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Ptolemy's Scotland A. D. 140, and the Latest Upheaval on the West Coast

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Megalomorphæ" (spiders). All these writers show that strong evidence exists in favour of a former union between Africa and South America. It should be added that no groups of animals are better adapted to the study of ancient distribution than spiders and fresh-water crustaceans.

There is one remark I must add in conclusion, and that is that I shall not notice any further contributions of Mr. Moore's to this discussion, unless such contributions are written in a very different tone from that adopted by him in his letter published in the last number of this *Journal*.

W. T. BLANFORD.

Ptolemy's Scotland A.D. 140, and the Latest Upheaval on the West Coast.

Poltalloch, Lochgilphead.

The hill Dunadd, beside the river Add, stands about 2 miles from my house, and has long been a source of great interest to me.

There are evident geological signs that at one time the present Loch Awe, then a river, flowed to the sea between the site of my house and Dunadd, the stronghold in Scotland for at least two hundred years of the Dalriad kings, who came from Ireland. To a military eye Dunadd has now not much to specially recommend it as a place of strength for men whose connections were with Ireland, as between it and the sea stretches the big Crinan moss, through which the river Add winds its devious course; but if the sea came up to the foot of the hill or close to it, and the Awe as well as the Add flowed into the larger Crinan bay, then the military eye, in the days before gunpowder, would rejoice in the site.

I have long sought to find proof that in the comparatively recent days of the Dalriads the Awe did flow into Crinan bay, and to find the date when it ceased to do so. I think I have found both.

Ptolemy, in his map of Scotland dating from *circa* A.D. 140, shows his first station northwards from the Epidium Promontorium, or Mull of Cantire, as *Λόγγου ποταμοῦ ἐκβολαί*. This station is $1\frac{1}{2}$ degree east * from the Promontorium—a distance which, when converted into stadia on the Ptolemaic basis of 500 stadia to an equatorial degree, gives 400 stadia, or 40 nautical miles. Crinan bay, I find by Admiralty chart, is 48 miles, not far from the 40 of Ptolemy. I leave it to others to decide whether the Longus or *λόγγος* of Ptolemy is or is not a proper name—that is, whether the meaning is the mouth of a long river or of the long river, or of the river called "Long," merely noting that he writes a Latin word in Greek letters, but it may be of interest to know that the meaning attached to the Gaelic name Fadha, now called Add, is Long. I further find that A.D. 736 Dunadd was attacked and taken. Also the Annals of Ulster state that there was an earthquake in Ili (the Islay of to-day?) in A.D. 740, and that Dunadd was given up in A.D. 741.

It thus seems to me to be evident that the earthquake which accompanied the great 30-feet lift along the west coast of the Highlands, and which tilted up the bed of the Awe, damming the river and making it flow through the then opened pass of Brander, occurred A.D. 740. Also that Longus (*λόγγος*) was probably the Latin translation of the native name of the river, the Long, for it had its rise in

* Ptolemy's map, as is well known, makes Scotland lie west and east instead of north and south, and this station is really on the west coast of Argyll.

the springs of the Orchy and Stral, and was really a river of considerable length, and Ptolemy's map shows that it was flowing properly as late as A.D. 140. But when the upheaval came, Dunadd would be cut off from the sea, and most probably a horrid marsh took its place, making it worthless as a stronghold.

Moreover, I think it not unlikely the name Long adhered to the river which continued to flow into Crinan bay, being shifted from the former Awe to the present Add.

I claim no credit for abstruse researches; only a little local knowledge and an interest in the question. My facts come from a series of papers by the late Captain Thomas, R.N., contributed to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries some years ago.

E. D. MALCOLM,
Colonel late R.E.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1902-1903.

Anniversary Meeting, May 18, 1903.—Sir CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

THE Secretary read the minutes of the last Anniversary Meeting.

ELECTIONS:—*General Sir G. Digby Barker, K.C.B.; Commander Cuthbert Chapman, R.N.; Captain Henry Langrishe Cottingham, R.F.A.; James Currie; Lieut. John McClean Griffin, R.F.A.; Richard A. Hall; Henry Caborn Harper; Captain Claud Percival, Rifle Brigade; Jamieson Robertson; Hobart Chatfield Chatfield-Taylor.*

The presentation of the awards then took place.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Douglas Freshfield, the Council has selected you as the recipient of the Founder's Medal this year, and the selection has received the approval of His Majesty the King. The Council considered that you had well earned the Medal by your explorations commencing thirty-six years ago in the Caucasus and continued on several other occasions, during which time you made very important additions to our knowledge of the physical geography of that important range of mountains, and also for your journey at a very high level round Kanchinjunga, on which occasion you added largely to our knowledge. There were your services in the field, for which you have so well earned this medal. But the Council was also mindful of your long services to geography during a course of upwards of thirty years, and especially of the valuable work you have done in promoting geographical education. It is a great pleasure to me that it should be my duty to present the medal to you, when I remember the long term of years during which we worked together for a common object, always preserving friendly and harmonious relations with each other, and I now have much pleasure in placing the Patron's Medal in your hands.

MR. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD: It is now my duty to express to the Council my sincere gratitude for the very kind appreciation they have shown of my geographical career by recommending me to His Majesty for the Founder's Medal, the oldest honour which is in the gift of the Society. I think few recipients have been in a position to appreciate it more thoroughly than I am, for during the fifteen years I served on the Council, or as one of your hon. secretaries, I had constant and frequent opportunities of watching the extraordinary care and solicitude

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