

II.

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

I. *Holecroft, Kirkcudbright*.—The following is a copy of the declaration of William M'Neil, taken by the Procurator-Fiscal of the district.

“RAVENSHALL, 6th January 1872.

“On Saturday the 23d December last I was quarrying stones in a field on the farm of Holecroft, parish of Kirkmabreck. At the place where I was quarrying there seemed to be the remains of old houses. I came upon a large flat stone, several feet below the surface; the stone was about five feet long by two feet broad, and on removing it I found a number of silver coins; they were in what seemed a brass or copper pot; but as soon as the pot got the air, it went to atoms. I did not count the coins, and I gave some of them away, one to one person, and another to another person, for nothing; but the greater number I sold to two men whom I did not know. I got drunk, and I do not know what the said two men paid me for the coins. I have not any of the coins now. I am sure the coins which I found did not number nearly one hundred.”

At the time of this discovery it was reported that gold coins were among those found by M'Neil. It is not believed that he has told the truth. It is thought that the copper pot did not go to atoms, and may yet be heard of.

The following is a list of the coins recovered and sent to Exchequer, viz. :—

Silver.

Half Testoon of Francis and Mary, 1558—“Fecit Utraque,” &c. (fine, but injured by recent cutting of the edge),	1
Testoons of Mary, 1558—“In Virtute,” &c. (well preserved),	2
Half-Testoons of Francis and Mary, 1559—“Jam Non Sunt,” &c. (not well preserved, and one broken),	4
Testoons of Francis and Mary, 1560—“Vicit Leo,” &c. (one fine, another well preserved, and the third poor),	3
Carry forward,	10

Billon.

	Brought forward,	. 10
Placks of James III. and IV. (nearly all illegible),	. . .	7
Do. of James V. (one broken),	. . .	6
Edinburgh Placks of Mary (some of which broken),	. . .	25
Do. Half-Placks, do. (one broken in two),	. . .	2
		<hr/>
		50

Of these we have got the first-named coin, one of the second, and one of the fourth, for the Museum.

II. *Dunbar*.—About the middle of December last one of the workmen engaged in digging the foundation of a house at the Kirkhill, near Dunbar, discovered a gold coin, which proved to be an Ecū of Louis XI. of France.

Having similar coins in the Dunblane Trove, we do not require this for the Museum.

III. *Leith Harbour*.—On 18th and 19th January there were found at Leith Harbour—

A Dollar of Ferdinand II., Emperor of Germany, of the city of Hamburg, 1621.

A Turner or Bodle of Charles II.

A Half-Turner or Penny, do.

A Nuremberg Token or Counter.

The hilt of a small Dagger, about three inches long, probably Flemish.

A Stone, about eight or nine inches long, with two drilled holes in it, with the date, 1671, scratched deeply upon it. This is believed to have been used by fishermen for sinking their nets.

The following is a copy of the declaration taken before the Procurator-Fiscal of Mid-Lothian in regard to this discovery:—

“ EDINBURGH, 25th January 1872.

“ William Grant, one of the partners of M'Donald & Grant, contractors, Leith Docks, and residing at Hawkhill Villa, Lochend Road, Leith, declares, I am one of the contractors for the making of a graving dock and

new bridge at Leith harbour. On Thursday or Friday, 18th and 19th January 1872, I learned that some coins had been found about five feet beneath the foundation of the old sea wall. My foreman at the work was Thomas Grierson, and he gave me the four coins, and what is apparently the hilt of a dagger, which articles I now produce. Yesterday there was found at the same place a stone, oval shaped, with a hole in each end of it, and the date 1671 upon it. That stone is now in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, I having sent it there."

The coins and hilt have been got from Exchequer, and placed with the stone in the Museum.

IV. *Lanark*.—I have examined twenty German dollars, recently found at Lanark, which were recovered by the Procurator-Fiscal and transmitted to Exchequer. Sixteen of the dollars are of Maximilian Henry of Bavaria, dates ranging from 1663 to 1679. There is one Maximilian, date 1620; another Ferdinand III., Frankfort, 1647; and two others not very legible.

The following are the particulars relating to this discovery:—

"George Carruthers, residing at Nemphlar, Lanark, had a contract under Mr Gairn Steel, of Holmhead, for reducing a mound on Mr Steel's property of Mashock, in the parish of Carluke. The mound, which appeared to be not artificial, rose gradually from the east, and terminated abruptly at its west end, with a bank fifteen feet high. There is a very old and large ash tree on the top of the mound at its west end. The mound was covered with turf, and, on 20th January 1872, Carruthers was lifting the turf from the crest of the mound, when, about nine inches from the surface, and eight yards or so west from the ash tree, he found these twenty-one silver coins.

"He delivered twenty of them to me, as Procurator-Fiscal of the county, and they were handed to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. The one retained by the finder was of the same die as sixteen of those which he delivered up, and bears date 1669. The soil about the coins was rather darker in colour than the bulk of the mound, and probably they had when deposited been enclosed in some bag or wrapper, which had decomposed. There is an old cot-house on the lands of Mashock, about fifty yards from the spot where the coins were found, and the mill of Mashockmill is 130 yards or thereby distant."

V. *Dornoch, Dumfriesshire*.—About the end of September, or beginning of October last, there was found on a farm in the parish of Dornoch, in the county of Dumfries, “a horn containing a considerable number of old silver coins.” The coins, or most of them, were recovered by Mr Thomas Corrie, the Procurator-Fiscal at Dumfries, and forwarded by him to Exchequer, where, at the request of the Remembrancer, I examined them, and found them to consist of 1 Scotch penny, 76 English pennies, and 3 foreign sterlings, as undernoted, viz.:—

Edward I., London,	13	
Canterbury,	10	
Durham,	1	
Bristol,	2	
Newcastle,	1	
York,	1	
Dublin,	1	
Waterford,	2	
	—	31
Edward II., London,	23	
Canterbury,	13	
Durham,	3	
Bury St Edmunds,	4	
Berwick,	1	
	—	44
Edward III., London,	1	
	—	76
Foreign sterlings—		
Gaucher II., struck at Ive, and 2 others,	3	
Alex. III. of Scotland,	1	
	—	80

The coins were returned to the Procurator-Fiscal to be restored to the finder.

VI. *Ancient Indian Coin found in the Island of Unst, Shetland*.—There was lately shown to me a small silver Indian coin found last year in the

Island of Unst, Shetland. It belongs to Rudra Sáh, one of the Sáh kings of Gujerat, who it is supposed gained their independence about the middle of the third century. The obverse of the coin is not well preserved, but the reverse is distinct, and is similar to the coin engraved in plate xxxvii. No. 13, vol. ii., of Prinsep's "Indian Antiquities." The characters on the coin are a modification of the Sanscrit or Nagari alphabet, and are read thus :—

“Rájna Kshatrapasa Rudra Sáhasa, Swámi Jina Dámáputrasä.”

(“Of the Royal Satrap Rudra Sáh, the son of the Lord Jina Dámá.”)

These coins are usually found within the limits of Surashtra, none having been found in Afghanistan. “Sáh” is supposed to be a corruption of “sádhu,” signifying “good” or “excellent.”

How this coin found its way to the Island of Unst is difficult to imagine.