

XXXVII. *Miscellaneous Communications.*1. *The Hawthornden Manuscripts.*

[Read to the Society 27th February 1843.]

In the 4th Vol. of the *Archæologia Scotica* there is inserted a description of the MSS. of the celebrated poet WILLIAM DRUMMOND, of Hawthornden, which came into the possession of the Society in the year 1782. An attempt was then made to ascertain how far the usual report was correct, which asserted that the manuscripts had been garbled, and the more curious portions abstracted or lost, through the carelessness of the persons to whom they were intrusted. Last year, in reprinting for the Shakespeare Society, as a separate tract, the "Notes of Ben Jonson's Conversations" with Drummond, I had occasion to refer to the existing state of those MSS., and after giving the particulars of the donation, so far as could be ascertained from the Society's Minutes, I added:—"These MSS. were said to consist of thirteen volumes; but the bulk of the papers remained unbound and unarranged for upwards of forty years; no inventory or list of their contents appears to have been made; and a belief prevailed that, either from accident or design, many of the more interesting autographs were lost. After careful investigation, I am persuaded that such a notion was unfounded; and it is just as likely that a portion of the letters and papers made use of by the Editor of Drummond's Works in 1711, had never been returned to Hawthornden; or it may be that some of them may still remain among the family papers."

At the recent sale of the Library of the late George Chalmers, I purchased two or three lots of miscellaneous Letters and Papers of James Cummyng, who filled the office of Secretary to this Society from its institution in 1780, till his death in 1792. Among these papers I found the following letter, addressed to Cummyng by the biographer of Johnson, accompanied with the scroll of his reply, which I beg to read to this Meeting.

“ *London, 15th April 1785.* ”

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Knowing well your obliging and communicative disposition, I trouble you with the following inquiries.

“ Did not the Family of Ramsay of Blackhall, in West Lothian, intermarry with the house of Bruce of Clackmannan? If they did, *when and who?* ”

“ You know Ben Jonson paid a visit to Drummond of Hawthornden, and Drummond wrote down the heads of their conversation. What is printed in his Works concerning this is plainly no more than an Abstract made by some other person. It appears from the Preface to the Works, edited 1711, that at that time the original note of that conversation was in the possession of the family. Does it exist, and could a copy of it be obtained? ”

“ Please write to me under cover to Sir Charles Preston, Bart., M.P.

“ I am,

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Yours sincerely,

“ JAMES BOSWELL.

“ *To James Cummyng, Esq., &c. &c. &c., Edinburgh.* ”

“ *Letter in reply to James Boswell of Auchinleck, Esq., 6 May 1785, under cover to Sir Charles Preston, Bart., M.P., London.* ”

“ The loss of a most affectionate wife has had such an effect on my health and spirits, as to render me incapable of doing my duty in many instances. and in none that gives me more concern than in the failure of an immediate answer to your favour of the 15th ult°. I am possessed of a genealogical account of the family of Bruce of Clackmannan, from the reign of David II. till the present time, which the late Dr Bruce of Cowden, a near relation of the family, believed to be a very just one, but there is no mention in it of any connection with any family of the name of Ramsay.

“ All the writings of the late Poet Drummond of Hawthornden that were in the possession of his family are now in my custody. They were presented

last year to the Museum of the Antiquary Soc., by Dr Ab. Drummond. They are in bulk to the extent of 13 vols. in folio, four of which, containing his Historical Works, have been lately bound. The rest consists of a confused mass of detached sheets, half-sheets, and quarters, generally in a most wretched and careless hand, with very bad ink. Shortly after we were possessed of them, Mr Henry Erskine was desirous of selecting the Conversations you mention, and he and I have often explored this great mass of loose papers for that purpose, but hitherto without effect. If we should ever be able to recover it, you may depend upon having a copy as soon as it is found. These papers consist chiefly of loose, detached thoughts, marked down as they occurred, Anagrams, Rebuses, yearly Catalogues of the books he had purchased, scraps of Poetry, and miscellaneous matter of every kind. He had trusted nothing to memory ; but his jottings are such, in many instances, as few can interpret. Bishop Sage, who wrote the introduction to the edition of his Works in folio, had the free use of all his papers ; but it may be doubted whether he restored to the collection that part of it which related to Ben Jonson.

[JAMES CUMMYNG.]

It appeared to me an act of justice to Cummyng's memory to lose no time in submitting these letters to the Society, as I thought his answer to Mr Boswell serves to vindicate him from unjust accusations of carelessness, or appropriation of the Society's property. He describes the MSS. as being precisely in the same condition in which they remained till the year 1827, when I undertook to arrange them, preparatory to their being bound for preservation, in their present shape ; and his words sufficiently explain what at the time was unintelligible, the application of the term " thirteen volumes." His account therefore dispels all suspicions on the subject, by showing that the Original Notes of Drummond's Conversations with the great English Dramatist never found their way to the Society's Museum.

DAVID LAING.

2. *Notice of Atkinson, Author of the "Discovery of the Gold Mines in Scotland."*

[*Read to the Society 8th April 1833.*]

TRANSCRIPT of a notice prefixed to a MS. copy of Atchinson's work on the Gold and Silver Mines of Scotland—in the Library of Robert Grant, Esq. at Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, in 4to, pp. 126.

“ TO THE READER.

“ Capt. Atcheson's Manuscript of the Gold and Silver Mines in Scotland, with his observations on severall other places—Extracted from the originall which is kept in the lait Parliament house.

“ This Mr Aitchison was bred a gold-smith att London where he hade occasion to be acquainted with one Sir Beves Bilmer a German in the Rigne of K. James the 6th with whom he came down to Scotland and wrought in the Gold mines in Crawford Mouer at Leadhilles and afterwards gott into the acquaintance of Thomas Earle of Hadingtoun who employed him as his servant at the silver mines in Hilderstown and Tartraven two mills south of Linlithgow. Theis mines were found out very accidentally by two coaleirs searching after coall, they called the one Sandie Mund and the other as is supposed Peter Malcome both servants to the Earle. The Earle was a nobleman of great knowledge both naturale and acquired and a very good judge of men and things. His Lop. knew that David Atcheson would be very fitt for his purpose—when this rich minde was found out he employed David Atcheson and one Henry Stark a man of good understanding in mines and refining at that time, and a man of great probetie. The Earle being a noblemen of a generous spirit gave good encouragement to those two men, findeing them so fitt for his purpose—His Lop. keepled but few men at work but they were very good and well appointed—by the incouragement they hade were very carefull and dilligent—God blessed his noble family and the works yeilded wonderfully, few days they were under £100 Ster: each day free of all charges. This noble Earle being invayed, for being master of so much riches in the bowells of the earth, it was taken from him by the King and wrought by the government anno 1609, under the derrection of Sir Beves Bilmer who

came from Brunewick in Germany with 13 German miners. The Earles faithfull servant Henry Starke being turned off, notwithstanding of the great proff he gave of his skill at sight of the Commitie of the Lords of Privie Councill, who mett every first Mounday of the Month in the place of Linlithgow to examine the workemen and receive the silver from the Refiners. It was found to a demonstration that Henry Stark tooke more silver from the same quantitie of ore with less charge than Sr Beves Bilmore did with the help of his 13 Germans, but for all his skill a court partie prevailed against him, so that he was turned out.—Sir Bevis was made chief Governour of the works and in a little time thereafter the works wer ruined. However it was they lost their vein which never could be found since all the severall trialls hath been made to recover. I do not desire to enlarge much upon this subject only to lett the reader know this ground was wrought anno. 1642 but the Civill wares came on which putt a stop to the work at that time. The Earle of Hopetouns grandfather haveing acquired these lands from the Earle of Hadingtoun designed to give a full triall to that worke, and after the materials were prepared and the work begun, he dyed which was a great loss to Scotland considering what a fine gentleman he was and hade great knowledge of mines, and his death put another stope to the worke. And in anno 1704 the works were opened by the Earle of Hopetoun, but the lead mines at that time were not in so very good order, So the men employed at the silver mines were taken to Lead Hills. And in a little thereafter the mines were left to Sir John Erskine of Alva, and John Campble late Provist of Edinburgh—and they committed the management of that worke to on Mr Pe— ane English man who never was breed to that affair, and so came of their works, for they wrought some time but turned to no account and then the work was given over. Their was a tack of these silver mines sett to some English men, but they hade neither skill nor money, to carrey on the work and they soon give over working. So farr as I know these are all the severall times ever that work was wrought. Its not my desire to give any further history of these mines at present neither am I determined to give my opinion of them (or) the reasons of their being lost—and how they may be tryed in order to recover them if possible—Because this may come in much better if what is disined succeed. I shall add when it pleaseth God to stir up men of skill, honesty and faithfullness—

who will have a reall view to the good of their countray, and a just regard to the intrest of their imployers, then these vallowable undertaikings will prosper and never till then. Their is no difficultie to give instances of a great many strolars who hath come to Scotland pretending to the knowledge of mines with no other viewe then to ingage gentlemen that they might make a peney for theme selves, and their go off, which hath given great discouragement.

“ I shall leave the reader to peruse the following manuscript in which will be found, many thing very valowable.

“ *Leith, 4 June 1726.*”

The work commences and terminates the same as in the copy which Mr G. Laing Meason edited in 1825 for the Bannatyne Club.—But at the end after the word “ Finish” follows “ A vers upon the lintle of the door in the house of Glengoner Lead hills :”

“ Sir Bevis Billmer built this bour,
Who levelled both hill and mour ;
Who gott great riches, and great honour,
In Shortcleugh water and Glengoner.”

In this notice the author of the work on the Gold Mines of Scotland is named David Atcheson, but it appears from an act of the Privy Council, printed in the Appendix to Mr Laing Meason’s edition (p. 96), that his name was Stephen Aitkinson.

The house of Sir Bevis Bilmer, over the door of which the “ Vers” was placed, and the mines of Shortcleugh water and Glengoner, from which he “ got great riches, and great honour,” are particularly described in that volume, pp. 36, 37.

W. C. TREVELYAN.

EDINBURGH, *March* 1833.

3. *Petition of William Maister of Tullibardin, 6 July 1606.*[*Read to the Society 16th January 1835.*]

My Lordis of Articlis of this pnt Parl^t Unto yo^r Ll. Schawis and Declairis Williame Maister of Murray of Tullibairdin That quhair it hes pleasit Johne Lord Murray of Tullibardin my father To provyde me to the heretable fee of the haille lands leving and Lordschip of Tullybairdyn quhair of the landis and Barony of Trewin ar ane pairt and pertinent and becaus the name thair of is derivat fra the Erische language and that I intend to big ane hous thairupoun quhilk will be verie proffitabill in tha pairtis of the cuntrie: In respect quhair of necessar it is to me to have the name of the saidis landis and barony alterit and changeit in ane uther mair proper name: Heirfoir I beseik your Ll. That ye wald change the foirsaid auld name of Trewin in the name of Earne and the saidis landis and Barony now callit Trewin, to be callit in all tyme cuming the landis and Barony of Earne And that your Ll. wald caus mak ane act thairuponn in forme as effeirs.

6 July 1606.

Petition granted 9 July 1606. See printed Acts, vol. iv., p. 319.

Communicated by DONALD GREGORY, Secretary.

4. *On the Locality of the Slenauch field of battle between Bruce and Comyn, A.D. 1307-8.*[*Read to the Society 28th January 1839.*]*Aberdeen, 5th November 1838.*

MY DEAR SIR,

Having recently taken some trouble in examining a place called the Slenauch, mentioned by Fordun, and by Barbour in his Sixth Book, as the scene of a skirmish between King Robert Bruce and John Cumyn, Earl of Buchan, in the winter of 1307 and 1308, I am induced to offer a few observations on the subject.

It is universally believed in this part of the country that this skirmish was fought at Sliach, a farm in the parish of Drumblade, in Aberdeenshire, about two miles to the south of the village of Huntly; and tradition, with exemplary minuteness, also shows the knoll whereon the King sat, and the well

from which he drank water on the day of battle. But Mr Fraser Tytler, in his History of Scotland, robs Sliach of its traditional renown, and transfers the site of the conflict to Slains, in Buchan. It is believed that Mr Tytler in this follows the authority of Mr David M'Pherson's Illustrations of Scottish History, who, under the word, says, "Slenach (*Barb*), by the context, seems to be Slenis (now Slanes), a seat of the Hays.

I was induced to compare with some attention the context of Fordun and Barbour with the localities described, and I am, on the whole, of opinion that the tradition which has fixed this skirmish at Sliach is trustworthy.

There is nothing striking in the appearance of the surrounding country. A drum, or ridge, terminates on the farm of Sliach, and around its base is a tract of level fields, in some parts formed of a moss called "The Knightland Moss," in which quantities of wood are occasionally dug up. On the west summit of the ridge there were to be seen, some years ago, the vestiges of a dyke, which appeared to have inclosed a square of no great size; but these have been completely effaced by the plough. This part of the eminence has long been known by the name of "Robin's Height," and here it is said the King's forces were entrenched.

Barbour begins his narrative with a relation of the King's sickness at Inverury, and says, that, as the country was so "*playne*" there, and incapable of being rendered defensible, it was the resolution of Edward Bruce to betake himself with his forces to some place of strength. The King was then laid in a litter, and the army "till the Slenauch held thair way." The Earl of Buchan gathered his men and when they were all assembled—

" In hythai tuk thair way to far
To the Slenauch."

When they approached the Slenauch—

" Trumpan and makand mekill far
And maid knychtis quhen thai wer ner
And thai that in the *woddis* sid wer
Stud in array rycht sarraly."

The ready valour of the King's forces having disconcerted the Earl of Buchan, he retreated:—

" The Erle his way tuk to Bowchane,
And Schyr Eduard the Bruce is gane
Rycht to Strabolghy with the King."

From these passages, it is evident, that, when the King was seized with sickness at Inverury, it was thought expedient to remove thence, as the country was flat and open, incapable of affording either shelter or defence. But Buchan, as a district, and Slains especially, as a part of it, are proverbially bare and flat, and incapable of affording what to the King's forces was necessary—a place of strength. If we except Mormond Hill, at its eastern extremity, Buchan has not a single hill or “strength” in it; and it was contrary to the King's policy to have rashly sought a retreat in the centre of his enemies' domains. It is also obvious that the Slenauch was in a woody country: “And thair that in the woddis sid wer.” But no one ever heard of trees having grown at Slains; indeed, recent experiments prove that the soil and climate render it impossible; while the Knight-land Moss is an evidence that at Sliach the “woddis” were extensive, and in the desired situation. The Slenauch could not have been *in* Buchan, because the Earl is said to have taken his way “to Bowchane,” which would have been absurd if the Slenauch were *in* it; while the inference that it was near Strathbogy is admissible, by Sir Edward's going from it “rycht to Strabolghy with the King.”

I may add, that the tradition assigning the site of the skirmish to Sliach is ancient and uniform. Gordon, in his *History of the Gordons*, mentions it (in 1726), as do several local writers. Yours sincerely,

JOHN STUART.

Joseph Robertson, Esq., S.S.A.Sc.

[In the *Book of Bon-Accord* (p. 355), Mr Robertson has referred to this point, and suggests that “the transcribers of Barbour and Fordun seem to have written the Slenach for the Slevach, which differs little from the modern name, or from that of ‘le Selewo,’ by which the place was called in the fifteenth century” (*Regist. Mag. Sigil.*, p. 252). He there refers also to an account of the parish of Drumblade, dated 1720, where it is said,—“In this paroch is the park of Sliach, noted for being the place where King Robert Bruce encamped in his sickness, before the battle of Old Meldrum, where he defeat the Cummins.” (See also *Collections on the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff*, p. 476., Spalding Club.)

The text of the edition of Barbour, recently printed for the Spalding Club, supports Mr Robertson's conjecture. The place is there uniformly written “the Slevach,” pp. 195, 196. J. S.]

5. *Keeper of the Park of Holyroodhouse, 1567.*

From the original Warrant, in the possession of WILLIAM SMYTHE, of Methven, Esq.

[*Read to the Society, 17th May 1841.*]

REX.

We vnderstanding that oure Park of Halierudhous besyde Edinburgh hes bene thir zeiris past sa evill handillit and keipit that littill proffit hes cum thairof to ws or the Quene oure derrest Moder in default of sum honest man to gif attendance thairto Thairfore we willing that the samyn be mair diligentie keipit and lukit to In tymes cuming with avyiss and consent of oure derrest cousing James Erle of Murray Lord Abirnethie regent to ws oure realme and liegis haif maid constitute and ordanit and be the tennoure heiroyf makis constitutis and ordanis oure weilbelouit S^r Andro Murray of Arnegosk knicht principall keipar and owirsear of oure said Park. With power to him to uplift ressaue and imbring all and sindrie the proffettis dewiteis and commoditeis thairof And to ressaue compt rekning and payment fra the possessouris thairof of all and sindrie guidis and geir pertening to ws or the Quenis grace oure moder. And inlikemaner of all profittis and commoditeis thairof of this instant zeir And siclike zeirlie and termlic in tymes cuming And als to reнге seik and serche all vtheris guidis being in the said Park pertening to onye other persoun or personis To poind and distrenze thame and output thame furth of the boundis of the said Park and hald thame out thairof and imput sic guidis thairin as he sall think expedient and sa oft as sall pleis him With power alsua to depute ane or mare vnder him to this effect Commandand and charge and all and sindrie the present possessouris of oure said Park. That thai reddilie anss^r intend and obey To the said S^r Andro and his deputis In all and sindrie thingis concerning the premiss And that thai presentlie mak and deliuer to him ane trew and Just Inventoure of all and sindrie guidis and geir pertening to ws and our said derrest Moder being in the said Park And mak him compt rekning and payment of the proffittis thairof of this instant zeir of God j^{co} v^c. thre score sevin zeiris And siclike zeirlie in tyme cuming And forther ay and quhill he be dischargit Provyding always that the said S^r Andro mak ws and

oure Comptrollare in oure behalf compt and rekning zeirlie and ilk zeir of his intromissioun as he sal be requirit. Gevin vnder oure signett and subscriuit be oure said derrest cousing and Regent at Edinburgh the twelft day of februar and of oure Rignne the first zeir 1567.

(Signed)

Seal—Royal Arms,
but defaced.

JAMES REGENT.

Indorsed—Command to auss^r the Lard of Balvaird of the mailis of the Park.

6. *A few Extracts from the Council Registers of the City of St Andrews.*

[*Read to the Society, 1st June 1846.*]

(The earliest volume preserved, commences the 5th of October 1650.)

1650, 10 November. Scleatts and timmer sold out of the Castell: the proceeds to be applied to repairing the Harbour.

1657, 2d March. The summer tyme now approaches, and the povertie of this place groues and continues, and the pier, harbour, and Bowbridge are not yet repaired: resolved that aid from other Burrowes be solicited.

1660, 22d October. An Act of Council against Mr Samuel Rutherford: his *Lex Rex* ordered to be burnt.

1665, 3d October. Mr George Martine servitour to my Lord St Androis, presented a paper from my Lord St Androis his grace, respecting the persons to be elected to the Magistracy.

1673, 10th June. The quhilk day the Proveist, Dean of Guild, Baillies, &c. taking into consideration that by the decease of James Watson of late thair Common Clerk the said office hath waiked to thair great hurt and prejudice And that the samen office is become at thair gift presentation

and election And being sufficientlie informed of the literature abilities qualifications and good conversation of Mr George Martine Clerk of the Commisariot of St Androis (who and his predecessors have bein borne and brought up amongst us, (and at severall occassions have served the said Citie and Magistrates thair of) And that by his educatione he is become fitt and habill to inserve the said Citie as thair Common Clerk and that he is of the treu religion profest and established in this realm Thairfoir the said Counsell after mature deliberatione all in ane voice but variance or contradiction, have (with the solemnities used in the lyke caisses) elected made constitut presented and chosen the said Mr George Martine to be Common Clerk and scribe of the said Citie, &c.

(This Minute is signed by the Provost Geddie and the rest of the Council.)

1674, 16th October. The Magistrats for the former yeare dimitted thair respective offices and took instruments in the Clerk's hands A letter produced from my Lord Archbishop of St Andrewes direct to the Provost &c. anent the nominatione of the Magistrats for the ensuing yeare, q^rof the tennor followes Our will is and we doe heirby appoynt, that for the government of our Citie of St Andrewes for the enseuing yeare John Geddie be Provost John Alex^r dean of gild Thomas Barclay George Fogo James Nairne and Mr John Essone Baillzies, and James Fogo Theasurer Given under eur hand at Lundone the sext day of October 1674 (Sic sub^{tr}) ST ANDREWS. Whilk being read, in audience of the Councill, the said John Geddie accepted as Provost, John Alexander as Dean of Guild Thomas Barclay James Nairne and Mr John Æssone as baillzies; who being all [present] except George and James Fogo, suorne, made faith *de fidei administratione*, as use is.

1674, 7th Nov. At a meeting of the Town-Council at St Andrews &c. The Councill allowes to the Thesaurer fyve leg-dolers given by the Magistrats to Mr Samuel Colvill who had importuned him to take ane printed gilded book of his out-setting from him to the Toune's behoofe, and promisses the extract heirof shelbe the Thesaurers warrand to get that soume allowed in his accompts.

Quinto die Mensis Maij, 1679.

(Sederunt in Concilio, apud Ciuitatem S. Andree.

John Geddie, Provost, Ninian Flookar, D., and 25 others.)

The Councill appoynts everie Counsellor to make intimatione of all reports that comes to ther eares of the horride murder comittit vpon our Over-lord on Saturday last, the third of this moneth, or that any way may contribute to the discoverie therof.

Octavo die Mensis Maij 1679.

(Sederunt. John Geddie Provost, Ninian Flookar D. and 16 others.)

The Magistrats and Councill taking to thair consideratione the broken conditione of all the shyre at present and particularie of that pairt therof heir-about, doe all unanimously appoynt and ordaine that ther be ane guard kept in the tolouth everie night, consisting of tuelf musketeers and sex pickmen or halberdiers for conserving the peace of the citie and preventing disorders therin, ay and whill all the persons in the Shyre turne peaceable, and conditione of affairs cease to be so turbulent; and appoynts the Theas^r to defray ther charges; empowring the Magistrats to name the guard everie day, and to see them sett and mounted everie night about nyn a clock.

Decimo [sexto?] die Mensis Maij, 1679.

(Sederunt. The Provost and 23 others.)

The Councill considering that the funeralls of my Lord Archbishope of St Andrewes are to be done and performed too morrow, the seventein instant, and that the people inhabitants and others may creat trouble and disturbance in the street, Thairfor they appoynt tuelf discreat men to have in their hands partisans, to morrow morning, and to attend at the porch doors to keep of the roode people from eneroaching vpon the murners; and appoynts a deacone and six out of everie trade to attend in the streets, and to keep the people w^tin the strypes, betuixt that and the houses on both syds of the streits.

Quinto die Mensis Junij, 1679.

(Sederunt. Provost and 23 others.)

The Councill considering that the meaning of the Councill in ther Act

of the eight of Maij last was that ane guard should be kept within the Citie ay and whill my Lord Archbyshope wer burried and thereafter that the same should cease ; which accordingly it haith done, and now finding the broken state of the Kingdome and Schyre to continow the Magistrats and Councill appoynts the guard to be continued and neightlie kept in the tolbouth, consisting of tuelfe men q^rof three to have fixt fyre-lock and the rest to have partisans or halberts and that they keep continuallie at the Tolbouth doore and no where else to look after that affaie.

(There are some subsequent entries connected with the preservation of the peace. The Militia to be raised by order of Lord Wemyss, were appointed to assemble on Pitscottie Muir, 7th of June. On the 18th of June, the ports of the town were to be secured, and the nightly guard continued. On the 15th of July 1679, all persons who served, or shall serve in the Militia, were to be admitted freemen, and to have their burgess tickets gratis.

1681, 1st Nov. The Oath of Allegiance to James II., is recorded, and signed by the Provost, Mr Æsone, with the Baillies and Councillors, and Mr Geo. Martine, Clericus.

1682, 7th March. Mr George Martine, Common Clerk of St Andrews, "by reasone of his other weightie and pressing affairs," resigned the office in favour of his depute in the said office, viz., Robert Carstairs, Notar Publick in this Citie, who was then chosen and admitted to the office ; the said Robert Carstairs and his predecessors having been born and brought up within the Citie, &c.

The Oaths to King William and Queen Mary, were taken on the 3d of September 1689 ; and to Queen Anne, on the 9th of June 1702.

1725, September. The tomb of Archbishop Sharp defaced, and part of the marble carried off. Public advertisement made, offering a reward of £10 Sterling for the discovery of the perpetrators of that wicked roberie and cryme ; one half to be paid by the Magistrates, the other half by Sir James Sharp of Stratyrum.

7. *Letters from the Chevalier John Sobieski Stuart, and Philip Barrington Ainslie, Esq., relating to "St Sueno's Stone" at Forres.*

[Read to the Society, 15th April and 13th May 1844.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Knowing your zeal in all objects connected with the antiquities and literature of Scotland, I beg to draw your attention to a monument of our history and early arts, not only of the highest importance in this character,—but as the most important of its kind in Europe,—the Great Stone of Forres. I know that it has been considered by many, that this monument is Danish; but without going into the historical evidences of the two great battles fought by the Danes near Forres, too long to be considered upon this occasion, the origin of the stone is decisively fixed as Christian, by the splendid Cross and bowing figures sculptured on its north side; and though these have been asserted to be of a later character than the work upon the rest of the stone, *from several years' frequent and minute inspection*, I can prove that the work is all of *one period, character, and excellence*; and that although it is perhaps the finest specimen of its kind in Europe, it is entirely conformable in style, and period of art and character, to many smaller monuments of the same kind in England and Wales; it was in fact, like them, the first method of displaying crosses by cutting them on the face of a column, before the sculptor had ventured to cut the branches out of the stone. The Cross on the north face of the Stone of Forres, is ornamented by the richest runic knotting, of a beautiful and elaborate design; and the edge or thickness of the stone, which was certainly executed at the same time, and, like the north face, coeval with the south, is ornamented with the same style of decoration in a different pattern. I may add, that *no such monument exists in any part of Scandinavia*.

My object in addressing you this note, is to represent the lamentable state in which the Stone is left, exposed to the continual injuries of boys, and all other idle persons, by whom it has suffered greater injury in the last fifty years than it had sustained from several preceding centuries; being unhappily in the neighbourhood of a school, it serves as a target for

the stones of all the boys as they pass and repass, and its whole surface continually exhibits the shower of fresh bright spots where the stones have broken the surface. By these attacks, the edges, figures, and forms of the sculpture have been most lamentably injured, defaced, or confused; and the present uncertainty of the objects is much more owing to these inflictions, than to time; and if the stone continues in its present unprotected state, even what remains will be indistinct to future antiquaries at no distant period. I have the honour to be, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

JOHN SOBIESKI STUART.
Kames Castle, Rothesay.

David Laing, Esq.

The Society, after returning thanks to Mr Sobieski Stuart, for his zeal in the matter, directed the Secretary to communicate the subject to Mr Barrington Ainslie, a Fellow of the Society, and to request him to exercise his influence with the Earl of Moray, upon whose property the monument stands, in procuring the protection of the Monument, by enclosure or other effectual remedy.

On the 13th May, the Secretary read the following letter received from Philip Barrington Ainslie, Esq., in reply to his communication regarding the Forres Stone.

Darnaway Castle, Forres,
23d April 1844.

SIR,—Your letter of the 17th inst. (forwarded from St Colme), reached me last night, and I hasten to assure you that I will place before the Earl of Moray the application of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, relative to the Obelisk, known by the name of Sueno's Stone. Some years since I caused a strong pallsade to be raised at a considerable distance from, and round the obelisk; but, unless there was a building erected so as to enclose the pillar entirely from public view, it is impossible to protect it from the peltings which you describe. The Obelisk is close to public road, and quite within range of the missiles of school-boys, and unless a guard was constantly set over it, the risk of damage to it it is impossible to guard against. But, as far as I can ascertain, there is not that amount of damage done, as expressed by Mr Sobieski Stuart. The dilapidation of

the inscriptions and figures, principally arises from the action of the weather upon a sandstone, of which the Obelisk is formed. . . . It would be well if the Society had a cast or drawing made of the figures and inscriptions, as year by year they are becoming less distinct. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) P. B. AINSLIE.

W. B. Turnbull, Esq.

Thanks were returned to Mr Ainslie, and his letter was ordered to be engrossed in the Minutes.

8. *Letter from Dr Hibbert-Ware, on the Sculptured Stones of Scotland.*

[*Read to the Society, 24th February 1845.*]

MY DEAR SIR,

Last year, when you presented a report of the unfortunate state of neglect befalling that noblest of Scottish monuments of the earlier times, the Stone of Forres, my friends Mr Trevelyan and Mr Macdonald, with yourself, expressed their great desire, that I would lay before the Society the drawings which the late Mrs Hibbert had accomplished of the elaborate sculpture characteristic of this relic.

I was then unable to comply with your and their request, as Mrs Hibbert's very extensive collection of drawings of the architectural remains of Scotland, were at my house in Cheshire. But I promised that, on my return to Scotland, I would bring with me a drawing of the Forres monument, along with a very few other sketches of the Figured stones of Scotland.

You are well aware, from what you may have remembered of the late Mrs Hibbert, of the great interest which she felt in early Scottish history. It was at the time when I was intent upon visiting as many of the Vitrified Forts of Scotland as possible, in order to arrive at some clue regarding their mysterious structure, that she accompanied me in the various tours which I made to the Highlands for this purpose; rendering me, at the same time, the greatest assistance in the drawings and plans which she prepared for me, of these wonderful remains. It was during these excursions that she

derived the most interest, from meeting with the variety of figured stones, for which Scotland is distinguished, of a character more or less approximating to those which she had previously studied, during her long residence in the Isle of Man.

These sculptured remains of an early period, became with her an object of historical inquiry, and she endeavoured to class them in reference to a date of origin, which either preceded the introduction of Christianity into this country, or was subsequent to this event.

The number of figured stones, however, that may be supposed to be anterior to Christianity are very few, and of a very simple kind.

Much the greater number she considered as attributable to the very earliest labours of Christian Missionaries, who, in gaining converts from Paganism, either engraved the cross upon the rude stones which had been used for Pagan worship, or, in the place of them, substituted a highly embellished pillar of stone, indicative of the holy site, where Christian proselytes were invited to bow themselves before the Cross, and to be taught a purer system of faith and morals. She also regarded them not only as oratories, but as sepulchral monuments, consecrated to the illustrious dead, or as memorials of victories, of treaties, or of landed boundaries.

Again, other distinctions were remarked by her. When these figured stones were exclusively dedicated to the purpose of the oratory, they would contain, along with the form of the Cross, the figure, probably, of the Missionary himself, with a book of the gospels under his arm, like that of the Book of Kells, attributed to Saint Columba, of which the original exists in Trinity College, Dublin; or some emblem of the Eucharist; or the incident of some holy legend, &c., &c.

But when they had little or no reference to Christianity, the Cross would be absent, and in the place of it would be found representations of battles, or the sports of the chase, or even of domestic occupations.

In many instances, however, it would appear that, along with Christian emblems or representations, were united the figures last described, namely of battles, of the chase, or of husbandry, &c., &c.; which mixture of character frequently prevails in the Scottish figured stones, to whatever special purpose they might have been devoted.

And, again, some sculptured stones, though very few, appear as the anta-

gonists of such as are Christian, being indicative of Pagan, rather than of Christian worship, having been set up probably during the struggle for pre-eminence between contending faiths.

There was again another class of figured stones, where Pagan and Christian emblems and customs were so blended as to show that Christian missionaries, or teachers, in order to win over, in some degree, reluctant proselytes, strangely combined, or rather jumbled together, the great emblem of Christianity, the Cross, with representations of Pagan rites, among which was the horrid sacrifice of prisoners taken in battle, to such sanguinary deities as Odin or Thor. To such a description of monuments, the stone of Forres may be confidently referred.

In taking this very general view of the figured stones of Scotland, Mrs Hibbert naturally supposed, that she could read, in these sculptures, the customs, both warlike and religious, as well as the domestic manners of a very remote age, the details of which could be learned from no other source whatever.

Having adopted this view of the historical importance of the figured stones in Scotland, her exertions to obtain a complete collection of drawings were very great. She visited a considerable portion of the east of Scotland, where they are perhaps the most abundant, as well as the north (as far as Sutherland and Caithness), and even the Orkneys. In the south of Scotland these monuments are more rare. She also, for the sake of comparison, delineated the figured stones of the Isle of Man, and of some parts of England where they are met with, particularly in Derbyshire.

During these excursions she had occasion to lament that the number of these national monuments was gradually diminishing. Their adaptation to the purposes of grave-stones, or even to those of husbandry, particularly when they occurred near farmyards, was a frequent cause of their mutilation or destruction.

But the labour of journeying from place to place did not form the whole of the cost. The very intricate traceries and configurations which are sculptured on these stones, were evidently copied from the high-wrought embellishments by which the ancient books of the Gospels used by Irish Missionaries were distinguished, of which evidence may be seen in the Book of Kells, and other MSS. of an early date, in Trinity College, Dublin.

Now, many of these ornaments, as they are transferred to the figured stones of Scotland, will be found so difficult, from their mazy perplexity, to delineate, that several artists have shrunk from the task, and have left us engravings of which nothing more than a sort of general effect is intended to be produced, while the details, if attempted, are most unfaithful to the originals. If Mrs Hibbert has succeeded, at least in most instances, in overcoming this difficulty, it has been at the expense of exceeding labour; and when I state that a single monument has often cost her three or four days of continued employment, I do not underrate the attempt which she made to ensure a perfect accuracy of delineation.

It had been the intention of Mrs Hibbert to have published these drawings in a sort of fasciculi, but the object was prevented by her death, and at my advanced time of life, I fear the opportunity may not be afforded me to fulfil the intention of her who is no more.

Believe, my DEAR SIR,

Yours very faithfully,

S. HIBBERT WARE.

To David Laing, Esq.

Six Drawings sent to be Exhibited, viz. :—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Stone of Forres. | 4. Aberlemno (at Cross Stone). |
| 2. Meigle (marked reverse of No. 2). | 5. Do. Double Sketch. |
| 3. Do. Representation of Carnage, &c. | 6. Near Shandwick (Ross-shire.) |

[After Dr Hibbert's decease, 30th of December 1848, the drawings and sketches to which he alludes, with his notes and explanations, were found in such a dispersed and unfinished state, that no use could be made of them in the view of ultimate publication. Much however has since been accomplished for preserving accurate representations of the Sculptured Stones of Scotland; and it is only necessary to refer to two works on the subject, one of them, the large and splendid volume, presented to the Bannatyne Club by the late Mr Chalmers of Aldbar; the other, and more comprehensive volume, recently printed for the Members of the Spalding Club, by Mr John Stuart, now Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries.—D. L.]

9. *Notice and Engraving of the Brooch of Lorn, exhibited to the Society in 1828.*

This celebrated relic was exhibited at a Meeting of the Society on the 31st of March 1828, when E. W. A. Drummond Hay, Esq., Secretary, read the following letter from Captain MacDougall of MacDougall, with notices illustrative of its traditional history. These notices are not preserved; but, as stated in the Minutes, the original Brooch was deposited for a short time with Mr Drummond Hay, for the purpose of having a painting made, with a view to future engraving in the Society's Transactions. The accompanying engraving was accordingly made, and is here introduced, without any attempt to supply the notices prepared by the Secretary.

British Hotel, March 31, 1828.

DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to send you the Brooch, so long in my family, said by tradition to have been taken by my ancestors, the MacDougall, Lairds of Lorn, from King Robert Bruce, at the Battle of Dalry. It was lost for upwards of two centuries, and restored to me three years ago, by General Campbell of Lochnell, who recovered it, and with a noble generosity presented it, at one of the Argyleshire County Meetings; an account of the way in which it was taken and restored, I will with pleasure transmit you, upon my return to Dunolly, after perusing some manuscripts.

I am, DEAR SIR,

Very truly yours,

J. MACDOUGALL.

To E. A. Drummond Hay, Esq.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that Sir Walter Scott, in "The Lord of the Isles," has employed the incident of Lorn, when struck down by Bruce, being rescued by two of his clansmen, on which occasion he obtained possession of the royal mantle and brooch.



W. Penny Sculp.

BROOCH OF LORN.

10. *Notice of an Ancient Gold Seal, in the possession of J. W. Williamson, Esq., Kinross.* Communicated by WILLIAM DRYSDALE, Esq., F.S.A.Sc.

[*Read to the Society, 23d April 1850.*]

In the month of April 1829, some labourers employed by Mr Williamson, banker, Kinross, in excavating his grounds at West Green, preparatory to the building of his new house, found, about two feet below the surface, imbedded in what appeared to be travelled earth, an Ancient Seal, of pure gold, weighing 15 dwts. It is of a circular shape, 8-tenths of an inch in



diameter, and 2-tenths of an inch thick, and has two small plates at the back, also of gold, joined in the centre by a neat hinge, which fold flat on the upper side of the Seal, and when raised, serve for a handle. This very curious piece of workmanship, appears, from its flat shape, to have been intended for carrying in the pocket; and as the seal has engraven on it the Royal Arms of Scotland, impaled on the dexter side, with those of England on the sinister, it was at once considered, according to the laws of Heraldry, as the private Seal or Signet of a Scottish King, who had married an English Princess. The Seal as supposed by some eminent Antiquaries, was the personal Seal or Signet of the unfortunate James IV., who fell with the flower of the Scottish nobility on the fatal field of Flodden. James, it is well known, married Margaret, the daughter of Henry VII. of England, through which marriage, James VI. of Scotland succeeded to the English crown.

The Seal is in perfect preservation, and affords a favourable view of the art of engraving in Scotland upwards of three centuries ago. Any conjecture

as to how this relic of ancient times found its way to Kinross Green, must be vague and uncertain.

The Exchequer made a formal demand for possession of the Royal Relic as Treasure Trove, but Mr Williamson presented a Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury in 1846, and succeeded in obtaining a grant of it from their Lordships, and remitting the right of the Crown in his favour.

[Upon examining the armorial bearings of the Queens of Scotland, as represented in Sir David Lyndsay's Register of Arms, 1542, it is very evident that this relic was the Signet of Joan Beaufort, Queen of James the First of Scotland.

The distinction between the arms of Queen Joan and Queen Margaret is, that the former is surrounded by a bordure compony, while the latter has none. It requires a careful inspection of the Seal to observe this bordure, as it is by no means so distinct as in the drawing of Lyndsay. In the Catalogue of Ancient Seals by Mr Henry Laing, published in 1850, this signet has been described; and he observes, that "there can be no doubt that it exhibits the Beaufort bordure, and this," he says, "certainly identifies it, as the Seal of Queen Joan, and not that of Margaret, Queen of James IV., to whom it has hitherto been ascribed." She was married to King James in the year 1424, and died in 1445.

The ground at each side of the shield, although much worn, appears to have been ornamented with a scroll or foliage, a branch of palm or laurel, and at the top with three cusps, the angles terminating in three pullets; the whole surrounded by two plain lines. The ornamental part is designed with great taste and very delicately executed; and the gold of which the Seal is formed is of great purity.—ED.]

11. *Notices of Various Discoveries of Roman Remains at the Red Abbeystead, near the Village of Newstead, Roxburghshire (with an endeavour to localize the Site of the Roman Station of Trimontium in the neighbourhood of the Eildon Hills.)*

By JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., F.S.A.Sc.

[Read before the Society, 21st May 1850.]

The following summary of this Communication gives details of Roman Remains which have been found in this neighbourhood, and the order in which they were discovered :—

THE RED ABBEYSTED FIELDS.

The small village of Newstead lies scattered over the rising ground forming the eastern termination of the valley of Melrose, and the fields beyond, which constitute a raised platform at the field called the Red Abbeystead, appear to have been the true site of the Roman Station, or Town of the Triple Mountain (Trimontium), which had existed near the three-peaked or triple Eildon. The river Tweed flows past these fields on the north and east, towards the picturesque site of Old Melrose ; while to the south, with the exception of the rising ground connecting them with the lower slopes of the eastern Eildon (by which the causeway had reached the town), a valley separates them from the neighbouring fields.—The name of Newstead, is itself curiously suggestive of some older stead, from which the founders of the new stead may have removed at a remote period in the forgotten annals of the village.

Remains or Foundations of Ancient Buildings have been discovered in various parts of these fields, especially the Red Abbeystead, and fields adjoining it to the west, when they have been deeply dug, as in cutting drains; and remains, which have been described as apparently portions of flues, and drain-like openings, have also been occasionally observed. Unfortunately, however, little description of the general character or relations of these foundations can be given, from the accidental and irregular manner in which they have from time to time been discovered. The stones used in these buildings were principally of Red Sandstone, and have been removed in considerable quantity for economical purposes, for many years past; some stones showed the chequered markings made by the axe or tool employed to dress them, and others, lines crossing one another diagonally cut on their surface,—varieties which have been observed at various Roman sites.

No evidence could be found of the previous existence of any ecclesiastical building such as the Red Abbey in this neighbourhood, notwithstanding

the vague traditions of the district, and the opinions embodied in *Milne's Description of Melrose Parish*, 1743, which are incorrectly quoted by Pennant in his *Tour*, 1769, "that the Knight-Templars had an establishment here," and repeated also in Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, vol. iii. p. 297, and in Chalmers's *Caledonia*, vol. ii. p. 162.

The peculiar position of these remains lying between the sites of Old Melrose and Melrose Abbey, may at some early period have naturally suggested to the people of the district the idea of their being the ruins of some other abbey; and as Milne tells us there existed in his day the remains of a building called the Red House, near the entrance to Old Melrose, we have the same name merely expanded into Abbey, from the greater extent of ruins found here; the distinctive appellation of both being probably derived from the red character of the stone of which they had been built.

Paved Causeway or Road.—About thirty years ago, or more, the tenant of the field adjoining the Red Abbeystead on the west, in addition to these foundations of buildings, came upon a portion of a regularly paved roadway, running nearly north and south across the field. It was about 20 feet broad, and was entirely removed by him, and in the course of clearing it away, a *sculptured stone* was found, 13 in. long by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad, and $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. in thickness, having a wild boar carved on it in high relief.¹ It was supposed to be some Gothic ornament from the Red Abbey, but I imagine it to be of Roman workmanship, sculptured with the Wild or Caledonian Boar, the badge of the XXth Legion, which had been quartered here. A roughly-cut slab of stone, about 4 feet in length, also found, shows the letters CVI cut on it, and the remains of a carved ornament.

Roman Pottery has been found in these fields from time to time, including the fine Red or Samian Ware, embossed, one piece, representing a Lion Hunt² (*vide* Plate XXXI., fig. 1); others smooth or plain, as in portions of a shallow vessel,³ with some markings scratched on it. Coarser varieties of red, blackish, gray, and coarse yellow pottery have all been found; also some thickly ribbed glass. *Flat tiles* of red clay, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches square, have also been gathered, to mend the cottage floors. *Hand-Mills or Quernes*, some showing the radiated or ribbed surface, believed to be of Roman workmanship; and a lengthened series of *Roman Coins*, of various Emperors, have been picked up in these fields.⁴

A *Roman Altar*,⁵ dedicated to SILVANVS, the God of the Woods, by a centurion of the XXth Legion, was found in 1830, in the field called the "Fore-ends," immediately to the south of the Red Abbeystead.

^{1 2 3} Cast of carved stone, and pottery, presented to the Museum.

⁴ *Vide* "Notices of Roman Coins found in the Red Abbeystead," &c., "Proceedings," vol. i. pp. 33 and 230.

⁵ Another *Altar* inscribed to the Field Deities, "CAMPESTR. SACRUM." was found in 1783, in the field immediately to the east of the Red Abbeystead. *Vide* "Proceedings," vol. i. pp. 29 and 30.



Natural Size

W & A Johnson Lith. Edin.

RED GLAZED ROMAN POTTERY FOUND NEAR NEWSTEAD ROXBURGHSHIRE.

Presented to Museum by J. A. Smith M.D.

An *Underground Stone Building*,¹ built of hewn sandstones laid in courses, and containing two stones with rich Roman mouldings cut along one side,² was found in 1845 in a field to the south-west of the Red Abbeystead. And another building was discovered in 1849, a little to the east of it, which was described as of somewhat similar character, but ruder in its construction.

Well-like Pits.—In 1846 the Hawick branch of the North-British Railway was in the course of formation through the district, and a little to the south-east of Newstead the bank or rising ground which connects the fields of the Red Abbeystead with the lower slopes of the Eildon Hills required to be cut through; and in the months of November and December various Roman remains were discovered about 3 feet or so below the surface. First a cluster of well-like holes were opened up, in a space of about 30 yards square. Five or six of these were *large-sized pits*; two being regularly built round the sides with stones, which, with the exception of some pieces of the red sandstone, were waterworn stones gathered apparently from the river's bed; they were about 20 feet in depth, and 2 to 3 feet in diameter. The other pits were simply dug out of the ground. Of these, one was about 18 feet deep, two about 15 feet, and 4 to 5 feet in diameter; another, a little apart, was 10 or 12 feet in depth, and from 3 to 4 feet in diameter. Among these large pits were fifteen or sixteen *small pits*, each about 3 feet deep, and 3 feet in diameter, which were plastered over the sides and bottoms, with a lining of whitish clay some 5 or 6 inches thick. As the railway operations progressed, the cutting went to the bottom of all these pits; and in this way they were removed, with the exception of one more to the north, which was partially included in the sloping bank on the side of the cutting. The pits were all filled with a black, fetid, peaty-like stuff, apparently damp ashes and earth, and contained Roman pottery of various kinds, numerous bones of animals, &c.

The *Roman Pottery* consisted of—*Fine Red glazed or Samian Ware*, embossed in various patterns, some of the pieces showing holes stained by metallic oxides, having either been mended in this way, or had handles attached to them. One portion exhibits a Boar Hunt; another an emblematic figure of a Centaur, with fish's tail, and rudder in hand; other patterns were also found. (*Vide* Plate XXXI., figs. 2–6.) Other portions of shallow vessels, as cups and pateræ, were of the *plain* or smooth Red glazed Ware, or had simply a projecting rib on side of vessel.

Potters' marks were found on some of the pieces, generally stamped across the bottom of the vessel, as the following:—OXMII·; RVRFI·MA; DVRIVS·F: &c.

Coarse Red Ware of different kinds were observed, parts of the mouths and bottoms of various vessels.

Two portions of *Red Ware* Mortaria were picked up, having broken pieces of quartz imbedded in their interior, to form a hard and rough surface, and thus increase their grinding power. One had been of considerable size, measuring nearly 2 feet in diameter, and from 1 to 1½ inch in thickness. The potter's mark, CIV, was stamped across the border of the other and smaller one.

Coarse Whitish or, Yellowish Ware.—Portions of large, thick, and coarse pottery were also found.

¹ *Vide* "Notice of an Ancient Stone Building," &c., "Proceedings," vol. i. p. 213.

² Part of stone showing Cable moulding, presented to the Museum.

Some of these vessels were believed to have been entire, as well as others of different kinds, but the reckless "navvies," considering them boulders, or their preservation of no consequence, smashed them to pieces, little or no care being taken either to collect or preserve any of the remains which were discovered. One portion of these large-sized vessels showed some written characters or letters on the outside, which, however, soon faded, and could not be deciphered. Portions of Amphoræ were found; of these the handles and necks especially were preserved. One has each handle stamped with the letters M · I · M; others have the stamp so indistinct that it cannot be read. Various smaller vessels were found, as pieces of narrow-necked vessels, or bottles, with single or double handles, &c.; also two Mortaria, of whitish ware, one, 11 inches in diameter, being nearly perfect, with the exception of a hole worn through the centre; the other had stamped across the rim the potter's mark OINC · I.

Black, and Dark, or Slate-coloured, Ware.—Varieties of this ware were also collected in considerable quantity. Some portions of wide-mouthed vessels probably sepulchral urns, show that patterns of straight and wavy lines had encircled the upper part of the vessels.¹

Roman Coins.—Brass, and silver coins (Denarii), of Vespasian, Trajan, and Hadrian, were found in these pits. Several of second brass were illegible.

Some gold coins were reported to have been picked up, and also a portion of an ornament, described as resembling a piece of gold pipe; but of these I could get no satisfactory account.

Animal Remains.—The pits contained various animal remains. Those I examined were the skulls and bones of short-horned cattle, apparently the ancient *Bos longifrons* of Owen, of the horse, the red deer, and the common hog. Several oyster-shells were also gathered, showing manifestly the large size of this ancient mollusc, as well as the fondness of the Roman epicure even at this inland station for the far-famed oysters of the British seas.²

The *Skeleton of a Man* was discovered a little to the south-east of these larger pits, in a pit 10 or 12 feet deep, and 3 or 4 feet in diameter; the skeleton appeared to have been erect, or nearly so; and beside it was a narrow, pointed iron spear,³ 14 inches long and 1½ inch broad at the widest part; the socket for the shaft is entire in its circumference; part of the wooden shaft remained, but crumbled to pieces. These probably belong to a later date than the Roman remains.

The very fetid character of the contents of these pits was evidently caused by the presence of such a quantity of animal remains. The field in which they were found is called the *Well Meadow*, and some of these pits had been discovered years ago, but were covered up again, being considered simply as old wells, which had probably, however, given the name to the field. It seems almost absurd to consider these pits to be mere depositaries of rubbish, as the river Tweed was at no great distance, into which any refuse could

¹ Portions of the different varieties of Pottery described, were presented to the Museum.

² *Vide* Notices of these Animal Remains in the "Edin. New Phil. Jour.," vol. liv. No. cvii. p. 122. Specimens of the Animal Remains were presented to the Museum.

³ *Vide* "Proceedings," vol. i. p. 29.; and "Prehistoric Annals," pp. 171, 382. The skull was presented to the Museum.

have been thrown without requiring the trouble of sinking pits ;—or wells, from the river being near, and also, from the apparently unnecessarily great number of them clustered together ; I am inclined, from various reasons, to consider them to have been the sepulchres of the Roman town.

Roman Causeway.—A little beyond these pits, (at 'peg 146' of the Newstead Railway Contract) another portion of the paved roadway was laid open directly to the south of that previously exposed in the field adjoining the Red Abbeystead on the west ; it was here from 18 inches to 3 feet below the surface, and about 20 feet broad, consisting of irregularly shaped pavement—like masses of stone laid in a bed of small stones and gravel.

I have already described this roadway as having run northwards through the field adjoining the Red Abbeystead ; it then descended the right bank of the river, within the memory of the fathers of the old men of the present generation, towards the foundations of a very ancient *stone bridge*, by which it crossed the Tweed on its way northwards, up the vale of the Leader. Milne, in his *Description of Melrose*, mentions this bridge, remains of which were to be seen in his day, but it did not occur to him that it was of Roman construction. From this causeway, however, running directly on the bridge, there can be little doubt of its Roman origin, and it appears to have entirely escaped the notice of antiquaries.¹ This causeway has also been discovered in the fields, to the south of the railway cutting, on its way by the village of Eildon, and a short distance to the westward of Newtown, towards St Boswell's Green, and so southwards for the ranges of the Cheviot Hills, to the English border.

Burnt Clay Stratum or Bed.—Beyond this causeway, a large mass of burnt earth, mixed with great quantities of wood-charcoal, was opened up as the railway cutting was carried still more to the eastward ; it was about 6 or 8 feet in depth, and extended for nearly 18 yards or so along the line of the cutting, reaching almost across to its southern side ; it was all removed, with the exception of a small portion inclosed in the northern sloping bank of the railway. In this stratum numerous *bones and teeth of animals*, principally of oxen, and *Roman pottery* of various kinds, were discovered, much of which unfortunately was thrown with the earth to form an adjoining mound. The somewhat *globular urn*² of blackish clay, 6½ inches in height, with a rude device on its side, and border of crossing lines round its upper part, was discovered buried and inverted, a little below the upper surface of this bed.

Leathern Soles or Sandals were also collected, some with additional portions attached to the back parts, apparently for being brought over the foot, but they fell to pieces on drying, and were unfortunately thrown aside.

Portions of Metal, apparently iron, were found, but these were so much oxidated, forming slag-

¹ Vide "Caledonia Romana," 2d edit. p. 262.

² Presented to the Museum.

like masses with the hardened clay, that it was almost impossible to discover what they had been ; one piece of iron, when the clay was carefully broken off, is about 7 inches long, and from a solid and narrow neck, about 2 inches in length, expands to a quadrilateral head, $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch square at the widest part, and then tapers to a point, probably the head of a dart or spear.¹

A smaller Clay Stratum of similar character to the last, was next discovered a little farther along the line to the eastward. It was entirely removed by the railway operations.

Roman Pottery of different kinds was also found in it. The nearly perfect vase or *small Drinking Cup*² of coarse clay, 4 inches high, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. across the mouth, was found there. Animal remains were also found.

It was in the immediate neighbourhood of these pits and clay beds, in the same field indeed with the latter, and only a little to the north-east, that the Altar dedicated to Silvanus was found in 1830.

These beds of burnt wood and clay it may be conjectured, had been the *Ustrinæ*, on which the bodies of the departed were consumed, and the pits, also adjoining the causeway, were, like the *Puticulæ* of the Campus Esquilenus, the sepulchres in which their ashes were inurned or entombed ; the animal remains, showing the sacrifices made to appease the Manes of the departed ; and the pottery, varying, as the contents of the vessels, the offerings presented to the dead ; while the coins may have been some of those intended for the dreaded Ferryman who was to introduce them to their eternal abodes.

The relation of the fields of the Red Abbeystead to the country around, commanding as they do the valley of the Tweed, both above and below, and also to a certain extent the vale of the Leader, points them out as apparently well suited for the site of a Roman station. And the remains of various camps, show them to have been environed with these defences ; thus, on the north across the Tweed, and overlooking the vale of the Leader, we have the large camp mentioned by Milne (*Description of Parish of Melrose*) as existing on the 'Chester Knów ;' the steep banks on the north and east, with the winding around them of the river, increased their strength in that direction ; while to the south, on the line of the Roman causeway, there was the camp observed at Eildon by General Roy ; there had been on the west, also, the camp of 'Castlestead,' near the village of Darnick ; and if we consider as Roman the slight remains of a camp described by authors on the north slopes of the Eildons, which a roadway defended by rampart and fosse had connected with the camp on Cauldshiel's Hill, we have an additional defence of the station on its more exposed western side, and from this point the settlers would be able to command all the more upland valleys.

^{1 2} Presented to the Museum.