II.

THE LAW OF TREASURE TROVE—HOW IT CAN BE BEST ADAPTED TO ACCOMPLISH USEFUL RESULTS. By A. HENRY RHIND, Esq., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot.

In this paper Mr Rhind commenced by a description of the method now followed in asserting the rights of the Crown to relics found in Scotland; from which it appeared that the claim extended to every ancient relic, from a bone pin to a gold torque, and was enforced through the Procurators-Fiscal of the various counties by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. Mr Rhind proceeded to show how, under this system, the finders of relics were tempted to conceal and dispose of them; and stated that a very small proportion of those found every year were ever preserved for any useful purpose. He gave the result of inquiries made on the spot, and subsequently gathered from Mr Worsaae by letter, of the working of the system pursued in Denmark, which has led to a national store of antiquities such as few other countries can boast of. This interesting paper concluded with some practical suggestions, with the view of securing the more regular transmission to Exchequer of all relics, and of obviating the temptation to destruction which now exists, by allowing to the finder the full bullion value of all objects of the precious metals.

A committee was nominated with the view of reporting on Mr Rhind's suggestions, in the hope that some practical improvement on the present system might be adopted.[1]