

III.

NOTES OF COINS, &c., RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN SCOTLAND.
COMMUNICATED BY GEORGE SIM, ESQ., F.S.A., AND CURATOR OF COINS, &c.

I. AT KNOWEHEAD OF CROMBIE PARISH, BANFFSHIRE.

On 1st May last, a herd boy, while amusing himself with a large stone, on a piece of muirland or waste ground, near Knowehead of Crombie, in the parish of Marnoch, and county of Banff, happened to notice a few coins, in a heap of earth thrown up by a mole. These he took home to his father, who returned with him to the spot, and removed the large stone, when they discovered a hoard of about 2000 copper coins of James VI., Charles I., Charles II., Louis XIV., &c. Having examined these coins at Exchequer, I could find only two silver pieces, being a James I. English sixpence, and a half-noble of Charles I. Being all in very poor condition, the whole of these coins were returned to the finders.

2. AT THE FARM OF PLAN, IN THE ISLAND OF BUTE.

On 7th June last, some workmen were engaged, on the hill or muir of the farm of Plan, in the south end of the island of Bute, at a distance of about 300 yards from the ruins or remains of the ancient chapel of Saint Blane, building a wall and quarrying stones. One of them had occasion to remove a large stone with his pick, which was near the site of the wall. After removing the stone, he threw up some soil which had been under it, and in doing so he discovered some coins. He then called his companions, who were close at hand, and a number of coins and other relics were found near the spot from which the stone had been removed. The coins were 27 in number, being of Henry I. and Stephen of England, David I. of Scotland, and others uncertain. Along with the coins were found 2 gold rings (one twisted), 3 gold bands, and a small bar of silver. These are described in the list of Donations to the Museum, p. 215, and are figured in Plate VI.

This small hoard of coins is one of the most important ever found in Scotland, and has enabled us with certainty to appropriate coins to David I., which (from the illegible specimens hitherto discovered) had been attributed to Alexander I., and are figured in Plate VII.

The Rev. Mr Pollexfen of Colchester (a gentleman particularly skilful in Scottish coins), who happened to be in Edinburgh when the coins arrived at the Exchequer, made a very minute examination of them, and has kindly promised to favour us with his observations on the subject.

3. AT KILMARNOCK, Ayrshire.

On 5th August 1863, I examined, at Exchequer, a hoard of coins found shortly before at Kilmarnock, and another hoard found at Kippendavie, Stirlingshire.

The Kilmarnock coins consisted of—

German Dollars of 17th century,	. . .	107
Do. Half-Dollars do.,	. . .	6
James I. Shilling,	. . .	1
Charles I. Shilling,	. . .	1
Charles II. Merks,	. . .	9

Charles II. Quarter-Dollars,	2
Do. Shilling,	1
In all, —	127

I have reason to know that the Procurator-fiscal was not successful in recovering nearly all the coins that were found.

4. AT KIPPENDAVIE, STIRLINGSHIRE.

The Kippendavie coins were—

Spanish Dollars,	2
Do. Half-Dollar,	1
German Dollars,	2
Philip and Mary Shilling—poor,	1
Do. do. Sixpence—poor,	1
Elizabeth Shillings,	5
Do. Sixpences,	3
James I. Shillings,	6
James VI. Scottish Half-Crown, after his accession to the English throne,	1
Charles I. Half-Crowns,	11
Do. Shillings,	16
Do. Sixpence,	1
In all, —	50

5. AT WOODHEAD, PARISH OF CANONBIE, DUMFRIESSHIRE.

On 24th and 25th February 1863, there were turned up by the plough, in a field on the farm of Woodhead, in the parish of Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, a quantity of silver coins, together with gold rings and silver brooches, &c.; which are figured on Plate VIII., and are described in the list of Donations to the Museum, at p. 216. The coins were all pennies, with three exceptions; and having, on 27th August, examined the hoard, I found them to consist of—

Edward I., of Dublin mint,	1
Edwards I. and II., London,	40
Canterbury,	13
Durham,	9
York,	2

Edwards I. and II., Berwick,	2
Bristol,	2
Bury St Edmunds,	1
Halfpennies of Berwick,	3
Alexander III. of Scotland Penny,	1
John Baliol Pennies, "Rex Scotorum" and "Civitas S'Andre,"	2
In all, ———	76

6. AT BRECHIN, FORFARSHIRE.

Early in November last, there was forwarded to Exchequer an English gold half-crown of James I., well preserved; said to have been found in the garden of Mr James Smith, clothier, Brechin.

7. AT KINGHORN, FIFESHIRE.

I am indebted to Mr William Douglas, R.S.A., for a particular account of this discovery.

"They were found while levelling some ground close to the old mansion-house of Abden, which, though probably not in its present form of an older date than the beginning of last century, occupies the site of much older buildings; and on the spot, or near it, the early Scottish kings possessed a hunting-seat. The workmen engaged in removing the earth a few yards to the south of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway, found an earthenware vessel, something like the accompanying figure. Thinking it a stone, they struck it with a pick, and some coins falling out, in the scramble that



Earthen Jar containing Coins;
found at Kinghorn.

ensued it was utterly smashed. From the size of the impression in the soil, and the curve of the fragments, I judge it to have been at least twelve inches in height, and nine or ten inches in diameter at its widest part. It was very gibbous in form, and, on the whole, not unlike the

old "greybeards." It was slightly marked with transverse ridges, composed of livid grey clay, covered with a yellow glaze, and was in excellent preservation.

"With the exception of a small space in the mouth and neck, this vessel was entirely filled with silver pennies, very closely packed, and partially, through oxidisation, sticking together in lumps. Generally, however, they were in excellent preservation.

"I can give you little account of the coins themselves, as, out of so many thousands, I have not examined above a hundred or so. They were principally English pennies of the first Edwards; a few Irish pennies of Edward I., struck at Dublin and Waterford; Scottish pennies of Alexander III. and David II., with a foreign sterling or two. These I have seen; but it is known that there were also pennies of Alexander II., Bruce, and Baliol. As far as I have been able to discover, there was not a single groat in the 'find,' which, taken in connection with the singular newness of the bulk of David II. coins, would seem to point to the earlier part of his reign for the period of the deposit; unless, however, a larger quantity can be examined than I have seen, this surmise must be very uncertain."

I have selected from the above-mentioned Treasure Trove, and from older finds formerly reported, the coins, which, through the kind offices of Mr Henderson, Her Majesty's Remembrancer, have now been presented to our Museum.

NOTE ON THE COINAGE OF JOHN OF ENGLAND.

While on this subject, I may be permitted to state, with reference to the coinage of John of England, noticed in our "Proceedings," vol. iii. p. 109; that a very important discovery has recently been made by a most intelligent numismatist, Mr W. H. Dyer Longstaffe,¹ of Gateshead, most satisfactorily accounting for the entire absence of *English* money, of both Richard I. and John, which is, that these monarchs continued to coin money with the dies used by their father, Henry II.

¹ Numismatic Chronicle, vol. iii. p. 162, N.S.

Mr MOSSMAN stated, that it would be desirable if the new regulations of Exchequer were still more generally known, whereby the finder of relics is entitled to receive their full value.

Professor SIMPSON exhibited a drawing and gave a description of a stone axe head or celt, found in a gravel or drift bed in the island of Lewis.

MONDAY, 29th February 1864.

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

On a Ballot, the following gentleman was elected a Fellow of the Society:—

WILLIAM WRONGHAM, Esq., Dundee.

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

(1.) By the Rev. ZACHARY MACAULAY HAMILTON, Bressay, Shetland.

Stone, sculptured on both sides, with interlaced crosses on the upper part, and below, figures of men and animals. An inscription in Ogham characters is cut along both its edges. It measures 3 feet 9 inches in height, 16 inches in breadth, and 2 inches in thickness. (See Plate XII.)

Drawings of the stone are given in plates xciv. and xcv. of the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," folio, 1856, and a copy of one of these drawings is given in the annexed Plate XII., for the use of which the Society is indebted to Daniel Wilson, LL.D., University College, Toronto, Canada.

The following account of this stone is taken from Mr Stuart's work referred to above: "The Stone at Bressay in Shetland is said to have been found by a labourer residing at Culbinsgarth, on the east side of that island, while engaged in digging a piece of waste land near the ruinous church of Culbinsgarth, which is surrounded by a very old burying-ground. It was then taken by Captain Cameron Mowat of Garth to his

house at Gourdie, and from thence it was removed to the churchyard of Bressay by the Rev. Mr Hamilton, minister of Bressay. It was exhibited at a meeting of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain, held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1852."—"The Rev. Charles Graves, D.D., of Trinity College, Dublin, at a meeting of the Archæological Institute in May last, delivered a discourse on the Bressay Stone, the ornaments on which he considered to be thoroughly Irish. He proposed to read the inscriptions, which are in the ancient Ogham character, as follows—*BENRES MECCUDROI ANN*, 'Benrhe, or the son of the Druid, lies here;' and that on the other edge thus—*CROSC NAHDFDADS DATR ANN*, 'the Cross of Nordred's daughter is here placed.' Dr Graves conceives the language of the inscriptions to be a mixture of the Irish and Icelandic. This circumstance, and the reference to the son of a Druid in one of the inscriptions, are rather startling, and present difficulties which further research may serve to clear up."

(2.) By THE PRINCESS MARIE, DUCHESS OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON.

Small egg-shaped Hammer of Mica Schist, partially broken, measuring 3 inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, with round perforation for a handle through its centre. It was found in the Island of Arran.

(3.) By WILLIAM STEVENSON, Esq., Dunse.

Calvarium of a well-formed human Skull, and broken fragments of an Urn or "Drinking Cup" of reddish clay, showing a black fracture.

The urn is ornamented with belts of straight, zigzag, and crossing lines, of the stamped or twisted-cord pattern. Found in a cist, about two feet below the surface, in the course of excavating gravel for ballast on the line of the Berwickshire Railway, and about half a mile from the Dunse Station. The cist was of the ordinary short character, being composed of six sandstone slabs procured in the neighbourhood. Its dimensions were 4 feet long, by 18 inches wide, and 20 inches deep. It contained the entire skeleton of an adult male. The body had been placed in the usual bent position, with the head to the west. No other relics were found, with the exception of the urn, which was lying near the left shoulder of the skeleton. The gravel pit had long been under cultivation. There was no appearance of a tumulus. (See notes on the character of the Cranium by Mr Turner, and figure, p. 279.)

(4.) By J. STEWART HEPBURN of Colquhalzie, Esq.

Iron AXE Head, measuring 8 inches in length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the back part or hammer-head of the axe, and 3 inches across the front of the face; also a portion of a large Earthenware Vessel of yellow clay, showing the base of a handle.

The axe and pottery were found together, when a digging was made outside the rampart of the military station at "*Hierna*," on the farm of Strageath, on the south bank of the Earn, six miles from Ardoch, and on the line of the road connecting the great Roman Camp at Ardoch with the station at "*Orrea*," near Perth. The camp is situated on elevated ground, commanding the ford of the Earn at Innerpeffray, near the confluence of its tributary the Pow, from whence the road, which is still in some places preserved, passes to Perth, along the ridge of high land between the villages of the Earn and the Pow. Some small circular entrenched stations along the line still exist,—one of them is in the neighbourhood of Colquhalzie. The portion of earthenware closely resembles the common Roman Amphora, and the axe head is similar to one found with other Roman implements of iron at Chesterford, Essex, in 1854. (Journal of the Archæological Institute, vol. xiii. page 1.)

Light Iron Horse-Shoe, 4 inches across, without tips or heels, found at that part of the battlefield of Bannockburn where tradition states the English cavalry were broken by pitfalls having been made.

(5.) By JOHN GRANT, Esq., accountant, Edinburgh.

The Proceedings of the Commissioners of Supply for the county of Dumfries, from the 3d day of January 1692 to the 3d day of July 1711, foolscap folio, in manuscript.

(6.) By Professor CHR. PETERSEN, Hamburg (the Author).

Der Donnerbesen, von Professor Chr. Petersen, in Hamburg. 8vo, Keil, 1862, pp. 44.

Verzeichniss der Vorlesungen, welche am Hamburgischen Akademischen und Real-Gymnasium, von Ostern 1860 bis Ostern 1863, gehalten werden sollen. 4to, Hamburg, 1860-62.

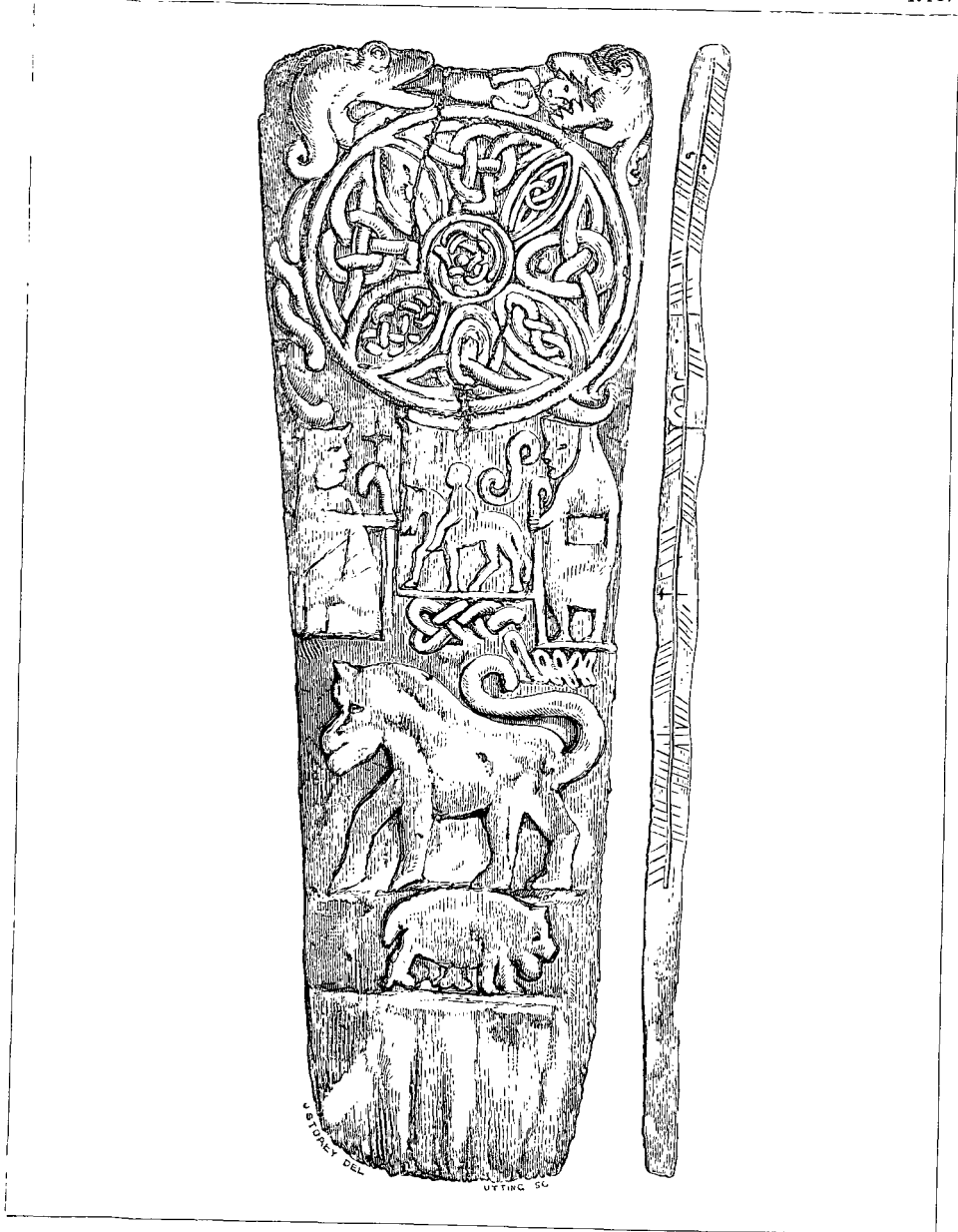
(7.) By the GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF BOMBAY.

Transactions of the Bombay Geographical Society from June 1860 to December 1862. Vol. xvi. 8vo. Bombay, 1863.

(8.) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

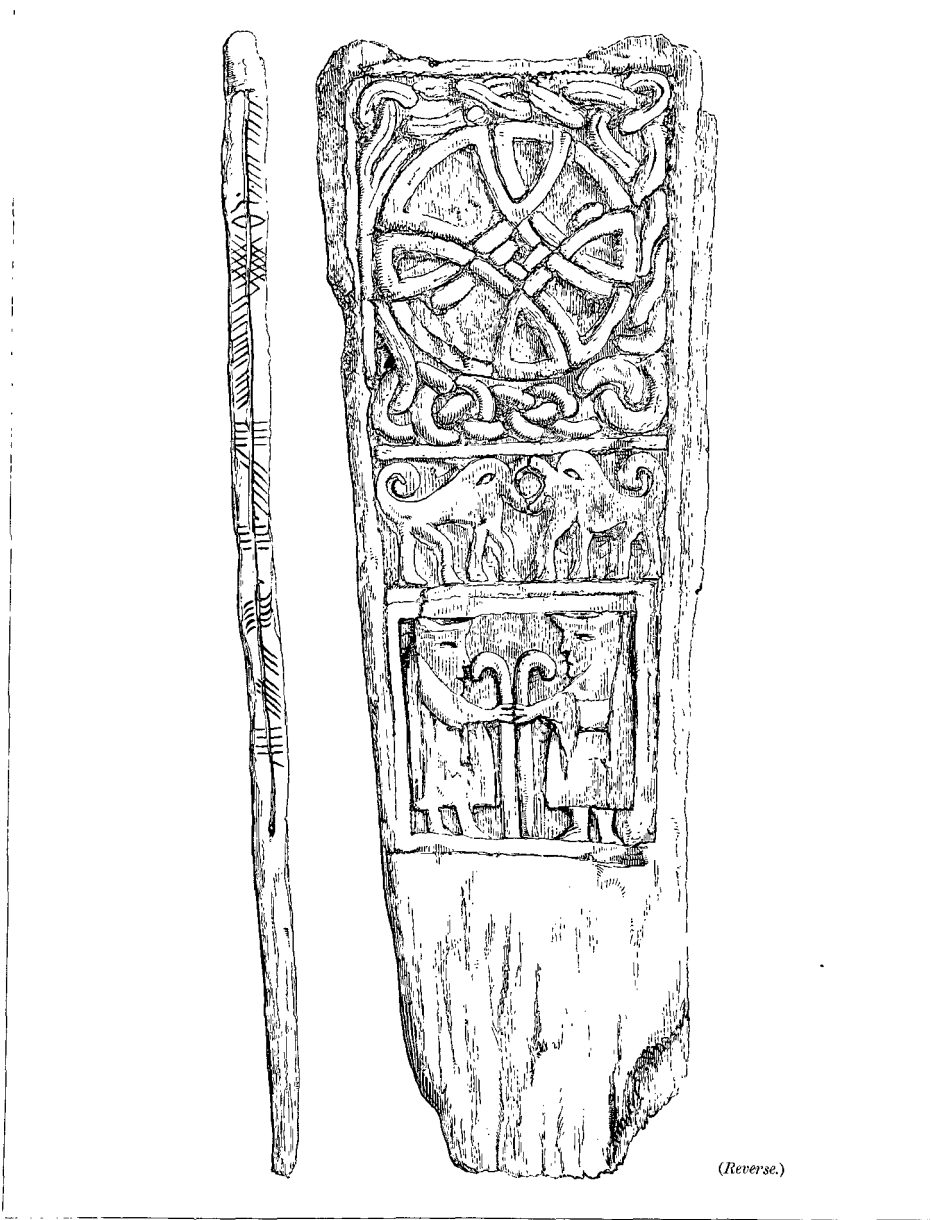
Catalogue of the Library belonging to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 8vo, Newcastle, 1863.

The following Communications were read :—



SCULPTURED STONE, WITH OGHAM INSCRIPTION, FOUND AT BRESSAY, SHETLAND

Now in the Museum of the Antiquaries of Scotland.



SCULPTURED STONE, WITH OGHAM INSCRIPTIONS, FOUND AT BRESSAY, SHETLAND.

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