

III.

NOTES OF COINS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN SCOTLAND, UNICORNS OF JAMES III. AND IV., HALF UNICORNS OF JAMES IV., ECUS OF JAMES V., &c. BY GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A., Scot., CURATOR OF COINS, &c. (PLATE XV.)

DUNBLANE.—About the beginning of May last, certain old buildings adjoining the prison at Dunblane were pulled down, to make way for the improvement of the prison. In the course of these operations a workman, in digging the foundation for the new building, struck against an earthen vessel, which was broken to fragments, and exposed to view a large quantity of gold coins. They were taken possession of by the Procurator-Fiscal, and forwarded to Exchequer. Annexed is a list of the coins, 180 in number, and weighing upwards of 20 ounces.

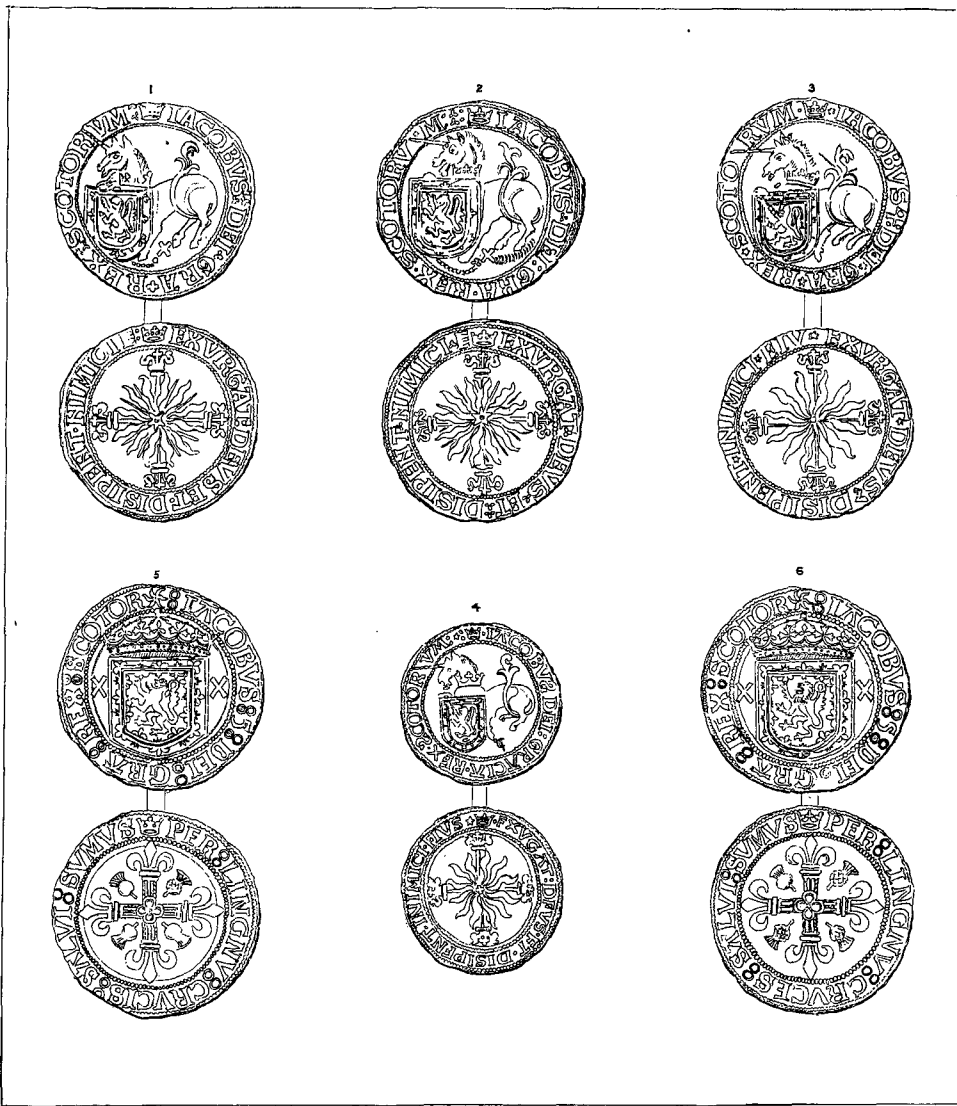
The latest Scottish coins in this parcel are the ecus of James V. There being no bonnet pieces, which were first struck in 1539, it is almost certain the concealment took place before that time. The ecus being all in brilliant preservation, and weighing 53 grains each, must, at the period of the deposit, have been almost newly issued from the mint.

The English and French coins are also, for the most part, in a high state of preservation, but present no new variety or coin of any great rarity; but among the Scottish series there are several of extreme rarity, and two of which no other specimens are known to exist (with the exception of one in the Advocates' collection), viz., the *half* unicorns of James IV.

The following are the rare coins in this important discovery:—

1st, The unicorns of James III., having "EXURGAT" on both obverse and reverse, of which there are five specimens.

2d, The unicorns of James IV., three in number, all of great rarity. Two of these are without the numeral, and besides having X under the unicorn on obverse, present other new and interesting peculiarities (Plate XV., Nos. 1 and 2). The third one has the numeral (Plate XV., No. 3), and resembles Lindsay, Pl. 13, No. 27.



W.F. Miller Delt. & Sculpt.

W. & A. Johnston Lith. Scot.

GOLD COINS OF JAMES IV. AND V. DISCOVERED IN 1869
AT DUNBLANE, STIRLINGSHIRE.

N^{os} 1 & 2 Unicorns of James IV without the numerals

N^o 3. Unicorn with the numeral

N^o 4. Half unicorn

N^{os} 5 & 6. Ecus of James V with legend PER LINGV CRVCES
SALVI SVMVS: N^o 5 has the spelling CRVCIS. All of great rarity

3*d*, The two half unicorns of James IV. before mentioned, apparently from the same die. Lindsay's Descriptive Catalogue, No. 83. They are better preserved than that in the Advocates' Library, weighing each 29 grains, the Advocates' weighing only 28 grains; and closely resemble a coin attributed in Lindsay's original work to James III. (Plate XV., No. 4.)

4*th*, The ecus of James V. (Plate XV., Nos. 5 and 6), with the legend, "PER LINGV CRUCES SALVI SUMUS," of which there are three specimens, being about as many as formerly known, and one with the same legend, but with the spelling CRVCIS, probably the second known.

In Mr Lindsay's first Supplement to his "Coinage of Scotland" (p. 22) he describes, and gives an engraving (Plate 3, No. 2) of an unicorn of James IV. with XC under the unicorn, and suggests whether that "should be considered as intended to express the date 1490, as we see on some of the Continental coins of this period." Two of the three unicorns of this discovery have X only, and not XC, below the unicorn. This circumstance having been communicated to Mr Lindsay as affecting his theory, he replied—

"The two unicorns with X, without the C, must, I fear, upset my theory as to the date 1490; but the substitution of another seems to afford a fine field for discussion. Perhaps the X may denote the value, 10 groats; but then what does C stand for, unless we consider it as a G, for which it may possibly have been intended."

Mr John Evans suggests that "the X and XC must simply stand for the Greek ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ."

This suggestion by Mr Evans having been made known to Mr Lindsay, he again replied—

"The X on the unicorn of James IV., as I suspected, has given our Antiquarian brethren a bone to pick. Mr Evans' suggestion may possibly be correct, but if the value should be exactly 10 groats, I still think my supposition a better one; but it is very possible complete certainty in the matter may never be attained."

The Act of James IV., 1488, referred to by Cardonnel and by Mr Lindsay (at page 138 of his original work), where gold coins of 30, 20, and 10 groats were ordered to be struck, is indeed very puzzling. The larger pieces have never been seen in modern times, and probably never were issued.

List of Gold Coins found at Dunblane in May 1869.

Countries.	Sovereigns.	Names of Coins.	Number of Coins.	Dates.
Burgundy	Philip, Duke of,	Ecu	1	1363-1404
France	{ Charles VII. and VIII. }	Ecus	13	{ 1422-1461 1483-1498 }
Do.	{ Louis XI. and XII. }	Ecus	35	{ 1461-1483 1498-1515 }
Do.	Francis I.	Ecus	35	1515-1547
England	Edward III.	Nobles	2	1327-1377
Do.	Henry V. and VI.	Nobles	5	
Do.	Edward IV.	Angels	2	
Do.	Henry VII.	Angels	2	
Do.	Henry VIII.	Angel	1	1509-1547
Do.	Do.	Crown	1	
Scotland	James I.	St Andrew	1	1406-1436-7
Do.	Do.	Lions	2	
Do.	James II.	Lion	1	1437-1460
Do.	James III.	Unicorns	27	
Do.	Do.	{ Do. "EXURGAT" on both sides }	5	1460-1488
Do.	Do.	Half unicorns	15	
Do.	James IV.	Unicorns	3	1488-1513
Do.	Do.	Half unicorns	2	
Do.	Do.	Riders	6	
Do.	Do.	Half riders	5	
Do.	James V.	Common ecus	12	1513-1542
Do.	Do.	{ Ecus with "PER" LINGNV CRVCES." }	3	
Do.	Do.	{ Ecu with "PER" LINGNV CRVCIS." }	1	
			180	

COULNAKYLE (*Treasure Trove*).—In February last some work-people found a small parcel of coins at Coulnakyle, in the parish of Abernethy and county of Elgin.

The Procurator-Fiscal at Elgin was able to recover only 23 of the coins (it being known that at least 7 other coins had been discovered), which he forwarded to Exchequer on 1st March. On 4th March I examined the coins, and found them to be all pennies of Edwards I. and II., and of the following mints—viz.,

Berwick,	1
Bristol,	1
Bury St Edmunds,	1
Canterbury,	2
Dublin,	1
Durham,	2
Lincoln,	1
London,	14
	—
	23

These coins were to be returned to the finders. Also

BANKTON HOUSE, NEAR PRESTONPANS.

James III. and IV. placks,	26
James V. placks,	9
Francis and Mary, half testoons, rev. "IAM NON SUNT," &c.	10
Mary, "SERVIO" placks,	2
„ Edinburgh placks,	54
„ Edinburgh half plack,	1
	— 57
„ Gold Ryal with bust,	1
	—
	103

With the exception of the gold coin, they were all in a bad state of preservation.

(An account of this discovery, by the Rev. John Struthers, with a complete list of the coins, is given at page 167 of this volume).