PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

NINETY-SECOND SESSION, 1871-72.

Anniversary Meeting, 30th November 1871.

John Alexander Smith, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Office-bearers of the Society for the ensuing Session were elected as follows:

Patron.
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President.
THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY, K.G.

Vice-Presidents.
FRANCIS ABBOTT, Esq.
JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D.
THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq.

Councillors.
Right Hon. Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., &c. Representing the Board of Trustees.
JAMES T. GIBSON CRAIG, Esq.
Professor William Turner, B.M.
Hon. Lord Neaves.
Lord Rosehill.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY, NOVEMBER 30, 1871.

Barron Graham, Esq.
Captain T. P. White, R.E.
D. Milne Home, Esq., LL.D.
Robert Hutchison, Esq.

Secretaries.
John Stuart, Esq., LL.D., General Register House.
Arthur Mitchell, M.D., Commissioner in Lunacy.
David Laing, Esq., for Foreign Correspondence.

Treasurer.
David Douglas, Esq., 88 Princes Street.

Curators of the Museum.
James Drummond, Esq., R.S.A.
Robert Carskar, Esq.

Curator of Coins.
George Sim, Esq.

Librarian.
John Taylor Brown, Esq.

Auditors.
John Macmillan, Esq., A.M.
James D. Marwick, Esq.

Publishers.
Messrs Edmonston and Douglas.

Joseph Anderson, Keeper of the Museum.
George Hastie, Assistant.
Mr Laing stated that nine of the Fellows of the Society had died during the past year, viz.:

- **James Auld, LL.D., Madras College, St Andrews**, 1866.
- **Robert Chambers, LL.D., St Andrews**, 1844.
- **Thomas Macknight Craufurd of Carsburn, Esq.**, 1861.
- **The Earl of Dunraven and Montearle**, 1862.
- **Sir Archibald Eedmonstone of Duntrath, Bart.**, 1863.
- **Major William Drummond Mercer of Huntingtower**, 1862.
- **Andrew Small, Esq., Banker**, 1853.

During the same period thirty-four Gentlemen have been admitted Fellows; and there are at present on the roll 373 Fellows of the Society.

A ballot was then taken, and the following Gentlemen were admitted Fellows:

- Right. Hon. the **Earl of Rosebery**.
- **William Gordon, M.D., Stafford Street, Edinburgh**.
- **F. A. Mackay, Esq., Royal Bank, Edinburgh**.
- **Rev. James B. Mackenzie, Minister of Colonsay and Oronsay**.
- **David Marshall, Esq., Kinross**.
- **J. J. Millidge, Esq., Claremont Street, Edinburgh**.
- **Niel Steel, Esq., Constitution Terrace, Dundee**.
- **John C. Shairp, Esq., LL.D., Principal of the United College, St. Andrews**.
- **Charles Wyville Thomson, LL.D., Regius Professor of Natural History, University of Edinburgh**.

The Secretary then read the Annual Report, as follows:

"**Annual Report of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland to the Honourable the Board of Trustees for Manufactures for Scotland for the year ending 30th September 1870.**"

"During the past year the Museum has been open continuously, except during the month of November, when it was closed as usual for cleaning and re-arrangement."
The number of visitors for the year is shown in the following table, distinguishing between day visitors and visitors on the Saturday evenings, for each month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day Visitors</th>
<th>Sat. Evenings</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>5,089</td>
<td>1,212</td>
<td>6,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5,243</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>6,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>18,755</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>19,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>3,907</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>4,871</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>4,388</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>5,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3,688</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>4,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6,155</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>6,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>7,559</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>8,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>18,912</td>
<td>1,402</td>
<td>20,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>21,412</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>22,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>13,301</td>
<td>1,557</td>
<td>14,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>108,409</td>
<td>11,099</td>
<td>119,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Year</td>
<td>97,363</td>
<td>13,479</td>
<td>110,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>11,046</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>8,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2,380</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the year 226 articles of antiquity have been presented to the Museum, and the donations to the Library amount to 54 volumes.

The number of articles above specified is exclusive of the following collections, also presented during the year:


"Collection of Relics from the Broch of Cill-Trolla, Sutherlandshire, obtained from the Rhind Excavation Committee.

"By Josiah Livingstone, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

"Collection of Pottery and other articles found in excavating on the site of the New Scottish Wharf, Wapping."
ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

"By the Committee of Management, through Charles E. Dalrymple, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

"Collection of Negatives from a selection of Historical Portraits shown at the Archaeological Exhibition, held at Aberdeen in 1859, on the occasion of the meeting of the British Association there.


"Collection of Flint Implements, Celts, Pottery, &c., from the parish of Urquhart, Elginshire.

"By Thomas Edmonston of Buness, Esq.

"Collection of Stone Vessels, Implements, &c., obtained in excavations in the island of Shetland, Unst, for the Rhind Excavation Committee.

"By the Anthropological Society of London, through Mr. Joseph Anderson, Keeper of the Museum.

"Collection of Stone Implements, Pottery, &c., obtained from sepulchral cairns in Caithness, and from the Brochs of Bowermadden and Old Stirkoke.

"By Messrs. Joseph Anderson and Robert Innes Shearer, Thrumster.

"Collection of Stone, Bronze, and other remains from the Brochs of Yarhouse and Brounaben in Caithness, obtained for the Rhind Excavation Committee.

"A considerable number of interesting objects of antiquity have also been placed in the Museum for exhibition on loan during the year.

"A new edition of the Catalogue of the Museum, prepared by Mr. Anderson, the Keeper of the Museum, is in the press, and will shortly be ready."

JOHN STUART, Secretary.
THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were admitted Fellows:

- Captain CHARLES HUNTER, Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders.
- J. J. MUIRHEAD, Esq., Mayfield Terrace.
- JAMES M'ADAM HYSLOP, M.D., Surgeon-Major, Palmerston Place.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:

(1.) By Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Minister of the Free Church, Glenluce.

Celt of Greenstone, found near Glenluce, 8½ inches in length.

Celt of Greenstone, of flat triangular form, found in Glenjorrie Burn,
DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

Glenluce, Wigtownshire. It measures 8¼ inches in length by 3½ across the cutting face, and tapers regularly to the small end; it is well polished, and remarkable for its thinness, being only ¼ of an inch thick in its thickest part. The Celt is well shown in the annexed woodcut.

Flint Spear-head, with barbs and stem, 3 inches long (wants the point) and 1½ inch wide at the broad end, found in Machermore Loch, Glenluce.

Ribbed Bead of Earthenware, with greenish glaze, 1¼ inch diameter, and pierced by a hole nearly ¼ of an inch diameter. It was kept by an old woman in the neighbourhood of Glenluce as an "Ethir-bore stane."

Whorl of Clay Slate, ¼ of an inch in diameter, semi-globular, and ornamented with concentric circles, found in Gleniron, Glenluce.

Small Oval Wooden Cup, of one piece, 4 inches long and 2½ inches deep, with handle at one end, found under a large wooden dish in Dalvaid Moss, Glenluce.

(2.) By Mr John Forsyth, through the Rev. Mr Wilson, Glenluce.

A portion of the point end of a Bronze Spear-head, found at Buchan Glentrool, Kirkcudbrightshire.


Collections from the Broch of Lingrow, Scapa, Orkney, obtained for the Rhind Excavation Committee, consisting of forty-six fragments of pottery, most of them showing part of the rim, and many having portions of the ornamentation with which the vessels appear to have been covered. It consists, in some instances, of raised bands running horizontally round the vessel, and indented by short markings made with a pointed instrument in the soft clay; in other instances, the markings form a pattern between the raised bands, and there are other pieces without raised bands, marked simply with combinations of straight lines meeting each other at different angles, one of these forms a pattern having some resemblance to a fern leaf. This pottery is interesting from its being the first found in the Brochs having this peculiar style of ornament. The only other pattern hitherto found on the pottery of the Brochs has been one resembling the "thumb-nail" ornamentation of the pottery of the long barrows
of England and the lake dwellings of Switzerland. Some of the specimens of the pottery of the Irish crannogs show a certain resemblance in the style of their ornamentation to this pottery from Lingrow.

Implement of Deer's Horn, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, sawn at both ends and having a square portion of hard bone inserted in the centre of the one end. (See figure.)

![Implement of Deer's Horn](image)

Flattish Pebble of Quartz, 2 inches diameter and $\frac{1}{3}$ inch in thickness, having an oblique longitudinal depression, about 1 inch in length and $\frac{1}{3}$ inch in depth, worn in the middle of each of its flat sides. A similar stone is among the relics from the Broch of Kintradwell, now in the
Museum. Stones of similar character are common in Norway and Denmark. These two specimens are the only examples known to have occurred in Scotland.

Portion of a Clay Mould for casting bronze pins, with open circular heads, 3½ inches in length. A pin in every way similar to those that have been cast in this mould was obtained in 1866 from the Broch of Bowermadden, Caithness, by Mr Anderson, and is now in the Museum. The mould and pin are both shown in the accompanying woodcuts.
Long-handled Comb, 4 inches in length, made of the bone of a whale. The teeth of the comb seem to have been eight in number, and are all broken off.

Whorl of Steatite, 1\frac{1}{2} inch diameter, broken.

Three Whorls of Sandstone, 1\frac{1}{2} to 1\frac{3}{4} inch diameter.

Implement of Deer’s Horn, 4 inches in length, sawn across at both ends, and hollowed as if for use as a handle.

Bone Awl or Implement, 7 inches in length, made from the leg-bone of a large animal. Similarly formed implements have been found at Keiss, Caithness, and in the lake dwellings of Switzerland.

Three portions of the point ends of Antlers of the Red-deer, cut and sawn.

Piece of Burned Antler, sawn across one end.

Coprolites of the Dog, &c.

Charred Barley.

Fragments of Bronze, being apparently parts of rings or pins.


Tooth of a Sperm Whale, found in the Howe of Hoxa, South Ronaldsay, Orkney.

The following notices of this tooth and of the structure in which it was found are taken from a paper subsequently read to the Royal Society, by PROFESSOR TURNER, entitled “Additional Notes on the Occurrence of the Sperm Whale in the Scottish Seas”:

“In August 1871, Mr George Petrie of Kirkwall, presented to the Scottish Society of Antiquaries a tooth recently obtained from a ‘brough’ near the Howe of Hoxa, in the Isle of South Ronaldsay, on a promontory opposite the Bay of Scapa. This tooth had obviously been buried in the earth for a lengthened period, and in all probability was co-eval with the early occupation of the ‘brough,’ and may have belonged to one of its early Norse, or even still more ancient inhabitants. This tooth has been carefully examined both by Professor Duns, Dr John Alexander Smith, and myself, and we all agree in regarding it as the tooth of a sperm whale. A part of the alveolar end of the tooth, more especially on one side, has been broken away, so that the
conical-shaped pulp-cavity is fully exposed. The free end of the crown is smooth and rounded, such as one sees in specimens of well-worn teeth of this animal. The length of the tooth is 5\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches, but, owing to a part being broken off, this does not give its full length; the greatest girth is 6\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches.

"Mr Petrie has most courteously sent me an account of the locality in which he discovered the tooth. He says:—'I was glad to find that the tooth was of some interest. I was led to its discovery by a request of my friend, Mr James Fergusson, the author of the "Handbook of Architecture," to make some excavations in the vicinity of the Howe of Hoxa, with the view of discovering, if possible, the tomb of the celebrated Orkneyan Jarl, Thorfinnr, who was, according to the "Orkneyinga Saga," buried at Haugseî, now known as the Howe of Hoxa. The Howe is apparently a long-shaped natural mound of considerable height, on which artificial mounds were probably made, as traces of them can still be seen, as well as of a massive stone wall encircling a great portion of the top of the mound. On the north end of the mound are the ruins of a large circular structure, which, on being excavated between twenty and thirty years ago, was found to be the remains of a brough or round tower. On proceeding to the spot last summer, and carefully examining the mound, I found that it would involve much time, labour, and expense to make a satisfactory examination. I determined, therefore, to excavate a smaller mound, evidently wholly artificial, at a short distance from the Howe of Hoxa, but connected at one time with it, as traces of an avenue of stones leading from the one to the other were still to be seen. I expected to find a chambered tomb, but to my surprise a structure resembling the ordinary brough, but far less symmetrical than such buildings usually are, was revealed. I am inclined to think that it was sepulchral in character, although of a type unique, so far as my experience goes. The passages or galleries were still roofed in many parts by flag-stones laid across from wall to wall. The excavations did not produce many relics, but amongst these were bits of dark pottery and several vertebrae of whale much scorched by fire. One of the vertebrae, about 1 foot in diameter at the broadest part, and 9\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in height, had been fashioned into a rude vessel by scooping out the central or more porous part of the bone, as is often the case. It was found about 2 feet beneath
the surface of the mound at A, on what appeared to be the floor of the interior of the structure, and it and the other vertebrae were buried beneath the ruins, which seemed to have fallen upon them. The tooth was found at B, and not far off a piece of freestone, convex on one side and slightly concave on the other. The concave side was tolerably smooth, apparently due to friction of a freestone rubber passing frequently over its surface. Similar stones were found in the brough of Hoxa, when it was cleared out some years ago. They much resemble the slightly hollowed stones found at New Grange, in Ireland. I do not remember any case of a brough which has been explored in Orkney in which bones of the whale have not been found.

"I hesitate very much to attempt even to assign a date to the structure in which the tooth was found. It may belong to the period of the Celtic or Pictish population by whom the islands were occupied prior to their invasion by the Scandinavians, but I do not think, from the general appearance of the ruins and the character of the remains found in them, that the tooth belonged to a whale captured or driven ashore later than the Scandinavian-Pagan period in Orkney, or say the ninth or tenth century.'

"As bearing on the early history of the sperm whale in the British islands, I may next refer to a passage in a memoir by the eminent Norwegian archaeologist, Professor P. A. Munch, to which my attention has been directed by Mr Joseph Anderson, the curator of the Antiquarian Museum. The memoir is entitled 'Geographical Elucidations of the Scottish and Irish Local Names occurring in the Sagas,' 1 and on pp. 128, 129, Professor Munch, in his account of the Shetland Isles, says:—

'The island of Yell is nearly divided into two halves by the deep fiords which penetrate on each side, Whalefirth (Hvalfjörðr) on the west, and Reafirth (Reyðarfjörðr) on the east. In a deed dated May 19, 1307, which speaks of the pledging of the estate Kollavágr, now Cullavoe, one of the witnesses is a Hógni i Reyðarfirði. This Reyðarfjörðr is clearly the above Reafirth, early contracted, or rather corrupted, even by Norse speakers, to Raffjörd.' Further, Professor Munch states, it is very suitable that the two opposite fiords should be called, the one Hvalfjörðr, and the other Reyðarfjörðr, for Reyðr (now called Rödr or Rær, in Norway),

is also a kind of whale, the *Physeter macrocephalus*, black-headed spermaceti whale.

"If we are to accept this interpretation by Professor Munch, that the

old Norse term *Reyðar* was equivalent to our sperm whale, then we should have to assume that this cetacean was so well known to the ancient Norsemen that they had coined a word to designate it. And it is indeed
not improbable that, considering their roving habits, they may have sailed in the seas which it most usually frequents, and perhaps have chased it for the sake of its valuable oil.

"But from the association of this name with a particular firth in the Shetland group of islands, it would, granting the accuracy of Munch's interpretation, seem as if, in the early years of the Norse settlement, the sperm whale had not unfrequently entered this firth, and perhaps been captured there—a circumstance which would show that this animal was then a much more frequent visitor of the Scottish seas than we know it to be at the present day, or indeed to have been for some centuries past.

"But I think it very questionable if the interpretation given by Professor Munch of the old word Reyðar can be regarded as zoologically correct. Torfæus, the historian of Greenland, in his account of the cetacea which frequent the Greenland and Iceland seas,\(^1\) uses the term Reidr three times in his description of these whales. One he terms Hrafnreidr, white in colour, of a length of fourteen or sixteen cubits, 'branchiis etiam preditus,' and tastes well. A second, called Hafreidr, a whale of sixty cubits, or a little more, which carries a small horn, and is most pleasant to eat. The third is named Reidr, or most usually Steipireidr, which, he says, surpasses all others in sweetness, is gentle, and not to be feared by ships. The largest which has been caught by the Northmen equals 130 cubits, is very fat, 'branchiis gaudet,' but wants teeth. This description by Torfæus is much wanting in precision, and the statement that the Hrafnreidr and Reidr possess branchiæ would lead one to say, if this term were understood by him in the sense in which it is now employed, that these animals were not whales, but fishes. It is probable, however, that the so-called branchiæ in Hrafnreidr and Steipireidr may be the plates of whalebone which depend from the roof of the mouth of the baleen whales, and which have a laminar arrangement not unlike the gills of a fish, and might readily be mistaken for such by an inexperienced observer. The absence of teeth, however, conclusively shows that these could not be sperm whales.

"Otho Fabricius, in his 'Fauna Groenlandica,'\(^2\) identifies the Hrafnreidr of Torfæus with the fin whale named by Linnaeus Balæna boops ;

\(^1\) Gronlandia Antiqua, pp. 90, 96. Havnæ, 1706.
\(^2\) Havnæ, 1780, p. 36, \textit{et seq.}
and the Reidr or Steipi Reidr with the *Balaena musculus* of the same naturalist. By Otho F. Müller, the term Reidr or Reydur is applied to two species of baleen whales; Mohr also, in his Natural History of Iceland, adopts the classification of Fabricius; and Erik Jonsson, in his Dictionary of Old Norse Terms, accepts the definition of the above naturalists. Further, both the lexicographer and the naturalists agree in giving as the Norse equivalent for our term sperm whale, not Reyðar, but Búrhvalr. Munch himself, also, by putting the Norwegian term Röhr or Rör as equivalent to the older word Reyðar, supplies me with an additional argument against the latter word being regarded as signifying sperm whale, for Rör or Rörhval is merely our term Rorqual, *i.e.*, a whale with folds and sulci extending longitudinally along the belly, such as one sees in the Balaenopteridae or Finner whales, but which do not exist in the sperm whale.

"Hence we cannot regard Reafirth in Yell as having received its name from having once been a place of resort for the sperm whale, or as affording any evidence that our seas were at one time more largely frequented by these huge ceteaceans than at the present day.

"But though this name loses its interest in connection with the natural history of the sperm whale, it acquires importance in reference to the natural history of the Rorquals. Of this group of whales, two, viz, the common Finner, and the species of Fin whale, of which we had recently so fine a specimen stranded at Longniddry, attain a length of upwards of 60 feet, and are not uncommon in our seas. By modern zoologists, the common Finner is usually called *Balaenoptera musculus (Physalus antiquorum)*, and may be identical with the Hrafneidr of Torfeus. The other, the *Balaenoptera Sibbaldi*, has been identified by Professor Reinhardt and myself as identical with the Rorqual, to which the Icelanders even at the present day apply the name of Steypi Reidr. In all probability the firth on the east side of Yell, now known as Reafirth, was frequented by these Rorquals, and was named by the ancient Norse settlers, Reyðarfjörðr, from this circumstance, whilst the deep inlet of the

1 Zoologie Danicoe Prodromus. Hafniae, 1776.
2 Forsog til en Islandsk Naturhistorie. Copenhagen, 1786.
3 Oldnordisk Ordbog. Copenhagen, 1863.
4 See my Memoir in Trans. of this Society, p. 247, 1870
sea on the west side of the island, now known as Whale-firth, may have obtained its Norse name of Hvalfjörðr from having been the resort of the 'caasing' whale, which in large herds still frequents the Orkney and Shetland seas, and is killed in great numbers by the islanders."


Slab of Clay Slate, 2 feet 4 inches in length and 14½ inches in greatest breadth, having incised on one of its flat surfaces a cross, and on its right side a line of inscription in Ogham characters. The cross is of similar form to those on the sculptured stones at Ulbster in Caithness, and Monymusk in Aberdeenshire. Some parts of the surface have scaled off, and the cross is thus incomplete towards the bottom of the shaft, where there are remains of a figure which may have been something resembling a fish. The Ogham inscription seems to be complete except in one part near the middle, where there is a slight break in the stone. The style of the inscription is peculiar, the ends of the letters being "tied" by cross strokes in a way not usually found in similar inscriptions. The slab was found in the Broch of Burrian, North Ronaldsay, Orkney. (See subsequent communication by Dr Traill).


Urн, found in a cairn on the hill of Migvie, Tarland, Aberdeenshire. It is formed of yellow clay, somewhat bowl-shaped, 5½ inches in height and 6½ inches across the mouth, ornamented with two parallel raised bands, crossed by vertical scorings, and alternating with rows of impressions as of the teeth of a comb. It was found in a cist formed of four slabs and covered by a large rough slab of granite. The cist measured 2½ feet in length by 1½ foot in depth, and the same in width. The urn lay partly on its side in the south-west corner of the cist, and contained a few calcined bones, among which was a human toe-nail.

Another Cist, 3 feet 3 inches in length internally, and 1½ foot wide, and the same in depth, was found lying parallel to this one at a short distance from it; and a third cist of smaller dimensions, being only about a foot square, was within a few feet of them. The cairn was of an irregularly oval form, but had been greatly destroyed by the partial removal of the stones.
(7.) By James Cassie, Esq., R.S.A.

Padlock from the Old Jail of Aberdeen. The lock plate is 9 inches square, strongly riveted, and the staple, which is 5 inches wide, is nearly an inch in diameter.

(8.) By George Seton, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Convent of St Catherine of Sienna. (Privately Printed). 4to. 1871.

(9.) By General Patrick Yule, F.S.A. Scot.


(10.) By the Hon. William Owen Stanley, M.P., F.S.A., the Author.

Cyttiaur Gwyddelod: Memoirs of Remains of Ancient Dwellings in Holyhead Island, explored in 1862 and 1868; with Notices of Relics found in recent Excavations there and in various parts of Anglesea. 8vo. Lond. 1871.

(11.) By the Right Hon. Lord Romilly, Master of the Rolls.

Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts, preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth. The Book of Howth, &c. 8vo. 1871.

Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts existing in the Archives and Collections of Venice, 1527–1533. 8vo. 1871.

Calendar of State Papers. Domestic Series of the reign of Charles I., 1638, 1639. 8vo. 1871.

Calendar of State Papers. Domestic Series of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Addenda, 1566–79. 8vo. 1871.


The following Communications were read:—