

IN THE KINGDOM OF FIFE.

AUCHTERMUCHTY AND FALKLAND GOLF COURSES.

(Specially Contributed to the Evening Post.)



THE FOURTH HOLE AT AUCHTERMUCHTY.

Photo by Valentine & Son, Ltd.

What local lustre Auchtermuchty may lose by the impending withdrawal of its Licensing Authority will be more than compensated for by the recent opening of a course, for since the golf course was opened Provost Bonthronne has been busy giving medals and advice and countenance to the golfers, and the aid of all the Magistrates is required in bringing about a state of affairs at Rossie that may result in great benefits being received by the town. But it was principally to the Rev. Wm. Affleck that credit was due for the opening of a golf course at 'Muchty. The rev. gentleman can play golf, and we can yet recall his lively not too indulgently inclined towards ministerial golfers. Mr Affleck has since that time striven hard and successfully to invoke the aid of the townspeople, with the gratifying result that he now captains a club of seventy members, who play over a golf course that only needs a little grooming to make it "as good an inland course as I have ever seen," to quote a hackneyed phrase of the professional golf course designer.

A Magnificent Site

Beautiful for situation is the Auchter-

dance, while the roads for a day's ride in any direction are of a superb order. Golfing visitors are welcomed, and there is the additional enticement that the course record is at present too high to stand for long the

FALKLAND'S LINKS.

How They Could be Made More Popular.

In point of time the Falkland golfers were nearly a year constituted before their neighbours of Auchtermuchty, their opening ceremony having been performed in May last year.

the prosperity of the ancient burgh of Falkland. There is no evidence available of golf having been played formerly in the district, although the Palace of Falkland was for long the residence of a golfing dynasty.

Encouragement was not wanting from the neighbouring proprietors, and ultimately Mr Makgill Crichton of Lathrisk offered to supplement the common ground at the "Myres" by giving two fields adjoining free of rent. Himself a keen golfer, Mr Crichton has taken a deep interest in the scheme, and to-day he is gratified to know that success

muchty Golf Club's course. The clubhouse itself can be seen for many miles around by the approaching golfer, but the view from the clubhouse is one not easily matched within the four corners of the Kingdom. The Howe of Fife, with its numerous little towns scattered about its bosom, is stretched out below, while mountains and hills and laws attract the eye at every turn. The course is laid out on two fields on the farm of Rossie, which lies on the northern fringe of the Dy Rossie Den. It is of nine holes, and the play proceeds over excellent pastoral ground, considerably undulating, but not in a special sense hilly. Most of the putting-greens lie in hollows, or are obscured by hillocks, and hardly any of them can be seen until the approach shot is being played.

is assured. The Golf Club was formed before the course was ready, and its first captain is Mr Roland Gulland, and Mr James Forsyth is its first secretary.

The course may be described generally as a somewhat difficult one. One cannot but admire the courage of the promoters in tackling and surmounting so many formidable obstacles to the laying out of a golf course as presented themselves on the ground in question. But out of a wilderness has concerned.

All that the historic burgh requires in order to create a golfing "boom" in the district is a careful attention to the wants of visiting golfers, and that can best be done by providing a good surface over which to play. The physical hazards are unobjection-



FALKLAND PALACE.

Photo by Valentine & Son, Ltd.

All classes in the town have taken a share in founding the Golf Club, and encouragement is being offered in the way of competition trophies. The captain's silver medal is the allurement to the monthly handicap players, while Provost Bonthron's medal is reserved for youths under 18 years. Mr Archibald Walker, banker, has given a medal for the ladies' stroke competition, and Mrs Lvall, of Bellevue, one for match play secretary to the club Mr James Low, who hails from Monifieth Links. Mr Low had a good game in him before he left for Fife, his figure on the "average system" of the leading club there being 88. He is taking an enthusiastic interest in the development of golf at Auchtermuchty, and is the right man in the place where so much organising work has to be done. The golfer who is also a cyclist will find 'Muchty a capital change from a seaside course. The golfing facilities are sufficiently good to justify daily atten-

able, and they will tend to enhance the value of the course as time passes.

Historical Notes.

Auchtermuchty was erected into a Royal burgh in May, 1517, by Crown Charter, granted by King James V., and since that date its inhabitants have enjoyed all the privileges pertaining to a free Royal burgh. The population of the burgh at that time was of about 4000, or double the present population of the parish. Forty years ago the staple industry of the town was handloom weaving, but with the advent of the steam loom a great change took place affecting the industry upon which the inhabitants mainly depended, and necessitated a large portion of the population to seek pastures new in the large industrial centres of the country.