

VII.

NOTE ON THE DISCOVERY OF URNS SET IN A ROUND HOLE IN THE GROUND UNDER A TUMULUS, AND OF AN INVERTED URN COVERING CALCINED BONES, AT GORDONBUSH, SUTHERLANDSHIRE. IN A LETTER TO JOHN STUART, LL.D., SEC. S.A. SCOT. BY REV. J. M. JOASS, GOLSPIE, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

Captain Houstoun has broken ground at Kintradwell, near the Eirde House, and found a great deal of rude building, with flagged passages and fireplaces, set about with stones like the outworks of the Broch, and containing in them food debris, flattened antlers, charcoal, bones of various kinds, and fragments of manufactured shale. When the place has been cleared out it will be better worth reporting upon, and may form a postscript to the Broch paper. I may mention that, during some digging near Gordonbush, set agoing by Houstoun to give work to some unemployed people, and also, I believe, to look for another small neck-lace, two rude urns were found, mouth downwards, and containing burnt bones. They occurred in a round hole in the ground, with no slab above or below, under a cairn or tumulus, among many formed of earth and stones. One of the urns was broken in very small pieces in the attempt to remove it. The other, after being cut clear of the packing earth, was left *in situ* to dry. I was asked to go and see the lifting; but when we got there it was found smashed, and we discovered that a half-wit, who was noticed watching the digging, was the offender. Both these urns were about 8 inches high, without ornamentation, and very rude. Just outside the same tumulus, two stones, about 3 feet apart, and standing about 1 foot high, were found to be firmly bedded. On clearing a few inches of rubbish a small flag was found between them, and under this a small round hole, about 6 inches diameter, with smooth inside, widening downwards. This was another inverted urn, of which the bottom had fallen in. After very careful work with knife and trowel it was got out nearly whole, and is 17 inches high, and 13 inches wide at mouth, very rude, unornamented. It contained burnt bones, one of which is certainly human, being the characteristic atlas vertebra.