

III.

NOTICE OF HUMAN REMAINS FOUND IN DIGGING AT THE CITADEL, NORTH LEITH. BY D. H. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

The citadel of North Leith was erected by order of Oliver Cromwell in 1653. It was garrisoned by the Protector's troops till the Restoration, when it was given in grant to the Earl of Lauderdale. General Monk at one period resided there, as appears by the Trinity House records. It is represented in Greenville Collins's Chart, originally published in his "Great Britain's Coasting Pilot," 1693, as a quadrangular fortification, with large angular bastions and ditch. The north-eastern bastion has been exposed in the recent drainage works. It is composed of solid and massive mason-work, rough towards the ditch and sea, but well chiselled in the inner front. The ditch on the other side was found at the depth of 10 feet to be soft and almost muddy. The soil was of a very black colour, and on what might have been its slope the remains of about forty adult male skeletons were excavated. The skeletons I apprehend to have been those of the troops who died while garrisoned there, as we have no record of any assault having been made on the fort. Opposite the north entrance to the Mariners' Church a number of coins were found near the surface. These were chiefly foreign copper ones of the smaller German States, and several halfpennies of George II.

One portion of the citadel still remains. It consists of a lengthened arched doorway of massive masonry, with a cutting which might possibly have been for a portcullis.

In the writer's boyhood days, the area of the citadel formed the site for the travelling circus and strolling booths, where Douglas, and the Warlock of the Glen, were performed to the entire satisfaction of the beholders; but the terminus of the Edinburgh, Leith, and Granton Railway, and the Mariners' Church, have occupied the space, and left these neither a local habitation nor a name.