

IV.

NOTICE OF A STONE, BEARING A ROMAN INSCRIPTION, BUILT INTO A STAIRCASE IN JEDBURGH ABBEY. BY J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE, D.C.L., LL.D., HON. MEM. S.A. SCOT. COMMUNICATED BY THE MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LOTHIAN, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

The stone which bears the following inscription forms the lintel over the entrance to the north turret stair at the west end of Jedburgh Abbey. The inscription is on the under side, and covers about half the stone, the lower portion of which is rougher than the inscribed part, and appears to have been buried in the earth. As will be seen from the following letter by Dr Collingwood Bruce, the stone appears to have originally formed part of a Roman altar:—

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, *June 8, 1885.*

MY LORD,—Through your kindness, I have been supplied with a cast of a stone, bearing a Roman inscription, which has been built into a staircase of Jedburgh Abbey. You ask for my views as to the reading of the inscription, which I have great pleasure in giving you. (A representation of the inscription¹ is given in fig. 1.)

The stone no doubt forms the largest part of a Roman altar, but probably a portion of it has been removed by the masons of the abbey to fit it for its place in the structure. As represented by the cast, it measures 21 by 15 inches.

The letters are well formed, and though one or two of them have been purposely obliterated, and one or two others are slightly obscure, I have no doubt that the inscription has originally stood thus:—

IOM VEXI
LLATIO RETO
RVM GAESA
Q ' C ' A ' IVL
SEVER TRIB

¹ The Society is indebted to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, through Dr Collingwood Bruce, for the use of the illustrations in this paper.

and may be thus expanded?—*Joci optimo maximo, vexillatio Raetorum Gaesatorum quorum curam agit Julius Severinus tribunus*; and may be thus translated:—"To Jupiter the best and greatest the vexillation of Rhaetian spearmen under the command of Julius Severinus the tribune . . . [erected this]."

I believe a "vexillation" was a body of men selected from various cohorts or even legions for some special expedition, but all fighting under one common standard or *vexillum*.

I need hardly say that *Raetorum* is a rustic spelling for *Rhaetorum*. It is interesting to find in Jedburgh at the present day traces of men



Fig. 1. Stone with Roman Inscription in Jedburgh Abbey (21 by 15 inches).

who in the infancy of our country's history had travelled all the way from Rhaetia, the country of the Grisons on the Alps, near the Hercynian forest.

The word *Gaesatorum* is somewhat peculiar and of rare occurrence. I have only met with it once before. The word *gaesum* seems to have been the name of a peculiarly formed javelin or spear. This weapon was at first only used by savage tribes, but it was eventually adopted by some Roman troops, who hence took the name of *Gaesati*. Wherein the peculiarity of this weapon consisted we have no means of knowing.

In the Roman station of *HABITANCUM*, the modern Risingham, in the

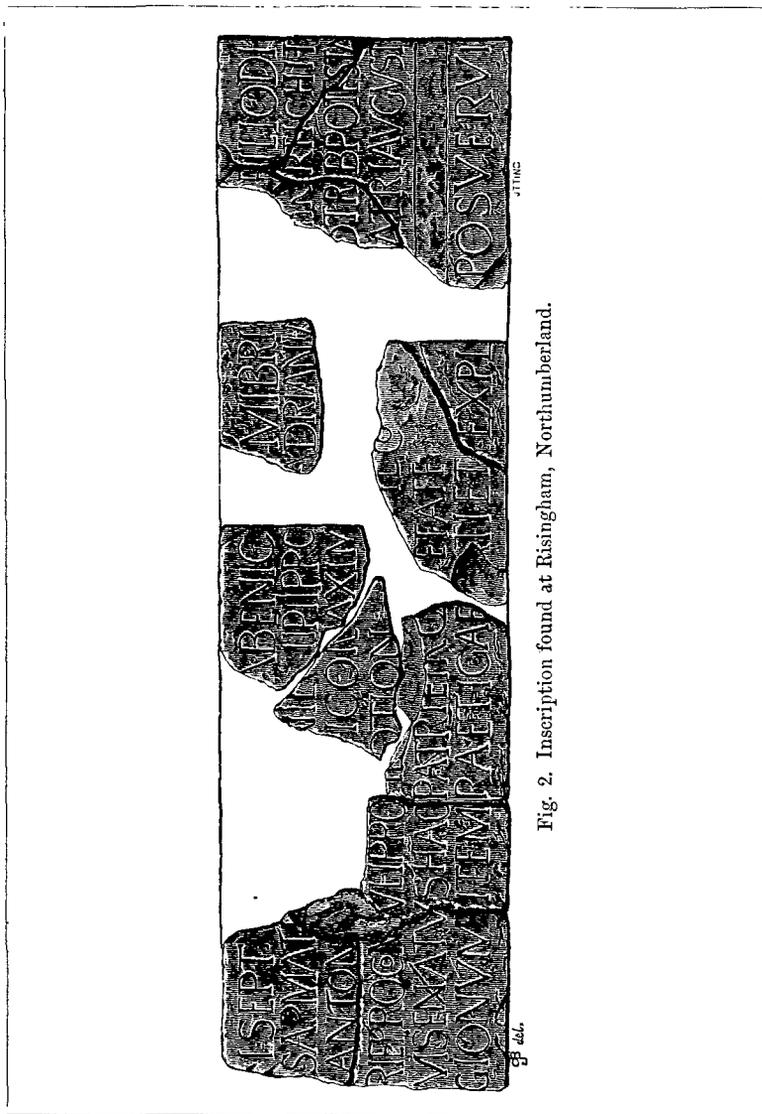


Fig. 2. Inscription found at Risingham, Northumberland.

north of Northumberland, we meet with a much fractured inscription (fig. 2) in which the *Raeti Gaesati* are mentioned. The last line of the inscription is as follows :—

[COH I VAN]GIONVM ITEM RAETI GAESATI ET EXPL[ORATORES] . . .
POSERVNT.

There can be little doubt that the *Raeti Gaesati* on this Risingham stone are the same troops as carved the Jedburgh stone. Risingham is on the Watling Street, and a march of a comparatively few miles would bring them to the Jedburgh of the present day. The inscribed stone to which I here refer to is given and figured in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, No. 628. It is also given in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vol. vii. No. 1002. The stone itself is preserved in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle.

The letters Q, C, A in the fourth line are each followed by a leaf stop. When we moderns contract a word we put a full stop after it. Two other inscriptions have been found at Risingham with these letters upon them. I follow Professor Hübner of Berlin, one of the most learned of epigraphists, in reading them “*quorum curam agebat or apit.*”

There is one more stone from Risingham (fig. 3) now in the Museum at Newcastle, which throws light upon the Jedburgh inscription. It is an altar to *Fortuna Redux*—“Fortune which brings back in safety.” It is figured in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, and is also given in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vol. vii. No. 984. It reads thus :—

FORTVNAE REDVCI
IVLIVS SEVERINVS
TRIB. EXPLICITO
BALINEO · V · S · L · M.

“Julius Severinus the tribune erects this altar on the occasion of the completion of a bath to Fortune who brings back in safety, in discharge of a vow, most willingly, and to a most deserving object.”

The value of this inscription on the present occasion is to give us the name in full of the tribune who dedicates to Jupiter the altar in the

walls of the Abbey of Jedburgh. I was disposed at first to read the name of the dedicator as Julius Severus ; there can be no doubt, however, that the SEVER of the Jedburgh stone is but a contraction for the SEVERINVS of the Risingham stone.



Fig. 3. Roman Altar, from Risingham.

Probably a line or two of the Abbey stone is wanting. As the first cohort of Vangiones was quartered at *Habitancum*, Risingham, our

tribune Severinus may have, when on home duty, ranked as their commander. There may therefore have been in the last line of our inscription

COH · I · VANGIONVM

and perhaps also yet another bearing the letters

V · S · L · M

Votum solvit libens merito. These, however, are doubtful points.

I trust the explanation which I have ventured to give may on the whole be approved of. I have communicated my views to Professor Hübner, and I am glad to say he agrees with me.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE.

To the Most Hon. the Marquis of Lothian,
President, Soc. Antiq. Scot.

MONDAY, 8th June 1885.

PROFESSOR NORMAN MACPHERSON, LL.D., Sheriff of Dumfries
and Galloway, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentleman was duly elected a Fellow of the Society :—

THOMAS STEEDMAN, Clydesdale Bank, Kinross.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1) By ROBERT THOMSON, Architect, Glasgow, through JAMES DALRYMPLE DUNCAN, F.S.A. Scot.

Cinerary Urn of clay, $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, by $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter at the mouth, ornamented in the upper part with a band of raised zigzags and bosses.

Cinerary Urn of clay, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter

at the mouth, ornamented with impressed lines and zigzags above the shoulder.

These urns were found at Uddingstone, in the parish of Bothwell, Lanarkshire. [See the subsequent communication by J. Dalrymple Duncan.]

(2) By Rev. JAMES RUSSELL, Minister of Walls and Flotta, Orkney.

Polished Celt of granite, adze-shaped, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches across the cutting face, found at Burnhouse, Longhope, Orkney.

(3) By Rev. C. J. COWAN, B.D., F.S.A. Scot., Minister of Morebattle, Kelso.

Fragments of a Bronze Sword, and a small Ring of Bronze, found in the glebe at Kelton, Kirkcudbrightshire.

The Rev. Mr Cowan has supplied the following notice of the circumstances in which they were found :—

“These fragments of a bronze leaf-shaped sword were found in March 1885, in the glebe of Kelton, near Castle-Douglas, some two feet below the surface. The sword appears to have been perfect, but was broken and otherwise injured by the workmen in removal; and, when search was subsequently made, the missing part, the point, could not be recovered. The fragments, when pieced together, measure just over 17 inches in length, with a greatest breadth of $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. As apparently about a third of the blade is wanting, and as the cutting edge on both sides has been broken off, the sword may be described as of average size. The characteristic nick on the blade near the hilt can be plainly observed. There are nine rivet-holes, three in each of the wings, and three in the hilt-plate—one of the latter still containing the rivet, which is of bronze. A ring, also of bronze, was found beside the sword, of the furniture of which it may have formed a part. Its diameter is, internally, $\frac{7}{8}$ inches, and externally, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The interest of this discovery chiefly depends on the rarity of such finds in the S.W. of Scotland. Although nearest to Ireland, where they are comparatively common, Galloway has hitherto yielded, so far as I am aware, but few swords

of this type. One of these, it may be noted, was found in Carlinwark Loch, which is within half a mile of the site of this discovery."

(4) By Major COLIN MACKENZIE, F.S.A. Scot.

Fragments of Cinerary Urn, Flint Scraper, and Nodule of Pyrites of Iron, from a cist at Flowerburn, Ross-shire. [See the subsequent communication by Major Mackenzie.]

Two portions of Sculptured Stones, from Rosemarkie, one showing a border of interlaced-work on the side and edge, the other bearing the figures of two ecclesiastics.

(5) By the Lady CONSTANCE CAMPBELL, through Dr MITCHELL.

Full-sized Drawings of a Hoard of five Bronze Swords, a Scabbard-end, and a Spear-head, found in Kintyre, and now preserved in Inveraray Castle.

(6) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, London.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, London. Vol. IX. Parts 1-3.

(7) By the CAMBRIAN ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Archæologia Cambrensis, Journal of the Cambrian Archæological Association. Fifth Series. Nos. 2-5.

(8) By the NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The Numismatic Chronicle. Third Series. Nos. 14-17.

(9) By the BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Journal of the British Archæological Association. Vol. XL. Parts 2-4, and Vol. XLI. Part 1.

(10) By the ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

The Archæological Journal. Vol. XLI. Parts 2-4, and Vol. XLII. Part 1.

- (11) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE.
Archæologia Æliana. New Series. Vol. X. Parts 1-3.
- (12) By the ROYAL HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.
Journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland. Vol. VI. Nos. 56-59.
- (13) By the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.
Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. Series II., Vol. II. No. 5 ;
Vol. IV. Nos. 1 and 2. Transactions, Vol. XXVIII. Nos. 15, 16.
- (14) By the ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES, Copenhagen.
Aarboger for Nordisk Oldkindighed, 1884, Parts 2-4, and 1885, Part 1.
Memoires de la Societé Royale des Antiquaires du Nord, 1884 and 1885, Part 1.
- (15) By the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.
Second Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1880-81.
- (16) By ALEX. MALCOLM SCOTT, F.S.A. Scot, the Author.
The Battle of Langside, 1568. 4to. 1885.

The following Articles, acquired by the Purchase Committee during the present Session, from 29th November 1884 to 8th June 1885, were exhibited to the meeting, viz. :—

1. Axe-head of diorite, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, oval in the cross section in the middle of its length, and tapering to a conically pointed butt. It is peculiar in having one of its faces flattened to an adze-shaped form, while the other presents the rounded curves of the common form of stone axe. It is said to have been found in the neighbourhood of Monkton House, Mid-Lothian.

String of forty Beads of a green vitreous paste, with intercrossing bands of yellow, red, and black.

2. Highland Flint-lock Pistol of steel, by John Murdoch (Doune), with scroll-ended butt, the barrel fluted, and stock and barrel both finely engraved.

Highland Flint-lock Pistol of steel by Alexander Murdoch (Doune), with globose butt, the barrel plain, the lock engraved, and the stock inlaid with scroll-work in silver.

3. Polished Celt of a greenish mottled quartz or jasper, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, greatest thickness not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, somewhat triangular in shape, and flatter on one face than the other. It is said to have been found in the neighbourhood of Penicuik.

Polished Celt of granite, 4 inches in length, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the cutting face, which lies obliquely to the axis of the implement, the sides ground flat, and tapering to a narrow, thin, and rounded butt. It is said to have been found at Carlops, Mid-Lothian.

4. Polished Celt of felstone, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the cutting face, the sides ground flat, the butt rounded and slightly chipped, from Kirkcowan, Wigtownshire.

5. Polished Celt of basalt, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, found in Fifeshire.

Polished Celt of basalt, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, found in Fifeshire.

Polished Celt of flinty slate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by 2 inches in breadth across the cutting face, found near Auchtermuchty, Fife.

Polished Celt of porphyry, adze-shaped in form, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, found in Fifeshire.

Arrow-head of flint, with barbs and stem, found in Fifeshire.

Snuff-Box, being a section of walrus-tooth, roughly made, and bound with tin.

6. Digging Stone, from Caffraria, being a globular mass of sandstone, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, with a hole 2 inches wide, bored through the centre. These stones are used for weighting the "digging stick," with which the natives of South Africa dig for edible roots.

7. Flat Celt of bronze, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length.

Flanged Celt of bronze, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, with slight flanges and

stop-ridge, the blade widely expanding, the flanged part nearly of uniform width, or about an inch in the middle, the butt crushed down by recent hammering.

Flanged Celt of bronze, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, 2 inches in greatest breadth across the cutting face, the flanges bent over and peaked, the stop-ridge more prominent on one side than the other, and the whole surface roughened.

These three Celts are stated to have been found somewhere in the west of Scotland, the precise locality being unknown.

8. Collection of rude Stone Implements, from Leenow, Tenston, parish of Sandwick, Orkney, about 250 in number, including some very large examples of the oblong, oval, and club-shaped implements.

9. Reproduction of the largest known example of the "double cup-shaped Fibula" of gold, found in 1819 at Castle Kelly, county of Roscommon, Ireland, and now preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. It measures $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height, and the cup-shaped discs are 5 inches in diameter and $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches deep, while the bow-shaped part that unites them is $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in circumference at the thickest part. The original weighs 16 oz. 17 dwt. 4 grs. of pure gold.

10. Urn of steatite, oval in shape and flat-bottomed, measuring $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the mouth, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and containing burnt bones.

Urn of steatite, measuring 8 inches by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the mouth, and $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, rather rudely made.

Urn of steatite, measuring $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the mouth and 4 inches high, also rudely made.

These three urns were found in a cairn on the summit of the highest hill in the island of Uyea, Unst, Shetland. The stones of the cairn were removed for building purposes, and the urns were found subsequently, about two feet below the original surface of the soil, and covered with rough flag-stones. Each urn contained burnt bones.

11. Oblong Knife of dark-coloured porphyry, $6\frac{1}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, nowhere exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in thickness, the back and sides nearly straight, the face rounded and sharp, but somewhat broken.

Oblong Knife of dark-coloured porphyry, $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, nowhere

exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness, the back and one side nearly straight, the other two sides curved, and sharpened to an edge.

Oblong Knife of dark-coloured porphyry, 6 by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, nowhere exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in thickness, the back and one of the sides nearly straight, the other two sides curved, and sharpened to an edge.

Oblong Knife of dark-coloured porphyry, $4\frac{3}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and nowhere exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in thickness, the back nearly straight, the sides rounded, and the face also rounded and sharpened to a cutting edge.

These four knives of porphyry, which are of a type peculiar to the Shetland Isles, were found together in a bog in the island of Uyea, Unst, Shetland.

12. Collection of Urns, Flint Implements, &c., comprising the whole contents of a chambered cairn at Unstan, in the Loch of Stennis, Orkney. [See the subsequent communication by Mr R. S. Clouston.]

13. Harp-shaped Fibula of silver, closely resembling that found in the crannog at Lochlee, and figured in the *Proceedings* (new series, vol. i. p. 231, fig. 99). It is stated to have been found in Ayrshire, the precise locality being unknown.

14. Penannular Brooch of silver, with interlaced ornamentation, from Ridgemount, King's County, Ireland.

15. Old Highland Brooch of silver, with engraved ornamentation and niello-work of the usual patterns. This brooch is remarkable for its great weight and thickness.

16. Four small Highland Brooches of copper, probably made out of copper pennies, and a Meal-Sieve, from North Uist.

17. Polished Adze-head of flinty-slate, oval in shape, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in breadth, and not exceeding $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in greatest thickness, from New Guinea.

18. Fourteen Collections of Flint Implements, &c., from Culbin and Findhorn Sands, amounting to about 2000 specimens.

19. Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorial. Imp. 8vo. 1874.

20. Selections from the Charters of the Burgh of Stirling. 4to. 1884.

21. Twenty-two Photographs of pages of Celtic MSS.

22. Twenty one Roman Imperial Bronze Coins; one Testoon of Mary of Scotland; one Farthing of Alexander III. of Scotland.

23. Laing's Select Remains of the Ancient Popular and Romance Poetry of Scotland. Edited by John Small, M.A. 4to. 1885.

24. Dickson's Introduction of the Art of Printing into Scotland. 8vo. 1885.

There were also exhibited—

(1) By His Grace The DUKE OF ATHOLE, K.T.

Two finely ornamented Urns (fig. 1) of the low, thick-lipped form, usually deposited with unburnt bodies, and to which the name "food-vessel" has been commonly applied. Both are nearly of the same shape, with a slightly contracted neck above the shoulder and a slightly everted rim. Underneath the shoulder the larger vessel is surrounded

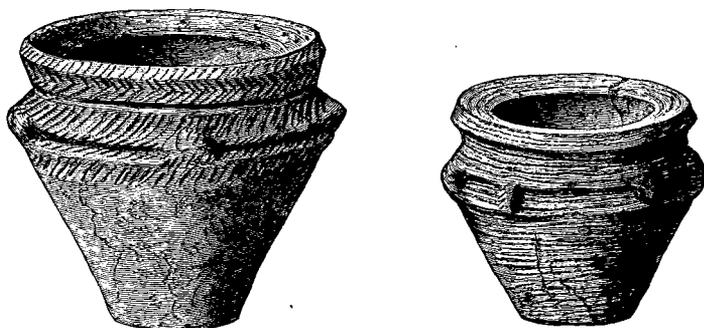


Fig. 1. Urns found in a cist at Kinraigie, Little Dunkeld ($5\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height).

by six projections placed at equal distances round the circumference. In the smaller vessel the number of these projections is eight, but they do not seem to have been pierced with holes, as has sometimes been observed in other cases. They are both highly ornamented with horizontal bands of linear ornamentation impressed in the soft clay by a twisted cord or by a comb-like tool. In the larger vessel the ornament takes the form of short oblique lines, and in the smaller vessel it takes the form of lines encompassing the circumference. The larger vessel measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter across the

mouth; the smaller measures $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height, and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter across the mouth. They are preserved at Blair Castle.

The circumstances in which the urns were found have been communicated to the Secretary as follows:—

BLAIR CASTLE, BLAIR ATHOLE, 4th May 1885.

DEAR SIR,—The two urns I left with you on the 2nd were found in a cist on the farm of Kincaigie, parish of Little Dunkeld, Perthshire. The cist was discovered on 10th April this year by a man ploughing. The minister of Logierait ordered it to be covered up till my orders were received. I accordingly visited the spot on 13th April, when we cleared out the cist. It was situated on a dryish knoll in the middle of a ploughed field, and lay from N.W. to S.E., the wider end being toward the N.W. Its dimensions were as follows:—Length 4 feet, breadth at one end 15 inches, at the other end 10 inches, depth 15 inches. The cist had evidently been previously discovered and disturbed, as the pieces of the urns were discovered in various parts of the cavity. It was filled up with earth.—I am, yours faithfully, ATHOLE.

(2) By the Right Hon. Lord NAPIER AND ETRICK, K.T.

Sculptured Stone (fig. 2) from Over-Kirkhope, in Etrick, being an oblong naturally-shaped slab of close-grained sandstone, 4 feet in length, 13 inches in greatest breadth, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, bearing on the upper part the figure of a man rudely incised. The figure is represented with upraised hands, suggestive of the ancient attitude of prayer, as in early Christian sculptures, and more particularly on the belt-clasps from Burgundian graves, which commonly show this attitude rendered with almost equal rudeness. (“Bracelets et Agrafes Antiques,” par F. Troyon, in the *Mittheilungen der Antiquarischen Gesellschaft in Zurich*, vol. i.) The head of the figure is very large in proportion to the body; the dress consists of a tunic, and the feet are bare. An equal-armed cross is incised upon the breast, and on each side there is a circle with a central depression. Above the head on the right side is a small rectangular space bordered by an incised line, with the letters P P in the centre. The top of the stone is hollowed into an oblong cavity 7 inches in length, 2 inches in width, and about an inch in depth. The lines of the figure are picked out with a pointed tool, those of the letters and bordering are cut by a driving chisel.



Fig. 2. Sculptured Stone from Over-Kirkhope, in Ettrick (4 feet in length).

(3) By the Right Hon. The EARL OF STAIR, K.T., F.S.A. Scot.

Polished Celt of serpentine, $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by 4 inches across the cutting face, the edges ground flat, the butt shaped like the cutting edge, but not sharpened, found at Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire.

Wedge-shaped Stone Hammer of Silurian sandstone, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest breadth, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, perforated at a distance of 2 inches from the wide end by a hole for the handle $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

(4) By Dr JOHN DOUGLAS, Whithorn, through Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Stone, 17 inches in length by 7 inches in breadth and 5 inches in thickness, bearing on its weathered face the incised figures of a man with a crook in his hand, an animal (dog?), and a figure consisting of a double-disc with two connecting lines, somewhat suggestive of the form of the so-called "spectacle-ornament," or double-disc symbol of the sculptured stones of Scotland. The figure of the man measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and that of the double-disc over his head 2 inches in length. Beside them is also incised the word "William" and the date 1768. The stone is apparently broken off from a larger block or from an outcrop of rock.

The following Communications were read:—