

## IV.

NOTICE OF A KITCHEN MIDDEN AT CRAIG OF BOYNE, BANFFSHIRE.  
By ROBERT GARLAND, Esq., COWHYTE.

Craig of Boyne stands on a rocky promontory on the south side of the Moray Firth, surrounded on three sides by the sea; on the fourth there are distinct traces of a deep moat, which seems to have been supplied with water from the Boyne, a stream running into the sea on the east side of the Craig.

I can find very little as to Craig of Boyne in any history of the coast, further than that it belonged to the Edmiston family; but tradition has it, that the last of the Edmistons of the Craig fell at Flodden, and his heiress married an Ogilvy of Findlater, now represented by Earl Seafield, the present proprietor of the Boyne estates.

[The relics sent consist of brass pins, with their rounded heads formed of a separate piece of twisted wire; bone pins of different lengths, some with ornamented heads; bone needles of different sizes, with perforated eye-holes, and one with four letters or initials in "black letter" characters, cut one above another along one of its sides, and a leaden cloth-mark, which has also been presented to the Museum by Mr Garland (see the annexed woodcut). This last relic was exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Archæological Institute, June 1869, and the following notice and figures of it are published in the "Archæological Journal," No. 103, 1869, page 298:—"This leaden relic measures about an inch in diameter; it consists of two disks united by a loop, like a hinge, the whole, however, formed in one piece, and the disks may be turned back so as to admit of the insertion between them of some thin object, for instance the edge of a piece of cloth or other tissue, to which the leaden object might be attached; it appears to have been fastened by two tags, of which the broken ends appear on one face of the article. The mode of attachment is not very obvious, but such was doubtless the intention. On one of the faces is seen a fleur-de-lys, with certain letters in relief on each of its sides; their signification is very doubtful, possibly they may be deciphered as—*lille*—and may here denote the city of Lille, long noted for its manufactures. On the other face, or reverse of the object, is seen in minuscule letters, in bold relief, *coit* or *fort* (*sorte*); the field is diapered

with slight foliated branching ornament. The general design seems to be in the style of the fifteenth century. It may be a question whether this object was cast in a mould, or formed by stamping, in like manner as the *plomb* or *bolla*, that is commonly affixed at the present time to various articles of merchandise at the custom-houses in foreign countries. Modern ingenuity has, however, contrived an implement, like a pair of plyers or a bullet mould, that terminates in two stamps, bearing some distinctive device or inscription. A piece of soft metal, through which the cord for attachment passes, is so effectually squeezed between these intagli as to form a disk, called technically a *plomb*, that can only be separated from the article of merchandise by cutting the string. There can be little



Leaden Cloth-Mark, found at Craig of Boyne, Banffshire. (Orig. size.)

doubt that this little leaden relic is a mediæval French or Flemish cloth mark. The inscriptions that it bears may have served, as had been supposed, to indicate the quality of the article, or the name of the manufacturer." This and the other articles described and figured in the Donation List of this meeting (p. 263), were dug up from what seems to have been the midden of the castle, outside the walls, on a sloping ledge of rock (now covered by a deposit of mould), about twenty feet above the sea-level; and from the situation of the refuse, it must have been thrown from some window or opening above. The relics were found at a depth of from six inches to three feet below the surface.]

In the midden I found a great many oblong beach stones wasted at the

ends; and all the larger bones, or what we call "marrow bones," were splintered.

I may mention there is a cave on the east side of the rock, about ten feet above the sea, evidently running under the castle; at present it is so shut up with the beach, that one can only get in a few yards. I have begun to clear it; should anything be found, I shall be glad to add it to the few relics now sent.