

#### IV.

NOTICE OF SUPPOSED CRANIUM OF ROBERT LOGAN OF RESTALRIG.  
By DAVID H. ROBERTSON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

During the progress of the restoration of St Mary's Church, South Leith, in 1847-48, I was one morning waited on by Mr James Dryden, the Inspector of Works to Messrs Hamilton, architects, who requested me to examine a coffin which had just been brought to view.

On proceeding with him to the church, I found at the north end, immediately under the floor of the portion used as the Session Room, a coffin covered with purple velvet (a portion of which is herewith produced).

The coffin was not more than 10 inches under the sand, and about 18 inches under the floor. No other coffins were found in this locality. On tearing off the velvet, part of the wood separated with it; a few slight touches of a hammer knocked the lid into fragments—portions pressed between the finger and thumb were readily reduced to powder. The interior presented a mass of human bones, confusedly huddled together towards the broader end. The cranium in the middle lay beside a scapula and femur, and it was at once observed that they had at one period been violently disturbed, and, as an on-looker remarked, jumbled together. I secured the head, but after the most careful search, no inferior maxilla could be found. From all these circumstances, it is apparent that at some period the coffin must have been violently disturbed, or what is more probable, from the absence of the lower jaw, opened, and perhaps even the bones transferred from one coffin to another.

On the 6th August 1600, it is thus chronicled by Birrel in his diary:—  
 “The newis came to Edin. the 6th day of August, that his M. had escapit sic ane danger, q'at yair wes sic ioy yat the canons shott; the bellis rang; the trumpettis sounditt; the drums strack; the toune rais in armes with schutting of muskettis; casting of fyre workes, and baynfyirs set furth in sic maner, the lyk wes never sene in Scotland, ther wes sic dancing and mirines all the nicht. The same day in lyke maner, the Erle of Montrois being chanseler, the Master of Ephingston, theasurer, Sir James Elphingston, collector, wt sundrie vther nobillis, went to the crosse of Edinr., and yair hard Mr David Lindesay make ane orisone, and the haill peiple sett down on yr knies, giving thanks to God for the King's deliuerance out of sic ane grate danger. The 11th day of Auguste being Moneday, the King came over the water. The toune, with the haill suburbis, met him vpon the sandis of Leithe in armes, wt grate ioy, and schutting of muskittis, and shaking of pikes. He went to the kirk of Leith to Mr David Lindesayis orisone. Y'after the toune of Edin. haveing convenit up to Edr., and standing at the hie gait, hes M. passed to the crossé, the crosse being hung wt tapestrie, and went up yron wt his nobillis. Mr Patrick Galloway being yair, made ane sermon vpon the 124 Psalm; he declarit the haill circumstances of the treasonne proposit by the Earl of Gowrie and hes brother; qlk the King testefiet be his awen mouth, sitting upone the crosse all the tyme of the

sermone." Thereafter an order was given by the King that the ministers should offer up prayers and thanks for his signal deliverance.

An historical incident which has been invested with additional interest in consequence of its having been selected as a subject for his pencil by our friend and Fellow, Mr James Drummond, R.S.A.

Nine years after the conspiracy, in consequence of the conviction and confession of George Sprott, notary in Eyemouth, and the discovery of certain letters from Logan of Restalrig, the originals of which are printed in full by Pitcairn, it was considered proved, that Logan and his servant, James Bour, were implicated in the plot; upon which, the bones of Logan were removed from South Leith Church and duly tried in Edinburgh. "And thairfor it was giuen for dome be the mouth of David Lindesay, dempster of Parliament, in maner and forme as follows:—Dome of forfeiture—This Courte of Parliament schawis for law, that the vmqle Robert Logane of Restalrig, in his lyfetye committed the foirsaid cryme of treasone and lese majestie, and that he was airt and pairt giltie and pairtaker thairof againis oure said souerane lord and his autoritie royall; and that the foirsaidis cruele and tressounable crymes were interprysit be his causing, persuasion, counsail, and helpe; lyk as the said umqle Robert Logane of Restalrig, treasounable conceillit the foirsaid cryme of lesmajestie to his death, and in his death, in all maner at length contenit in this said summondis; and thairfore decernis and declaris the name, memorie, and dignitie of the said umqle Robert Logan to be extinct and abolisheit, and his arms cancellat, rivine, and deleitt, furth of the books of armes and nobilitie, sua that his posteritie shall be excludit, and be vnhabil to posses or inioy ony offices, honouris, dignities, landis, tenementes, rowmes, rentes, possessions, or gudis, moveable or vnmmoveable, richtis, and vtheris quhatsvmeuir, within this kingdom in all time cumming; and that all the said gudis, &c., to be escheat and foirfaltit to oure souerane lord, to appertaine and to remaine perpetualie with his majestie in propertie—and this I give for doom."

All the circumstances of this strange case duly considered, frequently pondered over, and as often discussed, lead me to conclude, that these bones had been transferred from one coffin to another; that they had been violently dealt with, most probably by translation from one place to another; and I think it is a fair inference, if not positively a legiti-

mate conclusion, that these remains are the identical bones of Robert Logan of Restalrig.

Mr LAING remarked, that Dr Robertson's theory regarding the skull which he exhibited might be very ingenious, but he had adduced no evidence to prove that it could be that of Robert Logan of Restalrig. The burial place of the barons of Restalrig, as well as their usual place of residence, were points not yet clearly ascertained. In regard to Logan himself, it was well known that, according to a barbarous custom of the times, when it was determined to implicate him by means of forged letters, as *art and part* in contriving what is called the Gowrye Conspiracy, his body, in June 1609, after he had been about three years deceased, was disinterred, and brought into Court, as if to hear the doom of forfeiture for high treason passed upon him; by which his property was escheated, his name and family being declared infamous. Under such circumstances, the utter improbability of Logan's body being re-interred within the church of South Leith need scarcely be remarked; and Mr Laing said, he must therefore protest against Dr Robertson's conclusions as altogether untenable.