

IV.

REPORT OF A RECENT EXAMINATION OF THE ROMAN CAMP AT CLEGHORN, LANARKSHIRE, STYLED "AGRICOLA'S CAMP;" WITH NOTICES OF GENERAL ROY AND HIS FAMILY. BY D. R. RANKIN, Esq., CARLUKE.

In the first edition of "Caledonia Romana," the author, after stating that between seven and eight miles below Biggar was situated the post or permanent station at Corbiehall (Castledykes), he goes on to remark: "From this spot, a walk of two miles conducts us to the ground where stood the extensive intrenchments of what was known as Cleghorn Camp. The bridge of Cleghorn crosses the river Mouse at the distance of two miles from Lanark, on the road to Edinburgh by Mid-Calder. On the rising ground, half a mile beyond it, to the right, where all is now cultivated land, was situated the camp referred to. *At the present day, scarcely one solitary vestige of its ramparts remains,*" &c. In the recent edition of this work, the statement is repeated. Previous to publication, but not until the work was in an advanced stage, your learned Secretary was enabled to communicate to the editor the facts which shall hereafter be given; but a foot-note only has been added, which leaves the matter still in uncertainty.

Now, Agricola's Camp near Cleghorn is *not* situated on the "right" in passing from Cleghorn Bridge on the Edinburgh road; *nor* is its site "*all cultivated land,*" as stated by Mr Stewart: on the contrary, except a small part, it is situated on the *left*, and the ground, to a considerable extent, is covered with thriving timber of not less than forty years' growth. Moreover, in place of there being "*scarcely one solitary vestige of its ramparts remaining,*" it is nearly as entire as when General Roy discovered and made a plan of it in September 1764, eleven years after he had surveyed the great Roman road passing through Clydesdale, and its stations.

The south-western boundary of the camp is throughout still distinctly traceable, the line being marked and protected from farther injury by a belt of

trees. Near Windsor, beyond the western angle, there is a want of nearly 130 yards, which is indicated by a dotted line in Roy's plan. The road, 135 yards north-east of Windsor, intersects the rampart nearly as Roy represents it,—the proprietor having evidently deviated the line of a stone fence at this point, to save farther obliteration of a structure so interesting. From this, still to the north-east, the rampart, with its two gateways and respective traverses, is most distinct; but the gateways, which are represented by Roy as open, are now closed up by a modern feal-dyke not exceeding three feet thick, while the ancient structure throughout, in the more perfect portions, is at present at least 13 feet thick at the base. From the second gate on this side to the rounded corner on the north, and from that to the gateway on the north-east side, the rampart, with its ditch, is well preserved; and, for a short way onward to the south, it continues to be traceable. The traverse of the gate on this side, however, since Roy's survey, has disappeared, or at least it has been rendered very indistinct by the cutting of ditches to carry off the water, and no part of the south-east boundary is now to be seen.

The part of the camp best preserved is included in plantation, as well as all the inosculating roads or tracks shewn in the original plan as passing through it, except that nearest Windsor; but the opening in the rampart on the north-east side, through which the road to Cowford Bridge passed in Roy's time, is still very distinct. A beech hedge now crosses the rampart on this side, and several feal-dykes and open drains pass in various directions through the plantation; but the work of the Romans is nevertheless very easily distinguished. In short, the plan of General Roy, with the slight exceptions noticed, is a most faithful representation of the actual state of the camp.

The boundary line, on the north-west side,—from the rounded angle on the north to a point intersected by the line of the south-western boundary at the west angle,—is 1725 feet; and, if this measurement be correct, the other parts are readily determined from Roy's plan, which is given without a scale. The length of the north-east side being 1725 feet, or 575 yards, the breadth would be 426 yards, and, consequently, the contents would be about 40 Scots acres.

The two traverses, so well preserved, measure respectively 46 feet by 19, and 55 feet by 20, both being 3 feet 6 inches in height.

This extensive exploratory camp lies on the north-east of the Roman road passing through Clydesdale, which runs in a parallel line with its south-western boundary, at a distance of fully one-fourth of a mile. The ground on which it stands has a considerable declination southward, and what is left clear has a commanding view of the country around, except to the northward.

From the Roman station near Carstairs House, called Castledykes, to Agri-

cola's Camp at Cleghorn, the distance in a straight line scarcely exceeds one mile; but keeping the road by Cleghorn Bridge, the distance is two miles.

Though deviating from the subject, it may be allowable to state that Castle-dykes has been well preserved. It is still a very perfect structure, differing little from the plan of General Roy of 1753. It is of the usual square form, rounded at the corners, the ramparts measuring on each side of the square about 180 yards. By a measurement made a few days ago under the direction of Robert Monteith, Esq. of Carstairs, it was found that, within the centre line of the ramparts, the space measured exactly 5 acres 2 roods, and 16 falls Scots. This space has fortunately been planted, perhaps within the last twelve or fourteen years,—all except a small part on the south that overlooks the Clyde, and a small portion on the north,—an arrangement which, if it has the effect of rendering the camp less conspicuous than it would otherwise be, has the advantage, in the absence of a more perfect and permanent protection, of hindering the incroachments of greedy and inconsiderate operators upon the soil, and of preventing the slight but injurious operations of cattle.

It may not, perhaps, be considered entirely out of place in this notice to offer a few remarks on the personal history of General Roy.

In Sir John Sinclair's statistical work (1793), Dr Scott, then minister of Carluke, mentioned that General Roy, and his brother James Roy, minister of Prestonpans, were natives of Carluke. In the last Statistical Account of Scotland (1838), the fact is repeated, and the date of birth given. The following is a copy from the register of baptisms of Carluke:—

“ 1726 William, S. to John Roy was born May 4, baptized May 12, Cap^t Walter Lockhart and Mr Gavin Muir Witnesses.”

John, the father, at the time of the birth of William, resided at Miltonhead, Carluke; and, so far as the parish records bear testimony, William was his second child. John Roy must have been an active and intelligent man, if we may judge from the many references made to him by the heritors of the parish. In the heritors' record, he is variously designed “gardener,” “factor,” &c., to Sir William Gordon of Milton, and Charles Hamilton Gordon. John Roy, the grandfather, seems to have been succeeded by his son John in office, under the proprietors of Milton.

The earliest notice of him is the record of the baptism of his daughter Margaret, 1695,—or the “ Roll of Polleable persons, 1695;” and the entry made in that now rather curious document is in these terms:—

“ Jo. roy servitor to my Lord hallcraig 00.19 . 04’

Lord Hallcraig was a Lord of Session—Sir James Hamilton of Hallcraig and Milton—to whose son John was gifted the forfeited estates of the unfortunate brothers William and Alexander Porterfield, in Renfrewshire, in 1671.

The General and his brother James were educated partly at the school of their native parish, and partly at the grammar-school of Lanark, and, ultimately, the latter was a bursar in Glasgow College, on the foundation of the Countess of Forfar, from 1738 to 1751.

An interesting anecdote of Roy is still current. An old woman, a native of Carluke, who had all her life been a servant at Lee, used to relate with pride, that in her girlhood Roy came to Lee as attendant on great men. Shortly afterwards he came again, but in a higher office. After the lapse of years, he came a third time, and now he sat at the right hand of the laird!

The birth-place of General Roy is accidentally marked in a singular manner. The buildings of Miltonhead have long been cleared away. An old willow that grew near the end of the steading, no longer able to bear the superincumbent weight of its own arms, bent under the burden, and now represents an arch of fair proportions. The tree in this position continues to grow, and is itself an object of interest; but marking, as it does, the birth-place of an eminent man, it is doubly worthy of notice and preservation.

March 14, 1853.

REV. WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society:—

ROBERT CHRISTISON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Materia Medica, Edinburgh University.

COSMO INNES, Esq., Advocate, Professor of Universal History, Edinburgh University.

KEITH STEWART MACKENZIE of Seaforth, Esq.

GREME R. MERCER, Younger of Gorthy, Esq.

THOMAS GRAHAM MURRAY, Esq., W.S.

Various Donations were presented, including—A fine Cinerary Urn, brought from Malta: by Sir JAMES RAMSAY of Bamff, Bart., F.S.A. Scot.

Two Stone Vessels; turned up by the plough on the Farm of Aūcorn, near Wick: by A. H. RHIND, Esq. The larger of them, in which the other was inclosed, measures 13 inches in height, and 21 inches in greatest diameter, and is probably the largest example of a stone urn ever found in this country. It has two handles rudely cut in the stone sides, and was probably originally adapted for domestic purposes, though the circumstances under which it was found suggest that its latter use had been as the inclosing cover of a cinerary urn. Unfortunately the contents of the smaller urn (which is $11\frac{1}{2}$ in its greatest diameter, by 8 inches in height) were not examined or preserved. It had a stone lid, which was broken by the discoverer and thrown away; but it has since been observed that the grain grows richer on the spot where it was turned up than elsewhere on the field.

Two antique large Nails and Shields, from the door of the Ancient Chapel of Kilbride, near Dunblane: by J. FERGUSON, Esq., Wharton Place.

Four curiously-carved Wooden Spoons, and a large Dagger, made by the Somaulli Tribe, inhabiting the African Shores of the Red Sea: by Lieutenant A. N. SCOTT, of the Madras Engineers, Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot. A notice of these articles, formerly exhibited, has already been given at p. 91.

Egyptian Bronze Snake Head: by W. H. SCOTT, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

The first communication was entitled—