

# REPORTS ON ALYTH TOWN HALL

ALYTH GUARDIAN & DISTRICT ADVERTISER  
NOVEMBER 7, 1884

NEW TOWN HALL – Judging from what Mr Smith said at the ratepayers' meeting in the Commercial Hall on Friday evening in reference to the new proposed Town Hall, active operations will soon be commenced to raise money sufficient to erect a handsome pile of buildings. Mr Smith stated that he had been waited on by a party of ladies and gentlemen, who asked him to begin the movement. He promised to give the scheme every assistance in his power, and in a short time the first move would be made. Later on at some meeting, Mr Japp made reference to the desirability and necessity of the hall, and asked – what was to hinder Mr Smith and himself putting their hands in their pockets and subscribing one hundred guineas each towards the object. He was quite prepared to do so. Mr Japp was one of the trustees of the late Captain Ogilvy, who left his library and £300 to build a house to contain the books. He was willing to arrange as to the handing over of that sum, so that the library might be provided for in the proposed hall. Mr Smith responded to the appeal regarding the subscription by saying that he would not only cheerfully give the amount promised by Mr Japp, but would give £500 or £1000 if Mr Japp would do the same. Mr Peterkin also promised to lend his aid in soliciting subscriptions from friends connected with the town and district, both at home and abroad.

ALYTH GUARDIAN & DISTRICT ADVERTISER  
FEBRUARY 6, 1885

ALYTH TOWN HALL – A meeting was held in the Industrial School last Friday night “for the purpose of taking into consideration the erection of a public hall for the town.” There was a very large attendance, and on the motion of Mr George Duncan, banker, Mr John Smith, Chief Magistrate, was called to the chair. The Chairman said it was a great inconvenience that a place like Alyth did not have a suitable building where public meetings, the Public Library, and Council meetings could be held. They were all aware that a great change had come over Alyth during the past thirty years. They had now fine buildings situated on sites where only a few years ago there was nothing but green fields. They had also got public schools, a capital curling pond, a bowling green, a bridge which was an honour to the town, and also nice churches, &c., and he thought the time had now arrived for active steps being taken to get a public hall erected. He did not doubt but that all classes would do their utmost to assist in raising a handsome building for the town. (Applause.) Mr William Yeaman, moved –

This meeting being convinced that the time has arrived for providing the long felt want of a town hall for Alyth in which to hold meetings, lectures, concerts, &c., with suitable state-rooms, resolved to take the necessary steps for raising the required funds by means of public subscriptions and a bazaar.

(Applause.) He did not know a place of the same size as Alyth that did not have a town hall. Mr Peterkin, in seconding the resolution said that no resolution he had proposed or supported during the past 40 years he had resided in Alyth had given him greater

satisfaction that the one he now had the pleasure to second. The county of Perth was not as it should be in respect of having such places for great gatherings of people of its towns. The halls of Crieff and Coupar Angus were like the one in Alyth – too small, and in the hands of private parties. By a concord of opinion that meeting was to fairly launch a movement that would terminate in the providing for generations of a house capable of affording accommodation for any description of public gathering. He thought from £2000 to £3000 would be required. He thought the amount required would be found. Only the other year was raised what some thought to be impossible – about £500 – to erect a new bridge. In this second effort they could appear to a far wider circle of friends. There were two sums he thought it possible to apply in assisting this undertaking. The £300 bequeathed by the late Captain Ogilvy of Loyal might be obtained. As the managers of that trust had not yet spent the money, he did not see any difficulty in arriving at an arrangement to combine the library institution with that of the Town Hall scheme. The ladies had promised to give their time and influence in promoting a bazaar. Let them go on with reasonable energy and activity, and in a short time there would be erected a spacious house that would be an ornament to the town, in which they might celebrate in three years the anniversary of the date when four centuries ago King James III, set his Royal seal and the signature of three Bishops and twelve noblemen to the charter erecting the village of Alyth in 1488 into a burgh of barony. (Applause.) The motion was unanimously carried. Mr Japp then moved “That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee, with the power to add to their number, to adopt the means to carry out the foregoing resolution viz:-

Messrs John Smith, William Yeaman, William Japp, George Duncan, Alexander Black, Isaac Peterkin, David Leighton, William Alexander, P.M. Lowe, John Findlay, William Harris, Robert Patullo, John Smart, David Robertson, John Sinclair, William Fleming, Captain Hunter, Dr Kidd, Messrs David Steele, David Johnston, David Galloway, Alexander Mitchell, Frederick Eassie, Peter McDiarmid, George Christie, George Gray, Robert Munro, George Taylor, James Tod, and the Revs. Robert Murray, Arch. Ferguson, J. Dunlop, and A.S. Aglen. He hoped soon to see the town hall an accomplished fact. He saw no good reason why the funds necessary could not be raised. (Applause.) Mr Black seconded, remarking that he cordially concurred in all the remarks made by previous speakers. This motion was also carried. The Chairman then called upon any person present desirous of addressing the meeting, in response to which, Mr John Findlay said he was glad to see such a large and enthusiastic meeting. This Town Hall had been a floating idea in their minds for the last thirty years or more. He had for many years been living in the hope of something turning up – something like a Reid Hall or a Blyth Hall – but it is said that “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick” He thought it was time they should begin and try to help themselves. (Applause.) Mr Arch. Sinclair thought the hall should be built as soon as possible, and that the bazaar should be held in the hall, as it would then be more successful. (Hear, Hear.) Mr Alexander sympathised with Mr Sinclair’s idea. If the subscriptions came in anything like what he hoped they would, he saw no reason why they should wait till they got the money. He hoped all would realise that they would have to put their shoulder to the wheel. (Applause.) Mr Peterkin thought they should make a beginning at once. The Chairman said he was quite prepared to head the list, but felt some delicacy lest others were not prepared to follow that night (A Voice – “Go on.”) He would give £250 in the meantime. (Loud applause.) Mr Japp – My idea was that all

movers and seconders of resolutions would be prepared to intimate their subscriptions that night (Hear, Hear.) Mr Yeaman – No one is bound to follow me, and I'll not be concussed into naming my subscription by Mr Japp. Mr Japp's subscription of £105 was then intimated. (A Voice – "Now, Mr Peterkin.") Mr Peterkin – Oh, gentlemen. You would not have this brilliant subscription list damaged by the mite of a poor village shoemaker. ("Oh, oh.") Mr Alexander – Mr Peterkin has an income of about £1 a day from property, and he might easily have followed the example of Mr Reid in Forfar. (Hear, hear.) Mr Peterkin – This is surely not inquisition for ascertaining the incomes of gentlemen. If my bad debts were collected I would be in a position to build a town hall. (Laughter.) He would give £21. (Applause.) The following additional subscriptions were intimated:-

George Duncan, banker, £26 5s; Alex. Black, manufacturer, £21; William Alexander, butcher, £10 10s; R. Patullo, Airlie Arms, £10 10s; John Findlay, grocer, £10 10s; P.M. Lowe, £10 10s; William Yeaman, banker, £52, 10s; Archibald Sinclair, ironmonger, £5 5s; David Robertson, bootmaker, £5 5s; Wm. Fleming, draper, £5 5s; Thomas McMurray, stationer, £5 5s; W.S. Wilkie, Town Clerk, £5 5s; Mr Leslie, schoolmaster, £5 5s. The total £559 15s was then announced by the Chairman to the meeting amid quite a storm of applause. A vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr Smart, awarded the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

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The General Committee met in the Industrial School on Wednesday evening – Chief Magistrate presiding. Mr Smith said the first thing to settle would be the choosing of secretaries, and thought the gentlemen who were appointed at the preliminary meeting should be continued in office. (Agreed.) These were Messrs W.S. Wilkie, solicitor; David Smith, Greenbank; D.M. Robertson, Airlie Bank; and H. Leslie, schoolmaster. The General Committee then proceeded to nominate a Sub-Committee to carry out the details, and the following were appointed:-

Messrs J. Smith, W. Japp, W. Yeaman, G. Duncan, D. Leighton, J. Findlay, A. Black, R. Patullo, W. Alexander, I. Peterkin, J. Smart, R. Munro, and G. Gray. Convener – Mr Smith.

It is understood that no important step, such as the choosing of a site, will be taken without consulting the General Committee. After some discussion regarding the best means to be adopted for obtaining further subscriptions, it was resolved on the motion of the Chief Magistrate, that the town be divided into districts, these to be canvassed by the General Committee in couples. It was resolved that the Sub-Committees meet on Monday evening to allot the various districts, and arrange for soliciting subscriptions from parties resident in the surrounding country, and those at a distance.

PERTSHIRE COURIER  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1885

ALYTH – THE PROPOSED TOWN HALL – The proposal to secure a Town Hall is making excellent progress, and is being supported by all classes. This week one gentleman has given £105, other two have contributed £5 5s each, and a fourth £1 1s. At present the subscription list amounts to £107 12s 6d. The question of site is now actively occupying the public mind. Members of the Site Committee have been looking at ground

at the north-east side of Mill Street, and at another feu situated near to the Episcopal Church on the west side of Airlie Street, either of which would be suitable and convenient.

PERTSHIRE COURIER  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1885

ALYTH – THE PROPOSED TOWN HALL – The Sub-Committee met on Wednesday evening in the office of the Treasurer, the Chief Magistrate presided. The chairman gave an account of the interview he, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. Peterkin had three weeks ago on the movement in Glenisla with the Earl of Airlie. His Lordship had given them the handsome subscription of £150, and stated he would take a warm interest in the scheme of Alyth having a good public hall, and hoped to have an opportunity of seeing the proposed site before it was finally taken. Mr. Leslie, the Secretary stated the subscription list stood about £1250, and that subscriptions were coming in. The subject of a site next engaged the attention of the meeting. Several sites were spoken of as likely to be had. As the subject of a really eligible site for an important public building it deserving of great consideration, on the suggestion of the Chief Magistrate, it was agreed that the Committee adjourn to the next week before reporting to the General Committee on what they think would be the best of available places on which to erect the hall.

PERTSHIRE COURIER  
NOVEMBER 10, 1885

ALYTH – THE TOWN HALL – A meeting of the Sub-Committee was held the other night – the Chief Magistrate in the chair. A general conversation took place on the cost, extent and style of the proposed building. The feeling seemed to be that about £2000 would require to be spent; that the large hall should be made to hold about 600 people; a lesser hall to seat some 220 persons; one gentlemen's and one ladies' retiring room; another good room, with accommodation for the keeper of the property. The following subscriptions have been received since last notice:- Miss Symers, Dundee, £12 12s; "Tradesman" Alyth, £3 3s; David Anderson, Esq., Burnside, £2 2s; Alex Fleming, Addiewell, West Calder, £1; "Working Man", 5s; Thomas Barron, £5 5s; D.M. Suttie, Glasgow, £1 1s; "Alyth Tradesman", £1 1s.

PERTSHIRE COURIER  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1885

ALYTH – THE TOWN HALL – The Committee met on Wednesday night. The Chief Magistrate in the chair. Replies were read from all the Architects; except one, stating their willingness to supply competitive designs for the building. The stones are to be partly from local quarries, the other portion to be either blue stone or taken from Fife, Bannockburn, or Stirling. It was arranged to pay Mr. Smith £50, being one-half of the purchase price of the site, the remainder to be given when the conveyance to the property. After a conversation as to whom the property will be conveyed in trust, it was arranged that the Chief Magistrate and the Police Commissioners be named as the holders of the

building for the community of Alyth. So soon as all the preliminary arrangements are made, the work will begin, and pushed forward to completion.

PERTSHIRE COURIER  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1886

ALYTH – THE TOWN HALL – Sir John Kinloch requested the Chief Magistrate on Thursday to put him down for a subscription of £25, and his brother, Mr. Kinloch of Balhary, for £25. The Committee met last night. Mostly all the architects who invited to give plans for the building have done so. It was arranged that the various designs sent in be allowed to lie on the table for further consideration.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1886

TOWN HALL – Sir James Ramsay has intimated a subscription of £25 to the fund.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
Friday, February 12, 1886

TOWN HALL  
ACCEPTANCE OF A PLAN.

The General Committee met in the Industrial School on Wednesday night – Chief Magistrate Smith presiding. The meeting was engaged considering the report of Lord Provost Mattews, Aberdeen, on the plans selected by him as being the most likely to be erected for the money the Committee are prepared to spend. The plans referred to bear the mottoes “My Level Best” and “Auld Lang Syne.” Mr Mattews’ report is a very lucid and comprehensive one. After making an estimate of the probable cost of the two designs – calculating at 4d per cubic foot – he said that “My Level Best” could be erected for about £2411 – or fully £1000 below “Auld Lang Syne.” He verified his estimate by the prices for mason work which he had received from a member of the Committee. After a careful measurement he found that “My Level Best” contained 144,661 cubic feet; 2917 superficial feet of floor space; that the large hall would accommodate, comfortably seated 564; that the small hall was 24 feet by 18, and might be seated for about 95; that the library was 20 feet 6 inches by 16 feet. Mr Mattews concluded his report by recommending in favour of “My Level Best’s” alternative design. “Although it does not give so much area of floor space all over as “Auld Lang Syne” it provides larger accommodation in the principal hall by 92 sittings which is really the great object of the building. The author has also, by keeping the library, small hall, and ladies’ room on the level of the platform, and taking advantage of the fall of the ground, skilfully obtained accommodation without being sunk below the grounds for a keeper’s house and a volunteer armoury. The author has also tried to give the requisite accommodation for the money named, and if the rates which I have adopted are nearly correct, I think we may say he has fairly succeeded in doing so.” Mr Mattews pointed out slight objection to both plans in the arrangement of the small rooms but he suggested an alteration on “My Level Best” to remedy the defect. After some discussion it was moved by Mr Duncan and

unanimously agreed to that "My Level Best" be adopted subject to the proviso that the author of the plan be able to satisfy the Committee that the building can be erected for about the sum named by Mr Matthews. It was then agreed to open the sealed envelope and ascertain the name of the author, who was found to be Mr Heiton Granger, Perth, it being understood that he was acting for Mr Andrew Heiton, architect, Perth. The following were appointed a Building Committee to confer with Mr Heiton:- Messrs Smith, Japp, Leighton, Yeaman, Alexander, Black, Lowe, and Duncan.

The following taken from the architect's report, will convey an idea of the design of the proposed building:- The style of architecture is Scotch baronial. The entrance vestibule is 27 feet long by 10 feet wide, approached by three arched openings each 5 feet wide. This vestibule communicates with side entrances to the main hall (so that a free passage is maintained towards the platform); it also communicates with the stair to the gallery and is formed of stone with flights of steps and landings all 4 feet wide. The dimensions of the hall proper are 60 feet in length, 38 feet in width, and 24 feet high. The extreme length of the hall to the back of the back of the gallery is 73 feet. The body of the hall accommodates 400; platform or stage, 50; gallery over vestibule, 150; total 600. The smaller hall, library and ladies' room, are on the same level with the platform so as to facilitate access to the same. These apartments have a separate external entrance to the west side of the building, and communication with the body of the hall both from the platform and by a separate flight of steps, and while thus conveniently grouped they have also the great advantage of a southern exposure. The caretaker's house, volunteer hall for armoury, furnace room, &c., are obtained without extra building, taking advantage of the space between the natural fall of the ground and the raised level of the apartments formerly mentioned... The doors are all arranged to open outwards or swing both ways so as to afford safe exit in case of fire. The ceiling hall is proposed to be flat, which is the best acoustic formation, and the under-side of the tie beams and ceiling joists will be exposed, with plaster between, and thus maintain one of the features of the style. Ventilating openings, with connecting shafts will be constructed for the exhaustion of vitiated air, and a large ventilating opening is provided in the south gable for the supply of fresh air. Air openings are also provided beneath all the sleeper joists as a prevention against dry rot... The position of the hall is shown nearest the south and west boundaries so as to obtain a carriage approach on the north, and as much space for pleasure ground as possible to the east, thus maintaining the amenity of the building against subsequent erections in this direction. [We intend giving a sketch of the hall.]

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FEBRUARY 19, 1886

LOCAL NEWS - TOWN HALL – The Building Committee had a meeting with Mr Heaton, architect, Perth, on Wednesday. On being shown Mr Matthews' suggested alterations on the alternative plan, Mr Heaton took exception to them, and showed to the satisfaction of the Committee that they were objectionable. After discussion, the Committee instructed Mr Heaton to measure and schedule both his plans and advertise for estimates. This step will add to the cost 1 per cent, or about £20. One of the designs is old English, and the other as we mentioned last week, Scotch baronial. It was also decided that the building shall be erected with stones from the local quarry, and that the

facings, &c., shall be of blue stone. It is understood that previous to a decision being arrived at regarding the plans and estimates the General Committee will be consulted. The public will be glad to learn that the ladies are actively engaged preparing and soliciting articles for the bazaar. Several valuable articles have already been given.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
MARCH 26, 1886

TOWN HALL – Mr Heiton (or Heaton), architect, was in town last Saturday with the offers of a number of tradesmen, and had a meeting with the Building Committee. So much did the estimates exceed the amount proposed to be expended on the building that the Committee instructed Mr Heiton to greatly modify his ornamentations which were of an elaborate character, and ascertain how much such a course would enable the lowest offers for each department of the works to reduce their estimates.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
APRIL 2, 1886

TOWN HALL – At a meeting of the Building Committee held last Friday, the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Heiton requesting him to limit the expenditure on the hall to a little over £2000. There is little probability of the building being ready for the bazaar.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
APRIL 16, 1886

TOWN HALL – A meeting of the Building Committee was held last night – Chief Magistrate Smith presiding. The members of the Committee who met Mr Heiton were – Messrs Duncan, Black, Yeaman, Alexander, Leighton, P.M. Lowe, and the Secretary, Mr Leslie. The meeting had before it the estimates from the contractors. The Committee empowered Mr Heiton to accept the lowest estimate in each case. We understand that a considerable portion of the work will fall to local tradesmen. The cost of the building will now be a little over £2,000. It is to be hoped that no further delay will be experienced in proceeding with the work, as too much time has been already wasted.

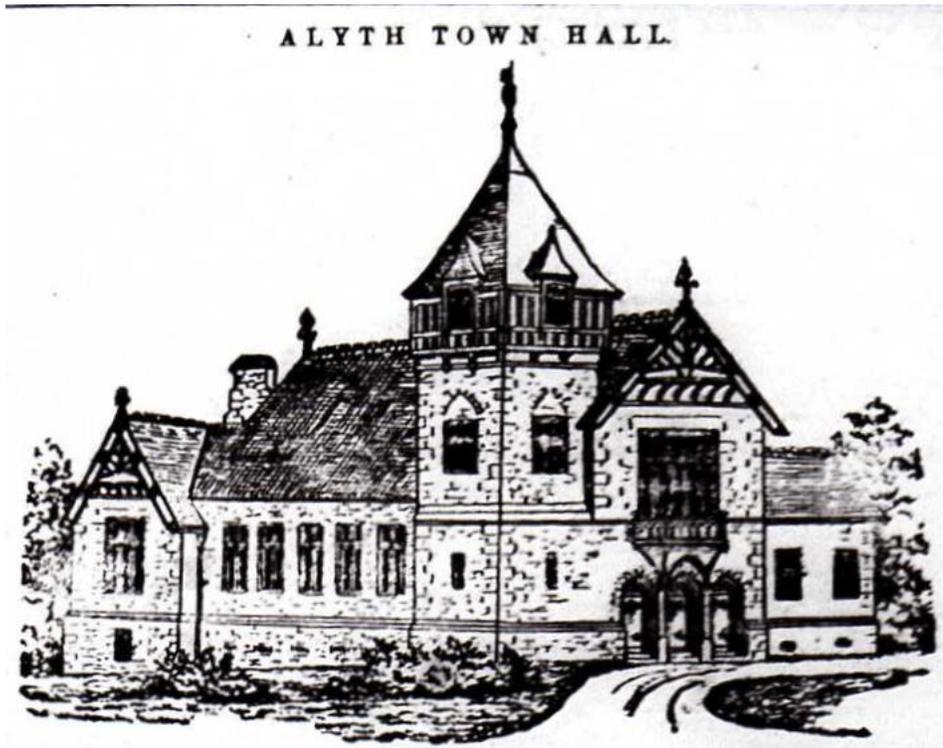
THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
APRIL 23, 1886

TOWN HALL – No time is being lost in forwarding the erection of the building. The contracts were no sooner settled than a commencement was made by Mr John Lunan, who got the mason work. The joiner is Mr John Smart; the plasterer, Mr Alex Mitchell; and the slater, Messrs D & J Walker.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
APRIL 30, 1886

TOWN HALL – Rapid progress is being made with the erection of the building. The foundation is all laid. Progress is also being made in the direction of increasing the funds. Dr Kidd has announced a subscription of £25, and many valuable articles have of late been presented to the bazaar. The total of the subscriptions received amounts to about £1400. The plumber is J. Farquharson, Dundee; and the glazier, J. & R. Douglas, Perth.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1886



The above is a sketch of the hall as it will appear when completed. The building is facing to the north. The hall is being erected on the ground situated on the west side of the town, to the east of the Bowling Green, and which was sold to the Committee by Mr John Smith, draper, for £100. This sum covers the cost of the surrounding dykes and also the grassum. The style of architecture is Old English, and local redstone is to be used, with freestone dressing. The entrance vestibule is 27 feet long by 10 feet wide, approached by three arched openings, each 5 feet in width. This vestibule communicates with side entrances to the main hall, so that a free passage is maintained to the platform. It also communicates with the stair to the gallery. The dimensions of the hall proper are 60 feet by 38 feet by 24 feet high. The entire length of the hall to the back of the gallery is 73 feet. A smaller hall, library and ladies' room with a separate external entrance on the west side of the building, and having a southern exposure, are on the same level with the

platform. The caretaker's house and volunteer hall for armoury are obtained without extra building by taking advantage of the space between the natural fall of the ground and the raised level of the apartments above – the small hall, &c. The entire cost of the undertaking will be about £2700. The other particulars were mentioned in our column when the plan was adopted. At present the walls are erected to the height of about 3 feet all round.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
JULY 23, 1886

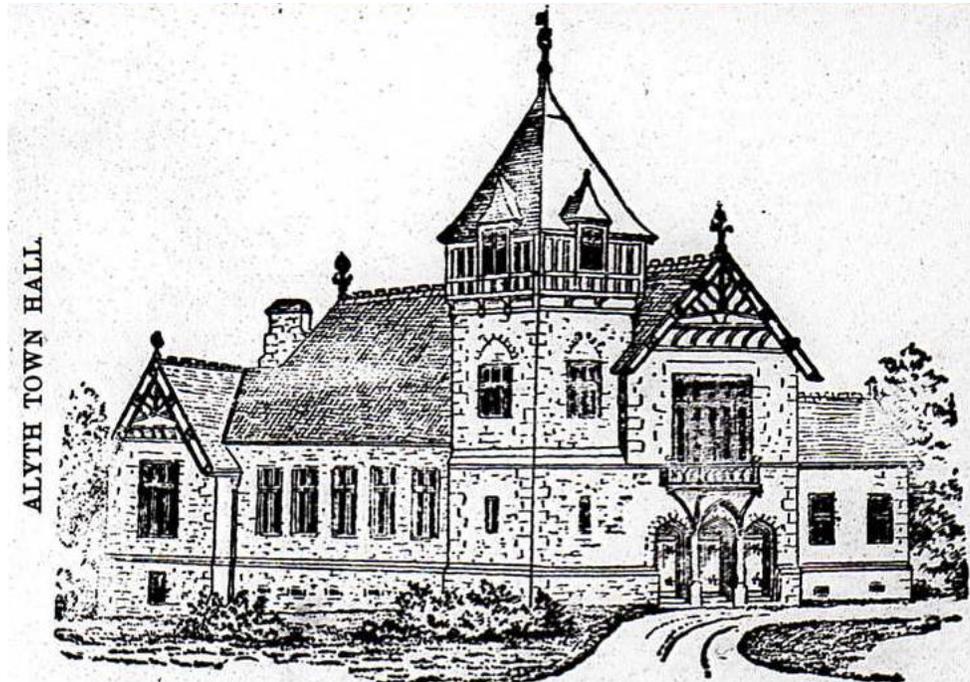
TOWN HALL – Mr Lunan will soon have the mason work finished. The building is almost ready for the roof – the hall, when completed, will be a remarkably neat building.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1886

TOWN HALL – A largely attended meeting of shopkeepers, tradesmen, &c., was held in the Industrial School on Wednesday night to arrange for a trades' procession on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Chief Magistrate Smith was called to the chair. The Chairman pointed out the desirability of having a great demonstration on the occasion. He would do everything in his power to promote the success of the undertaking. He was willing to stop his works and set the workers free to take part in the demonstration. He thought it was a duty incumbent upon all to help to make the demonstration worthy of the town and the occasion. He might mention that the Marquis of Breadalbane, P.G.M Mason, had informed him that he would not be able to be present to lay the foundation stone with Masonic honours. But Lord Airlie, who was also a Free mason, had been communicated with, and had kindly signified his intention to perform the ceremony. (Applause.) He called for suggestions. Mr H. Leslie stated that a preliminary meeting had been held on Monday night, at which various tradesmen volunteered their aid. After a little discussion the following committee, with power to add to its number was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for a trades' procession:-

Messrs A. McKenzie, baker; A. Mitchell, plasterer; A. Ferguson, joiner; T. Whyte and W. Lowrie, tailors; J. Lunan, J. Ferguson and James Bain, masons; W. Galloway, F. Eassie and W. Johnston, mechanics; A. Mitchell, factory overseer; J. Suttie, calendar overseer; D. Walker, slater; A. Abels and J. Valentine, coal merchants; W. Alexander, Mornity; A. Gardner, plumber; J. Murray, painter; R. Demptser, quarrier; P. McDiarmid, dresser; J. Smith, gardener; D. Anderson, bootmaker; A. Robertson, factory worker; T. Glennie and T. Gillies, blacksmiths; J. Howie, mill manager; I. Peterkin; and G. Gray.

In reply to a ques  
THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1886



The above is a sketch of the hall, which, as far as the mason work is concerned, is about completed. The hall is situated on the west side of the town, on the south side of the road leading direct west from the Market Square. The stone of which it is built is the local redstone, with white freestone at all the corners and windows. The building has a very handsome appearance caused by the design and the high character of the mason work, which is really creditable to the builder, Mr John Lunan. The tower end of the building faces northward. There are, besides various smaller rooms, two halls – a large one and a small one – the latter, together with a library room and a ladies' room, being at the south end, on a level with the platform. These apartments have a separate external entrance on the west side. Underneath them is the caretaker's house, and a volunteer armoury, &c. The main doorway, as will be seen, consists of three arched openings, each being 5 feet wide. The vestibule is 27 feet long by 10 feet wide, and it communicates with the large hall by two side entrances. Over the vestibule a gallery is situated. The dimensions of the apartments are:- Large hall, 60 feet long, 38 wide and 24 in height. It will accommodate 400 and the gallery 150. The small hall is 24 feet by 18, while there is sitting accommodation for nearly 100. The size of the library room is 20 feet by 16. The extreme height of the spire is 60 feet. In regard to heating, ventilation, &c., everything will be done in accordance with the most approved principals.

ERE our next issue one of the most important events in the history of the town will have taken place – viz, the laying of the foundation stone of the Town Hall. The Committee have selected the date chosen as a day of demonstration as most suitable for all concerned – in the season when the town and district is frequented by a large influx of visitors. To make the occasion a red-letter day in the history of Alyth, preparations of various kinds have been going on for a long time past. During the past week or two the Town Hall Committee, along with a large and representative Committee of working men, have devoted themselves to the work of forming a large and imposing procession for Thursday

next. From reports just received, we learn that these preparations are in a forward state; that the Committee are working with the greatest enthusiasm; that trades emblems are being prepared to be upheld in the line of the procession; and that nothing, in short, is to be wanting on their part to make the day pass over without a hitch. Prior to the ceremony at the hall, which will be conducted by Lord Airlie with full Masonic honours, the procession will parade through the principal streets of the town. It will embrace representatives from the masons, joiners, slaters, tailors, shoemakers, plasterers, bakers, saddlers, etc., etc., and the employees of Messrs Smith and Black will also be present – all having beautiful models of their respective trades. The local Volunteer Company will also be represented, and a pleasing feature will be about 40 pairs of horses in harness tastefully decorated, accompanied by riders sent by the neighbouring farmer. The different Masonic lodges will bring up the rear followed by the Grand Master. Each body will be under the charge of its respective marshal, while the whole will be superintended by Mr Stevenson of Perth, who has kindly undertaken to perform the duties of Grand Marshal. The procession will assemble on the Muir at 12 o'clock, and proceed through the town, arriving about 1 o'clock at the Town Hall, when, as above mentioned, the foundation stone will be laid by the Earl of Airlie with Masonic honours. Deputations from the neighbouring Masonic lodges, and a large and influential company are expected to be present. At the conclusion of the Masonic ceremony, the

#### GRAND FANCY FAIR

in aid of the building fund will be opened by his Lordship, and business will thereafter be begun by the ladies. The design chosen is that representing an English market place in the olden time, and the whole decorations, which are under the charge of Mr Bevis, the distinguished decorator from London, will be elegantly and tastefully got up. Music will be discoursed at intervals during the 3 days of the bazaar by the splendid band of the 1<sup>st</sup> Forfarshire R.V. under the leadership of Mr Jarvis. Concerts, instrumental and vocal, will also be arranged for the evenings, which will doubtless add to the attractions of the bazaar. The getting up of the bazaar has also entailed a great amount of labour, principally incurred by the ladies, but borne in part by gentlemen whom they have drawn into their service. For months past needles of all kinds have been flying, and the arms of the upholsterers have been unwearied in their exertions to furnish articles to catch the eye of prospective buyers. Even the brush of the artist has, we believe, been dragged in to furnish its quota. A number of valuable gifts have also been kindly bestowed, to the value of about £700. Even as a display, the bazaar will be worth looking at, but we hope the visitors will not be content merely with gazing; but the ladies may be trusted to look after that. The following have been appointed stall-holders:-

#### STALL NO. 1

Mrs Yeaman, Royal Bank  
 Mrs Ferguson, F.C. Manse  
 Mrs Steel, Loyal  
 Mrs Smart, Fernbank

Mrs Stephen, Broughty Ferry.  
 Mrs John Yeaman, Meigle  
 Miss Brew, Pitnacree  
 Mrs Reid, Brighton, Ruthven

#### STALL NO. 2

Misses Duncan, The Brae  
 Mrs Duncan, Gayton Hall, Cheshire  
 Mrs McLaren, The Manse  
 Mrs Findlay, Hill Street

Mrs Lyon, Beaconsfield Villa  
 Mrs Croal, Park Villa  
 Miss Playfair, Airlie Brae  
 Miss Croal, St. Ann's

STALL NO. 3

Mrs Smith, Airlie Mount  
Mrs Grieve, Midfield, Polmont  
Mrs Leighton, Brookside  
Mrs Galloway, Bamff Road

DUNDEE STALL

Mrs John Cleghorn, Polepark House,  
Dundee  
Mrs Foggie, Woodville, West Park Road  
Dundee  
Mrs Hendry, Braeknowe  
Dundee  
Mrs Lindsay, 4 Somerville Place, Dundee

REFRESHMENT STALL

Mrs Pattullo, Airlie Arms Hotel, Alyth

DAIRY PRODUCE AND GAME STALL

Mrs Barclay, Simprim

FLOWER STALL

Further subscriptions have been received – from Messrs John Robertson & Co., £2 2s; Mr D.P. Howe, £1; Rev. John McNab, Johnshaven, £1 1s; Colonel Lloyd Alison £3 3s. The total amounts now to almost £1500.

Miss Gold, Airlie Street

Mrs Dunlop, U.P. Manse  
Mrs Alexander, Mornity  
Mrs D. Smith, Greenbank  
Miss Robertson, Viewpark  
Miss Rose, Industrial School

Mrs James Scott, Hynford House,  
Dundee

Mrs Stevenson, Oak Lodge,  
Dundee

Miss Nicoll, Riverleigh,  
Dundee

Mrs Harris, Commercial Hotel, Alyth

tion, the Chairman said that in all likelihood the Police Commission would recommend a general holiday. It was also suggested that it would be a good thing if the female operatives at the works would join the procession. On the motion of Mr Peterkin a hearty vote of thanks was awarded the Chairman. The Committee are to meet again on Monday night. James Stevenson, Esq., and Alex. Nicoll, Esq., have contributed £5 5s each to the fund.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1886

ALYTH TOWN HALL

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LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE WITH MASONIC HONOURS.

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OPENING OF BAZAAR.

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IMPOSING DISPLAY.

Never has such a scene been witnessed in the history of the town as that of yesterday. Everything conspired to favour the proceedings. The weather was all that could be desired, and it was remarked that the delay of the harvest was almost a Providential arrangement, as it allowed the farmers and farm servants to attend and take part in the demonstration, who would not otherwise have been able to attend. The day was observed as a general holiday, not only in the town but by the farmers and others in the neighbourhood. The shops were closed, and every one was clad in holiday attire. The station, Smiths' works, and the Airlie Arms and Commercial hotels were decorated with flags, and several private individuals also displayed flags on their houses. There was a very large influx of strangers from a distance, and the streets presented a very animated appearance. At the Muir before the start the scene was of the most animated description – with the various bodies not yet in settled order, and the marshals' flying about on horseback bringing order out of apparent confusion. Shortly after 12 o'clock – the hour fixed for starting – the whole procession was arranged into marching order and the start was made.

#### THE PROCESSION

On arrival of the Free Masons, who were formed in the Industrial School, the other bodies, who were marshalled by Mr Stevenson, Perth, assisted by Mr McLeish, Perth, of the Fife Light Horse, started on the route – the Free Masons opening to let the others pass through, and taking their position at the rear of the procession. The route was by Airlie Street, New Bridge, Commercial Street, Toutie Street, Woolmarket, High Street, Stony Road, Bamff Road, and Bamff Street to the hall. The following shows the composition of the procession, with the order and number of the various bodies and their respective marshals:-

Band of 1<sup>st</sup> Forfarshire Volunteers, under Mr W.G. Jarvis.

Farmers, etc., (mounted),	18	Thomas Abels.
Ploughmen on Harnessed Horses,	40	Thomas Abels.
Volunteers,	20	Major Robertson.
Messrs D. Smith & Sons' and Blacksmiths,	100	Alexander Mitchell.
Tailors,	14	R.T. Whyte.
Gardeners,	18	John Smith.
Saddlers,	4	James Howe.
Bakers,	27	David Clark.
Painters,	9	John Murray.
Plumbers & Slaters,	7	D. Walker.
Plasterers,	6	Alex. Mitchell.
Joiners,	18	James Alexander.
Masonic Bodies,	170	Mr Stevenson.

The procession was headed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Forfarshire Rifle Band, under Bandmaster Jarvis. After it came the farmers and farmers' sons on horseback. Preceded by a banner, the ploughmen came on harness horses (71 in number) richly caparisoned. These were really a most effective display, the like of which is seldom witnessed anywhere. The horses were in excellent condition, and reflected credit on the farmers who kindly granted their use for the procession. The display of horses was specially commented on by the Earl in warm terms of praise. The whole array reflected credit on the energetic marshal, Mr T.

Abels, Leiroch. The Volunteers came next in order led by Major Robertson, Lieut. Smith, and Sergeant Johnston. A most important feature of the procession was the employees of Messrs Smith, headed by the clerks and heads of departments, including Mr William Johnston. They displayed a large number of banners, trade emblems, and models – marching to the music of the Alyth Flute Band. The body comprised representatives of the preparing, spinning, reeling, weaving, and calendering departments. The blacksmiths and mechanics were also represented. The models comprised the following: - A blacksmith's anvil with man at work; model of spinning frame in motion; and various other mechanical contrivances and motions, one of which had two men busily engaged, with the inscriptions – “Work with a will, boys,” and “No dull trade here;” calender machinery, fully equipped with attendants, as also a humorous model of cloth inspector engaged at his occupation, and a lapping table with lappers. Among the many banners displayed we noticed a particularly effective one, the work of Mr R. Mitchell, with the representation of a power-loom with an attendant, and on the reverse side, “Speed the shuttle.” The small body of hand-loom weavers carried a model of a hand-loom. The model machinery represented every kind used in the works, and the raw material in the shape of a bale of jute was displayed at the beginning, and at the end of the calenderers carried nicely done up samples of the manufacturers for which the works are famous. The tailors were dressed in black with green rosettes, and were preceded by a banner. The gardeners wore bouquets in the button-holes of their coats. They had three beautiful floral designs, which were very tastefully arranged. The saddlers were busily engaged in their ordinary avocation, and displayed a model pony, a part set of harness – followed by the pony and phaeton (one of the prizes of the Bazaar). The bakers and vanmen were not the least interesting feature in the procession, and wore the usual red night-caps, white shirts, black trousers and vests, and white aprons. Their emblems comprised a huge loaf decorated with biscuits, a sheaf of wheat and their working utensils. They had also 2 banners and 1 flag. The painters displayed a well painted banner and a gilded ladder and paint pot. Mr John Lunan on his white horse was the sole representative of the operative masons, the greater number of whom were, unfortunately for the procession, engaged at work out of town. The slaters displayed a model of a house in course of slating, together with their tools and a big slate. The plumbers wore aprons with the plumber's coat of arms, viz., pot and two cross irons. The plasterers were dressed in white linen smocks, and caps, and white aprons, and had for models, a centre piece, terminal, and bracket, in plaster work, decorated with flowers. The joiners displayed a banner with a picture of the Town Hall, and a mortice machine in operation in a cart. They also had a model of the front gable of the hall. Mr Edward, of the ‘Blackbird,’ had a comical turn-out, consisting of a small dog-cart drawn by two donkeys. The two men in the conveyance held a banner with this strange device – “When shall we three meet again.” There was a very large attendance of Free Masons. Of these there were representatives from the various lodges in Dundee, Kirriemuir, Glamis; Provincial Grand Lodge, Perth; Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, as also a few from Arbroath and Forfar. These with their vari-coloured sashes and swords, and other insignia, gave a splendid finish to a procession which was a success in all its details.

The procession was witnessed by a large number of onlookers, every point of vantage being appropriated. Many remarks in praise of the display were made.

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## THE CEREMONY OF LAYING THE STONE.

On arriving near the hall the procession halted and opening their rank the Free Masons walked through till they reached the front, followed in turn by the rearmost bodies, assuming in front of the hall positions exactly reverse of those taken on the line of march, the volunteers being placed near the platform to keep back the crowd. When within a short distance of the foundation stone the Junior Lodge (St. Ninian's, Alyth) took open order as also did the whole lodges in the rear. The architect, Bro. Heiton, was the first who walked up to the platform, and he was followed by the Chaplain, Brothers Dr McPherson and Rev. F. W. Davis; Jeweller, Dr John Allan; Deacon, Bro. D. Doig; Treasurer, Bro. J. Robertson; Secretary, Bro. W.S. Wilkie; Wardens, Brothers T. Hunter, Perth, and Wm. Harris; and the Substitute Master, Bro. Captain Hunter, who all gave way for the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Brother the Earl of Airlie, when the Substitute Master assumed a position on the right of the D.P.G.M. Silence having been proclaimed by the marshal, the Queen's Anthem was sung, the band playing the accompaniment. The Chaplain, Brother Dr McPherson, then advanced and offered up a prayer. The Architect having advanced with the workmen, the Secretary, Bro. W.S. Wilkie, was called upon by Bro. the Earl of Airlie to place articles in the cavity of the stone. These articles consisted of the coins of the realm, copies of the Scotsman, Glasgow Herald, Dundee Advertiser, Dundee Courier and Argus, Scottish News, and The Alyth Guardian, 1 copy each T. McMurray's Directory and Almanack and A. Lunan's Almanack; two rolls, one containing the names of the Alyth Commissioners and the other the names of the Alyth ministers of all denominations; portraits of the Building Committee; copy of first circular with names of original subscribers, and also a copy of the first bazaar circular with an illustration of the Town Hall. After this ceremony was finished, and during the singing of the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm, the stone was gradually lowered to its position. This done a brass plate was inserted on the stone by Deputy-Master, J. Armit. On it was engraved the date of the laying of the foundation stone and other particulars connected with the ceremony. The Masonic officials having applied the level, plumb and square, and gone through the usual forms, the D.P.G.M., Brother the Earl of Airlie gave three knocks on the stone and said "May the Almighty Architect of the universe look down with benignity and crown the edifice of which we have now laid the foundation with every success." Three cheers were then given. The hymn followed – "O God of Bethel," consequent upon which the Substitute Master, Bro. Captain Hunter, and Bros. R. Patullo, A. Gardener, and J. Valentine, approached, the latter three bearing respectively the cornucopia, the vase of wine and the vase of oil. These having been strewn on the stone by the Earl, uttering the while the Masonic benediction, the Mason's Anthem was played by the band, on the conclusion of which another three ringing cheers were given. At this stage, Bro. John Smith, Chief Magistrate, came forward with the trowel in his hand, the trowel bearing the inscription:- "Lodge St. Ninians, Alyth. Presented to Brother the Right Hon. the Earl of Airlie, on laying the foundation stone of the Alyth Public Hall. September 2d, 1886."

In presenting it, the CHIEF MAGISTRATE said – Your Lordship, I have much pleasure in presenting you with this trowel as a memento of this day's proceedings. While regretting the absence of the Marquis of Breadalbane, he felt assured that all would agree with him when he said that his Lordship in performing the opening ceremony was the right man in the right place. As they all knew, he was Superior of the land, and had a great deal to do with the extension and prosperity of Alyth. The connection of Alyth with

his Lordship's family had always been a pleasing one, and he hoped it would always continue so. (Hear, hear.) In alluding to the hall, the Chief-Magistrate said it would be an ornament to the town and would supply a long-felt want, and afford suitable accommodation for meetings of all descriptions. He hoped that nothing would be heard within its walls which would be in any way to the detriment of the inhabitants, but on the contrary, that everything uttered there would have a pure and wholesome influence. As they were aware, the plans were executed as an efficient and trustworthy architect. In conclusion, he had to say again that he had much pleasure in presenting the trowel. He hoped his Lordship would long be spared, and he had no doubt that the trowel would be held in equal esteem with the mementoes gathered by his Lordship on the battlefield and elsewhere. (Applause.)

The Earl, addressing the Masons, said he had to thank them for the honour of allowing him to do the work of laying the foundation stone. At first he had felt some diffidence as he thought that there were other Masons more eligible than he, but after he had been duly asked and they had been so good as to think him worthy, he felt that he could not refuse, and he had done his best to fulfil their wishes. He accepted the trowel with pleasure and said that he would always look upon it as a pleasant memento of the laying of the foundation stone of the Alyth Town Hall. Coming forward, his Lordship then addressed the crowd, when he said – I am now able to announce that the foundation stone of this hall has been laid with Masonic honours. As this stone is the centre and foundation of the hall he hoped the hall itself would be the centre of knowledge and enlightenment in the town. The men of Scotland had a national reputation for being hard workers, and were looked upon as men determined to make the most of their good things, and he hoped that the building round which they were now assembled would be greatly taken advantage of, and give many an opportunity of profitably employing their leisure hours. Let us hope that this public hall may be a real boon to the town of Alyth; may it give all the opportunities which we hope it will give. May it help the town to take its proper place in the country, and enable it to do its proper share of work of improvement which is always going on. May our descendents, looking upon this structure, though it might appear small and insignificant to the men of the future, say of us “they did what they could.” In conclusion, he thanked them again, and hoped that the kindly relations which had always existed between the town and his family would always be continued. (Great Cheering.)

On conclusion, Chaplain, Bro. Dr McPherson offered up the benediction. “Rule Britannia” having been sung by the choir and band the procession re-formed and left the hall.

There was a very large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. Amongst those on the stand we noticed:- The Countess of Airlie, Lady Blanche Hozier, Professor Ramsay and party, Sir James Ramsay, David Duncan Esq., M.P.; Mr James Duncan, the Brae, and the Misses Duncan; Mrs John Smith, Airlie Mount, and party; Miss Croal, Miss Rose, Miss Lowe, Miss Leighton, Mr A. Sinclair, Rev. Mr McLellan, Miss Myles, Balwhyme; Mr D. Smith, Dundee; Mr G. Smith, Dundee; Mr Peter Lowson, Dundee; Mr Matthewson, Balloch; Miss Lowe, Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr Allison, Newington Church, Edinburgh; Mrs J. Smart, Mr and Mrs W. Galloway, Mrs Pattullo, Mr A. Lunan, Alyth; Miss Johnstone, Ashbank; Mr H. Leslie, Mrs J. Sinclair; Mrs McMurray, etc., etc.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the efficient management of Messrs Stevenson and McLeish, who were materially assisted by the sub-marshals. No hitch

occurred, and the Volunteers and a force of policemen under Chief-Constable McPherson kept order during the performance of the ceremony; but their duties were light, as the spectators observed the utmost decorum.

Mr Milne, Blairgowrie, was in town, and succeeded in securing several excellent views of the procession, the ceremony, and the bazaar.

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#### THE FANCY FAIR.

After the procession was over the Fancy Fair became the centre of attraction; indeed so large was the number that went thither, that it was scarcely possible to move in the principal room, and doing business seemed an entire impossibility. Taking his position at the east end of the room, the CHIEF MAGISTRATE said we have now come to the second part of the proceedings. They had first to congratulate themselves that they had secured the services of Lord Airlie, who on this occasion made his first public appearance in Alyth. They were doubly indebted to his Lordship for bringing Lady Airlie along with him to grace the day's proceedings. He wished to say a word in behalf of the ladies, who, as everybody was aware, had wrought hard for the success of the undertaking. (Cheers.) At this stage, Mr H. Leslie presented Lord Airlie with a programme of the day's proceedings. (Applause.)

HIS LORDSHIP said that he now had to declare the bazaar open. He did not intend speaking to them at any length. He advised them to set about buying. Buying, in ordinary circumstances was a commercial transaction, where the buyers endeavoured to get the best bargains possible for their money, and where buyers and sellers regarded each other as enemies. Buyers and sellers on this occasion, however, were not enemies but friends. He advised the buyers to give anything that was asked and have no scruples. Everything, he assured them, was of value – if not in itself, was rendered so by the beautiful and charming young ladies who were engaged in selling. The old proverb was to take care of the pennies and the pounds would take care of themselves, but he advised on this occasion to be saving of their coppers and to be lavish with their pounds. His Lordship concluded by advising his audience to pull out their purses. (Cheers).

MR PETERKIN, in moving a vote of thanks to Lord Airlie, shortly alluded to the kindly relations that had subsisted between the inhabitants of Alyth and the Airlie family. He also commented upon the eloquence and public spiritedness displayed by His Lordship on this and other occasions. At the conclusion of his remarks, a hearty round of cheering was given for the Earl and Countess. He also alluded to the active assistance given by the Chief Magistrate to the movement by his personal efforts and social position and influence. (Applause.)

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The rooms in the Public School are laid out in a very artistic fashion to represent an English Fair of the Olden Time. There are three stalls in the centre room entitled “Ye Golden Fleece,” “Ye Crown,” and “Ye Lion and Unicorn.” As we gave the names of the stallholders in our last issue, we need not here repeat them. At the stalls an array of articles were laid out far too numerous to mention in detail. Amongst the principal articles were screens, all of which displayed tasteful workmanship, sewed chairs, pictures of all kinds, dolls, dolls' cradles, etc., etc. In the west ante-room at “Ye Grey Hound” the ladies in charge provided for the refreshment of the inner man. “Ye White Swan” to our mind was one of the most attractive stalls in the building. This stall contained butter,

eggs, cheese, pails, baking, rollers, etc. Belonging to this department, in the outside of the building, were:- A calf, 2 lambs, 1 pig, a great quantity of cheese, cocks and hens, turkeys, &c., &c. "At ye Red Rose," in the central room, gentlemen who are so disposed, may ornament themselves with bouquets and a great variety of flowers. In addition to these attractions there is the Fish Pond, which provides as alluring attractions for anglers as the most of waters, with as much prospect of success. We ourselves saw the pond while in course of stocking, and can vouch that the fish are not supplied from Stormontfield or any of the ordinary breeding ponds. Although members of the press, we were debarred from visiting the collection of pictures from the old masters during the process of hanging, but, on the unanimous voice of the Committee, can vouch for its uniqueness. We believe that the Earl of Airlie was not content with giving advice to his numerous hearers, but showed by his action, in the way of purchasing largely, an example to the numerous visitors. In his efforts he was ably seconded by the Countess. The visit of the noble couple has endeared them to the people of the town.

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#### MASONIC DINNER

After the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, Brother Bailie Japp entertained the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the office-bearers of the St. Ninians Lodge to dinner in the Commercial Hall. The chair was occupied by Deputy Master, Bro. Major Armit, while the Provincial Grand Master McLeish acted as croupier. After dinner the following toasts were proposed:- "The Queen" and "The Craft" by the Chairman; "The Three Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland." proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Bro. T. Hunter, Perth; "The Provincial Grand Lodge" was proposed by Bro. Bailie Japp, and responded to by Bro. McLeish; "Lodge St. Ninians" was proposed by Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. Chalmers, and responded to by Deputy Master Major Armit; "The Grand Marshal" was proposed by Bro. the Rev. Dr McPherson, and responded to by the Grand Marshal, Bro. Stevenson; "The Chaplain" Bro. the Rev. Dr McPherson, was proposed by Bro. Bailie Japp, and ably responded to by the Chaplain. Shortly after this the very pleasant meeting broke up.

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The following were the Brethren of St. Ninians Lodge, Alyth, who took part in the procession:- Brothers Captain R.S. Hunter, J. Armit, W. Harris, W.S. Wilkie, J. Robertson, D. Doig, J. Kinloch, J. Valentine, J. Munro, Chief Magistrate Smith, G. Duncan, H. Leslie, Dr Allan, Dr Brown, Bailie Japp, T. McMurray, D. Clark, T. Barron, R. Patullo, A. Gardener, and P. Stewart.

On calling at a late hour at the bazaar we were glad to learn that the financial results of the day's sales were highly satisfactory. The drawings, exclusive of the sale of tickets, amount to the handsome sum of £583 12s 8d. Too much cannot be said in praise of the energetic action of the Bazaar Committee, and at the risk of seeming invidious, we cannot refrain from drawing attention to the labours of Mr H. Leslie, who has been instant in season and out of season, not only in attending to the numerous details connected with the bazaar, but also to the management of the procession.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1886

## THE TOWN HALL BAZAAR

In continuation of our report on the bazaar a short account of Friday and Saturday's proceedings falls to be recorded. On Friday, as on Thursday, the school was crowded. The bazaar was opened by Mr R.S. Menzies, M.P. He was introduced by Mr W. Japp, who referred to Mr Menzies in complimentary terms, he being always ready to do his duty in public and private. He was among the first to give a very handsome subscription to the building fund. Mr Japp was sure all would welcome Mr Menzies sincerely and heartily. (Applause.)

Mr Menzies (who was received with applause), referring to the need for a public hall in Alyth, said there could be no better illustration of the fact than his having to mount a chair to address them on that occasion. (Hear, hear). After speaking of the advantages of public buildings for meetings, Mr Menzies spoke of the desirableness of having the architecture of Scotch towns improved. They were a little behind the rest of the world in that respect. He did not mean to say that in many respects Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, and Alyth were not altogether model communities. They had their poets, their orators, their naturalists, and even their astronomers. But they seemed to him to have fallen a little behind the rest of the world with regard to their architecture. Nature had certainly been kind to them, but they had trusted rather too much to nature, and gone too much on the principle that "Nature unadorned is adorned the most." He could only hope that the fine Town Hall which was building would be the beginning of a revival or renaissance of architecture in this district. (Hear, hear.) If that really turned out to be the case, the men of this generation in this part of Perthshire who had taken some part in starting the movement would, he felt sure, be amply rewarded. Mr Menzies concluded by urging all to do their best to lighten the stalls of their loads by purchasing the articles. He had rarely seen a prettier sight. (Applause.)

Mr DAVID DUNCAN, M.P., Liverpool, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Menzies, made an interesting speech. After referring to the pleasure he felt in standing before them as a native of Alyth, and his gratification at the result of the previous day's proceedings, Mr Duncan also spoke of the advantages to be derived from the possession of a town hall. In the near future a measure of local self-government will have been obtained, in which case a town hall would be really an essential in all towns. Mr Duncan also made reference to the present position of the nation with regard to technical education, in which we are deficient in comparison with foreign nations. He said we were the richest nation in Christendom, and yet we had much to learn with regard to the technical progress of mechanics. More than that, in the methods of government which shall become necessary in the altered conditions to which he referred, could only be done locally. In this beautiful building, which was a great credit to the architect and to the intelligence and good taste of the Committee who chose it, Alyth had all that was required for a century to come. He believed in the progress of Alyth. He believed that Alyth would do its very best to keep in the van in the future civilisation, and he sincerely trusted that his native place would go on prospering in the way that it had done, not only materially, but doing its very best to dispel the surrounding darkness which yet existed in the country. Mr Duncan concluded by again asking those present to accord a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Menzies, which was cordially agreed to.

Immediately thereafter, the ladies at the stalls, and their assistants, lost no time in making their presence felt among the visitors. By night, the income of Thursday - £583 12s 8d – was added to by fully £200.

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On Saturday the bazaar was opened by Professor Ramsay, who was suitably introduced by Mr William Yeaman, banker. The Professor delivered an interesting and amusing speech on the importance of the last day for “clearing” purposes, and the enthusiasm with which all classes had entered into the movement. He said that the very horses in the procession on Thursday seemed to have been smitten with the prevailing enthusiasm, and even the donkeys looked more dignified and intelligent on that day than they are generally credited to be. (Laughter.) The Professor concluded by reminding his audience of the immense obligation and gratitude they were under to the ladies for their services in connection with the bazaar. Mr P.M. Lowe, in a few well chosen remarks, proposed a vote of thanks to the Professor for opening the bazaar. Business was then proceeded with, and throughout the day the stall-holders had a very numerous company to devote themselves to. The bazaar was closed at 10 p.m. The Chief Magistrate introduced Mr J. Grieve, Edinburgh, who said he was proud to revisit his native town. Alyth had made immense progress during the last 40 years. The hall movement had been very successful, and he announced that, should the funds be deficient to clear the building of debt, he would farther increase his subscription were he called upon to do so. (Applause.) A call having been made for Mr Peterkin to speak, he rose and warmly complimented all classes for the help they had so willingly rendered in aid of this important local undertaking to provide a Town Hall. The Chief Magistrate followed, thanking specially the ladies of Alyth and surrounding district for their untiring efforts and immense labours. When the hall was ready he trusted they would arrange to inaugurate it by a large social gathering. Voices- “What about Leslie?” The Chief Magistrate said he did not overlook Mr Leslie’s labours in connection with the Town Hall movements. (Cheers.) He had had an immense amount of work and he had done it well. (Cheers.) The proceedings were then declared closed.

The total sum realised amounts to £1051 5s 8d. The material yet on hand is expected to realise over £150.

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The following is a list of the winners of the principal articles:-

Sofa blanket, L10, Mrs Wilson, Dundee; Piano Stool, L5, Miss Abels, Leiroch; Gipsy Table, L3, Mr Shaw, Bamff; China Afternoon Tea Set, L3, James Ross, Dundee; Mirror, L3, Miss Maggie Smith, Airlie Mount; Breakfast Tray, L3, Mrs Arthur, Airdrie; Knitted Curtains, L3, Mrs Erskine, Alyth; Organ Stool, L7, Mr Shepherd, Dundee; Bed Quilt, L4, Mr J.G. Crighton, London; Chrystoleum Painting, L3, Miss Robertson, Dundee; Sewed Chair, L18, Miss Whitson, Alyth; Pair Footstools, L3, Rev. Colin McKenzie, Stirling; Gun, L8, Mr G. Gilruth, Dundee; Art Screen, L5, Miss J. Low, Alyth; Standard Screen, L7 4s, Miss Boyd, St. Andrews; Piano, L90, C. Dewar, Kirriemuir; Sewed Chair, £15, Mrs Honey, Blairgowrie; Knitted Bed Quilt, L7, Mr D. Harris, Alyth; Draught Screen, L11, Mr Fleming, Dundee; Fire Screen, L4 15s, Mr Milne, Kirriemuir; Sewed Chair, L30, Miss Douglas, Blairgowrie; Pony & Phaeton, L50, Mr R. Mitchell, Faulds; Window Seat, L5, Miss McDonald, Alyth; Curling Stones, L4, Mr Myles, Deanside; Marble Clock, L10, Miss Millar, Tullyfergus; Model Chest of Drawers, L3, Mr Telford, Bamff;

Four Sheep, Mr J. Whyte, Mid Street; Pair Footstools, L3 10s, Miss Berry, Glasgow; Work Table, L3 6s, Mr S. Fraser, Edinburgh; Draught Screen, L12, Mr D. Ferguson, Alyth; Sewed Chair, L15, Mr J. Ogilvy, Kirriemuir; Oil Painted Screen, L16, Mr D. Duncan, M.P., Liverpool; Scrap Screen, L7, Mr D. Pattie, Dundee; Scrap Screen, L6, Mr J. Jack, Fortar; Plough, L3 16s, Mr Tasker, Camno; Sofa Blanket, L6, Mr Myles, Dundee; Banner Screen, L4 11s, Mr Whyte, Hatton; Macrairie Work, L4, Miss Croal; Coverlets, L6, Miss Gold; Violin, L6, Mr Chalmers, Dundee; Pony and Saddle, L15, Mr Myles, Deanside; Organ, L35, Miss Wilson, Glasgow; Rustic Chair, L2 2s 6d, Mr Fenton, Purgavie; Occasional Table, Mr J.W. McInnes, Alyth; Piano Stool, Mrs Steel, Alyth; Footstools, Mr P.M. Lowe, Alyth; Etching, Mr McGibbon, Alyth; Oil Paintings, L2, Thomas McDonald; Bed Quilt, L3, Miss Harris, Burnview.

The following subscriptions have been announced:-

Mr D. Duncan, M.P., £25; Mr Patrick Allan Fraser of Blackcraig, £5; Professor J. Robertson, Glasgow, £5 5s; Ex-Lord Provost Ure, Glasgow, £5 5s; Mr Snodgrass, Glasgow, £1 1s; Mr Jas. Myles, Denside £3 3s; Mr Louis McDonald, Alyth, £1 1s; Messrs Bruce & Wilson, Glasgow, £1 1s; Mr Ure (of Dalgairns & Co.), Dundee, £1.

The Chief Magistrate has received the following letter from Mr Campbell-Bannerman, M.P., intimating a subscription to the building fund of the Town Hall:-

“5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1886, 6 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.

“Mr Dear Sir, - I am very sorry that your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> August has remained so long unanswered. I only received it this morning on my return from the Continent, where I have been for three weeks. Had I been in the district I should have had great pleasure in attending the bazaar in aid of your new Town Hall, and I hope it has had all the success you anticipated. Perhaps you will allow me to offer small contribution of £10 to your funds, and to express to the Committee my sense of their kindness in inviting me to take part in the bazaar. – Believe me, dear sirs, yours very truly,

“H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN.”

“John Smith, Esq., Airlie Mount, Alyth.”

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In our report last week we omitted to mention that the trowel presented to Lord Airlie was of silver, beautifully engraved, with an ivory handle. It was enclosed in a dark morocco case lined with blue satin, and was furnished by Mr D. Doig, watchmaker.

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In connection with the bazaar we cannot refrain from drawing attention to the neat and artistic programme used in connection with it. The getting up of such a tasteful production required no little skill and scholastic ability from the obsolete wording and the Old English orthography in which the description of “Ye Fancy Faire” had to be clothed. To Mr H. Leslie belongs the credit of its compilation.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
OCTOBER 8, 1886

TOWN HALL – Since the laying of the foundation stone, much progress has been made towards the completion of the building. The roof is almost completed, and the plasterers

have commenced on the ceiling. The painters in the town have this week been asked to send in estimates for painting.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
NOVEMBER 12, 1886

TOWN HALL – The contract for the painting of the Town Hall, has been secured by Mr Alex Robertson, Hill Street.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
NOVEMBER 26, 1886

TOWN HALL – During the past month or two much progress has been made towards the completion of the building. The plasterers have all but finished their work, and the joiners are busily engaged fitting up the woodwork in the inside, so that before long the painters and decorators will get commenced.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1886

A BELL FOR THE TOWN HALL. – We understand that it is intended to place in the tower of the hall the bell presented to the town more than half a century ago by Purser John Warden, R.N. The bell was part of his share of the spoil in the capture of a French frigate by the crew of the British war vessel on which he was aboard, during the period when Englishmen were told to hate a Frenchman as they hated the d\_\_l. Notwithstanding the interesting incident connected with the appropriation of the bell, and notwithstanding that it is quite sound and of capital tone, the bell has been, except at rare intervals, doomed to obscurity since its arrival in Alyth. We are informed that on high occasions it used to be hung up between two trees and tolled, but in recent years it has rarely seen the light of day. However, the Town Hall will be a worthy receptacle for the bell, and the contemplated utilising of it now affords one more illustration of the proverb:- “Keep a thing seven years and you will find a use for it.”

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1886

ALYTH IN 1886

Throughout the year just closing the inhabitants of Alyth have enjoyed a fair amount of prosperity. If the merchants have not added greatly to their “nest egg” in the bank, few, we believe, have had the mortification of seeing their egg decrease; that in these days is something to be thankful for. The people engaged at the public works have on the whole

had steady employment, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that trade prospects are considerably brighter at present than at this time last year. Out-door labour is not so plentiful as could be desired, but yet prior to the severe storm, nearly all dependent on that mode of gaining a livelihood had a job to do. A return of milder weather will permit of outdoor operations being resumed. Although the bulk of the working community has succeeded in getting "ends to meet" with their own resources, there are several cases of real destitution in our midst; but it is gratifying to know that the necessities of such persons are being relieved by the gifts of the charitable.

1886 will be memorable as the year in which an elegant and commodious public hall has been added to the architecture of the town. It is scarcely two years since the first public meeting was held to arrange for raising funds for the erection of a hall, and now the hall is all but completed – requiring little else than the brush of the painter to make it ready for use. A gratifying thing is that there is good prospects of the building being opened entirely free from debt, thanks to the liberality of our leading citizens, the merchants, and the public generally, and the handsome donations of friends outside. The hall will stand for many generations a monument to the liberality, the public spirit, and the energy of the inhabitants, and it is to be hoped that the building will be self-supporting. While on building operations we may mention that during the year the Railway Station has been enlarged, and, along with the surroundings, vastly improved. This was a much needed work, on which account the improvement is all the more appreciated and valued. Although outside the town, it may not be out of place to refer to the erection of the magnificent mansion at Belmont, on the ruins of Belmont Castle, by the right hon. H. Campbell-Bannerman. Many of our artisans have been employed at the work, which is rapidly approaching completion. The inhabitants of Alyth are looking forward with pleasure to the prospect of having as a neighbour such a distinguished statesman and estimable gentleman as Mr. Campbell-Bannerman.

In Municipal matters it cannot be said that there has been freedom from excitement. The accounts in connection with the drainage system have almost all been paid; but it was in connection with one of these that the Board got into rough water, viz. Mr Wilkie's account. A settlement has been come to, and – we had almost said all's well that ends well, but the matter cannot be said to have ended well for Mr Wilkie, who is *minus* the situation of Town Clerk. Beyond the settling up of the drainage accounts the Board has not had any heavy business on hand. Of course they have had to look after several "special" grievances of a few of the inhabitants, whose wrath had to be appeased at all hazards. To do this effectually requires tact and persuasive ability of no mean kind. We hope the "new blood" will not be deficient in these, to a Police Commissioner at least, indispensable qualities.

Regarding Educational matters, there is little to be said. The School Board, so far as we know, is still in existence. The teachers of the various schools are doing their work well, evidence of which is to be found in the fact that from all the three schools in the town, pupil teachers have passed in examinations, thus becoming entitled to admission into the colleges. Miss Rose of the Industrial School has been succeeded by Miss M. Nicoll, from Leith, who will doubtless carry on the work as efficiently as it was done under Miss Rose.

In church matters the only change has been the appointment of the Rev. J. R. McLaren as parish minister in room of the late Rev. R. Murray. Mr McLaren's settlement was

remarkable for the unanimity which prevailed amongst the congregation in 'their desire' to secure him as pastor. Since then the congregation have manifested a grown inclination to abound in good worship.

A few new societies have been instituted during the year. A month or two ago, a Masonic Lodge was constituted by the Marquis of Breadalbane, since which time many have been initiated into the mysteries of the Order.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1887

THE TOWN HALL – The painters have been busily engaged in the hall for some time, and making rapid progress. The interior is beginning to assume a tasteful appearance. The Committee met this week and decided on the seating of the hall. Three kinds of forms are to be used. The front seats are to be specially comfortable, the second only a little less so, and the third are to have no backs.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1887

THE TOWN HALL – The Building Committee met on Wednesday night. A discussion took place as to when would be the most suitable time for opening the hall, and what would be the best demonstration to have at the opening. Nothing definite was resolved on. Attention was also diverted to the advisability of getting in the outstanding subscriptions, which amount to a good number of pounds.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
MARCH 25, 1887

TOWN HALL – A meeting of the General Committee was held in the smaller hall on Monday night – Chief Magistrate Smith presiding. Mr G. Duncan, Treasurer, submitted a final statement. The income had scarcely been equal to the expenditure up to date. There was £164 of promised subscriptions outstanding. The total cost of the hall, it was estimated, would be little short of £3000, of which they still require about £500. To meet the deficiency it was suggested to have a sale of articles left over from the bazaar about August, and it is anticipated that some money will be raised at the opening celebrations, which it was arranged would be a banquet on Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>, and a concert and assembly on the Friday evening following. It was agreed to insure the building for £1800 and the furniture for £200.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1887

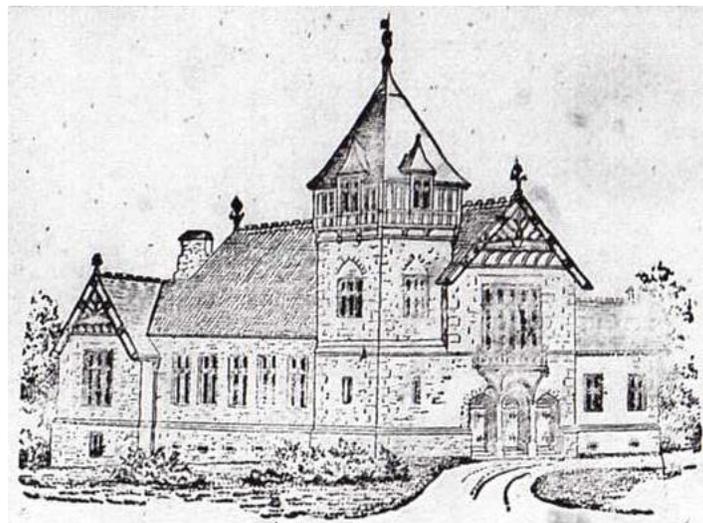
OPENING OF  
ALYTH TOWN HALL  
ON  
FRIDAY, the 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL,  
(Under Distinguished Patronage).

GRAND EVENING CONCERT  
BY  
MISS STEEL'S SELECT CHOIR.  
PERTH

the Programme will consist of PART SONGS,  
GLEES, and SOLOS.

PRICES OF ADMISSION-  
RESERVED SEATS (numbered). 4s; FRONT SEATS, 3s;  
SECOND SEATS, 2s; GALLERY, 2s; BACK SEATS, 1s.

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1887



#### ALYTH TOWN HALL

The hall is now complete in every detail. It lacks nothing to make it one of the best buildings of its kind in the country. The workmanship reflects the utmost credit on the contractors:- Builders, Messrs Lunan & Son, Alyth; joiner, Mr. John Smart, Alyth; slaters, Messrs D. & J. Walker, Alyth; plasterer, Mr. Alexander Mitchell, Alyth; painter, Mr. Alexander Robertson, Alyth; glaziers, Messrs G.R. Douglas & Son, Perth; and

plumber, Mr. James McLeish, Perth. The entire works have been carried out from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. Andrew Heiton, F.R.I.B.A., Perth. Every important particular regarding the hall movement and the construction of the building have been noticed in our columns from time to time, we need not at this time indulge in repetition.

#### OPENING OF THE ALYTH TOWN HALL.

The Town Hall was last night formally opened by a banquet in the hall. Chief Magistrate Smith presided, and was supported on the right by Mr. Black, Cortachy and on the left by Mr. H. Leslie, Secretary of the Committee. Mr. W. Japp and Mr. W. Yeaman acted as croupiers. Nearly all the members of the Police Commission were present on the invitation of Chief Magistrate Smith. The hall presented a very attractive appearance. The platform was tastefully laid out with a great variety of shrubs and plants in flower. The table was also very tastefully decorated, and the whole arrangements reflected great credit on Mrs. Patullo, Airlie Arms Hotel, the purveyor of the banquet, which was a most excellent one.

The following gentlemen were present:-

Chief Magistrate Ogilvy, Kirriemuir and Chief Magistrate McFarlane, Coupar Angus; Mr. J.G. Hay-Halkett of Balendoch; Mr. John Black, Cortachy; Mr. A. Hedon, Perth; Mr. James Grieve, Edinburgh; Mr. R. Grant, Coupar Angus; Mr. Matthewson, Balloch; Mr. D.A. Crammond, Mr. McIntyre and Mr. H.D. Luke, Blairgowrie; M. Whitton, Coupar Angus; Mr. Isles, Blairgowrie; Mr. James Stevenson, Greymount; Mr. James Smart, Perth; Mr. Jack, Coupar Angus; Mr. W. B. Thomson, Mr. John Nicoll, Mr. A. H. Feggie, Mr. James Murrison – all from Dundee; Messrs A. and D. Proctor, Blairgowrie, Mr. John Yeaman, Meigle; Mr. Armit, Bridge of Crathie; Mr. J. Loutet, Coupar Angus; Mr. James Lamond, Inverquiech; Mr. D. Steel, Loyal; Mr. J. Saddler, Queich; Mr. James Smart, Meigle; and the following Alyth gentlemen:- Chief Magistrate Smith; Junior Magistrate Leighton, the Rev. J.R. McLaren, Mr. W. Japp, Mr. W. Yeaman, Mr. G. Duncan, Mr. W. Alexander, Mr. H. Leslie, Commissioners D.M. Robertson, W. Harris, P.M. Lowe, J. Tod, R. Munro and J.Y. Geddes; Drs Davidson, Allan and Brown; Mr. W.S. Wilkie; Mr. I. Peterkin; Mr. John Findlay; Mr. J. Smart, Mr. W.A. Thoms, Mr. T. Barron, Mr. D.S. Johnston, Mr. J. Reid, Mr. D. S. Galloway, Mr. W. Galloway, Mr. W. G. Howie, Mr. John Lunan, Mr. A. Mitchell and Mr. J. Skea.

Mr. Leslie read letters of apology from:-

The Earl of Breadalbane, Lord Airlie, Sir James Ramsay, Mr. R.S. Menzies. M.P., Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, M.P., Professor Rathsay, Colonel Sandeman, Mr John Grieve, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Lindsay, Dundee; Mr. Leng, Dundee Advertiser; and Mr. Gellatly, Meigle.

In connection with Mr. Gellatly's letter, the Chairman stated that it was accompanied by a donation of £3 3s. (Applause.)

After doing ample justice to the excellent repast, the Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts. Major Robertson, replying on behalf of the Reserve Forces, said that the starting of the volunteers was a sufficient reply to Napoleon's statement that Britain was a nation of shopkeepers, and he had no doubt that the volunteers would do their duty if called upon. (Applause.) At this stage Mr Allan Proctor sang in fine style "The British Grenadiers."

The Chairman in proposing the toast – “Success to the Hall” said:- The opening of this hall is an important epoch in the history of our town. It, with its accessory rooms, will now supply a want that has been long felt in the town. Hitherto we have had to hold our political and other public meetings by favour, in some of our churches and schools. Some speakers addressing such meetings felt themselves very much out of place in speaking to an audience from a church platform, and the audiences sometimes did not conduct themselves as expected that they should do in a church. Of late years, no town of any importance has been considered complete without being adorned with a Town Hall. Our neighbours in Kirriemuir have lately decorated their town by adding to it such a useful public building. Coupar Angus is busy at work doing the same, and we are met here to-night in this social way with our friends to congratulate ourselves on the completion of our Town Hall. It is many years ago since a hall was first talked of, but it has fallen to us of this generation to have the honour of building it, and also of paying for it. Within the past 25 years or so Alyth has done a great deal for itself. We made a railway ourselves when the main lines would not do it for us. That line has now been sold to the Caledonian Railway Company; and I am bound to say that it is paying them handsomely. Since the adoption of the Lindsay Act, we have gone on steadily improving the town. This hall is the most recent of our enterprises. Its external appearance is most pleasing, and its interior arrangements are all that could be desired; and I think, will please the most fastidious. Great credit is due to the architect, Mr. Heiton, for the able manner in which he designed the building and for the way in which he took advantage of the site, so as to have it built at the lowest possible cost. In carrying out the whole of this undertaking every one has wrought harmoniously, and I would take this opportunity of thanking those who have assisted by subscriptions and otherwise; and specially I would thank the ladies for the great part they took, and the work they did in connection with the bazaar. As things now are, when the voice of the people is supreme, both in regard to local matters and Imperial affairs, this hall will be of great advantage to the community. It will also be of great advantage to the town for holding lectures, concerts, and other entertainments, many of which the town has been derived of through the want of a suitable hall. I hope that all that will be said, or done in this building will be for the good of the community, and that all will tend to elevate the people both morally and intellectually. (Applause.)

THE ALYTH GUARDIAN  
FRIDAY MAY 6, 1887

#### OPENING OF THE TOWN HALL

In continuation of the festivities in connection with the opening of the Town Hall, a concert was given in the hall by Miss Steel’s Select Choir, Perth, last Friday night. Before the commencement of the concert, Chief-Magistrate Smith, in a few well chosen remarks, congratulated the inhabitants on the acquisition of an excellent hall. He gracefully thanked the ladies for the material assistance they had rendered in carrying out the undertaking. At the close of the concert the hall was cleared for dancing. We give in full the observations on the concert and assembly of “*A Lady Correspondent*” which appeared in Monday’s Dundee Advertiser:-

*From first to last ladies have had a good deal to do with the raising of the new Town Hall at Alyth, for did they not organise a grand bazaar, and “run” it too, to the tune of eleven hundred pounds? It was right and fitting, therefore, that the ladies should be specially recognised in the opening festivities; and as it happens that one of the few things a woman may not do is to go to a public dinner and make speeches – unless, indeed, she be a Primrose League Dame – the feminine part of the proceedings took the form of a concert, followed by a dance, and all the beauty and fashion of Alyth, reinforced by contingents from neighbouring burghs, assembled to consecrate the hall to the twin muses of music and the Terpsichorean art.*

*The concert was in all respects a success. Here too, the ladies “scored”, for it was Miss Steel’s Choir from Perth that was selected to give the initial performance in the new hall, and the first concert took place under the graceful baton of a lady conductor. The choir was composed of eleven ladies and nine gentlemen; and as every individual voice was good, the whole effect was pleasing in the last degree. I don’t think I ever heard a more artistically rendered Scottish song than ‘The Land of the Leal’, sung by the choir – you could have heard a pin drop while it lasted. Another item received with great enthusiasm was J. Cargill Guthrie’s beautiful song “The Bonnie Braes o’ Airlie” and its reception was due not only to its local colouring and the touching story of genius and death which it holds, but to the genuine feeling and simplicity with which it was sung. The choir, indeed, was so popular that almost every item was encored, and as they were good-natured enough to respond on each occasion, the consequence was that the concert was protracted half-an-hour beyond its legitimate time. There may be doubts about the judiciousness of yielding to the recalls, but the singers deserve credit for their invariable habit of replying to encores by giving a verse or two of the same song over again, instead of starting on a different piece, after the manner of some amateurs. It stands to reason when a piece is re-demanded that the audience is pleased with the singers rendering of that particular song, and wishes to hear it over again. To substitute another is to defeat this desire; it creates a bad precedent too, and it teaches the public a bad lesson. To encore judiciously is in itself a musical education.*

*I was quite surprised to see vacant seats in the hall at the concert. Town Halls are not opened every day but, judging by the apathy of a portion of the public, it might happen once a week at least in Alyth. I must not forget to say that, of course, the inevitable speeches came in at the end, that the Provost congratulated alike the singers and the audience, and that Mr Peterkin in his gallant way sent away the choir covered with glory. A remarkable fact about the speeches, quite worthy of record, I think, at this time, was that no mention of the Jubilee occurred. For this relief much thanks.*

*The arrangements for the dance were mostly very satisfactory. There was a good floor though a trifle dusty – by the way the seats were frightfully dusty at the concert, to the detriment of the ladies’ dresses – and the mention of Adam’s famous band is sufficient to vouch for the quality of the music. There was a “gorgous” supper, too, as Robert would say in Punch; but still I cannot refrain from my feminine privilege of fault-finding.*

*Might I be allowed to point out, for instance, that the architect did not seem to have had in view such a gathering as last night in planning the waiting-rooms and other necessary accommodation of that kind. In the supper room only 25 could sit down at a time; and the ladies’ room was equally limited in size, there not being standing room for nearly all present on Friday night. And if these rooms – and they are very important in*

*their way – do not satisfy the present wants of the community, what about providing for the future needs of a growing place like Alyth?*

*Then, while the paraphernalia of the ball was excellent, its arrangements could have been vastly improved by a little forethought and attention to ordinary usages. At a hall like this, which was virtually a public one, there should have been at least a couple of stewards, distinguished from the other gentlemen by a conspicuous badge, charged with the duty of effecting introductions; looking after the strangers; answering in fact to the master of ceremonies at a larger gathering. Now there was apparently nothing of this kind here; or, if there was, the officials knew how not to do their duty so completely as to be unrecognisable. Of course both ladies and gentlemen suffer alike on such an occasion, but the ladies most, for they are absolutely helpless in the matter. I have pointed out this in order that when a hall is next opened in Alyth – or in any other place, for that matter – the opening ball may be a complete success in every way.*

*Well, to turn to a pleasanter topic, let me mention some of the prettiest gowns I saw on Friday evening. White was the colour most affected by young ladies, and whether in lace, muslin, satin, or nun's cloth, it looked equally well. One very pretty toilette was worn by a young girl, who was thought in some quarters the belle of the ball. It was a fine worked muslin frock, made princess fashion, with a white sash of ivory silk. The bodice was cut slightly away from the neck, and a cluster of pansies was the sole ornament. The wearer danced gracefully, and altogether was very charming to look at. Another pretty white dress was of Indian muslin, made with a baby bodice, and full sleeves confined by a band at the elbow. A scarlet fan and corsage bouquets of glowing geraniums gave a piquant finish to the whole, and just suited the wearer's clear complexion and dark hair. A very stylish toilette was of pink net over pink satin, the bodice made low, and finished with folds of net. A fan of pink ostrich feathers, and an aigrette to match in the hair, gave the finishing touches to a telling ensemble. A dress very much admired was composed of white lace over pink satin, the wearer having a half wreath of heath with its delicate blossoms in her hair. A black velvet dress with a square train lined apparently with old gold satin and handsome and dignified-looking, but as a rule the matrons of the evening wore black silk or satin gowns, which relied for their dressy look on their garniture of jet or lace. An effective toilette was composed of black lace and satin trimmed with buttercup yellow. A couple of pale blue gowns looked fresh and pretty, also a pale pink one with bows and other ornaments of crimson velvet ribbon, and a blue dress draped with white lace. Altogether the assemblage looked very smart, and as the long lines of brilliantly attired belles undulated in some of the figures of the Lancers, the effect was charming; and Alyth might feel proud of its rising generation. No doubt the new Town Hall as it progresses towards being an old one will be filled with many a gay and light hearted company, but no one could well be brighter than that which graced the opening of its career.*

In regard to what is said above about empty seats at the concert, and the apparent apathy of a section of the public, we deem it right to put upon record that had the general public been consulted – as they had a right to be – about the nature of the opening ceremonies, there would have been no empty seats, and everybody would have been satisfied.

The following is a correct list of those present at the assembly:-

*Ladies* – Mrs Smith, Miss Smith, Miss Minnie Smith, Miss Georgina Smith, Airlie Mount, Alyth; Mrs Stevenson and Miss Stevenson, Oak Lodge, Dundee; Misses Nicoll, Magdalen Place, Dundee; Miss Paterson and Miss Maggie Paterson, Pollokshields, Glasgow; Miss Smith and Miss Maggie Smith, Brookside, Alyth; Miss Paterson, 28 Rutland Street, Edinburgh; Miss Gold, Alyth; Miss Reid, Ruthven; Miss Irvine, Alyth; Miss Coupar, Brechin; Miss Nicoll, Alyth; Miss Harris, Alyth; Miss Leslie, Perth; Miss King, Dundee; Miss Greig, Leith; Mrs Brown, Alyth; Miss B. Milne, Greenmyre; Mrs Ferguson, Broughty Ferry; Mrs A. Lowson, Alyth; Miss Davidson, Glasgow; the Misses Constable, Baledgarno; Mrs Steele, Alyth; Miss Croll, Alyth; Miss Wilkie and Miss B. Wilkie, Camno; Mrs Barron, Alyth; Miss Myles, Balwhyme; Miss Fenton, Purgavie; Mrs Paterson, Glasgow; Miss Melville, Dundee; the Misses Fleming, Newport; Misses Galloway, Alyth; Miss Walker, Alyth; Miss Johnston, Alyth; Miss McInnes, Alyth; Miss Ann Robertson, Alyth; Miss Ferrier, Alyth; Miss Lowson, Dundee; Misses Cumming, Dundee; Miss Spalding, Leith; Miss Thompson, Dundee; Misses Grant, Glenisla.

*Gentlemen* – John Smith, Chief Magistrate, Alyth; James Stevenson, Greymount; H. Leslie, Alyth; J. Reid, Alyth; Dr Brown, Alyth; Dr Allan, Alyth; Dr Davidson, Alyth; Buchan Japp, Alyth; John Smith, jr., Alyth; Wm. Smith, jr., Alyth; A. Lowson, Alyth; W. Fleming, Alyth; S. Howe, Alyth; D. Walker, Alyth; T. Barron, Alyth; Mr Tawse, Alyth; J. Galloway, Alyth; A. Ables, Alyth; F. Goodall, Alyth; R. Thomson, Alyth; J. McInnes, Alyth; S. Mill, Alyth; T.M. Wilson, Kirriemuir; James Coupar, Kirriemuir; John Duncan, Kirriemuir; George Burton, Cortachy, Kirriemuir; J.K. Millar, Kirriemuir; John Cowie, Kirriemuir; Mr Milne, Kirriemuir; J. Sandeman, Kirriemuir; Mr Mitchell, Edinburgh; Mr Annand, Formall; Mr D Fenton, Purgavie; Mr Webster, Meigle; Mr Watt, Meigle; W.R. Duff, Glasgow; W. Paterson, Glasgow; D. Oswald, Glasgow; H.C. Alison, Dundee; . Lowson, Dundee; John S. Fairweather, Dundee; A. Fenton, Bankhead; D. Steele, Loyal; Mr Wylie Perth; D. McIntyre, Blairgowrie; A. McIntyre, Blairgowrie; Mr Fell, Blairgowrie; James Adam, Netherlogie; James Reid, jun., Brigton; Mr Tasker, Arnbog; Mr Wilkie, Camno; W. F. Fenton, Kinalty; Mr Spalding, Leith; Mr Millar, Tullyfergus; and I. Peterkin, Alyth.