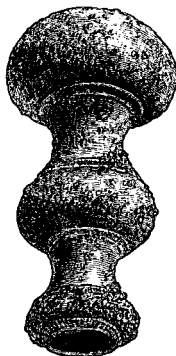


III.

NOTE RESPECTING VARIOUS ARTICLES IN BRONZE AND STONE ;
FOUND IN ORKNEY, AND NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM.
By JAMES FARRER, Esq., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot.

The following is a brief account of my recent explorations in Orkney, which, though not very successful, have not been without interest. I have done as much as the time at my command would admit of. I have cleared out a Brough in Harray, which presented nothing very peculiar. Within the ruins, however, were found many worked stones, stone lamps, fragments of coarse pottery, perforated stones, and some of those curious circular discs, hitherto only found at Skaill (I met with a few in my Roman excavations), and described as plates by Mr William Watt ; a



Bronze Implement ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height) found in a Brough in Harray.

modern-looking bronze implement, the handle of some weapon I imagine, which I saw dug up myself. (See the annexed carefully-figured woodcut of this curious bronze.) It could not, under any circumstances, have found its way into the Brough *since* the destruction of the building. A small fragment of iron was also found, but at some distance from the bronze. The

round stones, flattened at the sides and ends, appeared to have been used for grinding down or shaping weapons. A large flat stone, unlike anything I have previously met with. There were kists, or rather underground cupboards, partly beneath the floor of the main circular chamber. There were also three steps—portions, no doubt, of a flight leading to the upper part of the building.

I send these various articles for presentation to the Museum. I also send a small copper Fibula, and a portion of a Brooch, which I have accidentally met with. (See woodcut, page 37.) One of the *small* stones has a remarkable resemblance to a celt—a small axe-head. It may, however, be only the natural shape of the stone, but I send it with the others.

At the “Knowe of Saverough,” where I found so many skeletons some years ago, only a bone pin and an oblong stone, ground round the edges and across the sides, together with fragments of deer horns, cut with some instrument (but not worth sending), rewarded our labours. The stone in question was found at a considerable depth, and is not unlike what were used on “hand-lines,” for fishing, some forty years ago; * the Knowe has, doubtless, at one time been an extensive weem. I penetrated into the interior, where a well-built wall enclosed what appears to have been a flagged yard. The enormous quantity of sand rendered it impossible to carry the investigation any further. Over a very large area outside this wall was a thick deposit of limpet and whelk shells—a sort of Orkney *kitchen midden*. No human bones, with the exception of a piece of a skull, were found.

I also opened some tumuli near the Free Church in Birsay. The only peculiarity seemed to be, that unlike most of the graves that I have opened, they contained only *one* kist, in the centre of the tumulus. In only one instance was the kist entire; in the others—the smaller ones—the cover-stones had fallen in, and the bones, though burnt, had nearly passed away. The tumuli were entirely composed of earth, which must have been brought from a great distance, and it is a remarkable fact, that the peat and heather growing on and around the tumuli, is of precisely the same thickness as that which grows on the ground immediately about the

* A similar stone was found by Mr Samuel Laing in a brough, and was presented to the Museum of the Society (p. 50).

graves, almost leading us to infer that the interments had taken place before the commencement of the growth of the peat.

I made a short trip to Shetland, and visited the east coast, but there is no prospect of my doing anything, in the way of digging, in Shetland; however, I had a pleasant cruise in a yacht that I chartered, and, like a snail, carried my house over my head.

MONDAY, 11th February 1867.

PROFESSOR SIR J. Y. SIMPSON, BART., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Gentleman was balloted for, and elected a Fellow of the Society :—

JAMES DONALDSON, Esq., LL.D., Rector of the High School.

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

(1.) By ANDREW JERVISE, Esq., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Four Arrow-Heads, three of yellow, and one of grey coloured flint, with barbs and stem; measuring from $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length. They were found at Strathdon, Aberdeenshire.

(2.) By ARTHUR MITCHELL, M.D., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

A collection of rudely chipped Implements of Sandstone, measuring from 4 inches to 21 inches in length; found in Shetland. (See Communication, p. 118.)

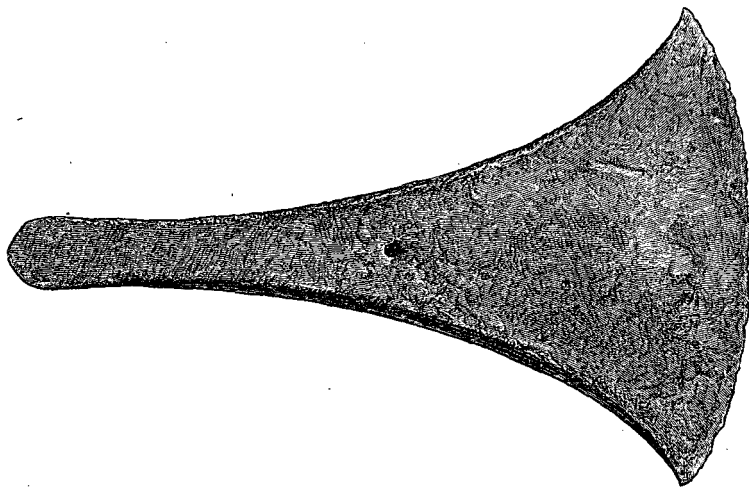
(3.) By GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Several Rude Implements of Sandstone, measuring from 10 inches to 12 inches in length, found in Orkney. (See Communication, page 134.)

(4.) By JOHN COWAN, Esq. of Beeslack.

Celt of yellowish Bronze, measuring $13\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, 9 inches in greatest breadth across the face, and only $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch across the narrow ex-

tremity; it is $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an inch in thickness about the middle of its length, becoming gradually thinner towards each extremity, which terminates in a sharp edge. It weighs 5 lbs. 7 oz. avoirdupois. There is a



Bronze Celt, $13\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, and weighing 5 lb. 7 oz., found at Lawhead, on the Pentland Hills, Edinburghshire.

small rounded depression on one side of the Celt, about its centre, possibly a defect in the casting. The rather elegant shape of this very large Celt is well shown in the annexed careful drawing. It was found in digging a drain on the farm of Lawhead, on the south side of the Pentland Hills, near Edinburgh.

This Bronze Celt is believed to be the largest specimen of this class of ancient weapons which has yet been discovered, at least in Great Britain and Ireland. The largest specimen of a Bronze Celt described in the Catalogue of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, measures $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $8\frac{1}{2}$ broad in the widest part, $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch thick, and weighs 4 lbs. 14 oz.

(5.) By WILLIAM KINGHORN, Esq., Bonnington.

The Armorial Bearings of the Masons and Coopers of Leith, carved in

wood. It measures 3 feet 5 inches in height, and 3 feet in breadth. On an oval shield in the centre is displayed the implements of the respective trades in relief, and the shield is surrounded with a border of scrolls, flowers, &c. At each side of the upper portion is a Cupid, supporting a bunch of flowers and fruit, and below is a ribbon, on which is painted the following motto—*THE HAND OF THE DILIGENT MAKETH RICH*. These armorial bearings were formerly displayed over a pew belonging to the Incorporated Trades, in South Leith Parish Church.

(6.) By ROBERT CARFRAE, Esq., Curator S.A. Scot.

Autograph Letter of Sir Joseph Banks, dated 1798.

Autograph Letter of Sir Walter Scott, dated 1810.

Caledonian Mercury Newspaper, August 3, 1727.

(7.) By Mrs GIBSON, late of Grangemouth.

Pair of Silver-Plated Shoe-Buckles, with square corners, and round ornaments.

(8.) By W. T. M'CULLOCH, Keeper of the Museum of Antiquities.

Universal Astronomical and Ring Dial, in brass, 10 inches in diameter. This class of dial is thus described in the "New Dictionary of Arts and Sciences," London, 1763 :—"It is composed of two rings or flat circles. The outward ring represents the meridian of the place of the observer. The inner ring represents the equator. A cursor, composed of two little pieces, slides along an aperture in the middle of the bridge, which cursor has a small hole to admit the rays of the sun. The middle of this bridge represents the axis of the world, and its two extremities the two poles. On the edge slides a ring, by which the instrument is suspended during observation. This ring represents the zenith."

(9.) By JOHN PRINGLE PARK, Esq., White-Bank House, Morning-side.

Cylinder-shaped Tankard of China, measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height by 4 inches in diameter, with a handle at the side, and ornamented with painted flowers, &c., in red and blue colours.

From this tankard Prince Charles Edward drank home-brewed ale, presented to him by the Misses Anderson of Whitburgh, near Crichton

Dean, on his line of March south from Edinburgh in 1745. It was acquired in 1831 by Captain George Park of Skedsbush, East Lothian.

(10.) By ROBERT MERCER, Esq. of Scotsbank, F.S.A. Scot.

Specimens of the Spurious Antiquities stated to have been recently found in the river Thames—

Leaden Figure, representing a man on horseback, with a sword in his left hand, and wearing an open crown. The horse measures 18 inches in length, and the height of the figure is 19 inches from the bottom of the plinth to the top of the crown.

Two Leaden Human Figures standing on a Plinth, holding between them a dish, on which is a human head. Each figure bears a sword—the one in the right, the other in the left hand; they are dressed in chain mail. The height of each figure, including plinth, is 14 inches.

Leaden Pillar, 19 inches in height, including base. It measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the bottom, and 2 inches at the top. From the top of the pillar rises the upper portion of a human figure, holding a sword with both hands, raised over the top of the head.

(11.) By ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM, Esq., through THOMAS STEVENSON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Tack of Teinds, John Spottiswoode, Archbishop of St Andrews, Comendator of Killwinning, to David Cunningham of Robertlands, Stewarton, and Blacklawes, 21st December 1616; on a sheet of vellum, and with the Archbishop's signature as "Sanct Andrews, Abbot of Kylwinning."

(12.) By JAMES HORSBURGH, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Gold Coin of one of the Doges of Venice, about the year 1300.

(13.) By the Rev. J. A. LEGH CAMPBELL, F.S.A. Scot.

Coins from the Collection of the late John Archibald Campbell, Esq., W.S., F.S.A. Scot., father of the donor, including—

Saxon Stycas.

Three of Ethelred.

Scottish Coins.

Two Pennies of Alexander III.

David II. Half Groat of Aberdeen.

Robert III. Groat of Perth.

James II. Groat of Edinburgh.

James V. Groat.

Mary Testoon, 1558.

Francis and Mary Half Testoon, JAM, NON SUNT, &c.

Francis and Mary Two Testoons, VICIT LEO, &c., 1560.

Charles I. Shilling.

English Coins, &c.

Henry VIII. Penny with "T W" on reverse, being the initials of Cardinal Wolsey.

Charles II. Crown, 1682.

William and Mary Half-Crown, 1689.

Anne, Medal. *Reverse*, "ENTIRELY ENGLISH," but the word "ENGLISH" scraped off the medal.

George III. Hanoverian Half-Dollar.

Charlotte, Queen of George III. Copper Medalet.

Fifteen Copper Tokens of English towns of 17th century.

Nine Copper Coins and Tokens of a later period.

A Church Token, in lead, heart-shaped, with the initials "C K," and date 1731.

Roman, A False Denarius of the Emperor Didius Julian.

(14.) By WILLIAM BROWN, Esq., F.R.C.S.E., F.S.A. Scot.

Depositions on the Birth of Prince James, folio. Edinburgh, 1688.

(15.) By the SOCIETY.

Proceedings of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, Nov. 1861-62. 8vo. Dublin, 1863.

(16.) By JOHN EVANS, Esq. (the Author).

Discovery of Flint Arrow-heads near Bath, &c. (pp. 8). 8vo. London, 1866.

(17.) By CHARLES COWAN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Monuments de l' Ancien Evêché de Bâle. 8vo. Porventray, 1862.

(18.) By the SOCIETY.

Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.
Vol. V. 8vo. Liverpool, 1865.

(19.) By JAMES H. CHALMERS, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Two Human Skulls, and two Urns ornamented by punctured perpendicular and cross lines, &c. One urn measures 7 inches in height and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the mouth; the other is similarly ornamented, and is $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height and $5\frac{1}{2}$ across the mouth. Two leaf-shaped arrow-heads or flakes of yellowish-coloured flint, measuring respectively $1\frac{3}{4}$ and 2 inches in length. Portion of a bone ring, with a raised band on the outside, also a small piece of wood, measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by 1 inch in breadth. Found in a stone kist at Broomend, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. (See the following Communication.)

There were exhibited—

(1.) By C. B. DAVIDSON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

A Sepulchral Urn, a Lamp of Leather, and a portion of Ox Hide found in a short stone kist at Broomend, near the Paper-mills, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, and also Photographs of the open Kist before its contents were disturbed. (See Communication, p. 115.)

(2.) Purchased for the MUSEUM.

A large, heavy Crossbow, with stirrup, moulinet, and pullies.

The following Communications were read :—