

*V. Summary of various Communications made to the Society, since the publication of the last volume, of early Sepulchral remains having been discovered.*

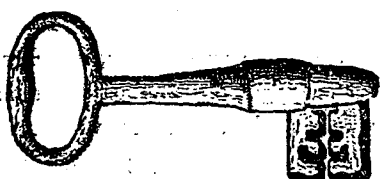
*1. Notice of the discovery of numerous Stone Coffins near Cramond.*

AN account having appeared in the public journals of certain stone coffins containing skeletons, which were said to have been dug up near Cramond Bridge, the Secretary to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries wrote to Dr Muirhead, minister of Cramond, for particulars relative to the discovery; and was favoured with a letter in reply to his queries, dated 12th December 1822, of which the following is an abstract:—

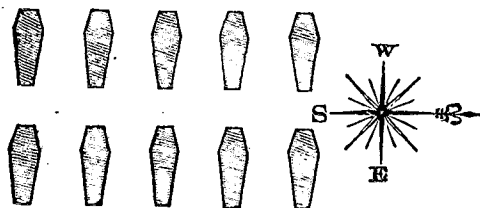
The spot of ground where the skeletons have been discovered is a knoll or rising ground between the present Cramond Bridge and the toll-house on the Linlithgow side, and very near the left hand side of the road after you have passed the bridge leading to Queensferry. It was covered with green sward; and there was nothing on the surface to

give any indication of there being tombs beneath. It is the property of Lord Rosebery, and lies on the western extremity of Cramond parish. It is about two hundred yards in a northern direction nearly from the river, and about fifty yards above the bed of the river. I find no tradition among the oldest residents here of its ever having been employed as a burying place, or of their having any knowledge that there were bodies deposited there.

Twenty-four coffins have already been discovered, and more may yet be discovered as the workmen proceed. They are of a very rude construction, consisting of flat sand stones of the same quality as may be got from quarries in the neighbourhood. They are about two inches thick, and of no regular shape, and no marks of the mason's iron upon them. Two or three of these laid flat beside each other constituted the bottom of the grave. On these, two or three were set up edge-ways for the sides, and one at each end; and then two or three were laid across to cover the tomb. No kind of cement appears to have been used. Each contains only one body, laid in the usual manner upon the back. There are no remains of wood coffins, or of any thing but the bones, and earth of the same quality with the soil. In one of them a key was found (of which I enclose an outline). It is covered with a coat of rust; and, from the position in which it was found near to one of the bones, it is supposed to have been deposited at the same time with the body.



Most of the bodies appear to have been full grown. There are, however, three or four of them so small as only to contain children. They are not all found at equal depths; but most of them are not more than two feet from the surface. They lie in a regular order. The position of the body is very nearly due east and west, with the head to the west. There have been found two rows of them. In these rows the bodies lie parallel to each other, at from three to six feet distant from each other; and the two rows lie east and west of each other, thus—



Two or three have been found out of that regular direction.

Coffins of a similar construction have been dug up at the farm of Craigie, considerably

to the west of this spot, in Mr Hope of Craigiehall's property, at about six feet from the surface. I have been told also that numbers of such coffins have been found in Calder parish.