

### III.

NOTICE OF CISTS RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON THE SEA-SHORE AT  
LUNDY, IN FIFE. COMMUNICATED BY MRS DUNDAS DURHAM OF  
LARGO.

The stone coffins or cists were found by the workmen engaged in a quarry on the Lundin estate, the property of the Standard Insurance

<sup>1</sup> The above communication has since been published under the same title in a separate form. Edinburgh: Thomas Constable & Co., 1858. 8vo, pp. 32,

Company: it is close to the sea, and about a quarter of a mile west from Largo Station. They were buried in a loose sandy soil, which covers the sandstone rock of the quarry. The workmen state that many such have been found in the Lundin Links: thirteen since the opening of this quarry three years ago, besides two others while digging the foundations of Largo Station. One of the workmen found another several years since, on the low sandy point called Shooter's Point, which bounds Largo Bay on the east. This coffin was discovered in consequence of the wind having carried away the shifting sand in which it was buried. The recent discoveries consist of four coffins; two within the last fortnight, by the workman who had already been a witness to the finding of those at the Station.

The last two were found a few feet from each other, one at a depth of three feet, the other at a depth of about six feet. Probably they were originally at the same distance below the surface, as the loose shifting sand has been drifted into a hillock above the latter. This is shown by the black line of decayed vegetation which is distinctly seen on the side of the quarry, marking the ancient surface of the Links. Both coffins were three feet below this line. The coffins are not sarcophagi, but rather rude vaults built of roughly-hewn slabs put together without mortar, two or three stones to a side. These slabs were about three inches in thickness, and are lying among other stones at the quarry. The skeletons were perfect, said the workmen—the teeth large, white, and firmly set. One of the skeletons was very large, and the head had been cloven by a wound; none of the other bones were broken. This wound must have been inflicted before burial, as the workmen asserted the coffin to have been in perfect preservation, and the lid not touching the skull. The size of the brow seems to have attracted the attention of the finders. It is impossible to obtain possession of a single bone, as they have all been carried off by different people; but inquiries will be made at once, and the result communicated without delay. (Some fragments subsequently recovered were presented to the museum of the Society.) The quarrymen say they are certain of finding more remains, and refer at once to the strong local tradition of the ancient battle as accounting for the number of coffins which they have found.