

III.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF CISTS CONTAINING URNS AND
BURNED BONES AT TORRAN DUBH, NEAR TAIN. BY THE REV.
JAMES JOASS, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT. COMMUNICATED BY JOHN STUART,
ESQ., SEC. S.A. SCOT. (PLATE XXV.)

A few evenings ago, W. P. Duff, Esq., Eddertoun House, discovered under a slab, which had been disturbed by one of his ploughs, the upper part of a small and very rude clay urn (see Plate XXV. A). The covering slab being carefully raised next morning, a small cist was found, 22 inches long, 15 inches broad, and 1 foot deep. In one corner, in a small heap of reddish earth, and under a bit of rolled granite which had probably fallen into the mouth of the urn, its bottom was found, broken in pieces. This cist occurred on the southward slope of a gravelly knoll, named *Torran Dubh*, about 200 yards to the left of the public road near the fifth milestone from Tain. On digging at the top of the Torran a pile of large

drift stones was discovered, widening downwards, and passing into small flags laid horizontally, the whole resting at a depth of 3 feet upon two large sandstone slabs.

These were found to cover a cist 4 feet 6 inches long, 33 inches wide at one end and 24 at the other, and 26 inches deep, formed of four large undressed slabs resting upon the undisturbed gravel. It was filled with gravel and sand, which, when carefully excavated and passed through two riddles, yielded several small fragments of burnt bone, part of two human teeth, pieces of charcoal, and a broken bronze pin much oxidised.

The urn was found 12 feet due south, and at the same distance west; in the corner of a very small cist, close to the surface, a second urn was found (B), also mouth upwards. It was of the same height as the first, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and filled with fine reddish earth. This urn was of better form and finish, being much harder baked, and of rather more elegant design. It was also ornamented on the lip inside and out, and on the shoulder, with an incised chevron pattern. On the top of a neighbouring knoll lay many stones and small slabs of sandstone, blackened by fire. One of these (C) had on one side a single cup roughly picked out.

MONDAY, 14th May 1866.

The HON. LORD NEAVES, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were balloted for, and elected Fellows of the Society:—

ROBERT YOUNG, Esq., Writer, Elgin.
JAMES AULD, LL.D., St Andrews.

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

(1.) By Mrs JOHN CAIRNS, Henderson Row.

Celt of Fine-grained Sandstone, measuring 5 inches in length and 4 inches across the face. It has a groove or contraction at the narrow extremity, where it has unfortunately been broken.

Square-shaped Stone or Stone Cup, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, 3

inches in breadth, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness, with a deeply cut oval cavity or cup on its upper surface. The cup contains a reddish-coloured powder.

Celt of a Bluish-coloured Stone, measuring 3 inches in length, and 2 inches across the face, much worn.

Two Stone "Knives" of fine-grained micaceous sandstone, apparently formed by splitting rolled pebbles longitudinally, so as to give a sharp edge on one side.

Portions of large Urns, varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch in thickness, of coarse reddish clay, mixed with gravel.

Flat fragments of Reddish Clay, measuring 4 inches in length by 2 inches in breadth, and displaying a raised chevron pattern.

Two Bone "Hammer-heads," consisting of a portion of the leg-bone of an ox, cut into a bevelled and polished extremity, with a perforation for a handle, behind the articular surface of the joint. One measures 5 inches in length, the other $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

Bones of a large Bird, of the Ox, &c.

Two portions of the shaft of a Bone, transversely cut, so as to form rings or buttons. The one measures $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length, the other $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length.

Eight Pins or Piercers of Bone, the head generally formed by part of the articular surface of the bone. They measure from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

These various articles were found in excavating an underground chamber at Skerrabrae, Bay of Skail, Orkney.

(2.) By JOHN CAIRNS, Esq., Artist, Henderson Row.

Sketch in Oil of the interior of the Chamber at Skerrabrae, 19 inches by 24 inches, taken in October 1863, and also sketches of various articles of stone and bone found therein.

(3.) By ANDREW JERVISE, Esq., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Arrow-head of reddish-coloured Flint, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, with barbs and stem. Found on the Red Hill, parish of New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

Hardhead, or copper Twopenny piece of King James VI. Mark of King Charles II.

(4.) By HENRY C. MACLAURIN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Lecythus or Cruet, the mouth-piece wanting, with handle, of red earthenware, 6 inches in height, and 2 inches in diameter at the upper part. It is ornamented with a belt of black below, and shows remains of honeysuckle and other patterns above. It was found at Halicarnassus.

Black Earthenware Lamp, of circular shape, with projecting nozzle for wick, with a small projecting triangular-shaped ear at each side. It measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and is ornamented by a pattern in relief. It was found at Pompeii.

Finger-Ring, silver gilt, with an oval disk, on which is inscribed I·H·S., probably Italian work.

(5.) By Mrs ALEXANDER MORISON, of Bognie.

Thirteen pieces of Copper Money, generally in bad preservation, including three bawbees and a bodle of Charles II., halfpenny of William III., and others about the same size, but quite defaced. They were found in clearing out the old chapel well at Montblairy Castle, parish of Alvah, Banffshire.

(6.) By FRANCIS R. N. ROGER, Esq., The College, Marlborough.

Three Scottish Church Communion Tokens, in lead. One, $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch square, has on one side DARSY 1708, and on the other M·W·K. Another measures $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch square, has on one side, within a circle, the armorial bearings of Glasgow, which is round, "GLASGOW, 1725." The third measures $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch square with the corners cut off. One side displays a church with a small belfrey; on the other is M^r A·M· 1767.

(7.) By GEORGE BELL, Esq., M.D.

Small Laurated Male Head, sculptured in white marble, 5 inches in length. The neck is rounded off below, and has a perforation as if for fixing it by a peg to a base. The head apparently resembles that of the Roman Emperor Galba.

(8.) By Mr GEORGE RANKINE, optician.

Pair of Barnacles or Spectacles, without sides or handles, in leather frame, with a pasteboard case.

Pair of curious Spectacles in bronze frame, with large circular eyes,

and hinge at end of the bridge. A small hinged pin, with a flattened disk at its extremity, springs backwards from the bridge, apparently to rest on the forehead. The outer edge of each eye-frames is pierced with two holes, through which passes a loop of silk cord, these, when in use, were passed over the ears. From Japan.

The right eye is fitted with a lens of rock crystal, which has only two inches of negative focus, and apparently had been made for a case of extreme myopia. The wearer was probably also blind of the left eye, as the frame on that side is fitted up simply with plain glass.

(9.) By the Rev. JOHN MILN, Schoolhouse, King Edward, Aberdeenshire.

Silver Coin of King Charles IX. of Sweden, found near the parish church of King Edward, Aberdeenshire.

(10.) By JAMES MACNAB, Esq., 9 St Andrew Square.

Commission from King William and Queen Mary appointing Charles Boyd, gent., to be an ensign in the company of Foot commanded by Sir Charles Grahame, whereof Lieutenant-Colonel Somerville is captain, dated 1st Aug^t 1693. The commission is on vellum, and bears the signature of King William III. and a wafer impression of the Privy seal.

(11.) By ROBERT COX, Esq., F.S.A. Scot. (the Author).

The Literature of the Sabbath Question. 2 vols. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1865.

(12.) By the SENATUS of the UNIVERSITY.

The St Andrews University Calendar for the year 1865-66. 12mo. Edinb. 1865.

(13.) By J. BARNARD DAVIS, Esq., M.D. (the Author).

Notice of the opening of a Barrow at East Scalehouse, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and a comparison of that barrow with certain others in Jutland. 8vo. (Pp. 14.) London, 1865.

(14.) By DAVID LAING, Esq., LL.D., V.P.S.A. Scot. (the Editor).

The Poems of William Dunbar, now first collected; with Notes, and a Memoir of his Life. 2 vols., with Supplement, 8vo. Edinburgh, 1834-1865.

The Poems and Fables of Robert Henryson, now first collected; with Notes and a Memoir of his Life. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1865.



TORRAN-DUBH
Eddertoun.

