

III.

NOTICE OF A FRAGMENT OF A RUNE-INScribed CROSS-SLAB, FOUND
ON INCHMARNOCK, BUTESHIRE. BY GEO. F. BLACK, ASSISTANT IN
THE MUSEUM.

The fragment of rune-inscribed cross-slab which forms the subject of this notice was recently forwarded to the Museum by the Marquess of Bute, K.T., Vice-President of the Society. His Lordship's factor, Mr John Windsor Stuart, states that the fragment was found on the site of the old burying-ground connected with the chapel of St Marnock, on Inchmarnock. In a letter to Dr Anderson, Mr Stuart says: "The farmer showed me the place where he found the rune-stone, and we opened what appeared to be a grave at the place. It was lined with thin, flat stones, evidently waterworn and brought from the shore; but there was nothing inside it, not even a bone. We tried another place—a mound—and found a fragment of soft sandstone, after washing which there appeared some carving like flowers or something of that sort."

The rune-inscribed fragment (fig. 1), which is of schistose slate, measures only $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches in greatest length and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest breadth, and is that part of the slab where the arms of the cross unite with the shaft. The cross has been of the wheel-headed form, standing in relief from the surrounding surface of the slab. The inscription is written in the ordinary form of the later Scandinavian runes, with "stung" *i* for *e*, and extends along both arms of the cross. The

beginning and the end of the inscription are unfortunately broken away, but what remains reads: “. . . KRUS . THINE . TIL . GUTHLE . . . ” Although the latter part of the name of the person to whom the cross was raised is broken away, there is little doubt it was either Guthleif or

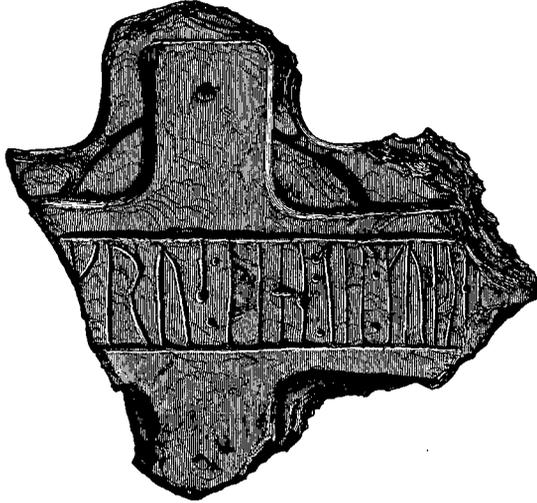


Fig. 1. Rune-inscribed Slab from Inchmarnock.

Guthleik, probably the former. Restoring the last two letters of the former name, the whole inscription would read as follows:—

“(N. N. RAISED) THIS CROSS TO GUTHLEIF.”

In the Norwegian account of King Haco's expedition against Scotland in 1263, a Gudleik Sneis is mentioned as one of a company particularly selected by Haco for his own ship. It would be unsafe to assume, however, that the inscription refers to him, as in all probability it is of a much earlier date. The demonstrative pronoun *thine* is interesting as adding another example to the many ways in which the word is spelled in the later runic inscriptions. On the island of Bornholm, for example, many inscriptions in the later runes have been found,¹ and among them

¹ Vedel, *Bornholm Oldtidsminder og Oldsager*, pp. 405-407.

we find the word spelled in no less than ten different ways, viz.: *thana, thena, thina, thensa, thinsa, thinsi, thesi, thisi, thusi, thitsi*. Prof. Dr George Stephens, in his *Old Northern Runic Monuments of Scandinavia and England*, vol. ii. p. 1014, has also collected a large number of spellings of both the singular and plural forms. On the reverse of the fragment there are a number of faintly incised lines enclosed within an incised border, but if meant for runes they are too illegible to be made out.

As regards the date of the Inchmarnock inscription there can be, I think, little doubt that it is of the same age as the runic inscriptions in St Molio's Cave, Holy Island, Arran, which have been described by Sir Daniel Wilson in an earlier volume of the Society's *Proceedings*.¹

A few notes on the history of the island and on the saint after whom it is named are added below.

The island of Marnock or Inchmarnock was gifted to the monastery of Sadell by Roderick of Kintyre, a grandson of Somerled the younger, King of Man, about the year 1220. In 1572 the island was in the possession of the Bishop of Argyll, who granted a charter² (January 22, 1572) "ad feudifirman dimisit Hugoni Cunynghame, fratri suo germano, &c., 5 librat. terrarum de Inchmerno." In 1598 John Stewart purchased the island from Bannatyne of Inchmarnock, who held it in feu from the Bishop of Argyll. Five years later "John Stuart, of Ardmoleis, Sheriff of Bute," complained (January 11, 1603) to the Privy Council that his lands had been invaded by Campbells and others with convocation of "brokin heyland men," to the number of twelve hundred; and among other things "they also reft furth of the said Sheriff's lands of Inchemernok ten sheep, a fat cow, and plenishing worth £20," besides the plenishing and victuals of some of his tenants and their "hail plew irlis."³

The earliest mention of the chapel on Inchmarnock is by Fordun (lib. ii. cap. x.), who describes it as a cell of monks, "Insula Inchemernock et ibi cella monachorum." In Bleau's map of Bute the island is

¹ *Proceedings Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. v., New Series, pp. 45-56.

² *Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum*, 1546-1580, p. 554.

³ *Register Privy Council*, vol. vi. p. 518.

called *Kildavanach*, which means the same. All trace of the chapel is now obliterated.¹

St Marnan or Marnock, after whom the island is named, is mentioned in the Aberdeen Breviary under the date March 1, A.D. 625. The legend in the Breviary is filled with the praise of his virtues, especially his gift of preaching. Men honoured him "tanquam deum in terris." He died at a great age, and was buried in the church of Abirkerdoure (now Aberchirder), which was dedicated to him, in Banffshire, where for long after health was restored to the sickly. His head was washed every Sunday in the year, amid the prayers of the clergy and the blazing of lights, and the water drunk by sick persons on account of its curative properties!² Camerarius says that the saint's head was the object of great devotion in Moravia, and was carried in processions, attended by the whole of the clan Innes, &c., "Habebat Moravia Sancti Marnani caput, quod summa cum pompa et honore (comitante præsertim Innesiorum tribu nobili et perantiqua, quæ tenerrimo in Marnanum ferebatur affectu) ad æris serenitatem a Deo postulandam circumferri solebat. Extat ecclesia Aberkerdoure Dunerno omne irrigata Marnani nomine, peregrinantium ad sacras ibidem Marnani reliquias celebris."³ In the Irish Kalendars, St Marnock is identified with St Ernin, whose day is the 18th of August: "*Ernin .i. Mernócc ó Raith Naoi i nUibh Garrchon .i. Fothartaibh Laighen: ocus o Chill draighnech i nUibh drona, 'Ernin, i.e., Mernoc, of Rath-naoi [Rathnew] in Ui Garrchon, i.e., in the Fotharta of Leinster: and of Cill-draighnech [Kildreenagh] in Ui Drona.'*"⁴

In a perambulation of the lands of Yochry and Achbrady, belonging to the church of Aberkeyrdor, mention is made of an oath, "sworne tharto apone Sanct Marnoy's ferteris (*i.e.*, feretrum),⁵ in presens of the

¹ Reid, *History of the County of Bute*, p. 30.

² *Breviarium Aberdonense*, pars hym. fol. lx. b. lxi.

³ *De Scotorum fortitudine, doctrina & pietate* (Paris, 1631), pp. 108, 109.

⁴ *Marian. Gorm.*; *Cal. Dungall*, p. 223, quoted by Reeves, *Adamnan Vit. Sanct. Columb.*, p. 26. According to Reeves, "Mernoc is a contraction of Mo-Ernin-oc, the prefix denoting *my*, and the suffix *little*, so that the name thus altered conveyed the additional expressions of affection and familiarity."

⁵ The word *feretrum* usually means a "bier" or "coffin," but in mediæval Latin it acquired the additional meaning of a "shirne." See also preface to *Registrum Moraviense*, p. xxx., note.

Kyngis iustice,"¹ &c. Mention is also made² of a great oath being taken, "capite Sancti Marnani presente." St Marnock was patron of the family of Innes, who got the thanedom of Aberchirder through the marriage of Sir Robert Innes with Janet Aberkirder, about the end of the fourteenth or beginning of the fifteenth century.³ In 1348, Adam, Bishop of Brechin, in dealing with the lands of the chapelry of Boith, appoints that the Vicar of Monikie (Monzeky) shall every year celebrate the Mass de Sancto Marnoco, "et quicumque pro tempore fuerit vicarius de Monzeky missam de beato Marnoco futuris perpetuis temporibus celebrent seu faciant celebrari."⁴ In the *Liber Ecclesie S. Trinitatis de Scon* (pp. 186, 187) is a gift to the convent "De terra et capella Sci Mernoci infra fossata," dated the 10th of April 1456. In the same chartulary (p. 231) there is a grant "To James Hepburne of Rowandstoun, and Jonet Oliphant his spous, quarter of the toun and landis of Balquhormock and the croft callit Sanctmernockis croft ats the chapel-yaird with the chapell of Sanctmernock with the yaird stane dyikis about the samin and the doucat croft; 15 March 1585." In the "Rentall of the Commoun landis perteaning to the burghes of Sterling sett doune in May 1652, there is an entry under "St Lawrance Altar," of "St Marnokes chappell and yaird at the brig, £2, 0s. Od."⁵

Numerous places in Scotland, besides Inchmarnock in Bute, have been named after this saint. About three miles south from the church of Kilfanan "is to be seen the foundation and a small part of the wall of a chapel surrounded by a churchyard, on a small field called Ard Marnock, *i.e.*, St Marnock's Field. . . . About 300 yards above this chapel, on an eminence, a cell and part of another appears in the end of a pile of stones or *borradh*. . . . There is a tradition in the country . . . that the entire cell was where St Marnock retired to do penance."⁶ The parish of Aberchirder is also called Marnoch. A well near the manse is called the Saint's Well. Here on the second Tuesday

¹ *Registrum de Aberbrothock*, vol. ii. p. 277; see also *Registrum Moraviense*, pp. 247-249.

² *Registrum de Aberbrothock*, p. 278.

³ Douglas, *Baronage of Scotland*, p. 14.

⁴ *Registrum Episcopatus Brechinensis*, vol. i. p. 12.

⁵ *Extracts from Records of the Burgh of Stirling, 1519-1666*, p. 239.

⁶ *Old Statistical Account*, vol. xiv. p. 258.

of March, is held an annual market, called Marnoch Fair.¹ Just beneath the church of Aberchirder is St Marnan's Ford, and on a hill hard by was a stone called St Marnan's chair.² Besides Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, the old church of Leochel was dedicated to him. At Fowlis-Easter a church was dedicated to him by David de Bernham,³ on August 31, 1242. At Benholm, Kincardineshire, there is St Marny's Well; at Little Dunkeld, Perthshire, there is a place called Dalmarnock, and there is another Dalmarnock on the Clyde near Glasgow. There was also an Inchmarnock, a suppressed parish, now united to Glentanner and Aboyne.⁴

MONDAY, 12th May 1890.

GILBERT GOUDIE, *Treasurer*, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Fellows:—

JOHN FERGUSON, LL.D., Professor of Chemistry, University of Glasgow.
 JOHN OSWALD MITCHELL, B.A., 69 E. Howard Street, Glasgow.
 CHARLES JAMES SPENCE, Banker, North Shields.

And the following was also balloted for, and admitted a Corresponding Member of the Society:—

Rev. JOHN M'LEAN, Grantully, Aberfeldy.

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

(1) By HUBERT PATON, 14 George Square.

Wooden Yoke, found in a peat-moss at Lochnell, Argyleshire.

¹ *New Statistical Account*, vol. xiii. pp. 382, 386.

² *Collections on the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff* (Spalding Club), vol. ii. p. 189.

³ Lockhart, *Church of Scotland in the Thirteenth Century*, p. 51.

⁴ *Old Statistical Account*, vol. xix. p. 296.

(2) By JOHN ANDERSON M.D., LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Five Vessels of Aino Pottery from Japan. Of these two are tall thin-lipped vessels with slightly bulging sides. In form and ornamentation they bear considerable resemblance to the British form of "drinking-cup" urns.

(3) By A. J. S. BROOK, F.S.A. Scot.

Facsimile of a Highland Brooch in brass, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, ornamented with circular panels of interlaced work, leafage, and triangles containing triquetras.

(4) By ARTHUR ANDERSON, C.B., M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Flat Axe of Copper, $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches—found in the grounds of the Hydropathic at Pitlochry.

(5) By JOHN TRAILL of Woodwick, F.S.A Scot.

Collection of Implements of stone and bone and Fragments of Pottery obtained from the further excavation of the Mound at Howmae, North Ronaldsay. [See the subsequent paper by Mr Traill.]

(6) By W. J. HARVEY, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Genealogy of the Family of Harvey. 4to, pp. 18. Privately printed.

(7) By DUNCAN CAMPBELL and ALEX. MACBAIRN, F.S.A. Scot.

The Highland Monthly. Vol. I., 1889-90. Inverness, 8vo., 1890.

(8) By the Right Hon. the EARL OF HADDINGTON, F.S.A. Scot.,
through Sir WILLIAM FRASER, K.C.B., LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Memorials of the Earl of Haddington. By Sir William Fraser, K.C.B., LL.D. 2 vols. 4to. Edinburgh, 1890.

The following articles, which have been acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library during the Session, 30th November to 3rd May 1890, were also exhibited, viz. :—

1. Polished Axe of greenish-coloured stone, $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $4\frac{7}{16}$ inches in greatest width, with finely rounded cutting edge, and tapering to a point at the butt—locality unknown.

Axe of black basaltic stone, $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in width; oval in the cross-section, with flattish sides—locality unknown.

Both these specimens were in the collection of Mr Caw, Edinburgh, about 1770.

2. Brass Collection Plate, 18 inches in diameter, with ornamental boss in centre and an illegible inscription four times repeated round the boss.

3. Old Scotch Buckle of brass, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch square, with eight paste settings, of which two are wanting—from Braemar.

4. Two bronze flanged Axes, each $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch across the cutting face; the flanges lozenge-shaped, no stop-ridge.

Bronze flanged Axe, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches across the cutting face; the flanges slight and tapering from the centre to each end.

Bronze flanged Axe, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch across the cutting face, with projecting stop-ridge.

Three other flanged Axes of bronze of the same form and size as the last, the flanges turned over, and with deep stop-ridges—all said to have been found in the west of Scotland.

Bronze socketed Axe, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches across the cutting face.

Bronze socketed Axe, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch across the cutting face—both said to have been found in the west of Scotland.

5. Two silver Brooches and Finger Ring. The Brooches, which are of peculiar form, are the recent work of a "Caird" in the West Highlands.

6. Eight facsimiles of Highland Brooches in brass, made by permission of Mr John Rae, Aberdeen, from specimens in his collection, viz. :—

Brooch, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, ornamented with circular panels, filled alternately with interlaced ornament and floral patterns; pin wanting—from Harlaw.

Brooch, $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, with six circular panels of interlaced ornament, the spaces filled with foliage—found at Leochel Cushnie.

Brooch, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, ornamentation simulating black letter; pin wanting—found at Cabrach, Aberdeenshire.

Brooch, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, with border of pierced open-work, four circular panels of interlaced ornament, and the interspaces filled with leafy scrolls.

Brooch, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, with three circular panels of interlaced ornamentation.

Brooch, $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, with four circular panels of interlaced ornament, and two with floral patterns; the interspaces filled with flowers, an animal, &c.; the reverse also ornamented with three circular panels, each with floral ornament, and one with interlaced work, the interspaces filled with foliaceous scrolls, and bearing the name ALEXR. YOUNE.

Brooch, 7 inches in diameter, slightly convex, ornamented in a very rude manner with thistles, &c.; the pin detached and terminating in a thistle-head; the reverse also rudely ornamented, and bearing the initials D. M^cM.

Penannular Brooch, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, with two sockets for settings and two triangularly shaped sunk panels in the expanding extremities, and one oblong panel in the centre of the ring—found at Marchstone between Abergeldie and Birkhall.

7. Bronze Palstave or Flanged Axe, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch across the cutting edge, which is placed not in a plane parallel to the wings, but transversely to them—found in the neighbourhood of Perth.

8. Cinerary Urn, 16 inches in height and 14 inches in diameter, ornamented with a band of raised zig-zags round the upper part—found at Udney, Aberdeenshire.

Urn of "Drinking Cup" type, 8 inches in height and $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, ornamented with bands of crossed lines—found at King Street Road, Aberdeen.

Ball of gritty sandstone, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches diameter, with four projecting discs—from Aberdeenshire.

Flat Axe of bronze, $5\frac{1}{16}$ inches in length by $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches across the

cutting face, the cutting edge blunted—found at Glack, parish of Daviot, Aberdeenshire.

9. Rude Implement of sandstone, pointed, flattish, 14 inches in length—from Ophir, Orkney.

Waterworn Pebble of sandstone, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, with a picked hollow in the centre of each of its flat faces.

10. Bronze socketed Sickle (fig. 1), found in the parish of Dores,



Fig. 1. Bronze Sickle, found in the Parish of Dores, Inverness-shire, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length.

Inverness; the socket slightly oval, and measuring 1 inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, a rivet-hole $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch above the mouth of the socket. From the mouth of the socket to the upper extremity of the blade, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches; extreme length from the back of the upper part of the socket to the point of the blade, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width of the blade at the junction with the socket $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, from which it tapers to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch within an inch of the point. This is the second specimen of a Bronze Sickle which has been obtained for the National Museum, and we owe its acquisition to the good offices of Rev. John E. Fraser, Dores, to whom the Society has been under similar obligations before. There are not more than six

Bronze Sickles known to have been found in Scotland. They are much more common on the Continent, where, however, they are usually tanged and not socketed, the socketed form being a variety almost peculiar to Great Britain.

11. A collection of stone Axes and Implements of stone and shell from the West Indies, being part of the collection of the late Sir Thomas Graham Briggs, consisting of :—

Axe of Jadeite, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in breadth across the cutting face, polished at the cutting edge.

Axe of fine-grained greenish-coloured stone, $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in breadth across the cutting face; the butt irregular in form and rough on one side.

Axe of greenstone, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth across the cutting face, polished, and with truncated butt.

Axe of porphyritic stone, 5 inches in length by $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch in breadth across the cutting face, plano-convex in section, and with the cutting edge fractured.

Axe of slaty stone, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, flat on the under side.

Adze of felstone, weathered, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face.

Axe of greenstone, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, narrowing towards the upper part, and having the butt and edge both imperfect.

Axe of greenstone, $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, contracted towards the upper part.

Axe of greenstone, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, polished, with contracted neck and flat-topped butt.

Axe of basalt, 6 inches in length by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, with projecting ears at the butt, and the cutting edge imperfect.

Axe of greenstone, $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by 4 inches in breadth across the cutting face, with projecting ears, but imperfect on one side.

Axe of basalt, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches in breadth, with projecting ears, imperfect at the butt.

Axe of basalt, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth, the butt and cutting edge both imperfect.

Axe of greenstone, $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth, with projecting ears, one of which is imperfect; imperfect also at the cutting edge.

Axe of basalt, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, with projecting ears, one of which is broken off; imperfect also at the cutting edge.

Axe of basalt, $8\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth, narrowing towards the top; one ear broken off, and the cutting edge imperfect.

Axe of slaty stone, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth; much fractured.

Portion of an Axe, consisting of the butt end only, with turned-down ears.

Three conical Pestles of greenstone; half of an elongated implement pointed at one end and partly polished; an oblong implement of claystone, $7\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $3\frac{7}{8}$ in breadth and plano-convex in section; and an implement (?) apparently formed from a concretion of horse-shoe form.

Four small Axes formed from the shell of *Strombus gigas* in the usual way.

12. Collection of Stone Implements and Ornaments of stone and shell, chiefly from shell-mounds in Cambodia:—

Gouge of basalt, $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth, polished at the cutting end, the butt roughened.

Five small polished Axes of greenstone, varying from $2\frac{7}{8}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, the cutting edge formed by the faces meeting at an obtuse angle.

Two small Axes or Adzes of argillaceous slate, of the characteristic shouldered Burmese form, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and having the cutting edge formed by the faces meeting at an obtuse angle.

Loom-weights of clay, of cylindrical shape, and perforated longitudinally; two small Balls of burnt clay, one of which is perforated; clay Disc, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, with a cross of hatched work on each face, and grooved round the circumference—probably an ear ornament.

Sixteen flat circular Beads of shell, and three of cylindrical shape.

Ring or Bracelet of shell, 3 inches in diameter; oblong pendant of shell for a necklace, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length; circular Breast Ornament of shell, 3 inches in diameter.

Disc or Whorl of wood, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter.

Pin of ivory, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length; the upper part shaped like an animal's head.

Ring of black slaty stone, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter, polished.

Part of a Necklace of small beads of shell, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter, and small pendants of shell.

13. Six Collections of Flint Implements from the Culbin Sands.

14. Siret's Les Premiers Ages du Metal dans le Sud-est de l'Espagne, with Atlas of Plates.

15. Holtzinger's Altchristliche Architectur; and Catalogue of the National Museums of Bavaria.

16. Revue Celtique, Vols. VII.-X.: Neilson's Trial by Combat. 8vo, 1890.

17. Hjaltalin's Dictionary and Reading Book—Icelandic-English.

18. Lindenschmidt's Catalogue of the German Central Museum (Casts).

19. Kunsthistorischer Atlas Vorgeschichtlicher und Fruhgeschichtlicher Funde aus den Landern der Osterreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie, von Dr. M. Much. 1 Abtheilung, Wien, 1889.

The following Communications were read:—