

MONDAY, 12th April 1875.

THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq., in the Chair.

A ballot having been taken, M. HENRI DU CLEUZIYOU, Commissioner for Public Monuments, Paris, was elected a Corresponding Member.

The following Gentlemen were also elected Fellows of the Society, viz. :—

G. C. TROTTER CRANSTOUN of Dewar.
 GEORGE HAY, Esq., A.R.S.A.
 CHARLES SIDNEY, Esq., 21 Chester Street.
 J. WOODBURN, Esq., M.A., Drumrange.
 DONALD BEITH, Esq., W.S., Castle Street.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1.) By the Rev. ARCHIBALD PRENTICE, Thurso.

Large Stone Implement of rudely chipped Sandstone, $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, found in the parish of Walls, Shetland. It is of the type figured as Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of Plate VI. in the Proceedings, Vol. VIII., here reproduced. (See fig. 1 on opposite page, and also the papers by Dr Arthur Mitchell, Proceedings, Vol. VII. p. 118, and Vol. VIII. p. 64.)

Thirteen rudely chipped oblong Implements of Sandstone, of smaller size, varying from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. They are mostly of the type shown in fig. 2 on opposite page (see Proceedings, Vol. VII. p. 126).

Four handled or spud-shaped Implements, varying in size from 11 to $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. They are of the type of which fig. 5 on Plate VI. of the Proceedings, Vol. VIII., and figs. 2, 3, and 4, p. 128 of the Proceedings, Vol. VII., are examples, though the present specimens are less shapely in form and rougher in finish than those represented in the figures which are here reproduced (see fig. 3 on p. 174) for the sake of comparison.

One Curved Implement (?) of rudely chipped Sandstone, 9 inches in length, from Burland, Walls.

Flattish water-worn Pebble of Steatitic Rock, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, having a

hole bored through it about 2 inches from one end. The hole has been

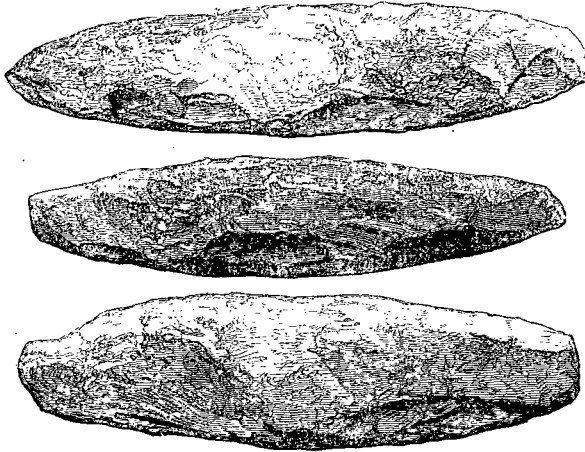


Fig. 1. Rude Stone Implements found in Shetland.

pecked through, and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide at the one side of the stone, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch at the other. It may have been a line or net sinker.

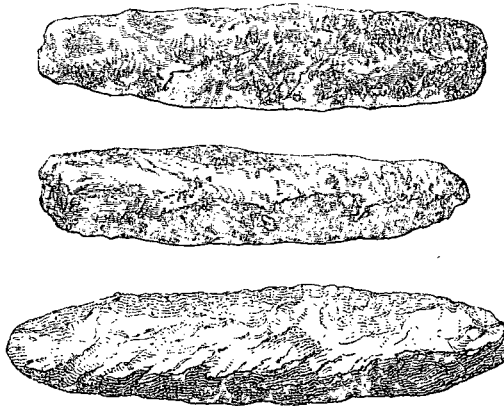


Fig. 2. Rude Stone Implements found in Shetland.

Sinker for a small line formerly used by the fishermen of Shetland. It

is an oblong pebble of sandstone, having a groove cut round it near one end, and a small shallow circular cavity hollowed out in the middle of one of the faces of the stone adjoining the groove. The end of the stone has another groove cut in it, which, if continued, would cross the first at right angles. The stone is 6 inches in length, and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth and thickness.

Two Hammer-Stones or Pestles, being natural pebbles, about 5 inches in length, abraded at the ends by use.

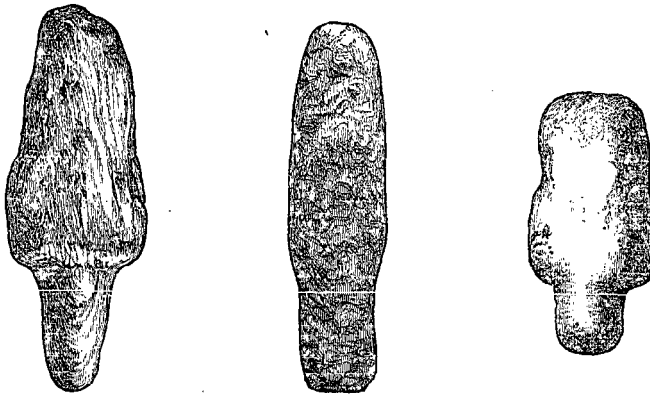


Fig. 3. Handled Stone Implements found in Shetland (see p. 172).

Large and roughly-shaped Vessel of Steatite, measuring 12 inches long by 9 inches wide, and 6 inches high. The cavity, which is irregularly rectangular, is very roughly hollowed out.

All found in the district of Walls, Shetland.

(2.) By WILLIAM JOHN LEDINGHAM, Esq., Slap, near Turriff.

Urn of "Drinking-Cup" form, 6 inches high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter at the mouth, unornamented, found in a short cist with a skeleton on the farm of Slap, near Turriff, Aberdeenshire. (See the paper by Mr Ledingham, in the previous volume of the Proceedings.)

Skull and Bones found with the Urn previously described.

Fragments of a Cinerary Urn with Burnt Bones, found in a cist at Ferneystripe, near Slap, Turriff.

(3.) By A. SHOLTO DOUGLAS, Esq.

A Craggan, or Hand-made clay Jar, from the island of Lewis, 9 inches high, 8 inches diameter, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the mouth. These jars are still made by the people of Harris for ordinary domestic purposes. (See the figures of three varieties of them in the Proceedings, vol. ix. p. 205.)

(4.) By D. LYELL HAY, Esq.

An egg-shaped Pebble of dark Quartzite, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, dug up on the farm of Dubford, Old Machar, Aberdeenshire. It is supposed from its fine shape that it may have been used as a charm-stone.

(5.) By the Right Hon. WILLIAM LORD HERRIES, through WILLIAM FRASER, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Book of Caerlaverock; Memoirs of the Maxwells, Earls of Nithsdale, Lords Maxwell and Herries. By William Fraser. 2 vols. 4to. 1873.

(6.) By Rev. CHARLES RODGERS, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., the Editor.

Scot's Staggering State of Scottish Statesmen. 8vo. 1872.

Estimate of the Scottish Nobility during the Minority of James the Sixth. Grampian Club. 8vo. 1873.

Three Scottish Reformers—Alexander Cunningham, Henry Balnaves, and John Davidson, with their Poetical Remains, &c. Printed for the English Reprint Society. 8vo. 1874.

The Poetical Remains of William Glen. 12mo. 1874.

(7.) By PATRICK DUDGEON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Historical Notes on the occurrence of Gold in the South of Scotland. Privately Printed. 4to. 1875.

(8.) By HYDE CLARKE, Esq., the Author.

Researches in Pre-Historic and Proto-Historic Comparative Philology, Mythology, and Archaeology, in connection with the origin of culture in America and the Acadd or Sumerian Families. 8vo. 1875.

There were also exhibited :—

(1.) By Mr GEORGE MACKENZIE, Corn Exchange.

A Collection of Stone Implements from West Burrafrith, Shetland, consisting of :—

Five Grain-Rubbers or Mealing Stones of Red Quartz Sandstone, varying from 7 to 11 inches in length, worn to a flattened surface on the under side by use. The grain was rubbed down by the friction of a stone of this kind, pushed backwards and forwards on a larger flat stone; and by long use the under stone became hollowed in the centre, while the upper one assumed a corresponding curvature of the under surface, and was rounded off abruptly at the ends. This method of rubbing down the grain is still common in Central Africa. Grain-rubbers of large size, with upper and lower stones complete, are in the Museum, from Caithness, and from a cave at Cullen, as well as several of the under stones from the Hebrides and elsewhere.

Seven Fragments of the sides of Pots or vessels of Steatite, of various sizes, and the bottom of a Steatite Pot, 7 inches in diameter. It is probable that pots, ladles, and other household utensils of steatite were frequently used in Shetland, from the time of the Norse occupation down to a comparatively recent date. Stone cooking-pots are mentioned in the Sagas, used for such purposes as making broth. (See Proceedings, Vol. X. p. 548, "Remains of the Viking Period in Scotland.") A set of cooking-pots of steatite, such as are still made and used in remote districts in Sweden for boiling milk, &c., were exhibited in the Swedish Court of the Great Exhibition at London in 1851. Such cooking-pots, with iron bow-handles riveted through the sides, are frequently dug up in the Viking grave-mounds of Norway, having been used as cinerary urns, and filled with the burnt bones of their former owners.

Five Knives of a slaty Claystone, varying from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. One is brought to a rectangular shape, and the cutting edge formed by grinding, and then notching it so as to give it a fine toothed edge, not unlike that of a toothed reaping-hook. The others are of a different form, having a thin broad blade, convex in outline along the cutting edge, and sometimes roughly notched. The most complete one has a tang or handle extending backwards and upwards, so that the

outline of the back from the point of the implement to the end of the handle is slightly concave. Knives of slate exactly similar in form to these are found in Norway. (See "Urda," vol. i. plate xiv., and the *Foren. til Norske Fortidsmind. Bev.* for 1867, plate i.)

Five broken fragments of similar Knives.

One Whetstone of Sandstone, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, well used.

One plummet-like implement of Steatite, 5 inches long, with a hole bored through it near one end.

One Disc of Sandstone, 3 inches diameter, with a hole through the centre.

One Spindle-whorl of Steatite, an inch in diameter.

One Slickstone or Smoothing-stone of Hornblendic Schist, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, polished on the edges by use.

Two fragments of Celts of Porphyritic Stone, consisting of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch and 2 inches of the cutting ends of the celts respectively.

Two flat square-shaped Stones (both broken), with oblong holes pierced through them.

One of the rude handled Implements, of the type figured on page 174 of the preceding Donation List, 10 inches in length, and smoothed towards the pointed extremity.

Six Beads of Glass of different colours.

Two small Beads of Steatite, and a flat piece of thick Green Glass.

Two small fragments of Sheet Bronze or Copper.

One small portion of Iron.

Some fragments of hand-made Pottery and burnt Bones of Animals.

One Stone Button, being a thin disc of clay-slate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, pierced with four holes like the modern flat bone button.

These were all got in excavating at West Burrafirth.

Mr Mackenzie has given the following notice of the circumstances in which these articles were found:—

"EDINBURGH, *April 12th 1875.*

"West Burrafirth is situated on the north-west coast of the parish of Aithsting, and is a most interesting field for the archæologist. The spot where these articles were found is within 200 yards of the beach and exactly opposite a small island, on which stands an old Pictish

tower in very fair condition, where no search (I believe) has been made. There was nothing to indicate that either a broch or mound of stone had been on the spot. It was simply a rising piece of ground in a low sheltered locality, which had been cultivated for centuries. While clearing out a few big stones, the occupier found one or two of the articles now exhibited, and, being an enthusiast, he resolved to search for more, thinking himself rewarded if for a day's hard work he succeeded in obtaining a bead or stone knife. Thus he went on until he discovered what seemed a stone cist, in which were several of the knives, and the rubbing stones, which were laid carefully up the sides of it on end. The cist is in size, as near as I can remember, 3 feet in length, 20 inches wide, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, formed of smooth but undressed flags, apparently brought from a distance, as none of the same kind of stone is found in that locality. The flags are closely put together, and quite straight and square. No traces of fire, he told me, were visible on the stones. The whole of these implements, he says, were found in or around the cist."

Mr Mackenzie also exhibited—

Three Polished Celts of Porphyritic Stone, one 9 inches long, with the upper half left rough, as if for a grip; the other two 7 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long respectively, the larger being completely, and the smaller only partially polished. These were not found with the objects previously described, but had been found casually at different times and places in the district.

A Nugget of Native Gold, from the recent gold workings in Strathdonan, Sutherlandshire. This nugget is the largest ever found in the north of Scotland except one, which is in the possession of the Duke of Sutherland. It measures $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}$ inches and weighs nearly an ounce.

With it was also exhibited, about an ounce weight of small Pellets of Gold, illustrative of the form in which it occurs in the auriferous drifts of Sutherlandshire. These specimens of native gold are interesting, in connection with the Scottish gold ornaments of prehistoric times, as exhibiting the form in which the early races acquired the metal, and indicating the local sources from which they might have obtained their supplies of native gold.

The following Communications were read:—