NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT GRAVE AT BALFARG,
FIFESHIRE, IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. BY JOHN BALFOUR
OF BALBINIE, F.S.A. SCOT.

Yesterday (March 28) in trenching a plot of ground enclosed in a
garden at the farm house of Balfarg, close to the North Lodge and in
my occupation, the labourer employed struck what he thought was the
cover of a built drain. He removed a flat stone of some size, and several
others, without giving much heed to what he was about, when he turned
up a piece of bone, which on examination proved to be a portion of the
remains of a human skeleton. Unfortunately the skull (which was in its
proper place) was broken and injured, and had fallen to pieces. The
bones of the limbs were in their proper places. In short, the grave had
evidently not been disturbed.

The cist is carefully formed; the position from west to east; the slabs
of stone on the top completely covered the cavity from end to end; the
sides and bottom of grave are in their position, and have not been dis-
turbed. It is remarkable that the grave is only about 18 inches—
certainly not two feet—from the present surface of the ground.

The bones have crumbled away since they were exposed, and it is un-
fortunate that the place was so seriously disturbed when first discovered.

There is not, so far as I am aware, any record of any burial place in
that locality. Nothing has been found in the grave; the soil is light and sandy; some roots of trees had penetrated a little between the side stones; but the tomb is carefully constructed, 6 feet in length, rather narrow and tapering to the foot.