

TREASURE TROVE.

THE SECRETARY reported the result of the applications to the Treasury by the Society and the Commissioners of Supply throughout Scotland on the subject of Treasure Trove. Various steps were also suggested and approved of, which it would be necessary to take, with the view of making the new arrangements generally known.

As this is a subject of considerable importance, we subjoin copies of the letters from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury :—

“EXCHEQUER CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH,
24th January 1859.

“SIR,—With reference to your letter to me of 12th June 1858, and the several applications from the Commissioners of Supply in Scotland to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury on the subject of Treasure Trove, I beg leave to acquaint you that my Lords have been pleased to authorise me to pay Rewards to the finders of Ancient Coins or other Relics of Antiquity in Scotland, not exceeding in amount the intrinsic value of the articles, on their delivering them up on behalf of the Crown, and upon condition that the allowance by the Crown is to be confined to such rewards, and the expense of printing the necessary notices.

“I beg also to acquaint you that I caused a notice on the subject to be inserted in the North British Advertiser of the 22d instant, and gave directions that it be continued therein for a period of six weeks; and I now send you copy of a circular letter addressed by me to the several Procurators Fiscal on the same subject, and two thousand copies of a handbill for the purpose of being distributed throughout Scotland in such manner as the Society of Antiquaries shall think proper.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

“JOHN HENDERSON,
Q. & L. T. R.

“JOHN STUART, Esq.,
Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries.”

“EXCHEQUER CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH,
January 1859.

“SIR,—With reference to my Circular Letter of 25th November 1846, in relation to TREASURE TROVE, I beg leave to annex Copy of a Notice I have caused to be promulgated, informing the discoverers of all such Articles, that they will receive, through this Department, Rewards equal in amount to their full intrinsic value, on their delivering them up on behalf of the Crown.

“I beg, at the same time, to say, that this new arrangement is not

intended to disturb the instructions given to the Procurators-Fiscal in the Circular Letter above referred to, but that in cases where the articles are not voluntarily given up, you are still to take the necessary steps for recovery of the same, on behalf of the Crown, and report the cases to me. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

“*To the Procurator-Fiscal at —*”

“JOHN HENDERSON,
Q. & L. T. R.”

“TREASURE TROVE, &c., APPERTAINING TO THE CROWN.

“The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury having been pleased to authorise the payment to Finders of Ancient Coins, Gold or Silver Ornaments, or other Relics of Antiquity in Scotland, of the actual value of the Articles, on the same being delivered up for behoof of the Crown, I now give notice to all Persons who shall hereafter make discoveries of any such Articles, that on their delivering them up, on behalf of the Crown, to the Sheriffs of the respective Counties in which the discoveries may take place, they will receive, through this Department, Rewards equal in amount to the full intrinsic value of the Articles.”

“JOHN HENDERSON,
Q. & L. T. R.”

“QUEEN’S AND LORD TREASURER’S REMEMBRANCER’S OFFICE,
EXCHEQUER CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH,
20th January 1859.”

Our Society has also communicated with some of the other Archæological Societies, and the annexed letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of the Archæological Institute:—

“ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
26 SUFFOLK STREET, PALL MALL,
8th February 1859.”

“DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of various interesting papers which you had the kindness to send me, regarding the recent adjustment in Scotland of the important question of Treasure Trove.

“At the monthly meeting of our Society, on the 5th inst., I took occasion to bring before the Members this highly gratifying communication, and

to explain the proceedings which had led to so desirable a result. The discussion which thus arose terminated with an unanimous and cordial vote of congratulation to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, on having realised, through a well-directed and energetic movement, a result of such high importance to the interests of Archæological science. We hope that your good example may lead to some more active movement in our own country.—I remain, yours very faithfully,

“ALBERT WAY.”

The Communications read were as follows :—