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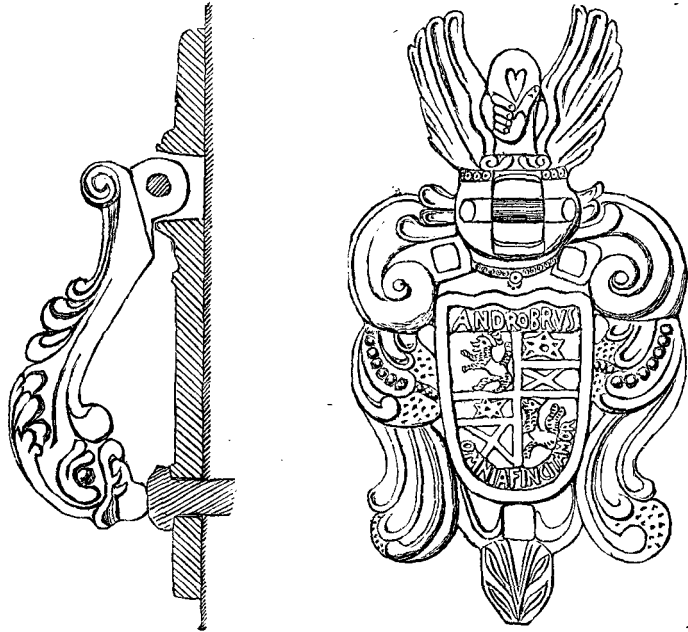
NOTICE OF AN ANCIENT DOOR-KNOCKER, WITH ARMORIAL BEARINGS,  
FROM MUNESS CASTLE, UNST, SHETLAND. BY MAJOR WILLIAM  
BRUCE ARMSTRONG.

The ancient door knocker now before the Society was taken from the door of the old castle of Muness in Unst, Shetland, when it became ruinous, and was given by (the then owner) Mr Thomas Mouat of Garth to the father of the present Mr John Bruce of Sumburgh, who has kindly sent it for exhibition.

In order the better to understand the history of this relic, it may be as well in the first place to say a few words as to the origin of the building from which it was taken, and the history of the family by whom it was founded;<sup>1</sup> John Brus, second Laird of Cultmalundie in Perthshire, married Euphame, daughter of the first Lord Elphinstone, she having previously borne to King James V. a son, Robert Stewart, who afterwards became Earl of Orkney. The issue of this marriage was a son Lucas or Laurence Brus, who succeeded as third Laird of Cultmalundie, and was thus uterine brother of the Earl of Orkney, who appointed him Fowdrie of Zetland in 1571, and admiral-depute of Orkney and Zetland 1576-7. Brus eventually settled in Shetland and built the castle of Muness, which was finished in 1578, leaving his eldest son in charge of his Perthshire estate, who carried on the line of Cultmalundie. He took with him to Shetland his second son Andrew, who remained there, and became the ancestor of the Muness branch, which became extinct during the 18th century. The door knocker, the subject of this notice, measures 12½ inches by 7 inches, and appears to have been cast in brass or bronze, and the arms and lettering to have been afterwards engraved with a tool. The

<sup>1</sup> For a further account of the family of Bruce of Cultmalundie, see the "Family Records of the Bruces and the Cumyns," by M. E. Cumming Bruce. 4to, Edinburgh, 1870, p. 338.

knocker plate is in the form of an armorial shield, with helmet, crest, and mantling, the helmet being ingeniously contrived to form the hinge for the knocker, which is in the form of a dolphin. The shield bears the arms of Grey and Bruce quarterly<sup>1</sup> above the helmet is the crest, a hand holding a heart between two wings, and within the shield is engraved the



Ancient Door-Knocker from Munness Castle (12½ inches in length).

motto "Omnia Vincit Amor" and the name Andro Brus, who (as before stated) was second son of the founder of Munness. From the fact that the knocker bears this name, we may reasonably conclude that it was cast in the time of this Andrew or in that of his son, whose name was also

<sup>1</sup> The Bruces of Cultmalundie always quartered Grey, the estate having come into the family by a marriage with the heiress of Grey of Cultmalundie.

Andrew.<sup>1</sup> John Bruce Esq., J.P. and D.L. of Sumburgh, Shetland, to whom this relic now belongs, is the present head of the Orkney and Shetland Bruces, and is descended from William Bruce, called "Nevoi," and "follower" of Laurence Bruce of Cultmalundie, who having accompanied his kinsman to Shetland obtained the estates of Sumburgh and Symbister, which still remain in the possession of his descendants.

[An etching of the castle, with a ground-plan, by J. T. Irvine, F.S.A. Scot., was exhibited, and Mr Irvine stated that on certain stones below the hanging turret at the south-west corner there are the initials A. B., showing that the castle was finished by Andrew Bruce.]