

III.

NOTE RELATING TO A MONUMENTAL BRASS IN THE OLD CHURCH OF ORMISTON, EAST LoTHIAN. BY THE REV. JOHN STRUTHERS, F.S.A. SCOT., MINISTER OF PRESTONPANS. (Plate VII.)

The old Kirk of Ormiston has long been in ruins. The only portion of the ancient walls that remains is a few yards of what would be the chancel. These have been repaired and roofed over in a rude way during the present century, seemingly for the purpose, apparently, of preserving the monument to which these few remarks refer. There is no other sculpture nor ornament, nor even sepulchral headstone of any kind, in or around the building itself, which appears to have been originally of small architectural pretensions. A new burying-ground and church for the parish having been designed and built, about a quarter of a mile distant, shortly after the Reformation, the old place of worship, where Wishart and Knox had more than once officiated, became appropriated exclusively as a burial enclosure for the family of the ancient lords of the manor, close to whose mansion-house it is situated.

The monument referred to is in the form of a nearly square mural slab, with raised border, over a now empty Gothic arched recess, with plain hewn moulding, in the inside of the north wall, and having the Cockburn and Sandilands arms on either side of the prose part of the inscription. As the whole structure bears evidence of repeated rude repairs, it may possibly be questioned whether the monumental brass, which is fastened by nails at the edges to the front of the exterior depressed portion of the slab, be of contemporaneous date with the inscription; or whether the latter had originally been cut into the stone and only transferred to brass, upon the more perishable material becoming defaced by exposure to the weather. I am inclined to think, from the character of the lettering, and of the engraving of the armorial bearings, and from the fact of the mural slab, to which the brass is affixed, showing no marks of old lettering having been chiseled off, that the monument, so far as preserved, is now much as when it was originally erected, and of a date probably towards the end of the sixteenth century.

The metrical and more interesting portion of the inscription is from the elegant classic pen of George Buchanan, in whose published works it appears, as noticed by Mr Laing in the notes to his edition of Knox's History, and has been repeatedly, though not always accurately, copied. Alexander Cockburn, it is well known, was a pupil of John Knox, at the time (1547) he sought shelter in the Castle of St Andrews, when the house of Ormiston had not proved a sanctuary sufficient to protect the zealous Wishart from the vengeance of the ruling ecclesiastical authorities, during the troublous times preceding the Reformation. Dempster, in his History (as quoted also by Mr Laing), has given the titles of several works, three of which, he says, he had seen, that had been written and published by Cockburn during his distinguished though brief career. The armorial bearings of Dame Alison Sandilands, his mother, exhibit the ancient relationship between the "illustrious family of Calder" and the doughty and puissant house of Douglas.

The barony and parish of Ormiston continued to be the property of the Cockburns, from the middle of the fourteenth century, when John, second son of Sir Alexander Cockburn of that ilk, married the only daughter of Sir Alexander Lindsay, its former proprietor, till the year 1747, when it was purchased by the ancestor of its present owner, the Earl of Hope-ton, from Captain George Cockburn, one of the Commissioners of the Navy, and who, when he died at Brighton in 1770, was supposed to be the last of his house. Besides Sir John, the brother of the subject of Buchanan's elegiac stanzas, the house of Ormiston produced several distinguished lawyers, statesmen, and patriots, among whom may be mentioned Adam Cockburn, the Lord Justice-Clerk, who was one of the most active Scottish politicians under William III. and Queen Anne; and his son John, the celebrated agriculturist, who, representing his county in Parliament, was instrumental in promoting various important measures connected with trade, as well as with husbandry, towards advancing the general material wellbeing of the nation.

The following is the inscription on the brass:—

Omnia quæ longa indulget mortalibus ætas,
 Hæc tibi, Alexander, prima juventa dedit.
 Cum genere et forma generoso sanguine digna,
 Ingenium velox, ingeniumque animum.

Excoluit virtus animum ingeniumque Camenæ
 Successu, studio, consilioque pari.
 His ducibus primum peragrata Britannia, deinde
 Gallia ad armiferos qua patet Helvetios :
 Doctus ibi linguas, quas Roma, Sion, et Athenæ,
 Quas cum Germano Gallia docta sonat.
 Te licet in prima rapuerunt fata iuventa
 Non immaturo funere raptus obis.
 Omnibus officiis vitæ qui functus obivit,
 Non fas hunc vitæ est de brevitate queri.

Hic conditur Mr Alexander Cockburn
 primogenitus Joannis Domini Ormiston
 et Alisonæ Sandilands ex preclara
 familia Calder, qui natus 13 Januarii 1535.
 Post insignem linguarum professionem
 Obiit, anno ætatis suæ 28, Calen. Septe.

[The monumental brass described by Mr Struthers is of peculiar interest; and as few specimens of the kind exist in Scotland, it was thought desirable to give a reduced fac-simile of the "rubbing," presented by Mr Struthers (see Plate VII.) There can, I think, be no doubt that this brass was contemporaneous (about the year 1564), or at least of the same period and style with that of the Regent Earl of Murray (1570), inserted in the Proceedings, vol. i. page 196, and it may have been executed by the same hand. It is also somewhat remarkable, that the inscriptions on both plates were written by the illustrious Buchanan. In the editions of his poems, line 3 reads, "*stemmate digna;*" line 7, "*peragrata Britannia;*" and the last line, "*Non fas est vite.*" Alexander Cockburn, according to this inscription, was born in January 1535-6, and died in the calends of September (*i.e.*, in August) 1564. Buchanan, in the concluding couplet of some other verses, thus alludes to Cockburn's early death :—

Si numeres annos, cecidit florente juventa :
 Si studia et mores et benefacta, senex.—D. L.]

MONDAY, 13th May 1861.

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

The following Gentleman was balloted for and elected a Corresponding Member of the Society :—

M. LE MEN, Archiviste du Département Quimper, Finistère, France.

The Chairman called attention to the recent loss sustained by the Society through the death of Mr JAMES JOHNSTONE, F.S.A. Scot., one of the Curators, whose services on behalf of the Museum had been of great value.

Mr Joseph Robertson reported that the Committee on the Restoration of the Cross, appointed by the Society on the 11th of March, had met with a committee appointed by the Royal Scottish Academy, and that this joint committee, after several meetings, had, on the 9th instant, unanimously agreed upon a Report, which he now submitted to the meeting. The Report stated that the committee, having satisfied themselves that an exact restoration of the Cross of 1617 was quite practicable, had communicated their views to Mr Bryce, architect, who kindly agreed to prepare a plan in accordance with them. This plan had been carefully considered by the committee, and they unanimously recommended its adoption. It is not only an unquestionable restoration of the Cross which was taken down in 1756, but it proves that building to have been a very fine example of the national architecture of Scotland before the Union.

The Donations laid on the table were as follows, and thanks were voted to the donors :—

Two Plaster Casts of an Axe Head, or Celt, of brown-coloured sandstone, 6 inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across face. Found near Crozon, France.

Two Plaster Casts of a Black Flint Celt, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch across face. Found, with eight others, at Losserè, Finistère, France.

Six Bronze chisel-shaped, looped and socketed Celts, 5 inches long, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch across face. Found near Quimper, France.

Two Plaster Casts of a Bronze looped, socketed Celt, ornamented on

each side with three longitudinal projecting lines terminating in small circles; 5 inches long, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch across face;

Two Plaster Casts of Bronze looped, socketed Celts, each 6 inches long, and 2 inches across face, with ornamented moulding round the top, and four projecting lines on each side. Found near Rennes, France.

Portion of rude Urn of reddish clay, which contained two of the Bronze Celts found near Quimper, France.

By M. LE MEN, Archiviste du Département Quimper, France, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Sculptured Stone, 4 feet long by 2 feet 3 inches broad, and 8 inches thick, on which is incised, a crescent-shaped ornament, and a line describing three-quarters of a circle. From West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. By the PROPRIETORS OF THE GARDENS.

Iron Grated Door, measuring 5 feet 4 inches in height, and 3 feet in breadth, formed of interlaced bars; with a chain attached, 26 inches long; and an Iron Grating for Window, 4 feet, by 2 feet 4 inches. From the room in Old St Giles' Church, called "Haddo's Hole." By SIR WILLIAM GIBSON CRAIG of Riccarton, Bart., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Portions of a large Cinerary Urn of reddish clay, showing a black fracture, and rudely ornamented with crossed lines on the upper part. It contained portions of burnt bones, and was found in trenching a field at Tranent. By JOHN CADELL of Tranent, Esq.

Iron Three-sided Pike-head, found during excavations at Edinburgh Castle in 1858. By Mr THOMAS MOWBRAY, through the Rev. JOHN SIME, F.S.A. Scot.

Badges of Dalkeith Rifle Volunteers. Circular badge surmounted by crown, with thistle in centre—MIDLOTHIAN 2D REGIMENT, 1798. Circular badge, DALKEITH RIFLE VOLUNTEERS, 1860; displaying in centre, armorial bearings with supporters, and motto, "OLIM CUSTODES SEMPER DEFENSORES." By Mr JOHN M'GOWAN, Sergeant, D.R.V.

Iron-headed Spear, or "Assagais," with wooden shaft;

Bamboo Staff, called a "Pilgrim's Staff;"

Wooden Root-grubber—all from the Cape of Good Hope;

By WILLIAM A. BELL, Esq., Cape of Good Hope.

Circular Brass Tinder Box, with ornamented perforated handle and cover, also a flint and steel. By Mr JAMES J. HUNTER.

Archæologia Æliana; or Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquity; published by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Vol. IV., No. 15.; Vol. V., Nos. 16, 17, New Series, 8vo. 1860-61. By the COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

Characteristics of Old Church Architecture, &c., in the Mainland and Western Islands of Scotland. By Thomas S. Muir. 4to. Edinburgh, 1861. By Messrs EDMONSTONE and DOUGLAS, Publishers, Edinburgh.

Flint Implements in the Drift; being an Account of their Discovery on the Continent and in England, 4to (pp. 28.) Lond., 1860. By JOHN EVANS, Esq. (the Author).

Catalogue of the Antiquities in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. Part 2. 8vo. Dublin, 1861. By the Right Hon. LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Canadian Journal of Industry, Science, and Art. Vol. V., 8vo. Toronto. 1860. By the COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE, Toronto.

Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club. Vol. IV. No. 4. (pp. 60.) 8vo. 1861. By GEORGE TATE, Esq., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Series of Works printed for the Members of the Irish Archæological Society and Celtic Society of Ireland; 17 vols. 4to., and 6 vols. 8vo. By the COUNCIL OF THE JOINT SOCIETIES.

These works are as follows:—

I. *Publications of the Irish Archæological Society.*

- 1841.—1. Tracts relating to Ireland. Vol. I.
 2. The Annals of Ireland. By JAMES GRACE of Kilkenny.
- 1842.—1. The Battle of Magh Rath (Moirá), in the original Irish. With translation and notes.
 2. Tracts relating to Ireland. Vol. II.
- 1843.—1. An Account of the Tribes and Customs of the District of Hy-Many.
 2. The Book of Obits and Martyrology of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Dublin.
- 1844.—1. An Account of the Tribes and Customs of the District of Hy-Fiachrach.
- 1845.—1. A Description of West, or H-Iar Connaught; with notes and an appendix.

- 1846.—The Miscellany of the Irish Archæological Society. Vol. I.
 1847.—The Irish Version of the *Historia Britonum* of Nennius, or, as it is called in Irish MSS. *Leabhar Breatnach*, The British Book.
 1848.—The Latin Annalists of Ireland; with Introductory Remarks and Notes.
 1849–50.—*Macariæ Excidium*, the Destruction of Cyprus; being a secret History of the Civil War in Ireland, under James II. By Colonel Charles O'Kelly.
 1851.—Acts of Archbishop Colton in his Visitation of the Diocese of Derry, A.D. 1397.
 1852.—Sir William Petty's Narrative of his Proceedings in the Survey of Ireland.

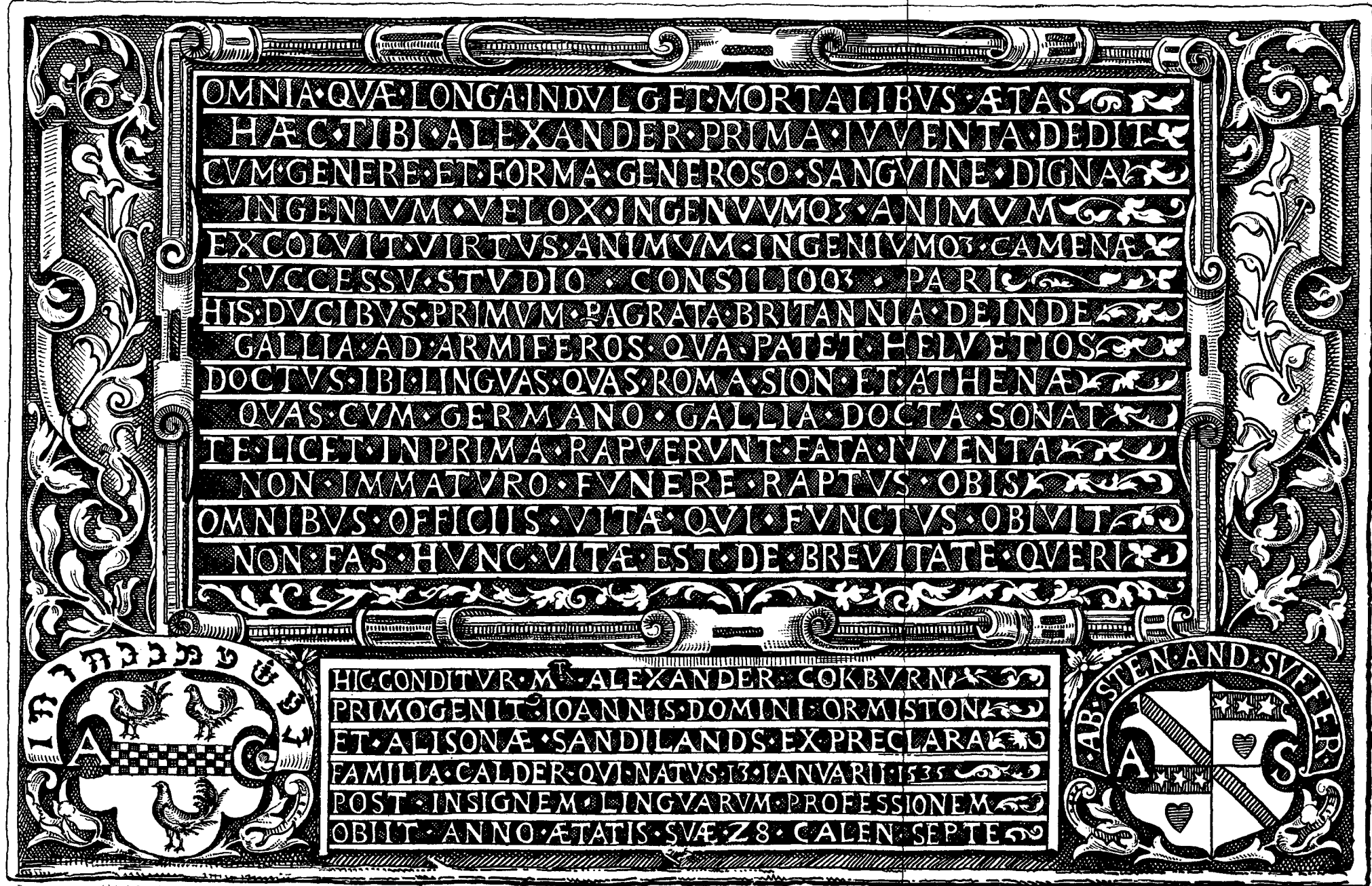
II. *Publications of the Celtic Society.*

- 1847.—*Leabhar na y-Ceart*, or, The Book of Rights; a Treatise on the Rights and Privileges of the Ancient Kings of Ireland.
 1848–52.—*Cambrensis Eversus*; or, Refutation of the Authority of Giraldus Cambrensis on the History of Ireland. By Dr John Lynch. (1662.) With Translation and copious Notes. Three vols.
 1849.—Miscellany of the Celtic Society.
 1853.—*Cath Muighe Lena*. The Battle of Magh Lena; an ancient historic Tale.

III. *Publications of the United Irish Archæological and Celtic Society.*

- 1854.—*Liber Hymnorum*: The Book of Hymns of the Ancient Church of Ireland.
 1855–1856.—The Life of St Columba, by Adamnan, Ninth Abbot of Hy (or Iona). The Latin text, accompanied by various readings.
 1857.—A Mediæval Tract on Latin Declension, with examples, explained in Irish.

The following communications were read:—



Drawn from a Rubbiné & Lithog.

by W & A K. Johnston, Edin^g

MONUMENTAL BRASS OF ALEXANDER COCKBURN IN THE OLD CHURCH OF ORMISTON.

(Size of Brass 3 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 1 inch)