

VI.

NOTE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A NECKLACE OF JET BEADS AND PLATES, FOUND ALONG WITH AN URN, IN A SHORT CIST AT TAYFIELD, NEAR NEWPORT, FIFE. BY JOHN BERRY OF TAYFIELD, ESQ. (THE BEADS AND FRAGMENTS OF THE URN WERE PRESENTED BY MR BERRY TO THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM.)

In excavating for gravel on the estate of Balgay, near Dundee, about fifty yards from the side of the estuary of the Tay, between the pointsman's house and the station house, about 1 foot 3 inches from the surface, there was found a stone cist—length 2 feet 10 inches, width 2 feet 3 inches, depth $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—covered with two rough slabs of stone about 3 cwt.

Within the cist there was an urn in fragments, ornamented with rows of short lines and triangular indentations, a small handful of blackish earth, and the pieces of an ornamented necklace of jet or lignite.

[The necklace, of which a representation is given in the accompanying woodcut, consists of a series of plates of jet or shale, and alternating rows of beads of various lengths. The centre plates, which are 2 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad, are pierced with holes from side to side corresponding to the number of beads to be strung between each pair. The large terminal plates are triangular in shape, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth, and are ornamented by a dotted pattern. One of these is now absent,

only a few small fragments of it having been found, sufficient however to show that it was exactly similar to the other. In the original necklace,



Necklace of Beads and Plates of Jet or Shale found at Tayfield.

the number of "bugles" was no doubt considerably larger, judging from the number of fragments received along with those that were entire. The separate triangular ornament (see woodcut) pierced in the centre of one side, was probably a pendant attached to the middle of the necklace. Necklaces formed of amber beads and plates, having pendants attached in a somewhat similar way, are still much worn on the shores of the Baltic. —Ed.]

MONDAY, 13th June 1870.

FRANCIS ABBOTT, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A ballot having been taken, the following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :—

Rev. WILLIAM BOYD, Milnathort,
Rev. JOHN DUNCAN, Scoonie, Fifeshire,

and, as a corresponding Member,

ALEXANDER A. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Lochmaddy, South Uist.

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

(1.) Bequest by the late Rev. PETER CHALMERS, D.D., Dunfermline.

A Collection of Antiquities, &c., comprising a number of fragments of marble carvings and pillar-like ornaments from the supposed tomb of King Robert the Bruce, in the church of Dunfermline, discovered in 1818 (see "Archæologia Scotica," vol. ii. p. 435).

A piece of Lead enclosing lime and small stones, found in the same tomb.

[Whatever may be thought of the correctness of the decision come to in the report made by Henry Jardine, Esq., His Majesty's Remembrancer, relative to the tomb of King Robert Bruce in the church of Dunfermline, which is printed and illustrated in vol. ii. of the "Archæologia Scotica," it may be stated, that there can now be no doubt that the supposed ancient plate of copper, with the inscription ROBERTUS SCOTORUM REX, &c., which was found in the course of the excavations then made, was actually the work of some clever and unscrupulous practical jokers, who, seeing the interest excited by the discovery of the tomb, which was evidently that of a person of distinction, prepared and placed the plate in the locality where it was found.

This discovery appeared to supply the missing link as to the identification of the human remains; and as the Government officials had taken up the matter, the perpetrators were at once pleased at the success of

their scheme and alarmed for being discovered, and so kept silence as to what they had done. It was not until some time afterwards that the true state of the case became known.—Ed.]

Three Iron Keys found in the churchyard, Dunfermline Abbey.

Pieces of Stained Window Glass, Blue and Purple, and of Painted Glass, forming parts of a design found in Dunfermline Abbey.

Part of a Leather Shroud, from a tomb in Dunfermline Church, supposed to be that of Prince Ethelred.

Portions of Glazed Flooring Tiles found near the high altar in Dunfermline Church.

A number of Scottish and other Coins, chiefly copper.

A large number of Casts of Ancient Seals and Reduced Copies in Plaster of the Elgin Marbles.

Specimens of the Vitrified Stones from Craig Phadrig, Inverness-shire.

Portion of the Oak Ceiling of Westminster Hall.

Curious Curved Dagger of Buffalo Horn, ornamented with concentric circles.

A Chinese Writing Style, of silver-plated metal.

A collection of fossils and objects in Natural History.

(2.) By R. GRAHAM THOMS, Esq., Clepington House, Dundee.

Two Human Crania, from the Kirkhill, an ancient cemetery at St Andrews, Fifeshire.

A Tiger's Tooth, pierced for suspension, and worn on the person as a charm by the hill tribes in India.

Nine Old Communion Tokens, inscribed as follows :—

R. Aitken, Dundee, surrounding the letter *m* in the centre ; reverse, Asso. Cong. B. Street, 1816 ; two examples.

T. D. ; J. W. ; I. G. ; surrounding *m* in the centre ; reverse, Dundee, 1748 ; two examples.

Jas. Playfair, senr. ; reverse, Liff, 1769.

Dundee, 1785 ; reverse, blank.

Dundee, A. S. con. ; reverse, blank.

K., 1817, 4 ; reverse, illegible.

Impression in wax of the Common Seal of the cathedral church of Dunkeld.

(3.) By DANIEL HENRY, Esq.

Topstone of a Quern, found in digging the foundation of the National Floorecloth Works, Kirkcaldy.

(4.) By ALEXANDER A. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Cor. Mem. S. A. Scot.

Two Sculptured Stones, Stone Mortar, and Stone naturally formed like a Shoe, from North Uist, Hebrides. (See communication, p. 276.)

(5.) By THOMAS EDMONSTONE of Buness, Esq., Shetland.

Masquerade Dresses of Straw, used in the Shetland Islands, and specimens of Native Knitted Work, from Fair Isle.

(6.) By Mr DANIEL HOSSACK, Hill Square.

Mason's Chisel and Old Lock, found in the demolition of Cardinal Beaton's House, Cowgate.

(7.) By ROBERT CHRISTISON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot., Professor of Materia Medica, University of Edinburgh.

Specimens of Vitriified Stones, from the Vitriified Fort on Finhaven Hill, near Aberlemno, Forfarshire.

(8.) By JAMES TAYLOR, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Six Old Leases and other Documents.

(9.) By C. ROACH SMITH, Esq., the Author.

The Rural Life of Shakespeare, as illustrated by his Works. London, 1870. 8vo.

(10.) By the Right Hon. THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Calendar of State Papers. Carew Manuscripts, 1601-1603. London, 1870. Royal 8vo.

Annales Monasterii S. Albani, a Johanne Amundesham, Monacho, Conscripti. London, 1870. Royal 8vo.

(11.) By JAMES WINGATE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Illustrations of the Coinage of Scotland. Glasgow, 1868. 4to.

(12. By JOSEPH BAIN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Sir James Dalrymple's Historical Collections. 1705. 8vo.

Remarks on Dalrymple's Collections (by Gillan). 1714. 8vo.

Ruddiman's Vindication of Buchanan's Psalms. 1745. 8vo. (Presentation copy.)

Geo. Buchanani Poemata. Elzevir, 1628. 18mo.

Arturi Jonstoni Poemata. 1642. 18mo.

Moysie's Memoirs. 1755. 12mo.

There were also exhibited—

By F. S. BENTLEY INNES of Thrumster, Esq., Caithness.

The Frontal Portion of Skull, with Horn cores attached, of the *Bos Primigenius*, found in the marl of the Loch of Breckigo, Caithness.

Two Antlers of Red Deer, (?) one being smooth on the surface, from the marl of the Loch of Breckigo.

One Antler of Red Deer, from the peat overlying the marl of the Loch of Breckigo.

By Mr JOHN BREMNER, Jun., Thrumster-Little, Caithness.

Shed Antler of Red Deer, sawn across, and also partially cut through with a hatchet close to the burr, Horn Core of the *Bos longifrons*, and Cylinder of Bone from the Broch at Thrumster-Little.

Purchased for the Museum—

A Native Model of a New Zealand Canoe, seven feet long, curiously carved, with grotesque imitations of the human face, and spiral ornaments.

Curious Indian Knife, of semilunar form, with a wooden sheath.

A pair of old Steel Cymbals and their Leather Cases.

A Wooden Block, covered with ornamental engravings, and inscribed "Mr Henry Wickes, citizen and pinmaker in London," with the legend "Virginitas et unitas nostra fraternitas."

A Circular Highland Brooch of silver, inlaid with blue enamel. It measures 3 inches in diameter, and is ornamented with four circles, and covered with chequered and floriated ornaments.

Before proceeding to business, Mr JOHN STUART, Secretary, read the

following letter addressed to him by Lady Helen Warrender, Bruntisfield House, Edinburgh, in which she directed attention to the "Harefaulds," a curious structure in Lauderdale, which seemed to be of the same character as "Edins Hall"—being a large circular wall with chambers in the thickness of it. Mr Stuart stated that he had seen this ancient structure, and thought it would be desirable to obtain for the Society a detailed description and plan of the ruin :—

"I see an account of the meeting of the Antiquarian Society, at which a paper by Mr Turnbull on the excavations at Etn's Hold was read. I am very glad indeed that there is a prospect of the excavations being continued, but without wishing to detract from the importance of this specimen of a broch, let me remind you of a ruin not very far distant which I think you have visited, viz. the "Harefaulds" on the farm of Blythe, the property of the Earl of Lauderdale. It has never been properly examined, but in my recollection, before the tenant had carried off the largest stones, it presented a similar appearance to Etn's Hold, a large circular building with cells in the thickness of the wall; only it was infinitely larger in size, and fifteen years ago much more perfect. Since that time a system of spoliation has been carried on whenever there was a dike to build or a byre to repair; but even now the remains are such as to reward a careful investigation, and if the attention of the Antiquarian Society could be turned towards its preservation, another specimen of the ancient broch might be added to those already noted."

The following Communications were read :—