

#### IV.

NOTE ON THE "EIRDE HOUSE" AT CULSH, IN TARLAND, ABERDEENSHIRE. BY A. JERVISE, ESQ., BRECHIN, COR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.  
(PLATE XIX.)

Little can be added regarding the "Eirde House" or underground chamber at Culsh, to that already communicated by the worthy secretary to the Society, Mr Stuart, who was present at the clearing out of it in 1854, and who has given an interesting account of that operation, of the articles found in it, and of the historical and antiquarian peculiarities of the district in which it is situated.<sup>1</sup>

The chamber lies immediately north of the farm offices at Culsh, on the south side of the public road leading from Tarland to Alford, &c. The point is elevated, and commands a fine view of Mount Keen, and the hills south of the Dee, as well as of the pretty district of Cromar, including the site of the "Eirde House" at Migvie, from which it is four or five miles distant.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, vol. i. p. 261.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. vol. v. p. 101.

It is to be regretted that, since the year 1854, the cave at Culsh has been somewhat rudely dealt with—not so much by time as by the less generous hands of idle visitors, some of whom, in the most wanton manner, had loosened portions of the more easily removed parts of the walls. Upon the occasion of a late visit, I found one of the covers supported by a rough wooden post (C), which the farmer had judiciously placed to prevent one of the undermined covers from falling down into the chamber. Since that time (1864), Mr Douglas, the tenant, has done a still greater service with the view of preserving the cave, by having the loose covers and stones of the walls replaced, and the top of it laid with turf. He is also to put a door upon the entrance. I may add that Mr Douglas is of opinion that the stones of which the Culsh cave is constructed had been chiefly brought from the neighbouring hill of Ledlick (vulg. *Ladlick*), which bounds the district of Cromar on the east.

The accompanying plan (see Plate XIX.), made some years ago, was revised upon the spot last spring, when the covers (DD) were awanting, and the walls of both sides of the building at F very much dilapidated. EE, represents the parts of the east wall which have been formed out of the solid rock, the rest of it being composed of rough undressed boulders. The appearance of the roof, or disposition of the covers, as well as their number, is shown in the sectional drawing B. As stated by Mr Stuart, the bottom is formed by the natural rock, and the extreme length of the chamber is about 47 feet. Its height and width are respectively about 6 feet at the end, and about 2 feet at the entrance—in its dilapidated state the entry appeared to be nearly 4 feet high.

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MONDAY, 14th March 1864.

JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

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

(1.) BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Massive Wrought-Iron Lid of a Safe or Treasure Chest, having a complicated lock, with fifteen spring bolts, which were shot under a pro-

jecting iron rim surrounding the upper part of the chest; the open work of the lock covers the whole of the lower surface of the lid. The key-hole of the lock is in the centre of the lid above, and is covered by a spring lid, which again is opened by pressing on a small concealed peg at its side. Also two large and one small iron keys.

The iron chest to which this lid belonged was used as the treasure chest or safe of the Darien Company which was instituted in 1695. See "The Darien Papers; being a Selection of Original Letters and Official Documents relating to the Establishment of a Colony at Darien by the Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the Indies. 1695-1700. Edinburgh, 1849." 4to. One of the publications of the Bannatyne Club.

The house built for the offices of the Company still exists within the extended line of the city wall, near Bristo Port, and now forms one of several buildings occupied by the Edinburgh City Poor-House.

(2.) BY A LADY.

Lady's Pincushion of Chequered Silk, with Ribbon attached, woven with the inscription, GOD SAVE P. C. AND DOWN WITH THE RYMP. A party badge worn by ladies about the time of the Restoration of Charles II.

(3.) BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS, Esq., R.S.A.

Penny Wedding Table-Knife, silver mounted, with imitation tortoise shell handle; the blade is curved towards the point.

Catalogue of the Special Exhibition of Works of Art, on loan, at the South Kensington Museum, June 1862, edited by J. C. Robinson, F.S.A. Royal 8vo. London, 1863.

(4.) BY J. H. SANDERSON, Esq., George Street.

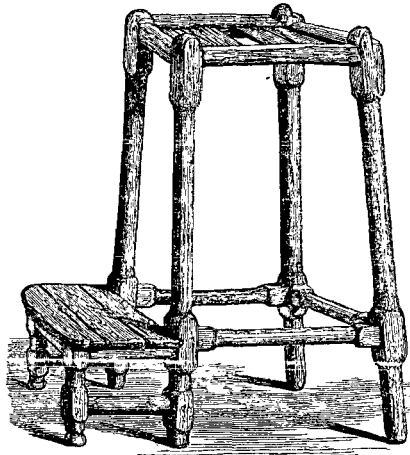
Oak Carving, 9 inches high by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in breadth—Christ driving the Money Changers from the Temple. A group of six figures in high relief.

(5.) BY MISS CHRISTIANA HOGARTH, Union Place, Edinburgh.

Wooden Stool of Repentance (see annexed figure), on which a person who had become liable to ecclesiastical discipline used formerly to be

seated in church during divine service. This stool was used in Old Greyfriars' Church, Edinburgh. For fifty years past this stool has been in the possession of the family of the Donor, and prior thereto it belonged to the Misses Hepburn, whose father was minister of the church during last century.

The Rev. John Hepburn was appointed first minister of the New Greyfriars' Church in the year 1723; and was translated to the Old Greyfriars' Church in 1732.



Stool of Repentance, Old Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh.

(6.) By J. M. LINDSAY, Esq., Director of H. M. Chancery.

Two Casts in Plaster of the Quarter Seal of Queen Victoria, for Scotland. *Obverse*—VICTORIA · DEI · GRATIA · BRITANNIAR · REG F. D. The Queen, crowned and seated on horseback, with the sceptre in her right hand, and wearing the order of the collar of the garter. *Reverse*—Royal arms, Scotland in the first and fourth quarters of the shield; the whole surrounded by a wreath of thistles. (See notice respecting Quarter Seals, in the Proceedings of the Society, Vol. II. page 429.)

(7.) By the Rev. MACKINTOSH MACKAY, LL.D., Tarbert, Harris.

Two Axe Heads or Celts of dark green jade, one measuring  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the face; the other, 5 inches in length, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the face.

In a note accompanying the donation, Dr Mackay states, that they were obtained from a tribe of the aborigines occupying the country bordering on both sides of the Glenelg and Waunow or Wannoo rivers, in the colony of Victoria. A spot was pointed out to Dr Mackay in the neighbourhood of the Munstan River, where the natives stated there was a quarry of the material, and to which many of the tribes resorted long ago for the purpose of obtaining those weapons; the site had all the appearance of having been an extinct volcano. The axe heads were used by being fixed in a cleft stick for a handle, and the stick was lashed round with native thread, securing the stone, and retaining it in its place. Dr Mackay's opinion is, that these axe heads were chiefly used for the purposes of war.

(8.) By EBENEZER MURRAY, Esq., St Andrew Square.

Small Earthenware Hand Lamp, of reddish clay, without handle, having a raised pattern on the top.

Small Earthenware Bottle, with a loop on each side of the neck; a circular stamp, with figure and crosses, is on one side; on the other is apparently a Maltese cross, surrounded by an interlaced pattern.

Two modern Water Bottles, of grey coloured earthenware.

Two Earthenware Mummy Figures.

The above articles were brought from Thebes in the year 1819.

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

Small Earthenware Hand Lamp, of reddish-coloured clay, apparently Roman, stated to have been found, many years ago, on the line of the Devil's Dyke, Dumfriesshire.

Small Hand Lamp, of coarse reddish clay. Also a small Rude Clay Bottle, with two handles, having a circular stamp in relief on both sides. From Alexandria.

Bronze Medal of Frederick II. of Prussia, 1758. Copper coin of James, King of Castile and Arragon. Charles II. Half Turner.

Debenture on Vellum, for Return of Duties paid upon Tobacco in the

ship "Elizabeth," of Saltcoats, bound for "Rotterdam;" dated at Greenock, 19th day of May 1732.

The above debenture for return of duties paid upon tobacco shows the remarkable change which has taken place since that date. At that period almost the entire import for Europe was brought to Britain from her American colonies, and again reshipped to the various European States. The Continent of Europe is now nearly all supplied with home-grown tobacco, with the exception of some finer qualities brought from Havannah and Manilla, and a portion of the European produce even finds its way to this country in a manufactured state.

(10.) By KENNETH MACKENZIE, Esq., C.A.

Forty-two Roman 1st and 2d Brass, of Augustus, Tiberius, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Maximinus, Maximus, Gordian, Pius, Philip, Valerian, Constantius, Chlorus, Diocletian, Maxentius, and others. Also several foreign coins, including Russian, French, Swedish, and German.

English Copper of George II. and III., &c.

And thirty-four Copper Coins and Tokens.

(11.) By JOHN M. MITCHELL, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. (the Author).

The Herring, its Natural History and National Importance. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1864.

(12.) By the ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETIES.

Reports and Papers read at the Meetings of the Architectural Societies of the County of York, Diocese of Lincoln, Archdeaconry of Northampton, County of Bedford, Diocese of Worcester, and County of Leicester, during the year 1862. Vol. VI. Part 2. 8vo. Lincoln, 1863.

(13.) By the GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUBLIN.

Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin. Vol. IX. Part 2, and Vol. X. Part 1, for Sessions 1861-62, 1862-63. 8vo. Dublin, 1862-63.

(14.) By the ROYAL UNIVERSITY, CHRISTIANA.

Foreningen til Norske Fortidsmindesmerkens Bevaring. Aarsberetning for 1862. Hermed andet hefte af "Norske Fornlevninger." 8vo. (pp. 46). Kristiania, 1863.

Diplomatarium Norvegicum. Tom. VI. Pars 1. 8vo. Christiania, 1863.

Flateyjarbok. en samling af Norske Konge-sagaer med indskudte Mindre Fortaellinger om begivenheder I og udenfor norge samt Annaler. Udgiven efter offentlig Foranstaltning. Binds I. II. 8vo. Christiania, 1859-1862.

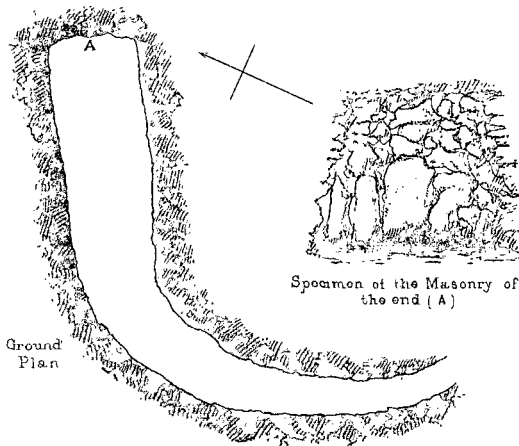
Norske Rigsregistranter tildeels I. Uddrag Udgivne efter offentlig Foranstaltning. andet binds andet hefte 1579-1588, udgivet ved Otto Gr. Lundh. 8vo. Christiania, 1863.

Norske Fornlevninger. En oplysende Fortegnelse over Norges Fortid-slevninger, aeldre end Reformationem og henforte til hver sit sted, af N. Nicolaysen. Andet hefte. 8vo. Kristiania, 1863.

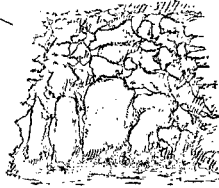
Ordbog over det gamle norske Sprog af Johan Fritzner. 8vo. Hefte 3 and 4. Kristiania, 1863.

Det Kongelige Norske Frederiks Universitets stiftelse, fremstillet Halvhundredaarsfest. I anledning af dets. 8vo. (Pp. 112.) Christiania, 1862.

The following Communications were read :—

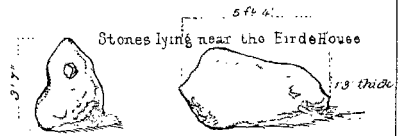


Ground Plan

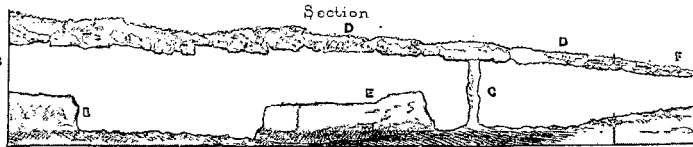


Specimen of the Masonry of the end (A)

PLANS & SECTIONS &c.  
 "EIRDE-HOUSE" AT CULSH, CROMAR.  
 ABERDEENSHIRE.



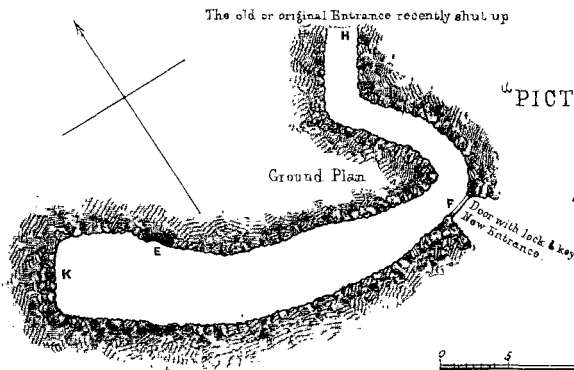
Stones lying near the Eirde-house



Section

SCALE. 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Feet

A. Jervise del.

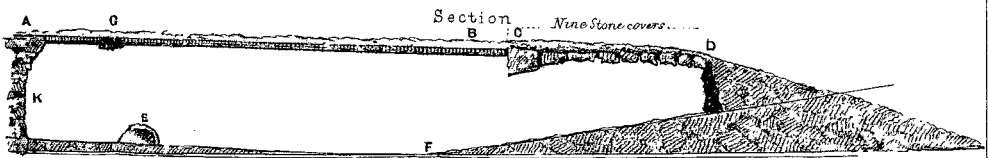


The old or original Entrance recently shut up

Ground Plan

"PICTS" OR "EIRDE-HOUSE"  
 AT  
 MIGVIE  
 ABERDEENSHIRE

SCALE. 0 5 10 15 20 25 Feet



Section

Nine Stone covers

A. Jervise del.

H. A. J. Jervise.