

REMARKS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ORNAMENTATION OF A BYZANTINE CHARACTER ON WEAPONS AND WOODEN IMPLEMENTS, MADE BY THE NATIVES OF AN AFRICAN TRIBE, ON THE COAST OF THE RED SEA.

Various specimens of curious native workmanship, including weapons and domestic implements, recently brought from Aden, were exhibited by Alexander Christie, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. The most beautiful of these were a set of large and highly ornamented wooden spoons, which were decorated with the same interlaced ornaments as are common on the sculptured Scottish standing stones, and on ecclesiastical relics of native workmanship, both in Scotland and Ireland, previous to the twelfth century. Mr Christie read an account of the Somaulli tribe, a native tribe on the African coast of the Red Sea, by whom the specimens of carving had been executed, from observations made by Lieutenant Allan N. Scott of the Madras Engineers, when stationed at Aden. From these it appeared that they still retain among them traces of a corrupt Christian creed, and Mr Christie expressed his belief that, in this, as well as in the remarkable correspondence of the style of art still preserved and practised among them, we have evidence of their descent from a branch of the ancient African Church, planted by some of the early Christian Fathers in Abyssinia, and along the coast of the Red Sea; and may derive from such facts additional proof of the source of that familiar style of ornamentation, at one time so widely diffused, but which it has been the fashion among certain British antiquaries to refer to a Scandinavian origin, under the misnomer of "Runic Knot-Work."