

IV.

NOTICE OF AN URN, FOUND IN A CIST NEAR KINCARDINE CASTLE, STRATHEARN, IN MARCH 1876, AND NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM. BY A. G. REID, Esq., AUCHTERARDER.

The tomb in which the urn now presented to the Museum was discovered was one of those of the early inhabitants, and from the style of sepulture it was evidently formed previous to the introduction of Christianity. From the size of the cist, the body must have been



Urn found in a Cist near Kincardine Castle
(5 inches high).

deposited in a contracted position, with the head to the south, and after the decay of the ligaments, the bones had fallen down and were found lying regularly on the floor of the cist. By the side of the skull, which was perfect, with the exception of two teeth, the urn was placed. There was nothing in it except some black earth. There had been no

burning of the body, and the urn consequently did not contain the ashes of the dead.

The cist itself was formed of flagstones at the bottom, sides, and top. At the side, boulder stones, such as are used for causewaying, had been placed to give stability to the structure. On the floor there was a layer of gravel which appeared to have been laid at the time, covering the bottom flagstone. The size of the cist was about 3 feet long, 21 inches broad, and 15 inches high. It was about 6 feet from the top of the knoll. Below the bottom flagstone the remains of another skeleton were discovered.

The vase was taken away for preservation. The writer was anxious afterwards to get the skull in order to send it to Edinburgh to ascertain its type. The place was covered up, and endeavours were used to prevent people disturbing the remains, but in the meantime the story of the discovery got abroad, and some of the Auchterarder youths went up and disturbed the cist, breaking the skull and removing the teeth.

About twelve years ago a cist similar to the one found at Kincardine was discovered on the adjacent farm of Barns, near to a so-called Roman camp. The same care was not displayed in its construction as was apparent in the one at Kincardine. It was only about 2 feet under ground, and the bones had crumbled into a mass, but from the size of the cist the body must have been deposited in a similar position.

By the kindness of James Johnston, Esq., of Kincardine, the proprietor, the urn has now been presented to the National Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.