

V.

NOTE OF SCULPTURED STONES IN THE CHURCHYARD OF DORNOCK,
DUMFRIESSHIRE. BY REV. JOHN ANDERSON. (WITH PHOTOGRAPHS.)
COMMUNICATED BY JOHN STUART, Esq., LL.D., SECRETARY S.A. SCOT.

The account usually given of these stones is as follows:—"On what was anciently a moor in the parish a battle is said to have been fought between the Scotch and English. The English, it is said, were defeated, and *both* of their commanders (Sir Marmaduke Langdale and Lord Crosby) slain, and afterwards interred in Dornock churchyard.

"*Two* stones, each $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, 2 broad, and raised in the middle like a coffin, mark the reputed place of their interment.

"On the sides of these tombs are cut hieroglyphics like the broad leaves of plants, and other antique figures, quite unintelligible.

"A spring well on the spot where the battle was fought is still called Swordwell," &c., &c.

I never quite believed the above account as given by Fullarton—*1st*, Because there are not *two* but *three* stones; and *2d*, Because, though printing was not invented at the assumed date of the battle, lettering must have been common enough.

When the accompanying photograph was taken, the day was wet and gloomy, and the stone was marked in a few places with crusted white spots, which show on the paper. Six men were unable to raise on end the stone that was most accessible to us; so the photograph was taken from the stone resting on edge, and hence the two blocks which rather obscure the tracery. The large stone rested on the freestone flag with the cross. You will notice the weight of the stone must have broken the flag more than half-way up. Lord Mansfield, who was here the other day, tells me the stones resemble that of one of the old abbots of Scone (1350). They are close to the spot where the east gable of the old church must have stood. We dug down only a few inches; darkness came on, and, being Saturday, I wished to have the tomb closed. We came upon part of the handle and bottom of a jar, black in the middle, and with a hard brown coating. The central (and perhaps principal) tomb, and the south tomb, are as yet

untouched. The *three* stones are in a line, close together, are of the same shape and size, and have apparently the same tracery and figures. My impression is, that they are older than 1350, and I should be greatly pleased if you could discover whether they do not bear the same kind of tracery which is found on a very old stone in Winchester Cathedral.

J