I.

NOTICE OF BRONZE ORNAMENTS AND A THIN BIFID BLADE OF BRONZE FROM THE BRAES OF GIGHT, ABERDEENSHIRE. BY GEORGE MUIRHEAD, F.S.A. SCOT.

The bronze ornaments and tanged blade now exhibited by the kind permission of the Earl of Aberdeen were found by some workmen who were engaged in the construction of a private carriage road from Haddo House to the Braes of Gight in 1866. A man who was present at the discovery informs me that the ornaments were got during the removal of some huge old fragments of rock which were lying at the

Fig. 1. Necklet of bronze found at Braes of Gight (half size).
bottom of a lofty precipice. The Braes of Gight, which overlook a beautiful and romantic sylvan valley, through which the river Ythan winds, are situate on the march between the parishes of Methlick and Fyvie; and here, peering above the lovely trees which adorn the northern bank of the ravine, are seen the picturesque ruins of the old Castle of Gight,

Fig. 2. Necklet of bronze found at Braes of Gight (half size).

an ancient seat of the Gordons, and celebrated for all time as the ancestral inheritance of Catherine Gordon of Gight, the mother of Lord Byron.

The ornaments consist of three necklets, six armlets, and three small rings rudely attached together by short, narrow, flat bands. The necklets are somewhat oval in shape and vary in size. Two are of plain construction and similar to each other, the smaller measuring 17 inches
in circumference, its greatest and least diameters being respectively 5½ inches and 5 inches; and the larger (fig. 1) 20 inches in circumference, its greatest diameter being 6½ inches, and least 6 inches.

They have rings of about ⅛ths of an inch in diameter attached to their ends. One of the rings has been lost. The third necklet (fig. 2) is of very beautiful and elaborate workmanship, having, besides the two end rings of ⅝ inch in diameter, eighteen others, about half an inch in diameter, attached to its outer edge. One of the latter has been lost, and unfortunately the necklet itself is now broken into two pieces, but otherwise it is in a very perfect state of preservation.

The armlets (fig. 3) are of the usual penannular form, with slightly expanding extremities. They also differ in size, two pairs measuring in-
dividually 2¼ inches by 1¾ inch in diameter, and the third pair 2½ inches by 2 inches.

The three rings (fig. 5), attached together by the small metal bands, are each 1¾ inch in diameter.

The tanged bronze blade (fig. 4), which appears to have been of bifid construction, measures about 2½ inches long and 2 inches broad, and the "tang" for insertion in the handle is 1½ inch long.

It is believed that the ornaments now exhibited are unique in Scotland, that they probably belong to the close of the Bronze Age, and certainly to a period anterior to the Roman invasion.

It may be mentioned that there were formerly cairns on some of the heights in the vicinity, including Little Gight, Balquhidachy, Belnagoak, Cairn Orie, and Tuxton; the last being very large, and locally known as the "King of Denmark's Cairn."

Stone coffins, cinerary urns, celts, and numerous flint arrow-heads have also been found in the vicinity.