

THE DUNVEGAN CUP.

The celebrated DUNVEGAN CUP was exhibited by Dr D. Wilson, through the kindness of MacLeod of MacLeod. Like most other native relics, it has been assigned to a Scandinavian origin, and is described by Sir Walter Scott, in the notes to the "Lord of the Isles," as a Hebridean Drinking Cup:

"Erst own'd by Royal Somerled."

The inscription, however, so strangely misread by the poet in these notes, leaves no room to question its native and Irish origin. This interesting example of medieval palæography is as follows:—

**Kath̃ia nig̃r̃ỹneill ux̃or̃ joh̃is̃ meg̃ mag̃ir̃ p̃nc̃ip̃is̃ de
fir̃manac, me fi. fecit̃ Ãño dōⁱ 1493°. Oculi om̃ĩ ã te
sp̃at̃ dō^e et tu da^s esc̃ã illo^{r̃} ã te o^{p̃}°.**

The numeral *four* in the date, which is in the form common in inscriptions of the fifteenth century, was read by Scott as an X, and he accordingly assigned to the whole the date of 1093! There can be little doubt, however, that the cup is of earlier work than the inscription, which is on a broad silver rim, such as might easily be added at a subsequent period. The cup is of a close-grained wood (probably alder), and is richly mounted with silver, adorned with niello and gilding, and jewelled, though most of the sockets are now empty. The latter part of the inscription, it will be seen, is the 15th verse of the cxxlv. Psalm, according to the Vulgate. The whole may be read as follows:—

KATHARINA NIG RYNEILL, UXOR JOHANNIS MEG MAGUIR, PRINCIPIS DE FIRMA-

NACH, ME FIERI FECIT. ANNO DOMINI 1493. OCULI OMNIUM IN TE SPERANT DOMINE, ET TU DAS ESCAM ILLORUM IN TEMPORE OPPORTUNO.

In exhibiting this interesting heir-loom, Dr Wilson remarked, that he had obtained it through the kind intervention of W. F. Skene, Esq., in consequence of doubts previously expressed by him as to Sir Walter Scott's rendering of the inscription and date, when introducing it, along with an engraving of the cup, in the "Prehistoric Annals of Scotland." These he had published before he was aware of the possibility of obtaining access to the original; which is no longer at Dunvegan Castle. His only regret was that the result of the opportunity afforded for examining it, shewed it must not be regarded as a Scottish, but as an Irish example of native Christian art. It is not improbable that it may have been a favourite ancient *Maedher*, subsequently mounted in silver, and with ornamental additions of more than one later date. John, son of the Maguire,—probably the person referred to on the cup,—is mentioned in the "Annals of the Four Masters," in 1484, when Gillpatrick was murdered by his five brothers, of whom he was one, at the altar of the Church of Aghalurcher, in consequence of a dispute about the succession to the Chieftainship. He died in 1511. His wife's name does not occur, but a Catherine, daughter of MacRannal, who was also married to a Maguire, is mentioned in the year 1490, in which she died.

Various objects of antiquity, acquired by the Society during the summer recess, were also exhibited, including the following purchases at the sale of the collection of the late C. K. Sharpe, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

ANTIQUITIES PURCHASED.

- Small Iron Casket, found near the Monastery of Coupar-Angus.
- Carving in Ivory of the fifteenth century, of the Nativity and Crucifixion: probably the leaf of a small Triptic.
- Quadrangular Stone Candlestick, from the Old Tailors' Hall, Edinburgh.
- Fine early Celtic Bronze Ring-Brooch, jewelled.
- Cinerary Urn, found near Kilcattan, Londonderry, in 1837.
- Ancient Irish *Maedher*, or large Drinking Cup of wood.
- Bronze Tripod or Water Ewer, dug up near Birrens, Annandale.
- Elegant Roman Terra-Cotta Lamp, of large size, found in Annandale.
- Enamelled Bronze of the twelfth century, in form of a Mailed Foot, found in the ruins of Hoddam Church.
- Fine specimen of Ancient Celtic Shoe, curiously wrought in ornamental open-work, found six feet beneath the surface, near Callander, Perthshire.

Large pointed oval Brass Matrix, Chapter Seal of St Mary's, Caithness.
 ✠ S · CAPITLI · ECCE · SCE · DEI · GENTRICIS · MARIE · CATA-
 NENSIS · (*Laing's Scottish Seals*, No. 988.)

Brass Matrix, pointed oval. Figure of St John with the *Agnus Dei* in his left hand, and the right hand in benediction; underneath an ecclesiastic kneeling. Inscription ✠: S · IOHANNE · PRIORISSE · DE · BVGEIA.

Brass Matrix, large round oval. SIG · PROVIN · CALABRIÆ · TER · ORDINISSAN · FRANCISCI · 1550.

Brass Matrix, round, Knight's Seal, ✠ S · C · ARTAVDI · D̄ COLLO-
 MASCI · NŌ.

Curious Brass Stamp, with two snakes for handle, inscribed with Runes.

Ancient Bronze Incense Burner of Oriental workmanship, beautifully inlaid with silver, and inscribed in Cufic characters.

Large pair of Tongs, for making the Host-bread; of the fifteenth century.

Small Bronze Crucifix, &c., &c.

PAINTINGS.

An early specimen of oil painting, on panel, of the Infant Saviour, inscribed OPVS · FELICIS · DE · SCOTIE · 1488.

Portions of a painted ceiling, from the "Guise Palace," Blyth's Close, Edinburgh, demolished in 1845, decorated with emblematical devices and mottoes.

Seven paintings on wood, from the ceiling of the Great Hall, Dean House, Edinburgh, demolished in 1845, representing Abraham's Sacrifice, Judith and Holofernes; King David playing on the Harp; St Luke, &c.

OAK CARVINGS.

Large and fine specimen of Oak Carving, in panels and door, from the Palace occupied by the Queen Regent, Mary de Guise, at Leith.

Specimen of Oaken Frame and Shutters, forming the lower half of the window, common in mansions of the sixteenth century, from an ancient house in the Cowgate, Edinburgh, commonly called the French Ambassador's Chapel.

Carving in Oak, Royal Arms, Temp. Queen Mary, from Linlithgow Palace.

Groups carved in Oak, the Nativity, Intombment, Résurrection, Christ appearing to Mary, &c.

Carved Oak Panels, the Drummond Arms impaling the Royal Arms of Scotland debriused with the bend sinister; &c., &c.

SCULPTURED STONES AND CASTS.

Lower part of large Roman Slab, with a winged figure of Victory standing on a Globe, from Birrenswark, Annandale, measuring 27 in. by 24 in.

Sculptured Gothic Ambry, from an ancient house in Kennedy's Close, Castle-hill, Edinburgh.

Arms of James Beaton, Archbishop of Glasgow and St Andrews, formerly over the door-way of the Archiepiscopal Palace, Blackfriar's Wynd, Edinburgh, afterwards the residence of his nephew, Cardinal Beaton.

Reclining figure in Terra-Cotta, the top of an Etruscan Sarcophagus, from Volterra.

DONATIONS FROM THE SAME COLLECTION :—

A fine large two-handed Sword, formerly belonging to the Lindsay Family, and said to have been used by their ancestor Alexander de Lindsay, at the Battle of Methven, A.D. 1306. It was obtained by Mr Sharpe from a descendant of the Family. Presented by the Hon. LORD MURRAY, Vice-Pres. S.A. Scot.

Ancient basket-hilted Sword found in 1843, in the bed of the River Shannon, at the head of Keelsay Falls.

Small Roman Terra-Cotta, a Boar, found at Birrenswark; specimens of Stained Glass: the Circumcision of Shechem, &c.

Presented by Rev. JOHN JAFFRAY, F.S.A. Scot.

Portion of an ancient Saxon Stone Cross, found in the ruins of Hoddam Church, Dumfriesshire. Presented by JAMES T. GIBSON-CRAIG, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., who also liberally contributes the accompanying illustrations.