

III.

NOTICES OF RECENT DISCOVERIES OF COINS. BY GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. SCOT., AND CURATOR OF COINS.

1. NOTICE OF COINS FOUND AT ABERNETHY.

In the month of November last, William Garrick, wright at Abernethy, in Perthshire, while engaged in lowering the clay floor of one of the rooms of his house, came upon an earthenware vessel filled with coins. The vessel was broken to fragments by the spade or other implement used in digging. The coins were immediately secured by Garrick and his assistant, James Honeyman. The news of the discovery having spread abroad, one or two gentlemen from Newburgh hastened to Abernethy, and secured specimens of most of the coins found. A notice of the discovery having afterwards appeared in the local newspapers, it thus came to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Remembrancer, who immediately instructed Mr M'Lean, the procurator-fiscal at Perth (since deceased), to recover and transmit the treasure-trove to Exchequer.

Mr M'Lean at once went to Abernethy, and recovered from Garrick 396, and from Honeyman 36 of the coins. These he sent to Exchequer on 27th November, stating that he had learned from Garrick that two gentlemen from Newburgh had previously got away some of the coins. These the Procurator-Fiscal took no steps to recover until he should again hear from the Remembrancer. On 28th, the Remembrancer

replied that it would be necessary to recover these other coins, and which the Procurator-Fiscal immediately set about. He was successful in recovering 40 from one gentleman, and 45 from another, which he sent to Exchequer, expressing doubt whether one of the gentlemen had not retained a number of the coins.

I have carefully examined the coins which have reached Exchequer, and found them to consist of—

Henry VIII. side-faced groat,	1
James III. half-plack,	1
James III. and IV. placks,	111
James V. placks,	45
half-placks,	3
third of a groat,	1
Mary, testoons, 1558, "In virtute," &c.,	3
testoon, 1558, of Francis (as Dauphin) and Mary, reverse, "Fecit utraque unum,"	1
testoons, 1560, of Francis and Mary as King and Queen of France, &c., "Vicit Leo," &c.,	2
Francis and Mary, "Jam non sunt,"	9
Mary, Edinburgh placks,	248
half-placks,	21
Stirling placks,	6
placks, reverse, "Servio et usu teror,"	65
penny, with queen's bust crowned,	1
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Sent to Exchequer in all,	518

From these I have selected and solicited 42 coins for our Museum, and have no doubt that in due time we shall receive them.

It may be remarked, that the latest coin now discovered is dated 1560, being the testoon struck during the short time Mary was Queen of France. There being no French coins of Francis II., these coins are eagerly sought after by the French collectors, to fill up the blank in their own coinage.

It is reported in the country that there were also several of the testoons of Mary, with bust. These are dated 1561 and 1562 (supposing

them to be those with the widow's head-dress), and it would be interesting to discover whether there is any truth in this report, not only as leading us to the date of the concealment of the coins, but showing what proportion of these rare coins were in actual currency at the period.

Of these 518 coins, only 17 are of silver, the others being of billon, or of copper washed with silver. There is only one English coin in the number, being the groat of Henry VIII. Most of the coins are in a good state of preservation.

2. NOTICE OF A GOLD COIN OF NERO, FOUND IN THE PARISH OF ECCLES.

Last month a gold coin of Nero, reverse "Salus," was found in the parish of Eccles, and came into the possession of a gentleman in Coldstream, from whom it was recovered by the Remembrancer. This coin is very well preserved, and will ere long, it is hoped, form part of our collection.

3. NOTE ON COINS FOUND AT KIRKMICHAEL, IN PERTHSHIRE.

I last week examined at Exchequer five silver coins, transmitted by Mr Jamieson, the Procurator-Fiscal at Perth, said to have been found in a birch wood near Kirkmichael, in the course of some draining operations. The coins were recovered from the contractors for the draining, and after examination, have been again returned to them.

The coins are—

Penny of Edward I., of Canterbury Mint.

Do., Bury St Edmunds.

Penny of Edward II., of Canterbury.

Do., London.

Sterling of Gaucher II. de Châtillon, Count of Neufchatel, struck at Ive, who died in 1329.

This Gaucher was Constable of France, and had the château of Porcien, on the river Aisne, near the town of Rethel, given him by Philip, King of France, in 1308. By his marriage in 1314, with Isabella, widow of Thiebaut, Duke of Lorraine, he obtained the town of Neufchatel, in Lorraine, and coined money there, and at Ive, supposed to be the place of that name on the Moselle, near Nancy.

These sterlings, being exactly like the English coinage of the period, were brought to England in large quantities, and got mixed up with the current money, to the great annoyance of traders ; and are often found so mixed, in Scotland.
