

## I.

## NOTICE OF TWO BRONZE SWORDS FOUND IN KINCARDINESHIRE. By REV. JAMES GAMMACK, CORR. MEM. S. A. SCOT.

As a drain was being dug by a workman in the lower part of the farm of Jacksbank, in the estate of Lawgavin, parish of Glenbervie, on Friday, 30th April 1880, two bronze leaf-shaped swords were found in close proximity lying across the bottom of the drain, which had a direction from north to south. They were lying between the vegetable or mossy matter and a pearly bed of sand, and were 3 feet from the surface. Beside or in any way near them there appeared to be no other remains of antiquity. The sword which was first seen was broken into three pieces in the course of removal, and one of the pieces not sought for, or at least found, but the fractured surface of the contiguous piece shows that till then it was entire. The second sword was removed with care, and presents the smooth, even surface of the well-known leaf-shaped sword, of which several specimens are already in the Museum. Its whole length is  $25\frac{3}{4}$  inches, including the flat handle-plate, which measures about 4 inches; the breadth of the leaf is  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch, and of the neck at narrowest  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch. There was no appearance of wood, bone, or horn attached to the handle, but the six pins, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long, were standing out on either side, though only to break off at once when touched. The sword itself was considerably bent when being forcibly removed from its bed, and has since been partially straightened. The blade, which is two edged and keenly pointed, is covered with a smooth green rust or oxidising of considerable thickness, but the scales had prevented the formation of this on the handle. The weight of the sword is 1lb.  $4\frac{1}{4}$  oz. The sword which was broken was smaller than the other—the two fragments together measure  $17\frac{6}{8}$  inches, and the lost point perhaps  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch more, or in all about  $19\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The



Bronze  
Sword ( $25\frac{3}{4}$   
in. long).

breadth of the blade is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch, and the handle-plate had only four holes, of which two were in a line on the centre length and two on either side the shoulder. But the edges of the fragments are considerably destroyed by the effort to remove the unknown object in the drain, and partly by subsequent freedom in handling. The fractured ends show a good clear metal which was not easily broken. The entire sword and the two pieces have been presented to the National Museum of Antiquities, Royal Institution, Edinburgh, by Mr John Burnet, farmer, Jacksbank. It may be worthy of note, as at least suggestive of thought, though without attempting to define the coincidence or the sequence of the Stone and Bronze Ages in Scotland, that the spot where the swords were found is within half a mile of the place where, on the neighbouring declivity on the farm of Cleugh-head, the cist was found in February 1878, containing calcined bones, and the perforated stone hammer, which was immediately thereafter sent to the Museum.

On reading the above to an old man, a native of Drumlithie, I received the following note at once:—"Then that was beside the Muir of Germany (also on the land of Lawgavin), where a battle is said to have been fought." But my informant could give me no farther account of the tradition as to *how* the Muir of Germany received its name, or *when* the battle is said to have been fought.