

IV.

NOTE ON THE CAPRINGTON BRONZE HORN. BY R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK, Esq., B.A., LL.B., F.S.A. Scot.

The bronze horn or trumpet, of which an illustration is here given from a wood-cut presented to the Ayrshire and Wigtonshire Archaeological Association, by Mr Smith Cunningham of Caprington,¹ was found some time before 1654² on the estate of Coilsfield, in the parish of Tarbolton, in Kyle.

It is thus referred to by Sir Robert Gordon, in the description of Kyle given in Bleau's Atlas, published at Amsterdam in 1654 :—

“In campo ubi decertatum lituus incurvus figura sua cornu referens, in primus canorus, multo post annis effosus est, quo comarchi Caprintonii, quorum ædes primariæ nostris Coilsfield dicitur, ad cogendos rusticos suos et operarios utuntur.”³

Defoe says : “A trumpet resembling a crooked horn, which has a very shrill sound, was dug up in the field of battle, and is still kept in the Laird of Caprington's house, called Coilsfield.”⁴

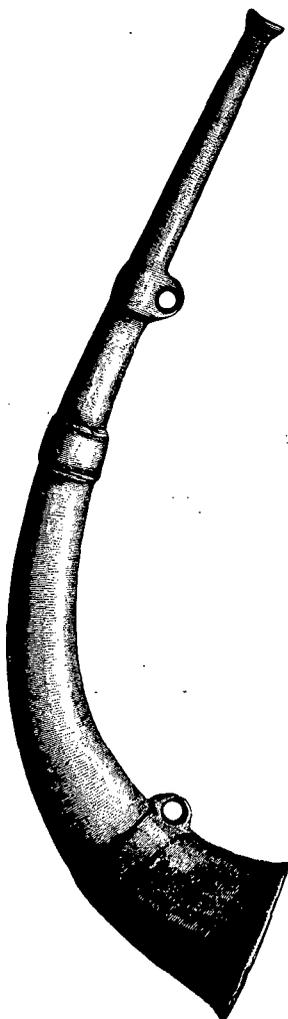
The writer of the “New Statistical Account” notes that “this horn, so minutely

¹ “Ayrshire and Wigtonshire Archæological and Historical Collections,” vol. i.

² “New Statistical Account of Ayrshire,” p. 753.

³ Vol. vi. p. 50.

⁴ “Tour through Britain,” vol. iv. p. 130.



described in Bleau's great work, and by Defoe, is carefully preserved at Caprington Castle."¹

The horn is 25 inches in length, measuring from the mouthpiece to the aperture along the centre. The circumference 1 inch from the mouthpiece is 2 inches. At the lowest band the circumference is almost 8 inches. It is nearly 4 inches across the aperture.

It is the only instance of a bronze horn recorded as having been found in Scotland.

From an analysis made by Professor Stevenson Macadam, the composition of the bronze is as follows:—

Copper,	=	90·26
Tin,	=	9·61
Loss,	=	·13
		100·00

Bronze trumpets are of very rare occurrence in Britain. Mr Franks records one found in England.² They are not uncommon in Ireland. For an account of the Irish specimens, reference may be made to the "Ulster Journal of Archæology," vol. viii. p. 99, and also to the "Descriptive Catalogue of the Antiquities in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy," by Sir William R. Wilde (pp. 623-632), where the sixteen specimens of trumpets in the Academy's collection, comprising five distinct varieties of the instrument, are figured and described, and notices are given of the finding of these and other specimens in different districts of Ireland.

¹ "Ayrshire," p. 754.

² "Horæ Ferales," pl. xiii. fig. 2.

MONDAY, 11th March 1878.

DR JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were unanimously elected Fellows :—

NORMAN MACPHERSON, LL.D., Advocate, Professor of Scots Law
in the University of Edinburgh.

J. B. BROWN-MORISON, Esq., of Finnerdie.

JAMES URQUHART, Esq., H.M. General Register House.

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

(1.) By JOHN STURROCK, Esq., Engineer-Surveyor, Dundee.

Cast in Plaster of Paris of a star-shaped Implement of Flint, measuring 17 inches by 13 inches, from Honduras.

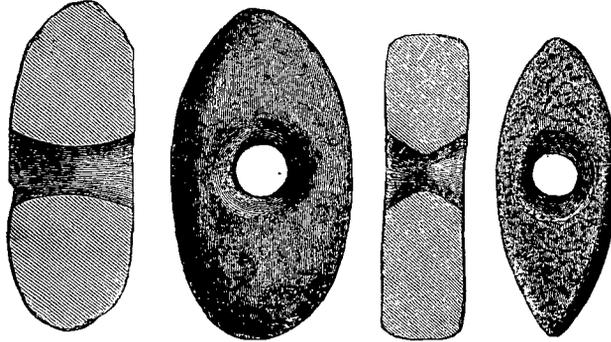
Cast in the same material of an oblong Implement of Flint, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, from the same locality.

These implements are remarkable for their great size and unusual form. The first is perhaps more properly described as of crescentic form, with indentations of unequal length on the convex side. The second is serrated on both sides in the middle and pointed at both ends. They were found in a cave in the Bay of Honduras, and have been repeatedly described and figured. (See Dr Daniel Wilson's "Pre-Historic Man," vol. i. pp. 214, 215; "Archæological Journal," vol. viii. p. 422, and vol. ix. p. 97; Stevens's "Flint Chips," p. 289).

(2.) By Rev. ANDREW URQUHART, Portpatrick, through Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

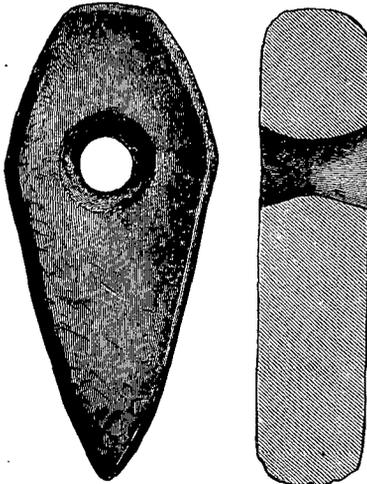
Perforated Hammer of Serpentinite found near Portpatrick. It is oval in shape and wedge-shaped at both ends: it measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth across the centre. It is nearly of uniform thickness from end to end; the flat faces slightly hollowed towards the centre, where it is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. The perforation for the handle is $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter, narrowing to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in the centre.

Large oval Hammer or Maul of Greyish Greenstone, perforated for the handle, also found near Portpatrick. It measures $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length,



Stone Hammers found near Portpatrick.

$3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth, and 3 inches in thickness. The form is a rounded oval with somewhat pointed ends, rounded edges, and flat sides. The perforation which is near the centre is 2 inches in diameter, narrowing in the middle of its length to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter.



Stone Hammer found at Torhouskie.

(3.) By Rev. DAVID C. A. AGNEW, Wigtown, through Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Large Wedge-shaped Hammer of Grey Sandstone, found on the farm of Torhouskie, parish of Wigtown. It measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, 4 inches in width at the widest part, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. The hole for the handle is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in

diameter, and is nearly of the same width throughout.

- (4.) By CHARLES WALLACE, Esq., of Dally, Kirkecolm, through Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Polisher or Burnisher of Hæmatite, found on the farm of Kirkecolm, Wigtownshire. It is a small block of hæmatite, roughly triangular in section, highly polished on the basal surface, which is quadrangular in shape, and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches square. The sides and ends are rougher, but partially polished as if by rubbing some soft substance such as leather.

- (5.) By ROBERT GLEN, Esq., Musical Instrument Maker, Bank Street.

Fragment of a Sculptured Cross Shaft, with interlaced work on four sides. It seems to have been the terminal portion of the shaft, and measures 15 inches in length, by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. It has been figured in plate ex. of the second volume of the late Dr John Stuart's work on "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland," 1867; and it is there described as having been "recently discovered in the wall of a farm house in a field called God's Mount, which is part of Coldingham Hill, but its original site is unknown."

- (6.) By A. W. BUIST, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Iron Spike, partly enclosed in a concretion of gravel, found at Parkhill, parish of Abdie, Fife.

- (7.) By JAMES CHISHOLM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Manuscript Volume, entitled "Antiquitates Illustrium Gentium." 12mo.

- (8.) By JOHN SMALL, M.A., F.S.A. Scot., the Editor.

The Indian Primer. By John Elliot. Reprinted from the original Edition of 1669. With an Introduction by John Small, M.A., Librarian, University of Edinburgh. 12mo. Edinburgh, 1878.

- (9.) By ROBERT HUTCHISON, Esq., of Carlowrie, F.S.A. Scot.

Photographs of "Bickerton's Tomb," Luffness Chapel, and of a sculptured Capital and Piscina in field walls near it; also of an old dovecot at Luffness.

(10.) By Sir DENHAM JEPHSON NORREYS, Bart.

Observations on the mode of constructing a remarkable Celtic Trumpet in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, 8vo, pp. 3 and plate. 1878.

Kiltartan Church near Gort, County Galway, folio leaf with plate. 1878.

(11.) By CHARLES MORRISON, Jun., Esq.

Old Golf Ball of Feathers, in sewed leather.

(12.) By PETER STEVENSON, Esq., Philosophical Instrument Maker, through WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq., R.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.

Two similar Golf Balls.

There were also exhibited :—

(1.) By Professor NORMAN MACPHERSON, LL.D.

A Collection of Antiquities found in the Island of Eigg :—viz., Sword Hilt of bronze or brass, partly plated and inlaid with silver, and finely decorated with interlaced work and ornaments in relief. Massive Foot of a Pot, in bronze or brass. Portions of a Sword Belt, with clasp of bronze or brass. Parts of the Blades of a Sword and Dagger, Whetstone, and portion of Leather Belt, with its Clasp. Portion of Woollen Dress, trimmed with Fur. Penanular Brooch, with thistle-headed Knobs of bronze or brass, plated with silver. Circular Brooch of brass. Small polished Stone Celt and Arrow-head of Flint. Oaken Stem and Sternpost of a Boat. (See the subsequent Communication by Professor Macpherson for a description and figures of these objects.)

(2.) By Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

A Collection of Implements of stone and bronze, from Wigtownshire, comprising—Flat Celt of Bronze, found near Craigeaffie. Socketed Celt of Bronze, from a Peat Moss half-way between Stranraer and Portpatrick. Polished Celt of Claystone, found near Castle Kennedy. Polished Celt, found at Croach. Large triangular Hammer or Maul of Sandstone, from Old Borland, Old Luce. Similar Hammer of reddish sandstone; two oval-shaped Stones, with indented hollows on their flat sides;

and a Hammer Stone from Machermore. One large triangular stone Hammer; a Polished stone Celt; and three weathered Stones, shaped like Celts, from Kirkinner.

(3.) By Mr JAMES WOOD, Galashiels.

Altar-Slab of Sandstone, marked with five crosses, found at Coldingham. It measures 11 inches by 10, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The upper surface is smoothed, and marked by five crosses in circles, 2 inches diameter.

The following Communications were read :—