

IV.

NOTICE REGARDING A "PICT'S HOUSE," AND SOME OTHER ANTI-
QUITIES IN THE PARISH OF TEALING, FORFARSHIRE. BY ANDREW
JERVISE, Esq., F.S.A. SCOT., BRECHIN. (PLATE IX.)

The "Pict's House" or underground chamber at Tealing, near Dundee, which was accidentally discovered in the course of agricultural operations during the summer of 1871, is situated in "the Ha'field," a little to the north-west of the present mansion-house of Tealing.

The weem, which appears to have been divided into two compartments, as shown upon the plan at AA and CC, is about 80 feet in length. Like all structures of the kind that I have seen, its general form resembles the human arm when in a slightly bended position. The inner end, which is rounded or semicircular, is filled with large undressed boulders. These may have been part of the covering of the weem at one time, but, as the structure now stands, none of the stones are so long as would stretch across any part of the main portion of it. Its greatest width, which is at 5 feet from the inner end, is $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and its greatest height, which is at about 30 feet from the same point, is about 6 feet 4 inches.

It slopes rapidly for the first 15 feet, and then falls more gradually towards the inner end, where the floor is about 3 feet lower than it is at Æ, the sill (so to speak) of the outer door or entrance. A stone of about 3 inches in height is set across the passage (Æ) a few inches from the lintels (CC.) This had probably been placed for the twofold purpose of receiving a door and to keep water from finding its way to the lower portion of the dwelling.

There is a rough undressed boulder (D), with concentric circle and cup-markings, on the north side of the doorway. The side walls are composed of rude boulders, some of which, as indicated upon the plan, are of great size, particularly those on the north and near the inner end. The floor or bottom is mostly composed of the natural trap rock, and the rest of it looks as if it had been paved.

Horse's teeth and other bits of animal bones, also charcoal, were found throughout the weem, and among the mould which covered it.

A piece of Samian ware, which (owing to Mrs S. Fotheringham's absence at the time of my visit) I have not seen, a bracelet, bronze rings, and bits of cinerary urns, were got in different parts of the weem, as marked upon the sketch.

No fewer than ten querns were found. These, which were both of freestone and mica schist, were partly whole and partly broken. A number of whorls were also got, some fully formed, others apparently in progress; also the remains of stone cups.

An article made of iron slightly mixed with brass, somewhat like an old-fashioned room or kitchen grate, lay near the lintel of the inner door, but it is so much fused by fire and corroded by damp that it is difficult to say what it may have been originally. As the weem appears to have been previously opened, it is just probable that this was thrown in to it at no very remote period.

The small piece of red sandstone (E), with mussel-shell looking markings, was found either in the weem or among the debris; but whether these marks are artificial, or have been caused by the falling out of nodules or pebbles, is not quite clear.

The round piece of ground (F) upon the surface of the field (about 6 feet in diameter) is, in its way, a model of macadamising, particularly at (*ff*), at which point the pebbles are so firmly packed together that they can only be disintegrated by means of a pick or hammer. The rest of this circle, which is composed of hard burned ashes, appears to have been trodden upon until it had become a solid mass. It had probably been used for cooking purposes; also for watching the approach of enemies, human and animal.

The semicircular boulder (G), which lies upon the south margin of the circle (F), contains forty-six "cup-marks" of various sizes. The largest scarcely exceeds two inches in diameter; and while some are nicely finished, others are in a very crude state, being quite like the work of a herd boy.

There is another old artificial work about 700 yards to the south-west of the weem, intersected by modern dykes and ditches. It consists of a circle of about 8 yards in diameter, is bounded by boulders, and paved with flat stones. In some cases the stones of the floor were in double layers, and below these, charcoal, horse's teeth, and other animal bones

were found; also some rudely formed stone hammers. One part of the floor was scooped out like that at (F) upon the sketch of the weem, and also closely laid with pebbles or "chuckie stones." The paving bore a great resemblance to that of Hurley Hawkin, which lies about 5 miles to the south-west, and is described in Proceedings of the Society, vol. vi. p. 212.

This place is situated at the south end of the "Corral Den." The name is probably a corruption of "quarry" or "quarrel"—the latter being an old spelling of the former word¹—for the den appears to have been opened in several places for the purpose of obtaining stones.

It ought to be mentioned that Mrs Scrymgeour-Fotheringham of Tealing was at the expense of clearing out the weem, and of having it enclosed with a paling. Everything was done under the superintendence of Mr Walter M'Nicoll, land-steward, to whom I am indebted for information regarding the discovery of the weem, &c., as well as for outline measurements of it. The discovery of the "eirde" house, as well as the stone coffins and urns at Tealing, the latter of which were brought under the notice of the Society by Mr Neish of The Laws (Proceedings, vol. viii. p. 381), together with other points to be noticed below, go to show that it only requires time and opportunity for other objects of interest to be found in the same locality. Having this in view, Mr M'Nicoll has kindly promised to take note of anything that may be thought worth bringing under the notice of the Society.

Besides the prehistoric points above noticed, it may be mentioned that, apart from the sculptured stone at Balluderon,² a fragment of the same type is built into the south wall of the church. Not being included in Dr Stuart's work, it is intended to have this slab engraved, along with some others which have been recently discovered, in a future volume of the Proceedings.

No tradition exists regarding the history of this fragment, nor of a boulder which is built into a cottage to the west of the parish kirk. The latter is covered with a number of cup-markings, which are locally called "the Devil's Tackets." As tradition says that his Satanic majesty

¹ In 1656, Lord Carnegie, on behalf of his father, the Earl of Southesk, wrote the Earl of Panmure "for libertie to win some stones in the *quarrell* of Buthergill, the like q^rof he has not in any part of his owne ground."—*Original Letter at Panmure.*

² Sculpd: Stones of Scotd., vol. i. pl. 67.

attempted to demolish St Boniface's church at Invergowrie, by throwing an immense boulder from the opposite hills of Fife,¹ it is quite likely that some such legend had also been connected with this stone in relation to the founding of the kirk of Tealing.

Historians state that a church was founded at Tealing by St Boniface, soon after he came to Scotland. Like all his churches, that of Tealing was dedicated to St Peter. Its site is pointed out upon a rising ground, a few yards to the north of the present mansion-house, and "St Peter's Well" is shown in the burn adjoining. No trace of building remains.

I have seen no account of the time the church was removed from its old to its present site, the latter of which is about a mile to the westward. The present fabric was erected in the year 1806, and took the place of one that is described as "indifferent both as to style and condition" (Old Stat. Acct. vol. iv. p. 99). It is added, "A few fragments of carved stones seem to indicate that the original church was an elegant Gothic structure." This possibly refers to, among other things, the sculptured fragment above noticed, and to the remains of the top of an awmbry. The latter is built high up into the west wall, and its style of carving very much resembles that of the awmbry at the church of Fowlis-Easter.²

A fragment of a seventeenth century tombstone is built into the outside of the north wall of the church. Within, upon the same wall, is a slab of 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by 11 inches in breadth, with a frame or border 3 inches broad, upon which are some simple floral ornaments. It is said that this stone was found when the last church was taken down. Besides being in excellent preservation and of very old date, the inscription is in the vernacular of the country, and, so far as I am aware, it is the only one of the same kind in Scotland. The inscription is as follows:—

† heyr : hys : Ingram : of : Kethens : prist
 masig^r : i : arit : erdene : of : dūheldy : made : i : hys
 xxiii : yhere : pr^{ys} : for : hgm : yat : deyt : hafa
 nd : lx : yherys : of : eyld : in : the : yher
 of : cryst : m . ccc : lxxx.

¹ Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 443.

² Ibid. vol. vii. p. 245.

I have not succeeded in finding any notice of Ingram of Kethenys; but it appears that one Robert de Kathenis, "canon of Brechin, and a scholar in arts," was recommended by Pope Clement IV., 22d January 1345; to the Abbots of Arbroath and Cupar, and to the Dean of Dunkeld, to be received as a canon and brother in the said church, where he was to have a stall in the choir, and a place in the chapter.¹

The inscription shows that Ingram was born in 1320, at the very time that Bruce was in his glory, also that he was made "ercdene" in 1352. It is just possible that he and Robert of Kathenis were in some way related to each other. It is also probable that both had been descended from the old family De Kethenis, who were lords of, and assumed their surname from, the lands of Kettins, near Cupar-Angus.²

The above inscription proves, contrary to what is stated in "Scotia Indiculum," p. 162, that the rector or incumbent of Tealing held the office of archdean of the Cathedral of Dunkeld. This is corroborated by another tombstone, of a much later date, which lies among the seats in the area of the church. It is a beautiful piece of masonry, and is adorned with carvings of the Ramsay and Kinloch arms. The only parts of the inscription which can be read (owing to the present position of the stone) are these:—

D . IOANI . RAMSÆ . DVNKELDVNENSI . ARCHID
 SS . THEOLOGIÆ . DOCTORI . ECCLESIÆ . HVIVS . PASTORI
 . VIGILANTISSIMO . VXOR . E HA . KINLOCH .
 MØRENS . OBIT . IN . 1618 . ÆTAT

Another monument, in the north wall of the church, about 3 feet 10 inches in height by 3 feet 3 inches in breadth, bears a half-length effigy, in bold relief, of the same churchman. The Ramsay arms are carved upon a shield in the corner, surmounted by the well-known legend, "Vivit post funera virtus." A carving in the opposite corner shows that Mr Ramsay died on 10th May 1618, in his 49th year.

Dr Scott ("Fasti," vol. iii. p. 729), makes no reference to Mr Ramsay's office of archdean; but mentions that he entered St Leonard's College, St Andrews, in 1583, that he took his degree of A.M. in 1587, and that he was incumbent of the churches of Tealing and Inverarity in 1590.

¹ Reg. Ep. Brechin, vol. ii. p. 392.

² Reg. Vet. de. Aberbrothoc, p. 62.

The name of Mr Ramsay's wife, and some other particulars of his history, seem to have been unknown to this singularly industrious writer. But we learn from the "Registrum de Panmure," MS. (vol. ii. 340), that Mr John Ramsay, rector of Tealing, and his wife, Elizabeth Kinloch, had charters of the half lands of Auchrennie, in the parish of Panbride, in 1602, and that these were acquired from David Maule of Both, Commissioner of St Andrews, for the sum of 1800 merks.

Mrs Ramsay, who survived her husband, had two daughters, named Catherine and Helen. The former was married to William Ochterlony, fear of Seton, and the latter to Mr Alexander Durham.

On 3d June 1620, these co-heiresses resigned their lands of Auchrennie in favour of Patrick Maule of Panmure; and, as quaintly narrated by the deed of renunciation (for the use of which I am indebted to Fox, Earl of Dalhousie), their husbands "being removed furth of Court, the saidis Catharine and Helene, in yair absens, gaife yair bodilie aythis, with all solemnitie requisite, that they nor nane of yame wer compellit yairto, But yat they did ye sam̄ of yair awine fre willis, and sould never cum in ye contrari yairoff directlie nor indirectlie in tyme cuming."

Although the church of Tealing belonged latterly to Dunkeld, it was originally given to the Priory of St Andrews, along with the Priest's Croft, by Hugh of Gifford and his son William, then lords of the district, and both the church and the croft were confirmed to St Andrews by William the Lion. At a later date (1199), it is stated that the Priory is to hold the lands of Pitpontin, which had been given to it by Hugh of Gifford, as long as it continues to hold the church of Tealing.¹

Pitpointie is still the name of a property in the parish, and the Priest's Croft is possibly now represented by the farm of Priesttown, about a mile to the west of the kirk.

By a curious provision in the last-quoted deed, William, the son of Hugh of Gifford, was bound to pay three merks yearly towards the maintenance of his father's kitchen, and to clothe his father until he assumed the habit of a monk, also to pay for four servants to him, the canons being bound to find the servants in provisions.

Hugh of Gifford and Yester was the first of his race that possessed

¹ Reg. Prior de S. And., 325.

Tealing, of which he had a grant from William the Lion. The male line of the Giffords of Tealing and Yester failed in Sir John, who died early in the fifteenth century, leaving four co-heiresses, one of whom is said to have become the wife of Eustace, second son of Sir Herbert Maxwell of Carlaverock, and to whom she brought the lands of Tealing.¹

It seems probable that the old castle of Tealing had stood upon the east side of the Corral Den, for an eminence there is still known by the name of the "Castle Hill."

Patrick Maxwell, who died about 1700-1, appears to have been the last Maxwell of Tealing.² He was succeeded by George Napier of Kilmahow, as heir of entail. In 1704 Napier sold the property to John Scrymgeour of Kirkcubright, "late provost of Dundee," and ancestor of the present proprietrix.³

It ought to be added that, in early times, a payment was made out of Tealing to the Priory of Rostinoch,⁴ which was also a foundation of St Boniface.

It is probable that the church of Tealing had been disjoined from the diocese of St Andrews, and annexed to that of Dunkeld, before the time of Bishop David Bernham, for Tealing is not one of the churches which he is recorded to have dedicated;⁵ and although the name is excepted from the copies of the Old Taxation of Scotch benefices printed in the Registers of St Andrews and Arbroath, it appears under the diocese of Dunkeld, in the copies printed in "Archæologia" (vol. xvii.), and in Theiner's "Vetere Monumenta Hib. et Scot.," (p. 121), the latter of which is dated 1275.

[*Note.*—Since this paper was in type Mr M'Nicoll has kindly informed me that one of the four remaining stones of a circle in the wood of Balkemmock, in Tealing, presents a number of cup and ring markings. This circle will be described, and the stone engraved, in a future paper.—A. J.]

¹ Nisbet's Heraldry, vol. i. p. 136; Douglas' Peer., ii. 649.

² There are two old gravestones to the Maxwells at Tealing, but the inscriptions from these, with notices of the family, will appear elsewhere.

³ Inf. kindly furnished by Messrs Lindsay and Howe, W.S., Edinburgh.

⁴ Mem. of Angus and Mearns, p. 480. ⁵ Robertson's Con. Scotiae, i. pp. 298-303.

