

III.

A CURIOUS OLD WATCH, THE GIFT OF THE GREAT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS TO A SCOTTISH OFFICER IN HIS SERVICE, WAS EXHIBITED BY JOHN ALEX SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot.

Dr Smith was indebted to the kindness of his friend Mr Ralph Erskine Scott, C.A., for being able to exhibit this curious oval watch, which has richly cut rock-crystal cases, set in silver, the silver band or setting being

divided into eight different facets or portions, round which the following inscription (of a later date) had been engraved:—*Donum Gust. Adolphi Regis invicti Jacobo Braimer Tribuno Militum Virtutis Præmium*—the watch having been given by Gustavus Adolphus as the reward of valour to James Braimer, a Scots officer in his service. Colonel Braimer is stated, in a note accompanying the watch, to have “married in 1650 Lady Brunton, sister of the famous General Leslie, created Earl of Leven.” At the death of the Colonel, the watch remained in the custody of his descendants, coming into the possession of the late Mr Richard Braimer of the Royal Bank here, then into that of a niece, recently deceased, and it now passes to the family of the late Captain Braimer, R.N., residing at Falmouth. The silver dial of the watch, with its single hand fixed near the middle of its length, to point the hours—was old and beautifully engraved, but the works had been apparently modernised or renewed since the death of Gustavus Adolphus in 1632, as it contained the more modern balance spring and fusee chain, the former of which was invented by Dr Hook in 1666, and the latter, he believed, was not used until 1680. The internal strong framework, probably, and, at all events, the external cases and dial, formed part of the much valued present given by the great Gustavus to the gallant Scotsman.