

## V.

NOTICE OF A COFFIN CUT OUT OF THE SOLID ROCK, CONTAINING AN URN, &c., DISCOVERED AT FERNE, FORFARSHIRE. BY A. JERVISE, Esq., COR. MEM. S.A. SCOT., BMECHIN.

Red sandstone rock, of rather a soft kind, abounds so much in the neighbourhood of the church and manse of Ferne, that the bottom of the common highway adjoining is mostly formed of the bare stone. It was in 1851, while foundations were being dug for new offices at the manse, that an ancient grave was discovered, cut out of the solid rock, and carefully covered with flag-stones.

The grave was about six feet long, and, at first sight, the skeleton seemed pretty entire. The head lay to the north-west, and the feet to the south-east. At the feet lay a small earthenware vessel, about the size of a common teacup, of a bluish colour, and about half filled with clammy stuff resembling candle-grease. The vessel appeared to have been rolled up in a piece of cloth, remains of which were around it. A brass pin was found near the breast. The pin was about three inches long, with a slight curve or bend upon it, and had a diamond-shaped head of the same metal. Both articles lay some time about the manse, but ultimately disappeared. The kirk was dedicated to St Ninian.

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MONDAY, 8th March 1858.

SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL of Barcaldine, Bart., in the Chair.

The Donations presented included the following:—

Iron Thumbscrews or “Thumbikins,” with Padlock for keeping them shut, Screw-Key, and large Links of Iron Chain, attached;

A Richly Cut and Ornamented Cabinet Key, stamped with a crown and the letters—C [crown] R 2.

A small Drinking-Horn, with curious rude emblems—the thistle, rose, animals, &c.—engraved on it, and the letters

J · A · 1699  
I · R E M M E  
B N

By WILLIAM W. HAY NEWTON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Genealogical Table of the Dalriadic Kings, and of the principal Highland Families descended from them. Compiled by William Reeves, D.D. A copy printed on Vellum; and

A Genealogical Table of the early Abbots of Hy. Constructed by William Reeves, D.D. By the AUTHOR.

Transactions of the Bombay Geographical Society (new issue), from March 1856 to March 1857. 8vo. Vol. XIII. Bombay. By the SOCIETY.

History of Wisconsin. Compiled by direction of the Legislature of the State, by William R. Smith. Madison, Wisconsin, 1854. 8vo. Vols. I. and III.;

Second Annual Report of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Vol. II. 1855; and

Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, 2 vols. 8vo, 1852–1853, and other Publications connected with the History of Wisconsin. By the WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The following Communications were read :—