

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION, 1856-57.  
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ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 1st *December* 1856.

THE REV. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The Office-Bearers of the Society were elected as follows :—

Patron.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President.

THE MOST HON. THE MARQUESS OF BREADALBANE.

Vice-Presidents.

ARCHIBALD T. BOYLE, Esq.

THE HON. LORD MURRAY.

COSMO INNES, Esq.

Councillors.

RICHARD HUIE, M.D.

PROFESSOR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M.D.

JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY OF

ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq.
 JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq.
 Rev. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D.
 JAMES T. GIBSON CRAIG, Esq.
 FRANCIS ABBOTT, Esq.
 THOMAS THOMSON, Esq.

Secretaries.

JOHN STUART, Esq., General Register House.
 JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D.
 DAVID LAING, Esq.,
 JOHN M. MITCHELL, Esq., } *for Foreign Correspondence.*

Treasurer.

THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq.

Curators of the Museum.

ROBERT FRAZER, Esq.
 BARRON GRAHAME, Esq.

Librarian.

ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, Esq.

Assistant Librarian.

Mr WILLIAM T. M'CUCCLOCH.

Auditors.

JAMES MACKNIGHT, Esq.
 CHARLES G. REID, Esq.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :—

The Right Hon. JOHN MELVILLE, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.
 EDWARD S. GORDON, Esq., Advocate.

The Rev. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D., the Vice-President who retires by rotation, then delivered the following Opening Address :—

“GENTLEMEN,—Twelve months ago, when, at the commencement of our session, I had the honour to address the Society from this chair, I took occasion to congratulate the Fellows on the auspicious condition of our now venerable Association, which, though then entering on its seventy-sixth session, not only showed no indications of decay, but was exhibiting symptoms of a fresh and vigorous re-juvenescence; and, on the strength of these symptoms, I ventured to prognosticate a session of fruit and of progress in that important branch of knowledge to which the Society is devoted. I am happy, in the retrospect of the business of last winter, to be assured that in that augury I was not mistaken. Whether I consider the numbers added during that period to our fellowship, the accessions made to our Museum of objects of value and of interest, the number and merits of the papers read at our meetings, or the general zeal and interest manifested by the Fellows in the objects of the Society, I am equally conducted to the gratifying conclusion, that in no respect has the working of the Society during the last session come short of its most successful efforts in preceding years.

There is, however, one reminiscence of the bygone year which we cannot recall without pensive emotions. I refer to the number of eminent persons, Fellows of this Society, of whom, in the course of the year, death has deprived us. When I read the following list, I am sure the meeting will feel that our loss on this account has been great :—

	Elected.
Sir GEORGE BALLINGALL, Kt., M.D., Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh,	1823
JAMES BOYD, Esq., LL.D., one of the Masters of the High School, Edinburgh,	1847
ALEXANDER CRAIG, Esq.,	1853
EDWARD FRASER, Esq.,	1851
Sir WILLIAM HAMILTON, Bart., Advocate, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh,	1814
LEWIS MARK MACKENZIE, Esq., of Findon, Inverness-shire,	1850
HON. WILLIAM H. LESLIE MELVILLE, one of the Directors of the Hon. East Company,	1847

We mourn the loss of such men. But calamities of this kind are incident to all human institutions : “ *Morti debemur nos nostraque* ;” it is the felicity of a society such as this that it always possesses the means of repairing such losses by the addition to its ranks of new members, from whose zeal and energy it may hope to receive fresh impulses and enlarged resources.

Among other gratifying occurrences in the past year, a very prominent place

must be assigned to the meeting in Edinburgh of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain. It was a source of peculiar gratification to the Fellows of this Society to welcome to our city,—so rich in objects of archæological interest,—the members of an Association devoted to kindred pursuits, and to many of whom the science of the past is deeply indebted for the extent of their researches and the accuracy of their inductions. We could not but hail their visit as tending to give a fresh impulse to archæological studies, not only by the prestige of their presence, but still more by the enlarged diffusion of information respecting the objects and materials of antiquarian research to which their meetings and exhibitions could not fail to give rise. We expected much also from the Museum, which they proposed to open during the period of their sittings, and which they possessed peculiar advantages for filling with objects of art and antiquity of great rarity, value, and interest. It is gratifying to know that the result more than surpassed our expectations; and it is with no ordinary pleasure that we now look back on the period of agreeable and profitable intercourse which we then enjoyed with our brethren from the south. We have reason to believe that the gratification was mutual,—that not only were our visitors pleased with the attentions they received from Fellows of this Society, but that they rejoiced to find here so many who could meet them on equal terms in their favourite walk, and reciprocate the instruction and interest which they received. Nor is it to be overlooked, that but one expression of opinion was elicited from them as to the value of our Museum, both as respects its contents and its arrangement, especially in its bearing on the illustration of our national antiquities. One defect, indeed, they could not but remark, and that was the utter inadequacy of the apartment in which the Museum is placed. For such a source of regret there *ought* to have been no cause, inasmuch as more than four years ago arrangements were made with the Treasury for the transference of our collections to suitable apartments in the Royal Institution. Why we are not now enjoying the benefit of these arrangements it is not for me to say; all I can say is, that the fault does not lie with the officers of the Society. Let us indulge the hope that their successors in office will be more fortunate than they have been in overcoming the obstacles which have hitherto prevented this desirable result.

And now, turning from the past to the future, I feel sure that it is altogether unnecessary for me to offer any exhortations to the Fellows of this Society to continue that zealous pursuit of its objects by which they have already distinguished themselves, and by which alone the ends of the Society can be fully attained. I may, however, remind you, that it is in the power of every one of us to promote the interests of this Society, if we will only lend it a fair measure

of our influence and activity. By regularly attending its meetings; by the contribution of papers to its "Proceedings;" by diffusing through our respective circles a favourable impression regarding its objects and operations; by endeavouring to induce competent persons to offer themselves as candidates for admission among its Fellows; by using means to divert valuable remains of antiquity into its Museum; and, by a general liveliness and watchfulness of interest in its prosperity,—we may not only sustain the Society in all its present efficiency, but greatly enlarge its sphere of operations, and augment its capacity for serving the science to which it is devoted.

In saying this, I am not desirous that we should extend our inquiries beyond the department to which they have hitherto been for the most part confined. The use of the term "Archæology," which has become of late the favourite designation of our science, has, I think, betrayed some into a wider conception of what we aim at than entered into the minds of the founders and early members of the Society, or than is, in my humble opinion, at all favourable to the success of our pursuits. That term, doubtless, signifies the *science*, or *rational digest*, of ancient things, and this would seem to require of us, as Scottish archæologists, the investigation and scientific comprehension of everything belonging to Scotland that bears on it the marks and hues of antiquity. In all departments, however, words are used to designate branches of human knowledge which are not to be taken in their strict etymological sense, but are to be understood according to a definition which usage—" *quem penes arbitrium est et jus et norma loquendi*"—has imposed upon them. So it is with the term "Archæology," which is never employed, I believe, in the wide sense which its etymology would seem to indicate, and which may be used with any modifications or limitations compatible with the retention of its fundamental idea. Hence, men may be true and zealous archæologists, though they leave unexamined many objects belonging to the past, and confine themselves to such as lie within a certain well-defined sphere. That sphere I take to be that which is determined by the *usages* and *products* of those who have lived in the ancient time. What they themselves were, to what race they belonged, or whence they migrated, or how they came to the place of their settled habitation, and by what deeds of battle or of enterprise they signalized their name, it is for other sciences, such as History and Ethnology, to declare. The province of the archæologist lies within the region of their every-day life, as existing upon a given locality; he has to ask how they lived,—in what way they used their ingenuity and labour to provide themselves with what might supply the necessities or minister to the luxuries of life,—what were the implements they used, the dwellings they erected, the garments they wore, the language they spoke, the food they used, the rites

they followed, and the methods they employed generally to secure the objects for which all men with more or less of intelligence seek. This I take to be the sphere, as respects our own country, which properly belongs to us as Scottish antiquaries; and I cannot but believe that no small advantage will accrue from our exploring this sphere to the full, and keeping ourselves to it.

I am not ignorant of the objections which are sometimes urged against such pursuits as those to which we are devoted, on the ground of their practical inutility; nor am I unmindful of the sneers and jests of which antiquaries are oftentimes made the objects by those who flatter themselves that they are prosecuting pursuits of a more dignified and profitable kind. Now, on the ground of mere mercantile utility, it may be granted that our Society has little to plead in bar of the condemnation which such persons would pronounce upon it. We have no hopes that our researches will materially augment the wealth of the country; we have not the vanity to suppose that our consultations will add much to its aggregate wisdom; and we never dream that out of our quiet little meetings will at any time spring any great scheme of commercial or social aggrandisement. But we have, at the same time, a firm conviction that our pursuits are far from frivolous, and that there may accrue from them advantages which those who believe that cheap food and superabundant capital do not constitute the sole or supreme end of man, will not fail to appreciate.

Let it be supposed that our meetings in this place are nothing more than a mere recreation: still I would ask, is that not worth something? Man needs recreation amid the pressure of the anxieties and toils of life; and is it not, I ask, an advantage when he can be supplied with such recreations as are at once honourable, refined, improving, and gentlemanly? If we do not regulate the wheels and pulleys by which the great machine of society works, is it nothing if we oil the machinery, so that the whole moves easily and pleasantly to its desired results?

Then, again, let me ask, is there no advantage from the intercourse of men of cultivated minds in such a Society as this,—men of different professions, tastes, and pursuits, but who all unite here in free communication and friendly discussion, desirous to make others participate in what each may have discovered in his own particular walk, and aiming to bring their united light to bear upon the illustration of the bygone life and manners of their country? For such reunions it is surely not too much to plead that they are public benefits, from the stimulus they communicate to inquiry, and the concentration and force they give to efforts which, but for them, might have been prosecuted feebly, because casually and by isolated energies.

But we must take higher ground. In pleading the cause of our Society, we

must not content ourselves with dwelling on such indirect and incidental advantages resulting from it as those at which I have glanced. The pursuits of the antiquary have in them a positive and substantial value, which only the thoughtless can overlook, or the ignorant despise. True it is, that sometimes his inquiries are directed to objects of little intrinsic value,—that oftentimes his researches are minute, and apparently trifling,—and that, compared with the students of other branches of knowledge, he may appear to as great disadvantage to the vulgar eye as the man who works with the microscope appears to the same eye compared with the man who works with the telescope. But who needs to be told that the revelations of the microscope have their value no less than those of the telescope? Who needs to be told that there are fields of profitable investigation, and sources of high and splendid thinking among the minute and otherwise inscrutable phenomena which the microscope reveals as well as amid those spacious and commanding domains over which the telescope aids us to sweep? And who does not know, that amongst the master builders of the temple of science there is a place of honour for him who brings his contributions from the minutiae of creation, as well as for him who draws upon the resources supplied by those larger masses which command the attention and excite the wonder of all men? We plead for a similar tribute to the worth of those confessedly microscopic inquiries in which the antiquary is frequently occupied. He may spend weeks in settling a date, and, after all, his labour may result in nothing more than the substitution of one cipher for another; he may pore over musty manuscripts, or half-defaced coins, until his eyesight becomes weakened, and, after all, he may only succeed in rectifying the spelling of a proper name, completing an insignificant genealogy, or deciphering an appellation of which no one has ever heard before; he may devote many hours to the study of forgotten tongues, and at last succeed in reading some commonplace epitaph or some trifling dedication, or in recovering from oblivion some half-dozen words which he can only very imperfectly explain; he may devote time, and money, and labour to the collecting of a museum of mere curiosities, and surround himself with objects which provoke, perhaps, only the marvel or ridicule of the multitude; he may become an authority in fragments of pottery, a judge in rusty keys and locks, a referee in all questions relating to the furniture or dress of our ancestors; and to the vulgar all this may appear very frivolous and worthless. But, let me ask, is it not out of correct dates and rightly-spelt names, and justly-deciphered monuments, that the stately muse of history draws oftentimes the materials for her most splendid generalizations! Has not a brief vocabulary of unconnected words, picked out of the slough in which some ancient tongue has perished, been more than once the guide which

has conducted the ethnologist to a point whence he could discover the abodes of tribes that have long since passed away, or descry through the dim shadows of the past the march of peoples in their migration from one shore to another? And now that attention is coming to be paid to the actual life and social condition of the people of former times as an essential branch of their history, is it not at the hand of the antiquary that the historian must receive the materials out of which he is to construct this part of his edifice? See, also, how one of the most commanding and progressive sciences of modern times, I mean geology, seems almost to demand the researches of the archæologist to complete that record of primeval man of which her readings among the earth's strata furnish the first traces. Geology has finished her lessons in this department when she has showed us at what stage in the world's progress man became a dweller on its surface; History begins her record far down below this, at the point where man has sought to perpetuate the remembrance of his being and actions by monuments; it is from Archæology, with her microscopic researches, and her nice, but at the same time comprehensive inductions, to fill up the vast gap which lies between, and so to complete the story of man as a dweller on the earth.

I trust I shall be pardoned for this protracted address. I have felt constrained, before leaving this chair, to utter my voice in commendation of the pursuits to which this Society is devoted; and with the sentiments to which I have given expression, I can do nothing less than close my career as one of your Vice-Presidents, by earnestly entreating every member of this Society to lend it his steady, hearty, and persevering support.

The Donations to the Museum and Library received during the recess were exhibited in the Hall of the Society.

December 15, 1856.

COSMO INNES, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

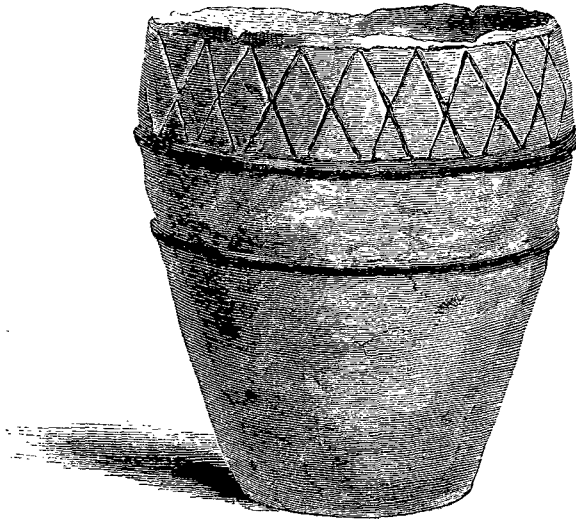
The Right Hon. the EARL OF STAIR was admitted a Fellow of the Society; The Hon. ROBERT HANDYSIDE, LORD HANDYSIDE, one of the Senators of the College of Justice; and JOHN WEBSTER, Esq., Lord Provost of Aberdeen, were elected Fellows of the Society.

There was sent for exhibition by the EARL OF STAIR, a Bronze Celt, found deeply imbedded in a Peat Moss on his Lordship's estate of Corsewall, Loch Ryan, Wigtonshire.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the donors:—

A Series of Plaster Casts, of various Celts, Brooches, Swords, and other Antiquities, found in Ireland. By the Right Hon. LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE.

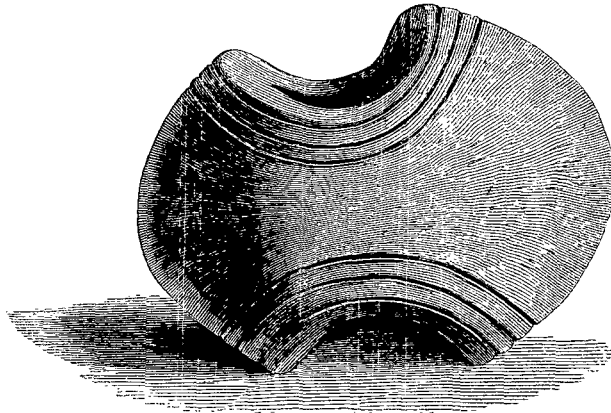
A Cinerary Urn of Baked Clay, 12 inches in height, 10 in diameter across the top, and 6 inches across the base, with an inter-



lacing pattern round the top. It is carefully figured here. The Urn contained calcined human bones, had flat stones laid both above and below it, and was found when some exploratory dig-

gings were made within a Circle of standing stones on the Hill of Tuack, near Kintore, in 1856; several other Urns were discovered at the same time; they were enclosed in small rounded pits dug out of the subsoil, and the stones which covered the Urns were about 18 inches below the surface of the ground: and a

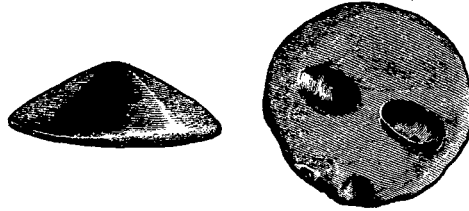
Stone Hammer or Battle Axe, formed of fine-grained mica schist, of a very rare and probably unique shape, 4 inches in length by 3 across, and perforated in the middle for the handle. It was



found in digging an intrenched "Druidical" Circle at Crichtie, near Inverury, Aberdeenshire. The careful drawing of the Battle Axe which is here given, as well as that of the Urn, by the kindness of Lord Kintore, will shew their peculiar character better than any detailed description. By the Right Hon. the EARL OF KINTORE.

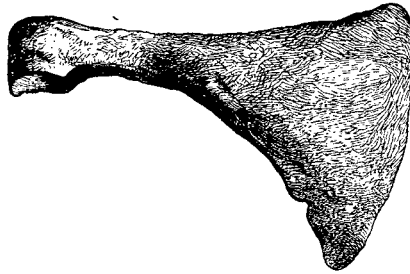
A Button or Fibula of Jet, 2 inches in diameter, of a rounded shape, conical above, and perforated obliquely on the under side, for attaching it to a cord or to the dress. It was found on Crawford

Moor, near Carstairs, Lanarkshire, and is figured in "Wilson's



Prehistoric Annals;" the annexed woodcut is kindly contributed by Messrs Sutherland and Knox, the publishers: and an

Antique Iron Hatchet or Axe-head (figured here), $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ across the face, found among the ruins of Birse



Castle, Aberdeenshire. By JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq., R.S.A. and F.S.A. Scot.

Bronze Axe-head or Celt, with rude incised ornament across its centre, of short diverging and crossing lines, made with a blunt point or punch. It is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ across its cutting edge, and was turned up by the plough on the farm of Kevans, Wigtonshire. By GAVIN RALSTON, Esq., Glasgow.

Stone Celt of jade or ragstone, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, by 2 inches in breadth across the broad end, found in a Peat Moss near Bishop-ton, Renfrewshire : and a

Roman Silver Coin of the Family *SERVILIA*,—Obverse : Winged and helmed head of Rome, underneath *ROMA*, behind, a garland, and below it *X*. Reverse : The Dioscuroi on horseback, riding in different directions, below, *C · SERVELLI · M · F ·* : also

Plaster Cast of the Cranium, and portions of an ornamented woven band, about 2 inches in breadth, now much decayed, and of the Silk Dress of an Ecclesiastic, recently discovered in a Sarcophagus in the Cathedral, Glasgow. By *J. C. ROGER, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.*

A Quarto Volume of Papers and MSS. relative to the Restoration of John Knox's House, collected by Dr D. Wilson ; arranged, with Drawings of Elevations, &c., by Mr W. T. M'Culloch, Assistant Librarian. By *DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot., Toronto.*

The following Communications were read :—
