

III.

NOTICE OF A BRONZE SWORD FOUND IN CARLINWARK LOCH,
PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM BY D. A. GORDON, ESQ. OF GREENLAW.
BY JOHN STUART, LL.D., SEC. S.A. SCOT.

The bronze sword now presented to the Museum was found in the southwest corner of Carlinwark Loch, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

In this loch there were four fortified islands, two of them artificially constructed of oak piles.

One of the natural islands near the south end of the loch was surrounded by a rampart of stones, and was connected with the shore by a causeway formed of oak piles. Not far from the island the curious bronze cauldron now in the Museum was dredged up some years ago, when it was found to be filled with many fragments of armour, horses' bits, and armourers' tools. Canoes have been found in the loch, and large heads of the stag; as also a bronze "pan," now only known by this description.

The sword was also found near to this island many years ago. It has belonged since that time to the Gordons of Greenlaw; and the present representative of the family, Mr D. A. Gordon, at my suggestion, has presented it to the National Museum. The point was accidentally broken off after it was found. In its present imperfect state it is 20 inches in length. The handle-plate is four inches long, and is pierced with five rivet-holes. The blade is narrowest at the distance of 4 inches from the handle-plate, where it is only $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth, swelling gradually for about 8 inches further, where it is $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in breadth, and tapering from thence to the point.

There are some traces of what has been considered gilding on part of the blade, but which, on examination by Dr Stevenson Macadam, proves to be merely the bright yellow coating which is characteristic of bronzes that have been long in water.