

#### IV.

NOTE OF STONE KISTS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF ST ANDREWS. BY THE REV. ROBERT SKINNER, EPISCOPAL MINISTER, ST ANDREWS.

A few days ago I accompanied Dr Adamson to Pitmilny, to examine a stone kist which had just been discovered at the Milton there, about four miles from St Andrews on the Craill road. As usual, it was found in the subsoil, 2 feet from the surface, and its dimensions were—length, about 4 feet; breadth, 2 feet; depth, 2 feet 9 inches. It consisted of four slabs of sea-stone, with the ripple mark very plainly shown; and in the south-west corner of the grave was found a handsomely-shaped urn, small, but ornamented. The mouldings are bold, and contain the arrow-head ornament; the rest of the urn represents short horizontal lines of punctured work. Small fragments of bone and charcoal were also found in the soil which was turned out of the kist, but there were no bones in the urn. A large, heavy sea-stone flag covered the whole. Unfortunately, the urn was destroyed by the farm-labourers who discovered the kist; but I have

in my possession two pieces of sufficient importance to indicate the appearance of the whole urn.

A good many stone kists, of a later date than the one I have described, have previously been found in the same immediate neighbourhood. They contained skeletons. I looked carefully for flakes and animal bones in the soil in which this last discovery was made, and the only remains of the kind was a very large horse's tooth. About 500 yards from this kist is Pitmilly Law, evidently a well-defined barrow. I have obtained Mr Monypenny's (the proprietor) leave to open it, and when I do so will let you know the result.

On returning home, same day, we were informed that a stone kist had just been found in the interior of the new chapel at Chesterhill, near Pitmilly. Of the precise origin of this little isolated churchyard there is no account, but it is the site of an ancient chapel, and the new edifice has very likely been built upon the old foundations. Close, therefore, to the spot where the ancient altar would have stood, was found a stone kist, consisting of several rude slabs, lying with the head to the west, and rather narrow for a skeleton of about 5 feet 7 inches, which lay extended within it. It is supposed to be that of a female, from the smallness of the bones generally. Nothing else whatever was found near it, or about it.