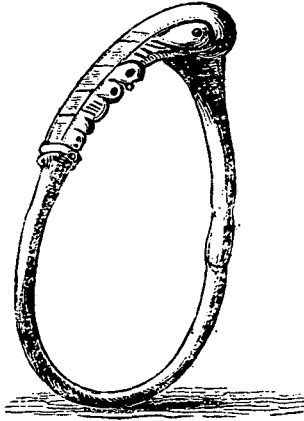


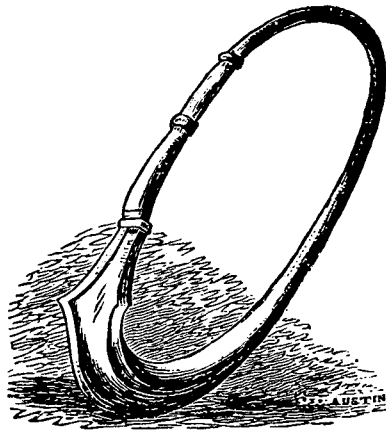
X.—*Notice of Two Ancient Stone Collars dug up near the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy, in possession of the late Mr Byres, of Tonley. By JAMES SKENE, of Rubislaw, Esq.*

[Read to the Society, 28th April 1818.]

Whin Stone.



Granite.



THESE singular pieces of ancient sculpture are of the full size of a collar, adapted to the proportion of the small highland horse; the one composed of basalt, and the other of a fine grained red granite. A close imitation of every part of a real collar is scrupulously observed—the folds of the leather, nails, buckles, and holes for tying the particular parts together. They seem to have possessed a high degree of polish, and, whatever the period of their formation may have been, are obviously the workmanship of a skilful artist. So far as I could learn, no circumstance attended their discovery which could in any way guide conjecture either as to the period or purpose of their construction. Being of so very portable a nature, they are not likely to have formed any part of a votive monument, of which no other traces remain. If connected with sacrificial purposes, the influence of superstition might have prevented their being disturbed. It seems, however, not an improbable supposition (without the necessity of ascribing the formation of the parallel roads to any thing but natural causes) that the peculiar adaptation of the ground to the exhibition of those public games which generally formed a part of the royal festivals of our ancestors, may have naturally enough suggested the selection of this spot, than which a more magnificent theatre could scarcely be supposed, when screened by the ancient forest, which now lies buried in the surrounding mosses (*a*). The Stone Collars, might commemorate, with propriety, the victor in the race, as the tripods still existing record the victor in the Choragic games of Athens.

(*a*) It seems to have been since ascertained that the singular appearances of Glen Roy are the production of natural causes, and not of art.