

III.

NOTICES DESCRIPTIVE OF THE LOCALITIES OF CERTAIN SCULPTURED STONE MONUMENTS IN FORFARSHIRE, *viz.*,—BENVIE, AND INVERGOWRIE; STRATHMARTIN, AND BALUTHERAN; MONIFIETH; CROSS OF CAMUS, AND ARBIRLOT. PART III. BY A. JERVISE, Esq., Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot.

As a separate property, and an ecclesiastical district, that of BENVIE is one of the oldest in the shire of Forfar. Before the year 1178, when the lands were given by William the Lion, along with the adjoining estate of Balruthrie, to Philip de Vallognes, Lord of Panmure, Benvie belonged to the old English family De Lundin, who had a grant of it from King David I.²

Christian de Vallognes, daughter and heiress of the last Vallognes of Panmure, and wife of Sir Peter Maule, ancestor of the Maules of Panmure, gave a grant of the lands of Benvie and Balruthrie, with the advocacy of the Kirk of Benvie, to Ranulph de Dundee, progenitor of a knightly family who were of local importance during the wars of the Independence.³ Prior to this, however, the Vallognes had vassals in Benvie, who assumed their surname from that place, and witnessed charters from about 1211 to 1214.⁴ From the time of Sir Peter Maule's marriage with the heiress, until the forfeiture of 1716, Benvie and Balruthrie remained under the superiority of the noble family of Panmure.

¹ The last Commissioner for Glasgow to the last Scottish Parliament had £633 Scots for his expenses during 159 days, from 8th October 1706 to 15th March 1707, being at the rate of four pounds Scots a day, or one pound Scots less than the allowance to Commissioners for shires. The first member for the Glasgow burghs in the British Parliament had L.4800 Scots for his attendance from 8th July 1708 to 20th October 1710; the second member had L.12,400 Scots for his attendance from 25th November 1710 to 16th August 1715.—*Cleland's Statistics of Glasgow*, p. 178.

² *Caledonia*, vol. i., p. 533.

³ *Registrum de Panmure*, MS. fol. vol. i., p. 194: *Ragman Rolls*, p. 126; *Palgrave's Documents (Scotland)*, p. 299.

⁴ *Reg. Vet. de Aberbrothoc*, p. 48-9.

The surname of Benvie, sometimes written *Benzie*, is yet to be met with both in Angus and Mearns.

The Kirkyard of Benvie, is prettily situated upon a rising ground on the south bank of the burn of Gowry. Within it are the remains of the old church, which appears to have had some claims to architectural elegance, a baptismal font, and a sun-dial. The latter, dated 1643, is ornamented with the armorial bearings of James, second Viscount Dundee, and those of his wife Isabella, daughter of the first Earl of Roxburgh—the Viscounts of Dundee having held Benvie under the superiority of the Maules.

This burial-place also contains a curiously sculptured monument, in a state of good preservation.¹ Nothing of its history is known, however, either in tradition or record, and the district of Benvie as a whole, apart from the points just referred to, is devoid of historical interest; and, so far as ascertained, no pre-historic remains have been found in it of any particular value. But it is otherwise with the district of Liff, immediately adjoining, for there, scarcely a mile north-east of the old Kirkyard of Benvie, stood the Castle of Hurley Hawkin, in which Alexander I. is said to have been surprised by a band of rebels from the north in A.D. 1107. That circumstance is recorded by all Scotch historians, and according to Wytown, after having routed and defeated the insurgents, the king returned—

“Hame agayne till Invergowry
And in devotyowne moyd, swne
The Abbay he fowndyd than of Sewne.”²

A “Druidical” circle, consisting of nine stones, one of which only stands upright, is in the same neighbourhood; and through the courtesy of the proprietor, Mr Clayhills of Invergowry, I had the place searched during last spring, but found nothing of any moment. The “Paddock Stane,” a large rude block, stands in the same locality, and in its vicinity stone coffins, containing rude clay urns and human bones, are frequently found. Tradition points to this stone as that which the devil threw across the Tay from one of the Fifeshire hills, when he saw St Boniface building his church at the estuary of the burn of Gowry; but, mistaking his distance, the stone fell nearly a mile farther north, and rested on the spot where it now lies!

The mound of *The King's Cross*, where it is said Elpin, king of the Picts, was slain in A.D. 730,³ is a short distance to the north-east of Hurley Hawkin, and a few years ago, the remains of a human skeleton, without any trace of a

¹ Sculptured Stones of Scot., plate 126.

² Vol. i., p. 284.

³ Chambers's Caledonia, vol. i., p. 304 (note).

coffin, were found in it about eighteen inches below the surface. Near the same place, towards the close of last century, eight or ten graves were discovered, each having the bottom, sides, and top constructed of flag-stones, all of which contained bones. Pitalpin is the name of the district in which these graves were found; and the fine "Snake Bracelet," now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, was found there in 1732.¹

Within two miles of Pitalpin stands the well known monument of STRATHMARTIN, and a little farther to the northward is that of BALLUTHERON.² The traditionary history of both these monuments is well known; but as yet, I have been unable to find an opportunity to investigate their respective localities. I am informed, however, upon good authority, that during the year 1855, while gravel was being taken from a hillock upon the adjoining farm of Hillhouse, no fewer than seven stone coffins were got in it, each of which contained human bones. The Strathmartin stone was found in the old kirkyard while a grave was being dug, and was set up in its present position by Mr Simpson (my informant), who has been parish teacher at Strathmartin for forty-five years.³

The church of INVERGOWRIE, which was dependent of old upon the Abbey of Scon, is of remote antiquity. It stands close by the side of the Tay, was originally planted by St Boniface, who died A.D. 630, and was dedicated to St Peter;⁴ but nothing more is known of the origin of the sculptured stones at this church beyond the fact that they were got in its foundations.⁵

The most popular antiquities of the district are the *Goors*, or, as they are sometimes called, the *Ewes* or *Yowes* of Gowry, the approach of which towards the land Thomas the Rymer is said to have thus prophesied as significant of the termination of the world:—

"When the Goors o' Gowry come to land,
The world's end is near at hand."

These are two unembellished boulders, each about two tons weight, which

¹ Engraved in Wilson's *Pre-historic Annals of Scotland*, p. 446.

² Sculptured Stones, plates 67.

³ During the summer of 1857, while digging a grave in the same burial-place, and about four feet below the surface, the fragment of a cross of the wheel pattern was found, of which I sent a sketch to Mr Stuart. I believe it will be included in the "Supplement to the Sculptured Stones of Scotland."

⁴ Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, March 14.

Sculptured Stones of Scotland, plates 88 and 89.

lie upon the shore of the Tay, immediately to the east of the kirkyard of Invergowrie. There is nothing in their appearance to attract notice, and it may now be said that they have all but "come to land," since they are separated from the common course of the Tay by the embankments of the Dundee and Perth Railway.

Between the church of Invergowrie, and the "Druidical" circle above noticed, intersected by the burn of Gowry, was the site of the Roman Camp of Catermillie, or *Quatuor mille* (as Maitland writes the name), of which, in his day, the high ramparts and spacious ditches were visible.¹ With the exception of the name, however, all trace of the camp is lost; and, although it could be partially seen even down to near the beginning of this century, I am not aware that any Roman relics were ever found upon it.

At the parish kirk of MONIFIETH, which is also situated upon the north bank of the Tay, near the isthmus of that river, there are two old sculptured stones. One of them only is engraved,² and the other is built into the west side of the belfry, pretty high up. The last mentioned is merely a *cross*, about two feet high, by three feet long. The stone is of the grey pavement sort, common to the district, and the carving upon it consists exclusively of a variety of interlaced work. Both stones were got in the foundations of the old kirk.

About a mile N.W. of the church, on the lands of Grange of Monifieth, lies the *Font Stone*, a large square block, of about two tons in weight. It has a hole or socket in the top about 7 inches deep, and 12 by 13 inches wide, and on the outside of the block a small hole has been bored, apparently to receive the end of a rod of iron, which had probably been in it to support the object which may have occupied the socket. According to common report, the curiously sculptured shaft, built into the south wall of the church, stood at one time in this stone; but the workmanship of the *Font Stone* is evidently of much too modern a character for that of the shaft; besides, no person in the district recollects of having seen it there, although some are yet alive who remember of the building of the church, and of the finding of the stone. It is to be regretted that, from the awkward manner in which that stone is placed into the wall, there is no means of knowing whether it is carved on more sides than one. It is also doubtful whether it was of the cruciform class, the remainder having been lost sight of, for it is evidently the *fragment* of a larger monument, and not an entire one, as the engraving of it would lead one to suppose.

The church and chapel of Monifieth were in the diocese of St Andrews, and

¹ Sculptured Stones of Scotland, vol. i., p. 215.

² *Ibid.*, plate 92.

both are rated in the ancient *Taxatio* at 30 merks. The kirk, gifted to the monastery of Aberbrothoc by Gilchrist, Earl of Angus, was dedicated, in all probability, to the Virgin Mary, as a range of sandbanks in the river, immediately opposite the church, is called the *Lady Banks*. But I have seen it somewhere remarked that, prior to the encroachments of the river and sea upon this part of the coast, that the Lady Banks were anciently the site of a forest, and also a chapel. Be that as it may, in A.D. 1220, Malcolm, Earl of Angus, grandson of Gilchrist, gave Nicholas, son to the priest of Kirriemuir, and his heirs, in fee and heritage, the Abthein lands of Monifieth, and Malcolm's only child, Matilda, Countess of Angus in her own right, confirmed that and various other grants which had been made to the same establishment by her ancestors, giving also to the same monks a charter of "the lands to the south of the church of Monifod, which the Culdees held in her father's time." These facts I have elsewhere mentioned, as also more particularly the discovery of a quantity of silver coins, from the mints of Alexander III. of Scotland, and Edward I. and II. of England, which were found in the summer of 1854 in a piece of ground adjoining the kirkyard.¹

Besides the kirk of Monifieth, there were other ecclesiastical establishments in the parish, of which but little trace exists. One of these stood at Broughty Ferry, and another in the royal hunting forest of Kingenny, where, upon the top of a small hill, is the Druidical circle of St Bride. This circle, which measures 22 yards across, and has walls about 7 feet thick, and 18 inches high, was lately examined by Mr Neish of The Laws, but no traces of ancient sculpture were found. A very thin coating of soil covered the surface of the rock, and the surrounding wall, which was composed of earth and loose stones, appeared to have been partly constructed from the area of the work, the same being a little lower than the level of the outer parts which surrounded the circle.

Ecclesmoinichty, or the church of the moss of Dichty, occupied a rising ground by the side of the river of that name, opposite Panmure Bleachfield, and a large tree, called the *Lady Tree*, in honour of the patroness of the kirk, still marks the spot. The last of the stones of that chapel, removed about the year 1806, were used in building the neighbouring meal-mill of Balmossie, and there some of the lintels of the doors and windows may yet be seen.

It is also said that there was a fourth place of worship near Ethiebeaton. It was called Chapel Dockie, and, according to tradition, it was moated. If that chapel ever existed, it had perhaps been only a place of family worship; and it is doubtful whether it had claim to such a remote antiquity as the days of

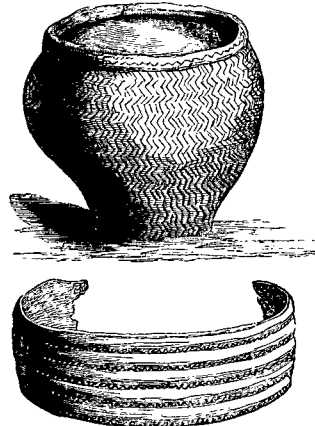
¹ Proceedings of Antiq. Soc. of Scot., vol. ii., p. 68.

David de Betun, who was sheriff of Forfar in 1290, and who did homage to King Edward I. for these lands. There is, however, good reason to believe that it had been from him that the lands took the distinctive cognomen of *Ethie-Beaton*.¹ Stone coffins have been got at some little distance from the site of this old chapel, and the present proprietor says that, between 1830-35, a number of ancient coffins, with human bones, were got upon a small hill, and also "a casting of metal (long since lost sight of), with a raised front, forming a perfect likeness of a lion's face, on a round plate, about 5 or 6 inches in circumference, with two iron bolts, having iron nuts and screws on each end for fixing it to some object, such as a door or stone."²

The *Cross of Comuston* stands upon a rising ground, called *Downie Hills*, nearly a mile S.W. from the parish church of *Monikie*.³ That kirk was dedicated to *St Marnoch*; ⁴ and the sculptured stone, which is cruciform, had perhaps remained in the same position as it was left by *Commissary Maule*, who had its site investigated in 1620. It is reported that he found a human skeleton below it, also the rude clay urn, and the thin bracelet of gold, both of which are here figured. The urn, which is of a greyish sort of clay, had been broken; it is now held together by pieces of string, and nearly half of the bracelet is lost. Both those interesting relics are preserved at *Brechin Castle*, and, through the kindness of *Lord Panmure*, I was enabled to make sketches of them. The urn is 6 inches wide at the top, $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad at the bottom, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. The piece of gold here engraved is the same size as the original.

With a view to give better effect to the cross, by placing it in the middle of a long straight carriage-drive, which stretches between the *House of Panmure* and the "*Testimonial*," his lordship, in presence of his late brothers, the *Hon. Colonel Lauderdale*, and *William Maule of Ferne*, had it shifted to its present position, about 6 feet, which is due south of the old site.

In regard to the story of this monument having been raised to commemorate the de-



¹ *Land of the Lindsays*, p. 309.

² Information from *Mr Arkley of Ethiebeaton*, through *Mr Neish of The Laws. Sculptured Stone Monuments*, plate 87.

⁴ *Reg. Episc. de Brechin*, vol. i., p. 12.

feat of the Danes, which is said to have taken place at Barry, or Fethmurett (the name of that place in old times), tradition also says that the Burn of Lochty, which rises in the upper parts of the parish of Monikie, and falls into the sea at Carnoustie, ran for three days with the blood of the slain! This fable is celebrated in rude verse, of which one couplet is only remembered:—

“Lochty, Lochty, is red, red, red,
For it has run three days wi’ bluid.”

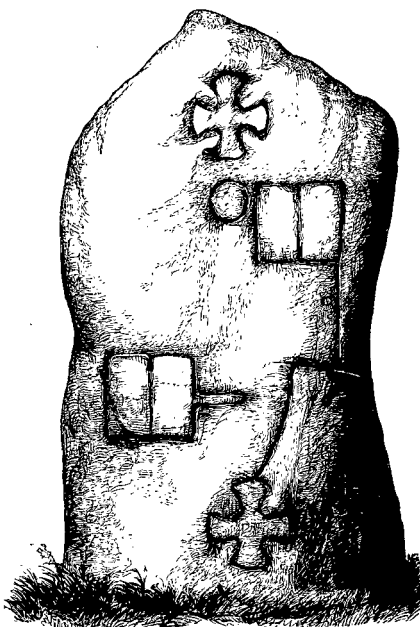
Apart from the reputed slaughter of the Danes, it ought also to be noticed, that during the winter of 1336–7, Sir Andrew Murray, guardian of the kingdom, accompanied by the Earls of Fife and March, is said to have attacked the English army under Lord Montfort, in the neighbourhood of Panmure, when about 4000 of Montfort’s followers were slain.¹

To whichever of these transactions they may belong, it is certain that great quantities of tumuli and rude stone coffins have been found along the sands of Barry and Carnoustie, particularly at Carlungie, about a mile N.W. of the latter place. That district abounds in gravel hillocks, and in those which have been opened one or more rude stone coffins have been discovered. Indeed, so common are those primitive traces, not only in the neighbourhood of Carlungie, but also upon the lands of Kirkton of Monikie (N.E. of the Camus monument), that skulls and other human bones were got within these ten years almost every time the ground was ploughed; and the lids of the coffins were frequently converted into hearth-stones. I have not myself seen any of the coffins which are reported to have been got in this locality; but what I have now stated is given upon the authority of the late intelligent farmer of Kirkton of Monikie, whose ancestors and himself tenanted the same place for nearly a century. He pointed out several places where coffins had been found in clusters, none of which he said were of greater length than $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet. Rude red sandstone flags formed, in all cases, the top, sides, and ends of the coffins, and the gravel, or original soil, was the bottom. Clay urns are sometimes found, and one of these, belonging to Lord Panmure, is now exhibited to the Society. It is of dark mire or clay (rather coarser than that of the Camus urn), fully 5 inches high, and nearly half an inch thick. While in a wet state it appears to have been tied with cords or plaited twigs, and when found, it contained slight traces of bones mixed with black clammy ashes. This urn was got within a coffin upon the farm of Carlungie, at a place called Curhills, or Caerhills.

¹ Guthrie’s Hist. of Scotland, vol. ii., p. 395; Abercromby’s Martial Achievements, vol. ii., p. 70.

At the Manse of ARBIRLOT, some 6 or 7 miles N.E. of the Cross of Camus, there is an ancient Christian monument, which was discovered in the foundation of the old kirk, about twenty-three years ago. The stone is of the tough blue whin sort, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, by about $2\frac{3}{4}$ feet broad near the middle. I am inclined to think that the books and clasp, which are represented upon it, are of a size with the originals, and that these having been laid upon the stone, a tracing was made round them and then cut out by the chisel. From the crosses (which may be considered as of the patteé sort) being as guards to the two volumes, it might perhaps be supposed that the line which connects the upper book with the cross below, is intended to represent a rope or chain, thereby showing that the custom of thus preserving the sacred writings and works of the Fathers had been known at the time this stone was raised, but that period, of course, is unknown.

The kirk is romantically situated upon the banks of the river Elliot, and the old name of the parish is *Abirelot*. The church was in the diocese of St Andrews, and is rated in the ancient *Taxatio* at 30 merks. It was dedicated to St Ninian, whose name was long preserved in the district by that of a spring well, called *St Ringan*. It is an old ecclesiastical site, and towards the beginning of the 13th century a person called "Maurice Abbe de Abireloth," witnessed several grants to the monastery of Aberbrothoc, both by King William and the Earl of Angus.² In consequence of the surname *Abbé* being attached to ancient owners of properties in this and other parts of the shire, some antiquaries are of opinion that those who bore these names were hereditary lay abbots of the respective dis-



¹ Panmure MS. Collections.

² Reg. Vet. de Aberbrothoc, p. 29, &c.

tricts from which they took their names, such as those of Edale or Edzell, and of Brechin.¹ The earliest known vicar of Arbirlot bore the name of William de Eglisbam;² and the whole barony of Arbirlot, and the tenandrie of Cuthlie, in the same parish, which belonged in property to the Bishops of St Andrews, were held under their superiority.³

Kelly Castle, situated on the banks of the Elliot, is supposed to have been built by one of the old family of Irvine of Drum, in Aberdeenshire, who held the property prior, and subsequent to the beginning of the 17th century. It is now in ruins, but is still a good specimen of the baronial architecture of the period, and the walls of the hall appear to have been painted with armorial bearings, of which a few traces only remain. Before the time of the Irvines, and from at least the middle of the 15th century, the estate of Kelly was owned by the old Forfarshire family of Ochterlony, who, for a time, gave it their own cognomen.⁴ But since the time of the Hon. Harry Maule, brother-german to George, third Earl of Panmure, who acquired a charter of the property from Archbishop Burnet in 1681, the whole parish has belonged to the family of Panmure, with the exception of the unfortunate interregnum which followed 1716.

June 8, 1857.

ARCHIBALD T. BOYLE, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :—

The Honourable CHARLES NEAVES, Lord NEAVES, one of the Senators
of the College of Justice.

THOMAS BRODIE, Esq., Edinburgh.

Mr STUART reported that six cases of Egyptian Antiquities,

¹ Reg. Vet. de Aberbrothoc, p. 48 ; Reg. Episc. Brechin, p. 219, &c.

² Reg. Vet. de Aberbrothoc, p. 308.

³ Reg. de Panmure, MS., vol. ii. p. 407.

⁴ Crawford's Officers of State (note), p. 246 ; Chamberlain Rolls, vol. iii. p. 406.

presented to the Museum by A. HENRY RHIND, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., had been received, and that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company had been pleased to depart from any charge for freight, for conveying them from Alexandria to Southampton.

The thanks of the Society were unanimously voted to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam-Packet Company for their liberality.

A curious specimen of an old Celtic Brooch, in silver, was exhibited by K. STEWART MACKENZIE, of Seaforth, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the Table:—

Ancient Piece of Ordnance, a "Pierrier:" in its present rusty and wasted state, it measures 3 feet long; the moveable chamber, with handle attached, is fixed in its place (one of a similar character, but rather larger in size, is figured at page 221.) It was found in the sea near Aberdeen. By JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Hunting Spear-head, with cross-bar or guard $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches long; about one foot in length, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across greatest breadth of blade. The initials, apparently of A. T. H. T., are inlaid in gold across the blade. Found in a railway cutting near Falkirk By WILLIAM DOUGLAS, Esq., R.S.A.

The Bayeux Tapestry Elucidated. 1856. 4to. By the Rev. J. C. BRUCE, LL.D., Newcastle. By the Author, the Rev. J. C. BRUCE, LL.D., Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot.,

1. Norges Gamle Love, indtil 1387. 3 vols. 4to. Christiania, 1846.

2. Kong Christian den Fjerdes Norske Lovbog, af 1604. 8vo. Christiania, 1856.

3. Das Christiania Silurbecken, Chemisch-Geominostisch Untersucht von T. Kjerulf. 4to, pp. 68. Christiania, 1855.

4. De Prisca re Monetaria Norvegiæ scripsit, C. A., Holmboe. 8vo, pp. 66. Christiania, 1854.

5. Diplomatarium Norvegicum, Vol. VI. 8vo. Christiania, 1855. By the ROYAL UNIVERSITY, Christiania.

Memorial of Mary Princess of Orange, Consort of King William III. By GILBERT BURNET, Lord Bishop of Sarum. 4to. Edinburgh, 1842. By J. G. SYME, Esq., Advocate, F.S.A. Scot.