REMARKS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ORNAMENTATION OF A BYZANTINE
CHARACTER ON WEAPONS AND WOODEN IMPLEMENTS, MADE BY THE
NATIVES OF AN AFRICAN TRIBE, ON THE COAST OF THE RED SEA.

Various specimens of curious native workmanship, including weapons and
domestic implements, recently brought from Aden, were exhibited by Alexan-
der Christie, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. The most beautiful of these were a set of
large and highly ornamented wooden spoons, which were decorated with the
same interlaced ornaments as are common on the sculptured Scottish standing
stones, and on ecclesiastical relics of native workmanship, both in Scotland and
Ireland, previous to the twelfth century. Mr Christie read an account of the
Somaulli tribe, a native tribe on the African coast of the Red Sea, by whom
the specimens of carving had been executed, from observations made by Lieu-
tenant Allan N. Scott of the Madras Engineers, when stationed at Aden.
From these it appeared that they still retain among them traces of a corrupt
Christian creed, and Mr Christie expressed his belief that, in this, as well as
in the remarkable correspondence of the style of art still preserved and prac-
tised among them, we have evidence of their descent from a branch of the an-
cient African Church, planted by some of the early Christian Fathers in Abys-
sinia, and along the coast of the Red Sea; and may derive from such facts addi-
tional proof of the source of that familiar style of ornamentation, at one time
so widely diffused, but which it has been the fashion among certain British ant-
tiquaries to refer to a Scandinavian origin, under the misnomer of “Runic
Knot-Work.”