

[Transcribed from the original]

Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser

Friday, 1 March 1889

‘Over Central Europe with a Knapsack’

This was the subject of a lecture delivered on Tuesday evening in the Lesser Town Hall, Castle Douglas, by the Rev. Samuel Crockett, Penicuik. Rev Geo Walker, president of the Mechanics Institute, under the auspices of which the lecture was given, presided. Mr Crockett, at the outset, made a humorous reference to the inconvenience of the knap-sack, it having led him, among other things, to be taken on one occasion for a Punch and Judy show (laughter.) He then proceeded to give his experiences of Switzerland which was, he said, virtually Central Europe. He first gave an insight into the manners and customs of the people, remarking that the Swiss were the Scotch of Central Europe – being Scotch even in appearance. Hunting and other kinds of sport peculiar to the country next claimed attention and the perils and pleasures of mountaineering were pictured in a fascinating manner. Leaving Switzerland, Mr Crockett made a reference to the surrounding countries – South-Western France and Italy – the chief characteristics of which he presented before his audience. He concluded by describing an interview he was privileged to have with Prince Bismarck, and by a story gave an illustration of the power of the great statesman over, and the magical effect of his name with, the officials of the German Empire. The lecture, which was most attentively listened to, was agreeably diversified by a number of anecdotes. On the motion of the Rev R. S. Wilson, Mr Crockett was at the close awarded a vote of thanks.