

VI.

NOTICES DESCRIPTIVE OF THE LOCALITIES OF CERTAIN SCULPTURED STONE MONUMENTS IN FORFARSHIRE, &c. (PART I.) BY ANDREW JERVISE, Esq., Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot.

IN introducing the following notices on the antiquarian and historical peculiarities of some of the sculptured stone monuments in the counties of Forfar, Perth, and Kincardine, it may be observed, that they will be confined chiefly to an account of such traces of ancient sepulture, or of other prehistoric remains, as I have either seen myself, or learned from undoubted authority, of having been found in their neighbourhood. To these it is also intended to add some of the more ancient and important points relating to the proprietary history of the different districts in which these obelisks are situated.

In thus entering upon the subject of these remarkable monuments, it may be observed, that the more than ordinarily rude style in which those of Bruce-ton and Dunnichen are carved perhaps indicates these to be the most ancient in the district. Though the figures of both are incised, they differ totally in design; and the Bruce-ton stone seems the more primitive of the two. Unlike that of Dunnichen, it does not appear to have been previously prepared to

receive the carving, by a hammering down of the surface or otherwise. But, apart from the affinity of these stones to each other in point of rudeness of design and execution, it is remarkable that the traditions of both localities are not only linked with identical incidents, but the more prominent mountains in both districts bear identical names. Within two miles of Bruceton we have the ancient hill-fort of Barry ; and, about a like distance from Dunnichen, is the well-known hill of Dunbarrow, confounded with that of Barry by Dr Playfair, in his account of the parish of Meigle ;¹ and, according to common tradition, both of these hills were used as prisons for Guanora, queen of the fabulous Prince Arthur.

Although history is silent regarding the occurrence of any early conflict at Bruceton, tradition says that "a dreadful battle" was fought there in the time of Robert the Bruce ; and to that circumstance, according to the peasantry, the monumental stone of Bruceton owes its name and origin. It is certain that traces of early sepulture have been found in the locality, sufficiently great in quantity to show that there had either been an engagement, or that the district was much more populous and important at a remote period than one would now suppose.

The BRUCETON MONUMENT stands in the parish of Alyth, within the county of Perth, but on the very borders of Angus, in the Haugh of the Isla, about a mile east of the old castle of Inverqueich, where King Edward I. abode a night in July 1296. During last autumn the immediate vicinity of this monument was searched by Dr Wise and myself, but nothing particular was found. On making inquiry about its history at a previous date, I was informed that about fifteen years ago, several stone coffins were discovered twenty or thirty yards N.E. of the monument ; and also, about eight years since, while a hillock was being levelled on the adjoining farm to the S.W., the workmen discovered a circle, built of rude land stones. The circle measured about eight yards across, and was surrounded by a trench about two feet deep. The trench was also constructed of common land stones, and contained a quantity of black clammy earth, and some fragments of bones. Perhaps these remains indicate a greater antiquity than the days of Bruce, to whose time, as before hinted, the peasantry attribute the origin of all the ancient graves which are found in this quarter.

Three parks west of the Bruceton Stone there stood, until lately, a rude unembellished boulder, eight or ten feet high, which also, according to common report, had reference to the time of Bruce. Another obelisk on the hillside, north

¹ Statistical Account, vol. i., p. 580.

of the site of the last-named, still remains, and is called "The Stannin' Stane o' Shanzy." It was partially searched some time ago, and some loose stones were got beside it; whilst in the valley, betwixt that stone and Bruce-ton, various traces of ancient interments have been found.

But however vague the story may be of a conflict having taken place at Bruce-ton in old times, Chalmers affirms that a battle was fought at Dunnichen, in A.D. 685, between the Pictish king Bridei and Egfrid of Northumbria, when the latter was defeated and slain.¹ Subsequently, near the same place, Feredeth, the Scots king, and his army, shared the same fate at the hands of Alpine, the Pictish prince.²

The DUNNICHEN MONUMENT was found in a field called the *Chashel* or Castle Park, and a stone coffin and bones were got below it. The site is now a quarry, and the flat ground immediately south of the terrace, upon which stood the sculptured stone, had formed part of Nechtan's Mere or Loch, where the defeat of Egfrid is said to have happened. The stone is now placed opposite to the porter's lodge at Dunnichen House, near the parish kirk. The kirk was inscribed to St Constantine, vulgarly called *Cousnan*; and throughout the farms of East and West Mains of Dunnichen—which were both reclaimed from the swamp or mere above mentioned—great quantities of tumuli and primitive graves have been discovered, some of which contained urns. The Rev. Mr Headrick, in speaking of this locality, in the "New Statistical Account" of the parish (1833), observes that, "a good many years ago, there was turned up with the plough a large flat stone, on which is cut a rude outline of an armed warrior's head and shoulders; and not many years ago, the plough also uncovered some graves in another part of the same farm. These graves consisted of flat stones on all sides. They were filled with human bones, and urns of red clay with rude ornaments upon them; the urns being filled with whitish ashes. By exposure to the air, the bones and urns mouldered to dust." It is worthy of remark, however strange it may appear, that the flat stone, which is here represented as bearing the warrior's head and shoulders, is nothing else than the carved stone monument now under review,—a fact which shows how variously and absurdly the emblems on these stones are interpreted, and how necessary and useful it is that they should be preserved by the engraver.³

Very few traces of ancient sepulture have been found in the immediate locality of Nechtan's Mere beyond those mentioned by Mr Headrick; but, to the west

¹ Caledonia, vol. i., p. 210.

² Holinshed, vol. i., p. 244.

³ Sculptured Stone Monuments, Plate 92.

of that, upon the lands of Lownie (the original property of the old Forfarshire family of Auchterlony), and in King's Muir adjoining, a variety of ancient graves have been now and then discovered. These, however, are not attributed to the same *melee* as took place at Nechtan's Mere, but to the better authenticated engagement between Feredeth and Alpine, already noticed.

A piece of artificial ground, called *The Brugh*, adjoins King's Muir. Dr Jamieson says, that an ancient stone coffin, of the Pictish kind, was found there some years before he wrote, and which he presumes to have been that of Feredeth, from the fact of its peculiar construction, and because the chroniclers say that Alpin laid Feredeth in Christian burial not far from Forfar.¹ A place in the same neighbourhood bears the name of Ferridan or Ferryton Fields; and the earliest record of that particular patch of ground is in the first year of Robert II., who granted the half of it, or about thirteen acres, to William Bydoun, "pro seruiis debitis et consuetis manerio nostro de Forfare."²

Since the days of Dr Jamieson many old graves have been found in the same quarter, in the course of railway excavations. Only four years ago, about a mile N.E. of the town of Forfar, on a line with the reputed battle-field of Feredeth and Alpin, several graves were found in a gravel hillock. They were little more than a foot below the surface, composed of rude flag-stones, and from three to four feet long. Fragments of bones were found in the whole except one, and in it an urn was got, and some black beads, most probably of jet. Through the carelessness of the workmen, the urn was broken to pieces; and nothing satisfactory is preserved regarding the contents of the graves beyond the facts here given, which are gathered from the common report of the people in the district.

These coffins were little more than a mile west of the Blackgate of PITSCANDLY, where stand TWO UNEMBELLISHED OBELISKS on the top of an artificial mound. These are fully two miles distant from Aberlemno, and, according to popular story, they mark the graves of Feredeth and his generals. One of them is of great size, and both appear to be the remains of an ancient circle of rude stones, similar to those called "Druidical." Whether the place was ever used for worship is uncertain; but on one of the stones being blown over some time ago, a clay urn was found beneath it containing burned ashes,—a discovery which confirms the idea of its having been a place of burial. More recently, while a part of the hillock was being dug, a small piece of stone was found, about 18 inches square, upon which were incised two concentric circles, and other enigmatical markings. This fragment is preserved at the mansion-house of Pitscandly,

¹ Scot. Diet. *in voce*.

² Reg. Mag. Sig., 89, 313.

and is said to be a part of the largest of the two remaining obelisks which had scaled off.

The whole of this locality abounds in traces of ancient sepulture; and on the farm of Carsegowrie, about halfway between Pitscandly and Aberlemno Church, a stone coffin, in a pretty entire state, is preserved in its original site. It is in the middle of an artificial hillock, nearly circular, composed of stones and earth, measuring about 30 paces across the centre, and from 8 to 10 feet in height. The bottom of the grave is about 3 feet below the surface, and was composed of six separate flags of freestone, all of which remain except the top. It is about 4 feet long, by 2 feet broad, and lies due north and south. A stone urn was found in the south-east corner, and two stone dishes with handles or ears, resembling those of "luggies." No bones, weapons, or personal ornaments were to be seen, but the urn was about half full of black ashes. As a whole, although not cemented with clay or any similar substance, this cist is the most carefully constructed that I have yet seen. No other coffins were found *within* the circle of the hillock; but upon the very margin of it, and not more than a foot below the surface, three or four others were disinterred at the same time. They were also constructed of detached slabs of freestone, not so carefully formed as the one in the centre of the mound, and differing very materially from it in size,—being from 6 to 6½ feet in length. This ancient place of burial is close to the north side of the old road from Brechin to Forfar, south of the farm-house of Carsegowrie; and, from the peculiar form of the knoll, it is called "The Roundie." It ought also to be stated that three or four rude stone coffins, some of which contained bones, were lately dug out of a gravel hillock, near the hamlet of Henwell Burn, about half a mile east of the Roundie. The stone urn and dishes found in the grave at Roundie, were given to the late Mr Charles Gray of Carse Gray, proprietor of the lands; but whether they are still at the family mansion, I am not aware. Carsegowrie was anciently within the boundary of the great forest of Plater, which also comprehended the Hill of Finhaven, on which there is a vitrified fort, and within a mile of that fort the Roundie is situated. Sir Robert Bruce, natural son of Robert I., had the lands of Carsegowrie along with those of Finhaven;¹ and, subsequently, a cadet of Rynd of Broxmouth had a charter of the estate of Carse from David II., on the payment of a reddendo of a pair of white gloves, and two silver pennies yearly.² The Rynds continued long in possession of these lands—indeed, down to the close of the 17th century, when the property was disposed of in portions—Carsegowrie falling into the hands of a cadet of the noble house of Argyll.

¹ Robertson's Index, p. 18, 82.

² Ibid., p. 81, 161.

The friars of the old convent of Montrose had an interest in these lands,¹ and a small annual rent and certain privileges are still held over them by the civic authorities of that burgh, as trustees of the ancient hospital.

Upon the old estates of Tillyquhanland and Flemington, on the south and east of the Kirk of Aberlemno, ancient graves have been found in almost every field; and in the hollow betwixt Flemington and the Den of Melgund, cists were so numerous till within the last few years, that on opening the smallest hillock, specimens could be procured at convenience. The graves in this district are about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long; almost all of them are found to contain bones in a comparatively entire state; and, in some instances, whole skeletons have been got. On the very top of the Hill of Angus, which is upon Mains of Melgund farm, a large earthen barrow long formed a conspicuous object in the landscape; and when it was removed, some years ago, two or three stone coffins were discovered, containing a slight quantity of bones, but no trace of pottery ware. From the point where these graves were found, an extensive view is obtained of the valley of Strathmore, including some of the vitrified sites in Angus and Mearns.

At the Church of ABERLEMNO, and in an adjoining field, are THREE of the finest specimens of those SCULPTURED REMAINS, and also one UNEMBELLISHED. Two of the sculptured stones, and the unembellished obelisk, are in the same field, but I am not aware that anything remarkable has been found in connection with either. During last autumn I made a particular search in their immediate localities, but only ascertained that the stone with the transfixed serpent incised upon it stood on the north side of a circle or cairn of small stones. The circle was about 6 feet across, nearly 30 inches deep in the middle, and appeared to have been searched before, though the deposit of stones was not less than a foot below the surface of the field. My belief that this spot had been previously searched, is founded on the fact that the land-stones were mixed up with some slabs of freestone, which were about a foot deep, and 18 inches long, having quite the appearance of the stones commonly used in the construction of cists. I was told by an old parishioner, that, when the field was first cultivated in which those monuments now stand, several stone coffins were got in it, containing bones, immediately south of the stone with the transfixed serpent. The largest of these obelisks stands by the roadside, and is fixed into a pedestal or large foot-stone, so nicely fitted, that, at the first glance, the foot appeared to be a portion of the shaft. This obelisk was also surrounded by a mass of stones, but these seemed to be of recent deposit, and had most probably been collected off the field during agricultural operations.

¹ Crawford Case, p. 10.

The brief account given of those monuments in 1569¹ is well known, and tradition says that they commemorate the defeat of a party of Danes at Aberlemno, in the time of Malcolm II. Alban Butler remarks, in regard to this idea, that Malcolm, to perpetuate his victory, "erected a monastery under the patronage of the Virgin Mary, in the town of Brechin, near which the battle was fought, and by raising an obelisk at the spot, still standing at a village called Cuin, from the name of a Danish general that was there slain."² Cuin is evidently an error for *Camuston*, or it may be for *Crosston*, as the village of Aberlemno, where these crosses stand, is known by both names even at this day. Tradition farther affirms that those carvings were once read by a Danish soldier, who sat long beside them and wept bitterly. This story, and the interpretation of the hieroglyphics, is preserved in those rude old rhymes—

"Here lies the King o' Denmark's son,
Wi' twenty thousand o' his horse and men." ;

And—

"Here lies the King o' Denmark sleepin',
Nae body can pass by this without weepin'."

But it ought not to be forgotten that, long prior to the reputed defeat of the Northmen at Aberlemno, the *Annals of Ulster* bear record of a battle which was fought there (Lemnha), in A.D. 697, in which it is said, "Conquar Mac echa M'Maldwin and Aod, the tall king of Daleriaid," were slain.³ It is not, therefore, improbable, if this notice can be relied upon, but a great part of these sepulchral traces owe their origin to that transaction.

But to return to the Hill of Angus. At the bottom of that ridge, towards the river South Esk, and upon the Gallow Law of BALGLASSIE, A RUDELY INCISED STONE was discovered about ten years ago. According to the farmer's description, it bore representations of a battle-axe and cross-bow, and measured about four by two feet. It was found about a foot under the surface, and formed the top of a coffin, which was carefully constructed of rude stone slabs; and a skull, and other traces of human remains, were found within it. I have seen upwards of a dozen of such coffin slabs in the churchyards of Forfarshire alone, and one of these is in the old burial-ground at Finhaven, and two or three in that of Aldbar, both places being in the neighbourhood of Balglassie.

South of the Gallow Law, in the direction of the ford that crosses the Esk at Nether Careston (which is sometimes called the Roman Station of *Esica*), there was found an ancient causeway, about thirty feet broad, and of considerable

¹ *Extracta Cron. Scot.*, p. 252.

² "Lives of the Saints" (S. Moloc, June 25).

³ *Johnstone's Antiquitates Celto-Normannicæ*, p. 59.

length. It was constructed of rough whin-stones, as closely laid, the farmer remarked, as were the stall floors of his own stables.

No coffins, or any other trace of early times, were found in the track of this causeway, except at a hollow part of the field, where the stones appeared to be laid on twigs, of which there was a densely packed mass underneath. I am not aware that any similar traces either of the old causeway or wattling-road, have been found in any other part of the district.

The well-known Roman camp of Battledykes is only about three miles to the westward of the site of this causeway; and Balglassie is nearly equidistant from the site of the castle of Woodwray and the romantic kirkyard of Aldbar, at both of which places sculptured stone monuments have been discovered.

The WOODWRAY MONUMENT was found about the year 1819, when the foundations of the old castle were cleared away. Woodwray is now a farm belonging to the Melgund estate; and Mr Somerville, then factor to Lord Minto, being an intimate acquaintance of Sir Walter Scott, sent the sculptured stone to Abbotsford, where it still stands. It was conveyed to Montrose, and there shipped to Leith by Mr Andrew Henderson, presently tenant of the farm, from whom I had my information about it. The stone was got in the floor of the kitchen of the castle; and Mr Henderson says that there was another in the same place, much mutilated, bearing similar carvings; but not having been sent to Sir Walter Scott, it lay carelessly about for many years, and at length disappeared altogether. The Castle of Woodwray stood in a hollow, north of the Kirk of Aberlemno, near the north-east corner of the vitrified hill-fort of Finhaven.

The rising ground south of the site of the Castle, is called the *grave hill*, and there a circle of stones was found, closely set together, each about a foot in diameter, enclosing a pit of black earth. The earth was mixed with burned bones and charcoal, some flint arrow-heads, and other primitive vestiges. Old graves have occasionally been found on other parts adjoining this old castle seat, particularly on the farm of Bogardo, in the parish of Finhaven, but nothing of importance is preserved relative to the nature of their construction, &c. Although Woodwray adjoins the great forest and barony of Plater, it appears to have been always a separate lordship, tithed to the Priory of Rostinoth, and the most ancient of its proprietors bore the name of Wallam or Volume. Perhaps they were descended of John de Welhame, the predecessor of Sir James Lindsay, in the castle of Inverqueich.¹ It is certain that they possessed the lands from an early date down to the first half of the 17th cen-

¹ Reg. Mag. Sig., p. 137, 55.

tury, when the family circumstances became so crippled, that the laird of the period, after selling his estate to a cadet of the Lindsays of Crawford, was reduced to a state of mendicity, and in that position received assistance from the poor's-box of the parish of Brechin.¹

Before giving an account of the prehistoric traces which have been found in the neighbourhood of Aldbar and Farnell, a glance at such points of the historical and proprietary history of the above named districts, as have not already been touched upon, may be interesting, although it is feared it will add nothing towards the elucidation of the history of those singular monuments.

In the midst of the reputed battle-field of Alpin and Feredeth, the Priory of Rostinoth was founded by Boniface in A.D. 624,² or nearly 200 years before the era ascribed to the battle, and had, therefore, been a place of some note at that time, although there is no charter evidence of the existence of the Priory until the days of Malcolm IV. Of Pitscandly, as a separate lordship, nothing is known till about the beginning of the 17th century, when it was possessed by a Lindsay.³ But the thanedom of Aberlemno, and the lands of Tillyquhanland, Flemington, Balglassie, and Melgund, have a more interesting and distinct history. The first of these was given by Bruce to William Blunt, the representative of an old Dumfriesshire family;⁴ and the mill of Aberlemno, and the lands of Tillyquhanland and Balglassie, and also an annuity out of those of Flemington, were conferred by David II. on Sir William Dissington, whom I presume is the same person who was sheriff of Fifeshire, and master of the works, or builder of the Kirk of St Monance in that county.⁵ Melgund, more recently the property of Cardinal Beaton, who acquired the lands, and erected the castle about 1542, belonged of old to the family of Annand, who held the forestership of Plater, before it fell into the hands of Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk. Melgund passed from a descendant of Beaton, to the Marquis of Huntly in 1622. Soon afterwards it was owned by Henry Maule, the reputed author of the "History of the Picts;" and by a female descendant of his, through Murray of Philiphaugh, it came to the present proprietor the Earl of Minto.

The burn of Melgund, which skirts the old castle, was the boundary of the parish of ALDBAR on the west, and that of Aberlemno on the east; and the whole lands to the east of that burn, until it joined with the parish of Brechin, anciently belonged to the Cramonds of Aldbar. They were proprietors of these

¹ Brechin Sess. Records, July 1636.

² Extracta Cron. Scot., p. 255.

³ Services of Heirs, Forf. A.D. 1616.

⁴ Robertson's Index, p. 18, 80.

⁵ Reg. Mag. Sig. p. 44, 121; Chamb. Rolls, pp. 469, 524.

lands before 1296 ; for which the laird of the period, Laurence de Cramound, did homage to Edward I.

As previously remarked, a SCULPTURED STONE was found at the chapel of Aldbar. The early history of that chapel is lost in obscurity, but there is reason to believe, from its romantic situation, that it originated, like many other ancient places of worship, in being the abode of some recluse, contemporary, perhaps, with the introduction of Christianity into Scotland. It lies in the bottom of a narrow den by the side of a burn, about 200 feet below the adjoining lands, overshadowed by rocks and venerable trees. It is mentioned in the ancient *taxatio*, which was rated in the time of Alexander III. ; and, although the limits of the old parish of Aldbar, and the proprietors of the lands from a remote date, can be traced with certainty, it is only in 1429 that we first meet with the name of one of its priests. At that period the cure was held by a person surnamed Greenlaw,¹ and he may have been related to Bishop Gilbert of Aberdeen, who flourished about the same time. The church belonged to the diocese of St Andrews, and was attached to the provostry of Methven ; but the exact period of the suppression of the parish is unknown, as is the time of its annexation to Aberlemno, and also the name of the Father to whom the kirk was inscribed.

In a gravel hillock, adjoining the Toll-bar of Stannoch, within a short distance of the Chapel of Aldbar, several cists were found while making a road from Brechin to Dundee, by Lucky's Slap, in the year 1832. They were composed of rude slabs, had a much more primitive character than that at Carsegownie, and lay due north and south. They were each about four feet long, and from twelve to eighteen inches below the surface. I remember seeing three of them with the skulls, thigh, arm, and some other bones, in a pretty entire state. Similar, but not so complete specimens of old sepulture have been found in the "grave hill," near the Stannoch Bridge, north-east of the Toll-house, and also in the direction of the lands of Buthirkill, or Burghill, along the southern banks of the South Esk.

Three years ago, a stone coffin was discovered in the field called Burghill Park, within 200 yards of the site of the old chapel of Buthirkill. It was in the middle of a gravel hillock, about two feet below the surface. Unlike most old stone coffins, the sides and ends were built of small round whin-stones, such as those found on the fields ; two rude slabs formed the top, and the soil the bottom, but there was no trace of human bones or pottery ware. Large trunks of oak trees have been found in a marsh beside this hillock, apparently of a great age.

¹ Reg. Episc. Brech. i., p. 42.

In the same field Edward I. is said to have placed his war-engines while besieging Brechin Castle in 1303; and some years ago, a short distance from the site of the coffin just mentioned, a ball of freestone, about three feet in circumference, bearing marks of having been fashioned by a hammer or chisel, was turned up by the plough in the course of agricultural operations. It would be interesting to know whether this was one of the missiles intended to be used at the siege—a fact which could possibly be ascertained by comparing it with the missiles of the period. It is in good preservation, and bears no marks of having ever been used. Still later than the discovery of this ball, a large clay urn was found on the very top of the hill of Buthirkill. It too, was got in a gravel hillock, in the road leading past Middle Drums, within a short distance of the Law on that farm. Believing it to contain a *pose*, the workmen had it mutilated before it was heard of; but from what remains of it, it appears to have been at least two feet high, and eighteen inches across the orifice. As far as ascertained, it had not been preserved in a cist or any other building, there being but one flat stone near it, which is supposed to have been placed upon its mouth. It had been held together while drying by plaited twigs or cords, of which it bore the marks. Some blackish damp stuff in the bottom, was the only thing found in it.

The peasantry have a vague tradition that a battle was fought in this quarter. Perhaps this story is confounded with that of the siege of Brechin; for neither the era of the fight, nor the names of any of its actors, are handed down. Still, apart from the few traces of prehistoric remains which have been found here, some stone coffins with urns, urns without coffins, and stone coffins alone, containing bones, are being constantly discovered throughout almost every part of the old royal hunting forest of Montreatmont. That forest lies immediately to the south of Aldbar and Buthirkill, stretching nearly the whole way from Farnell to Rescobie, a distance of six or eight miles.

In the churchyard of FARNELL, which lies a little to the south-east of Montreatmont Muir, I found a MONUMENTAL STONE, in a mutilated condition, during the summer of 1849. It was got in the line of the foundation of the old kirk; and although only a few inches below the surface, it had not been before observed.¹ The lands of Farnell belonged in property to the Bishopric of Brechin. The castle continued to be an occasional residence of the Bishops of Brechin till past the Reformation, when Bishop Campbell alienated the castle and lands of Farnell, as he did the greater part of the property of the See of Brechin, to his

¹ The Earl of Southesk proposes to preserve this monument in the lobby of his Castle of Kinnaird, which is now undergoing extensive alterations.

relative and patron, the Earl of Argyll. A portion of the Bishop's castle or residence at Farnell still stands, and upon the lowest stones of the skewers or crow-steps are the two monograms which are represented in the annexed woodcuts:



Edward I. was at the castle of Farnell in 1296 ; and in the early part of the same century a baron witnesses various local charters, under the name of Duncan de Fernevell;¹ and he, doubtless, had been a vassal of the Bishop. The earliest recorded vicar of the church is William Herwart, who flourished from at least the year 1435;² but to what vicar, or if to any, the monument referred to was raised, cannot be said. It bears a beautifully interlaced cross, Adam and Eve at the forbidden tree, and other objects of more doubtful interpretation.³

Upon the glebe lands of Farnell, about 200 yards west of the kirkyard, a stone coffin was lately discovered. It was on the south or sunny side of a sloping bank, and contained some bones. It was about three feet long, the sides and top were of rude flag stones, and the bottom was formed by a single stone nicely scooped out.

At Greenlaw and Red Den, about a mile to the westward of the Kirk of Farnell, a variety of ancient stone coffins and urns have been discovered. Both places are within the old boundary of Montreathmont Muir ; and the Red Den, formed by the channel of a burn which runs from west to east, is so named from the peculiar colour of its soil ; while the Greenlaw *Knap*, a conical mound by the road side, has its name from its verdant appearance.

The prehistoric traces that have been found in both these localities, consist of the ordinary sort of stone coffins and urns. One of the coffins contained a stone hatchet, but no trace of bones or urns ; and in the corner of another, which was found at the Red Den, there was a small round urn or cup, of rather superior manufacture, about 2 by 3½ inches high, and 1½ inch deep inside. This cup is quite entire, and the interior of it appears to have been coated with a yellowish substance. A large cinerary urn of greyish clay, about a foot high, and

¹ Reg. Vet. de Aberbrothoc, p. 34, &c.

² Reg. Episc. Brech. i., p. 67, &c.

³ Sculptured Stones of Scotland, Plate lxxxvi.

8½ inches across at the mouth, was found in a tumulus in the same neighbourhood. The urn contained some trace of burned ashes. Both relics are now in the Montrose Museum, to which they were presented by the late Lady Carnegie of Southesk.

It must, however, be understood, that no remains have ever been discovered, so far as known, upon the Greenlaw itself. While speaking of this place, it ought to be known, that two or three years ago, the Earl of Southesk caused a deep section to be made through that hillock, from north to south, but nothing was found. In fact this knoll, like many others in the same locality, though it has an artificial appearance, is clearly natural, and had been formed by deposits of ancient streams, the remains of which, in the shape of pretty large burns, still flow in its vicinity.

It may be remarked, that there was an old hamlet and pottery work at an ancient ecclesiastical site in the parish of Farnell, called Kuikstoun, until near the close of last century. Mention is made of "the *pigger* of Kuikstoun or Kinnaird" in 1646;¹ and I am informed by parties skilled in such matters, that the clay of which the smallest urn or cup is made, is of the same sort as that found at Kuikstoun.

Near the site of the old Kirk of Kuikstoun a hillock or knoll is called *Rume's*² *Cross*; why so named, neither history nor tradition bears any record. It may have reference to the saint to whom the Kirk of Kuikstoun was dedicated; but, except the names of SS. Rumon and Rumold, I know of none of the Fathers having a name at all akin to *Rume*, and do not see what connection they could have had with that district. Perhaps it preserves the name of some local saint, of whom all record is now lost.

¹ Brechin Presb. Records, vol. i.

² [This peculiar name of Rume's Cross reminds one of the *Rune Pictorum* and *Rune-twethel* mentioned in the charter of King Alexander II., 1221, and referred to in Mr Bricchan's communication (*vide* p. 147). It may possibly have been more correctly *Rune's Cross*, commemorating the previous existence of a cross or stone with a Runic inscription.—ED.]

March 10, 1856.

ARCHIBALD T. BOYLE, Esq., Advocate, V.P., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :—

JAMES DOUGLAS, Younger of Cavers, Esq.

JAMES GEORGE SYME, Esq., Advocate.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were exhibited :—

Denarius of the Emperor Constantius II., dug from the channel of the Clyde—Reverse, within a laurel garland, VOTIS · XXX · MVLTI · XXXX ; in exergue, P · CONS.

Silver Hoop Ring, inscribed + I + I A C R A S C R A · S R (the R's are upside down), found in the ruins of the Abbey of Arbroath.

Small Stone Chisel or Axe, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $1\frac{1}{4}$ broad, found in Forfarshire.

Bronze Looped Socketed Celt ; and two Roman Coins in poor preservation (a Brass of Diocletian, struck at Alexandria, and a large Brass, apparently of Philip, the elder), stated to have been found near the Curragh of Kildare, Ireland.

A Copper Medal of Geo. II., struck on the Peace of Aix la Chapelle—Reverse “ PEACE NOURISHES TRADE ; ” in exergue, PROCLAIM'D 2 FEB. 1748. Found in widening the channel of the River Clyde.

Small Gold Coin of the Dewan Moolraj of Mooltan in the Punjaub. Moolraj, who made so gallant a stand against the British under General Whish, 1848–49, having fallen short of money, the women, rather than allow him to surrender, gave up their ornaments and jewels, which were converted during the siege into a

small coin called the "Mooltan rupee." These have already become very rare. By J. C. ROGER, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

A small Four-sided Ornament of Stone, apparently quartz, tapering towards each extremity, shaped somewhat like a small hone, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches long by $\frac{5}{8}$ inch broad, and a conical piece of Bituminous Shale, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches long; found in a moss in Ayrshire, at a depth of about 7 or 8 feet from the surface, whilst cutting a deep drain.

Ancient Turkish Arrow from the Castle of Aleppo, where there is a large vault or chamber filled with them to the depth of several feet.

Another from an old tower in the Houran, which was sacked by Ibrahim Pasha's soldiers. By W. COCHRAN PATRICK, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. VII.; with two Annual Reports and List of Institutions in Correspondence with the Smithsonian Institution. By the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington, U.S.A.

Archæologia, Vol. XXXVI., Part 1; Proceedings, Nos. 41-42, and List of Fellows for 1856. By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, London.

Illustrations, Historical and Genealogical, of King James' Irish Army List (1689); by JOHN D'ALTON, Esq. By the AUTHOR.

On the suggestion of COSMO INNES, Esq., a committee was named to make arrangements for the reception of several eminent French Antiquaries, who are expected to visit Scotland on the occasion of the Meeting of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain, to be held in Edinburgh in July next.

The Communications read were the following:—