

IV.

NOTES RESPECTING A BRONZE TRIPOD VESSEL, WITH AN INSCRIPTION, FOUND AT HEXHAM. ILLUSTRATED BY A DRAWING, AND CAST OF INSCRIPTION. By W. DEAN FAIRLESS, M.D., MONTROSE.

About the end of February 1860, a bronze tripod vessel was found by the workmen engaged in draining a bog, in the vicinity of the Linnels, on the Devil's Water, near to Hexham, in Northumberland. It came into the possession of Mr Joseph Fairless (my father), a zealous antiquary, residing in that town. He has favoured me with the accompanying drawing of it, and the cast of the legend encircling it. The vessel is a "bronze," is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, weighs six lbs., and holds exactly three pints (imperial). It has been exhibited before the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries by Dr Charlton.

I give the following extracts from a letter from Albert Way, Esq., to Dr Bruce of Newcastle, in reference to it:—"The tripod vessel, which our good friend at Hexham has so happily secured, is a capital example. We have not many objects of this class bearing inscriptions. All such, however, with one exception, known to me, have legends in old French, which may probably present some dialectical peculiarities from which a skilful philologer might fix more closely the origin of these works in metal. I have had a notion that they were produced in the northern

parts of France, or else in those parts of Flanders where French was the prevalent language; Dinan is a town which I have conjectured may have produced much of this odd metal work.

“The inscription on Mr Fairless’s vessel reads thus: BENE SEIT KI BEN BEIT—in modern spelling, *beni soit qui ben boit*, a rhyming phrase which, at all events, shows us that the tripod was used in festive potations,—a mediæval toddy kettle, in fact; whereas I have generally supposed such tripods were used as ewers, in accordance with the legend on one I saw in Norfolk, *Venez laver*, “Come and wash,”—the ablutions at table after meals being a matter of more marked observance when forks were not in fashion.

“Your county has produced not a few of these tripods of brass, but generally not ornamented. They have sometimes, but I believe erroneously, been regarded as Roman. The late Colonel Howard had a remarkable bronze cooking vessel or caldron, of same date as Mr Fairless’s (fourteenth century), and the highly ornamented letters almost identical in character. It bears the name of the maker in Latin, *VILELMVS ANGETEL ME FECIT FIERI*, and the following French distich: *Je su pot de grount honhur viande a fair de bon saveur*,—“Je suis pot de grand honneur, viande à faire de bon saveur.” You will find this curious vessel figured in the “*Archæologia*,” vol. xiv. plate 52.

“A brass ewer was found in Roxburghshire, and is preserved in the Museum at Kelso, to which I would invite attention, as bearing a bilingual inscription, which seems to throw some light on the question of the country where these metal vessels were manufactured. On this example we find the words *Neemt water*, which seem to signify, ‘Take the water,’ much as the *Venez laver* before mentioned. These words are followed by the French *Prendes leave* (*Prenez l’eau*), equivalent to the former; and I must leave it to some one more familiar with Flemish and other cognate dialects to decide what may be the language to which *Neemt water* may properly belong. I imagine it to be Walloon, or some other Netherlandish form of speech.

“As regards the expression, if a benison on the guest who drank well, as inscribed on Mr Fairless’s curious vessel, I do not comprehend the intention. I conjecture that it may rather refer to discretion in his potations and good fellowship, without the strife and turbulent passions which

deep drinking excited. On a mazer of the fifteenth century I find the notion of a good drinker thus quaintly expressed,—

‘Sit ze still and kepe at rest,
 Drink ze may among ze beste;
 Hoso willeth God te plesse,
 Let hys neybor syt at ese.’”

The locality where the tripod was found possesses no mural remains. It has been forest and moorland, and is scarcely yet all reclaimed. It lies about four miles south of the ancient abbey and town of Hexham, and about six miles north of the remains of the Abbey of Blanchland, on the confines of the county of Durham, and in the immediate vicinity of the scene of the battle of Hexham, in the Wars of the Roses in 1463, and some two or three miles distant from the famed Queen’s Cave, which sheltered the fugitive Margaret and the boy prince.

MONDAY, 2d July 1860.

PROFESSOR J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D., one of the Vice-Presidents,
 in the Chair.

The Rev. COSMO R. GORDON, M.A., Manchester.
 was balloted for, and admitted a Fellow of the Society.

The Donations to the Museum were as follows:—

A rare and valuable Collection of Gold and Silver Scottish Coins, Silver and Bronze Medals, Gold and Silver Rings, and Silver and Bronze Brooches. Bequeathed to the Museum, with the following MS. detailed description, by the late W. WARING HAY NEWTON, Esq. of Newton, formerly one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society:—

“SCOTTISH SILVER COINS.

“David II. Roxburgh Penny, HVGO ON ROCK; unique. Published in Lindsay’s Scottish Coinage; and

David II. Three Pennies, different types ;—procured in Berwick, and said to have been found with others in the neighbourhood of Belford.

Ditto, or Henry Earl of Northumberland Penny.

John Baliol. Saint Andrews Penny.

David II. Edinburgh Penny.

Ditto. Edinburgh Penny. Legend, RER instead of Rex. Rare variety. See Lindsay.

Robert II. Perth Half-Groat. Letter B behind the head. Unpublished.

Ditto. Penny.

Ditto. Edinburgh Half-Groat. Letter B behind head. Unpublished.

Robert III. Aberdeen Groat.

James III. Berwick Groat.

Ditto. Edinburgh Penny and Halfpenny.

James IV. Edinburgh Groat. Letter Q after name.

Ditto. Aberdeen Groat. Three-quarters face, with closed crown.

Ditto. Aberdeen Half-Groat. Ditto.

James VII. (II. of England.) Sixty-Shilling Piece, 1688. Specimen from original die.

Ditto. Ten-Shilling Piece, 1687.

“ SCOTTISH GOLD COINS.

Robert II. Small, with the salter instead of St Andrews.

James I. Half-Lion. Found 1852, at Cathedral of St Andrews.

James V. Bonnet Piece. Bust with Collar of the Thistle, 1539.

Ditto. Two-thirds Bonnet Piece, 1540.

Charles I. Briot's Sovereign for Scotland.

“ SILVER MEDALS.

“ Mary Queen of Scots on her marriage with Francis II., then Dauphin of France, 1558. Specimen in shagreen case from original die preserved in the Mint at Paris.

Duke of Lauderdale, 1672; by Roethier.

James II. and Mary of Modena. *Rev.*, Spanish wreck. 1687.

The Chevalier St George (James III.) *Rev.*, his sister Princess Louisa. 1712.

" BROOCHES.

" Small octagon-shaped ancient Silver Brooch, engraved front and back; inscription not very legible. Found with silver coins of David II. and Robert II. of Scotland, at Branxholme, Roxburghshire.

Silver Brooch, oblong, angular; apparently a cast in alto relievo of front bust of a female, crowned with leaves of acanthus.

Ancient circular Brooch of brass, large size, much worn; on which is engraved, *inter alia*, the fore part of wild boars, and of a bull, in compartments.

" MISCELLANEOUS.

" A Chasing in brass, probably an altar-piece of Slavonic Greek Church, representing half figure of a saint in front, with small figures of our Saviour and the Virgin, in the field, all within a square border of vines, entwined with flowers. The whole inlaid with blue enamel, supposed to be of the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

A Bronze Cannon, highly ornamented with the fore part of a sea monster or dragon, open mouthed, and the head of a lion; date 1675 engraved thereon; said to have been found near Wemyss Castle, Fifeshire.

This enamelled brass work and the Cannon were presented by me to the Museum of National Antiquities, Edinburgh, 7th February 1860."

Cruet of Brass, silver-plated, 4 inches high;

Front of a Corporal Case, embroidered in gold and silver thread. The above, which are said to have belonged to the Abbey of Dunfermline, were formerly exhibited and described by Mr Mackinlay, and are noticed in the Proceedings of the Society, vol. ii., p. 425;

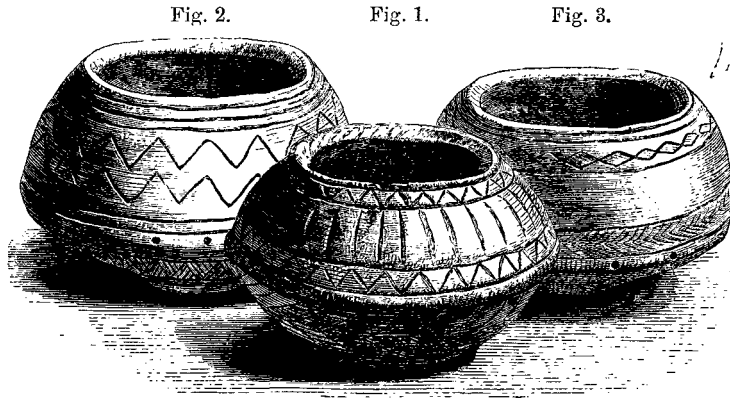
Portions of a Clay Urn, ornamented with longitudinal lines done by twisted cord; and depressed markings, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and 3-16ths broad;

Two Celts of Greenish-coloured Stone—one $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across face, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length; the other $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across face, and 9 inches long; found in Ireland;

Small Clay Cup or Urn, ornamented with incised lines, measuring nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter across middle, and 3 inches high. See Woodcut, opposite page, fig. 1;

Along with the cup was the following note: "Found at the burial-ground belonging to Old Pendrith (Fort Patrianus, of Camden's Brit.), about six miles from Penrith, about seventy years ago. It belonged to Mr Bell, Woodbank, near Gremont (whose family came from the neighbourhood of Penrith), and who presented it to me through Mr John Roan, Customs, Whitehaven.—26th April 1848."

[Urns of a similar type, but varying in their ornamentation, have also been found in Scotland. Three specimens are in the Museum of the Society, and for the sake of comparison two of them are figured here.



One was found near Dunbar (fig. 3); another (fig. 2) was dug up from the foundations of an ancient ruin in the island of Ronaldshay, Orkney. Of the history of the third cup nothing is known; it measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter across centre, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and is without any ornament, except a row of small punctures round the upper edge. These urns, with the exception of the last mentioned, have two small holes pierced at the most projecting part of their circumference (as shown in woodcut); but in the urn, fig. 2, there are two pairs of similar holes, opposite to one another.—Ed.]

Bronze Axe-Head or Celt, 3 inches across face, 4 inches long, from Ireland;

Bronze Celt, 2 inches across face, and 5 inches in length; with flange

on each side for facility of fastening, and another similar, ornamented with raised longitudinal ridge in centre of blade, and small loop at one side, 2 inches across face, and 5 inches in length; both from Ireland;

Two Flint Arrow-Heads—stemmed and barbed, one $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad; the other, 2 inches long, and 1 inch broad, from Canada;

Flint Spear or Lance-Head, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and 1 inch broad; from Canada;

Pair of Old Brass Snuffers, ornamented with raised pattern on box;

Five Specimens of Gun Locks, showing the progress of improvement from the wheel and flint, to the flint and frizzle action;

Model in Iron of "Mons Meg," the large cannon in Edinburgh Castle; 10 inches long, and $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in diameter; and also of the Wooden Carriage and Iron Wheels, which are copied from a sculptured stone now placed over the entrance to the Armory of the Castle;

Sculpture in Stone of a Figure in Armour, 19 inches high, taken from the front of a monument, on which lies, at full length, an Effigy of a Knight; also, two Casts of Armorial Bearings from the same tomb, which is situated on the south side of the choir of the Old Church of St Mary, Rothesay, Buteshire;

A notice and drawings of these Sculptures, from the pen of Mr Mackinlay, appeared in the Transactions of the Society, vol. iii. p. 1. They are also described in a communication relative to the same building, by Mr J. C. Roger, in the Proceedings of the Society, vol. ii. p. 466;

Bequeathed to the Society by the late J. MACKINLAY, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Celt of beautifully smooth Greenish-coloured Stone (3 inches across face, and 6 inches in length), found in Lochleven when it was partially drained a few years ago. By the Hon. RALPH ABERCROMBY.

Small Stone Celt, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch across face, and 3 inches in length. By JOHN HAY, Esq. of Letham.

Oak Charter Chest—3 feet long, 19 inches broad, and 28 inches deep, containing series of small drawers—with massive Iron Lock and Handles; it formerly belonged to the family of Lundin of Auchtermairnie. By JAMES LUNDIN BROWN, M.D., through JAMES BROWN, Esq., Accountant.

"Cas-Chròm," or Foot Plough, from the Isle of Skye (see woodcut p. 463). By JAMES JOHNSTONE, Esq., Curator S.A. Scot.

Mr Johnstone, when on a visit to Skye some years ago, saw a man using this very primitive implement of agriculture, and purchased it.

This instrument of tillage is thus described in the "Statistical Account of Scotland," published by Sir John Sinclair, vol. vi. p. 288 :—
 "The 'cas-chròm,' or crooked foot, is a crooked piece of wood, the lower end somewhat thick, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, pretty straight, and armed at the end with iron, made thin and square to cut the earth. The upper end of this instrument is called the shaft, whereas the lower is termed the head; the shaft above the crook is generally straight, being 6 feet long, and tapering upwards to the end, which is slender; just below the crook or angle, which is an obtuse one, there must be a hole, wherein a strong peg must be fixed for the workman's right foot, in order to push the instrument into the earth, while, in the meantime, standing upon his left foot, and holding the shaft firm with both hands, when he has in this manner driven the head far enough into the earth with one bend of his body, he raises the clod by the iron-headed part of his instrument, making use of the heel or hind part of the head as a fulcrum,—in so doing turns it over always towards the left hand, and then proceeds to push for another clod in the same form. With all its disadvantages, the cas-chròm of all instruments is the fittest for turning up the ground in the country; for among so many rocks, a plough can do little or nothing, and where no rocks are, the earth is commonly so marshy that cattle are not able to pass over it without sinking deep. Therefore it is of pretty general use in the Highlands, and is of great antiquity."

Stone Urn, apparently of Steatite (11 inches diameter, $7\frac{1}{2}$ high), of irregular shape, very similar to the urn found in a barrow near the Standing Stones of Stenness, described in the Proceedings of the Society, Vol. II., p. 57, and Plate II., but much smaller in size. The Urn was filled with calcined human bones, and was found in the Island of Rousey, Orkney;

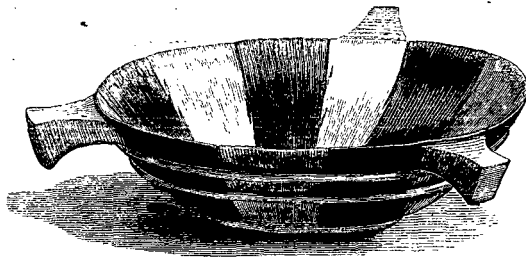
Stone Ball, 3 inches in diameter, with two rudely-cut grooves crossing each other at right angles; and a

Round stone, 4 inches in diameter, with a square hole in the centre, as if for holding a spindle—both found by Mr William Kemp, Orphir, in a weem, close to the curious remains of the Girth House of Orphir

the ancient Bir of the Jarls of Orkney, which is now enclosed in the churchyard;

By DAVID BALFOUR of Balfour and Trenabie, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Orkney.

“Quaich” or Cup, of Ivory and Ebony Staves; 3 inches diameter, bound together with Silver Hoops, which was given by Prince Charles Stuart, in 1745, to a gentleman in Forfarshire, by whom it was presented to the late David Deuchar, Morningside (see woodcut);



Ivory Snuff-Box, Silver Mounted, with Carved Lid representing a Mythological subject. It was presented by the Count d'Artois (afterwards Charles X. of France), while living at Holyrood in 1796, to the late David Deuchar;

Palm Leaf with Inscription, given to Major Deuchar in 1820, by a Brahmin, Hyderabad, Southern India;

By Captain PATRICK DEUCHAR, R.N.

Stone, 2 feet long, 17 inches broad, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, which formed the end of a Cist found in Cairnbaan, near Lochgilphead, Argyleshire. One side of the Stone is ornamented with several incised diamond-shaped figures, one within the other. By J. RICHARDSON SMITH, Esq., Achnaber House, Argyleshire.

Small Iron Padlock of curious shape;

Cast in Gutta-Percha of a Circular Celtic Brooch, formerly in the possession of Charles K. Sharpe, Esq.;

Five Shilling Note, payable by John Bell & Co., Stirling, 1804;

By JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq., R.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.

Five Stone Balls, measuring from 4 inches to 8 inches in diameter;
Four Iron Balls, from 2 inches to 6 inches
in diameter;

Two Iron Hatchet Heads;

Iron Pike Head;

Iron Pick-Axe, broken;

Found in excavating the foundations of
the New Battery at Broughty Castle,
Fife.

By Colonel C. F. SKYRING, Royal En-
gineers.

Silver Penny of Edward II. By the Rev.
LEONARD S. ORDE.

Bronze Tripod Vessel, 6 inches diameter
at middle, 11 inches high, with spout; the
handle, portion of side, and foot broken off.
By THOMAS JOHNSTONE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Antiquarisk Tidsskrift, 1855-57. 8vo.
Kjöbenhavn, 1857-59;

Notices of Works presented to the Society
of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen,
1855-57. 8vo. Copenhagen, 1858;

The Northmen in Iceland. 8vo. Copen-
hagen, 1859;

By the SOCIETY of NORTHERN ANTI-
QUARIES.

There were exhibited two Illuminated
Manuscripts on Vellum, by THOMAS MACKIN-
LAY, Esq.

A Cross-Bow, purchased for the Museum,
found in an underground passage, near the
outer wall of Craigmillar Castle, was also ex-
hibited. (See woodcut.)

The following Communications were
read:—

