

#### SAXON CROSS, DUMFRIESSHIRE.

The portions of the Saxon Cross, of which part of the shaft is figured here, were found in taking down the walls of the ancient church of Hoddam, Dumfriesshire, in 1815. This ancient structure appears to have been built with materials of various early dates, among which were a Roman Altar dedicated to Imperial Jove, and a Sculptured Stone, with a Runic Inscription, probably coeval with the cross now described.<sup>1</sup>

The portion of the shaft figured here, measures two feet in height, nine inches in greatest breadth in front, and six inches at the sides. On the front is the figure of a Saint,—or more probably of our Lord,—standing under an arched pediment, having a nimbus, and holding a book on which the right hand

<sup>1</sup> Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, pp. 400, 550.

is laid. Above are two figures, much defaced, probably of angels. On each of the sides a half-length saint is sculptured with nimbus and book, nearly similar to the principal figure. The fourth side has been roughly chiselled flat, in adapting it to its latter purpose, but not so effectually as to obliterate all traces of the original sculptures. The indications of two figures standing together are still apparent; along with slighter traces of other decorations. The front is somewhat more weathered than the sides, one of which especially is nearly as sharp as when cut, and is executed with considerable minuteness and delicacy. Another portion acquired by the Society appears to have formed one of the limbs of the cross. It is much mutilated, but retains the interlaced



knot-work so common on Scottish Crosses, prior to the twelfth century. This early Christian Monument forms in some respects an interesting counterpart to the celebrated Runic Cross of Ruthwell, in the same district, and is valuable as an addition to the Saxon remains found in Scotland, of which examples are rare.

The following purchases for the Museum were also exhibited.

Gold Ornament formed of a thin plate or riband of Gold, twisted into a Spiral Armilla or Small Torc, ploughed up on the Farm of Overshill, parish of Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire.

Ring, formed of five Gold Wires interlaced, found in a Peat-Moss, in the Island of Fladda Chuin, 9 miles NW. of the Isle of Skye.

Fine Roman Bronze Præfericulum and Patera.

Bronze Stand or Candelabrum; figure of a Gladiator 12 inches high.

Etruscan Candelabrum Terra-Cotta, a Female Figure with Lamp on Head, height 10½ inches.

Two remarkable Etruscan Vases, in form of a Horse's and Stag's Heads.

Small Terra-Cotta Altar, from Vulci, 5½ inches high.

Collection of small Roman Bronzes, Fibulæ, &c.

Cast of a large and beautifully sculptured Tomb, of the fifteenth century, discovered in the ruins of Aberbrothoc Abbey.

Of this Monument Mr Henry Laing communicated the following description :—