Remarks on the foregoing communication, by Dr Hibbert.

On the subject of this interesting notice, I would beg to make a few observations. It will be admitted that, when ornaments of this description are found in a barrow, the most direct indications are presented of a tumulus devoted to females. But it is said, that such articles are frequently found in a barrow of a very peculiar construction; for, according to Sir Richard Hoare (in his Ancient Wiltshire) a female barrow is formed by a very small tumulus, and sometimes by two or even three mounds, contained in a vallum which is often beautifully moulded. It is to be regretted, therefore, that on the present occasion we are not made acquainted with the form of the female barrow discovered in Ross-shire, as it would be interesting to compare it with the sepulchral constructions of the same class which occur in the south of England. Sir Richard Hoare observes that a female barrow very rarely contains sepulchral urns. In Ross-shire, however, an urn certainly accompanies female ornaments of dress.
With regard to the race of people to whom the barrow of Ross-shire is attributable, little can be offered but conjecture. The opinion advanced by Dr Stukeley, that glass, amber, or jet ornaments, are indicative of a druid-barrow, has long since condemned as in the highest degree absurd. I am myself strongly inclined to assign the origin of the Ross-shire barrow to the Viking or Sea-Kings of the North, who came from Scandinavia, and took possession of the northerly coasts of Scotland, as well as of Orkney and Shetland. The shores of the Baltic, from which this daring people were accustomed to make their piratical descents, have been celebrated, from the most rude and early period, for the amber and jet which they contained; and it was probably from this site that the beads and other ornaments of Scandinavian females not uncommonly found in the barrows of Scotland were derived.

The articles of jet found in the Ross-shire barrow consist, in the first place, of a bead necklace. Other of the ornaments discovered, which are curiously studded with gold spots, had been most probably suspended from a girdle that encircled the waist; and it is a curious circumstance, that their form and use are perpetuated in the appendages of a similar description which the Icelandic female still attaches to her ancient dress of wadmel, worn by her, in conformity with the custom of her Scandinavian ancestors, upon her bridal-day. All these decorations of the girdle are perforated with holes evidently intended for their mutual connection by means of threads. The two lesser ornaments of jet (marked in the plate, fig. 10 and 11) probably formed the drops of two ear-rings. (All the articles discovered in the Ross-shire barrow are represented on a scale two-thirds the size of the original.)

Art. VI.—Notice respecting an Ancient Ship discovered in a Garden at Stranrawer in Galloway.

By Alexander Kennedy, M. D., F. R. S. E. &c. &c.

[Read December 9, 1852]

The accompanying very curious notice of the discovery of an ancient ship, I copied, some time ago, from a manuscript account of the Bishopric of Galloway, in the possession of Thomas Goldie, Esquire, of Dumfries. Who was the author of the manuscript is not known.

The ship was discovered at Stranrawer; and of the particulars recorded regarding that parish, I need only advert to that which mentions the Bishop of Galloway as being the patron of it. This fixes the composition of the manuscript previous to the abolition of episcopacy in Scotland; and, if I mistake not, it elsewhere bears internal evidence of having been written subsequent to the year 1670. The extract from the M. S. is as follows:

11th, Stranrawer (called also the Chappel.) This is a burgh royal lately enrolled. They choose annually a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer, with several other councillors. It lies upon the bay called Loch Ryan, and is commodiously seated for trade by sea. It is but a little town, but indifferently well built. Their houses are kept neat and clean within, and their meat well dressed, by reason of their correspondence with Ireland, being only about four miles from Portpatrick. They have a considerable market here every Friday, and two yearly fairs, on the first Friday of May and last Friday of August, called St John's fair in harvest. This parish is of a small extent, having nothing but the town belonging thereto; being environed with the parish of Lamlash on the west and south-west; and with the parish of Inch on the east and south-east; which two parishes meet at the south side of the town, and out of them this parish of Stranrawer is erected. On the north side it lies open to Loch Ryan. The Bishop of Galloway is patron here.