

VIII.—*Letter from THOMAS ROBERTSON, Esq. to the EARL OF BUCHAN, respecting the discovery of a Stone Coffin at Arbroath, supposed to contain the Remains of King William the Lyon.*

[Read, 10th November 1818.]

7, Maitland Street, 26th Oct. 1816.

MY LORD,

IT is recorded, I understand, in some historical work, with which your Lordship is no doubt acquainted, that the remains of King William the Lyon were interred at a certain spot within the Abbey of Arbroath, of which he was the Founder. A few weeks ago, the workmen employed under the direction of the Barons of Exchequer in executing some repairs, &c. about the Abbey, discovered, at the place where his Majesty is said to have been buried, a Stone Coffin, the lid or upper part of it having (among other devices) the figure of a lion on it, from which, and other circumstances, the coffin was supposed to contain the King's remains. The bones found in it were in a tolerably good state of preservation. The tooth which I gave your Lordship two days ago was extracted from the scull found in the coffin, and was given to me by a person of

(a) Duke of Athole.

(b) John Roy means probably the great Duke of Argyle, who was so called. He was charged with giving protection to Rob Roy when the latter was hardly pushed by the Duke of Montrose.

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respectability, on the spot, who had an opportunity of ascertaining the truth of it. I give his account of *the tooth* at your Lordship's desire; and am,

With much respect,

Your Lordship's faithfully

Obedient humble servant,

*Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan.*

THO. ROBERTSON.

I am informed that an account of the discovery of the coffin, &c. was published in the Edinburgh newspapers at the time it was found.