

## II.

NOTICE OF FURTHER STONE KISTS FOUND AT BROOMEND, NEAR THE INVERURIE PAPER-MILLS. By C. B. DAVIDSON, Esq., F.S.A. SCOT., ABERDEEN.

On Saturday, 27th October 1866, a stone kist lying in the same sand-bank, about the same depth below the surface, and about two feet north from the kist found on 27th August 1866, and seen on the following day by Mr James Hay Chalmers, advocate, Aberdeen, was opened in presence of the Rev. William Ross, Kintore, the Rev. John Davidson, Inverurie, Mr C. B. Davidson, advocate, Aberdeen, and others, Mr Chalmers being prevented by severe illness from attending.

The stone on the top of the kist was 5 feet 5 inches long, 3 feet 6 inches broad and 9 inches thick, and was bedded round the edge with soft, well-worked clay, with a few pebbles round the outside of the clay.

The kist lay almost exactly east and west. Its inside measurement was—length, 4 feet 2 inches; breadth, irregular, being 2 feet 3 inches at one end, and 1 foot 10 inches at the other; depth from the surface to the pebbles in the bottom, 1 foot 7 inches. A few small pieces of charcoal were found on the top of the covering stone, and the kist was floored with rounded water-worn pebbles to the depth of 12 inches, and below these a stone slab similar to that on the top, but not so large.

The kist was found to contain a large male skeleton and an infant female skeleton with a large and small urn.

The large skeleton and part of the small one were covered with a coating of brown substance somewhat fibrous in its character, about three-eighths of an inch in thickness, and which might be the remains of a hide, or of a felted or unwoven cloth spread over the bodies. The large skeleton was lying on its left side, with the head towards the east end of the kist, but about 6 inches distant from it, the knees drawn up to the chin, and the feet bent back close to the thighs. The arms were bent up with the hands close to the skull. The vertebræ, the os sacrum, and the two femurs were in good preservation, but the other bones were a good deal decayed. The front and lower parts of the skull were completely gone.

The femurs measured  $19\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length. The large urn was found behind the back of this skeleton, about opposite the top of the thigh, and considerably inclined towards the body, as if the covering over the body, sinking gradually as decay went on, had brought the urn over with it. It was brown in colour, and was partially covered with a whitish substance similar in texture to that over the bodies. Hanging into the urn over its westmost edge, with the point of it eastward, was a lamp made of bark or horn, or some similar substance,<sup>1</sup> and covered with the same brown substance as that over the bodies. Parts of both coverings are herewith sent.



(1.) Clay Urn and Leather Lamp found  
in a short Kist at Broomend.

(2.) Leather Lamp taken from Urn.

[The lamp measures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long from its point to the back, and the handle 9 inches in length.]

The urn and shape of the lamp are well shown in the accompanying woodcut, taken from a photograph. It is much like the common oil lamp used in country houses. The recurved piece below is not artificial, but seems to arise from the splitting and scaling off of a layer of the material. The urn was of clay, and measured  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the mouth,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches

<sup>1</sup> Since discovered to be of hide well-tanned.

deep,  $19\frac{3}{4}$  inches in outside circumference at its widest, and  $16\frac{3}{4}$  inches at its narrowest part. The outside measurement at the mouth was  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and the diameter of the bottom  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The urn narrowed considerably about a third down, and then widened out again. It was elaborately ornamented, and the photograph shows the character of the ornamentation very distinctly.

The infant skeleton was in the north-west corner of the kist behind the large skeleton. It had evidently been in a sitting posture, with the face toward the east. When first seen, the skull was open at the top, and had fallen a little forward, and the bones of the neck, and parts of the breast-bone and of some ribs, were seen through the opening. The lower jaw was in fair preservation, but some of the teeth fell out on its being removed. Some of the teeth had no roots, and some of them had not grown to the top of the jaw. A great part of the skull was gone, and the other bones were considerably decayed.

The small urn was found in the corner behind this skeleton, and partly fallen over. It was of clay, brown in colour, and nearly of the same shape as the large one, measuring  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the mouth,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep, and 12 inches in outside circumference at its widest part. It was also elaborately ornamented, as the photograph shows.

Small quantities of black earthy matter were found in the urns, and in the large one, two or three small pieces of decayed bone.

Two flint-flakes were found behind the shoulder of the large skeleton, but no ornament of any kind. There were a good many pieces of charcoal among the pebbles in the bottom of the kist.

About two feet eastward from the kist before described was found a small kist measuring inside 16 inches long, 14 inches wide at one end, and 12 inches at the other, and 11 inches deep. It contained the remains of a skull, and among the sand under it were found a few half-formed teeth. The skull bone was very thin. It lay toward the east end of the kist. In the north-west corner, lying over on its side with its mouth towards the south, was a small urn much broken, similar in size, shape, colour, and pattern to the small urn in the large kist. This small kist had no bottom or flooring of any kind, and no clay or cement at the joinings of the stones, and contained no bones other than the part of a skull before mentioned.

It may be noticed that no markings or figures could be discovered on any of the slabs used in the construction of the kists now described, or of the one described by Mr Chalmers in the notice written during his illness, and forwarded to the Secretary.

Photographs were taken by Mr Robert Brown, photographer, Inverurie, of the appearance of the large kist immediately on the covering stone being removed, and before anything in the kist was touched. Photographs have since been taken by him of the urns and lamp, and one copy of each photograph was sent as a donation to the Society.

[Another instance of the occurrence of a leather covering placed over the body deposited in a stone kist, but in this case a *long-shaped* one, is thus described by Mr John Stuart in the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. ii. p. 96 :—"I have to record the discovery of a long cist, shaped like a common coffin, which may probably be assigned to a late period. In the month of April 1864, in ploughing a field between Bishopmill and Linkfield Limekilns, near Elgin, a cist was discovered, 6 feet in length, 3 feet wide at the middle and tapering to each end, where it measured about 1 foot in breadth. In the cist was found a quantity of black unctuous earth, and in it portions of a skin, apparently that of an ox, on which the hair remained ; also part of the blade of a bronze dagger."—ED.]