The accompanying pieces of an ancient Sepulchral Urn were found in the course of tilling a quarry belonging to Mr John Wilson of Tranent a few hundred yards eastward of the old house of Birseley, to the south of the railway station for Prestonpans. The urn was entire when discovered by the workmen, about 18 inches below the surface, but fell to pieces
when somewhat rudely handled in the search for something valuable amid
the charred bones that it contained.

In the near neighbourhood, that is within 3 or 4 yards of the
place where the urn was found, and about 2 feet below the surface,
there was also discovered a stone cist of the usual construction,—composed
of four or five large slabs, such as are common in the fields around; set
on edge about a foot and a half apart, with similar flat stones covering
the same, and at each end; and containing a mass of darkish earth, but
no relics or implements of any description.

The site of these deposits is to the south of the public road from
Musselburgh to Tranent, and commands a full view of the Firth of Forth,
such as may be presumed to have attracted the admiration of even the
earliest settlers on its shores, if not also to have been in near proximity to
one of their favourite camping grounds. Within a quarter of a mile of
the same place the Roman medicine stamp, described by the late Sir James
Simpson, was found above thirty years ago.

The pieces of the urn have now been put together, and its form and
ornamentation are well shown in the foregoing woodcut.