

NOTICES OF THE HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF THE
ANCIENT CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT AT COLDINGHAM.

After referring to the evidences of Coldingham having been the site of a Christian establishment from a very remote period, and to the curious accounts of the mutilations of the Nuns of Coldingham, and of the destruction of the Nunnery by the Northmen, *circa* 870, Dr Wilson noticed the evidences of the new foundation by Edgar, the son of St Margaret, in 1098, and then entered into some minute notices of the peculiar characteristics of the fine example of First Pointed architecture which replaced the Romanesque Church of King Edgar, in the reign of William the Lion. Notwithstanding the barbarous condition in which the beautiful church of Coldingham Priory has long lain, buried both externally and internally, with accumulated soil, to a depth of from four to eight feet, and nearly all its fine internal decorations concealed by unsightly galleries and a plastered ceiling, he remarked that it is still one of the most beautiful examples of the First Pointed style of Gothic—almost precisely similar to the Early English of the south—which is to be met with in Scotland. It has at its east end, externally, a series of double panels or unpierced windows with circular heads and mouldings pertaining, in some degree, to the previous Romanesque style, which serve to indicate the early date of the work. Many of the details, however, bear a very close resemblance to the work of Bishop Jocelin, in the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral, 1188–1197. The beautiful triforium of Coldingham was pointed out as specially worthy of notice, and in some respects unique, from the way it is combined with the windows, and introduced along with what may properly enough be styled the clerestory, though the church is complete without side aisles. Dr Wilson contrasted this building with contem-

porary Scottish ecclesiastical buildings of the same reign, where the peculiar national style—for which he has suggested the name of Scottish Geometric—prevails, shewing that the close connection of Coldingham Priory with England, as a cell of Durham, fully accounted for the English mode being followed in this case ; and confirmed the idea of the prevalence of the two different though contemporary styles, under the influence of diverse national tastes.

This communication was illustrated by a series of large drawings and sections of Coldingham Church, recently executed by P. Hamilton, Esq., architect, who was present, and communicated to the meeting plans for restorations and additions proposed to be made on the building, including the erection of a new transept, in order to provide the additional accommodation rendered necessary by the removal of the galleries, which at present entirely conceal the beautiful architecture of the interior.

June 14, 1852.

The Rev. WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected as Fellows :—

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, of Monzie, Esq.

BARRON GRAHAME, of Morpie, Esq.

The Donations laid on the Table included :—

A Flint Arrow-head, found at Jackson, on the Mississippi, U.S. : by JAMES JOHNSTONE, Esq. Its peculiar form attracted special attention, being bevelled off on the reverse sides, apparently to give it a revolving motion, with the same purpose as the grooves of a modern rifle.

Five embossed Floor-Tiles, and one Half Tile, from North Berwick Abbey, East Lothian; and three circular emblematic Paintings of the seventeenth century, set in carved wood, from the Church of St Monance, Fife : by ROBERT MERCER, Esq., Ramsay Lodge, Portobello. The paintings represent TEMPTATION, LEARNING, and INNOCENCE, with an appropriate couplet surrounding each.

The first Seal of the Friendly Insurance—the earliest Insurance Office established in Scotland : by WM. SWANSON, of Leithhead, Esq.

A curious antique Silver Watch, with separate index of the hours and minutes : by ROBERT CAUNTER, Esq.

A Cinerary Urn, in unusually fine preservation, found in November 1849, in a stone coffin, on the farm of Greenford, on the Panmure Estate, Forfarshire : presented, through D. D. BLACK, Esq., of Brechin, F.S.A. Scot., by Mr HUGH MITCHELL, gardener at Guynd.