

ARCHÆOLOGY, ITS AIMS AND USES.

In a comedy which was very popular half a century ago, one of the principal characters is made to say, "*I love everything that's old*—old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine; and I believe, Dorothy," he adds, somewhat unceremoniously, "you'll own I have been pretty fond of an old wife." To which compliment the lady replies, "Lord, Mr Hardcastle, you're for ever at your Dorothys and your old wives."

Now, without professing the same love for antiquity in the fair sex, if there be such a thing as antiquity there, I would say that antiquaries are, in a general way, like Mr Hardcastle—they *love everything that's old*; old friends and old wine, of course; but more particularly old times, old manners, and old books.

It is one object of my present remarks to give some reasons for this love of antiquity, and, if possible, to inoculate with the taste any of those present who are not already smitten with the infection.

Whenever men have become able to provide for the wants of the present, they begin immediately to look out for remote objects of interest. Some direct their view to things that are distant in place. They become tourists, travellers, missionaries; they cross seas, they climb mountains, they traverse deserts; and think nothing of any danger or difficulty that may accompany their search for what is new and strange. Others, again, who do not stir from home, find employment for their energies in expatiating through the regions of futurity. They speculate and conjecture as to events still unborn. Perhaps they take to prophesying, or expounding prophecy, and are never weary of anticipating the Millennium, or the Coming Tribulation, or some other great uncertainty, whether painful or pleasant. I do not myself think it profitable or important to indulge in predictions as to the end of the world; for this I know, that to each of us individually the end of the world *must* come in a few years, and *may* come in a moment. Of those, therefore, who deal in prospective views of things, I prefer the excellent and philanthropic class of persons who have an eye to the future improvement of the human race, and who

seek, like old men planting trees, to lay the foundation of social blessings which they themselves may never enjoy, but which may come to maturity for the use of distant generations. All men, however, have not this beneficent tendency; and even of those who look forward to future progress, there will be many that love to look back upon the records of the past. Indeed, wise men will endeavour, like the image of Janus, to look both ways, and will search the past in order that it may supply them with lessons for the future.

The review of bygone times has this recommendation, that it presents us with something fixed and certain, on which the mind can rest with confidence and satisfaction. In the obscurity of antiquity, indeed, there is abundant room for doubt and conjecture, but there is much also that is clear and prominent. In the words of the poet, if we may say it without irreverence,—

“ Not Heaven itself upon the past has power,
But what has been, has been.”

The undoubted facts in human history which the past presents to us, are the natural foundation of all our solid knowledge as to man's true character and tendency. It is by the study of the past that the passions and propensities of men in all time can be best learned and illustrated.

History has for its office the ascertainment, narration, and philosophy of past events. The antiquary's business rather is with the customs and manners, the opinions and usages, and the physical monuments and memorials of former ages. It must at once be seen how wide and how rich a field is thus opened to our contemplation. Without attempting to ascend into the region of palæontology, which aspires to investigate the history of the globe anterior to and apart from the existence of man, antiquities properly so called, and confined to objects of human interest, embrace a range of subjects of the most comprehensive and alluring kind.

Egypt, Assyria, India, Greece, Asia Minor, Rome, Etruria, France, Germany, Spain, Scandinavia, England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, without including Central America or more barbarous countries,—these are surely ample and interesting domains for antiquarian curiosity to range over. Nor are the kinds of subjects involved in the study less various than the scenes over which its investigations extend. Architec-

ture, art in all its departments, implements, arms, furniture, dress, coins and medals, monuments and inscriptions, language and letters, sepulchres in all their varieties, customs and usages, laws and religion,—this wide and multifarious reach of inquiry is sufficient to occupy the most ardent and industrious, and to supply a diversity of choice to minds of the most different tastes. It cannot be expected that any one will be able to embrace them all, but there is no one that will not find among them some congenial topic.

Antiquarian studies may be prosecuted in various ways: as a mere amusement or pastime; as a gratification to the taste and imagination; or as a philosophical science for the ascertainment of important truth. In all of these views they are a valuable resource. They abound with topics full of curiosity and entertainment. They reveal, particularly in the departments of architecture and the other arts, a rich store of objects and ideas replete with beauty and grandeur; and they afford important illustrations for the study of history—particularly its most important branch, the history of civilisation.

As to the attractions of the subject, it must be acknowledged that the past, in general, is more picturesque than the present. There are several ways of accounting for this fact. Things of antiquity are, in our minds, further dis severed from purposes of common use than those with which we are daily in contact; and familiarity, if it does not breed contempt, tends at least to deaden admiration. The lapse of time, again, serves to weed or winnow the productions of ancient days, till only the best of them are left for us to contemplate. There might be bad poetry in Homer's time as well as good, but it could not have vitality to float down the stream of tradition like those immortal works which derive their test of value not from their mere antiquity, but because they have been embalmed in men's memories and affections, and handed down from one delighted generation to another for so many ages. So also of other things: common works of art are left to perish unheeded; and only those objects are preserved which, from some peculiar beauty or interest, are thought worth preserving. But, further, I believe there existed in former times a greater disposition than there is now to add the element of beauty to any object of art that was intended to last. The love of elegance or ornament is a strong and deep feeling in every stage of society; and

wherever workmanship has made progress, the workman, following the natural bent of his taste, will try to make his productions pleasing in his own sight and that of others, by giving them all the grace which his skill can bestow. Great works in those days were free-will offerings that sprang from high emotions, and sought an adequate outward expression of the inward feeling. A temple or church was the spontaneous work of some ardent worshipper, actuated often by genuine piety, but always at least by a pious error or superstition, and it could not at all serve its purpose if not made as noble and as beautiful as its character allowed, while the artist employed to embody the founder's design could only be successful by sympathising with his wishes, and even surpassing them. An old cathedral, or a humbler parish church, built under such influences, must have presented a very different aspect, as it had indeed a very different origin, from a modern ecclesiastical edifice, erected perhaps on a species of speculation, or from the languishing collections of a lukewarm subscription, or by a contract with the lowest bidder for satisfying the requirements of law under a decree against a body of unwilling heritors. In the same way painting, sculpture, carving, and other means of embellishment were practised, as they ought to be, not as trades, but as arts, in which the attainment of beauty of the highest kind was the great aim both of the artist and of his employer.

In a more scientific aspect, the great object of antiquarian research is restoration ;—to be able, it may be, from a few scattered and imperfect hints, to call up again the entire image and impress of the forgotten past. From little more sometimes than a fossil toe or tooth, the great osteologists have given us the whole anatomy of creatures that trod the earth many thousand years ago, and the antiquary's object is of a similar kind. A noble and remarkable example of this species of effort is now in progress as to the antiquities of language, in the attempt to construct, on scientific principles, from the cognate words used by many different nations, a vocabulary of those forms of speech which must have prevailed in the original dialect of their common ancestors ; and this for the purpose not merely of gratifying curiosity, but of determining what progress had been made in the arts of life, and in the development of mental ideas and social relations before the great dispersion that sent forth its countless colonies over India and Europe.

Language, thus considered, is one of the most enduring monuments, and one of the most valuable aids towards attaining a knowledge of the prehistoric periods of antiquity. But it is not the only source from which such knowledge can be derived. We have around us on every side, even at our own door, remains of different kinds, which give us glimpses of an early past, long anterior to the records of native history. Implements, weapons, monuments, inscriptions, are of frequent occurrence, which belong to this class of remains, and which as yet are but imperfectly understood. Time and perseverance, however, may be expected to do much; and lights may be derived from other lands, of which as yet we have but a vague idea.

The wonderful manner in which, in our own day, the antiquities of Egypt, and even of Assyria, have been explained or revealed, exhibits an interesting and encouraging example of that restoration of antiquity to which I have referred. But the same object has long been sought after by all students of antiquity. The classical scholars of every age have been aiming, by the minute examination of books and monuments, to bring to light every possible trait of Greek and Roman manners which could in any way be collected; and this great task is even now in active progress. With many people, perhaps, the antiquities of their own country are the most natural and ready objects of attention; but this principle should never be forgotten, that the antiquities of any one country cannot be well understood without knowing those of many others. Things that appear strange and unusual to us at first sight, are found to be common and intelligible when we enlarge the sphere of our observation; and the more widely we do so, the better we shall understand the antiquities of any individual people.

The prehistoric period of antiquity is calculated to excite a more speculative and philosophical interest. The period that lies within the range of historical record has a more special and a more individual attraction. The footing on which we then come to stand is more solid and sure. We have now not only fossil remains, scattered traditions, and pictorial monuments to guide us, but we have written records which require to be studied with the utmost care and judgment. The industrious antiquary will wade through the most voluminous writings of all kinds to gather evidence of the facts which he wishes to bring to light.

All records of events, whether public or private, may contribute their share of knowledge. An eminent antiquary told me that he had read through the whole Greek and Roman fathers, for the purpose of noting what they had said as to the contemporary superstitions of paganism with which they had to contend. Ancient laws, charters, and inscriptions, and in later times letters, diaries, account-books, will in like manner require to be sifted and considered, not merely for the direct information which they give, but for the indication which they indirectly afford of the state of manners and society at the periods to which they relate. In the prosecution of these inquiries, not only great industry and sagacity are required, but here also lights must be borrowed from distant sources. For instance, the paganism of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors would be very little understood if we were to look for it only in Anglo-Saxon literature and traditions. Our English ancestors were converted about the end of the sixth century, and those who converted them seem to have been anxious to destroy every trace of their previous paganism, whether in their poetry or in their other records. Something of the same kind happened at a later period in Germany; but the conversion of Scandinavia was postponed till the tenth and eleventh centuries, and some even of the Christian priests in Iceland took pains to preserve the heathen poems which had been popular in the nation. The Scandinavian paganism is thus better understood than either the Anglo-Saxon or German; but as all these northern nations were of kindred blood, the Norse traditions thus preserved come to be an invaluable key to the obscure traces and dark hints which remain imbedded in the literature of other tribes who were earlier converted. The benefit of a comparative view of the antiquities of different nations does not stop here. Man in all countries has a resemblance to himself, and there is a still closer affinity between the manners and customs of those nations who are known to have sprung from a common stock. Not only all the German tribes may be said to have had the same language, religion, laws, and usages; but the circle embraces a still wider variety, and, with certain modifications, includes almost all the nations between India and Iceland. In this way it is that what seems a riddle in one country finds often its solution in another; and that a fragment of truth, unintelligible in the district in which it is met with, is seen to correspond or

harmonise with some other fragment discovered elsewhere, so that both are found to explain and illustrate each other.

I may best follow up these general remarks by giving some account of the Society's Museum; and which, according to the arrangements with Government, remains permanently under the custody of our Society. I cannot, however, proceed to do so without mentioning the debt of gratitude which we owe to her Majesty's Government for the munificent manner in which they have supplied us with accommodation in this building, and have also contributed to maintain the staff necessary for carrying out the Society's objects. Their liberality in this respect, as well as the liberality of the Board of Trustees, to whom the detail of the arrangements was committed, certainly lays upon us an obligation to take care that everything is done on our part which can promote the *diffusion and improvement of Antiquarian Science*.

Our Museum, I ought to premise, must not be considered as having at all attained its full growth or development, but merely, at least in some departments, as showing a good beginning, and, as it were, a nest-egg, to which subsequent additions of value may be gradually, and, I hope, speedily attracted.

The objects contained in it are classified under different heads, the first of which has been denominated Celtic, and embraces what are called the Stone and Bronze periods; but it must be observed that these names have reference to theories which cannot be said to be very clearly established. There is reason to believe, if it is not absolutely certain, that the Celts were not the earliest immigrants into Britain or Western Europe, but that there must have existed here a more primitive race of inhabitants, belonging probably to a feebler type of character, and certainly to a lower stage of civilisation. Until within a few years, the affinities of the Celtic races were ill understood, and there was a tendency to refer them mainly to a Semitic origin. This has been proved to be a mistake; and it is acknowledged that the Celts have the same lineage, and radically the same language, as the Indo-European, or, as they are now rather called, the Aryan tribes generally. The term Celtic, therefore, is not well adapted to designate the primitive inhabitants of this part of the world.

It seems to be well made out that ancient relics of a remote period are

found in clusters, indicating first a state of things in which stone was used as the material for making implements and weapons; and next, a more advanced condition of society, in which bronze was employed in the same way,—both of these periods being held to precede the age of iron. But it must be observed that the periods thus distinguished come in some degree to overlap each other. Many stone weapons and other articles could only have been made with metal tools; and, in particular, I need hardly say that the heavy stone mallets or hammers, used as battle-axes, could scarcely have been bored for their handle except by means of iron. In this, therefore, as in other departments of the science, great caution is necessary, so as not to theorise too fast, or define our periods too sharply.

It will probably be found, from philological and other inquiries, that the whole of the Aryan family, including, of course, the Celts, must have been acquainted with the use of metals before their dispersion; and, indeed, it is difficult to regard the Celtic race, at the earliest period at which we can trace them, in any other light than as a people of great intelligence as well as energy, if not also of considerable refinement.

Whatever may be the proper way of marking the distinctions referred to, our Museum exhibits a considerable variety of objects of interest connected with these primitive periods. We have numerous implements of stone, found not only in Britain, but in other countries, and thus affording useful means of mutual comparison. We hope also soon to possess, through the kindness of Mr Robert Chambers, some specimens of the stone celts or implements said to have been lately found in the drift; but the explanation of these articles may be considered as at present the peculiar province of my friend Mr Chambers himself, on which I shall not presume to intrude.

In the remains of the supposed Bronze period, we have a good number of remarkable specimens; and, perhaps, the bronze swords may deserve particular attention, in connexion with the question how far the use of iron was contemporaneously known. Bronze swords are not unfrequently found in our sepulchral mounds; and, when so discovered, are invariably met with in a broken state, implying, it may be presumed, as expressed in our original Catalogue, "that the deceased warrior no longer needed his well-proved weapon, when he had passed away to the elysium of his wild creed."

We possess, I think, an interesting curiosity connected with our own neighbourhood, in fifty specimens of bronze arms and other articles, dragged out of a bed of shell-marl at the bottom of Duddingston Loch, with human skulls and bones, and horns of the deer and elk.

Our Roman remains present also a respectable appearance; but this is a subject generally so well known, and, at the same time, involving so much erudition and detail, that I cannot enter upon it.

Our mediæval antiquities may become the basis of a good collection, but do not seem to require particular notice here.

In our miscellaneous curiosities of later date, we have many things that would repay attention, to which I can only allude in a cursory way.

We have the "Branks," an ancient Scottish instrument made of iron, and fastened upon the head, for the purpose of serving, as our Catalogue tells us, in somewhat satirical phraseology, "as a corrector of incorrigible scolds." Every one must rejoice in the disuse of this implement at the present day, when no lady ever talks longer or louder than we are willing to hear, or when we are content, instead of the branks, to "clap our padlock on her mind."

We have here, too, one of the Highland Purse-clasps referred to in "Rob Roy," with pistols concealed, so that any stranger attempting to open it would be shot through the hands.

We have the "Thumbikins," a well-known Scottish instrument of torture, much used against the Covenanters, and of which, perhaps, one of the last victims was Principal Carstares, who, after the Revolution, got a present from the Privy Council of the particular thumb-screw, the pressure of which he had resisted with so much courage, and which King William, when he afterwards tried it, declared would extort from him any secret he possessed. We have another Scottish instrument of a penal kind in the Maiden, that "Dark lady," as Coleridge might have called her, who bestowed her fatal caresses on some of the noblest and best men that Scotland ever produced, and who may be said to be grandmother, or grandaunt, of that sainted female the French guillotine, who somewhat in the same way did so much more fearful and extensive execution. We have an impartial collection of relics and memorials on both sides of the leading political and polemical questions. We have abundance of Roman Catholic remains, not forgetting the beautiful old bell

of Kilmichael Glassrie. We have John Knox's pulpit from St Giles's Church; and we have what tradition has called Jenny Geddes' Stool, which she hurled at the Dean of St Giles', on his trying to read the Service-Book; but as to which it is but fair to say that, by another report, the lady is represented to have latterly become somewhat of a malignant, and to have burnt her stool out of joy at Charles the Second's Restoration. We have copies of the Covenant signed by Montrose when he began his career as a Covenanter; and a copy of the Solemn League and Covenant, with the subscription of Archbishop Leighton; and we have one of the banners of the Covenant borne by the Covenanters at the battle of Bothwell Brig. We have the Blue Ribbon worn by Prince Charles as a Knight of the Garter when in Scotland in 1745; and we have a Ring given to him by Flora Macdonald at parting with her.

It is difficult often to tell at what date a thing is old enough to become an antiquity; but whenever its original use is gone, it seems entitled to that name, if it possesses any permanent interest. Thus, the Cap worn by Sir Walter Scott as a yeoman, and his Study-chair, may well rank among our list of antiquities; and we shall be extremely glad to receive any relics equally interesting of any man half as great.

I wish we had a somewhat better collection of old Scottish dresses than we can boast of. It is interesting to witness the changes of manners implied in changes of costume, and to see the cycles in which old fashions come round again. Ladies' garments, of course, would in this respect present a peculiar interest. How they dressed in the Stone or Bronze period I do not pretend to know, if indeed they dressed then at all. But we see how elaborate a thing female attire afterwards became; and female ornaments are well known, of a very ancient date, of the richest taste and material. Without wishing to be encumbered with large wardrobes, it would be curious to have a graduated scale of the dimensions of ladies' dresses in different times, particularly in point of width, so as to see how they have alternately spread out and collapsed again, and to mark how far the ancient and modern system of circumvallation agree and differ, in effecting their common object of keeping the male sex at a respectful distance. A set of ladies' head-dresses and slippers also would be instructive; and one would give a good deal for an authentic pair of green silk stockings, particularly with holes in the

soles, such as were worn long ago by elder sisters at the marriage of their juniors, when it was considered necessary that they should dance them out if they wished to be married themselves. We cannot expect families to part with such things when they are cherished heirlooms; but if any of our friends have duplicates that they can spare, or if they have not enough to make a respectable collection of their own, they cannot do better than send their treasures to us. Seriously speaking, I would press it upon my hearers generally, that insulated relics are never so interesting or instructive as those which are assembled in a place where we can see their connection, or contrast with many other specimens.

I shall not here dilate on any of our other possessions. I believe that, in some departments, our assemblage of coins is pretty complete; while that of medals is making progress. I need not tell my hearers the value or importance of this species of antiquities, by which, in a narrow compass and in a portable shape, monarchs and great men of old were able to multiply the records of their power and achievements in a way which approached the effect of printing, and was calculated to outlive, by its inherent vitality, memorials and monuments of a much more bulky size. In these coins and medals we have a range of picture-galleries, not only of men's faces, but of the architecture, the armour, the fashions, and the ideas of the times. And it is curious to see, what, I think, was first remarked by Addison, how the ancients delighted to represent those objects in the baser materials, as less likely, from any avaricious motive, to be appropriated to ordinary uses, in reference to their metallic value.

I cannot here omit to notice the addition that has been made to our Egyptian antiquities by the valuable relics from Thebes, recently contributed by Mr Rhind, and which were dug out under his personal superintendence, during a residence of two winters in the country. This contribution is of much intrinsic value, containing not merely objects of curiosity common in such collections, but also some rarer relics, such as two bilingual papyri found on a mummy's breast, and other writings, which are regarded with much interest by those best acquainted with the subject. But this munificent gift is not the only obligation which we owe to Mr Rhind, who has given us, in the general arrangement of the Museum, the useful aid of his personal advice and assistance, and of the experience he has derived from an acquaintance with the best museums in Europe.

I have glanced thus hastily at the general nature of our Museum, and wish only that you had the benefit of some of our regular antiquaries to explain its details. But I would further tell you that the study of antiquities is not altogether dependent on museums. The science can be carried about with you into almost all studies and pursuits. Books even of a very ordinary kind supply ample topics of antiquarian interest. You cannot read a page of Shakespeare, or scarcely even of Pope or Addison, and very few of Sir Walter Scott, without stumbling upon references and allusions to antiquarian subjects. The language of the common people is almost always full of expressions that savour of antiquity; and there is scarcely a part of the country, whether urban or rural, in which antiquarian objects are not to be found. Some old church or house, some monumental stone, some remains of a Roman camp, or of an earlier tumulus, will generally be found within a short distance of your homes, which may excite interest and furnish information. It is not every one who is supplied with the same useful guide as the celebrated Italian antiquary Fabretti, who possessed an invaluable horse that would never pass an antiquarian monument, however hid or disguised, but made a regular point at it like a dog, to attract his master's attention. But a glance at some of the best books on our antiquities, including Daniel Wilson's "Prehistoric Annals," or our Secretary, Mr Stuart's, "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," or at the "Statistical Account" itself, may give us some directions what to do, and awaken an interest which will continue to grow in proportion as it is gratified. Those who may not be so fortunate as to discover new remains, may at least endeavour to preserve existing monuments in their neighbourhood from being further destroyed or defaced. History, also, whether of our own country or that of others, particularly if it runs back a century or two, will derive additional clearness and liveliness from the visible realities which antiquarian researches furnish for its illustration; and altogether, if we consent fairly to make a trial of the subject, we shall say of this science what Milton said of deeper studies, that it is—

"Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools suppose,
But musical as is Apollo's lute,
And a perpetual feast of nectar'd sweets."

I have more than once alluded to the subject of sepultures, which is

full of peculiar curiosity and interest, and of which the study even now is only beginning to assume a consistent shape. The manner in which, in different ages and countries, men have disposed of their dead, gives us a key to some of the deepest and strongest feelings of our nature, as well as an indication of those sublime beliefs and speculations with which they have ever surrounded a future state of existence. Whether the bodies of the dead, as in ancient and again in Christian times, have been committed to the dust from which they sprung, or whether, as in most pagan countries, the element of fire has been called into operation, and the more combustible portion of our frame dispersed to the winds, while only a few bones, or a handful of ashes, are collected as an enduring memorial; we equally see a human sympathy surviving death, and a manifest desire to consult the supposed wishes and feelings of the departed. The tombs lately opened in the Crimea, and which are partly Greek, and partly, perhaps, Gothic, show strata of dead men provided even in the grave with something to help and cheer them in their journey through the valley of the shadow of death—a few walnuts in their hand, or a measure of wine by their side; and in almost all early tombs we find the skeleton or ashes accompanied by the weapons, and sometimes even by the remains of the living creatures, which were objects of love to the deceased in his lifetime. Far down into the period of Christian history, it was not unusual to slaughter and bury the warrior's horse at the grave of his master; and, at an earlier period, there can be no doubt that favourite horses, hounds, and hawks, and even slaves, were doomed to accompany their owner in death. There is supposed to be evidence that among our own heathen ancestors, or at least in nations nearly allied to them, the Indian practice of Suttee at one time prevailed, though I would fain believe that, even in pagan times, the dignity and independence of the female character, as developed in the Teutonic nations, must soon have tended to limit, and at last to abolish, that usage.

The tombs that have been opened in Scotland, and the urns that have been found, are full of interest, but it is certain that there are many tumuli still to be explored; and whenever this is done, the observations made should be minute and careful, and of course everything that can possibly be sent to us should take our direction, accompanied by exact descriptions made at the time of discovery. I ought to observe that,

where skulls are found, it is very important to preserve them, as they may supply the means of ascertaining the Nationality of the inhabitants thus brought to light. Photographs of all monuments, illustrated, if possible, by a scale, will always be an acceptable and valued contribution.

I must now, however, come to an end, as I fear that, were my observations further protracted, I might disgust my hearers with those studies for which I wish to excite in them a lively and lasting interest. I trust that all the male part of my audience who are not already entered with us, and feel interested in our inquiries, will before long be anxious to become members of the Society of Antiquaries; and I confidently hope that the fairer portion of this assembly may, by precept and example, give as great an impulse as they can to pursuits which may bring so much pleasure and instruction, and which, at any rate, can never injure or hurt the feelings of a single human being. I am aware that there may be bitter feuds about antiquarian controversy, and that people who wish to quarrel may do so about an ancient name or monument, a picture or a locality, as well as about any topic of the day; but, at least, the persons who may be the subjects of such dissensions are beyond the reach of evil consequences, and the disputants themselves will probably soon recover from their asperities. The topics on which antiquaries agree are, luckily, still more numerous than those on which they differ; and the study, in its general effect, must be considered as eminently conducive to that best of all possessions, placidity of mind, and to the enlargement of the faculties, by extending our sympathies, and exciting our interest in the history of the human race in all times, and in all its different and diversified aspects.

Mr ROBERT CHAMBERS moved that the thanks of the meeting and of the Society be tendered to the Hon. Lord Neaves for his learned and eloquent address; which was unanimously agreed to.

The company then adjourned to the rooms of the Museum, when tea, coffee, &c., were served, and the numerous articles arranged in the Museum were inspected with much interest.

MONDAY, 9th January 1860.

THE HON. LORD NEAVES, Vice-President, in the Chair.

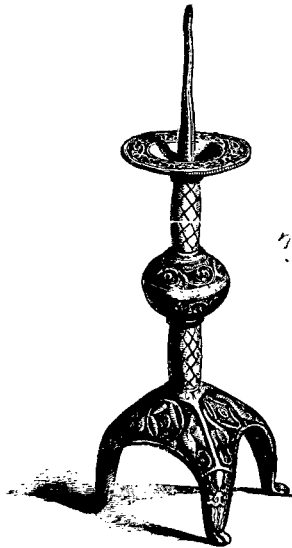
The following Gentlemen were balloted for and elected Fellows:—

The Most Noble the MARQUESS of LOTHIAN.
 The Hon. BOUVERIE FRANCIS PRIMROSE.
 JOSEPH IRVING, Esq., Dumbarton.
 Major WILLIAM DRUMMOND MERCER.
 JOHN MUDIE of Pitmuies, Esq., Forfarshire.
 GEORGE SIM, Esq., Writer.
 HUGH STEVENSON, Esq., Glasgow.
 JAMES TAYLOR, Esq., Provost of Leith.
 WILLIAM THORBURN WILSON, Esq., Glasgow.

The Donations to the Museum and Library included the following:—

A large and valuable Collection of Egyptian Antiquities, chiefly found in tombs recently opened at Thebes by the donor, A. HENRY RHIND of Sibster, Esq., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot. This collection, which consists of nearly seven hundred specimens, will be fully detailed in the published Catalogue of the Museum now in course of preparation. Mr Rhind is also preparing for publication a detailed account of his excavations at Thebes.

Tripod "Pricket" Candlestick of copper, stated to have been found in digging the foundation of the Parish Church of Kinnoul. By ROBERT MERCER of Scotsbank, Esq. The candlestick is probably of the 13th century. It displays traces of the blue enamelling [Champlevé process] still remaining on the knob in the centre of the stem; and is carefully figured in the annexed woodcut. (See woodcut No. 57, in Labarte's Hand-Book.



London, 1858, 8vo.)

Plaster Cast of a Bust of Sir Isaac Newton. By WILLIAM A. LAURIE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. *

Complete War Dress of cloth of gold with silver-gilt ornaments; and silver helmet, with silver gilt mountings, feathers, &c. By Professor J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D., V.P.S.A. Scot. The dress belonged to the Chinese Mandarin Chang, Admiral and Governor of the Island of Chusan, and was brought to this country by Lieutenant-General Burrell, C.B., formerly British Governor of the island.

A Carpenter's Stone Adze, fixed in a wooden handle, from the South Sea Islands, illustrating probably one of the methods of using the ancient stone celt. Pair of "Barnacles" or Spectacles, the eyes set in leather rims, bridge of watch-spring; with Shark-skin Case. Ivory-handled desk Seal, displaying shield of arms. Rounded tops of Walking-Canes of 18th century, one of embossed copper gilt, the other ivory. By JAMES JOHNSTONE, Esq., Curator S.A. Scot.

Stone War Club, measuring 15 inches long, by 3 inches broad, from the island of New Zealand. By T. B. JOHNSTON, Esq., Treasurer S.A. Scot.

Photographs of Hindu Temple, and Falls at Muklagherry, near Ellickpore, Northern Berar; and Four Photographs of the Cave Temples of Ellora, Hindustan. Photographed and presented by Captain A. N. SCOTT, Madras Artillery, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Supplement to "The Coinage of Scotland," 4to, Cork, 1859. By the Author, JOHN LINDSAY, Esq., Cork, Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot.

History of the City of Geneva, by Isaac Spon, M.D., folio, London, 1687. Voyage d'Italie, de Dalmatie, de Grece, et du Levant, par Jacob Spon et George Wheler, 3 vols. 12mo, Lyon, 1678. By JAMES DOUGLAS, younger of Cavers, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

In proposing the usual vote of thanks to the contributors, Lord NEAVES drew especial attention to Mr RHIND's valuable and extensive donation of Egyptian Antiquities, which merited the warmest thanks of the Society.

Mr LE BLANC exhibited an interesting series of rubbings from sepulchral brasses in various places in England, and illustrated the subject by some general remarks on Brasses.

Mr Cosmo INNES exhibited specimens of various styles of illuminations, copied principally from 13th century MSS., drawn by Mr John J. Laing, late assistant to John Ruskin, Esq., M.A. These were beautifully executed, and were much admired.

The following Communications were read :—