

II.

NOTICE OF THE ACCOUNT-BOOK OF ANDREW HALYBURTON, CONSERVATOR OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE SCOTTISH NATION IN THE LOW COUNTRIES, A.D. 1493—A.D. 1504. BY JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

There is preserved in the Register House an old merchant's book, a folio of about 300 leaves, in the original binding of leather, handsomely tooled, and strengthened by bands secured by parchment thongs, as in modern account-books.

It is the ledger of Andrew Halyburton, a Scottish merchant, of the first rank in his day, who held the high office of Conservator of the Privileges of the Scottish Nation in the Netherlands—or, as we should now express it, was Scotch Consul at Middleburg. He had his headquarters in that town, but transacted business also in the neighbouring cities of Bruges and Antwerp. His dealings were chiefly, or altogether, on behalf of Scotsmen, and he is often found in Edinburgh, settling old accounts, or arranging new ventures, while he discharged, at the same time, the statutory condition of his office, "that the Conservatour of Scotland cum yeirlie hame, or send ane responsale procuratour for him." He bought and sold chiefly on commission, charging a percentage for his brokerage, or, as he calls it, his "service." The volume extends over a period of about twelve years, from August 1493 to January 1505. Each account is piously superscribed with the name of "Jesus;" and, where the customer was a trader, the merchant's mark, which was cut upon his boxes, or written upon his bales, is figured in the ledger.

The first account in the book is that of the Archbishop of St Andrews. It is followed by others of name and note, such as the Duke of Ross, the king's brother; Bishop William Elphinstone, founder of the University of Aberdeen; the Abbot of Holyrood; the Archdeacon of St Andrews; Walter Chapman, the first printer in Scotland; John Smollet, the ancestor of the great Scottish novelist of the last century; and that Master Richard Lawson, Justice-Clerk, whose son, as Pitscottie tells us, appealed to the mercy of God from the spectral summons of death and doom which rang at midnight from the Cross of Edinburgh on the eve of Flodden.

Halyburton's ledger shows very clearly what was the foreign or over-sea trade of Scotland at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

The exports were the raw produce of a rude country—wool, hides and skins, and fish. Occasionally, a pack of cloth appears—of that coarse manufacture, we may presume, which was afterwards known by the name of "plaiding." Once I find mention of a bale of linen; and once I see money remitted to Scotland to buy pearls. But these are exceptional instances. The staple exports were, as has been said, wool, hides, and fish. As many, at least, as thirteen kinds of wool are enumerated—some taking name from their colour or quality, such as "white," "brown," "middling," and "lambs;" others distinguished by the place of production or export, such as "Aberdeen's wool," "Galloway wool," "New-bottle wool," and "Forest wool"—that is, wool from the sheepwalks of Yarrow and Ettrick. Only two sorts of hides and skins are distinguished—lentryn ware and futefell. The fish are salmon, and now and then a barrel of salmon trouts, and salmon grilse, or "grysollis," as it is written.

The imports are of almost every commodity which we can conceive to have been used in Scotland in that age. When the King's College at Aberdeen was to be built, wheelbarrows were brought from the Netherlands; and even an article of such easy manufacture and costly carriage as salt is imported in considerable quantities, doubtless, for curing salmon, for which, as I learn elsewhere, Scotch salt was held unsuitable, even so late as the reign of King Charles II. The staple imports were manufactures of silk, linen, and woollen; fruits, spiceries, and drugs; jewellery and plate; and wine, of which four sorts are distinguished—claret, Gascony claret, Rhenish wine, and malvoisie. John of Pennycuik imports an image of St Thomas-à-Becket, bought from a painter in Antwerp. More than one tombstone is shipped to a Scottish order from Middleburg. Once I find "a kist of buikis" for a physician in Aberdeen, and once a payment to a bookbinder in Bruges. Paper is often named; and there is mention of pestles and mortars, basins of brass, chamber mats, many articles of church plate, gold and silver foil, vermilion, red and white lead, beds of arras, down pillows, and pins.

The character of Halyburton's business will, perhaps, be best illustrated by a glance at the account of one of his customers. I take that of Robert Bellenden, Abbot of Holyrood, of whose munificence we have

record in the pages of his kinsman, the translator of Hector Boece's "Chronicles of Scotland." For "my Lord of Holyroodhouse," then, as he is styled, our merchant sells the wool of the sheep which ranged the Abbey's pastures in Tweeddale, and the skins and hides of the sheep and cattle which were slaughtered for the table at Holyrood. In return, he buys claret and other wines, apples, olives, oranges, figs, raisins, almonds, rice, loaf sugar, ginger, mace, pepper, saffron, and large quantities of apothecaries' wares.

There is frequent mention of banks; but it need scarcely be added that no Scottish bank is named. Halyburton himself, however, performs many of the offices of a banker, such as advancing moneys, and paying bills, and making remittances. These last are chiefly to Rome, on behalf of churchmen, for the purchase of bulls and dispensations. When occasion offers, the Conservator is found standing by his countrymen like a true brother Scot. When John of Tweedy sickens on the banks of the Scheldt, our merchant sends a Scottish priest to be with him in his illness, and at his death. When Robert Rhind leaves Middleburg for Calais, our merchant sends a messenger after him to warn him of a Lombard who is set to arrest him as he passes through Gravelines; bribes a barber's son to be his guide; and gives drink silver to enable him to pass through the ports of Bruges, after these were closed for the night.

The course of trade which Halyburton's ledger brings before us tallies to the letter with the contemporary description of Scottish commerce which we possess in the well-known "Bibel of English Policy"—a rude metrical tract, believed to have been written towards the close of the fifteenth century. Enumerating the exports of Scotland, the English author says:—

"Also over all Scotland the comoditees
Are felles, hides, and of wolle the flees.
All this must passe by us away,
Into Flaundes, by England, it is no nay."

The Scottish imports from Flanders, the staple of her merchandise, are,—

. "little mercerye
And great plenty of haberdashe ware,
And with cart wheles bare,
And barowes are laden in substaunce."

In other words, Scotland exported to Flanders fells or skins, hides, and wool, and imported mercery, haberdashery, cart wheels, and barrows.

MONDAY, 13th *February*, 1860.

PROFESSOR J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were balloted for and elected Fellows of the Society :—

GEORGE J. ALLMAN, M.D., Regius Professor of Natural History,
University of Edinburgh.
ANDREW CURRIE, Esq., Sculptor, Darnick.
REV. JOHN HANNAH, D.C.L., Trinity College, Glenalmond.
DAVID MILNE HOME, of Milnegraden, Esq.
JAMES REID, Esq., Banker, Edinburgh.

Mr Stuart reported that the arrangements proposed by the Council for admission to the Museum had now been sanctioned by the Treasury and the Board of Manufactures. By these the Museum is to be open to the public, free of charge, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, and on Thursday and Friday at a charge of sixpence.

The Donations to the Museum and Library were as follows :—

Collection of Affghan weapons, &c., detailed in the annexed list, and accompanied with the following note to the Secretary :—

“ I beg leave to send you herewith, for presentation to your Society’s Museum, the various articles specified in the annexed list, which, though not strictly ‘*Antiquities*,’ may possibly, for the sake of comparison with similar objects in the Museum, be considered as forming an acceptable addition to the Society’s treasures.

“ The whole of these articles were collected by my late brother, Major Alexander Robertson, of the Bengal Artillery, in the course of campaigns in which he was engaged in India; and the dates, places, and manner of their acquisition will be found specified in the annexed list. For this

reason the articles in question are viewed with much interest by my family and myself; and accordingly, in now presenting them to the Society, I have merely to request that, in so far as consistent with your arrangements, these articles may be kept as much as possible together, and that, as labelled and catalogued, they may be specially associated with the name of my late brother as their collector."

LIST OF ARTICLES REFERRED TO.

An Affghan Knife got in the Khyber Pass when forced in January and April 1842 ;

A Suit of Seikh Armour, got before Mooltan, January 1849 ; consisting of solid steel head-piece, with chain hood attached ; chain shirt or coat, with leggings to correspond ; and solid steel armlets (inlaid), with chain gauntlets attached ;

A Seikh Goorchara's Jacket (green cloth, embroidered), taken on the field of Goojerat, 21st February 1849 ;

A Googeratee Sword and Scabbard, also taken there, having a Persian inscription on the blade ;

Three Seikh Matchlocks, also taken at Goojerat—two of them with curiously-wrought barrels, and the third with bronzed barrel inlaid ;

Eight Burmese Books or MSS., taken from the monasteries at Prome, when the place was captured on 9th October 1852.

By GEO. B. ROBERTSON, Esq., W.S., Deputy Keeper of Records, H.M. General Register-House, Edinburgh, F.S.A. Scot.

Two leaf-shaped flint Arrow-Heads, and Arrow-Head with stem and barbs, found in the parishes of Birnie and St Andrews Lhanbryd, Elgin. By GEO. B. ROBERTSON, Esq., W.S., F.S.A. Scot.

Two rudely-formed flint leaf-shaped Arrow-Heads, and two flint Arrow-Heads with barbs and stem ; found in the sandhills at Moy, in the neighbourhood of Forres. By Miss SOPHIA CUMMING of Altyre.

Leaf-shaped flint Arrow-Head, found in the parish of Alford, Aberdeenshire. By JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Bronze Dagger or Spear-Head, with narrow blade, 13 inches in length ; found near the Roman camp at Ardoch. By Mr. W. MACKENZIE, Blackford.

Three sun-dried Bricks, from the western bank of the Nile, near Thebes, stamped with various devices; and

Five Mummy Ibises, from Sakkara Mummy-pits. Two are in narrow clay jars, 16 inches high. By Miss L. L. TROTTER of Dreghorn.

“The bricks were taken from a ‘crude brick enclosure’ on the western bank of the Nile at Thebes, about half-way between the temple-palace of Gournoo and the Rameseum or Memnomium. This enclosure (*vide* Sir G. Wilkinson’s “Modern Egypt and Thebes”) “contained within it a sandstone temple, dating probably in the reign of the third Thothmes, whose name is stamped on the bricks, and who appears to have been the contemporary of Moses.” The bricks were originally 16 or 18 inches in length, but were reduced in size in order to pack them more easily. Although they were all taken from the same wall, the bricks are variously stamped. They have all a “Sun” and a “Scarabeus,” but the rest of the impression is different in them all. Three have been sent. In *one*, though unfortunately broken, the cartouche is very distinct. Four Mummied Ibises have been sent—two of them in the cylindrical earthenware jars in which they were originally hermetically sealed, and in which they are closely packed in the Sakkara mummy pits, which extend nearly from Sakkara to Memphis, many feet below the surface of the ground. A broken one which has been sent will be found to be an Ibis, as the feathers, quills, and bones of the legs show. Small shells are also sometimes found inside them.”

Brønze Axe-Head or Celt, 6 inches long, and 4 inches across face; found at Inchnadamf, Sutherlandshire. By ARTHUR MITCHELL, M.D., Deputy-Commissioner in Lunacy.

Gold Armlet, formed of a twisted fillet of gold, with hooked extremities, and weighing 8 pennyweights; found in a Pictish Burg at the head of Lochbroom, Ross-shire. By HUGH MACKENZIE, Esq., of Ardross, through W. F. SKENE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Specimen of so-called “Coal Ring-Money,” consisting of a disk of jet or bituminous shale 7 inches across, with a perforation in the centre $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. By Mr YOUNG, plumber, Dunse, through DAVID MILNE HOME, Esq.

“This article was found in the neighbourhood of Dunse, Berwickshire, on the estate of the Marquis of Breadalbane. Mr Young, plumber,

Dunse, having contracted to lay metal pipes to conduct water into the town, he employed labourers to cut a track for the pipes. In cutting this track (March 1859), his people, when at the foot of Harden's Hill, and at a depth of about two feet from the surface, in a grass field, about five hundred yards from Harden's House, found the article in question, and delivered it to Mr. Young. Mr. Milne Home, of Milnegraden, having seen it in Mr. Young's shop in Dunse, in January 1860, asked him to send it to the Museum of the Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh, which he readily consented to do. It has been examined by several mineralogists and chemists, who agree in thinking that the stone of which the article is composed is a species of coarse jet, not known to occur in Scotland, but common in the Lias districts of England. Mr Alexander Bryson, Edinburgh, mentions that there was formerly in England what is called "*coal money*," and that he has in his private collection several specimens of this coal money, resembling this article in shape and material, but less than half of its size. Something similar is said to have been found in a Pict's house in the Orkneys."

Blank Commission, signed by Prince Charles Edward, dated Perth, 7th September 1745, being one of several intrusted to Evan Macpherson, who was engaged at the time in raising forces for the service of Prince Charles Edward. By CLUNY MACPHERSON, through FRANCIS ABBOTT, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Stereoscopic Photograph of a Stone Cist opened at Woodhill, in Perthshire, in 1857; and a large Photograph of an Urn found in the cist. By JAMES MILN of Murie, Esq., Perthshire, F.S.A. Scot.

The cist measured 40 inches in length, 25 inches in breadth, and 23 inches in depth, and lay in the direction of N.W. The upper slab consisted of red sandstone, the sides of grey pavement, like Carmyllie stone, the bottom being gravel; and it measured about six feet from the bottom of cist to the surface of the ground. The cist contained a skeleton doubled up, and lying on its side, and much decayed; and a bowl-shaped urn in one of the corners. The urn is about 6 inches in diameter, and about 4 inches high; it is ornamented with 3 belts or series of small circular depressions, separated from each other by three bands of triple lines.

The Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. Vol. X., 4to. Wash-

ington, 1857. Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for the year 1857. 8vo. By the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington.

History of Dumbartonshire, Civil, Ecclesiastical, and Territorial; by Joseph Irving. 4to. Dumbarton, 1860. By A. DENNISTOUN BROWN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Reminiscences of General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, Bart. 4to. 1860. By the Executors of the late Sir THOMAS M. BRISBANE, Bart., F.S.A., Scot.

Historical Sketches of the Parish of Cambusnethan. 12mo. Wishaw 1859. By the Author, the Rev. PETER BROWN, Wishaw.

Rubbing of the Brass of Sir Roger de Trumpington of Trumpington, Cambridgeshire. By GEORGE LE BLANC, Esq.

Eight Keys on an iron ring or loop, which is connected by a joint with an oval disc of iron, ornamented with perforations, and terminating in a hook, apparently for attaching the keys to the girdle. The keys vary in length from $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; five of them have solid stems, the others are tubular. The keys were found in Lochleven; they are corroded by rust, but show traces of ornament on the handles and stems. (See annexed Communication by Mr Annan.)

Two Lithographs of Keys, also found in Lochleven, now in the possession of William P. Adam of Blairadam, Esq., M.P.;

Sandstone Ball, or Stone Shot, measuring 8 inches in diameter; found on Lochleven Castle Island with about thirty others, varying on an average from 8 to 10 inches in diameter; and

Portion of Calvarium of a Human Skull from St Serf's Island, Lochleven. By ROBERT ANNAN, Esq., Surgeon, Kinross.

The following Communications were read:—