Balloch pass, 1,278 feet, on the slopes of Rowantree Hill, 1,811 feet.

There is a dramatic descent by a winding road, which takes only one-way traffic between passing bays, down the steep slopes above the Balloch Burn. On the left, the rounded summits of Glengap Hill, Haggis Hill, Larg Hill, and Balloch Hill provide scenery that recalls the central Borders, around Moffat. The waving ranks of spruce and pine lower down enhance the wild splendour of the scene. Then, quite suddenly, the road drops into the quiet sheltered dale of the River Stinchar, with its prosperous sheep farms.

From Balloch you may go west down the valley to reach the picturesque village of Barr, below Changue Forest. Alternatively, an exciting road winds north to cross another hill range which affords fine views over Ayrshire to the far peaks of the Isle of Arran. After descending by the De'il's Elbow, one can take a right turn for Straiton.

D. STRAITON TO DALMELLINGTON (7 miles)

This road, which provides the first west-to-east link on the north side of the Park, runs for seven miles across rolling sheep pastures.

E. DALMELLINGTON TO LOCH DOON AND ITS CASTLE (9 miles outward, 18 return)

Take the Castle Douglas road for two miles south-east of Dalmellington. Then take a right-hand turn running westwards and clearly signposted 'Loch Doon Castle'. This crosses hill grazings to reach the rugged, tree-clad Ness Glen (Glen of the Waterfalls), through which the River Doon once plunged on its way north towards Ayr. The road now crosses the great high dam which today holds back nearly all the Doon waters, so that they run south to yield hydro-electric power on their way to the Dee estuary at Kirkcudbright; only a trickle now runs north.

The road now follows the west shore of Loch Doon, at first through open pastures, but then below the new woods of the Starr section of Carrick Forest. You will see the forester's office, and the cottages that have been built for key workmen and trappers.

Eventually you reach the ruins of Castle Doon, a fastness that once stood on an islet. These ruins were removed and re-built, stone by stone, when the level of the loch was raised and the islet was submerged.

A little further on there is a turning point where a broad stream called the Carrick Lane plunges down from the high wastes, carrying the waters of Loch Riecawr and Loch Macaterick. Across the head of Loch Doon, you can see the splendid range of the Rhinns of Kells, named in turn Black Craig (1,730 feet), Coran of Portmark (2,042), Bow, Meaul (2,383) and Corserine (The Crossings, 2,668). A portion of Dundee Forest, which now lies within the Forest Park, touches on this topmost summit, which is, of course, above the planting line. Beyond the head of Loch Doon itself, afforestation is now being extended up the remote valley of the Gala Lane, to form the Glenhead plantations.

There is as yet no through road beyond Loch Doon, so the way must be retraced almost to Dalmellington.

F. DALMELLINGTON TO CARSPHAIRN, DUNDEUGH FOREST, DALRY AND NEW GALLOWAY (22 miles)

For most of the way this is simply the main road south-west (A713) which is followed by the bus route from Ayr to Castle Douglas.

From Dalmellington the road follows the narrow glen of the oddly named Muck Water, a title that probably originates in the Gaelic *muic*, meaning a pig. After crossing the watershed at a height of 990 feet, the road runs past Loch Muck and leaves Ayrshire for the Glenkens District of Kirkcudbrightshire. From this point on it runs over magnificent open uplands, with grazings of fair quality devoted to the raising of sheep. Loch Doon is seen to the west, and on its farther shores the young plantations on the foothills of the Merrick range are now beginning to show up.

Heading for Carsphairn, the road now runs eastward of the Rhinns of Kells. Down in the valley of the Carsphairn Lane one can see the outlet of the great water pipe that runs, through a tunnel, from Loch Doon to feed the Kendoon Hydro-electric scheme. This carries, southwards, water that would otherwise have gone north to the Firth of Clyde. On the left-hand side of the highway, the great hill called Cairnsmore of Carsphairn rises above its brethren to a height of 2,612 feet. 'Carsphairn' is an interesting compound name, involving the Norse *kjarr*, an alder swamp, and the Gaelic *fearn*, an alder tree, 'Cairnsmore' means the great rocky hill, and is pure Gaelic.

Beyond the windswept village of Carsphairn the road crosses the main stream, now called the Water of Deugh, which winds round to form the Kendoon Loch, an artificial reservoir. The sprucewoods of Dundee Forest are plainly in view on either side of this loch, and clothe the steep sides of Dundee Hill close by. To the west of the road, younger plantations of spruce, pine, and larch are seen running high up the slopes of Cairngarroch (2,155 feet) an outlier of the Rhinns of Kells.

The road now passes just beside the first of three high dams, with associated power stations, belonging to the hydro-electric board. This dam generates power from the pent-up waters of the Kendoon Loch, which feed in turn the Carsfad Loch, now seen in the deep glen below. A second dam is soon reached, and this supplies water, through the turbines, to the Earlstoun Loch still lower down. Beyond this, follow the road into St. John's Town of Dalry, and halt awhile to admire the pleasing plan of its streets, and its charming cottages. The village stands on a hillock, and the westward views towards the Merrick are remarkably fine.

Continuing southwards, the road follows the level flood-plain of the Water of Ken, to a crossroads by a high humped bridge. Turn right, and then left at the *next* cross-roads, to reach New Galloway, the smallest burgh in Scotland.

G. LOCH KEN (10 miles outwards to Laurieston, 20 return)

To the south of New Galloway a main road, A762, continues down the shores of Loch Ken towards Laurieston and Kirkcudbright. It is a remarkably beautiful route, well meriting a run since the return views are as fine as the outward ones. The loch itself is an artificial one, formed by damming up the waters of the River Ken and the River Dee so that still further power may be won from them, at the Tongland Barrage near Kirkcudbright, where a tremendous volume of water makes a low drop. But it has all the appearance of a natural loch, with its still waters framed by a delightful screen of birches and alders. Above it, on the slopes above the road, stand the tall plantations of Cairn Edward Forest, which forms part of the Park. The Douglas fir, from British Columbia, proves an outstandingly successful tree here.

The road leaves the Loch side near New Galloway station, but it is worth while continuing as far as Laurieston, to see the trees of Laurieston Forest rising like a green tapestry on the farther shores of Woodhall Loch. As you return to New Galloway, note just to the south of the town, beside the loch, the roofless ruins of historic Kenmure Castle.

H. NEW GALLOWAY TO CLATTERINGSHAWS LOCH AND NEWTON STEWART (19 miles)

At the cross-roads north of New Galloway, take the Newton Stewart road, A712, which soon begins the long climb up the glen of the Knocknairling Burn to reach the breezy uplands around Clatteringshaws. The young plantations of Cairn Edward Forest are seen at first on the left, then on both sides of the road. An attractive group of modern houses, close to New Galloway, was built expressly for the men who tend this thriving woodland.

Soon after the loch comes into view, halt near the King's Stone to admire the westward prospect. It was here, on the Moss of Raploch, that Robert the Bruce first defeated the English in A.D. 1307. The Clatteringshaws Loch is a modern creation, formed by the dam at its south end; it impounds the waters of the Dee, which flows south-east; but they are diverted *north-east*, via a tunnel, into the valley of the Ken, to provide a steep fall to a power-house near Glenlee.

On the north shore of the loch stands the young forest called The Garraries, a name which probably stems from the Gaelic *gearr araidhs*, meaning the wee sheilings or summer homesteads. A new forest road—open to walkers but not to cars, provides access to the far hinterland between the Dee and its headwaters, and the high Rhinns of Kells. It passes the Backhill o' the Bush, a shepherd's cottage now deserted; this could formerly only be reached by a track across the Rhinns, and it is said that the last shepherd's wife, once safely installed, never left it for years on end!

The main road for Newton Stewart descends into a rock cutting to pass below the Clatteringshaws dam, and then runs through extensive new plantations on either side of the Palmure Burn. Just after crossing a fine modern bridge (built to replace an old one that fell victim to a spate), a halt is indicated for a visit to the Grey Mare's Tail. The waterfalls (there are two of them) on the Grey Mare's Tail Burn are the finest in the Park. The obelisk on the Fell of Talnotry, just above the road, is called Murray's Monument, and commemorates Professor Alexander Murray (1774-1813), an Oriental scholar who was born at Dunkitterick nearby.

From this point on the road runs through the thriving pine, spruce and larchwoods of Kिरrough-tree Forest, which reach almost continuously for seven miles into Newton Stewart. The great hill that rises on the left, across the valley, is Cairnmore of Fleet (2,391 feet). A right turn at the first major junction leads, in one mile, to Minnigaff and the bridge over the Cree, and thus into Newton Stewart, where our round tour began.

II. BYWAYS AROUND NEWTON STEWART

The roads described below provide good means of seeing the delightful countryside on the south-western fringes of the Park. They are suitable for excursions on foot, by cycle, or at a leisurely pace by car.

I. MINNIGAFF, UP THE EAST BANK OF THE CREE, TO GLEN TROOL (17 miles outward)

Cross the Cree by the big bridge at Newton Stewart, and almost at once turn left and proceed up the main street of Minnigaff. At the head of this you will see a sawmill which uses much locally-grown timber. Just before the sawmill, bear left, and follow the secondary road that runs for eight miles along the eastern side of the River Cree.

For most of the way it runs through oakwoods or green pasture lands, and on the left the river flows quietly down through broad reed-beds. About four miles out of Newton Stewart you pass just below the cataract called the Grey Mare's Tail (one of the three so-called in the Park). Three of the oakwoods, namely the Wood of Cree, Low Camer, and High Camer (Norse *Kamer*, hillocks), form part of the Park, while Penninghame Forest is seen around Penninghame House on the far side of the river.

Eventually the country becomes wilder, and moorland plants succeed the pasture grasses. Where another by-road strikes in from a bridge over the Cree, bear right and you soon reach a second junction. Here you may turn right for Glen Trool itself, and the Caldons camp-site, or left for Glen Trool Village and the return by the main road (bus route Girvan-Newton Stewart) through Bargrennan to Newton Stewart.

J. AUCHINLECK FARM, BARGALY GLEN AND DALTAMIE (20 miles round)

Start as before in Minnigaff, but bear right at the sawmill. The country road may now be followed for four miles to the farmstead of Auchinleck. On the left you have a good view over the Cumloden Deer Parks, owned by the Earl of Galloway, towards the high Lamachan hill range.

On the return journey, bear left three miles short of Minnigaff, and in a little under a mile you will strike the Newton Stewart to New Galloway road. Turn left, and about one and a half miles farther on make a right turn on to another by-road. This leads

down through the Kirroughtree woods and into the beautiful Bargaly Glen where the Palnure Burn winds between sheltered pastures and tall oakwoods. Keep right at the first fork, and later take a right turn for Daltamie.

Daltamie House, which is signposted, is the centre of the Forestry Commission's Kirroughtree Forest Nursery, which may be visited during normal working hours. The nursery covers 47 acres, and in it each year millions of young trees are raised, nearly all of them from seed, for planting on the hillsides. There is also a small forestry museum here.

The road past Daltamie climbs a brae, passes the old Palnure lead mines, and then joins the main road running straight back to Newton Stewart.

An alternative way to reach Daltamie is to follow the main Creetown road A75 (bus route Newton Stewart—Gatehouse) for three miles to Palnure. Just before the railway bridge turn off left; a quarter of a mile beyond, a left fork leads below demonstration plots showing various kinds of forest trees, established in the shelter of an oakwood, straight to Daltamie.

K. MONEYPOL BURN, AND WATER OF FLEET

This forms a round tour of 37 miles by car or cycle. Walkers can accomplish it by taking the Dumfries bus to Creetown, returning on the Newton Stewart bus from Gatehouse of Fleet; walking distance 11 miles.

From Newton Stewart take the main road A75 south-east to Creetown (7 miles). As you leave Newton Stewart note on the left the steep bluffs that form the ancient shoreline, clad in mixed woods of oak, birch and young conifers. To the right, the tidal river Cree winds through level green fields towards its broad estuary and the open sea.

As soon as you reach Creetown turn off left to begin the slow climb up the glen of the Moneypool Burn. The woods that fringe the road for one and a half miles are of oak and birch; they are being slowly replenished by the Forestry Commission, using shade-bearing coniferous trees; they form part of Kirroughtree Forest.

Then the railway is followed for a while, and the steep grey granite crags, called the Clints of Drummore, are seen across the moor to the north. Clint is an old Norse name for a cliff, while Drummore is Gaelic and means 'the great ridge'. Just after the railway is left, near its long Cullendoch viaduct, the view northwards opens out, to reveal the broad expanses of spruce and pine forming the Cullendoch woods of Cairn Edward Forest.

The Big Water of Fleet is now seen running down from the north, and its delightful glen is followed all the way to the sea at Gatehouse of Fleet. All the woods in this glen are in private ownership; besides yielding valuable timber they add much charm to the landscape of the estates, and much useful shelter to farm fields. Gatehouse is an attractive little township on the Fleet estuary, but its harbour is no longer used. Fleet Forest, immediately to the south-east, has some fine young hardwood crops and a large forest nursery, which may be visited during working hours.

The return to Newton Stewart, by car or bus, should be made by the coast road, which reveals the full beauty of Wigtown Bay and the Cree estuary; away to the south, at the mouth of Fleet Bay, you may glimpse also the little Isles of Fleet.

L. THE FOREST ROAD THROUGH THE GARRARIES

In order to make possible the development of the new Garraries Forest, a road is being driven from the neighbourhood of Clattering-shaws Loch northwards. It will run through the great trough in the hills between the Merrick Range and the Rhinns of Kells, to reach the south end of Loch Doon. This new road leaves the main New Galloway—Newton Stewart road, A712, at a point four miles west of New Galloway. It will lead out to the New Galloway—Dalmellington road at a point two miles south of Dalmellington. The route already provides a means of access, for the more energetic hill walker, to the wild hinterland of the Merrick, and the old steading called the Backhill o' the Bush provides wet-weather shelter; but the through distance from New Galloway to Dalmellington is twenty-seven miles.

At present this route is not open to cars.



THE PATH BY THE BUCHAN BURN

Among thae wild mountains shall still be my path,
Ilk stream foaming down its ain green narrow strath
For there wi' my lassie, the day lang I rove,
While o'er us unheeded flee the swift hours o' love.

Yon Wild, Mossy Mountains

WALKING ROUTES

BY ANDREW McCORMICK

'GIVE ME,' says Hazlitt, 'the clear blue sky over my head, and the green turf beneath my feet, a winding road before me, and a three hours' march to dinner—then to thinking. It is hard if I cannot start some game on these lone heaths. I laugh, I run, I leap, I sing for joy.'

There are many fine walks over the 'lone heaths' of the Glen Trool Forest Park, so many that only a few can be outlined here. These will, however, form a good introduction to the fine walking country at the upper levels, after which the visitor will find it easy to devise attractive alternatives of his own.

All the numbered routes described below begin and end at points which can be approached along a reasonably good road or track by car or cycle. These are shown under the same numbers on the accompanying maps. Visitors taking the routes or paths that cross the more remote parts of Glen Trool and Carrick Forests should allow ample time both to approach these starting points

and to reach shelter or transport on the farther side. The going across these rugged uplands of rock and peat is strenuous; really sound footwear is essential, and many of the walks take more time and effort than the distances and height of land might suggest. But it is worth it!

1. THE MERRICK—(About 12 miles, circular)

From the Bruce Memorial at the north side of Loch Trool, take the path which leads from the head of Buchan Brae, via Culsharg to Benyellary and on to the Merrick. Descend (carefully) to Loch Enoch. Then proceed south to the Murder Hole of Loch Neldricken, Loch Valley, and down the Gairland Burn back to Buchan Farm.

2. THE DUNGEON AND MULLWHARCHAR (14 miles, circular)

Pass Buchan House by the signposted track to the rear of the farmyard, and then take the path up the Gairland Burn, crossing it twice to reach Loch Valley, and then go up along the Mid Burn and across it to the east of Loch Neldricken, to the Cairn on the watershed. Cross the Dungeon Hill and Mullwharchar, returning to the west of Lochs Enoch, Arron, Neldricken (passing the Murder Hole) and Valley. Return by the outward path to Buchan.

3. CRAIGNAW (13 miles, circular)

Take path as in Route 2 to the Cairn, then turn southwards across Wee Craignaw (the De'il's Bowling Green), and, veering to the left and backwards, approach the crest of Craignaw by a long, steep slope which leads to one of the Nicks known as the Seggie Goats, or Guts. Return via the west side of the Cooran Lane, keeping well up on the hard high ground. At Cornarroch Strand turn west via the south side of Lochs Narroch and Valley till the outward path from Buchan is reached.

4. CALDONS TO WHITE LAGGAN AND LAMACHAN (12 miles, circular)

From Caldons take the path along the south-east side of Loch Trool, turning east along the south side of the glen between Lochs Trool and Dee, keeping well up on the drier ground till White Laggan is reached. Then return over the top of Curleywee, Bennan-brack, Lamachan, and Mulldonach to Caldons. From Lamachan other routes to House o' Hill Inn, Bargrennan, or to Newton Stewart (Route 6), may be selected.

5. GLENHEAD TO CRAIGLEE (10 miles, circular)

From Glenhead Farm, take the path eastwards up the glen to Dargall Lane, and then turn north opposite a fine waterfall and cross Craiglee. Return past Dow Loch and along the Rig o' the Jarkness, and then by a pathway which branches off along the lower side of the White Brae and leads back to Glenhead.

6. GLENHEAD TO NEWTON STEWART (12 miles, through route)

Following a southerly direction the route passes over Nick o' the Lochans, Cambrick Hill, Bennanbrack, Lamachan, Larg Hill, through Glenmalloch and down Knockman Wood to Boreland Lodge, one mile north of Minnigaff and two from Newton Stewart.

7. CALDONS TO MURRAY'S MONUMENT (11 miles, through route)

Ascend the Caldons Burn to Bennanbrack; go on over Curleywee, White Laggan, Millfore, and along Grey Mare's Tail Burn. From White Laggan other routes may be taken to Newton Stewart (8), or via Craigenallie to Clatteringshaws Loch and the Old Bridge of Dee.

8. AUCHINLECK TO LOCH DEE (6 miles, through route)

From Auchinleck Farm, five miles, by road, north of Newton Stewart, go by the path along the right (east) side of Penkiln Burn till the Pulnee Burn joins it, and then keep on the left (west) side of the Pulnee Burn, and follow the path till a dyke is reached. After crossing the Pulnee Burn again, incline up the brae to the left, till there is reached the cart road which leads over the Nick o' Curleywee all the way to White Laggan and Loch Dee. A good return route is via the top of Curleywee to Lamachan, and thence via Route 6.

9. OLD EDINBURGH ROAD (25 miles, circular)

From Old Minnigaff, near Newton Stewart, to Old Bridge of Dee below Clatteringshaws Loch, returning by the main road to Newton Stewart. Or, by branching off near Dallash, after passing Murray's Monument, a fine walk may be had along a path down Bargaly Glen to Little Park and the Kirroughtree Forest nursery at Daltamie. From Daltamie take the old road west to Blackcraig and Newton Stewart, or go south to Palnure.

10. THE AWFUL HAND RANGE (15 miles, through route)

From Rowantree by way of Shalloch Burn (visiting the Preacher's Stone, 10a on map); or up Knocklach Burn to the top of Shalloch-

on-Minnoch. Thence in a southerly direction, crossing Tarfessock, Carmaddie Brae, Kirriereoch, Spear o' the Merrick, the Merrick, and Benyellary, and down past Culsharg to the head of Buchan Brae and the Bruce Memorial.

11. SHALLOCH-ON-MINNOCH TO LOCH DOON (12 miles, through route)

From Rowantree via Nick o' Carclach, Tunskeen, Loch Fannie, the Starr to Craigmalloch, where the public road is reached. From Tunskeen, Cove Macaterick may be reached. (See 13 below.) The distance from Craigmalloch to Dalmellington is about 8 miles.

12. ALDINNA ROUTE (12 miles, circular)

From North Balloch climb almost to the Nick o' Balloch, then turn east and cross the southern shoulder of Pinbreck Hill, the top of Meowl of Aldinna, and follow down Aldinna Loch Burn to the Black Row, where one strikes a path which leads west, back to North Balloch.

13. FROM STINCHAR BRIDGE TO THE BUCHAN (15 miles, through route)

From Stinchar Bridge the route proceeds via the northern side of Loch Cornish, across Craighasheenie, past Slaethornrig, to Tunskeen. Then by alternative routes via Cove Macaterick and along the Eglin Lane (13a). Or from Tunskeen via Carmaddie Brae, below Kirriereoch Hill, and Loch Twachtan (13), in either case leading to the south-west corner of Loch Enoch. Thence proceed via Lochs Neldricken and Valley and the Gairland Burn to Buchan.

To locate Cove Macaterick draw a line from the junction of the Black Garpel and the Eglin Lane to the top of Macaterick Hill, and about five hundred yards from the junction will be found the entrance to the cave, which is about the same distance from Loch Macaterick.

N.B. The entrance to Cove Macaterick has fallen in, and it is impossible to get into the cave now. Moreover, the part of this route between the Cove and Loch Enoch consists of boggy, difficult ground, and should be avoided. The shepherds prefer the route via Carmaddie Brae, below Kirriereoch Hill, and Twachtan (13).

14. LOCH DOON TO CRAIGLURE (8 miles, through route)

A roadway has been made from the gamekeeper's cottage at the head of Loch Doon to Loch Riecawr, and a pathway leads on to

Balloch Lodge, from which a roadway connects with the Straiton-Newton Stewart Road.

15. FROM KNOCKDON TO CRAIGLEE ON THE WEST SIDE OF LOCH DOON (10 miles, circular)

At Knockdon Farm take the new road leading up to Loch Bradan, but about four hundred yards from the farm branch off to the left along an old drove road. Follow that path as well as possible, keeping Loch Derclach well to your left. Then turn up to the right, after crossing the Polcrayvie Burn near the middle of Loch Finlas, till you reach the west end of Craiglee. Turn to the left along its lower ridge, and easing off slightly to the right choose the easiest gradient and best footing right to the top. The return journey brings one back past the end of Loch Bradan, and to the west of the Doon of Waterhead, where may be inspected cairns, thought to be Bronze Age ones. From the top of Craiglee it is a short walk on to Loch Doon. (15a on map.)

16. FROM THE BUCHAN TO LOCH DOON (through route, 15 miles)

In all these little-frequented parts of Scotland the Carrick Forest enjoys the distinction of containing perhaps the least-walked-upon area of ground—that lying in between the south end of Loch Doon and the crest of Mullwharchar. Whoever takes the walk which extends from Mullwharchar to the south end of Loch Doon will be well advised if he wears a pair of good strong boots, and even then he should choose a day after a long spell of dry weather. The Mullwharchar is reached as in Route 2 (either outward or homeward paths). Thence the line of route passes along the Tauchers, and, after dipping down past a precipitous gully known as the Lum o' the Wee Tauchers, leads along the Gala Lane to Loch Doon. Wild and lonely as it is, it makes the right kind of background for the scream of the eagle, the cry of the buzzard, the wail of the peregrine falcon and the yelp of the fox.

17. NEW GALLOWAY STATION TO CLATTERINGHAWES LOCH (11 miles, through route)

The best way to take this walk is to start from the old New Galloway Station. Just north of the station and opposite Loch Ken, go along the new forest road into Cairn Edward Forest. Bear left towards the Stroan Loch at the first junction. A good forest road can now be followed westward, along the north side of the River Dee. Wherever it forks, take the lower route, but do not follow any road



Murray's Monument and the Palmure Burn between Newton Stewart and New Galloway.



Loch Doon Castle



Red Deer calf on the Merrick



The Bruce Stone

that actually *crosses* the river. The road leads on, past an isolated cottage, to the high road from New Galloway to Newton Stewart, joining it at Clatteringshaws Loch.

From Clatteringshaws, Newton Stewart may be reached by either of the paths described under (9) above.

In conclusion, respect and appreciate private property and its owner will respect, appreciate and welcome you.



ON THE ROWANTREE ROAD

APPROACHES TO THE PARK

THE lie of the land around the Glen Trool Forest Park is such that the main approach routes run in only two directions—from the south by the roads that follow the lowlands bordering the Solway Firth, or from the north-west by routes leading out of Ayrshire. Of these two alternatives, that from the south is the one more usually taken, and it will be described first; for convenience in outlining these southern approaches, it is assumed that the visitor makes first of all for the town of Newton Stewart, a convenient centre for reaching all the seven forests that make up the Park.

ROUTES TO NEWTON STEWART

BY RAIL. The nearest railway stations likely to continue in operation are at Dumfries and Ayr.

BY ROAD. From Dumfries, a centre easily reached from the South of Scotland and the North of England, the traveller by road has the choice of two routes, which diverge at Crocketford, nine miles west of Dumfries. The northerly road, via New Galloway, is the more direct, and runs for fifteen miles beside Cairn Edward and Kirrough-tree forests. The southerly road through Castle Douglas and Gatehouse of Fleet, though longer, is more picturesque, following the shoreline of Wigtown Bay for ten miles.

From Edinburgh the most direct road route is via Thornhill and New Galloway. From Glasgow, one may travel via Thornhill

and New Galloway, or alternatively reach New Galloway by way of Ayr. A third road route from Central Scotland runs through Ayr and Maybole and thence via Crosshill into Glen Trool Forest and so on to Newton Stewart.

MOTOR-BUSES. The Western S.M.T. Motor Bus Company (of Nursery Avenue, Kilmarnock) operates a regular service from Dumfries via Kirkcudbright to Newton Stewart, and also a service from Stranraer. The same company also operates a service from Ayr and Girvan to Newton Stewart, which passes through Glen Trool Forest at Bargrennan, four miles from the Caldons Camp Site. (See (a) below.)

FROM NEWTON STEWART TO THE FOREST PARK

TO GLEN TROOL AND THE CAMP SITE. (a) The most direct way is to follow the Girvan Road for nine miles to the village of Bargrennan where the road enters Glen Trool Forest. There take the right fork, and proceed past the House o' Hill Inn to Glen Trool Village and the grounds of Glencaird House. There branch right again, cross the Minnoch Bridge and go straight on to Loch Trool and the Bruce Memorial, where the road ends. Just before the loch is reached, a side road on the right, which is signposted, leads in to the Camp Site at Caldons Farm. The Girvan bus service may be used as far as Bargrennan. The total distance from Newton Stewart to the Camp Site is 13 miles.

(b) For the walker, cyclist, or unhurried motorist, an even more attractive route to Glen Trool runs up the east bank of the Cree from Minnigaff, just outside Newton Stewart. Follow the byroad through the woods and beside the river, and after crossing the Minnoch at Brighton, where this road enters Glen Trool Forest, turn right and cross the moor to the grounds of Glencaird House. There take a right turn, cross the Minnoch Bridge, and so join the main route up to Glen Trool and the Camp Site.

TO CARRICK FOREST. Follow route (a) above as far as the grounds of Glencaird House, and there take the left-hand road which continues northwards. After a few miles, close to the Ayrshire boundary, Kirriereoch Loch will be seen to the right, and Loch Moan lies to the left, just out of sight from the road. At Rowantree this road forks and Carrick Forest begins.

The right-hand road runs over the Rig o' the Shalloch pass to Craiglure Lodge, Tairlaw and Straiton, providing access to the northern portions of Carrick Forest; to reach Loch Doon by road,

however, it is necessary to go on through Straiton and round by Dalmellington.

The left-hand branch from Rowantree crosses the Nick o' the Balloch to South Balloch farm, proceeding thence outside the Forest Park to Maybole.

TO CHANGUE FOREST. Cross Glen Trool and Carrick Forests by the Nick o' the Balloch road described above. At South Balloch farm, turn left down the Stinchar valley to Barr village, where a further left turn leads in to Changue Forest.

TO KIRROUGHTREE FOREST. This forest comes close to Newton Stewart on the east side of the River Cree. The best way to see it is to take the New Galloway road as far as Murray's Monument, a prominent landmark. This road is joined, four miles out of Newton Stewart, by a branch road from Palnure, which provides an interesting alternative for the return journey, and passes close by the large forest nursery at Daltamie.

The central portion of Kirroughtree can be reached by going up the main street of Minnigaff, bearing right, and continuing north for five miles along the secondary road to Auchinleck. A turning to the east, three miles from Newton Stewart, gives a link with the main New Galloway road. The western side of Kirroughtree, around the Wood of Cree, is reached by bearing left in Minnigaff, and taking the road along the east bank of the River Cree.

TO CAIRN EDWARD FOREST. Follow the New Galloway Road through Kirroughtree Forest. The boundary of Cairn Edward Forest is reached 8 miles out, and the road runs through this forest for a further 8 miles to the outskirts of New Galloway. To see the older and more attractive portion of Cairn Edward beside Loch Ken, turn right at New Galloway and follow the Kirkcudbright road for 5 miles to New Galloway Station.

Alternatively, New Galloway Station may be reached by train from Newton Stewart.

ROUTES FROM POINTS NORTH OF THE FOREST PARK

The north-western portions of the Forest Park are readily accessible from the Ayrshire towns of Ayr, Maybole, and Girvan.

FROM GIRVAN OR BARRHILL TO GLEN TROOL AND THE CAMP SITE. Follow the main Newton Stewart road via Bargrennan, avoiding the alternative road which runs by Loch Maberry. The

Forest Park is entered as soon as the River Cree is crossed, 5 miles from Barrhill. At Bargrennan, 4 miles farther on, turn sharp left for Glencaird, Loch Trool, and the Camp Site, following route (a) as described in the Newton Stewart approaches above. The Girvan to Newton Stewart motor bus may be used as far as Bargrennan.

FROM GIRVAN TO CHANGUE FOREST AND CARRICK FOREST. Take the cross-country road to Barr village, behind which Changue Forest rises plainly. By turning left at Barr, one may follow the road up the Stinchar valley to South Balloch, and turn right there for the Nick o' the Balloch route into Carrick Forest, and so on to Rowantree, Glen Trool, or Bargrennan.

FROM MAYBOLE TO CARRICK FOREST AND GLEN TROOL. There are two routes, one almost due south by Crosshill, Glenalla Fell and South Balloch to the Nick o' the Balloch pass, the other via Straiton and Craiglure Lodge. These roads unite at Rowantree, whence one may proceed southwards to Glencaird for the main approach to Loch Trool and the Camp Site (Route (a) above). A motor bus service (Western S.M.T.) runs from Ayr and Maybole as far as Straiton, 3 miles from the Forest Park boundary.

FROM AYR OR DALMELLINGTON TO CARRICK FOREST AND LOCH DOON. From Dalmellington take the New Galloway road for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and then fork right. Follow the side road across the head of the Ness Glen and proceed up the shores of Loch Doon until, 4 miles from the main road, the Forest Park boundary is reached. The re-erected ruins of the ancient Loch Doon Castle stand on the loch side some 3 miles farther on, beyond which the road ends near the head of the loch. This approach is useful to walkers as a starting point for tracks to Glen Trool and other points to the south and west. A motor bus service (Western S.M.T.), runs from Ayr and Dalmellington to New Galloway, and Castle Douglas, passing the turning for Loch Doon en route.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CAMPING GROUNDS

A PUBLIC camping ground has been opened at Caldons Farm, occupying a pleasantly wooded and sheltered site beside the south-eastern end of Loch Trool. The facilities include water supply (hot, cold and showers), electricity, lavatories, and a wet-weather shelter.

The Warden runs a small shop; other supplies are available at Glentool village, and vans call daily.

The charges are:

Per tent of normal size: 1s. per night; 6s. per week.

Per motor-cycle and tent: 2s. 6d. per night; 15s. per week.

Per car and caravan or car and tent: 4s. per night; 24s. per week.

Bookings are not arranged in advance, permits being issued at the camp. Inquiries should be addressed to:

The Camp Warden,
Caldons, Glen Trool,
Newton Stewart,
Wigtownshire

Separate camping areas are reserved for the use of Girls' Organisations and Boys' Organisations respectively, and for these areas advance bookings can be arranged on application to the Conservator of Forests for South Scotland, Greystone Park, Moffat Road, Dumfries. One is near the main site, another at Burnfoot, Wood of Cree, a third at Daltonae Wood, Kirroughtree and a fourth at Borgan. Inquiries should be addressed to the Conservator of Forests at Dumfries.

No charges are made for parties of boys or girls belonging to recognised youth organisations.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Hotels conveniently situated for visitors to the Forest Park include the following:

AT BARGRENNAN, GLEN TROOL FOREST: House o' Hill Hotel, Garlies Lodge.

AT NEWTON STEWART: Black Horse Hotel, Creebridge House Hotel, Crown Hotel, Galloway Arms Hotel, Jerdan's Hotel, Kirroughtree House Hotel, Belhotel, Glencairn, Duncree House.



Dundeugh Forest and a Hydro-Electric Dam



Loch Ken and Cairn Edward



Moorland Croft near Rowantree, in the valley of the Minnoch



The Carrick Lane on the Loch Doon moorlands



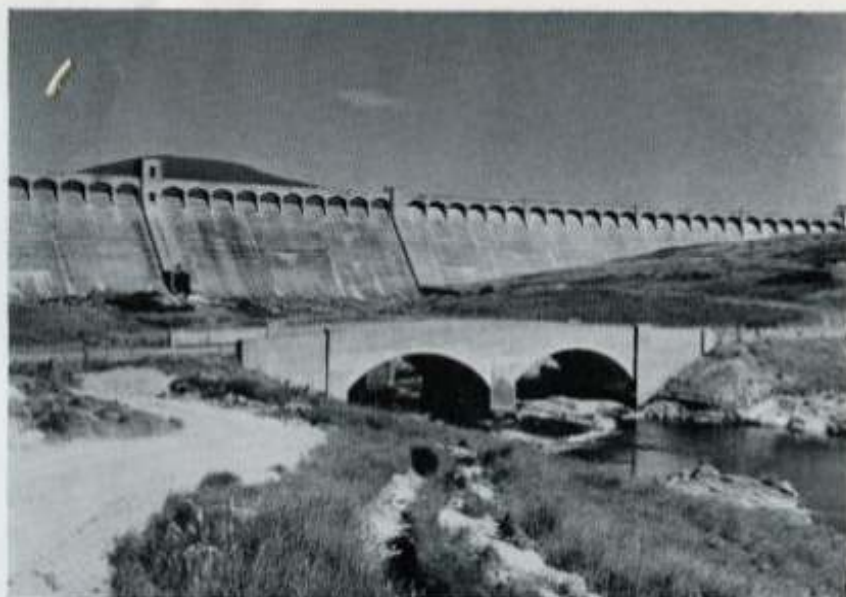
Loch Trool, looking west



The Caul and Bridge on the Cree at Minnigaff, Newton Stewart



Looking south towards the Nick o' the Balloch and Polmaddie Hill,
on the Crosshills-Bargrennan road



Clatteringshaws Loch Dam, and the Bridge over the Black Water o' Dee
on the Newton Stewart-New Galloway Road

AT GREETOWN: Ellangowan Hotel.

AT NEW GALLOWAY: Cross Hotel, Ken Bridge Hotel, Kenmure Arms Hotel.

AT DALRY: Lochinvar Hotel, Milton Park Guest House.

AT CARSPHAIRN: Salutation Hotel.

Further information on accommodation and touring facilities, etc., may be obtained from the Galloway Publicity Association, 146 King Street, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

YOUTH HOSTELS

There are no Youth Hostels within or close to the Forest Park, but from Kendoon Hostel, near the Dalmellington-New Galloway road, one may go south by road to Cairn Edward Forest, ten miles away, or cross the Rhinns of Kells, on foot, to the eastern side of Carrick and Glen Trool Forests, ten miles away as the crow flies. Other Hostels within reach of the Park, for a cyclist, lie at Gatehouse of Fleet and Stranraer.

FISHING

The fishing in most of the waters in the Forest Park is reserved, but permits for certain waters in the Forests listed below may be obtained on application to the addresses stated:

GLEN TROOL FOREST

No fishing or canoeing is permitted on Loch Trool itself. Day tickets for certain river fishings are obtainable from the Warden at Caldons Camp.

CARRICK FOREST: (Lochs Bradan and Lure only). Forestry Commission, Greystone Park, Moffat Road, Dumfries.

CAIRN EDWARD FOREST: (Clatteringshaws Reservoir and Loch Dee). Newton Stewart or New Galloway Angling Associations.

KIRROUGHTREE FOREST: Forestry Commission, Daltarnie House, Palnure, Newton Stewart.

RIVER CREE, KIRRIEROCH LOCH, AND PALNURE BURN: Newton Stewart and District Angling Association.

The fishing from the banks of Loch Doon is free; boats may be hired from the Eglinton Hotel at Dalmellington.

MAPS

On the one-inch scale, the Ordnance Survey (Scotland) Sheet No. 73 entitled 'New Galloway' covers the whole Park area except for the northern part of Carrick Forest which appears on (Scotland) Sheet No. 67 entitled 'Ayr'.

On the half-inch scale, Messrs. Bartholomews' sheet No. 40, entitled 'Ayrshire' shows the whole of Changue and Carrick Forests. Their sheet No. 37, entitled 'Galloway', includes the whole of Glen Trool, Kirroughtree, and Cairn Edward Forests.

The geology of the whole Region is shown on the Ordnance Survey Geological Map (Scotland) Sheet 16, on the quarter-inch scale.

BOOKS ON GLEN TROOL AND GALLOWAY

The book that deals most intimately with the Glen Trool region is *Galloway: The Spell of its Hills and Glens*, by Andrew McCormick (John Smith, Glasgow, 1947, price 8s. 6d.). Much information on the Forest Park, its surroundings, and its history, will be found in *Highways and Byways in Galloway and Carrick*, by C. H. Dick (Macmillan, 1916); and in *The Merrick and the Neighbouring Hills*, by J. M. McBain (Stephen and Pollock, Ayr).

There are some interesting chapters on the district in *Raiderland*, by S. R. Crockett (Hodder and Stoughton, 1904), and in *Tramps across Watersheds*, by A. S. Alexander (John Smith, Glasgow, 1925).

The student of place names will find invaluable the *Carrick Gallovidian*, by J. Kevan McDowall (Homer McCririck, Ayr, 1947, price 21s.).

The principal writer of fiction who deals with this area is S. R. Crockett, whose best-known work, *The Raiders*, has as its setting the Murder Hole and the Dungeon country. *The Five Red Herrings*, by Dorothy Sayers, has as its main scene the Minnoch Bridge near Bargrennan.

Romantic Galloway, by John Herries McCulloch, published by the Galloway Publicity Association, Castle Douglas, for 2s. 6d., is a well-illustrated account of the whole region; while a *Guide to Newton Stewart* is published by the Galloway Gazette at 1s.

A very readable miscellany and dialect glossary is *The Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopaedia*, written by John McTaggart in 1824, and republished by Hamilton, Adams & Co., London, in 1876. The classic poem by John Barbour (circa 1320-1395), entitled *The*

Bruce, which includes several references to the Glen Trool country, was re-published by Maurice Oyle & Co., of Glasgow, in 1869. The following passage calls for quotation:

In Glentruewall a quile he lay
And went weyle oft to hunt and play
For to purkess them venesoun
For than der war in sesoun.

Other recent publications include:

The Story of Galloway, by J. E. Robertson (J. H. Maxwell, 19s. 6d.).
The History of Galloway, by Dr. J. A. Russell (Blacklock and Farries, Dumfries, 18s. 6d.).
The Third Statistical Account of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright (42s.) and *Seeing Scotland—Dumfries and Galloway*, by Jack House (Oliver and Boyd, 2s. 6d.), the latter being largely photographic.

ANTIQUITIES

In 1826, there were found in Loch Doon nine boats or canoes, each formed of a single oak tree hollowed out and shaped somewhat like a fishing boat. The largest measured twenty feet in length, by three feet three inches broad. In one of the canoes were found a battleaxe and parts of a lady's shoe.

The Glen Trool hoard, a more recent discovery, is preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland at Edinburgh. It dates from the Middle Bronze Age, about 1,000 B.C., and includes a rapier, a palstave or bronze axe, a spearhead, a double-edged knife and two razors, all of bronze, together with beads of amber and glass.

Ancient Monuments include:

CAIRN EDWARD FOREST: Bruce's Stone, on Raploch Moss (in the charge of the National Trust for Scotland).

CARRICK FOREST: Loch Doon Castle; Cairn at Linfern Farm, Cairnannock.

DUNDEUGH FOREST: Dundough Castle; Traces of the De'il's Dyke at Woodhead and Langerie.

GLEN TROOL FOREST: White Cairn, n.e. of Bargrennan; Cairnfore Cairn, Tarfessock; King's Cairn, Killiemore; Cairn Kinna, Corrafeckloch; Old Bridge of Minnoch, Bargrennan; Sheuchan's Cairn, Bargrennan; Chambered Cairn at Cairnderry.

LEGEND AND HISTORY

When Robert the Bruce was hiding from the English in the wild country around Glen Trool, he sheltered at the cottage of a widow, who had three stalwart sons, Murdoch, McKie, and McClurg, each by a different father. When they expressed a desire to join Bruce's forces, the king set them a test in archery, requiring them each to shoot one of three ravens upon the wing. Murdoch was successful, McClurg missed, but McKie performed the amazing feat of bringing down two ravens transfixing by a single arrow. The McClurg stone in Minnigaff churchyard perpetuates this remarkable event.

The ancient overlords of these Galloway highlands were the Kennedys; about the year 1500 Lord Kennedy of Cassilis held the title of 'Ranger of the Forest of Buchan', a district which embraces the wild hills around Loch Trool. But the name 'Buchan' arose from an early overlordship, that of the Comyns of north-eastern Scotland, with whom Bruce waged a feud around A.D. 1300.

In former times the gatherers of herbs wandered over the crags of the Forest of Buchan in search of a lichen called corklit, which yielded a red dye in demand for dyeing soldiers' coats. The following traditional rhyme tells us where they were most successful:

The Slock, Millquarker, and Craignine,
The Brishie and Craignaw,
The five best hills for corklit,
The spawife ever saw.

The flat land at the head of Loch Trool is known as The Soldiers Holm, from its association with the Battle of the Steps of Trool in A.D. 1307. Before that it was called Ringielawn, from the Gaelic *roinn na' leamhan*, the point of the elm trees.

In 1703 the Mid-steeple, a prominent building in Dumfries, was built using oak from the Wood of Garlies on the River Cree. At that time this natural oakwood was the nearest source of large timber in south-west Scotland.

BURNS IN THE GLENKENS

"GLENKENS. A glen amongst rocks. This is the wildest glen in Galloway, extending into many parishes. In the heart of it is the *Loch o' Ken*, a lovely lake, *Newgalloway Clauchan*, and the ancient seat of the *Gordons of Kenmore*. It is a most romantic place; it was on his way through it (in riding from *Dumfries to Gatehouse*), that Burns composed the chief of national songs, '*Scots wha hae us*' *Wallace bled*'.

He did this during a storm of rain, the storm, and the wild situation in which it caught the poet, must have aided those uncommon manly breathings of the song to burst forth. He was accompanied in his journey by his friend, *Mr. Sims*, who wrote out the story. Galloway, then, must have some share in the honour of giving birth to the famous effusion, and a *small share even*, is surely a great honour." — John MacTaggart. *The Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopaedia*. London, 1824.

GLEN TROOL FOREST PARK

