

III.

NOTICE OF A MASSIVE BRONZE ARMLET, THE PROPERTY OF THE
RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF STRATHMORE. BY JOHN ALEXANDER
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Soon after the publication of the third volume of the *New Series* of our *Proceedings*, in which a paper was published on these massive bronze armlets, I received a letter from the Rev. Canon Greenwell of Durham, kindly informing me of the existence of still another armlet of the same class, which was in the possession of the Right Hon. the Earl of Strathmore, at Glamis Castle, Forfarshire. Accordingly I wrote to the Earl, and he politely agreed to my request to send the armlet (which I have now the pleasure of exhibiting) to be deposited for exhibition in our National Museum. The Earl informs me that some time ago he acquired a small local collection of antiquities, of which this armlet formed a part. He was not aware of the exact place where it was found, but believed it to belong to that district of country. The armlet is formed of a very yellow bronze or brass, and is ornamented with transverse and oblique ornaments, regularly and alternately placed round its surface—the interspace next the rounded ends of the armlet being generally richer or double in its pattern. The armlet appears to have been much worn by use, especially on one side. It belongs to what I have designated the Second or Folded or Spiral pattern or variety; it having the appearance of a band folded back on itself towards each extremity; so as to leave a rounded opening at each end of the pennisular armlet. These openings have been probably filled up at first with ornamental plates enamelled in colours, as is still shown by the segments of three small notches still remaining in the edge of thinner metal left as a border to these rounded openings to rest their plates upon, and in which the rivets or nails had passed to fix the plates to the armlets. In some of these massive armlets

the enamelled plates still remain. The armlet weighs $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. avoirdupois, and measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in its greatest diameter.

This remarkable class of armlets, with the exception of one found in Ireland, probably a wanderer from Scotland, and another found in Peeblesshire, as detailed in my previous paper, have been found almost entirely in the north-eastern districts of Scotland.

The armlet belongs to what Mr Franks has designated the "Late Celtic style of art," as differing from that of the Earlier British or Bronze



Fig. 1. Massive Bronze Armlet found at Glamis. $\frac{1}{2}$.

period of art, but which I am now inclined to designate the Early Celtic or the Pagan Celtic style of art of Dr Joseph Anderson. To distinguish them at once from the older, or native British art of the Bronze period,

and also from the more modern, elaborately ornamented and distinct style of the true Later Christian form of Celtic art.

The Pagan or Early Celtic style of art may have dated from before and after the Roman occupation; one of the armlets previously described having been found along with a bronze vessel of Roman form and probably also of Roman manufacture.

This armlet is therefore an addition to our knowledge of these objects, and added to those previously described by me, includes all the specimens of these ancient Scottish armlets now known to exist. A careful drawing of this armlet has been made, which well shows its much-worn condition; and completes the series of figures of all these armlets known up to this date. Our best thanks are due to the Earl of Strathmore for his politeness in sending the armlet for exhibition in the Museum along with the other specimens in the care of the Society.

I am also happy to call the attention of the Society to a very fine specimen of this same class of massive armlets, found some time ago at Fife, and previously described by me; which is to-day presented by William Soutter, Esq., Kirkcaldy, to our National Museum. It forms a valuable addition to this important series of objects of ancient Celtic art, for which Mr Soutter well deserves the best thanks of the Society.