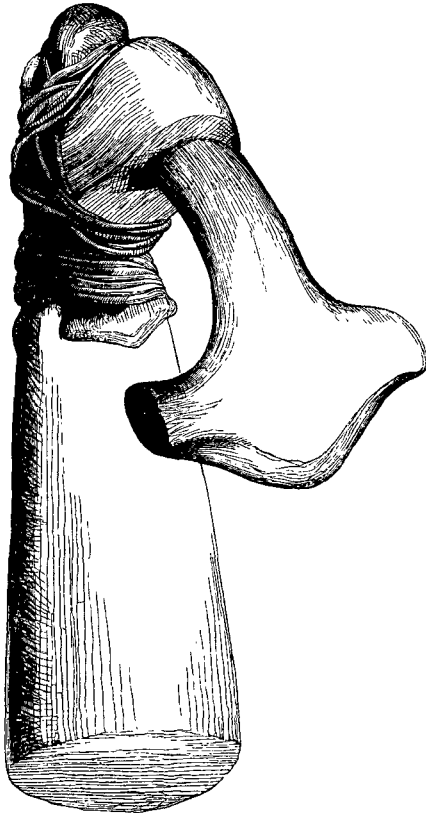


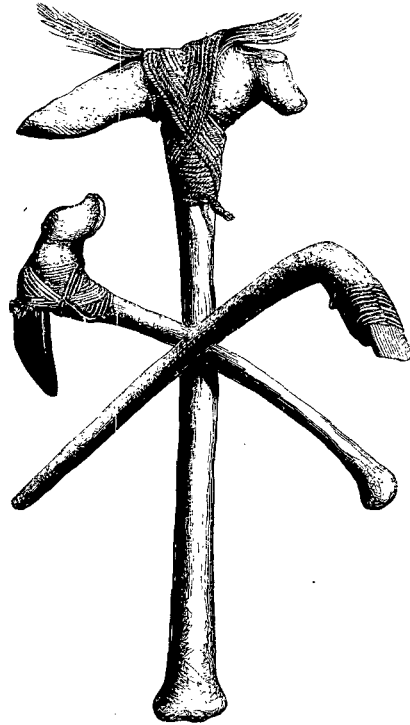
V.

NOTICE OF SOME INDIAN ANTIQUITIES, AS COMPARED WITH BRITISH
IN A LETTER FROM DR DANIEL WILSON, TORONTO, UPPER CANADA,
TO DAVID LAING, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

“ In examining a collection of relics of the Indians of the north-west, recently, I was struck with a little matter, which, though sufficiently trifling, may perhaps interest some of my friends of the S.A.S. Such opportunities as I have had of observing the American aborigines, and their arts and customs, have helped occasionally to confirm, and still oftener to modify, my views relative to primitive arts and social habits, as deducible from early British Antiquities. There is a curious similarity running through the primitive arts of totally distinct barbarous races. I have dug up pottery here, which, if placed in your cases alongside of the sepulchral urns found in Scottish barrows, the most experienced eye would be puzzled to detect the difference. The same correspondence is traceable in the rude stone and flint weapons and implements. An artist resident here, Mr Paul Kane, spent some years travelling among the Indians of the north-west, painting their portraits, dresses, customs, and scenery. He was held in great reverence among them as a highly-gifted medicine-man; and brought back with him a valuable collection of their dresses, wea-



pons, implements, ornaments, &c. Among these is a stone "*celt*" or adze, used by the Schlalum Indians to the south of the Straits of De Fuca, and on Puget's Sound, to hollow out their canoes. These they make out of the trunk of a tree, of a large size, and shape them with great skill, entirely by means of tools of stone, with the help of fire. Such, we cannot doubt, was once the process adopted by the primitive Briton for carrying out his rude naval architecture,—one of these stone adzes having indeed been found lying inside the earliest of the Glasgow canoes, discovered in 1780, twenty-five feet under the surface. The mode of using the stone adze by the Red Indian of the north-west may, therefore, be supposed to supply an illustration of that of the olden British boat-maker. It is therefore, perhaps, worth putting on record, as helping to illustrate a question on which some considerable differences of opinion have been put forth, in archæological journals, and elsewhere. I enclose you a sketch of the implement, with its wooden handle attached to it (*see woodcut*, p. 423), which serves at once to show how it is used, and to suggest a similar method as having enabled the old Briton—Allophylian or Celt—to turn his stone implement to a similar account. Perhaps you may think it worth making a woodcut of for the 'Proceedings of the Soc. Antiq. Scot.'—now far advanced, I doubt not, in the second volume."



[STONE WEAPONS FIXED TO WOODEN HANDLES, FROM THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.—As an additional illustration of the subject

of Dr Wilson's communication, we give the accompanying drawing of a trophy of stone weapons from the South Sea Islands, selected from the museum of the Society; to which they were many years ago presented. These weapons

display various modes of attaching the stone celt to the curved stick, as a simple adze or tool, or to the more elaborately and elegantly shaped handle of the battle-axe; and are interesting, as well as suggestive of the manner in which the stone weapons found in our own country had been in all probability used by the rude tribes who peopled the British Islands.—ED.]

April 13, 1857.

THE REV. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society:—

GEORGE DUNDAS, younger of Dundas, Esq., M.P. for Linlithgowshire.

CHARLES ELPHINSTONE DALRYMPLE, Esq., Westhall.

JAMES DYCE NICOL of Ballogie, Esq.

PATRICK ALLAN FRASER of Hospitalfield, Esq., Arbroath.

A “Cruet” of white metal, like German silver: and the Frontal of a “Corporal” Case of Ancient Embroidery in gold and silver thread, were exhibited and described by JOHN MACKINLAY, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

The Cruet was used to contain the mingled wine and water to be consecrated for the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church. This Cruet has on one side a handle, on the other a narrow spout, and on the lid a large capital letter A soldered upright on the top. The Embroidered Corporal Case represents Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac, for which purpose he is armed with a large scimitar. The border is ornamented at the corners with close crowns, and in the middle of each side there is a cherub. The case contained (when not in use) the Corporal Cloth of linen to lay under

the bread to be consecrated for the "Corpus Christi," and hence the name; both are said to have formerly belonged to the Abbey Church of Dunfermline.

The Donations to the Museum and Library included—

The Silver Matrices of the Great Seal of Scotland of George III.; and of the Quarter Seal of Scotland of George IV. By the Right Honourable Earl GRANVILLE, Lord President of the Privy Council. This valuable donation was accompanied with the following communication :—

COUNCIL OFFICE, WHITEHALL,
10th March 1857.

GENTLEMEN,—The Lord President of the Council having had under consideration a Report from the Master of the Royal Mint, relative to the disposal of certain Old Silver Seals which were lately discovered in this Office, I am directed to inform you that his Lordship has requested that two of those Seals, viz., the Great Seal of Scotland of George III., and the Quarter Seal of Scotland of George IV., may be transmitted by the Master of the Mint to the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; and the Lord President further desires me to state, that he trusts that the Council of that Institution will be pleased to accept those Seals from Her Majesty's Government, and place them among the antiquities under their care. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

C. F. GREVILLE.

JOHN STUART, Esq., and J. A. SMITH, M.D.,
Secretaries to the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Fine Plaster Casts of the above-mentioned Seals. By THOMAS GRAHAM, Esq., Master of the Royal Mint. Mr Graham kindly accompanied this donation with the annexed notes, and copy of the following communication from the Great Seal Patent Office :—

ROYAL MINT, 13th March 1857.

SIR,—In compliance with the directions of the Lord President of Her Majesty's Council, I beg to transmit to you the Great Seal of Scotland of George III. and the 'Quarter' Seal of George IV., for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, in order that these Seals may be deposited and preserved in the Society's Collection.

Allow me to add a set of Plaster Casts which I have caused to be prepared of the same Seals. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

THO. GRAHAM.

JOHN STUART, Esq., &c., &c.

DEAR SIR,—It has occurred to me that it might interest the Society of Antiquaries and yourself to know how the Great Seal of England has lately been disposed of. I beg accordingly to transmit to you copy of a letter from Mr Bennet Woodcroft, Registrar of Patents, containing this information. Very faithfully yours,

THO. GRAHAM.

ROYAL MINT, 20th March 1857.

GREAT SEAL PATENT OFFICE,
25 SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.
February 25, 1857.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to send you the result of my inquiries concerning the Great Seal. Mr Learmonth (who held the situation of Deputy Sealer from Lord Eldon's time until the Patent Law Amendment Act of 1852 came into operation) states that the practice for the last three reigns has been to deface the two silver halves of the Seal by striking them with an axe, and then the Sovereign gives the defaced Seal to the Chancellor. In this way Lord Eldon received the Great Seal of George III., Lords Lyndhurst and Brougham each half of the Great Seal of George IV., and Lord Cottenham the Great Seal of William IV. Lord Eldon had two silver dishes made, with one-half of the Seal in the centre of each dish; and the other Chancellors followed his example.

In a work of Sir Harris Nicolas, entitled "Observations on the Offices of Secretary of State, Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Chamberlain of the King's Household, with remarks on the Great Seal of England," at page 75 there is the following passage:—"And the King caused the said small seal of the time of his father to be broken in his presence, and gave the pieces of silver to the Bishop of Norwich as the fee of the Chancellor; and the other small seal, of his own

time, he deposited in a purse under the Chancellor's Seal." There is no mention of the Great Seal being broken.

I cannot find any trace of Quarter Seals, nor has the late Deputy Sealer ever heard of them. I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

B. WOODCROFT.

In explanation of Mr Woodcroft's reference to Quarter Seals, Mr Joseph Robertson made the following communication:—

The Quarter Seal, although it would seem now to be unknown in England, has long been in use in Scotland.

Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate in the reign of King Charles I., describes it as "the Testimonial of the Great Seal," and thus enumerates the writs to which it is appended or affixed:—"The letters which pass under the Quarter Seal are either precepts of sasine upon infeftments past under the Great Seal, or letters of presentation of heritable tenants and vassals to superiors of forfeited lands, or lands vaiking by bastardy; and also by Act of Parliament, 1587, commissions of justiciary are ordained to pass the Quarter Seal;¹ and sicklike, all commissions for hearing of the treasurer's accompts pass the Quarter Seal. Of old, in further corroboration of the decreets of the Lords of Session, the same were ratified by His Majesty under the Quarter Seal."²

Although called the *Quarter*, and described by Erskine as "in shape and impression, the fourth part of the Great Seal,"³ it is, in reality, the *half*—semi-circular in shape, and cut on both sides (as seen in the matrices now presented to the Society)—and has so been from a comparatively early period. It was kept by the Director of the Chancery, and the appointment of that officer in the year 1488 is thus recorded in the contemporary official register: "Data fuit litera Roberto Coluile super officio Directoris Cancellarie et custodia Testimonii siue *Dimedietatis Magni Sigilli pro vita sua*."⁴

It is not difficult to trace the "Testimonium Magni Sigilli" as far back as the reign of King Robert II. (1371-1390),⁵ or even to the close of the reign of

¹ The words of the statute are "vnder the Testimoniall of the Grite Seill."—*Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, vol. iii., p. 459. Sir George Mackenzie, in commenting on this act, says, "the Quarter Seal is called the Testimonial of the Great Seal."—*Sir G. Mackenzie's Works*, vol. i., p. 313.

² Sir T. Hope's *Minor Practicks*, pp. 85, 86.

³ Erskine's *Institute of the Law of Scotland*, book ii., tit. v., sect. 85.

⁴ *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, lib. xii., no. 5.

⁵ *Registrum Honoris de Morton*, vol. ii., pp. 98-100, 162; *Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis*, vol. i., pp. 156, 161; *Rotuli Scaecarii Regum Scotorum*, no. 102. MS., Register House, Edinburgh.

King David II.¹ But it is less easy to say why it should have been called the Quarter Seal, if, indeed, it was from the first, what undoubtedly it afterwards became, the Half Seal. A deed of the year 1455 recites "a lettre of confirmacioun of Our Souerane Lord the King James the First vnder his Gret Sele of the secound tend of Kinfawnis aucht to the Abbot and convent of the house of Scone, and ane Act of Parliament vnder a *quarter of the Grete Sele* of the samyn tende decretit to the said hous be the Lordis of Parlement."²

The "Testimonium Magni Sigilli," as the Registrar of Patents tells us, has been quite forgotten on the other side of Tweed, yet it would seem to have been in use there before it was known among us. Throughout the last seventeen years of King Edward III., and the whole reigns of King Richard II. and King Henry IV.,—that is from 1360 to 1413,—the "Donnees par tesmoignance de nostre grant seal," or "Data sub testimonio magni sigilli nostri," of one class of writs, stands distinguished from the "En tesmoignance de la quelle chose nous avons fait mettre nostre seel," or "In cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes sigilli magni nostri appositione communitas,"³ of another class of writs, exactly as in Scotland the "Data sub testimonio nostri magni sigilli" of the Quarter Seal was opposed to the "In cuius rei testimonium nostrum precepimus apponi sigillum" of the Great Seal.

Two Fragments of Bronze found in an Urn dug up in a Stone Circle at Tuack, near Kintore :

A portion of a broken Whetstone or Burnisher of indurated clay-slate of a lightish green colour ; found in a Stone Circle called "The Standing Stones of Rayne." It is a square-shaped fragment, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ in breadth, and is rudely perforated at one extremity with three small holes :

And Fragments of coarse clay Urns dug up in several Stone Circles. By C. E. DALRYMPLE, Esq.

Five Coins—a Silver (Perth) Groat of Robert III., found on the field of Bannockburn ; the others are Brass Abbey Pieces (one of a

¹ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. i., p. 939.

² Liber Ecclesie S. Trinitatis de Scon, pp. 185, 186. The original is in the Register House.

³ Rymer's Fœdera, vol. iii., pp. 518-1076 (Lond., 1825-30); vols. vii. and viii., *passim* (Lond., 1709); Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. i., pp. 864, 895, 899, 900, 909, 918, 920, 921, 926, 927, 928, 935-939, 944, 945, 950, 959, 964, 969, 976, 977, 982, 983.

Pope Paul countermarked), and Nuremberg Jettons, all used as Abbey counters; common, and seldom legible. By R. BALD, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Pièces et Documents relatifs au Comte de Bothwell. Royal 8vo. St Petersburg, 1856; and

Notice sur la Collection des Portraits de Marie Stuart, appartenant au Prince Alexandre Labanoff. Royal 8vo. St Petersburg, 1856. By the PRINCE ALEXANDER LABANOFF.

Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire, 1855-56. Vol. VIII. 8vo. London, 1856. By the SOCIETY.

The Insignia of the High Constables of Calton. Presented by that BODY on its final extinction as a separate Society. These include the Moderator's State Baton, mounted with silver; two Long Batons or Staves, painted with the Royal Arms, those of Edinburgh, Calton, &c., one dated 1747; and a small Silver Mounted Pocket Baton. Also a Silver Mounted Snuff Horn or Mull, with Silver Medals of the different Moderators attached; and a Marble Punch Bowl.—Recent Acts of Parliament having merged into one the different Corporations which formerly clustered round the Ancient City of Edinburgh; the Society of High Constables of the Calton, on the consequent extinction of their body as belonging to the separate Corporation of the Calton, by a final minute, handed over their various Insignia of Office to the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, as the proper place where all articles connected either with national or local history should be preserved.

The Communications read were the following:—