

## APPENDIX.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A PICT'S HOUSE AT FITHIE, IN THE PARISH OF FARNELL, FORFARSHIRE, IN WHICH ROMAN POTTERY AND ANIMAL REMAINS WERE FOUND. BY ANDREW JERVISE, ESQ., CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT., BRECHIN.<sup>1</sup>

About the middle of April 1868, while ploughing the Quarry Park field, immediately to the west of the farm-house of Fithie, the plough struck upon a large boulder, which it was found advisable to remove. Upon doing this, a deep hollow presented itself; and on further investigation being made, other two large stones were found, and a curvilinear chamber discovered measuring about 12 feet in length. It was about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide at the north, or entrance end, and expanded, but not very regularly, to a width of about 6 feet at the inner end, which part, like that in similar structures, was semi-circular. The floor of the chamber was composed of the red sandstone rock, and sloped towards the south-west, from a height of about 4 to 6 feet.

The side and end walls were built of rough land stones, cemented with clay; and the floor or rock was bedded to the depth of some inches, with a layer of prepared clay, mixed with oak leaves, acorns, charcoal, and other vegetable substances. But, unfortunately, the walls were too much broken down by the ploughmen, and the form of the weem otherwise destroyed before being seen by any competent person, to admit of a plan being made of it.

The cover nearest the entrance of the chamber was of freestone, and measured 4 feet 7 inches in length, by about 2 feet in breadth; the middle cover, of gneiss, was 8 feet long, and about 3 feet 3 inches broad; and

<sup>1</sup> This paper was read before the Society 8th June 1868, and should therefore have appeared in vol. VII. p. 534, but the MS. was unfortunately mislaid.

the third, a conglomerate or limestone boulder, was 7 feet by about 2 feet 4 inches broad. These covering stones varied in thickness from about 12 to 6 inches, and were very unequal in form.

The bones of animals, &c., now sent to the Museum (see Proceedings, vol. VII. p. 479), were found scattered upon the floor of the chamber; and the remains of a vase or urn of red embossed Samian ware, were below the centre cover. The piece of curved iron was got upon the floor between two of the covers, so that it may have fallen into the chamber at a comparatively late period.<sup>1</sup>

About half a mile to the south of the weem, and in a district which has only been recently brought under the plough, are the remains of a so-called "kitchen midden," of large dimensions, in which quantities of animal bones have been found; also flint arrow-heads.

Tradition avers that "the midden" is of an equally old date with the Pict's house at Fithie,—a notion which has probably arisen from the finding of flint arrow-heads in the former place. It is more certain, however, that the lands of Fithie were held by a family who, as vassals under the Bishops of Brechin, assumed their surname from that place from about the middle of the thirteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

A little to the eastward of the weem stood the castle of Fithie (mentioned by Moniepennie), now represented by a cottar's house, near to which is a slight eminence, where, says tradition, a lady of Fithie was burnt for the murder of her lover, *Young Reiden*. This tragedy, it is added, took place at the "Red Den," on the west side of the parish, where traces of ancient sculpture have been found.<sup>3</sup>

The property of Fithie now belongs to the Earl of Southesk, who is sole heritor of the parish of Farnell.

<sup>1</sup> These were presented by the late Mr Hall, farmer, Fithie, to whom I am indebted for the particulars of the discovery of the weem, which I visited soon after it was found.

<sup>2</sup> Reg. Vet. de Aberbrothoc, p. 322.

<sup>3</sup> Notices of the history and antiquities of Farnell will be found in Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. II. p. 197; and in Memorials of Angus and the Mearns, pp. 34-45.