

### III.

NOTICE OF A HOARD OF SILVER COINS DISCOVERED IN BANFFSHIRE,  
OF WHICH THREE ARE NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM. By  
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It is not on account of their *rarity* that these three coins are presented. The locality, and peculiar circumstances, in which they, and a good many others of the same type, were found, may perhaps gain them a place in the Society's Cabinet.

Last autumn two "harvest hands," on the farm of Cauldhame, near Keith, Banffshire, were sent by the tenant, on a day unfit for work in the corn-field, to clean out a drain or ditch. In doing so they unwittingly "threw up on the bank a spadeful of small old silver coins,"—said to number from 80 to 100. Mr. Linn, of the Geological Survey, informs me that the spot is a few yards from the old cliff or bank of the Isla, and a little to the east of Douglas-brae old lime-quarry. The clay is of a dark-bluish grey colour, stony, and with patches of sand. It was in one of these patches of sand, in the clay, that the coins were found, and at a

depth of not more than a foot. I could find no traces of the case, or wrapping, in which the coins had been placed. The place where they were found was waste ground, and till not many years ago covered with furze."

The coins, of course, were soon scattered—given away, right and left. Soon after the discovery, Mr. Cameron, of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, was able, however, to re-collect some thirty or so of them, which I have seen and examined. They are in a wonderfully good state of preservation. In a great majority the legend can be easily made out; and in none of them is it wholly defaced. There is but a rare instance of "clipping" among them, and only on one or two has the die failed to strike the centre of the coin. They all, save two, have the stamp of a "Henry" upon them, but have been struck at different places and by different mint-masters. They exactly meet what Rapin (vol. i. p. 244) says:—"King Henry Second's coin is the same with those of his predecessors, giving him full-faced, with a sceptre in his right hand, a crown of a row of pearls of five points, with a cross raised upon the middlemost, and the inscription 'Henricus Rex.' On the reverse, a double-lined cross terminating at the inner circle, and four pellets in each quarter, which on some are enjoined by a small stroke in form of a cross." Save the two above-noticed exceptions, the whole of the Cauldhame find have this little cross, made by joining the four pellets, and in this, as in several other points, differ from the description which is given in Rapin (p. 347) of the coins of Henry III.

I believe that it is understood by most numismatists that many of these small coins, although they bear the name of Henry, were actually struck and used in the reign of John. Granted that this was the case with the bulk of the Cauldhame "find," it is pretty clear that they must have been collected not very long after they left the mint; as, otherwise, they must have had a greater mixture of other coins than in the proportion of 2 to 30, if we take the portion examined as a fair sample of the whole "find."

How and when they found their way so far north, and to the spot

where they have rested so long, are questions that give rise to much conjecture. Were they once the possession of any of the followers of Edward I., who, it is believed, crossed the Spey, not many miles distant from Cauldhame?

In Lindsay's *Coinage of Scotland* (p. 263) a somewhat similar "find" is recorded to have taken place—"in the Island of Tyree in 1788, when an earthen pot was found, containing several ounces of silver pennies of Henry III. of England." Some names of the *moneyers*, and more of the *mints*, are the same in both finds, viz., of Cauldhame and of Tyree.

The two exceptions referred to in the Cauldhame "find," are coins of William the Lion. The one is a good deal blurred. The other has "HVE WALTER" as the mint-master.