

V.

NOTICE OF THE "QUIGRICH," OR CROZIER OF SAINT FILLAN. BY DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., HON. MEM. S.A. SCOT., PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, TORONTO.

Mr Laing read the following extracts of a letter he had just received from Dr Wilson in reference to the Crozier of Saint Fillan, and presented the three photographs of the relic sent to the Society.

"UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO, *March 7, 1859.*

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have this week despatched to my brother, through a private opportunity, three photographic views of the *Quigrich* to be handed over to you for the Society of Antiquaries. From the nature of the object, it does not admit so readily of copying by means of photograph as some other articles would; but the views will at any rate give you some tolerable means of judging of the original; and if they recall the sender to some of my old friends I shall be gratified. I have made a careful drawing, and purpose to have it lithographed for the *Canadian Journal*. If I get it at all well executed, I shall send you copies. Would you kindly communicate to me anything additional to what is already published in the *Transactions* about the *Quigrich*? Does Barbour say anything about it in the *Bruce*? I have not yet had an opportunity of conversing with Alexander Dewar, the owner of the *Quigrich*, and his use of the pen is by no means that of a ready writer. When I can get hold of him, I shall submit to you any traditions or superstitions associated with the relic that I can glean from him; meanwhile, here are its dimensions. (See Plate XXVI.) It is silver gilt, massive, and wrought on a copper core. The price asked for it must, I fear, preclude the idea of its return to Scotland, but I was sorry that you so summarily rejected my proposal. I was in hope that, stimulated by a liberal promise from you, Scotsmen might ultimately be induced here to co-operate so heartily that we might be able to dispense with your aid. But your letter put an effectual stop to any effort; and the present state of financial affairs here does not admit of any renewal of the attempt."

This allusion has reference to a letter which Dr Wilson had previously

addressed to Mr Laing on the subject, to be laid before the Society, in the hope that the Members would exert themselves to raise a very considerable sum for purchasing this valuable and interesting relic. The price, however, that was set upon it rendered the proposed scheme impracticable. This letter, dated June 1st, 1858, begins as follows:—

“ Since I came to Canada, I have made repeated attempts to get sight of the *Quigrich* of Saint Fillan, of which you know; and now at length have it lying before me. I need not remind you that it is figured in Vol. III. of the *Archæologia Scotica*, and copied from it in my *Prehist. Annals*. The drawing, however, is by no means accurate. It is a most beautiful and massive relic, and one which it is lamentable to think should be anywhere out of Scotland. You have nothing in the Museum, not even the *Maiden*, to compare with it in historic interest; and its beauty as a work of art will compare with anything in the R. I. Academy at Dublin. I have accordingly been trying if it is possible to secure it for Edinburgh. The owner puts no slight value on it. He deliberately asks L.500 Halifax currency, equal to L.400 sterling; and as he refused L.300 from Lord Elgin, I do not anticipate any abatement.”

Dr Wilson has, since the date of these letters, communicated a detailed account of the *Quigrich*, and a full-sized drawing as a plate, to the “*Canadian Journal*,” No. XXIV., 1859. Separate copies of this communication have been received and distributed amongst the author’s friends in this country; the Society voting their cordial thanks to Dr Wilson for the patriotic interest he has taken in the endeavour to secure this precious relic for our national Museum.

The relic itself being so interesting, it was thought of sufficient importance to take this occasion of giving, from the various drawings and photographs, an accurate representation of it in the Society’s Proceedings: see Plate XXVI. It may be added, that there is a variety in the pattern on the two sides of the Crozier; the lozenge-shaped divisions of the ornament on the side figured being more regular, both in shape and size, than on the other side. Some early and interesting documents connected with this Crozier are printed in the “*Spalding Miscellany*,” vol. iii., and in the Preface by Mr Innes to “*The Black Book of Taymouth*,” p. xxxv. Edin. 1855, 4to.



Rubbing from end of Crozier.



From a Photograph.

Engr. by W.A.A.K. Johnson, Edinburgh.

THE QUIGRICH OF ST FILLAN.

TUESDAY, 19th April 1859.

The Rev. WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were balloted for, and admitted Fellows of the Society :—

ROBERT HUTCHISON of Carlowrie, Esq.

JOHN PATON, Esq.

Mr STUART reported from the Committee on the subject of Treasure Trove, that upwards of 10,000 copies of the official circulars, announcing the new arrangements whereby the finders of ancient remains in gold and silver will be entitled to receive from the Exchequer their full intrinsic value on being delivered up, have now been distributed in the various counties of Scotland.

The Museum of the Society was now necessarily closed, in order to enable the Curators to make arrangements for the approaching removal of its contents to the new apartments in the Royal Institution.

The following donations to the Library and Museum were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the donors :—

The Roman Wall, and Illustrations of the principal Vestiges of Roman Occupation in the North of England, consisting of plans of the military works, the stations, camps, ancient ways, and other remains of the earlier periods, in the northern counties. From original surveys made by direction of His Grace the DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G. By HENRY MACLAUCHLAN. (Printed for private distribution.) Folio. London, 1857.

Memoir written during a Survey of the Roman Wall, through the Counties of Northumberland and Cumberland, in the years 1852–1854, made by direction of His Grace the DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G. By HENRY MACLAUCHLAN. 8vo. London (Printed for private circulation). 1858.

The Watling Street: The chief line of Roman communication leading across the counties of Durham and Northumberland, from the river Swale to the Scotch border. With enlarged plans of the stations and camp ad-

jaçant to the line. From original surveys made by direction of His Grace the DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G. By HENRY MACLAUHLAN. In one vol. folio. London, 1852.

Memoir written during a Survey of the Watling Street, from the Tees to the Scotch Border, in the years 1850-1851. Made by direction of his Grace the DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, on the occasion of the meeting of the Archæological Institute at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. By HENRY MACLAUHLAN. 8vo. London, 1852.

By His Grace the DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G.

Bronze Armlet found near Plunton Castle, Kirkcudbrightshire. By WILLIAM M'EWEN, Esq., M.D., Chester.

It was first exhibited at a meeting of the Archæological Institute, London, 9th January 1859, and is figured (see annexed woodcut) and described in the "Archæological Journal," No. 62, pp. 194, 195, as follows:—

"A Bronze Armlet, found in a turbary near Plunton Castle, co. Kirkcudbright, in 1826. About four miles to the east of the spot are remains of an extensive encampment, supposed to be of the Roman period, called

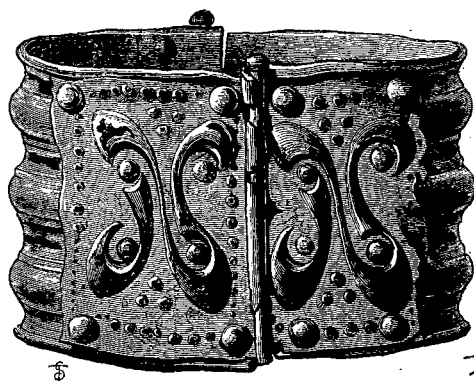


Fig. 1.

VII h. 348
 XX h. 351

the Doon of Enrick, near the locality known as Gatehouse of Fleet. This curious relic is formed of thin bronze plate, with ribs and ornaments hammered up, and minute punctures, of which the intention is

uncertain ; it consists of two pieces, which are hinged together, so that the armband might readily be opened, and adjusted to the arm. The ornamentation, as will be seen by the accompanying woodcut (fig. 1, original size), is of the peculiar type, of which a bronze scabbard found near the Pentland Hills, and an unique bronze collar found in Roxburghshire, are good examples. Both those objects are in the Museum of the Antiquaries of Scotland, and they have been figured in Dr Wilson's 'Pre-historic Annals,' pp. 441, 451. Various objects which appear to belong to the same period and class of ancient remains have also been found in England ; their origin has been ascribed to the Celtic races, and most probably to the tribes inhabiting Britain. Their peculiar character will be exemplified in the 'Horæ Ferales,' announced for publication by the late Mr Kemble, and which Mr Franks has undertaken to edit. See some remarks on these relics in the 'Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London,' Vol. IV. p. 144."

[To allow the reader to compare the peculiar character of the ornamentation on the different articles referred to in this quotation, we have



Fig. 2.

given the annexed sketches (figs. 2 and 3), for the use of which the Society is indebted to Messrs Sutherland and Knox, publishers, Edinburgh.

The bronze ornament or collar referred to (see woodcut, fig. 2), which is in the Museum of the Society, was found about seven feet from the surface, when digging a well, in 1747, at the east end of the village of Stichel, Roxburghshire. This collar, like the armlet, has a hinge in the middle of one side, so as to admit of its being put on and off at pleasure; the long diameter of the oval opening, the transverse one, measures 6 inches, by $5\frac{1}{6}$ inches across. It has been supposed by some that it might have been worn on the head, but appears more probably to have been used as a collar, from its size, as well as by the arrangement of its hinge, and the general style of its ornamentation; the flat, and most richly ornamented portion being placed apparently where it would be best seen, lying on the front of the neck; the vertical hinged portion being at the back part. The character of the ornament on it, as seen in the woodcut (fig. 2), is exactly similar to that on the armlet, and the arrangement for the opening and shutting of each is similar. On the bronze scabbard (woodcut, fig. 3) referred to, which was found near the Pentland Hills, and is also in the Museum of the Society, the similarity of the ornament is not so exact, though the resemblance is very considerable. It measures $23\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch across the top. Its form is very peculiar, and if it was used as a scabbard, would appear to be adapted for receiving only an exceedingly narrow and sharp-pointed blade.]

Six Specimens of ancient round-shaped Urns of different sizes and shapes, some ornamented with wavy lines in red colour; found in ancient tombs and cairns at Coimbatore, near the Neilgherries, India. By ALEX. HUNTER, Esq., M.D.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Vol. IV. No. 47, 8vo. London, 1857. List of the Society of Antiquaries of London, April 1858, 8vo. By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON.

Ant. Monstable

31*

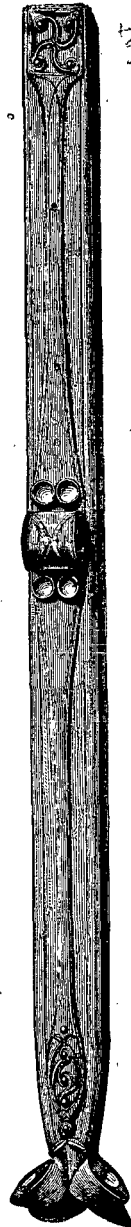


Fig. 3.

Canadian Journal, New Series, No. XV. for May 1858. 8vo. Toronto, 1858. By the CANADIAN INSTITUTE, Toronto.

The following communication was read :—