

IV.

NOTES ON THE ANTIQUITIES OF KINROSS-SHIRE. BY ROBERT ANNAN, ESQ., SURGEON, KINROSS.

1. NOTES ON THE KEYS FOUND AT VARIOUS TIMES IN LOCHLEVEN.

In the autumn of 1857 I accompanied Professor Simpson and Mr James Drummond, R.S.A., Edinburgh, on an excursion to the Isle of St Serf or Servanus, and also to the island on which Lochleven Castle is situated. From John Bell's map of Kinross-shire (Edinburgh, April 6th, 1796), I pointed out the changes that had taken place in Lochleven and its islands since the parliamentary drainage in 1829-30. This led to many inquiries regarding the historical traditions of, and relics found in or near to, Lochleven; and at the suggestion of Professor S. and of Mr D., I have given these "notes," with such incidental memoranda as a residence in Kinross of considerably above forty years enabled me to give, in illustration. To the donation of the bunch of Keys, Stone Shot, &c., now presented to the Museum, I have added, by the kindness of W.

P. Adam, Esq., M.P., of Blairadam, two lithographic plates of a large key, of elegant and antique workmanship, believed to be associated with the imprisonment of Queen Mary in the Castle of Lochleven.

In the Statistical Account of the Parish of Kinross (1839), by the late Rev. Dr G. Craig Buchannan, minister of Kinross for above thirty-eight years, he states:—"None acquainted with Queen Mary's eventful and tragical story can be ignorant of the manner of her escape from Lochleven. When her deliverer had opened the gates of the Castle, and shut them again, he threw the keys into the lake. Now, it is not undeserving of record that, at the close of the very dry autumn of 1805, when the lake was uncommonly low, a boy who had been sauntering along its banks picked up a bunch of keys, which he carried immediately to the parish schoolmaster, the late Mr John Taylor, in whose possession the writer of these lines has frequently had occasion to see them. They were very rusty, and fastened by an iron ring which mouldered away on being rubbed by the hand. Mr Taylor sent them to Dalmahoy, to the Earl of Morton, hereditary keeper of Lochleven Castle."

The curious in these matters will regret that of the spot where these keys were found nothing is said; thus leaving us in the dark as to the place where—so far as could be learned from the supposed fact of these being really some of the keys belonging to the Castle—Queen Mary had landed; a question on which writers on this subject differ not a little. This question it is partly the object of this paper to attempt to set at rest.

Miss Strickland, in her "Lives of the Queens of Scotland," vol. vi. p. 72, says:—"The spot where the Queen effected her landing on the Lake shore has obtained, in memory of that event, the name of the *Mary Knowe*." Now, this "Knowe," in one of the records of Kinross House, about 1701, called *Marie Hill*, is fully three-quarters of a mile to the northward of the spot where the keys were found, on the testimony of William Honeyman, who found them in 1805, then a boy, now a man of sixty-eight years. And if the finding of the keys on a given spot be any evidence of the place where Queen Mary landed, it is clearly against the opinion above given by Miss Strickland. She also alludes, however, to the fact, and says:—"When a furlong from the shore, Willie Douglas threw the bunch of keys into the loch, where, during a year of drought they were found by a fisher boy within the present century."

Other authorities of less pretensions give the south side of the loch as the place of landing. And to solve and put at rest this question, as far as the finding of these keys is concerned, on the 15th January last, accompanied by Mr James Baird, factor on Kinross estate, and Mr Marshall, tacksman of Lochleven, we proceeded, along with the said Mr William Honeyman, who pointed out the place, to be from the eastern or *Fish Gate* of Kinross House (so called from the much-admired sculptured basket of fishes on the top), *one hundred and seventy-two yards*, and from the eastern wall of the old churchyard *eighty-four yards* distant—two fixed points that cannot be mistaken, and which will enable the traveller curious in these matters at any time to satisfy himself on this head.

By the map, Lochleven Castle is in a straight line, distant from Kinross House four furlongs, and about one hundred yards. Standing on the vestibule of the eastern front of the house, the visitor, on casting his eyes eastward, will have his attention at once arrested by finding—so skilfully have the grounds been laid out—that the Castle and Island form the most prominent objects in the distance,—the *FISH GATE* and eastern surrounding wall of the grounds intersecting the intervening space. And keeping in mind the spot where the keys were found as above, near to the north-west margin of the Loch, there will be no difficulty in directing the eye to the spot nearest the shore where Queen Mary in all probability landed. It must be recollected, however, that the house of Kinross did not then exist, having been built betwixt the years 1682 and 1685; and little more than two hundred yards to the northward of the site of the Fish Gate there may be still seen, covered with turf and moss, close to the old margin of the Loch, the remains of a castellated edifice, formerly belonging to, and then occupied by, the Douglasses of Lochleven. And had Queen Mary, with her feeble attendance, consisting of Willie Douglas, a mere stripling, Jane Kennedy, her waiting-woman, and a little girl of ten years attempted to pass this way (according to Miss Strickland, *ut supra*), the house being close on the shore of the Loch, to the Mary Knowe, three quarters of a mile to the north, she would have been exposing herself to certain capture by the retainers of the Douglas, to whose custody she had been committed; an additional evidence, I submit, against the “Mary Knowe” being the place of her landing. A glance at one of the maps now exhibited,

I am persuaded, will be sufficient to show the incorrectness of such an opinion. The time of her escape, also, was not "the dead hour of midnight," as stated in "The Abbot," but about 8 p.m., 2d May 1568, ere darkness had commenced. There seems, indeed, to be no evidence that the name of Marie Hill, or Knowe, was at all connected with Queen Mary's escape.

I now proceed to point out, as far as the altered state of the old bed of Lochleven (now, from the drainage, dry and in pasture land) will permit, the place and spot where the bunch of eight keys, now through Professor Simpson presented to the Society of Antiquaries, was found.

On the map of Kinross-shire by Mr Bell, above referred to, and on the larger map of Fife and Kinross shires (surveyed 1826-27) by Sharp, Greenwood, and Fowler, there will be seen less than three hundred yards to the eastward of the old churchyard of Kinross, a small island, marked "Paddock Bower." In dry seasons the depth of water betwixt the bower and the land was only a few inches; in some places altogether dry. After the drainage the bower disappeared, being merged in the mainland. On the north side of this islet there had been a quiet sandy bay, much resorted to by the youth of Kinross for the purpose of bathing; and on taking an exact survey of its situation, we received an unexpected corroboration of the probable track of the boat or skiff in which Queen Mary had escaped, by finding that the spot in the little bay was nearly in a line with the *Donjon* of the Castle, and with the spot where, in 1805, the large keys, now at Dalmahoy, had been found, and distant one hundred yards from that spot. It was here that, in 1831, the eight keys now exhibited, were found by a native of Kinross, and shortly afterwards presented to me by the finder. I have attempted a sketch or map on vellum of this locality, which may serve as an introduction to the map kindly furnished to me by Mr James Baird, jun., from the Government Survey. (On this map, now exhibited, No. 2 marks the spot where these eight keys were found.)

The keys, brooch, and flat hook are *unique*, weighing in all 13 ounces avoirdupois; and in answer to my inquiries as to their general resemblance to the *Chatelaine*, Mr Drummond thus writes:—"With regard to the *Chatelaine*, I am not aware of the form of your bunch in old engravings, always our best authorities in such matters. In the oldest prints in my

possession, they, that is the keys, are attached by a long cord or chain to the girdle, with the bodkin-case, scissors, pocket, &c. In none have I seen it attached to the girdle. However, although I have not seen it so placed, it by no means follows that it was not so worn." Five of the keys are of very fine workmanship, such as might suit the locks of a wardrobe; and I leave it to the Society to determine whether, being found in nearly the same track from the Castle to the Shore, and so near to the spot where the larger keys were found, they may not, with some share of probability, be considered as probably connected with the escape from Lochleven Castle—they may, possibly, have been the keys of Queen Mary's wardrobes.

"Jane Kennedy," Miss Strickland says, "her other damsel who was to have accompanied her, not being quick enough to reach the outer gate till they were locked by the retreating party, leaped from the Queen's chamber window into the Loch, and striking out, swam stoutly after the boat till she overtook it, and was received into that little ark." If the south-eastern or *Glassin* Tower,¹ had been the place in the Castle where Queen Mary's apartment was—a point not yet well ascertained—

¹ This tower has been more recently also named "Queen Mary's Tower;" partly, perhaps, from a vague tradition, that here the unfortunate Queen was imprisoned; receiving an additional colouring from Miss Strickland's account of the escape:—"she (Jane Kennedy) leaped from the Queen's chamber window into the loch." The Queen, it is known, or her attendants, had taken with them the keys of the Castle, locking the gate behind them. And Jane being unable to reach the outer, or main, and only gate, it seems by no means improbable that she resorted to the mode of escape by the only window by which such an escape was possible—the sole of the window being, as I before stated, only *nine* feet from the ground. If this was really the place where the Queen was confined, then it is plain that the most insecure place in all the fortress had been chosen for her prison-house! And if Miss Strickland's account be admitted as true, it completely demolishes all the romance in the "Abbot" about the light shown nightly from the cottage of Blinkhoolie, at the town of Kinross—there being no part of Kinross visible from this tower. Whereas if Sir Walter Scott's account be accepted as the true one—which also corresponds with the supposed route as pointed out by the finding of these different keys, the Queen's apartments must of necessity have been in the west side of the donjon, as inspection will show. These questions probably still remain to be determined by future inquiry.

there was nothing improbable or impossible in such a feat, the under window of that tower being, as an inspection will show, only about nine feet from the ground or water edge, although there may be some poetical embellishment as to the manner in which Jane reached the little ark ; and whether mistress of the robes or no, being at least one of the Queen's much attached waiting-women, is it all unlikely that, with the feelings of her sex, and when about to leave her hated prison-house, she may not have secured the keys of her royal mistress's wardrobes, in daily use there can be little doubt, among the female attendants whose services are so beautifully referred to by Queen Mary in the "Abbot." The description of the escape which follows, though partially corrected in "the Notes" of the Abbot, is wide of historical truth, persons being put into the boat or skiff who, it is well known, did not accompany the Queen in her escape. The boat nears the shore, and Roland Græme is made to say, "And I now resign my office of porter of Lochleven, and give the keys to the kelpies' keeping." Had Sir Walter known of another bunch of keys being found near to the same spot,—and these relics possibly the personal keys of the ill-fated Mary,—what use, he would have made of the incident, it is not easy to tell.

With the lithographic sketches of the large key, now at Blair-Adam, accompanying these notes, I received the following letter:—

"BLAIR-ADAM, *January 17, 1859.*

"MY DEAR SIR,—I send you a faithful picture of the Lochleven key which I have got here. I am sorry to say I can give you no farther account of it, except that Sir Walter Scott gave it to my grandfather, believing it to be the key of the apartments in Lochleven Castle, having received it himself from a most trustworthy source.

"Should the pictures be of any interest to you, I beg that you will keep them.—Yours very truly,

"WILLIAM P. ADAM.

"To Dr ANNAN."

In reference to this key, in the "*liber rarissimus*" of Blair-Adam, mentioned in "Lockhart's Life of Scott," and printed for private circulation, is the following passage by the venerable author:—

"I must remark, in passing, that Sir Walter Scott was so pleased with

our meetings (of the *Blair-Adam Club*), that he never missed attending them from 1817 to 1831, when the fatal loss of health obliged him to seek for its restoration in foreign parts. Before he went abroad he presented me with a pledge of his regard, on which I set a high value, a most curious and magnificent key of great size, which he said in the note accompanying it, had been given to him as the key of the apartments in Lochleven Castle, in which Queen Mary was confined. He added, that it should be followed by a more particular account of how he came by it. In the meantime, he said, the friend who had sent it to him was a sound antiquary, not likely to be imposed on himself, and sure not wilfully to impose on others. That that gentleman believed it to be the key. As to himself, Sir Walter added, that he could only say that if it was not the key, it certainly deserved to be so—from its elegance, strength, and structure. I afterwards received the more detailed and particular account.”

As, however, Mr Adam says he can give no farther information than that contained in his letter, I conclude that the account above referred to has somehow fallen aside.

To those unacquainted with Lochleven Castle, and its buildings, the foundations of which are still to be seen in the courtyard, it may not be improper to explain that, exclusive of the outer or main gate entering from the north, and the entrance into the *donjon* on the east, some 20 feet from the ground, and probably for security entered by a moveable trap or ladder, there are at least five other buildings, exclusive of the Glassin Tower; so that, in point of fact, there must have been various keys acquired by the keeper of the fortress—one bunch of these, five in number, found in 1805, being, as already stated, in the possession of the Earl of Morton; while the very large key at Blair-Adam might fitly represent that of the entrance of the *Donjon*, or Great Tower.¹

I have appended a copy of the original attestation by my two friends who aided me in my inquiries, and of Mr William Honeyman, the finder

¹ We take this opportunity of referring to the existence of *another* curious and ancient iron key, much corroded, measuring 7 inches in length, and showing remains of inlaid brass and richly cut wards, with rounded ornament on stem, and remains of cut handle, stated to have been found at Lochleven, which was presented to the Museum of the Antiquaries of Scotland in 1829.—Ed.

of the keys in 1805. The spot where these keys were found is already indicated by a mark; but I have reason to expect that a more permanent guide to the place will ere long be erected, in the shape of a boulder or rock of considerable dimensions.

Attestation by Messrs Baird, Marshall, and Honeyman.

“KINROSS, *March 26, 1859.*

“Having accompanied and assisted Dr Annan, on 15th January last, as referred to in this paper, we hereby bear willing testimony to the accuracy of the report as above given; and, as natives of Kinross, are highly gratified at the prospect of these historical notices of Kinross-shire being now entered on the record of the honourable “Society of Scottish Antiquaries.”

(Signed) “JA. BAIRD, *Factor, Kinross Estate.*
 DAVID MARSHALL, *Tacksman of Lochleven.*
 WILLIAM HONEYMAN.”

2. ON THE CULDEES, AND THE INCH OR ISLAND OF ST SERF, LOCHLEVEN; WITH AN ACCOUNT OF A MANUFACTORY OF VELLUM AND PARCHMENT AT KINNESSWOOD, KINROSS-SHIRE, FROM A VERY EARLY PERIOD.

It does not clearly appear whether the Isle of St Serf or Dunkeld stood next to Iona in priority as a Culdee establishment. *Andrew Wyntoun*, Prior of Lochleven, in his “*Cronykil*,” ascribes the origin of Dunkeld to Constantine, King of the Picts, in 815; and Chalmers, in his “*Caledonia*,” to Kenneth Macalpine, in 845: though all agree that for long Dunkeld was viewed as a second Iona. Through time Dunkeld was eclipsed by St Andrews, though it continued in existence till the early part of the twelfth century.

The same obscurity does not hang over the records of the Isle of St Serf; history telling us of its celebrity as a Culdee establishment fully 700 years before the days of the Reformation from Popery. The establishment of St Serf is said to have been founded by Brude V., the last king of the Picts, first converted to Christianity about 761, and his liberal example was followed by the donations of succeeding monarchs. Macbeth, and the Lady Gruach his wife, gave them the lands of Kirkness (in

Kinross-shire) and the village of Bolgy in Fife; Malcolm III., the town and lands of Balchristie. King Edgar and Ethelred are also numbered among their benefactors. Servanus was their first superior, or prior; and from him, for many ages the Inch of Lochleven was spoken of as the "Holy Isle of St Servan."

The subsequent history shows that, after having flourished for about 400 years, the Culdee establishment of Lochleven was at length broken up, its members expelled, and its library of valuable MSS. transferred to St Andrews, then fast rising as a Popish establishment.

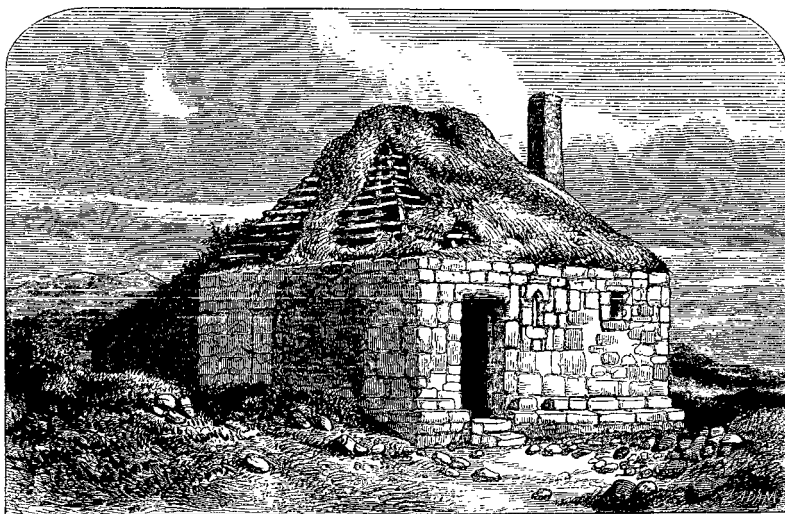
Thus, the Culdees here, were fraudulently supplanted, but not without a struggle of many years' duration. And in the register of St Andrews there is a record of the controversy, even so late as 1309; ending in the Culdees being divested of their lands, and of all their former rights and privileges.

The catalogue of books in MS., which thus became the prey of the Canons of St Andrews, numbered seventeen works; the value of which may be estimated from the fact that in those days it cost as much to procure a copy of the Bible as to build a church; and the library of St Serf, according to Dr Jamieson in his "History of the Culdees," does not seem to have been worse stocked than the other Culdee establishments.

On the Isle of Servanus, *Andrew Wymtoun*, about 1420, completed his "Orygenale Cronykil of Scotland." In it the legend of St Serf's Ram, and St Serf's interview with Satan, hold a conspicuous place.

The present state of St Serf's chapel is but little known—very few probably being aware of its existence, at less than two miles distance, from Lochleven Castle, which is so frequently visited by tourists. At present the island is used as pasture land for cattle and sheep; and the old chapel, having a small addition made, about twenty-eight years ago, on its north side, is now used as a stable or shelter for cattle. The island is fully half a mile in length from east to west, and extends to about eighty acres. Towards the east end, where the chapel stands, the ground gradually rises to probably about forty feet above the level of Lochleven. To the east and also to the westward of the chapel are to be seen the half hid foundations of other buildings of some extent. The chapel stands due east and west; is 30 feet in length by 20 in breadth, and the walls

30 inches in thickness, and 12 feet in height; the door, having two steps, entering from the south side, and being about 8 feet high. Less than thirty years ago there was what appeared to have been a stone font,¹ not quite entire, on the south wall, inside, at the right side of the door, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground; and directly in front of this south wall of the chapel, and also to the eastward, human bones have been found in great quantity, some of them at a depth of about 6 feet. A skull found here, apparently of great age, is now also presented to the Museum. Several pieces of painted glass were also found.



The Chapel, St Serf's Island, Lochleven.

About thirty years ago, when this Chapel was first used for the sheltering of cattle, a chimney-stalk with a small fire-place and a cottage roof (now decayed), were added, which certainly have not improved the appearance of this venerable relic of antiquity. When digging on the

¹ This font, or rather the remains of it, I am sorry to say, is now (1861) nearly effaced.—R. A.

east side of the chapel, a belt of hewn stone, laid regularly in a square form from corner to corner, was discovered. It was thought there might be a vault underneath, but there was nothing but rubbish found as deep as the digging went. A small hand-millstone, with a hole in it, was at same time found here. In passing, I may state that two keys were shown to me by Professor Simpson, transmitted by Sir G. Graham Montgomery, Bart., of Kinross House, which were found on the Island of St Serf in 1830, when certain improvements were going on. The keys are probably of a very old date. At the same period, Mr Baird informed me a sword about 2 feet long—the blade inlaid with gold, the handle having a cross guard—was found betwixt St Serf's Island and the shore at Portmoak. An earthen urn or vase, measuring 37 inches in circumference, was some time after dragged ashore by the fishermen, on the northern bank of Lochleven, and was then presented to Lord Chief Commissioner Adam, by Sir Walter Scott.

The careful drawing of this chapel, by James Drummond, R.S.A., F.S.A. Scot., taken on the occasion of the visit previously referred to, will give a better idea of its present appearance than any further description. The modern additions to this building are shown of a darker shade than the others.

I now proceed to give a few notes in regard to the manufacture, from an early period, of parchment and vellum at the village of Kinnesswood, distant about two miles from the island of St Serf.

About twelve years ago, on the decease of Mr Robert Birrell, the manufacturer of the vellum at Kinnesswood, a visit was paid by Mr John Ewart, long in the Chancery Office at Edinburgh, in order to ascertain if the manufacture from which the Chancery Office had been so long supplied was to be continued at Kinnesswood; and Mr Ewart was then informed that it was intended to be continued by his widow.

Mr David Birrell, surgeon, my original informant, in a letter to me of February 16, 1859, states he had often heard his father allude to the antiquity of the parchment manufactory at Kinnesswood; and that a written document from the old Chancery Office, a receipt for parchment, had been in possession of the family for about 300 years. The date of this document was stated to have been 1530. Mr Ebenezer

Birrell, a younger brother, resident at Canada West, bears general testimony to the same effect; and as this gentleman is now the sole male survivor of a family, in which the manufacture had existed for so long a period, besides being the last who had been taught the manufacture by Mr John Birrell, his father, I have annexed a pretty long extract from his letter. I learned from my friend, the Rev. William Mackelvie, D.D., for above thirty years minister at Balgedie, close by Kinnesswood, as he had been repeatedly informed by Mr John Birrell, that, with the exception of a manufactory of parchment at Bonnington, near Leith, about fifty years ago, and that only for a short period, there had never existed any other establishment of this kind to the north of the Tweed. While Mr Joseph Robertson states that "the tradition in the new Register-House was, that this office had been supplied from Kinnesswood with parchment and vellum at least from the time of Charles II." Mr James P. Halley of the same office also gives corroborating testimony. And, rather unexpectedly, a letter from Miss Margaret Birrell (resident with her brother, Ebenezer Birrell, in Canada West), from papers found in her father's depositories, so far corroborates these statements. An extract from this lady's letter is annexed.

Regarding the quality of the parchment from Kinnesswood, any remark here would be out of place; its employment by the Chancery Office, for so long a period, is decisive on this point. And the remarks in the letter of Mr Ebenezer Birrell may throw light on the causes of the difference of the parchment manufactured here from that made south of the Tweed. At Kinnesswood, it is well known that, for generations back, no change has taken place in the mode of working it.

Curiously enough, all who have been personally engaged in the manufacture agree as to the extreme difficulty in setting the edge of the iron, or knife, employed in the finishing process; seven years being stated to be the average period required to learn this department of the manufacturer's art.

Extract of a Letter from Mr Ebenezer Birrell.

" PICKERING, CANADA WEST,
10th June 1859.

" In regard to the subject of vellum and parchment, it being a manu-

facture carried on in the family, we, the boys, all wrought at it, less or more, as we came up; particularly as to those processes which are common to that and other manufactures of skin, such as steeping, liming, and taking the hair off. The next step was polishing of the skin with pumice-stone. This was rather a nice process, required great attention, diligent application, and considerable perseverance to accomplish it; and even after all this labour, the inspection of the parental eye, and the application of that hand, were often wanted to give that fine finish so necessary to the completion of the work. Perhaps what is technically called *sheaving* was the nicest process of the whole. This is performed with a very sharp knife or cutting-iron, and sharpened in a very peculiar way, the performance of which is difficult to acquire. The knack of doing this I fell into when I was quite a boy, and often performed it for my father before I began to use the instrument myself. But the most important of all the operations is the proper manipulation of the skin in its wet state, to convert it into proper vellum or parchment. I cannot believe that the method used in England is the proper one, when chemical applications are used, and the skin partially converted into leather, and rendered so soft and oozy on the surface as to clog the pen in writing. This part I never did much at, but know the whole process well, and fear, from the specimen (of English vellum) you sent, that it is now but imperfectly known, and still more imperfectly practised.

. I have often heard my father speak of the long time that parchment had been made at Kinnesswood, and in the family, and of writings from the Scottish Chancery Office referring to it, of an old date."

Extract Letter from Miss Margaret Birrell.

"MAPLE HALL (CANADA WEST),
10th June 1859.

. "I regret that I have so few of my dear father's writings here. The earliest trace of parchment-making that I have here, is David Birrell, my own father's great-grandfather. I think he must have been well up in years when Mr Ebenezer Erskine came to Portmoak, in 1703. I have heard my father tell us about St Serf's Island, and the Culdees, and the early manufacture of parchment in

connection, but do not remember so distinctly as to be able to give any particulars."

Most of the late Mr John Birrell's writings and papers were left many years ago at Kinnesswood; and from the protracted illness of his son and successor, Robert Birrell, it is believed many of them must have fallen aside or been destroyed. Mr John Birrell was the author of a short and well written "Life of (his schoolfellow) Michael Bruce," the poet, in "Lives of Eminent Scotsmen," published at London. He also was a contributor to Ruddiman's Weekly Magazine, and other periodicals of the day. In the Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott, by Mr Lockhart, in a letter from Lochore to Mrs Scott, Sir Walter says:—"A cheerful little old gentleman, Mr Birrell, and Mr Greig the clergyman, dined with us, and your health was not forgotten." This brief notice of Mr Birrell will not, it is hoped, be deemed out of place, as in some measure throwing light on the characters of those worthy men, who, at the commencement of the Reformation, and when the monastery of Portnoak was broken up, probably succeeded the monks as manufacturers of vellum and parchment in this locality.

MONDAY, 12th March 1860.

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

Upon the recommendation of the Council, to supply vacancies in the list of HONORARY MEMBERS of the Society, the number of which is limited to twenty-five, the Society unanimously elected,

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY;

Right Hon. LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, President of the
Archæological Institute;

DR RICHARD LEPSIUS, Berlin; and

DR G. H. PERTZ, Royal Library, Berlin.

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

Sir JAMES HORN BURNETT of Leys, Bart.

JAMES ALEXANDER PIERSON of the Guynd, Esq., Forfarshire.

The Donations to the Museum were as follows :—

Autograph Letter, and Medallion Portrait of Paul Jones. By Professor A. CAMPBELL SWINTON, F.S.A. Scot. (See Communication by Professor Innes, p. 389.) The medallion, apparently of wax or composition, is circular in form, and inclosed in a gilt metal frame. It measures 3 inches across, and displays on a blue ground a white raised bust, in profile, looking to left, with the inscription above it of *MYNERA · SVNT · LAVRI*. The admiral is in naval uniform, with decorations or orders on his breast; hair curled at sides, and queue folded up and tied behind.

Nearly perfect Human Cranium found in a Cromlech at Nisibost, Isle of Harris. By Commander F. W. L. THOMAS, Corr. Mem. S.A.S. Scot.

Two Flint Weapons or Implements; examples of those found within a few years in large numbers under several layers of alluvial and drift matter near Abbeville, in the valley of the Somme, Picardy. Presented by JOSEPH PRESTWICH, Esq. (who first introduced these remarkable antiquities to the notice of the English public), to ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., by whom they are now presented to the Museum.

Bronze Socketed and Looped Chisel-shaped Celt, 5 inches long and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad, found at Corsent, between St Brieux and Dinan, Brittany. Photograph of a Curious Carved Stone Hammer (?), found near Ruthin, North Wales. By the Rev. E. L. BARNWELL, Ruthin, Secretary of the Cambrian Archæological Association.

Collection of Gun Flint Locks of different dates, in a Case. By Mr THOMAS BRYCE, Gunmaker, Calton Street.

This series of British gun locks was collected by Mr Bryce, who, as a practical gun-maker, was frequently employed in altering gun locks from the flint to the percussion principle; the inner portion only of the spring being required, the outer parts were laid aside. The locks are arranged to show the great variety of forms and workmanship, there

being no duplicates except in the cases of right and left-hand action. Many of the locks exhibit the date and maker's name, including various celebrated makers. In the case are specimens of various ingenious inventions to render guns water and wind proof, also novel methods of priming, &c.

Two Flint and Wheel Gun-Locks. By JAMES JOHNSTONE, Esq., Curator S.A. Scot.

Wheel Gun-Lock. By JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Brass Cannon of curious chased design, with the date ANNO 1675; it measures 15 inches in length, and was found near Wemyss Castle.

Specimen of Ecclesiastical Blue-Enamelled Brass work (of the Slavonic Greek Church), believed to be of the Fourteenth Century. By W. WARING HAY NEWTON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Iron Cannon Ball, measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, found near Dunbar. By the Rev. R. B. THOMSON, Spott, Dunbar.

Iron Dagger with Bone Handle, found at Sheriffmuir. By A. B. COBBOLD, Esq., Broughton Park.

Old Wooden Lock, of curious construction, with six sliding wooden players, large bolt, and wooden key; from Shetland. By HORATIO M'CUULOCK, Esq., R.S.A.

Two Basket-hilted Swords. By Mr ALEX. MONRO, Rankeillor Street.

Russian Musket (percussion lock), with Bayonet, sent from the Crimea by Andrew Drysdale, M.D., 79th Regt. of Foot. By WILLIAM DRYSDALE, Esq., D.C.S., F.S.A. Scot.

Small Bronze Medal of Provost Drummond of Edinburgh. By GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. (See Communication by Mr SIM, p. 393).

Stereograph on Glass of an Illuminated Manuscript Volume on vellum, which formerly belonged to Mary Queen of Scots; with a Stereoscope and Metal Stand. By Professor C. PLAZZI SMYTH, through R. M. SMITH, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. (See Communication by Professor SMYTH, p. 394.)

The following Communications were read:—