

NOTICE OF A CELTIC BELL OF BRONZE, FROM LITTLE DUNKELD.

By JOSEPH ANDERSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

The bell now exhibited by the Rev. James Mackenzie, minister of Little Dunkeld, was brought under my notice by the Rev. Mr Maclean of Grandtully, to whose good offices the Society is indebted for this opportunity of comparing it with the Celtic Bells in the National Collection.

The bell (as will be seen from the annexed engraving, fig. 1) is of cast bronze, is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, inclusive of the handle, which rises $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the top of the bell. The body of the bell is thus 7 inches in height and $7\frac{1}{4}$ by $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches across the mouth, tapering to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the top, the thickness of the metal varying from $\frac{5}{16}$ in the middle to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch at the mouth, when there is a thickening in the form of a slight bevel of the outer edge. The handle, which rises almost straight up from the two narrow sides of the bell, exhibits a flaw in the casting, which has been repaired by a subsequent pouring of the metal.

This bell is the fourth of these Celtic bells of bronze now known in Scotland. The others are—(1) The Bell of St Fillan, from Strathfillan, now in the National Museum; (2) The Bell of St Eonan (Adannan), at Insh on the Spey, near Kingussie, which stands in a window of the church of Insh; (3) The Bell of St Finan, of Eilean

Finan in Loch Shiel, Ardnamurchan, which lies on a flat tombstone in the churchyard of Eilean Finan, where it has been exposed to the elements and to the risk of abstraction from time immemorial.

The ecclesiastical foundation of Dunkeld is attributed by the Register of St Andrews to Constantine MacFergus, the last of the Pictish kings, in whose reign the irruptions of the Pagan Northmen on the West Coast had threatened the security of Iona as the resting-place of the relics of



Fig. 1. Bronze Bell, from Little Dunkeld.

St Columba, and scattered its monks. In 849 the church of Dunkeld was re-edified by Kenneth M'Alpin, the first of the Scottish dynasty, who had united the Scottish and Pictish kingdoms. For his new church he collected the relics of St Columba, and enshrined them there. Its possessions were very widely extended, and its first abbot Tuathal, who died in 864, is called also Bishop of Fortrenn, though none of his recorded successors are so styled.¹ But the Celtic Abbacy of Dunkeld in the

¹ In the *Annals of Ulster* we have obits of several of its abbots, as in 864 Tuathal MacArtgus, chief Bishop of Fortrenn and Abbot of Duncaillen; in 872 Flaithbertach, son of Muircertach, princeps of Duncaillden, died; in 964 a battle between the men of Alba at Moneitir, where many were slain, together with Donnchadh, the abbot of Dun-caillen; in 1027 Duncaillen in Alba was entirely burned; and in 1045 there was another battle among the Albanach between themselves, in which was slain Cronan, abbot of Duncaillen.

eleventh century had become an appanage of the Crown, and subsequently descended to the Earls of Fife. In the Reformation of the Celtic Church system under David I. the abbot of the Culdee Monastery was made the first bishop of the remodelled see of Dunkeld, and a chapter of regular canons placed along with him in the cathedral; while the Culdee corporation was constituted a college of secular clergy, and existed side by side with the canons regular of St Augustine for more than two centuries. Early in the thirteenth century the diocese was divided, and the western portion, corresponding with the newly erected sheriffdom of Argyle, was placed under a new prelacy—that of the Bishopric of Argyle, whose cathedral church was to be at Lismore.

The Bishopric of Dunkeld had large possessions in the Lothians. Preston, Bonkill, Aberlady, Abercorn, Cramond, and Inchcolm were dominical lands of Dunkeld. The early bishops lived much at Cramond, and several of them were buried in Inchcolm. Bishop William St Clair, who succeeded to the bishopric in 1312, united to the Archdeaconate of Dunkeld the church of Logynalloquhy, and gave to the church at Little Dunkeld the glebe which the vicar possessed in the time of Alexander Mylne, Canon of Dunkeld, who wrote the Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld about 1515. From his work it appears that Little Dunkeld, before the year 1500, included what is now the parish of Caputh, and Dowally, now united to Dunkeld, was part of Caputh. There was no parish of Dunkeld, and Little Dunkeld was thus the parish church of the district around the cathedral. If this bell was a relic of the early foundation, as from its analogy with other early Celtic Bells there seems no reason to doubt, it is quite in accordance with the history of other known bells of its kind that it should not have been found associated with the cathedral, but with the parish church, which retained the older associations, when the new cathedral was supplied with Augustinian Canons, to whom the veneration of the Celtic saints was little better than heresy.

There is nothing known of the more recent history of the bell except what has been communicated to me by the Rev. James Mackenzie, the minister of the parish. He says—"I can find no information about the bell beyond the fact that it was in Little Dunkeld church when I came to

the parish in 1866. At that time there were considerable repairs made, and as I found the bell thrown carelessly aside, I took it to the Manse, where it has been ever since. One of my elders told me that it was put up at the roup of my predecessor's effects, and that he prevented it from being sold by claiming it as church property."

MONDAY, 11th February 1889.

SIR ARTHUR MITCHELL, K.C.B, M.D., LL.D., in the Chair.

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

J. A. CHATWIN, Architect, Birmingham.

GEORGE PETRIE, 52 Nethergate, Dundee.

JOHN TRAILL of Woodwick, St Andrews.

ALLAN WYON, F.S.A., Chief Engraver of Her Majesty's Seals, London.

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

(1) By CHARLES CARRUTHERS, Charlesfield, Annan, through JOHN J. REID, F.S.A. Scot., Curator of the Museum.

Collection of Objects found at Mouswald Place, Dumfriesshire, comprising—

Spear-Head of iron, 17 inches in length, the socket open on one side.

Bronzed flanged Celt or Axe-Head, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch across the cutting face.

Side Handle and Foot of Cooking-Pot of brass.

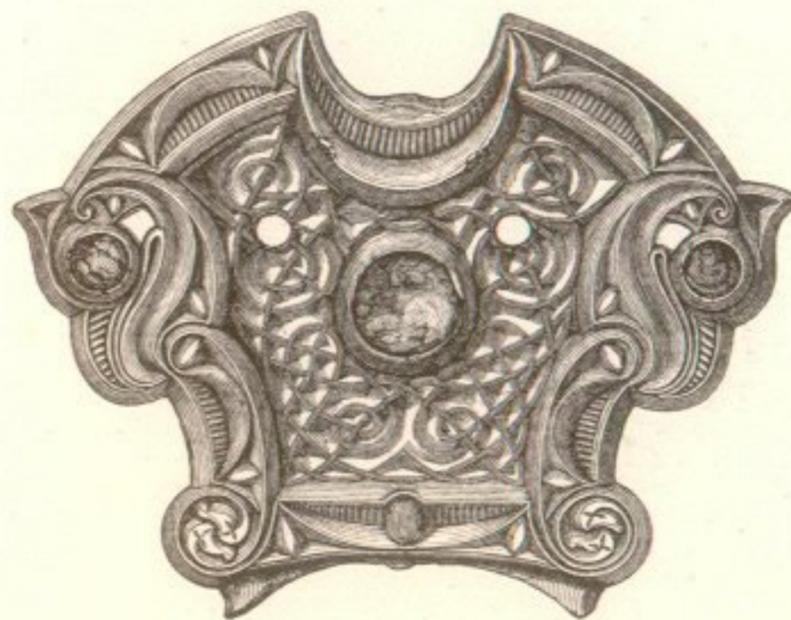
Six Spindle-Whorls of stone, one ornamented with incised lines.

Six Beads of jet, one Bead of amber, one Bead of variegated glass.

Flat oval Pebble of sandstone, perforated.

Three Bottle-Marks of glass, one marked Q., another D.D., and the third JAMES CARRUDUS 1709.

Also a Dagger-Blade of iron, triangular in section; length, including handle, 16 inches; found at Caerlaverock Castle.



Bronze Mountings, with Celtic Ornament.

(2) By JAMES ELLIS, F.S.A. Scot.

Spindle-Whorl of sandstone, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch diameter—from Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire.

Two Arrow-Heads of flint, lozenge-shaped, and one with barbs and stem—from Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire.

(3) By MRS HUGH W. YOUNG, Athole House, Bridge of Allan.

Two Mountings of bronze, apparently portions of a cross, ornamented with Celtic decoration, consisting of a panel filled with a pattern of interlaced work, having a setting of coloured glass in the centre, and surrounded by a border formed of the curves of the diverging spiral, the prominent parts of the outline simulating an animal's head, having the eye filled in with amber. The larger of the two, which may have been the upper limb of the cross, is remarkable for having a human head placed in the centre of the upper margin. These pieces, both in design and workmanship, are of the best period of Celtic art. They were obtained by Mrs Young at Crieff, but their previous history is unknown. See the representations of them on the previous page.

(4) By ALEXANDER HUTCHESON, F.S.A. Scot., Architect.

Block of Sandstone of triangular shape, 25 inches in greatest length by 20 inches in breadth and 6 inches in thickness, having on its upper surface a group of twenty-five cups, varying from $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches to 1 inch in diameter, one near the centre of the group having a ring round it, and one lower down an imperfect ring. The stone was ploughed up on the farm of Williamston, in the parish of St Martin's, Perthshire. [See the subsequent communication by Mr Hutcheson.]

(5) By JAMES W. CURSITER, F.S.A. Scot., Kirkwall.

Portions of Woollen Cloth, found in a Cist at Greenigoe, parish of Orphir, Orkney. There are pieces of four or five different textures, but there is no evidence to show how they may have been disposed on the body with which it is presumed they were associated, although no traces of bones were visible when the cist was visited by Mr Cursiter. Two

beads, one of amber and the other of an opaque vitreous paste, were said to have been found with it.

(6) By JAMES PATERSON, Whitelee, Stow.

Steel-mounted Crossbow or Prodd of steel, with lever fitted to the stock, and marked BOLTON, PRESTON.

(7) By THOMAS GALLOWAY, Pittenweem.

Dish of brown Earthenware, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, with side handle broken, the interior covered with a yellow glaze—found in the old Priory of Pittenweem.

(8) By R. H. GUNNING, M.D., LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Dress of an Indian woman, being a cincture of cords and nutshells—from the Amazonas, Brazil; two Zulu Assegais; two Arrows of reed, with barbed heads of iron; Battle-Axe of iron, its handle covered with wire; Snuff-Spoon, and Chain of Beads—from South Africa.

(9) By J. A. CRAWFORD, Clarendon Road, Nottingham, London.

Bronze Axle of a wooden Water-Wheel, from the mines of Rio Tinto, in Spain. Two Water-Wheels were found in the mines called El Filon al Norte in June 1886, one broken down and the other nearly perfect, $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres in diameter. The axles of both were of bronze, and they were supposed to be very ancient, as old at least as the traditional working of these mines by the Romans. The axle is $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches square.

(10) By PETER MILLER, Merigomish, Nova Scotia, through Dr PETER MILLER, F.S.A. Scot.

Eight Arrow-Heads of chert, of the Mic-Mac Indians; a small Harpoon-Head of bone; and a Sheath-End made from the tooth of an animal—all found at Merigomish, Pictou, Nova Scotia.

(11) By Sir W. WEDDERBURN, through General HOPE, C.B.

Four Photographs of Tapestry, in Inveresk Lodge. The pieces are

about 11 feet high, the largest being 17½ feet in length. The tradition is that they came from Grantully Castle in 1746.

(12) By the MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Chronicle of Roger of Wendover, Vol. II.; Chronicles of Stephen, Henry II., and Richard I., Vol. III.; Chroniques par Waurin, 1431-47, Vol III.; Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII., Vols. X. and XI.; Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1641-43; Icelandic Sagas relating to Britain, Vols. I. and II.; Tripartite Life of St Patrick, 2 vols.; Chronicles of Robert of Brunne, 2 vols.; Chronicles of Robert of Gloucester, 2 vols.; *Wilhelmi Malmisburiensis Gesta Regum*, Vol. I.; *Literae Cantuarienses*, 1 vol.

The following Communications were read:—