

IV.

NOTE OF AN ANCIENT CROSS-BOW FOUND UNDER THE MOSS ON THE ESTATE OF AUCHMEDDAN, ABERDEENSHIRE, IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. BY ALEXANDER MURRAY, Esq., NETHERMILL, CRUDEN.

The late Mr Leid, tenant of the farm of Clinterty, on the estate of Auchm eddan, in the parish of Aberdour, Aberdeenshire, about twenty years ago, was digging moss or decomposed rushes, &c., to the depth of six feet, out of a hollow about half an acre in extent, for the purpose of forming the present mill-dam. In the bottom of the moss he found an old cross-bow and bag of arrows. When I got the bow, some six years ago, he had lost the stock. It was described to me by a person who saw it, as a strong rough oak stick, bearing a rude resemblance to a gun-stock, and the bow went through a hole in the end of it. I searched very hard to find it, but could not get it. The bow now presented to the Museum consists of a stout stick of 3 feet 4 inches in length, and pierced with a hole 3 inches in length at each extremity. The arrows were numerous, and the stalks attached to the flint heads were about 9 to 12 inches long, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. The stalks were all rotten, and could not be lifted, and were thrown away!

There are numerous tumuli of stones in that neighbourhood, and in searching I found a large artificial cairn covered with turf, at the very side of the hollow of moss in which the cross-bow was found, satisfying me that at the time of the death and burial of the warrior, the bow and arrows had been thrown into the adjoining pool, which has since then been filled up with decayed rushes, &c.

I know no part of the country where I have observed more cairns, &c., than about Aberdour and Gamrie, and where they are more rapidly disappearing.