

VI.

NOTE OF A ROMAN AUREUS OF NERO FOUND NEAR NEWSTEAD IN 1862. By JOHN ALEX. SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot.

I take the opportunity of these notes of Mr Sim's being read to the Society, to put on record the fact of a Roman Aureus of Nero being found in the neighbourhood of Newstead. The coin was discovered in the month of June 1862, by one of the railway men, when gardening on the bank of the North British Railway, immediately adjoining the place where the various Roman shafts, formerly described by me in the Proceedings of the Society, were exposed, when the railway was in the course of formation in 1846 and 1847. It was in the upper part of this same field, which lies immediately to the south of the Red Abbey-stead field, that the Roman altar to *Silvanus* was discovered in 1830. The coin was examined by me at the time it was found; it was in tolerable preservation, and displays: *obv.*, laureated head of Nero looking to right; AVGVSTVS . NERO . CAESAR, the legend reading from right to left: *rev.*, Jupiter seated on throne looking to left, left arm raised holding a spear, in right hand a thunderbolt: IVPITER . CVSTOS from left to right. The coin is peculiar from the word Jupiter being spelled with the two P's. It has since been claimed by the Exchequer, and will by and by, I suppose, find its way, with other Treasure-trove, to our Museum. Another aureus of Nero was long ago recorded as having been found in this same neighbourhood. With regard to the recent find of coins at Newstead, I may state that I happened to be in the neighbourhood at the time they were found, and examined many of them. They were discovered in taking down the gable wall of an old cottage, and appeared to have been hoarded up in a bag, traces of the decayed portions of the woven fabric of which were adhering to many of the coins.

MONDAY, 11th *May* 1863.

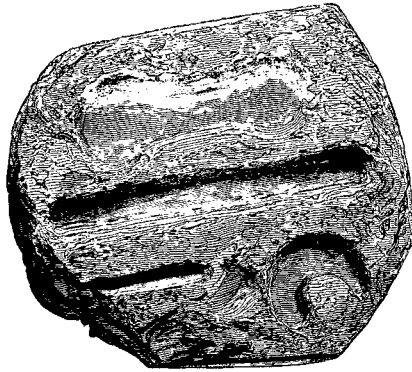
PROFESSOR COSMO INNES, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following gentleman was balloted for and elected a Fellow of the Society :—

HENRY BRUCE, Esq., Kinleith, Currie, Mid-Lothian.

The following Donations were laid on the table, and thanks were voted to the Donors :—

(1.) By WILLIAM ANDERSON, Esq. Wellhouse, Alford.
Stone with various indentations cut on its surface (as shown in the



Stone Mould found at Alford.

annexed woodcut), probably a mould. On the back of the stone is a rudely cut long-shaped indentation. The stone measures 12 inches long by 10 inches in breadth, and about 2 inches thick, and was found in the parish of Alford, Aberdeenshire. (It is referred to in a Communication, page 382, vol. iv. Proc. of Soc. Ant. Scot.) A somewhat similar mould, found at Trochrig, Ayrshire, is figured in the "Proceedings of the Society," vol. i. p. 45.

(2.) By HUGH F. WEIR, Esq. of Kirkhill, Ayrshire.

Rude Clay Urn, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and 5 inches across the mouth, from which it tapers rapidly to a narrow base measuring 3 inches in diameter. The urn is $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an inch in thickness at the upper part, and is composed of yellowish-coloured clay showing a black fracture. It is ornamented with vertical lines of the twisted pattern, with one line crossing the others horizontally a little below the mouth. The urn contained fragments of burnt bones and wood charcoal, and was found in a cist composed of six coarse flat stones, and measuring about 2 feet long, 16 inches broad, and 12 inches deep. The cist was placed with its longest diameter east and west, the urn being near the west end, and was covered by about 12 inches of soil. It was discovered in 1856, on the lands of Kirkhill, parish of Ardrossan, Ayrshire.

(3.) By W. A. PARKER, Esq. Advocate.

Stone Axe or Hammer, one extremity of which is rounded, the other has a sharp vertical edge. It measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and is pierced towards its rounded extremity for the insertion of a handle. It was found at Lochmaben Castle.

Small and light Horse Shoe of Iron, found at Lochmaben Castle.

(4.) By JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., Secretary S.A. Scot.

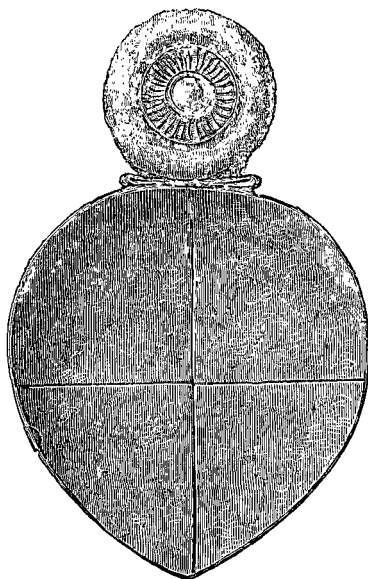
Bronze Implement, and Bones of the Ox and the Dog, found in a bed of undisturbed gravel at Kinleith, near Currie. (See Communication, page 84.)

(5.) By the Rev. E. LOWRY BARNWELL, M.A., Ruthin, N. Wales, Secretary to the Cambrian Archæological Association.

A Pair of Bronze Relics, resembling broad shallow spoons, found in 1861 in railway cuttings in Llanfair Parish, Denbighshire. They were firmly attached face to face by the encrustation of oxide. On one which has been partially broken, and is here figured (perfect), transverse lines are roughly cut across the entire concave surface; the other has a small round perforation, if not simply a small fracture, at one side. The dimensions are 3 inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches greatest breadth.

The intention of these remarkable objects has not been satisfactorily ascertained. A few other specimens exist—one in the British Museum,

found in London, and figured in the "Catalogue of Mr Roach Smith's Collection," p. 82; one in the collection of Albert Way, Esq.; two pairs are in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy; a pair found near Cardigan is in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, &c. See notices by the Rev. E. L. Barnwell, "Archæologia Cambrensis," Third Series, vol. viii. p. 208; vol. x. p. 57. Several examples are there figured. Since



Bronze Relic found in the Parish of Llanfair, Denbighshire.

the publication of these notices, Mr Albert Way has met with one more single specimen, making in all four pairs and three odd ones known to exist. They appear to have been used in pairs. The one marked with the cross never has the small aperture, which is sometimes on the edge, and sometimes a short way from it. Of the four known pairs, one only, the Denbighshire pair, is from one and the same mould. In the case of the three other pairs, two moulds have been used, with patterns slightly

differing in each pair. It has been conjectured that these "spoons" may have been used in administering the consecrated wafer after being dipped in the chalice, as customary in the Eastern and in certain other churches; and the rudely incised cross, which occurs on a few examples, has been pointed out as evidence of connection with some sacred purpose. It must, however, be considered that mixed metal was unsuitable, being liable to corrosion from the wine, a risk against which strict precautions were observed in regard to sacred appliances used anciently in the Eucharistic rites. Nothing, moreover, could be more inconvenient for such supposed use than the short flat handle invariably occurring in these singular objects. It may also be concluded that, if destined for so sacred a purpose, some Christian device would have occurred amongst the ornaments, executed with care, and in the original casting, in some instances; the allusion to holy uses would not have been merely indicated by the coarsely-scored transverse strokes found upon three or four of the specimens described. The well-defined character of the ornamentation, also, wherever any decoration occurs, either in relief or engraved, is unquestionably of the peculiar type attributed to a late Celtic period by Mr Franks, who has fully illustrated the chief examples in the *Horæ Ferales*, and discussed their date and origin, pp. 172, 184. The "spoons" found in Ireland, Wales, and also in the Thames, appear undoubtedly to be associated with the remarkable remains exemplified by bronze horse furniture found in Annandale, a bronze sword-sheath found at the foot of the Pentland Hills, an armet found at Plunton Castle, county of Kirkcudbright, and other well-characterised objects in the Museum of the Antiquaries of Scotland.

(6.) Bequeathed by the late JOHN TINGMAN, Esq., R.N., Leith.

Circular Brass Matrix, with projecting handle behind, being the Seal of the Burgh of Canongate, Edinburgh—displaying a stag with the cross between his antlers, standing between a chapel on the dexter, and a group of trees on the sinister, side of the seal. Above the back of the stag is a saltire. "S' COIE · BVRGI · VICICANONICOR · MONASTERII · SANCTE · CRVC." This interesting seal, probably the work of the fourteenth century, was found several years ago, in digging a drain in the citadel at Leith. (See H. Laing's "Scottish Seals," No. 1161.)

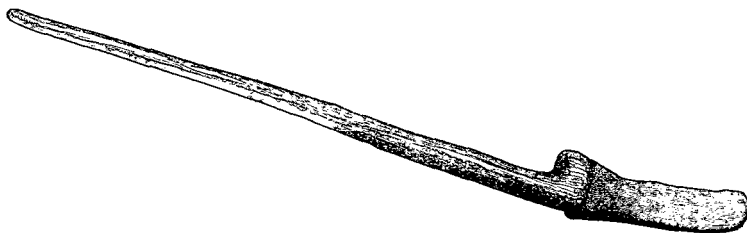
Powder Horn, brass mounted, used by the French Royalists at Quiberon, 1795.

(7.) By FRANCIS BARNETT, Esq., Glass-Stainer, Leith.

Circular Portion of Lead Window Frame, filled with stained and painted glass, forming a star with a blue centre, yellow and green rays, and a narrow red border; from the Chapter House, York Minster. The glass is much corroded by age and exposure to the weather.

(8.) By ARTHUR MITCHELL, M.D., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Spade or *Ceaba*, consisting of a long handle of wood shod with iron. It measures 5 feet 3 inches in length, and is still in ordinary use as an implement of agriculture in the island of Islay.



“Ceaba,” or Spade from the Island of Islay.

(9.) By D. R. ROBERTSON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Small Pear-shaped portion of Painted Glass from Rheims.

Small Circular Rose of Stained Glass from York Minster, with a modern imitation.

MS. Letter from John Gordoun to Patrick Bruce, Leith. No date. This letter was probably written about the year 1590, and shows the expensive character of the gold and silver laced dress worn by gentlemen at that period.

(10.) By WILLIAM STABLES, Esq., Cawdor Castle, Nairn.

Seven Billon Placks of King James III. of Scotland, EDINBURGH, of the usual type.

Four Placks of King James V. of Scotland, EDINBURGH, of the usual type.

Four Pennies of Francis and Mary, 1559.

Thirty-Two Placks of Queen Mary, EDINBURGH, of the usual type.

Five Placks of Queen Mary, "SERVIO."

(11.) By GEORGE LOGAN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Diploma of the "Edinburgh Revolution Club," in favour of James Miller, dated 1788, with seal attached.

In this the Diploma of the "Old Revolution Club," the member declares "the grateful sense he has of the Deliverance of the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, from Popery and Slavery, by King William and Queen Mary, of glorious and immortal memory; and of the further security of our religion and liberty's by the settlement of the Crown upon the Illustrious House of Hanover," &c., &c.

(12.) By EDWARD LAING, Esq., Scottish Widows' Fund Office.

Diploma of the "Cape Club," in favour of James Laing, Esq., dated 1794, with seal attached.

"The Knights Companions of the Cape," as the members of the club were designated, from the titles granted to them by their "Sovereign of the Cape," formed one of the celebrated convivial clubs of Edinburgh during the last century, and were referred to by Ferguson in his poem of "Auld Reekie." Provincial and Colonial Cape Clubs were also formed, deriving their origin and authority from the old parent club in Edinburgh, their design being, according to the terms of their Diploma, "to extend the benign influence of their order to every region under the GRAND CAPE (or Cope) OF HEAVEN;" and hence, apparently, the true origin of the name of the Club. A velvet cape or crown, ornamented at one time with gold and silver lace, and jewels, with the badge of the club—two hands clasped together, and the motto, "CONCORDIA FRATRUM DECUS"—embroidered on its front, which was worn by the "Sovereign of the Cape," and also two gigantic pokers, formed the "Royal Insignia" in "Cape Hall;" and, along with some of the records of the Club, were deposited many years ago in the Museum of the Society.

Various details of the Club are given in the "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," by Dr Daniel Wilson, vol. ii. p. 16.

(13.) By JAMES H. SANDERSON, Esq., Jeweller, George Street.

Two Engravings, one of which is coloured, being views of the Old

Town of Edinburgh, one of the eastern, the other of the western part of the City, taken from Princes Street, engraved by J. Clark from paintings by A. Kay, published in Edinburgh in 1814.

(14.) By the TRUSTEES of the late JOHN SMELLIE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Collection of Original Letters and MSS. chiefly addressed to Mr William Smellie, for some time Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. (See Communication, p. 120.)

(15.) By DAVID LAING, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Correspondence of William Smellie, by Robert Kerr. 2 vols. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1811.

(16.) By the Right Hon. CHARLES LAWSON, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, F.S.A. Scot.

The Geographical Distribution of Material Wealth, by Alexander K. Johnston, with Historical Notes regarding the Merchant Company of Edinburgh. Small 4to. Edinburgh, 1862.

(17.) By JOHN SMALL, Esq., M.A., Librarian to the University.

Some Account of the Original Protest of the Bohemian Nobles against the Burning of John Huss in 1414 (from Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot., vol iii., p. 408), with a Photograph of the Original Document, &c. 4to. Pp. 28. Edinb. 1861.

Historical Sketch of the Library of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. 4to. Pp. 28. Edinburgh, 1863.

(18.) By the HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. New Series. Vol. II. Session 1861-62. 8vo. Liverpool, 1862.

(19.) By the KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Transactions of the Kent Archæological Society. Vol. IV. 8vo. London, 1861.

(20.) By GEORGE TATE, Esq., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Antiquities of Yevering Bell and Three-Stone Burn among the Cheviots, in Northumberland, by George Tate. 8vo. Pp. 26. Alnwick, 1862.

Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club. Vol. IV. No. 6. 8vo. Alnwick, 1863.

(21.) By the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. Nos. 64-67. Vol. VII. 8vo. Philadelphia, 1862.

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for Promoting Useful Knowledge. Vol. XII. New Series. Parts 1 and 2. 4to. Philadelphia, 1862.

Dr JOHN GRIGOR, Nairn, sent for Exhibition a portion of a Small Stone Cup or Lamp, two Whetstones, and an Iron Axe Head, recently found in a Crannoge in Nairnshire. (See Communication below.)

The following Communications were read:—