

NOTICE OF THE BURG OF MOUSA IN SHETLAND. BY SIR HENRY DRYDEN, BART. COMMUNICATED BY JOHN STUART, ESQ., SEC. S.A. SCOT.

Mr Stuart read a communication to him from Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., on the present state of the Burg or Round Tower of Mousa, in Shetland.

In the northern parts of Scotland and adjacent islands, there are numerous specimens, mostly in a state of partial ruin, of structures called "Burgs," and which may be termed circular towers with chambers and galleries in the walls.

Of these, the burg on the little island of Mousa, one of the Shetland group, is in every way the most interesting (a sketch of it, from a drawing by Sir Henry Dryden, is given in Plate IX.) It is also as yet the most entire. According to Sir Henry Dryden, Mousa consists of a circular wall, 13 feet 6 inches thick at the base, with a series of chambers and stairs in the thickness of the wall, and 41 feet in height.

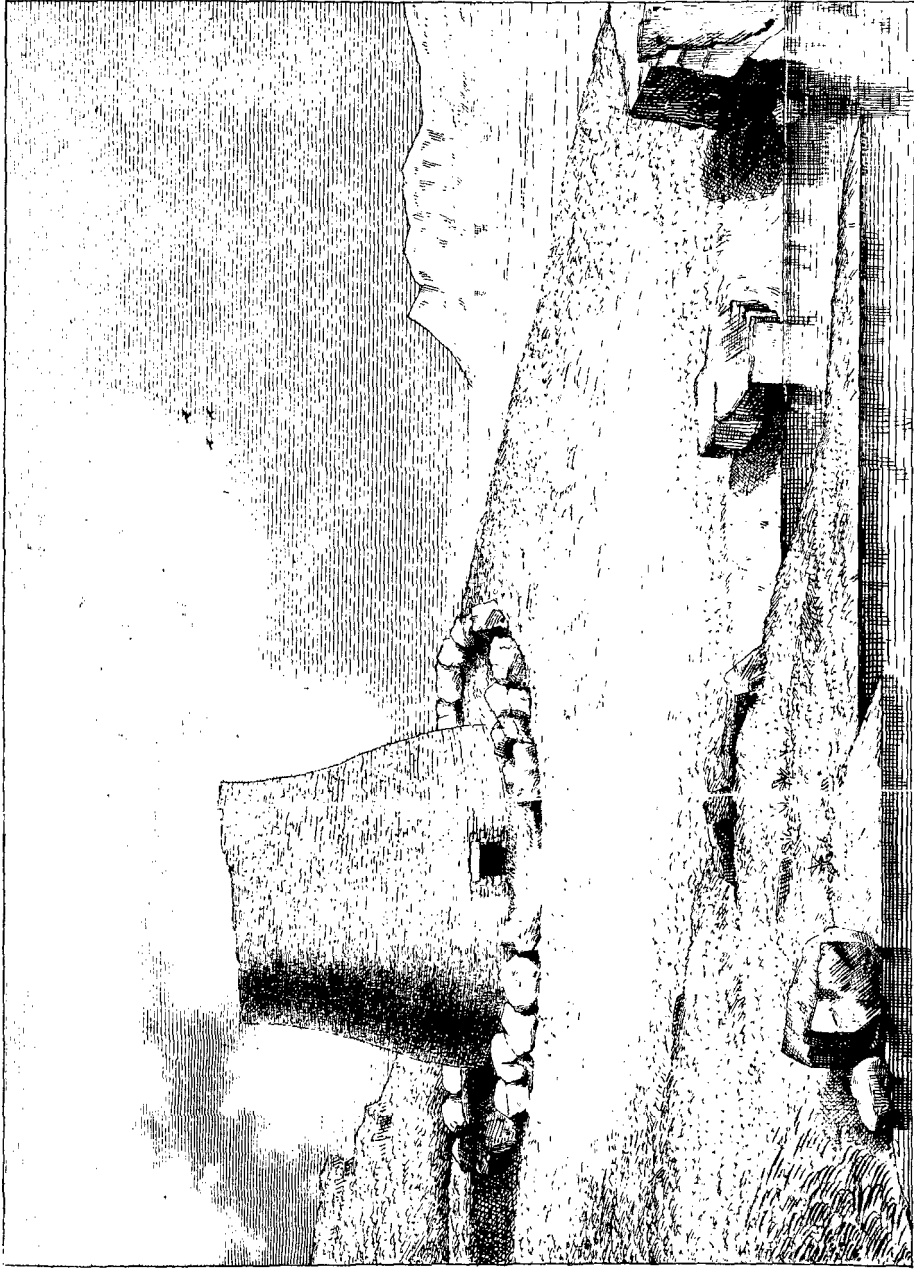
Unfortunately its present condition is far from satisfactory; and, according to the recent report of a practical architect, it is likely to go

¹ Mr Salt's design in the latter part of his paper is to show that AMOBYR (Welsh, "Am" for, and "Gwobyr" a fee or recompense), was a fee or reward paid to the lord for defending the honour of his tenant's daughter before her marriage, and not a compensation for not violating it, at her marriage. *Vide* Enquiry into the Origin of the Mercheta Mulierum, by J. Anderson, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.; Archæol. Scot., vol. iii. p. 56.

rapidly into ruin, unless its decay be arrested by timely and judicious repairs.

Some months ago Sir Henry Dryden called public attention to these circumstances; and a desire has thus been awakened to have the necessary repairs executed in the course of the ensuing season.

Mousa is a monument of the art of the early inhabitants of Scotland, and must always be interesting to those who are engaged in inquiries into their social condition. It is therefore manifestly desirable that it should be preserved in as complete a state as possible, for examination and comparison hereafter. Both the proprietor and Sir Henry agree to contribute, and the latter now invited the Fellows of the Society and others interested to join with them. A Committee was proposed, and accordingly appointed, with the view of raising the necessary funds and getting the repairs executed.



W. & A. Johnston, Lithog.

VIEW OF MOUSA

Remains of the Pictish Monuments of Argyllshire, Scotland