

IV.

NOTES ON A BRONZE CELT, AND A PERFORATED STONE IMPLEMENT,
FOUND AT CAMPTON, EAST LoTHIAN, AND NOW PRESENTED TO
THE MUSEUM. BY ROBERT SCOT-SKIRVING.

In asking the Society to except a bronze "celt" found many years ago in East Lothian, I may perhaps be allowed to make a short statement regarding some other objects of antiquarian interest which were brought to light at the same time and place that this "celt" was found. The locality is the farm of Camptown, three miles north of the town of Had-dington, and is in the parish of the same name. Within a quarter of a mile of the field in which the "celt" was found (the name of which is "*Gray-stane*"), there is an ancient fortified camp, which no doubt gives the name to the farm in which it is situated. That name was formerly *Captaenhead*, which being clearly a corruption of *Camp-town-head*, was changed to Camptown some forty-five years ago. In the older Statistical Account of Scotland there is this brief allusion to the camp. The writer says, "There are few antiquities in Athlestaneford parish, but among them may be mentioned a *Daneish* Camp." The more recent Statistical Account refers to the camp at greater length, and also notices some of the objects of interest found in its neighbourhood, of which the present "celt" formed one.

The writer says, "There is a *Pictish town* on a low hill of conical form almost level on the summit, containing about two acres of land. The houses, the foundations of which are still obvious, have been built right round the sides of the summit in regular rows, and in the greater part of a conical form. In the centre are the foundations of oblong houses of larger dimensions. The conical houses are generally 12 feet in diameter within the walls. The town had been strongly fortified first by a deep circumvallation, and higher up the sides of the hill by three ramparts quite perpendicular. From the top of the one rampart to the bottom of the highest, there is a level space of 18 feet. On the west

side of the hill, looking towards Edinburgh, are three deep trenches in succession. These outworks appear to have been raised on account of a small Roman station in that direction, about half a mile from the Pictish town."

I may here mention that of this Roman station I know nothing, and never heard of it. It will be observed that the writer of the first Account calls the camp a *Daneish* one, whilst the later Account designates it a *Pictish town*. Locally it is always called the "*Roman Camp*," perhaps because the field in which it is situated is called "The Chesters." This field of about 7 acres has always been given by the landlord to the tenant, *rent free*, on condition that he "preserves the Roman Camp intact, and keeps it free of whins."

The second Statistical Account goes on to say that "several Roman implements had been found near this camp in 1833, a large urn of superior workmanship, containing calcined bones, being found at the same time and place."

The implements here alluded to were two bronze celts, and several other articles of bronze, which I long had possession of. I may describe them as ferrule-like objects. They seemed as if they might have fixed the barb to the shaft of an arrow.

The beautifully fashioned urn I well remember, but it shared the fate of too many such objects, was not properly cared for, and was ultimately broken and lost.

The field where the "celts" were found was ploughed at the time deeper than had previously been done, which caused the discovery of a great many stone "cists" containing earth and fragments of bone. These were of the ordinary description, the stones of which they were formed being short, rough slabs. Similar "cists" are still, I understand, from time to time brought to light at or near the same place, and a considerable number were turned up in 1874. One antiquity (whatever may have been its nature), remains to be mentioned. In close proximity to the field called *Graystone* is a long ridge of rising ground called the *Galla-Law*. At its apex there formerly existed a high mound, which was long

thought to be a natural formation. It proved, on the contrary, to be entirely artificial. It was composed of a circular wall, the interior being filled with forced earth. The wall itself had in course of time been covered by soil. Something like two hundred cart-loads of stones were removed in course of levelling the ground. No one at the time doubted that this had been the site of a gallows,¹ and that hence came the name of the place.

In conclusion, I may mention an incident which at the time was not a little amusing. At the period when these ancient articles were found, a labourer on the farm took it into his head that treasure of some kind might be discovered if duly searched for. He accordingly set to work to labour during the night with this object, and though not a specially stupid man he selected as the scene of his operations a huge piece of natural rock—a "*yerd fast stane*," situated at the foot of the camp. Under this he endeavoured to mine, thinking that it had been placed there to protect some treasure.

I venture also to offer a piece of stone artificially shaped, which I myself picked up in the centre of a ploughed field on the same farm. It may have been a weapon or a child's plaything.

¹ Dr. Joyce, in his work on *The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places*, shows that this word is more probably the adjective *gallack*, usually applied to standing stones or stony remains.—*Ed.*