

#### IV.

##### NOTE REGARDING CIST AND URN FOUND AT INVERGOWRIE.

By ANDREW JERVISE, Esq., COR. MEM. S.A. SCOT., BRECHIN.

On 17th November 1860, while the line of railway was being made from Dundee to Lochee, a stone cist was found upon the farm of Mill of Invergowrie, in the highest of a series of hillocks or knowes, composed of gravel and sand. The site is about 150 yards east of the well-known monolith called the "Paddock Stane;"<sup>2</sup> and the coffin was from 18 to 20 inches deep, about 4 feet long, and 18 inches broad. It was constructed of rude freestone slabs, and upon the cover or top was a rough boulder of from six to seven cwt. The coffin, which contained bones, lay from east to west, and an urn of baked light-coloured clay was in the south-east corner of it. The urn contained some black damp mould, and rested upon its base. It is  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches high, 6 inches across the mouth, and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the base. To the height of 3 inches from the bottom it bears a closely set zig-zag ornament, then a band of about an inch broad, upon which is a plain spotted pattern, and four low unpierced nobs, or ear-looking projections.

The hillock was thoroughly searched and levelled when the urn was

<sup>1</sup> Robertson's Index, pp. 144, 147, 152; and *Inquisitiones Speciales* (Fife), Nos. 406, 1233, 1803, afford some additional particulars regarding the old proprietors of Inverdovat and Seynills.

<sup>2</sup> Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 443.

found, but no other coffin or urn was got in it. Stone cists, without urns, have been discovered in the most of the hillocks which adjoin the one above-mentioned, and these hillocks have all been levelled and destroyed in the course of railway operations.

The urn, which is nearly entire, and rather a good specimen—not very dissimilar in its general appearance from that which was found at Murley Well<sup>1</sup>—is carefully preserved in a glass case by Mr Wilson, tenant of Charleston of Invergowrie, upon whose farm it was found, and from whom I learned the particulars of its discovery—a fact briefly referred to at p. 216 of this volume.

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MONDAY, 9th April 1866.

DAVID LAING, Esq., LL.D, Vice-President, in the Chair.

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

JOHN B. GREENSHIELDS, younger of Kerse, Esq., Lesmahagow.

The following Gentlemen were elected Corresponding Members:—

JOSEPH ANDERSON, Esq., Wick.

THOMAS B. GRIERSON, Esq., Surgeon, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire.

The Donations to the Museum and Library were as follows, and thanks were voted to the Donors:—

- (1.) By PATRICK A. FRASER of Hospitalfield, Esq., Arbroath, F.S.A. Scot.

Large Mass of Greyish Granite of oblong shape, measuring 2 feet 4 inches in length, 2 feet in breadth, and 12 inches in thickness, its upper surface hollowed into a concavity; apparently used for rubbing grain, or as a grinding or polishing stone.

Six rounded Balls or Pebbles of Quartz, the natural surface being abraded by attrition, probably corn crushers, which may have been used

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, vol. v. p. 81.

in the grinding stone described above. They measure from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 5 inches in diameter.

Two fine grained Stones of Greenish Colour, partially rubbed on the sides; probably used as polishers. One measures 3 inches, and the other  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length.

Small Circular Disk of Mica Schist, measuring 2 inches in diameter, pierced with a hole in the centre.

Fragments of Wood Charcoal from 2 to 3 inches in length.

These various articles were found in hut circles at South Persie, in Strathardle, Perthshire. (See Communication, page 402).

Irregularly-shaped Portion of Grey Granite, 12 inches long by 12 inches in breadth, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in thickness, with a circular cup-shaped depression cut on its upper surface.

Flat round-shaped Disk of Chlorite Schist, measuring 4 inches in diameter, pierced with a perforation through its centre.

Portions of Earth mixed with Calcined Bones; and Fragments of Unburnt Bones of an Animal. Found in the "Greycairn" at Balnabroch, Strathardle.

Fragment of Bronze Wire measuring 5 inches in length, apparently the stalk of a brooch or pin. Found in a hut circle near the "Greycairn," Balnabroch.

(2.) By the Rev. J. M. Joass, Eddertoun, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Small Fragments of Burnt Bone, pieces of Charcoal, and portion of a Bronze Pin, 2 inches in length, covered with patina; found in a short cist at Eddertoun, Ross-shire. (See Communication, page 418.)

(3.) By GEORGE BUIST of Ormiston, Esq., Fife.

Oblong Stone or Hammer, 9 inches in length, 4 inches in breadth, and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in thickness, with a perforation or haft-hole through its centre. It is partially chipped at each extremity, as if from use.

Celt of fine grained Greenish-coloured Stone, 3 inches in length and 2 inches across the face, found in the fields of Ormiston Farm, parish of Abdie, Fifeshire.

(4.) By J. R. ROBINSON, Esq., Dewsbury, F.S.A. Scot.

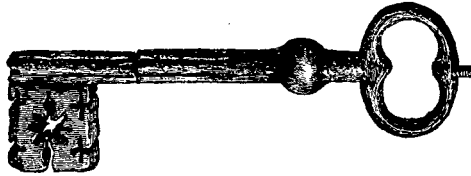
A leaf-shaped Arrow-head, 2 inches in length, of brownish-coloured flint, and 6 other rudely formed Arrow-heads or Flakes, from  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length; of brown and light coloured flint; found in Ireland.

(5.) By ROBERT A. VEITCH, Esq., Greenhill Bank, Edinburgh.

Rudely formed bowl-shaped Sepulchral Urn, of yellowish-coloured clay, a little contracted towards the mouth. It measures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height and 4 inches in diameter at the mouth, and is ornamented with a pattern of short sloping lines on the upper part, and rude punctures below. It was found 7 feet below the surface, in the course of the formation of the drainage for the new villas at Boroughmuirhead, Morningside.

(6.) By Mr JOHN HUGHES, through ANDREW COVENTRY, Esq.

Large Iron Key, 9 inches in length, cut for numerous wards (figured in the annexed woodcut.) The stem is in two pieces, which are joined together by a screw. The whole key appears to have been richly gilt. It was found among the ruins of Barnbogle Castle, Linlithgowshire.



Iron Key found at Barnbogle Castle. (Scale, one-quarter of the original.)

(7.) By A. W. FRANKS, Esq., A. M., British Museum, F.S.A. Scot.

Two Penannular Rings of Gold Wire, slightly thickened at the extremities; each measuring  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch in diameter. They were brought from the Province of Cauca, New Granada, South America.

(8.) By ALEXANDER WHYTE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., South Queensferry.

Penny of Edward II.—EBOR—found near the old church of Queensferry. Groat of Queen Elizabeth.

Penny Scots, King Charles II., found at Abercorn Church.

First brass of the Roman Emperor Gordianus III.

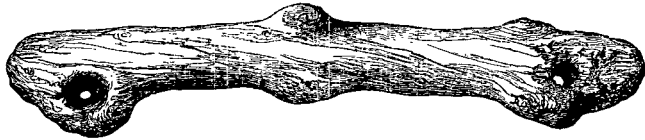
(9.) By D. H. ROBERTSON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

A Forged "One Pound" Note of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1826.

(10.) By Lieut.-Colonel FORBES LESLIE, F.S.A. Scot. (the Author).  
The Early Races of Scotland, and their Monuments. 2 vols. 8vo.  
Edinburgh, 1866.

(11.) By DAVID BALFOUR, of Trenaby, Esq., Orkney, F.S.A. Scot.

Portion of the Branch of a Tree, measuring 2 feet 10 inches in length, and from 4 inches to 5 inches in diameter, with a rounded perforation at each end, apparently made by fire. It is described by the donor as a yoke for oxen, and was found under 6 feet of peat in the White Moss, a short way south-east from the "standing-stone" of Shapinshay, Orkney.



Yoke for Oxen (?) found near Shapinshay, Orkney.

(12.) By CHARLES LAWSON, Jun., Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Sketch of the History of the High Constables of Edinburgh; with Notes on the Early Watching, Cleaning, and other Police Arrangements of the City. By J. D. Marwick, City Clerk of Edinburgh, F.S.A. Scot. 4to. *Printed for private circulation.* Edin. 1865.

(13.) By His Grace THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, F.S.A. Scot.

Memoir written during a Survey of the Eastern Branch of the Watling Street, in the County of Northumberland, from Bewclay, near Portgate on the Roman Wall, to Berwick-upon-Tweed. Surveyed by Henry MacLauchlan. 8vo, and folio plates. Lond. 1864. *Printed for private circulation.*

(14.) By ANDREW GILLMAN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

An Account of what appeared on opening the Coffin of King Charles I. in the Vault of King Henry VIII. in St George's Chapel at Windsor, 1st April 1813. By Sir Henry Halford, Bart. 4to. Lond. 1813.

(15.) By the COMMISSIONERS for Publishing the Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland.

Ancient Laws of Ireland—Senchus Mor. Introduction to Senchus Mor, or Law of Distress, as contained in the Harleian Manuscripts. 8vo. Vol. I. Dublin, 1865.

(16.) By the SENATUS of the UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH.

There were exhibited and deposited in the Museum, Four Roman Altars found at Birrens, Dumfriesshire; and a Cast in Plaster of the Rosetta Stone.

The altar No. 1 measures 3 feet 9 inches in height, and 16 inches in breadth, with mouldings at the top and bottom. No. 2 measures 4 feet 3 inches in height, and is 20 inches in breadth. No. 3 measures 4 feet in height, and 15 inches in breadth. (See Plate XXIII. figs. 1-3.) No. 4 measures 3 feet in length, and 15 inches in breadth. They are respectively inscribed:—

DEAERICAGAM	MARTI ET VICTO·	FORTVNAE	D I B × D E
BEDAEPAGVS	RIAE·AVG·C·RAE	COH·Ī·	A B × Q ×
VELLAVS MILIT	TIMI LIT·INCOH	NERVANA	O M N I B
COHII TVNG	II TVNGR·CVI·	GERMANOR	FR V M E N T
V · S · L · M ·	PRAEEST SILVIVS	E Q	IVS MIL·COHII·
	AVSPEX·PRAEF		TVNGR
	V · S · L · M ·		
No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.

The following notice of three of these altars is from Mr Roach Smith's "Collectanea Antiqua," vol. iii. page 202, where they are figured as plate xxxiii.

"Birrens, the *Blatum Belgium* of the Itinerary of Antonius, is a strongly entrenched camp, situated a little to the south of Middleby Kirk, on the river Mein. A plan of the station is engraved in Roy's 'Military Antiquities,' and most of the inscriptions found there in earlier times have been collected and published by the late Mr R. Stuart, in his 'Caledonia Romana.'

"No. 1 (Plate XXIII. fig. 1) presents some little difficulty in the first line, as it refers to one of those local deities, of whom we have so many examples, often troublesome to appropriate. I propose reading it thus:

'To the Goddess *Ricomaga* of the district (*Pagus*) of Beda, Vellaus, serving in the second cohort of the Tungri, in discharge of a vow willingly dedicates.' The *Beda Pagus* was a tract on the line of the Roman road from Treves to Cologne, some trace of the original name of which is retained in that of its modern representative Bitburg. In this region was a station or town called *Rigomagus*, or *Ricomagus*; and to this place, I suspect, may the goddess of the Birrens altar be referred; especially, as the dedicatory was a Tungrian. The word *Pagus* is not unfrequently found in the sense in which it here appears, in similar inscriptions. Mr Stuart gives one, copied from Pennant, and also found at Birrens, which was erected, also by a Tungrian, to the goddess of Viradesthian (?) Pagus.

"No. 2 (fig. 2). I would suggest the following reading, emending that given by Dr Wilson in the 'Prehistoric Annals of Scotland,' vol. ii. page 70, only as regards the name of the person who erected the altar: *Marti et Victoriæ Augustæ C. Rætius militaris in cohorte secunda Tungrorum cui præest auspex Silvius Præfectus votum solvit lubens merito.*

"The Tungri are mentioned by Tacitus, together with the Batavi, as being in Britain under Agricola: from numerous inscriptions, they appear to have been actively engaged in the province, down to a late period; at the time of the compilation of the *Notitia*, the first cohort was at Bocovricus; and another, possibly the second, at Dubris.

"No. 3 (fig. 3) is an Altar to Fortune, erected by the first cohort of the Nervii; or as the inscription reads, by the first Nervian cohort of the Germans. In the inscription on the fourth altar, this cohort uses the same remarkable style. The solution is afforded by Tacitus, who informs us that the Nervi and the Triviri were proud of their descent from the Germans: *circa adjectionem Germanicæ originis ultro ambitiosi sunt.* Thus, by the aid of this historian, we are enabled completely to understand in these inscriptions a style used by the Nervii, which hitherto was somewhat ambiguous."

The following reading of the Fourth Altar (No. 4), is given by Dr D. Wilson, in his "Prehistoric Annals," vol. ii. page 70:—"DIIS DEABUSQUE OMNIBUS FRUMENTIUS MILES COHORTIS SECUNDÆ TUNGORUM."

The Cast in Plaster of the ROSETTA STONE, is one of four made in the year 1802, and was presented to the University by the Society of Antiquaries of London. The stone was found by the French engineers

while repairing the ruins of Fort St Julien, near the mouth of the Nile, on the Rosetta branch. It was taken possession of by General Menou by whom it was given up to the British army after the capitulation of Alexandria, Egypt. (See account of the Rosetta Stone, published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. 4to, 1811.)

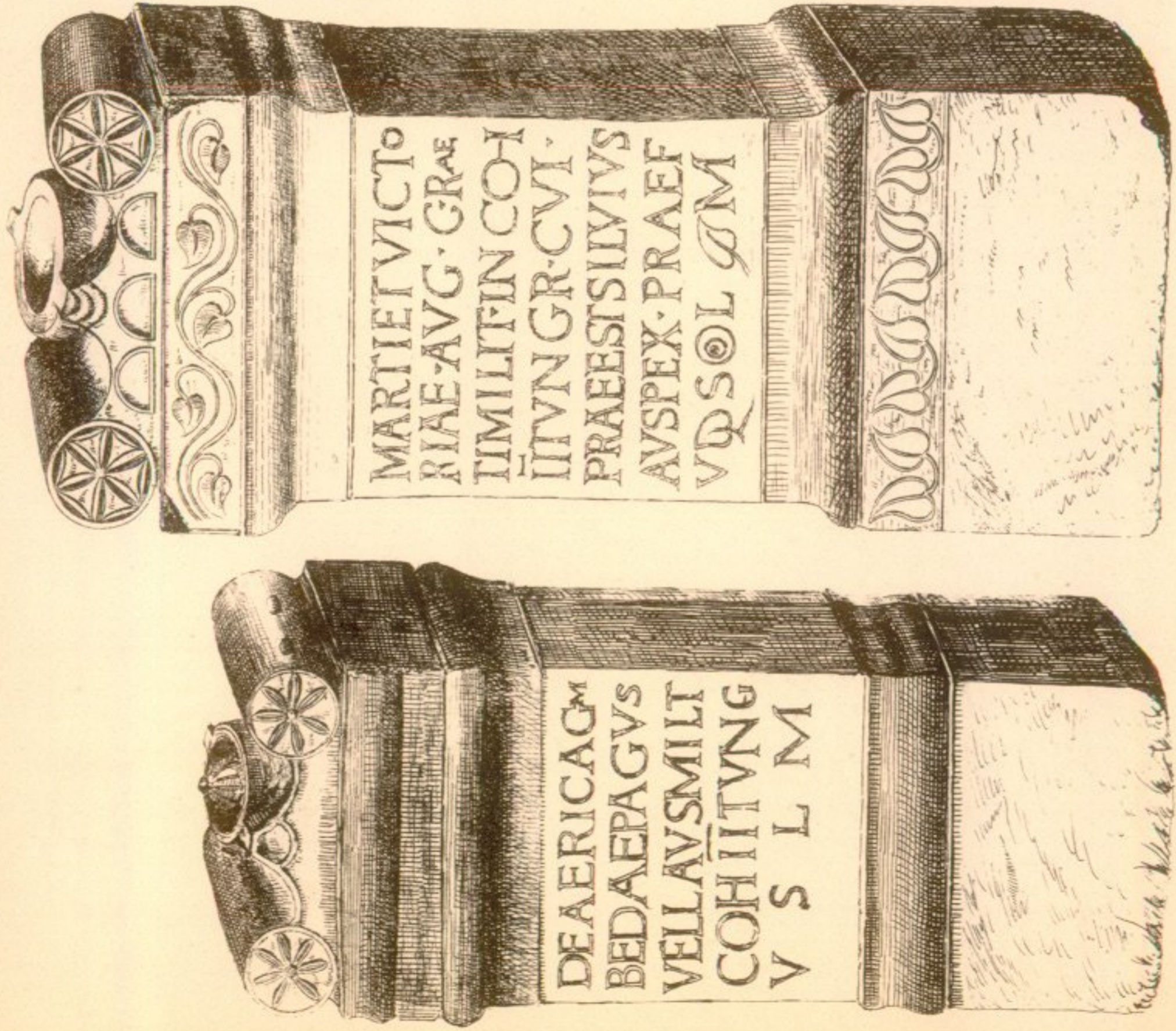
The Rosetta Stone is of black granite or basalt, and measures 3 feet 2 inches in length and 30 inches in width. On its surface are incised three distinct inscriptions, the one at the top being in Hieroglyphics; the second, or centre one, in Enchorial characters, or those used by the people of the country; and the third in Greek. According to the Greek inscription, the stone was erected in the reign of Ptolemy Epiphanes, about 193 years before the Christian era.

(17.) By the HERITORS and KIRK SESSION of the Parish of Scoonie, Fifeshire, through the Rev. J. BLACKWOOD.

There was exhibited and deposited in the Museum a sculptured slab of sandstone, measuring 3 feet 6 inches in length, 2 feet 4 inches in breadth, and 4 inches in thickness. It was found in the old parish churchyard of Scoonie, about a quarter of a mile to the north of the town of Leven. The stone displays on the upper part the so-called "Elephant," or beaked animal, its extremities terminating in scrolls; and below it apparently a deer hunt; a rider on horseback, and in front of him a dog on the point of seizing a full antlered stag with (if not merely a subsequent marking on the stone) a javelin apparently buried in its side; below these is another horseman, and in front of him a dog, and below the dog a third horseman. At the lower angle of the stone is cut a small cross. Along the whole left margin of the stone is incised an ogham inscription. On the reverse is sculptured a Latin cross, with a plain circular disk in the centre, and the limbs filled up with interlaced rope or knot work; the scroll termination of a nondescript animal (like the dog-headed animals on the Ulbster and Brodie Stones, as figured in the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. i. plates xxii. and xl.), appears over the left limb of the cross. The stone itself is figured in vol. ii. plate xii. of the same work; the whole sculpturing is rather indistinct in character.

The following Communications were read:—





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ROMAN ALTARS FOUND AT BIRRENS, DUMFRIESSHIRE

W & A. T. Johnston, Edinburgh