

## IV.

NOTICE OF AN UNDESCRIBED SLAB SCULPTURED WITH CELTIC ORNAMENT, AND SOME CHURCHYARD MONUMENTS AT GIRVAN, AYRSHIRE. BY JAMES A. MORRIS, ARCHITECT, F.S.A. SCOT.

For many years prior to 1907 the old churchyard of St Cuthbert's, on the north bank of the river, was a veritable wilderness of neglect. A rank vegetation covered its graves, and one at least of its enclosure walls, that bordering the public road, was dangerously inclined outward and in the last stage of decay.

In the year named, Mr Alexander Johnston, a native of Girvan, in memory of his father and mother, who are buried in the churchyard, and because of disquiet of mind at its deplorable state, obtained leave to remedy the evil. He rebuilt or repaired the several walls, erected a large memorial gateway, and laid out the ground ; so that the churchyard is now in well-ordered and seemly condition, with closely cut turf and carefully trimmed borders.

While this work was proceeding I uncovered many overturned tombstones, partly, but sometimes wholly, buried under the surface of the ground. I also excavated for, but found only the veriest fragments of the foundations of the church, of which I made a careful plan, and also marked out the track of the walls on the surface of the churchyard as clearly as I was able.

In *The Charters of the Abbey of Crosraguel* reference is repeatedly made to the Kirk of "Invergarvane," "Garv-Avan," or Garven, signifying the rough or rapid river, at the mouth of which lies the town. The first reference is in a charter granted at Linlithgow by Robert III. on the 24th August 1404, in which are mentioned, with others, three churches of the same name, whose lands were confirmed to the Abbot and convent of Crosraguel ; these three are "St Cuthbert of Straton,

St Cuthbert of Invergarvane, St Cuthbert of Innertig" (called Ballantrae in 1617). Quintin Kennedy had "the Vicarage of Girvan," whence he went to Crosraguel as Abbot in 1547. Further reference to the church is made in the Charters in 1561, 1565 or 1566, 1571, and 1573.

Chalmers mentions a charter by Robert I. connected with the grant of St Cuthbert's to Crosraguel; also that John the Vicar of the Church of Girvan swore fealty to Edward I. in 1296. The church figures in Bagimont's Roll, and again in the reign of James V. In 1617 the patronage was given to the Bishopric of Dunblane, and in 1689 it was vested in the King. Long prior, however, to the date of the earliest of these references, a church, a cell, or at least a churchyard must have been in existence at Girvan; unless it is assumed that the fragment of the Celtic Cross found there has no proper connection with the place. During the digging operations consequent upon Mr Johnston's renovation of the churchyard, besides certain interesting tombstones of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, three mediæval slabs were uncovered, as well as the upper middle portion of the Celtic Cross now to be described.

The portion of the Celtic Cross yet remaining (fig. 1) is the shaft of the original cross with part of its circular head. It measures 2 feet  $11\frac{3}{8}$  inches in height, from  $12\frac{1}{8}$  tapering to  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches in breadth, and from 4 inches on one side and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  on the other tapering to about 3 inches in thickness. The broken lower portion of the front face is enriched by a rudely cut interlacing pattern, which measures  $12\frac{5}{8}$  inches in height. Immediately above and in somewhat pronounced relief is a carved cross, with a calvaried base of two steps, a short shaft and proportionally large head, but otherwise very similar in appearance to the incised cross on St Cuthbert's coffin preserved at Durham, which is ascribed to the year 698. The cross is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, its calvaried base has an extreme spread of 8 inches, the shaft is 4 inches wide, the lateral arms of the cross  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches between extremities, while at their



Fig. 1. Front view of Celtic Cross at Girvan.

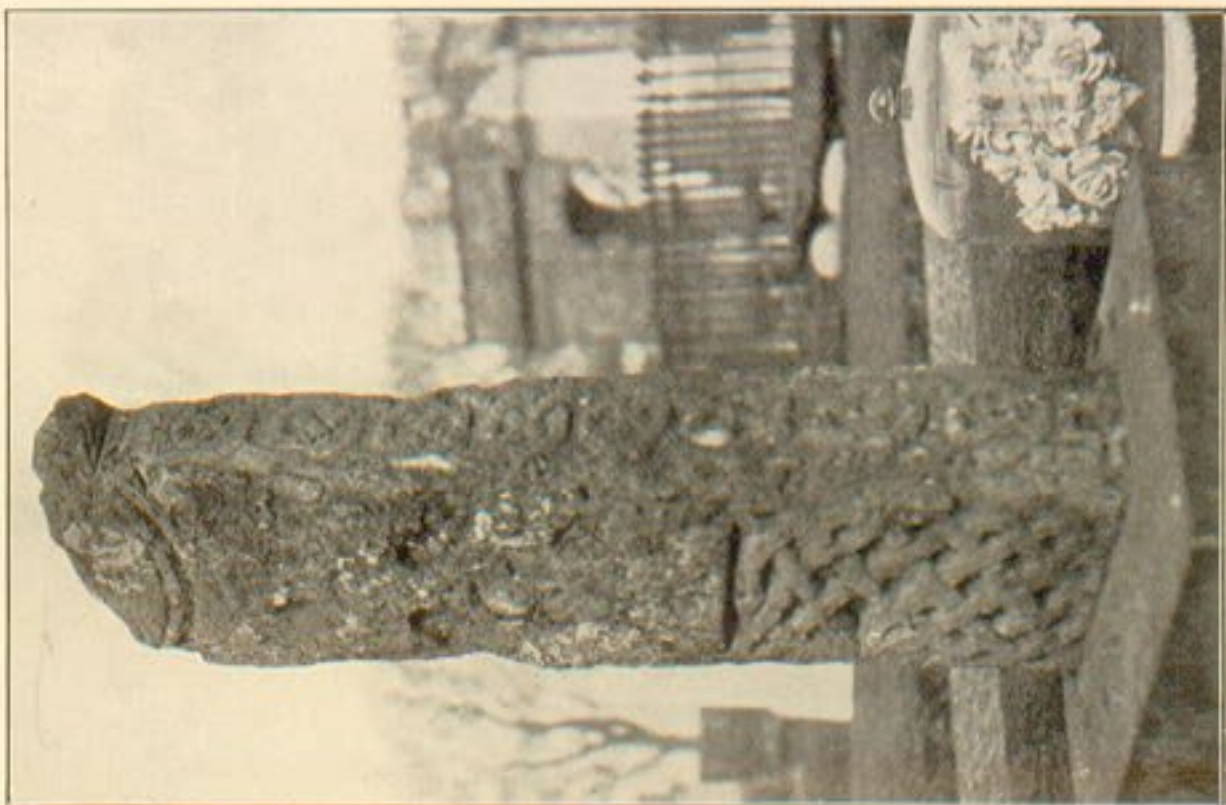


Fig. 2. Angled view of Celtic Cross at Girvan, showing ornamentation on one side.

circled intersections they measure 4 inches diagonally from circle to circle. On each of the four angles of the main shaft is a roll edge, and on the front face at the top this roll is carried across as the under part of the destroyed head, and is valuable as indicating at least something of its form, which would seem to have been circular in shape, and the cross itself formed by four pierced circled openings, small portions of the bottom arm and the two lower openings still remaining.

The sides of the shaft (fig. 2) have been enriched with a pattern of interlaced circles, connected in each case by the two interlacing bands, the upper but square finishing figure being still visible on the right side, which is fortunately much less obliterated than is the left. The material of which the cross is formed is a coarse conglomerate of red colour, and this may in part account for the rudeness in the execution of the enrichment, as also possibly for its weather-worn appearance.

The back of the cross (fig. 3) has apparently also been enriched, and a swelling in the stone would seem to show that at least that part of the ornamentation was in relief. All of this side has, however, been entirely obliterated within comparatively recent years, when the stone was appropriated as a modern tombstone, the appropriation being indicated by a rudely cut and sunk panel near the top, bearing in incised letters a modern name.

Some interest is attached to this fragment of a cross, when one remembers that Celtic Crosses are uncommon in the South-west of Scotland; the map in *The Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, dated 1856, and published by the Spalding Club, showing only four—namely, at Wigton, Anwoth, Auchinlary, and Thornhill. To these should of course be added the famous Ruthwell Cross, and possibly others.

Of the three mediæval sepulchral slabs, the most important (fig. 4) (5 feet long, 1 foot 5 inches broad, and about 9½ inches thick) bears an incised calvaried cross of three steps, with, on the left side as it lies on

the stone and hard up against the arm of the cross, a sword showing a cross hilt slightly bent on one side with a terminal of three points, and a pommel of three or four incised lobes. Close to the pommel is

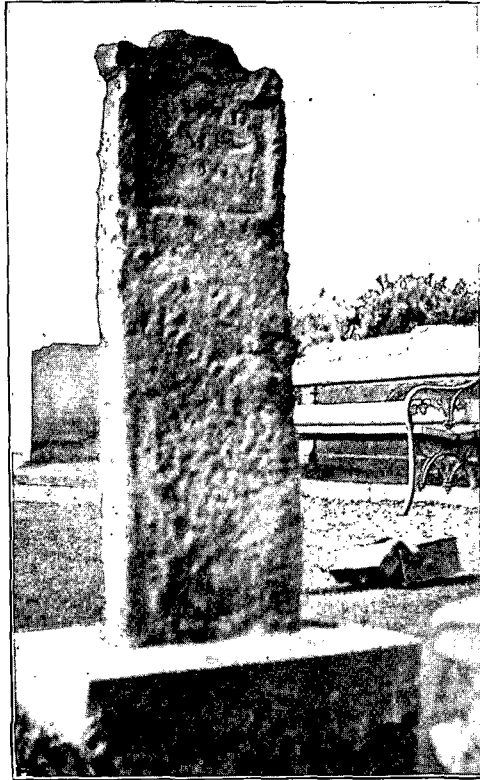


Fig. 3. Back of Celtic Cross at Girvan.

a mullet of five points. Above the two cross arms, and filling the rectangular spaces between them and the upper arm of the cross, are two square figures, each filled with an eight-pointed enrichment.

The second mediæval slab (fig. 5) (4 feet 7½ inches long, 1 foot 4 inches broad, and 10 inches thick) is different in shape, being narrower



Fig. 4. Sepulchral Slab with cross and sword at Girvan.

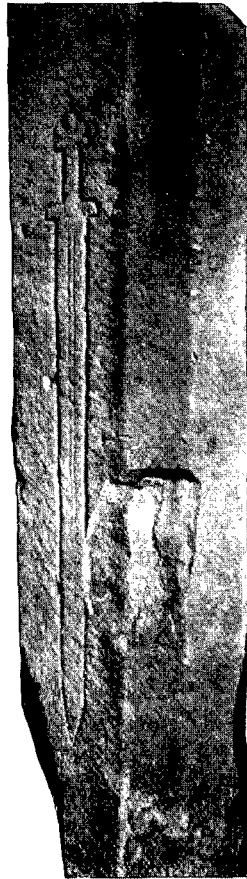


Fig. 5. Sepulchral Slab with sword at Girvan.

and thicker, and with a broad chamfer or splay on both sides. The stone bears a very clearly cut incised sword with a sharp point, the

fluting being shown by two incised lines down the middle of the blade. The cross-guard is very short, and the pommel is terminated by a lobe of five points. On the back of the stone and cut at a later date are :

WILAM  
MCALM  
1681

The fragment of another mediæval slab (fig. 6) (about 3 feet long, 1 foot 8 inches broad at the widest part, and 3 inches or 4 inches thick) shows a broad-bladed cross-hilted sword. The hilt is small with a single lobe terminal, and the cross-guard is square. It is on the right side of the incised shaft of a very broad cross, with immediately under the point of the sword the first step of an incised calvaried base. Above the cross-guard of the hilt is a portion of an incised circle of two lines, possibly the head of the cross; the space between the lines being treated as a roll.

There are several other mediæval stones in the churchyard, all purposely defaced on the front, and the back utilised for later inscription purposes, one with the letters :

M  
A R  
S M K

Another, with a small sunk panel, and therein in raised letters :

R M C

In design and execution the Girvan stones of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries express in a very direct, if crude manner something of the characteristics of the people and craftsmen by whom they were wrought. As a rule nearly the entire surface of each stone is covered with vigorously designed carving, well grouped and arranged,

more original perhaps, if less architectural, than is found in the stones of a similar period in the East of Scotland. On the other hand, the Girvan stones lack the elegance of design and execution noticeable in those of the Lothians, and, where the human figure is used, there is

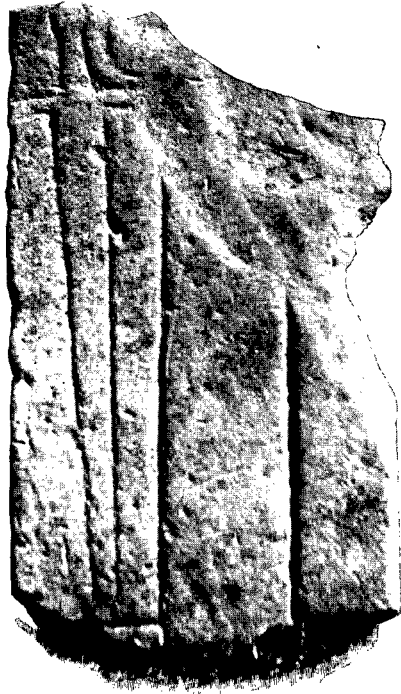


Fig. 6. Sepulchral Slab with sword and shaft of cross at Girvan.

nothing in the Girvan or in any South Ayrshire stones approaching the remarkable refinement, almost Italian in feeling, evidenced in work found in Tranent and Prestonpans churchyards, and elsewhere. One must, however, remember that South Ayrshire was part of a district of Scotland whose people were virile and lawless, and less



accessible for many centuries to external influences than those of most other parts of the Lowlands ; and, just as in the architectural detail of Crosraguel Abbey, so in these stones we find an art largely indigenous, for which reason it is possibly also more interesting in its robust aloofness, than an art more readily touched by the varying trend of contemporary thought and expression.

Until comparatively recent years roads in South Ayrshire were practically unknown, and Carrick, a seething backwater, lay outwith the main stream of progress ; the people as a class being turbulent, isolated, and independent, for feudalism in all its strength, truculence, and insolence was dominant till almost recent years.

There was undoubted truth in the old couplet :

'Twixt Wigton and the town of Air,  
Portpatrick and the Cruives o' Cree,  
Nae man need think for to bide there  
Unless he court wi' Kennedie.

Bitter and internecine strife prevailed for long centuries, and those influences dominating to some extent alike the thought and work of the locality, may so far account for the comparatively few tombstones on which contemporary trades are noted. Those named, but only once in each instance, are merchant, vintner, mason, musician, "seid's man," taylor, wright, shoemaker, farmer, smith, and sailor.

Peaceful crafts may perhaps have been deemed too unimportant for recognition in a warlike community, or to have found prominence in a place which even in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was a forlorn little fishing village. In 1793, a writer records that the houses "are so low as to seem, at the south end of the village, rather caves dug in the earth than houses built upon it," and this although Girvan had been granted its charter as a burgh in 1668.

Twenty-one years later is the date of the earliest of the seventeenth-

century tombstones (fig. 7) now remaining, and the inscription on the back of the stone simply reads : " This stone is erected in the Memory of the Cathcarts, 1689." It is 3 feet 1 inch high, 2 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches thick. Cut out on the top of the stone, and reclining on something resembling a voluted couch, is a prone figure. The border of the stone is formed of an interlocking ornament of small triangular figures, in treatment remotely suggesting an echo or a survival of the chevron or dog-tooth of Norman or early English days. Above the square sunk panel of the stone are the letters I.C.M.B.A.R.W.C. The panel itself is divided by a subsidiary horizontal member into two unequal parts, upper and lower. In the upper are three rudely carved and disproportionate figures, two of which have their hands resting on, or holding an object between them, possibly an hour-glass ; and, on their left, a smaller figure, probably that of a child, clothed, as is the man, in what appears to be a pant-like garment reaching to the knee. In the middle of the lower and smaller panel is a skull, on its left cross-bones on a panel, and on its right the remains of what appears to have been an hour-glass.

In 1691, two more elaborately carved stones, both somewhat similar in design, were erected, each with a countersunk panel and raised border moulding. On either side of the panel of one of them (fig. 8) (about 3 feet 11 inches by 2 feet 8 inches) is a fluted pilaster with moulded base and foliated cap, supported on the outer side by moulded and foliated scrolls. Above the panel is a frieze and truncated pediment bearing a cartouche supporting a horned head. Immediately below the left-hand pilaster is an hour-glass, and below the right a winged skull. Beneath the panel is a large and vigorously cut skull almost in profile, the lower border of the panel being curved for its accommodation ; while on either side, as supporters to the skull and in high relief, are strongly carved volutes, the upper terminal of each being a bird's neck and head, the lower of characteristically foliated carving ; these bird volutes are linked together by a straight

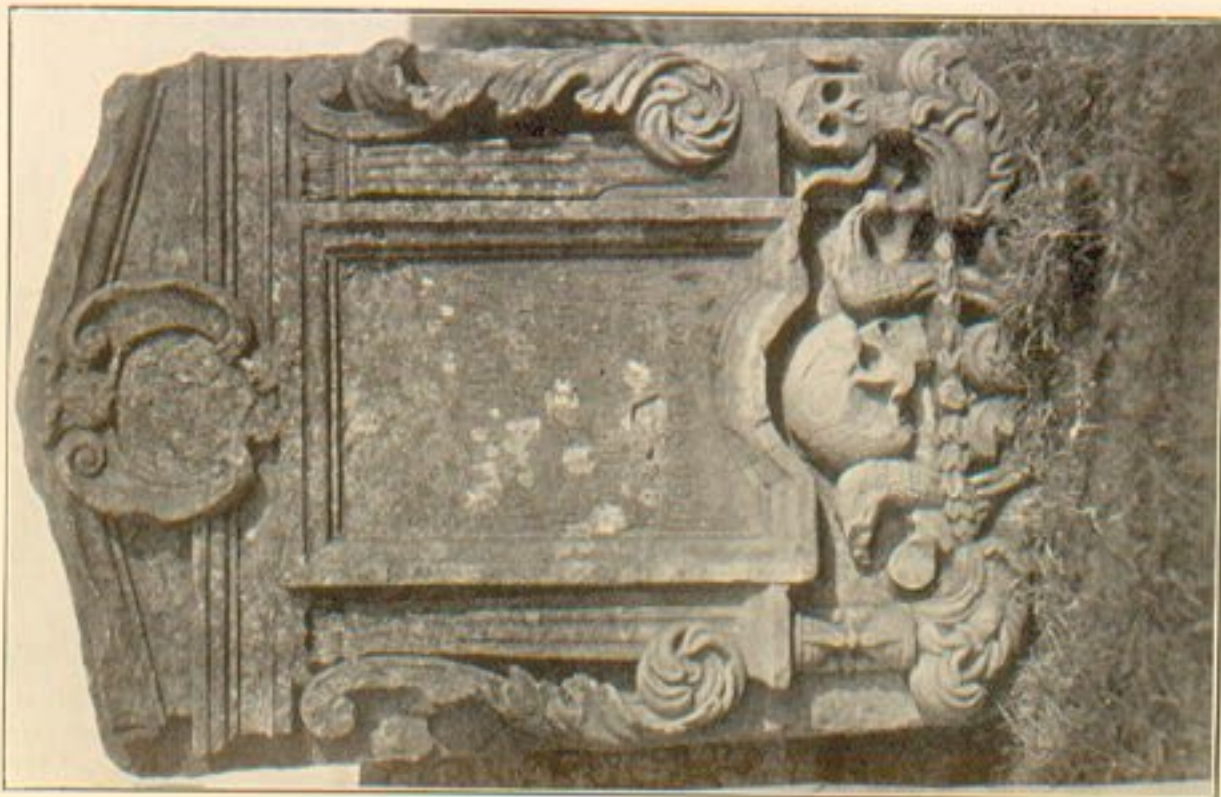


Fig. 8. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard, 1691.



Fig. 7. Headstone in memory of the Cathcarts, 1689, in Girvan Churchyard.

band of threaded foliations. The portion of the inscribed panel still legible reads :

of. the.  
 Gospel. at. Bar. Who.  
 dyed. feberuar, 1689.  
 his. age. 72. This mon.  
 ument. was. erected.  
 by. Jean. mcKerrel. his.  
 spous. may. 1691.

The other and larger stone (fig. 9) (about 4 feet 4½ inches by 3 feet 9 inches), also dated 1691, carries an almost obliterated inscription on a somewhat similarly designed centre panel; the only words now decipherable thereon being: "who died June, 1669. age 58." The bottom line reads, "and Jean Alexander his spous." On the lower edge of the panel, as also on the supporting strap-band, is inscribed: "who erected this monument over his parents 1691."

On this stone the panel is entirely surrounded by vigorously modelled and excellently cut sculpturesque if archaic figures, while the foliation is crisp and effective. The inscription panel rests on the strap-band with voluted ends, from each of which hangs a foliated enclosing member supporting a winged female figure (facing inward), each terminating in a foliated tail, which latter die into and form part of a crisply cut centre design, out of which in turn rises the depression in the strap of the volute carrying the inscription panel. Standing on each volute and facing outward is a rampant winged and crested animal, and poised upon each triple crest a small grotesque animal nibbling thereat. Above the panel and resting upon it are two winged animals, somewhat resembling miniature Ninevitic bulls, in front of the forefeet of each being a small human skull, while the tails growing into volutes abut against each other and form the seat for a winged hour-glass.

A confused medley of volutes of worm-like formation, and without any effort towards foliation, cover the lower part of another stone



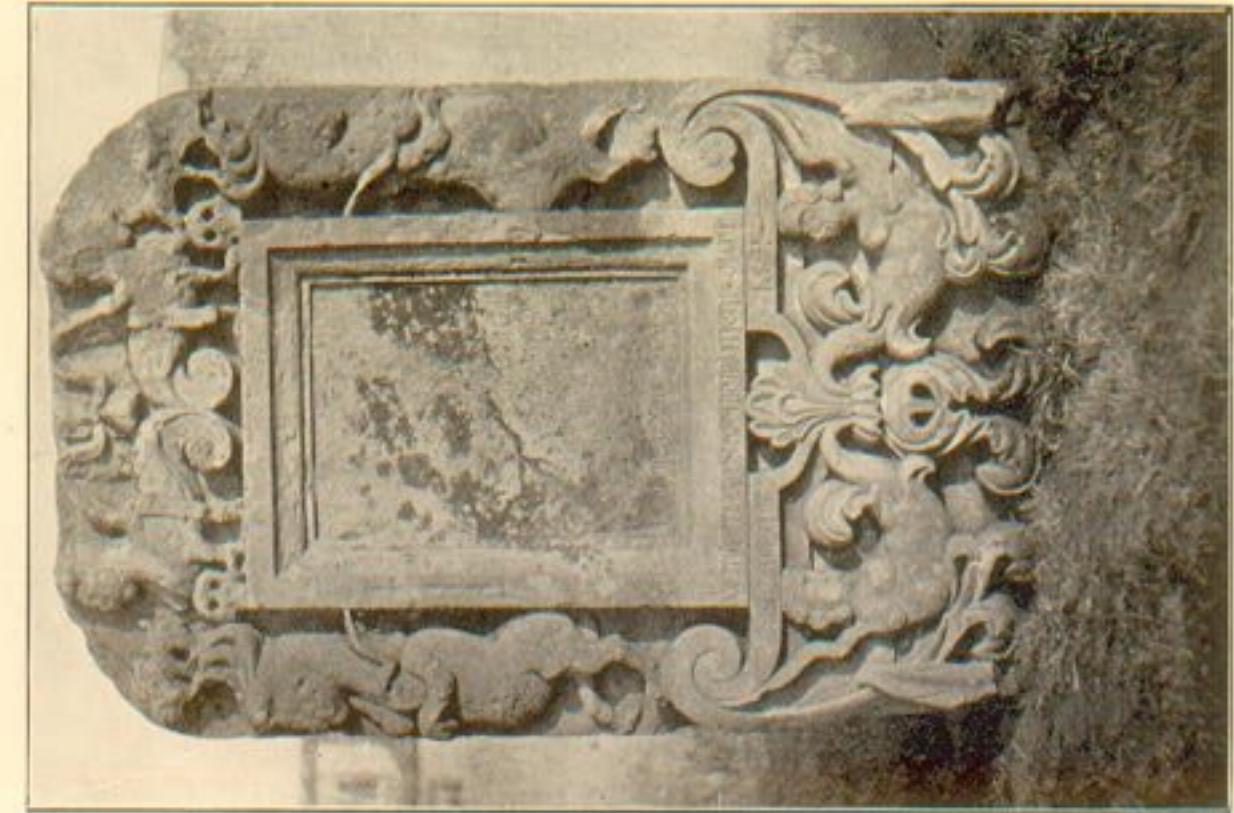


Fig. 9. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard, 1691.



Fig. 10. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.

(fig. 10) (about 3 feet by 2 feet and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick); they are none the less exceedingly well handled even if crude in utterance, while between them is a figure which may be a rude attempt at a skull or crown, and immediately above are cross-bones. The upper part is surrounded by a narrow projecting border enclosing a panel, which border at the top forms the outer circled canopies of two figures, a man and a woman; and in the middle, and dividing the outer canopies, a small centre canopy above an open book. Possibly an Adam and Eve, each figure appears to be seated on a conventional form of plant-growth, while their hands hold the open book of life, and in the space between and beneath the book is the hour-glass, as the symbol of mutability. It is interesting to note that carved on one of the wall-shaft capitals in the Sacristy at Crosraguel Abbey are two squirrels facing each other and seated in a very similar manner. On the back of the stone is the following inscription:

IN HOOPE OF A GL<sup>O</sup>RI<sup>O</sup>US  
 RESUREIIION HIRE LYS  
 THE CORPS OF ANIRE  
 GRAY WHO LIVED IN  
 THE<sup>1</sup> SNAd OF TRO E  
 AND OF HIS CHILD  
 REN HE DIED AGUST  
 1680 AND AL<sup>S</sup>O THE  
 CORPS OF AGNES  
 GARDINER SPOUSE TO  
 ANDREU GRAY SHE  
 DIED MARTH 1735  
 HIS YONSEST SON ERECT  
 ED this MONOMENT.

The headstone fig. 11 (about 3 feet by 2 feet  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches and 4 inches thick) is a curious memorial with a rude pediment, the entire tympanum being filled by a winged cherub-head. Beneath

<sup>1</sup> Query: Snaid near Trochrague?—J. A. M.





Fig. 11. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.

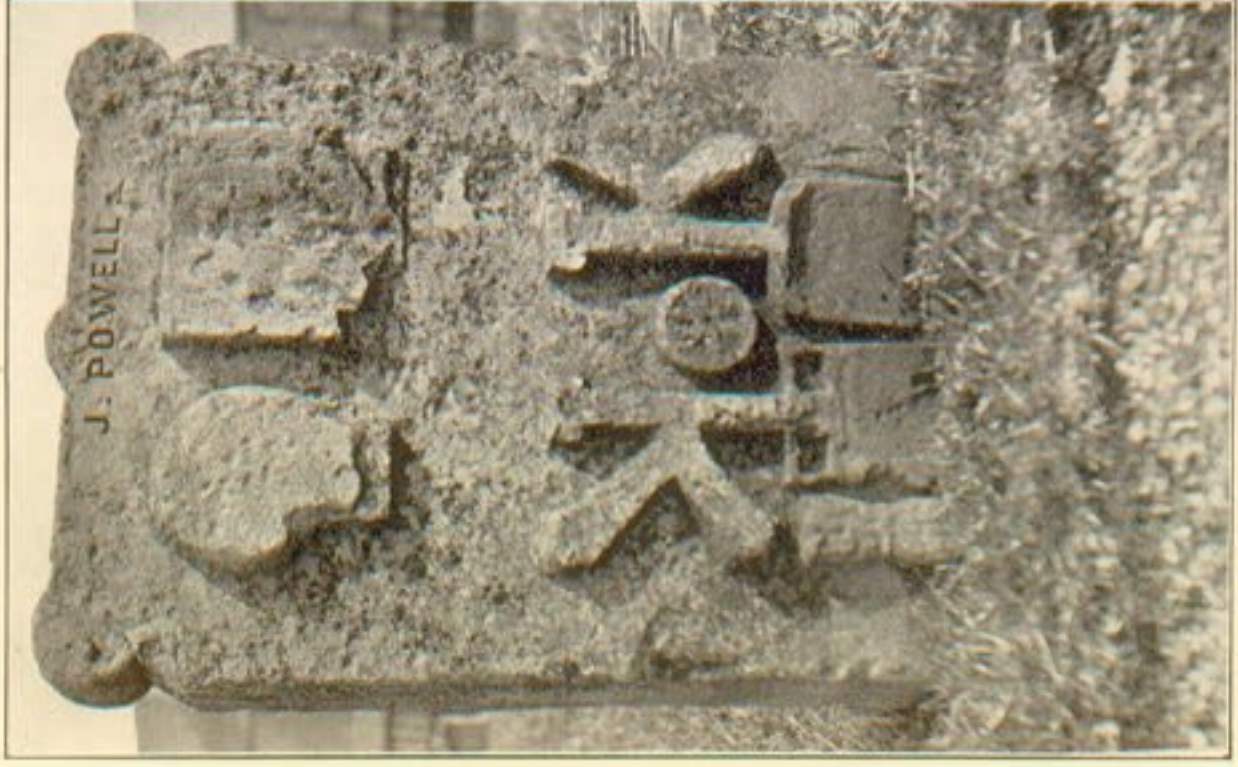


Fig. 12. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard, 1715.

the pediment, and on either side of the stone, are large slightly foliated volutes, that on the left rising from a skull, the right from cross-bones. Between these volutes is a kilted figure, standing on a slightly raised base. Enclosing the figure on top and sides is a canopied device, in shape something like the outer legs of the letter A. It is probably a tent, the man standing in the door; and, at the apex, not, however, well shown in the photograph, is the usual tent apex covering-piece. The left leg of the tent rests upon an hour-glass, the right on the head of the right femur, which forms one of the two cross-bones. The inscription reads:

HERE LYES THE CORPS OF  
ELIZABETH MCLAVACHAN  
SPOUSE TO ANDREW M<sup>C</sup>CU  
EEN WHO DIED FEBUAIKY  
THE 26 1716 HER AGE 72  
THIS IS ALSO THE BURIAL  
PLACE OF THE SAID AND  
REW M<sup>C</sup> CUEEN IN MILTOUN.

An unusual stone (fig. 12), about 3 feet  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch by 2 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches and 5 inches thick, bears side by side, and in high relief, a spade with a double pierced top, and a shovel, the shaft in each case forming the vertical limb of the letter K. These letters are placed back to back, and between them is a raised rosette with an incised ornament of six points. On the left of the spade-head is an hour-glass. Near the top of the stone are two unfinished projecting blocks, possibly from their outline intended to have been carved as a skull and open book. A long inscription on the back of the stone bears that it was erected in 1715 by one James Lamb, a shoemaker, in memory of his "parents and children." The name "J. Powell," shown on the photograph, is modern.

Another somewhat original stone, with a shaped top (fig. 13) (2 feet 8 inches by 1 foot 9 inches), is divided into two panels, the upper containing a device of two converging outer limbs meeting in a shaped



block. Forming the sides of the lower panel are two very elementary rounded pillars, which carry the upper panel; between these pillars are



Fig. 13. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.

a large skull and cross-bones. There is no date on the much obliterated inscription, which reads :

HEIR.LYETH  
THE.CORPES.OF  
MAR M<sup>c</sup>  
SPOUSE.TO.UIL<sup>d</sup>IAM.

SCULPTURED SLAB AND CHURCHYARD MONUMENTS AT GIRVAN. 191

A stone with a sunk moulded panel (fig. 14) (2 feet 10 inches by 2 feet and 4 inches thick) bears on its lower left corner a skull, above to the right cross-bones, and again above, but on



Fig. 14. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.

the middle line, an hour-glass. The top of the stone is shaped, and the outline emphasised by an incised line ornament, beneath which is, in the centre, an incised heart. Only a few words of the inscription remain :

THIS IS THE  
 BURIAL  
 OF JOHN MA  
 AND AGNES ELLY THE  
 SPOUSE WHO DIED  
 JANUARY 2 1727 AGED 55.



Fig. 15. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.

Three stones (figs. 15, 16, and 17) are very similar in form and design. Each is slightly rounded on top, and has side volutes carved on the face of the stone, with between the top scrolls a winged cherub-head. On two of the stones—fig. 15 (2 feet 3½ inches by 2 feet 2 inches)

and fig. 16 (2 feet 6 inches by 2 feet),—and immediately below the cherub-head, is a skull, lower down cross-bones, and again below and between the lower scrolls an hour-glass. On the third stone (fig. 17) (2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 11½ inches), below the cherub-head is an unfinished block in the shape of an open book, immediately beneath and in a horizontal line are cross-bones and a skull, while below and again in one line are a small hand holding a hammer, the head and bust of a prone figure, and an hour-glass. The relative inscriptions are as follows :

HERE LYES THE  
CORPS OF WILLIAM M<sup>c</sup>CAUL<sup>d</sup>  
IN LAGLARTRIE WHO DIED  
AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup> 1764 AGED 75 YEAR  
LIKEUISE JANET ROS<sup>s</sup> HIS WIFE  
WHO DIED NOV<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, 1763 AGED  
63 YEARS. ERECTED BY ANDRE<sup>w</sup>,  
GILBERT & JOHN M<sup>c</sup>CAULS HIS  
SONS 1766.

This is the burial  
place of JAMES GOOD in pinim  
aher. here lyes the Corps of JAMES  
GOOD his son who died janu<sup>r</sup>  
30<sup>th</sup> 1764, 2years 5months.

Here lyes the Corps of Helen  
Mcandlish Spouse To John  
Clacher in Bridge Miln  
who dyed January 5<sup>th</sup>  
1777 and aged 53 years.

Fig. 18 is a large flat stone 6 feet long, 2 feet 11 inches broad, and about 4¾ inches thick. Incised upon it is a large axe, also another figure partly unreadable because of a broken and lost part of the stone. Above the axe are the incised names and date :

DONEL.ROGER  
THOMES.ROGER  
C W.1674.



Fig. 16. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.



Fig. 17. Headstone in Girvan Churchyard.

and upon the lower broken portion :

Hei  
ous      Died  
7 3 A d 57.

A small splayed stone is interesting because of its Latin inscription. Unfortunately, several of the words are now illegible,



Fig. 18. Stone with two axes in Girvan Churchyard.

but the following approximate transcription by the Rev. R. G. Colquhoun, B.D., has been given me by the kindness of Mr W. S. McArthur, Clerk to the Parish Council, in whose custody is the churchyard.

## APPROXIMATE ORIGINAL OF INSCRIPTION.

Pastor hic fidelissimus precibus et labore votis et (verbis ?) quibus in colum conscenderet (quidem ?) correctus hic speciosos portus attigit quem non accumulabo laudibus quia nunc versatur ubi non laudari sed laudare negotium est verum magna illa renascentis mundi dī obliviscetur immortalitas cinericii hujus hospitii dedecus.

## APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION OF INSCRIPTION.

This most faithful pastor—, set right here by the prayers and struggles, the vows and utterances by which indeed he might set sail for heaven—, has reached the fair havens. I shall not honour him with praises : for he now dwells where the occupation is—not to be praised—but to praise. But assuredly that glorious immortality of God's Resurrection World will throw into oblivion the unworthiness of his ashy resting-place.

The Parish Council is much to be commended for the very excellent and complete inventory which it has made of every stone in the churchyard. A plan, divided into sections, shows the position of each individual stone, while by means of a carefully compiled index-book, ready reference can be had to all inscriptions and dates presently decipherable ; a procedure other custodians of similar memorials may well be encouraged to emulate, before time of necessity obliterates the original records.

Besides those enumerated there are several other interesting inscribed stones in the churchyard, and it is matter for congratulation that they have remained so long untouched, and that all, save the notable Celtic Cross and the defaced mediæval stones, are insignificant enough to have escaped mutilation or destruction by the hand of the restorer.

In these old stones the quiet of the churchyard is not once broken by discordant and noisy epitaphs ; they come to us much as they were left by those who made them, and in this we may esteem ourselves fortunate. Lastly, and if late in the day, they have been enduringly preserved to Girvan by the generosity of Mr Johnston, who spent a sum of several thousand pounds in carefully raising and making secure the several memorials, and in building gateways and enclosure walls, within which may rest in seemly manner his own revered dead.

MONDAY, 10th February 1913.

Mr JAMES CURLE, W.S., in the Chair.

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

(1) By Rev. P. H. RUSSELL, Olaberry, Shetland.

Small Circular Weight Box of Brass, with Hinge (lid wanting), found at Olaberry, Shetland.

(2) By SPENSER G. PERCIVAL, Clifton, Bristol.

Leaden Cross, 1½ inches in length, found in excavating at Bristol Post Office in 1908, and Two Cores of Horns of Sheep or Goat, found in excavating in Temple Street, Bristol.

(3) By WILLIAM MOIR BRYCE, F.S.A. Scot.

Leaden Seal—SIGILLVM LEPROSORVM round a bust in centre ; *reverse* LAZARI IHERVSALEM round a bust of a Bishop in attitude of blessing, found under an old house near Holyrood.

(4) By GEORGE HADDOW, Summit Public School, Crauford.

Hanging Candle-holder of Iron, with Sliding Rod and Hook, from Douglas, Lanarkshire.

(5) By JOHN FLEMING, F.S.A. Scot.

Nineteen Charters and other Documents mostly on parchment, and some on paper ; chiefly of the sixteenth and seventeenth Centuries. The following Inventory of these Documents has been made by Dr J. Maitland Thomson :—



## 1. 17th January 1519-20.

Instrument of Sasine taken 17th January 1519[-20], in the hands of Andrew Blinsele of St Andrews diocese notary public, in favour of Isobel Chalmer spouse of John Cochrane of Petfour, of 13s. 4d. annual rent furth of the tenement of Robert Robertsons *alias* Wynrame lying on the east side of the Kirkgate of the burgh of Perth (betwixt the land of the chaplain of St Joseph confessor on the north, and the land of umquhil Alexander Pullour on the south). Sasine given by Alexander Chalmer one of the bailies of said burgh, conform to charter thereof to be made to her. Witnesses, Robert Robertsons and James Mernys serjeants, John Arnot.

## 2. Scots, on paper. 11th July 1536.

Contract betwixt George Abercromy of Petmedene and Mr Alexander Ogilvy in Glassacht. The parties submitted themselves to the arbitration of Alexander Ogilvy of that ilk, touching a ward lately "biggit" by Mr Alexander upon the lands and his tack of Cultaine, alleged by George to be "biggit" upon the commony of his wadset lands of Deskfurd; and anent certain dykes "biggit" by George and his servants about the common gate in "striping" the same, where Mr Alexander and his servants had been wont to lead their fuel from the ground of Deskfurd to the town of the Glassacht; together with all other debates betwixt the parties before the date hereof. Which office the arbiter took upon him, and swore to give decret before . . . next to come. Meanwhile George should tolerate a loan for Mr Alexander and his tenants' goods to pass to the ford of Classindamme through his lands of Clascindamme, without pasturing therein; and Mr Alexander should tolerate that Tom Vilsone and the tenants of Arbrago should loan their goods betwixt Rob Cuik's corns and Tom Vilson's fold; without prejudice to the rights of parties. On which both parties asked an Instrument. At the Bog of Finlatter, 11th July 1536. Witnesses, Alexander Abercromy in Reidhicht, William Mortimar, Thomas Henre. Attested by Sir John Robertsons notary public.

## 3. 16th September 1555.

Instrument of Resignation and Sasine taken on 16th September 1555, in the hands of James Ros clerk of Glasgow diocese notary public, upon the resignation made by Thomas McGe into the hands of Sir John Rais prebendary of the third stall of the collegiate kirk

of Mayboill as overlord, of a tenement with houses and yard thereof and arable lands adjacent thereto, lying in the town of Mayboill (betwixt the lands of James Richart on the west and of Sir Fergus McMirie chaplain on the east), and that in favour of John McTeir, to whom the overlord gave sasine accordingly. Witnesses, John Fergusson, James Bard of Drummelling, John McIlvane junior, John McIlvane senior, Sir John Kennedy chaplain.

4. 25th December 1573.

Instrument of Sasine taken on 25th December 1573, in the hands of John Bonkil clerk-depute of the city of St Andrews notary public, upon the sasine given to Christian Yuill relict of Patrick Ogilvie citizen of St Andrews, for her lifetime, of her terce of 5½ acres of arable land in which said Patrick died vest and seized, viz. 3½ acres in the territory called Kennis Bank (betwixt the acres of John Wod on the east, the land of Thomas Faber [?] on the west, the lands of Kennis on the south, and the acres of Grisel Sibald, Robert Craig, Thomas Broun, David Gled, Elizabeth Baxter, and Mr Alexander Jarden on the north), and 2 acres in the territory called Ester Ruffat (betwixt the acres of Alexander Russel on the east, of Robert Ade on the west, the common road leading to the bridge of Ballone on the south, and the common road leading to Cupar on the north). On Precept of Clare Constat by Robert commendator of the priory of St Andrews and convent thereof, dated at the city of St Andrews, 4 December 1573. Sasine given by George Saige, bailie in that part. Witnesses, Robert Ywil maltster (*brasifactor*) citizen of St Andrews, James Myllar serjeant of the said city.

5. 18th July 1600.

Instrument of Sasine taken on 18th July 1600, in the hands of James Anderson clerk of court of the burgh of Cupar clerk of St Andrews diocese notary public, upon the sasine given to Thomas Barclay burgess of Cupar and Margaret Petersone his wife, and the longer liver of them in conjunct fee, and the heirs begotten or to be begotten betwixt them, whom failing, Thomas' heirs and assignees whomsoever, of those 4 acres of arable land called Sanct-Katheringis-hauch, lying beside the burgh of Cupar (betwixt the water of Eden on the west and north, the lands of Lytill Tervet called the Hippehill on the east, the common road from the bridge of Eden to Ballas and St Michael's Kirk [*templum*] on the south), in the sheriffdom of Fife. On Precept

of Sasine under the Quarter Seal, addressed to the king's bailies of Fife and to George Andersone, sheriff in that part, following on Great Seal Charter (granted with consent of Mr John Prestoun of Fentounbarnis, collector general and treasurer of new augmentations), which proceeded on the resignation of Thomas Williamsone burges of Cupar, John Williamsone his eldest son, and Margaret Peage John's wife. Precept dated at Holyroodhouse, 7th March 1600, *anno regni* 33. Sasine given by George Andersone burges of Cupar, sheriff of Fife in that part. Witnesses, Mr Alexander Strauchane minister of the burgh of Cupar, Robert Williamsone, George Mous, Andrew Nore, burgesses of said burgh.

Recorded in the Secretary's Register for the sheriffdom of Fife by John Makesone clerk depute thereof, at St Andrews. 4th August 1600.

6.

19th May 1608.

Precept of Clare Constat by Robert Innes of Invermarkye, addressed to John Lesleye in the college of Elgin bailie in that part, for giving sasine to Isobel Innes, as heir of her deceased brother german John Innes lawful son of umquhil Robert Innes of Orblestoun, of the town and lands of Orblestoun, in the earldom of Moray and sheriffdom of Elgin and Forres, held of the granter in feu. Precept written by George Annand burges of Elgin notary public. At Plewlandis, 19th May 1608. Witnesses, William Makintosche of Beandacher, Robert Innes the granter's servitor, Michael Rawsone in Petruiffnye, James Thayne in Plewlandis.

Signed by granter and witnesses.

7.

25th March 1609.

Charter of Sale by Thomas Barclay burges of Cupar, with consent of Isobel Smythe his spouse, in implement of Letters Obligatory of same date, granting to James Barclay and David Barclay lawful sons of umquhil David Barclay the granter's brother german, equally betwixt them, their heirs and assignees whomsoever, irredeemably, 4 acres of arable land called Sanct-Katherenis-hauche lying beside the burgh of Cupar (bounded as in no. 5 *supra*), in the sheriffdom of Fife. To be held *a me* of the king, coming in place of the Friars Preachers of St Andrews. Feu duty 4 bolls of wheat, at Candlemas. With Precept of Sasine addressed to William Chrystesoune burges of Cupar. Charter written by David Andersone notary public. At Cupar, 25th March 1609. Witnesses, Robert Robertstone merchant

burgess of Cupar, David Robertstone his lawful son, Alexander Smythe burgess of said burgh, James Smythe his lawful son.

Signed by granter and witnesses. The granter's spouse signs with hand at the pen led by David Andersone and William Christiesone notaries public.

8.

1st July 1618.

Charter of Sale by James Hammiltoun merchant burgess of Edinburgh, with consent of Jonet Gillaspie his spouse, in implement of Letters dated at Edinburgh, 25th December 1617, and for £1000 Scots paid to them, granting to Andrew Clerk glassenwright, and Elizabeth or Bessie Clerk his spouse, and the longer liver of them in conjunct fee, and the heirs begotten or to be begotten betwixt them, whom failing, to Andrew's heirs or assignees whomsoever, irredeemably, that half dwelling house containing hall, chamber and study (*museolum*) at the north end and kitchen at the south end thereof, then occupied by Matthew Barnis, together with hall and chamber then occupied by George Patersoun merchant, lying immediately below said dwelling house and entering on the south side of the door of the said tenement of that great tenement of umquhil James Cant son of umquhil Thomas Cant of Sanctjeilligrainge, thereafter of umquhil John Cant brother and heir of umquhil George Cant son and heir of said Thomas, then of granter and his spouse, lying on the south side of the High street of said burgh (betwixt the tenement of umquhil Alexander Elphingstoun on the west, the tenement of umquhil John Carmichaell on the east, the High street on the north, and the waste land of umquhil Thomas Sommervell on the south). To be held *a nobis* of the king in free burgage. Rendering service of burgh ought and wont. With clause of warrandice, specially from annual rents of 80 merks, 2 merks and £16 due furth of said whole tenement. At Edinburgh, 1st July 1618. Witnesses, Alexander Patersoun, James Lennox, and Alexander Makcainay servitor of Mr Alexander Guthrie common clerk of Edinburgh (writer of the charter).

Signed by granter and witnesses.

9.

10th November 1629.

Instrument of Cognition and Sasine taken on 10th November 1629, in the hands of John Merser clerk of St Andrews diocese notary public, narrating that Alexander Peblis provost of Perth cognosced and entered Mr Alexander Christiesone minister of Logybryd, eldest

son of umquhil David Chrystesone merchant burges of Perth, as his father's heir in an annual rent of £10 Scots wadset by umquhil Thomas Gaw notary burges of Perth and Isobel Blair his wife, with consent of umquhil Oliver Makesone merchant burges of Perth, for £100 Scots to be repaid to the said Oliver and the heirs of his marriage with umquhil Agnes Billie, furth of that tenement of land fore and back nether and upper and south part of the yard thereof extending in breadth to  $13\frac{1}{4}$  ells, lying on the east side of the Watergate of said burgh (betwixt the land sometime of umquhil Richard Ros and the north part of said yard pertaining to said Oliver on the north, said Oliver's other land and the yard of umquhil Gilbert Ray on the south, the water of Tay on the east, and said Watergate on the west). Witnesses, Robert Arnott, John Maxtoun, bailies, William Hall elder, David Grant merchant, David Chalmer, Henry Bröun, notaries, Patrick Brusone writer, burgesses of Perth, George Robertsonsone and Donald Read serjeants of the said burgh.

10. Scots, on paper.

1st and . . . April 1630—recorded 25th April 1633.

Extract Contract of Marriage betwixt James Cummyng of Freifeild on one part, and Alexander Gordoun in Elgin for himself and taking burden for Christian Gordoun his eldest lawful daughter, and said Christian for herself with her father's consent, on the other. James to marry Christian in face of Holy Kirk betwixt and . . . 1630. Alexander to procure himself to be infett in a rood of land on the south side of the burgh of Elgin (betwixt the lands pertaining sometime to Helen Lesley at the east, the lands pertaining to the heirs and successors of Thomas Ritchartsone burges of Elgin at the west, to the king's High street of said burgh at the north, and the back passage of the same at the south), with houses and yards thereof, lying within the burgh of Elgin and sheriffdom of Elgin and Forres, and that betwixt and . . . next to come; and to dispone it, with the whole timber plenishing within the same, to said James and Christian in conjunct fee and liferent, and heritably to the heirs of the marriage, whom failing, to James' heirs and assignees whomsoever, to be held of the king for payment of the land mails used and wont, and of such annual rents as were in use to be uplifted therefrom; and to resign the same in the hands of the provost or one of the baillies of Elgin in favour of the spouses. For a "meeting" to which, James to bestow 1000 merks Scots upon land wadset or annual rent where it might be most

commodiously had, to be furthcoming heritably to the heirs of the marriage; should James predecease Christian leaving no surviving issue of the marriage, Christian to have the liferent of said sum; should Christian predecease James leaving heirs of the marriage, James to pay them the annual rent of said sum during his life. Further, James with his spouse's consent set in tack to Alexander the said rood &c., excepting only the uppermost laich chamber in the close and the fore booth, for one year from Whitsunday next, and thereafter from year to year so long as it should please Alexander to possess it himself during his lifetime, he paying yearly 50 merks Scots. Alexander to make no disposition of the moveables of which he might die possessed, to the prejudice of his two daughters. Each party bound himself to fulfilment of the above under penalty of 500 merks Scots, to be paid by the party breaking the contract to the party observing it; and both parties consented to registration in the Books of Council and Session or the Commissary's Books of Moray, and thereto appointed James Innes notary public (burgess of Elgin) their procurator. At Elgin, 1st and . . . April 1630. Witnesses, James Gordoune of Dawoche, Robert Gibsone of Linkwoodis, Alexander Cummyng sometime of Thornhill, Ninian Dunbar of Ruiffis, Alexander Cummyng in Elgin (writer of the contract). Alexander Gordoun and his daughter signed with hands at the pen led by James Innes and William M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie notaries public.

Recorded in the Commissary's Books of Moray by authority of Mr John Hay commissary, 25th April 1633; and extracted therefrom by Mr Robert Gardin commissary clerk.

11. 26th February 1631.

Instrument of Resignation and Sasine taken 26th February 1631, in the hands of Mr Alexander Guthre common clerk of Edinburgh notary public, upon the resignation by George Tailyeour writer, procurator for George Smith merchant burgess of Edinburgh, into the hands of Gilbert Achesoun one of the bailies of said burgh, of a tenement of land fore and back upper and lower, which formerly pertained to the earl of Gowrie lord Ruthven and Dirleton, thereafter to umquhil John Fentoun one of the clerks of Exchequer, by whom it was sold to umquhil Jonet Fockert relict of William Fouller merchant, then pertaining to umquhile Jonet Fouller spouse of John Baillie of Braidschaw, and by him and her sold to umquhil William Fouller merchant, and by him disposed to Hercules Crawmond elder merchant, thereafter pertaining to Thomas Crawmond son of said

Hercules, and by him sold to said George Smith, lying in the Overbow of said burgh on the west side of the passage thereof (betwixt the tenement of umquhil James Lawsoun thereafter of umquhil James Inglis merchant on the north, the tenement of the heirs of umquhil John Fawsyid on the south, the passage of the Overbow on the east, and the lands of said James Inglis on the west),—and in warrandice thereof, of another tenement of land of said William Fouller on the north side of the High street of said burgh (betwixt the tenement of umquhil Thomas Diksoun then of umquhil John Coupar tailor on the west, the tenement of umquhil Donald Kyle then of umquhil Adam Thomesoun apothecary on the east, the lands of umquhil Robert Mar on the north, and the High street on the south);—and on the sasine thereof given to Captain Thomas Sandersoun, brother german of Raleigh Sandersoun agent for the king at the court of Sweathland, his heirs and assignees whomsoever. Reserving the liferent of both tenements to said Hercules. Witnesses, James Moubray skinner, Alexander Makcainay the notary's servitor, Alexander Mure merchant, Alexander Glen lister, James Grahame merchant, William Thomesoun merchant, Robert Gibsoun, Robert Notmane, Robert Myllar, James Cochrane, John Clerk and John Jaksoun serjeants of said burgh.

12.

10th July 1636.

Precept of Clare Constat by John earl of Traquair lord Lyntoun and Caberstoun, addressed to Hector Douglas portioner of Lyntoun bailie in that part, for giving sasine to James Douglas then of Stanypeth, only son and nearest heir male of umquhile Mr Thomas Douglas of Stanypeth, of the lands of Stanypeth in the sheriffdom of Peebles; held formerly of William earl of Mortoun lord Dalkeith for three suits at the three head courts of Dalkeith in name of blench ferme, then of the granter for three suits at the three head courts of the barony of Lyntoun. At Edinburgh, 30th July 1636. Witnesses, John Murray, Robert Vaitche and Mr John Lawsons, servitors of the granter.

Signed by granter and witnesses.

13.

3rd September 1670.

Instrument of Sasine taken 3rd September 1670, in the hands of Robert Hamilton clerk of Glasgow diocese notary public, upon the sasine given to John M'Quhirtur of Grimett and Mary Sinclair his spouse, of 2 roods of land lying contiguous, with one tenement built

upon them, with waste land adjoining, with houses and yard (lying betwixt the lands of umquhil William M<sup>c</sup>Murrie in Dromebane on the east, the lands of umquhil James Ritchart on the west, and common roads on the south and north), in the burgh of Mayboill, earldom of Carrick and sheriffdom of Ayr; and in special warrandice thereof, a tenement under and upper, fore and back, with yard thereof, in said burgh beside the kirkyard, then occupied by Katherine Kennedy relict of Hugh M<sup>c</sup>Quhirtur in Mayboill. On Precept in Charter granted by John earl of Cassillis lord Kennedy to said John and his spouse and the longer liver of them, and the heirs begotten or to be begotten betwixt them, whom failing, John's heirs and assignees whomsoever, dated at Mayboill, 28 April 1670. Witnesses to Charter, John Schaw of Grimet, Robert Hamiltone writer in Mayboill, John M<sup>c</sup>Colme his servitor (writer of the Charter). Sasine given by John M<sup>c</sup>Murrie of Cultizewn bailie in that part, to Thomas M<sup>c</sup>Colme merchant in Mayboill as attorney for the grantees. Witnesses, John M<sup>c</sup>Colme writer in Mayboill, Thomas Smith son of James Smith merchant in Mayboill, John Girthrige and Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Colme there.

Presented by Robert Hamilton bailie clerk of Carrick, and recorded in the Particular Register of Sasines for the sheriffdom of Ayr by Charles Dalrymple clerk depute thereof, 6th September 1670.

14. English, on paper. 24th January 1679-80.

Letter by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to Sir Robert Howard knight, auditor of the receipt of Exchequer, directing him to issue £2000 to the Navy, and £2000 to Mr Pepys for the service of "Tanger," out of the loan of £4000 which he was to receive that day of Mr Kent and Mr Duncombe. Whitehall Treasury Chambers, 24th January 1679[-80].

Signed Hen : Guy.

15. 24th February 1686.

Charter of Sale and Novodamus by Hugh Rose of Kilraik, granting to Alexander Rose of Clava, his heirs male and assignees whomsoever, irredeemably, the towns and lands of Mid Fliness, the town and lands of Athabrait, the mill of Fliness and mill lands with multures and sucken thereof, in the sheriffdom of Nairn; whereof Hugh Rose of Clava died vest and seized at the faith of King Charles II., Alexander being his eldest son and heir. To be held *de me.* Rendering one penny Scots in name of blench duty. With Precept of Sasine addressed



to Robert Cuming in Mid Fliness. At Kilraik, 24th February 1686. Witnesses, Mr John Dunbar and William McKenzie the granter's servitors, James Rose sheriff clerk of Nairn (writer of the Charter). Signed by granter and witnesses.

16. On paper. 30th July 1691.

Account of James earl of Panmuir, as having right to the feufermes and other duties of the subjects underwritten, rendered by Mr Robert Innes W.S. in his name, 30th July 1691, of all his receipts and expenses since 31st July 1690.

Charge. Blench duties of the feufermes and other duties of the lands and barony of Barrie and office of bailiary thereof (and that for relief of lord Balmerino of that part of the blench duties of the whole erected lordship of Balmerino), £36. Which sum was paid to Patrick Murray receiver of the king's fermes. *Et sic eque.*

Signed by J. Balfour els. reg., and Tho. Moncreiffe.

17. 18th October 1695.

Feu Charter by James earl of Galloway lord Stewart of Garlies and Glasserton, in implement of an Obligation, granting to John Ross in Carnebrock, his heirs and assignees whomsoever, the 20 shilling land of old extent of Carnebrock, and the 40 shilling land of old extent of Balsarroch, being parts of the lands and barony of Corswall, in the parish of Kircume and sheriffdom of Wigton. To be held of the earl. Rendering for Carnebrock £3 Scots, for Balsarroch £6 Scots, in name of feu duty; and doubling the duty at each heir's entry; and relieving the earl of the vicarage teinds due furth of said lands to the minister of Kircume. The feuars and their tenants to compare at the earl's head courts of said barony, and at all other courts thereof when lawfully summoned. The feuars to pay for Balsarroch to the earl's mill of Corswall the multures and other dues ought and wont, as paid by Hugh Campbell their predecessor, and fulfilling all that they ought to fulfil to the earl by his disposition thereof. With Precept of Sasine. At Clary, 18th October 1695. Witnesses, Robert McDouall younger of Loggane, John Stewart of Phisgill, John Murdoch the earl's servant, David Stewart writer in Edinburgh (writer of the Charter).

Signed by granter and witnesses.

18. English, on paper. 19th March 1698.

Letter from Jo: Hareson (?) to Mr. Patrick Craw of Heughead, at Dudistoun, stating that the riding horse of Sir Patrick (Home of

Renton ?) was inclined to a "reiff," and asking his correspondent to go to one Niccoll a smith about Musselburgh, who used to cure horses of scab, procure a recipe and give it to John Gibsone the hind, then at Brunstoun, with order to get the particulars and fetch them out. Dated Cold[ingham ?], 19th March 1698. "I speak all english having been at newcastle this week."

On the back.

21 March '98. A cure for scabed horse from Nicol Grinlay.

To let blood and kep it and rub him over with it mingled well with salt.

Then get a muskin of train oyll (and within a day efter he is let blood) and a little stuleing about a pynt mixed wt the oyll, a pund of black soap half a pund gun powder then a qrtter pund of bruntstone and beat it small mingle ym all together and boyll them in a pan and yn rub ym over with it against ye hair.

Within 4 or 5 days efter rub ym over wt sea water and keep ym warm wt cloths.

Efter bleeding give a mask of malt.

19. English, on vellum. 11th March 1828.

Certificate by King George IV., addressed to the Peers of Scotland to be assembled at Holyrood House 10th April next for election of another peer to sit and vote in the House of Peers in room of Thomas earl of Kellie deceased; bearing that Eric lord Reay had that day appeared in the Court of Chancery and taken the Oaths of Supremacy, Allegiance and Abjuration. At Westminster, 11th March, 9th year of the king's reign (A.D. 1828).

(6) By THE SYNDICS OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

Cambridge County Geographies—Dumfriesshire, by Rev. J. K. Hewison, M.A., D.D.; Forfarshire, by E. S. Valentine.

(7) By Professor D. MACKINNON, the Author.

A Descriptive Catalogue of the Gaelic Manuscripts in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, and elsewhere in Scotland. 8vo. 1912.

(8) By P. J. ANDERSON, the Author.

Aberdeen Friars (Red, Black, White, and Grey) — Preliminary Catalogue of Illustrative Documents. 8vo. 1911.

(9) By DAVID MURRAY, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Lawyers' Merriments. 8vo. 1912.

(10) By THOMAS MAY, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Roman Pottery in York Museum. Reprints from Reports of the Yorkshire Philosophic Society, 1908–1912.

(11) By ROBERT HYSLOP, 5 Bellevue Crescent, Sunderland.

Langholm as it Was : A History of Langholm and Eskdale from the Earliest Times. By John Hyslop, J.P., and Robert Hyslop. 8vo. 1912.

The following communications were read :—