

All these relics were discovered in the "Knowe of Saverough," in the Mainland of Orkney, during excavations made under the superintendence of James Farrer, Esq., M.P., by whom they were presented to the Museum.

An account of the discoveries at the Knowe of Saverough was communicated by Mr Farrer to the Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. CCXIII., November 1862, from which the following extracts are taken :—

"The Knowe is close to the sea, and only a few feet above high water-mark. It is on the property of the Earl of Zetland, and about half a mile from the small 'town' of Birsay, in the west mainland of Orkney. Small fragments of bone have, it is said, occasionally been observed protruding from the ground, and some years ago an iron or bronze spear-head was picked up by a child on the top of the Knowe. It is not easy to define the original limits of the Knowe, since its shape is liable to alteration from the frequent shifting of the sand. The diameter may perhaps be estimated at 168 feet, and its greatest height at from 14 to 16 feet. The excavations, which were commenced in July 31, 1862, resulted in the discovery of many human skeletons more or less perfect, and at depths below the present surface varying from 2 to 8 or 10 feet. Those which were nearest to the top of the Knowe were the most decayed, but owing to the shifting of the sand previously alluded to, it is impossible to say what might have been the depths of the graves when the bodies were interred. Not a vestige of any clothing was discovered. All the bodies had been laid in kists, but in every instance these were broken, owing probably to the weight of superincumbent sand during a long period of time. The sand was only slightly discoloured, but in some instances the decomposed fibrous roots of grasses were found amongst the bones of the skeletons—a circumstance justifying the inference that those kists had been originally constructed on the surface of the ground, and that the sand had afterwards been piled up over them. The heads of all the skeletons faced the north-west, with exception of two, Nos. 8 and 10, which were turned to the north. There were flagstones underneath the bodies only in a few instances. The various skeletons are numbered in this description according to the order in which they were found.

"The skull (which is now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh) has a circular orifice at the back of the head, as if from a wound by an arrow or some pointed instrument.¹ At the head of the skeleton No. 2, on the right, was a clay-baked urn, filled up with sand (see Plate No. 1). It was 5 inches high, 5½ in diameter, 16 inches in circumference at the top, and 3½ inches in diameter at the bottom. It is now, with the skull, in the Museum at Edinburgh. No. 2 is the skull

¹ On farther examination, this seems to be rather doubtful.—Ed.

of a male of about thirty-five years. It is remarkable for its small size and very short round form, being eminently brachycephalic. The face is short and very broad; the lower jaw large, broad, and angular, and has the peculiarity of a disproportionately small chin. The teeth are flatly eroded, as in No. 8.

“Dr Thurnam, the well-known craniologist, to whom I at once forwarded several of the skulls for examination, has kindly furnished me with the following information:—

“The skulls Nos. 1, 8, and 10 are those of males. They are well developed, and more or less of brachycephalic type. The two former are very fine specimens, with almost every tooth, and the large and prominent nasal bones unbroken. No. 1 is of large size. The two, with individual differences, present considerable similarity to the Orcadian skull figured in the *Crania Britannica*, pl. 21. Nos. 3, 4, and 7 are doubtless the skulls of females. They are all of the low, narrow and elongate form, called kumbecephalic by Professor D. Wilson. No. 4 is that of a young woman; No. 7 is of middle age; and No. 3 that of a woman far advanced in life, the lower jaw presenting doubtful traces of the presence of a solitary tooth. Two of the male skulls (Nos. 1 and 10) are those of men of middle age, the other (No. 8) that of a young man of about thirty years. None of the “wisdom” teeth have been developed in the skull No. 1, and one of these teeth is absent in No. 8. The crowns of the teeth generally are much worn, as if from the use of coarse food; the attrition is flat, and moderate in extent in No. 8, but much more advanced in No. 1, in which the surfaces of the teeth are oblique and jagged, as if from gnawing roots or tearing flesh from bones, as is common in uncivilized hunting tribes. There can be no hesitation in referring this series of skulls to the ancient Celtic inhabitants of Orkney, and as little doubt that they belong to a period prior to the Scandinavian settlements in those islands.’

“The further excavation of the Knowe revealed a small kist containing the leg-bones and some of the ribs of a child; this kist was at least twelve feet from any of those previously discovered. At this point, the existence of a large building at some remote period became apparent. Many of the stones were water-worn, and had evidently been taken from the sea-shore; others, again, had been quarried: the thickness of the walls could not be ascertained, owing to the ruined state of the Brough, but the discovery of an ancient comb,¹ a deer's horn handle¹ of some instrument retaining yet the marks of iron tacks or nails, some bones of a whale, querns, bone-pins, &c., justifies the conclusion that this part of the Knowe of Saverough must have been at some time the site of a Brough. A few feet further in, two small kists were found one above the other, but the upper one was too much broken to admit of its dimensions being taken. It was nearly filled with sand, and contained a few small pieces of bone. The lower kist was more perfect, but very few bones remained. Its

¹ Now presented to the Museum, and figured in Plate I.

dimensions were 3 feet 10 inches in length, 1 foot 9 inches in width, and 1 foot 8 inches deep; it was 7 feet below the surface of the ground, measuring from the top of the kist. Close to these kists, and protected by large stones placed in the form of a kist was a large bell (see Plate No. 1) composed of iron, coated with bronze,¹ riveted on the side: the loop for the hammer or clapper still remains. It rested on the handle, and the mouth was covered with a flat stone. The length, including the handle, is $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches, about 27 inches in circumference at the top, and 7 by 9 inches across the mouth. It is supposed to belong to the earliest Christian times. Professor Wilson, in his 'Pre-Historic Annals of Scotland,' p. 669, gives a drawing of one precisely similar in character, which he supposes to belong to the fourth century, when St Ninian, the first Catholic Bishop in Orkney, was sent by Siricius, Pope of Rome, to preach the Gospel to the heathen tribes of North Britain. The bell, which is much corroded, had evidently been deposited many centuries ago. The stones forming the sides of the kist were almost rotten with age, and a portion of one of them adheres firmly to one side of the bell. I do not of course venture to assign any fixed period for the construction of the Brough in which these relics of antiquity have been found; it seems not improbable that it may have been used as a place of burial by some of the tribes inhabiting the islands long after it became a ruin. The fact that iron was not entirely unknown to the ancient inhabitants of the Brough forbids the assumption that they lived in the early part of the stone period, though it may not be unreasonable to conclude that the use of metallic tools was very little known to them. The destruction or desertion therefore of the Brough probably occurred towards the close of the stone and the commencement of the iron period. The bell of course belongs to more recent times, and can have had no connection with the heathen race who inhabited the islands previous to the Christian era, and of whose interment in the Knowe of Saverough the depositors of this ecclesiastical relic were doubtless entirely ignorant, since it is hardly to be supposed that an object of such veneration would be concealed in a Pagan burial-place. The practice in early Christian times of interring bodies with their face to the east is conclusive against the idea that these people were converts to Christianity. None of the bodies occupied the position justifying such a supposition. I think, then, the following conclusions may not unfairly be arrived at:—That at a remote period a large Brough, or inhabited building, occupied part of the hill now known as the Knowe of Saverough; that long after its destruction it was used as a place of interment by the Celtic inhabitants of Orkney; that there is no evidence of the time at which the interments took place, beyond the fact that it must have been before the Christian era; and that the ruined Brough was selected as a place of concealment for the bell during perhaps times of persecution, with a view to its removal at the proper time to a place of greater security."

¹ Small portions of bronze remain at each shoulder of the bell.—Ed.

(2.) By Mr JAMES PATERSON, Longman, Macduff.

Four Chips or Flakes of White Quartz, Ten leaf-shaped Arrow-heads of Flint, varying in colour and finish; small Arrow-head, with stem and barbs. Found near Cullen of Buchan, Banffshire.

(3.) By GEORGE R. KINLOCH, Esq., Keeper of the Register of Deeds H. M. General Register House; through John Alex. Smith, M.D., Secretary S.A. Scot.

Flint Arrow-head, 3 inches long, with barbs and stem, found several years ago in Kincardineshire.

Fig 1.

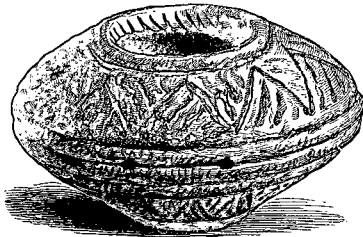
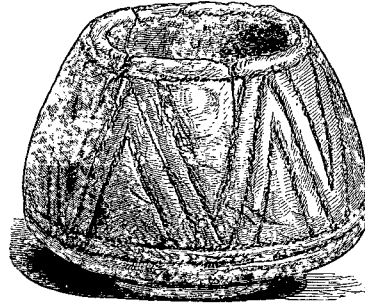


Fig. 2.



Small Urns or Lamps found in a cairn, Hill of Bennachie.

Two small Urns, Cups, or Lamps as they have been designated, ornamented with straight and zigzag lines. One (fig. 1) is of reddish clay, and measures 3 inches in diameter by 2 inches high, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch across the mouth; two holes are pierced through the middle of one side, at its greatest diameter. The other Urn (fig. 2) is of yellowish-coloured clay, it measures 3 inches in diameter at the base, and tapers upwards to the top, which is 2 inches across; the under part is pierced with two pairs of holes on opposite sides. (These Urns are well shown in the accompanying woodcut, figs. 1 and 2.) They were both found upwards of sixty years ago, on opening a tumulus or cairn near the foot of the Hill of Bennachie, Aberdeenshire.

Four small Beads or Perforated Disks of Jet or Black Stone, which, with several of the same kind, were found around the neck, wrists, and ancles of a human skeleton in a stone cist or coffin discovered on ploughing beside a large tumulus on the farm of Farrochie, near Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, in the autumn of 1837. (For a further account of this discovery see *Archæologia Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 462.)

A Polished Black Stone, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and rounded in shape, somewhat resembling a small pestle, which was dug up several years ago within a stone circle, or so-called Druidical temple, on the farm of Kirkabost, Strathaird, Isle of Skye. Mr Kinloch states that—"this circle had originally consisted of large upright stones, very few of which now remain, and is known in the locality by the Gaelic name of 'Clachan breugach,' which the gentleman who gave me the relic translated 'The place, or stones of lies, or falsehood.' May not the early Christians have thus designated these Druidical or heathen circles as the places of false worship? The Gaelic name of the place might, however, be also read 'Clachan breitheach,' the 'judicial stones,' or place where law courts were held at an early period, to dispense justice to the inhabitants."

Oval-shaped Copper Tobacco-Box, ornamented with engraved figures, scrolls, &c., and verses in Dutch. On the inside is the following engraved inscription: "The gift of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Baronet, 1736."

(4.) By Mr ROBERT STUART, Farmer, Boggach.

Celt of dark-coloured Stone, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, found on the farm of Boggach, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire.

(5.) By WILLIAM FORBES of Medwyn, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Leaf-shaped Arrow or Spear-head of Flint, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, flat on both sides; it appears to have been rubbed or polished, and was found in Ireland.

Two Flint Arrow-heads, with barbs and stems, one $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, and the other $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; also from Ireland.

Gray-coloured Stone Celt, 3 inches long, 2 inches across the face, from Ireland.

Small Bronze Axe-head or Celt, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch across the face.

(6.) By Mr ALEX. M'ROBERT, farmer, Gamrie.

Two small perforated Stones or Whorls, one measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter; the other 1 inch in diameter is ornamented with incised lines. They were found in the parish of Gamrie, Banffshire.

(7.) By M. FRÉDÉRIC TROYON, Lausanne, Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Portion of Bone or Deer's Horn, square-shaped at one extremity, to allow it to fit into the mortice-hole of a wooden handle; and hollowed out at the other, to form a socket for a stone celt. It is stated by the donor to be a portion of the handle of a stone axe or celt.

Portion of Bone, apparently part of the tyne of a deer's antler.

Two Bone Splinters or Pointed Pins.

These relics were found by the Donor in a crannoge or lake habitation in Switzerland.

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

Various Antiquarian Relics purchased by David Balfour, Esq., of Balfour and Trenabie, at the sale of the Kirkwall Museum, and presented by him to the Society of Antiquaries, Edinburgh, 13th October 1862, with the following details:—

1. Large Stone Urn (broken) from ruins of "Oxstro" Burg, Birsay.
2. Stone Lamp, from the same.
3. Large Stone Urn (broken), found when excavating foundations for dwelling-house at Birstane, St Ola.
- 4 and 5. Fragments of two Stone Urns found in Sanday, Orkney.
6. Part of the bottom of a Stone Urn, found below the Cairn Mackabuster, near Lopness, Sanday.
7. Three Stone "Whorls" found in different parts of Sanday, 1823-26.
8. Four Bone Buttons found in the ruins of the Burgh of Burrian, North Ronaldsay.
9. Perforated Bone, found in a Pict's house at Saverock, St Ola, in 1836.
10. Bone Comb found in the ruins of a Pict's house in Sanday in 1829.

11. Blue Glass Bead or Button found at Tressness, Sanday, 1825.
12. Part of a Red-deer's Horn found in a Pict's house at Tressness, Sanday, 1831.
13. Piece of half-fused Earthenware (or slag), from circular heap at Thorsness, Burness, Sanday.
14. Fragments of a small Clay Urn or Vessel found in a tumulus at Thorsness, Sanday, April 1825.
15. Two Fishing-hooks, the one of a bone and the other of shell, or mother of pearl; said to have been found in the Island of Sanday.

Note.—These hooks were purchased by Mr Balfour twenty years ago from the collection of the late Dr Wood of Sanday, and deposited in the Kirkwall Museum. Most of the Sanday Antiquities were originally collected by Dr Wood.

16. Stone Ball found at Lopness, Sanday.
17. Another Stone Ball (broken) also found there.
18. Flint Arrow-head found near the Loch of Mey, Caithness.
19. Bronze Pin, 6 inches long, the head with a small moveable ring, found sticking through the back part of a human skull near the Earl's Palace, Birsay.
20. Bronze Pin, 3 inches long, with small circular flattened head, ornamented with incised lines, found in Orkney.
21. Bronze or Copper Ring, with remains of an Iron Swivel on it, found by Mr George Petrie in 1841 at a grave on the sand of Gill, Westray, where the skeletons of a man and horse, with fragments of a shield, &c., had been found shortly before; probably cheek ring of a bridle bit, 4 inches in diameter.
22. Fragment of an Iron Sword, with cross guard, found in the North Links, Westray.
23. Iron Spear-head from Westray.
24. Fragments of a large Iron Sword, &c., found in Links, Westray.
25. Remains of Iron Axe-head found in Links, Westray.
26. Fragments of a small Iron or round Cup-shaped Vessel, suggested by Mr G. Petrie to be the Boss of a Shield.
27. A number of Human Teeth found in the same Links.
28. A Human bicuspid Tooth, found in one of the Sepulchral Tumuli at Toftness, Sanday, 1818.

29. Red Tile with Yellow Glaze, from the floor of the Choir of St Magnus' Cathedral, Kirkwall.

30. The Malt Pundlars used in Orkney till a recent date.

31. A Norwegian Pundlar and Bismar or Iron Steelyard combined.

32. A Dutch Pundlar or Bismar adjusted to the Orkney weights.

33. A Dutch Spring Weighing-Machine.

34. Iron Stand, ornamented with *Fleur-de-lis*, formerly used for sand glass at reading-desk of St Magnus' Cathedral, Kirkwall (fig. 1).

Fig. 2.

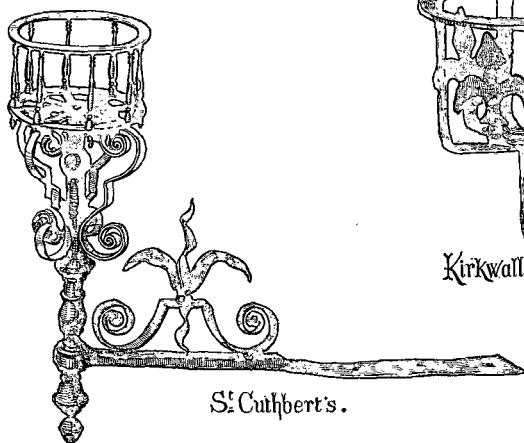
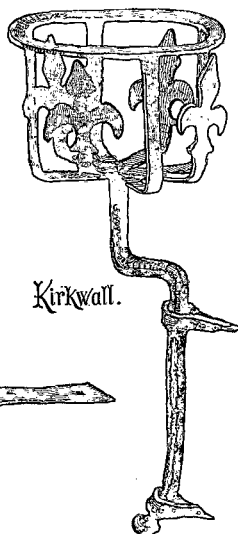


Fig. 1.



Metal Stands for Sand-glasses from St Cuthbert's Church,¹ Edinburgh, and St Magnus', Kirkwall.

35. A Wooden Lock, with Bolt and Key of Wood, not long since in common use in the Island of North Ronaldsay.

36. A piece of one of the Beams of Noltland Castle, Westray.

37. A piece of the Stump of the ancient "Gallows," which formerly stood at Gallowsha', near Kirkwall.

¹ For notice of stand for hour-glass, St Cuthbert's, fig. 2, see *infra*.

38. Fragment of Oak from the wreck of the "Royal George."

39. A piece of a Flag, said to be the remains of Gow the Pirate's Flag, purchased from the collection of the late Dr Wood, Sanday.

40. A piece of Stone from Calf Sound, Eday, said to be from the ballast of Gow the Pirate's ship. (See Sir Walter Scott's novel of *THE PIRATE*.)

41. A portion of a Red-deer's Horn, found in a moss near Binscarth Firth.

42. Broad Brass Guard of a Rapier, found in 1827 in the gravel beach on the west side of Shapinsay, opposite to, and about fifty yards from, the rock called Kessar Klett.

43. Ancient Iron Snuffers, on stand, found in the ruins of Kildrummie Castle, Aberdeenshire.

44. Iron Spear-head found in Sanday, much corroded, 1828.

45. Piece of Red-deer's Horn found at Coldigarth, Sanday.

46. Fragment of Red-deer's Horn, from Pict's house at Saverock, near Kirkwall, found in 1836.

47. Fragment of Red-deer's Horn, with part of Skull attached, found in Orkney.

(9.) By EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D.

The Runic Inscriptions at Maeshow. By Edward Charlton, M.D. 8vo, pp. 24. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1862.

(10.) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON.

Archæologia; or Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquity. Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. Vol. xxxviii. part 2. 4to. London, 1862.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Vol. I., Nos. 1 to 7 inclusive. Second Series, November 1859 to April 1861. 8vo. London, 1859-61.

(11.) By the SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES, Copenhagen.

Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord. 1850-1860. 8vo. Copenhagen, 1861.

Antiquarisk Tidsskrift, udgivet af det Kongelige Nordiske oldskrift-Selskab. 1858-1860. 8vo. Copenhagen, 1860.

Kaladlit Assiliaiat, ou quelques Gravures, Dessinées et Gravées sur Bois par des Esquimaux du Groënland. 4to. (Pp. 52.) Godthaab, 1860.

(12.) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NORMANDY.

Mémoires de la Société des Antiquaires de Normandie. 3^e Série.
4^e Volume. 24^e Volume de la Collection. 4to. Paris, 1861.



RELICS DISCOVERED IN THE "KNOWE OF SAVEROUGH, MAINLAND OF ORKNEY.