NOTES ON SOME ANCIENT CHAPELS AND OTHER REMAINS IN THE ISLAND OF MULL. BY J. W. JUDD, ESQ., F.G.S., ETC. COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE REV. J. M. JOASS, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

RUINED CHAPEL OF PENNYGOWN, ISLAND OF MULL.

This chapel is situated about 1½ miles east of Salen, on the road to Craigmor. The burial-ground round it is still used for interments. The internal dimensions of the building are 40 feet by 17 feet. The building is placed in true position; the altar at the east end. The walls are constructed of blocks of basalt and felsite from the immediate neighbourhood,—the little carved work of the doors and windows being wrought in a freestone of the cretaceous rocks (Upper Greensand), which must have been brought from Gribun, Inch Kenneth, or Morven. The same material is similarly employed in the buildings of Iona. There is only one door, which is situated not in the usual position of the principal entrance of churches (namely the south-west), but at the north-west. Its dimensions are 6 feet 3 inches high by 2 feet 10 inches broad; it is round-headed, and surrounded by a continuous, simple, but not very
deeply-cut roll-moulding. There are indications of hinges, but not of a bar-hole.

The chapel is lighted by three windows, which are all simple, round-headed lancets, surrounded by a simple roll-moulding; the thick walls being deeply splayed internally, as is usual in early English work. The western window is 40 inches high by 6 inches broad, the other two windows are situated at the east end of the north and south walls respectively, so as to overlook the altar. They are 45 inches high by 6 inches broad.

In the east wall, on the south side of the altar, is a small ambry, 14 inches high by 12 inches broad; but I could find no trace of the existence either of Piscina or Sedilia, and all vestiges of the altar itself have disappeared. At the west end we find two very rude corbels for the support of an arch.

According to a tradition in the neighbourhood, this chapel was never completed, the sudden death of three lairds in succession, who attempted to roof it in, having operated as a check to all later undertakings of the kind.

Judged by our English standards, the date of this little chapel would certainly be the thirteenth century; but the structure is so very simple, and destitute of almost all characteristic ornament, that one may well hesitate in pronouncing a decided opinion on the subject.

Inside the chapel, and facing the altar, is the fragment of a beautiful cross, still erect. The position of this cross, taken in connection with its age, may lend some support to the tradition, that the chapel was never completed.

The material of this cross is a fine-grained black mica-schist, similar to that of which the crosses of Iona and Inch Kenneth are constructed. I have enclosed a rough sketch of the beautiful work upon it. The fragment is 40 inches high. Most of the work is still very distinct; but portions of the Madonna, especially the features, and portions of the child, are much worn. The style of the workmanship appears to point to the Early Decorated or Late Early English (i.e. Geometric or latter part of the thirteenth century), as the period at which it was executed; this date appears to be confirmed by the presence of the nail-head moulding.

Outside the chapel are to be seen, on the ground, two slabs of soft
(cretaceous) sandstone, which have evidently formed the tops of altar-tombs. The figures upon these are in alto-relievo, but very rudely executed, owing to the softness of the material; also the sculpture is not well preserved.

One figure is that of a knight lying with his head on a kind of square pillow, the legs not crossed, and the toes turned awkwardly outwards. His right hand grasps the pommel of his sheathed sword, and his left holds a long dagger that lies along his left thigh. The only portion of the dress which shows any character is the helmet, of which I give a rough sketch. The other figure is that of a lady. Her head rests on a similar square pillow to that of the knight; she is clothed in a simple dress, very rudely carved, which is without any characteristic details or ornament, and does not appear to differ, so far as it can be made out, from a modern gown. Her feet are in the same awkward position as those of the knight, this position having been apparently determined by the thickness of the blocks of sandstone on which the figures are sculptured. The arms, however, lie easily across the body, with the hands united. The head-dress can be fairly well made out, but appears to be destitute of all ornament.

Altogether these altar-tombs are very much ruder than those common in England, in which the figures are sculptured in full relief, and the details of the dress are given with such fidelity, that antiquaries, who have made the subject of mediæval dress and ornament their special study, find little difficulty in fixing the date of these monuments within very narrow limits.

**PENNYCROSS.**

This is a very celebrated cross, which gives its name to a district, and a title to a laird. The cross stands near the road which traverses the Island of Mull, from Loch Dow to Bunessan, and about eight miles from the latter place, near the southern shore of Loch Scriden.

I have enclosed a rough sketch of this cross. It is very rudely cut out of a block of Easdale slate, probably brought from the opposite mainland, or one of the adjoining islands. It is fixed by a well-cut mortice into a square block of (cretaceous) sandstone from Gribun, and this rests on a pyramidal pile of basalt blocks from the immediate neighbourhood. The cross is 4 feet 6 inches high, and the pile of stones on which it stands, 5
feet high. There are many scribblings on the cross; but on its east side, at the point indicated in the sketch, are letters and a date carefully cut. These are, of course, long posterior in date to the cross itself, but from the character of the letters, &c., it appears to be a genuine inscription of that period.

In the "Nun's Cave" at Carsaig, on the south coast of Mull, there are several rudely incised crosses upon the soft sandstone, which form the walls. Piles of stones at the end are called "altars," but may only be bed-places; for the cave is still used as an occasional dwelling by wanderers.

At Ardnacroish and Achenacroish, in spite of their names, I could find no trace of the existence of any crosses at the present time. The other interesting mediaeval monuments of Mull and the adjoining islands, namely the chapels and crosses of Iona and Inch Kenneth, are too well known to require description at my hands. In Glen Lonnan in Lorn, I saw an interesting cross, of which I give a sketch from memory. It stands on a pile of stones, and consists of a simple block of slate, upon which is carved a cross (incised), standing upon a sphere (in bold relief).

Megaliths, &c.

At Ardnacroish, half way between Salen and Tobermory, is a "standing-stone," 10 feet high, and another prostrate one in its neighbourhood. They consist of the basalt of the vicinity, and stand on a sloping hill-side. Close at hand are two circles of stones, each about 5 yards in diameter, with some barrows at a short distance from them. On the opposite side of the road, and near the farm house, is another similar circle of stones. From their position these stones could hardly have formed part of a great circle, but seem to have been monumental. The circles seem to have been the boundaries of cairns or barrows.

On the farm of Baliscate, near Tobermory, there are, on a small tract of elevated ground, two standing-stones, 9 feet and 6 feet high respectively, with a prostrate one in their vicinity. These may possibly have formed part of a great circle. At the south end of Glen Lonnan, in Lorn, there is a very fine monolith. Barrows, cairns, and hut-circles are by no means rare in Mull and the adjoining islands. On the shores of Loch Nell, in Lorn, rises the striking hill, dignified by the title of "Berego-
nium.” At its summit are clearly seen the remains of one of the remarkable “vitrified forts;” but this has doubtless been already fully described.

Of interesting medieval castles, the district exhibits very numerous examples: Dunstaffnage, Dunolly, and Loch Neil in Lorn, Ardtonish and Kinloch Aline in Morven, Mingary in Ardnamurchan, Gylen in Kerrera, and Duart, Aros, and Moy in Mull. These are generally more interesting from their picturesque position than from their architectural beauties; they are generally of but insignificant proportions, and do not exhibit evidences of any great antiquity.

MONDAY, 13th April 1874.

DAVID MILNE HOME, Esq., LL.D., in the Chair.

On the recommendation of the Council,

Samuel Ferguson, Esq., LL.D., Public Record Office, Dublin,

was balloted for and elected an HONORARY MEMBER of the Society.

The following Gentlemen were also elected Fellows:—

James A. Beattie, Esq., C.E., Aberdeen.
James Macdonald, Esq., Rector of Ayr Academy.
Malcolm M’Neill, Esq. (late 78th Highlanders).
William Paxton, Esq., 11 Lauder Road.
George Hunter Thoms, Esq., Sheriff of Orkney.

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


Celt or Axe-Head of Grey Flint, 7 inches long, 2\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches wide at the broad and 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches at the narrow end, finely polished and of unique form, being triangular in section across the middle, and expanding slightly
towards the two extremities. It is finished to a curved adze-like edge at both ends. One end is slightly broader and thicker than the other, and the crown of the triangular ridge of the back is ground away to a rounded outline. (See the accompanying woodcut.) A celt of somewhat similar form, with the sides expanding at both ends, and of chalcedonic flint, but lozenge-shaped in section and roughly finished, found in Burwell Fen, Cambridgeshire, is figured by Mr Evans in his "Stone Implements, &c., of Great Britain," p. 83, but no implement similar to this one in form or beauty of finish has hitherto been published. It was found with sepulchral remains at the Ferny Brae, in the moss of Lochlundie, parish of Slains, Aberdeenshire. (See the previous communication by Mr Ferguson of Kinnundy, in the present volume, p. 509).

Celt of a Green Mottled Stone, almost resembling jadeite, and beautifully polished, found on the banks of the Erich't, in the parish of Rattray, Perthshire. It measures 8 inches in length, is pointed at one end, and 3 inches across the cutting face, and nowhere exceeds an inch in greatest thickness. It is beautifully polished over the whole surface, the edges straight and fine, and the section of the middle of the implement is a flattened oval.


Oblong Pebble of Quartzose Sandstone, 3½ inches in length, worn at one end by use as a pivot, probably for a field-gate, found near Balmaclellan.

(4.) By Robert Carfrae, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Double-spiral Brooch of Bronze Wire, 5½ inches in length, with spirals 2½ inches diameter. It is formed of a single piece of wire wound closely into two flat spiral coils in opposite directions from the centre, where the wire is twisted into a figure-of-eight ornament. The ends of the wire are brought to the back of the brooch from the centres of the spiral coils, one end forming the pin and the other the catch for the pin. Similar brooches are found in Italy, Germany, and Denmark, with interments of the later Bronze and early Iron Ages.

Handle of a Bronze Vase, 4½ inches long, terminating in an ornamental figure of a human head.

Oval Penannular Ring or Bracelet of Bronze, flattened on the inside, and rounded on the outside, 3½ inches diameter.

Oval Penannular Ring of Bronze, hollow and beaded on the outer margin, 4 inches in diameter.

Small Spatula of Bronze, 5½ inches in length.

All found in the neighbourhood of Maçon, France.

(5.) By Gaston Feuardent, Esq., 61 Great Russell Street, London.

Dentated Maé-Head of Bronze, 4½ inches long, pointed and encircled by three rows of pointed projections, found in the neighbourhood of Maçon,
France. A dentated bronze ring, encircled with two rows of pointed projections, but having no pointed extremity, is in the Museum. It was found near Merlsford, on the Eden, Fifeshire. Another, with three rows of rounded knobs, is also in the Museum, locality unknown.

(6.) By WALTER DICKSON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Letter of Dispensation by Gavin Dunbar, Archbishop of Glasgow and Papal Nuncio, removing the impediment to the Marriage of William Houston and Catherine Kilpatrick, 1532.

(7.) By DAVID GRIEVE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Manuscript Volume, entitled “The Genealogie of the wholl Nobility of Scotland, collected out of History,” &c. “Written and begun the 2d March 1685, and ended the 16th of the same moneth, by H. R., by command of H. M‘K.”

(8.) By the SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Collections of the Sussex Archaeological Society. Vols. XIII. to XXVII. inclusive, 8vo.

(9.) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE.

Lapidarium Septentrionale, or a Description of the Monuments of Roman Rule in the North of England. Published by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle. Folio. 1874.

(10.) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, London.

Archæologia; or, Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquity. Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. Vols. XLII. Pt. 2, and XLIV. Pt. 1. 4to. 1874.

(11.) By REV. B. H. BLACKER, M.A., the Author.

Brief Sketches of the Parishes of Booterstown and Donnybrook, in the County of Dublin. Fourth Part. 12mo. 1874.

The following communications were read: