

*April 14, 1856.*

ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq., in the Chair.

The following Gentleman was duly elected a Fellow of the Society.—

ROBERT JAMES HEBDEN of Eday, Esq., Orkney.

Mr Stuart, secretary, stated that in consequence of reports of the recent destruction of a remarkable stone circle near the old Castle of Moyness, in Nairnshire, belonging to Lord Cawdor, he had communicated with his Lordship's factor on the subject. From the answer of that gentleman it appeared that the reports in question had been greatly exaggerated. When the present line of road was made many years ago, it was carried through the circle, and many stones removed, but no recent encroachment on the circle, such as that referred to in the newspapers, has taken place, either to straighten an arable field, or for any other purpose. The supposed "rocking stone" consisted of one of the upright pillars which had fallen over some smaller ones, leaving an end unsupported, and by jumping on this end a heavy man could just move it. The only change that has taken place on the circle for years, is the removal of this pillar for some purpose by the tenant's consent, but without the knowledge of the landlord or his factor, and orders have now been given to prevent any interference with the fragment of the circle still existing. Mr Stuart remarked that it was agreeable to find so general an interest on this subject, as the supposed destruction of the circle had excited a feeling of indignation in all parts of the country. He reported, as shewing the good effects of the Society's circular of last autumn, that the Duke of Buccleuch, as he had heard, had given instructions to his Grace's numerous tenantry

to preserve the ancient remains on their farms in time coming, and trusted that a similar example would be followed by others.

Mr Stuart then read to the meeting a suggestion in a letter to him from Mr Chalmers of Aldbar, viz., that the Society should ask country schoolmasters to encourage their pupils to pick up and bring to them all ancient remains which might come in their way. Mr Chalmers stated that at a school in his own neighbourhood this plan had been followed for some time, and already several fine flint arrowheads, rings of stone, and similar remains, had been collected.

A letter from Mr Albert Way to the Secretary was read, in which he intimated the purpose of the Archæological Institute to hold their next meeting at Edinburgh during the week beginning from July 22, and expressed a hope that the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland would afford their encouragement and co-operation; adding, that the noble President of the Society, the Marquis of Breadalbane, had kindly granted his patronage to the proposed meeting.

The Society, on the motion of Mr Joseph Robertson, resolved to do all in their power to further the success of the proposed meeting of the Institute; and instructed the Council accordingly.

A report was then read from the Committee appointed relative to St Margaret's Well. [See page 147.] The report bore that the Committee had inspected the well, and had found it in a very filthy state; as also that some parts of the groined roof were displaced. They had also examined the buildings erected over the well, which they found to be filled with heavy machinery of various kinds, and that an iron lathe of great weight and power is directly above the well, while the steam-engine by which all this machinery is driven is on the opposite end of the shed, and must tend by degrees to dislocate the stones of the old building, and ultimately to destroy it. The Committee therefore reported as their opinion

that it was desirable the building should be removed before further dilapidation takes place, and that in doing so the use of the water should be secured to those in the neighbourhood who depend on it for a supply. They also reported in favour of a site in the Queen's Park, near the east entrance, for the re-erection of this venerable fabric; as this would place it at the east margin of a small lake which will probably soon be formed there.

The Donations to the Museum and Library laid on the table included:—

An Ancient Piece of Ordnance or "Pierrier;" and an Iron Hammer-Head; found in the North-East Tower of Broughty Castle. By Lieut.-Col. R. C. MOODY, Royal Engineers.

Casts from the Mouldings and other parts of St Margaret's Well, Restalrig. By the BOARD OF MANUFACTURES.

Bronze Palstave and Celt; and various Bronze Relics,—two Ornamented Handles, and three Feet of Bronze Vessels from Italy; Egyptian Mummy Figures in Porcelain; and several impressions of Scottish Seals, referred to in a previous communication by the late Dr W. H. Scott. By Mrs SCOTT, 4 Rutland Street.

Fragments of Urns, Bones, and Lead, found in and near the Castle Hill of Kintore. By Mr ALEXANDER WATT, Kintore.

Glasgow, Past and Present. Vol. III. Glasgow, 1856. By the Author, JOHN BUCHANAN, Esq., F.S.A., Scot.

Transactions of the Architectural Institute of Scotland. Vol. IV., Part I. 1854-5. By the INSTITUTE.

Portions of a Skull, and Fragments of Clay Urn, found in a Cist at Kinaldy near Kintore, and an Urn found in a Cist at Tillybin, in the parish of Kintore, were exhibited by Mr ALEXANDER WATT, Kintore.