

V.

NOTICE OF A SMALL URN, OF THE SO-CALLED "INCENSE-CUP" TYPE, FOUND AT BARNFAULD, THREEPWOOD, PARISH OF BEITH, IN THE EARLY PART OF THE PRESENT CENTURY, AND NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM. BY JOHN SHEDDEN DOBIE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

The small urn which I have herewith the pleasure of presenting to the Society was in the collection of my father, the late James Dobie of Crummock, F.S.A. Scot.

A pencil note in Mr Dobie's handwriting, which accompanied the urn, is here transcribed :—

"Thirty years ago Hugh Stevenson was ploughing in Barn-fauld on his lands of Townend of Threepwood (in the parish of Beith), when his plough went through a quantity of loose stones, exposing to view a pig (pot, or vase) of burned clay, which would contain about six gallons. Hugh put his hand in it and found a quantity of bones. The pig broke on being handled, but at the bottom of it there was an urn found which I have now got. Charred wood was found among the stones around the pig. In a short time afterwards another and smaller urn was found, but no pig along with it."

In the "New Statistical Account of Scotland" (1839), Ayrshire, parish of Beith, p. 578., *sub voce* Antiquities, Mr Dobie, the writer, after noticing Cuff-Hill, and, *inter alia*, the discovery of several stone coffins under a large cairn of stones on the south side of the hill, makes mention of this urn as follows :—

"To the north-east of the hill, on a field in the adjoining lands of Townend of Threepwood, about thirty-five years ago, there was found a large vase of burned clay, of a size capable of containing about six gallons. In it there was a considerable quantity of burned bones. The vase broke on being handled and exposed to the air, and soon crumbled into dust. Within it there was found a small open urn of hard burned clay, and at a short distance from it another small urn was found by itself; probably the larger one in which this last had been placed was destroyed without being noticed. They indicated no knowledge of art, and seemed as if

formed with the finger and thumb. The small urns were perhaps for receiving the ashes of the brain and heart, while those of the body were lodged in the larger vessel. In one of them were two perforations as if for fixing it to some other body, probably to the larger urn in which it was found, or for receiving fastenings for its own lid or cover."

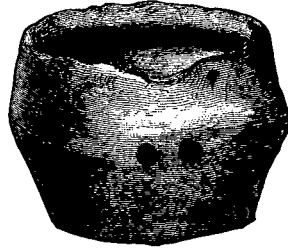
In the work entitled "Cuninghame Topographized, by Timothy Pont, A.M., 1604-1608; with continuations and illustrative notices by the late James Dobie of Crummock, F.S.A. Scot.," edited by me, Glasgow, 1876, this information has been repeated in Appendix No. III, and

a representation of the urn, engraved from a photograph, is given on page 403.

The dimensions of the urn itself are as follows:—Height, 2 inches; width at mouth taken from the highest circle of the rim, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width at bottom, 1 inch and $\frac{7}{10}$; distance between the inner edges of the perforations, $\frac{4}{10}$ of an inch. The engraving mentioned above is on the scale of a little more than half the size of the original.

Note.—Hugh Stevenson of Townend of Threepwood was succeeded by his sons, and some years thereafter the lands were divided and sold. The portion containing that part of the field called Barn-fauld, wherein, it is believed, was found the urn above referred to, was acquired by the late John Love, Esq., of Threepwood, and about the year 1847 was surveyed and divided off from the other portion of the property which was purchased by the late Robert Shedden Patrick, Esq., of Trearne and Hazlehead.

P.S.—Along with this urn were found in Mr Dobie's repositories two packets, labelled "Ashes got from the Cuff graves—4 July 1819," and "Ashes got in the Cuff Hill Tumuli." On the inside of the sheet of paper enclosing the latter is also the following note: "The enclosed were given me as part of the ashes got at opening the tumuli at Cuff Hill." Of the two pieces of bone (parts of a skull, apparently), there is no account given, but they were enclosed in the same common wrapper with the packets.



Small Urn found at Barnfauld, Threepwood, (2 inches in height).

These and the two packets with their labels and note are now also presented to the Society.

[A Notice of the small urns of this type, found in Scotland, is given in the "Proceedings," vol. ix. p. 192, by Dr John Alexander Smith.]