

V.

NOTICES OF COINS RECENTLY FOUND IN SCOTLAND. BY GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. SCOT., CURATOR OF COINS.

Discovery of English Coins in Ayrshire.—About the middle of April last, 216 English silver coins were turned up by a ploughman on the farm of Chapelton, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, on the estate of the Earl of Eglinton. Mr Cunningham, the tenant of the farm, rewarded the finders, and handed the coins to the Earl. Mr Gross, the procurator-fiscal at Kilmarnock, having noticed in the newspaper an account of the discovery, wrote to the Earl that it was his duty to claim the coins as treasure trove on behalf of the Crown. The Earl at once sent the coins to Mr Gross, who, on the 29th ult., forwarded them to the Exchequer. None of the coins were required for our Museum, being nearly all very common, and few of them well preserved. The Remembrancer, therefore, returned them to the procurator-fiscal, to be restored to the Earl of Eglinton, who had expressed a wish to retain them. The following is a list of the coins, viz. :—

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| Mary (Tudor) groats, very poor, | 2 |
| Elizabeth hammered shillings, | 56 |
| Do. do. sixpences, | 66 |
| Do. do. groat, | 1 |
| James I. "Exurgat" shillings, | 10 |
| "Quæ Deus" do., | 20 |
| | — 30 |
| Do. sixpences, | 5 |
| Irish shillings, | 4 |
| Charles I. halfcrowns, with varied mint marks, such as star, crown, bell, anchor, tun, triangle, and others, | 19 |
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| Carry forward, | 183 |

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| Brought forward, | 183 |
| Shillings, with varied mint marks, such as star, Welsh feathers, triangle, anchor, portcullis, tun, harp, bell, eye, crown, and others, | 31 |
| Sixpences, mint marks, triangle and star, | 2 |
| | 216 |

Barbreck Treasure Trove.—Five German dollars were lately found in the parish of Glenorchy and Inishail. They were recovered by the procurator-fiscal at Inveraray, and sent to Exchequer, where I examined them. They are of Hamburg, Mansfeld, Brandenburg, &c., 1620, 1645, &c. Being of no historical interest, I suggested that they might be restored to the finders. The following is a copy of the report of the procurator-fiscal regarding the discovery :—

“ Copy Report of Procurator-Fiscal at Inveraray as to Coins found at Barbreck.

“ On Saturday, 4th March 1871, while the persons afternamed were engaged planting young trees on the farm of Barbreck, Lochaweside, in the united parish of Glenorchy and Inishail, and county of Argyll, the property of John M'Arthur of Barbreck and Ardmeanach, they found the five coins herewith transmitted. The particular part where they were found was in a brushwood on the face or side of a small hill or “knowe,” called “Dunchoich,” situated about a quarter of a mile to the north-east of North Portsonachan Pier, and about from 50 to 60 yards distant from the north side of Lochawe. The coin first discovered was nearly on the surface of the ground, and the others were found under a stone weighing about one hundredweight. The stone had all the appearance of being long in the water, being round and smooth, and there are no other stones of the same description nearer than the shore of Lochawe, from which it had most probably been taken.

“ There is no appearance of graves or tombs about the place.

“ A sixth coin, similar to the others, was found at the same time and place, but the person who found it has since left the district, taking the coin along with him. It can still be recovered if required.

"The finders of said coins made no secret of the matter, and when asked by the procurator-fiscal on behalf of Her Majesty, at once gave them up of the date hereof.

"The above facts were ascertained on the spot by an examination of the witnesses, who were the persons who found the coins.

(Signed) "DUN. MACLULLICH, P.-F.

"INVERARAY, 18th April 1871."

Remarks on a Small Coin found at Bunes in Shetland.—At first sight this coin appears to be of copper, but, on closer examination, it is found to be of very base silver. Its weight is nearly 17 grains.

The obverse of the coin has an open crown in the field with the legend "AQUINUS REX." The reverse has "A." in the field, with legend "MONETA OSLO."

This is a coin of Hakon or Haaken V. (Magnussón) King of Norway, who reigned from 1299 to 1319. It bears to be struck at the mint of Osloe (sometimes spelt Asloe), which was the ancient capital of Norway, and stood close by the more modern Christiania.

I am indebted to Mr John Evans for information as to which of the kings of the name of "Aquinus" or Hakon the coin belongs, and he states that it is engraved in Schive and Holmboe's *Norges Munter*, Plate xi. No. 5.

Remarks on Pennies of Alexander III. of Scotland, presented by David Grieve, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.—These pennies belong to an early coinage of Alexander III. of Scotland, from the mint of Aberdeen, and are mostly, if not all, from the same die. The best preserved weigh 21 grains, several of them about 20 grains, and a few are lighter. The obverse of the coin presents a crowned head to the left (of spectator), with a sceptre in front, "ALEXANDER REX," reverse "ION. ON. ABERD."

Long double cross, with mullets of six points in the angles.

Coins of Alexander III. of this mint were formerly known, but this is an unpublished variety as regards the name of the moneyer. They are evidently from the same hoard.