

IV.

NOTES ON THE HOARD OF COINS DISCOVERED IN BANFFSHIRE,
SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE NOTICE BY REV. DR. GORDON. By
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It is much to be regretted that no effort has been made to keep together the few William the Lion pennies connected with this find, were it only to have had them properly arranged and described. Through the superior good fortune of the English numismatists in possessing so much in the way of documentary evidence to guide them in determining the allocation of their early coins, it is now known positively that the three pennies from this find, bearing the name of Henry, with the short double cross on reverse, presented to the Museum of this Society by the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Gordon, were struck by King John. All show the very same head on obverse, which is identical with that on the Irish pennies of King John ; and from the circumstance that one of the three pennies was struck at Ipswich, we are able to determine that their period of issue was about the year 1208, when the moneyers of Ipswich and

fifteen other towns were commanded to seal up their dies and bring them to Westminster. The penny in question is the only variety of the short double cross penny, bearing the name of Henry, known to have been struck at Ipswich. This piece has on reverse IOHAN ON GIPE. There was another moneyer of Ipswich, Alexander, who writes his name ALISANDRE. Now, if the William the Lion pennies in this find had been kept together, by comparing them with these pennies of John with name of Henry, we should have had authentic information respecting the coinage of that reign, as circulating at this particular period. The two pennies of William the Lion, connected with the Cauldham find, which came under Dr. Gordon's observation, he describes thus: "The one is a good deal blurred. The other has HVE WALTER as the mintmaster." From other sources also I have been informed that pennies with the name of HVE WALTER were in the find. No other moneyer's name appears to have been mentioned.

The Henry short double cross pennies were first struck, it is supposed, about 1180, under Henry II., and without change of name or type, were continued under Richard I. and John. The only English money known of Richard I. and John consists of these pieces. The type was continued by Henry II. till the year 1247 or 1248, when the long cross coinages were introduced. The short double cross coins attributed to Henry II. and Richard I. are of large module, and rather coarse execution. Those attributed to John are smaller, and more neatly executed. Those issued under Henry III. are distinguishable by their still smaller module, and by the reduced size of the inner circles. William the Lion, there is reason to believe, did not adopt the short double cross type till the year 1195. The *Chronica de Mailros*, under that year, states, "Willelmus Rex Scottorum innovavit monetam suam,"—an innovation that could scarcely refer to any other change of type than this. We have short double cross pennies of William the Lion of good size and bold execution, corresponding to the short double cross Henry pennies struck under Richard I. We have them also of intermediate sizes. And we have them of very small module, and with

very small inner circles, corresponding to the short double cross coinages of Henry II. But William the Lion was succeeded on the Scottish throne by his son Alexander II. in 1214, and Henry III. succeeded to the English throne in 1216. How then can we account for the remarkable correspondence of the later short double cross Scottish coinage of William, the reduced module and diminished size of the inner circles, with the later short double cross English coinages, struck under Henry III., similarly distinguished, except that, just in the same way that Richard the I. and John continued the English coinage with the name and type of their father, so Alexander II. continued the Scottish coinage under the name, and with the type of his father. Of course, such a find as the Cauldhame find could not assist us in determining this question, seeing that the nature of its contents shows that it was probably deposited in the lifetime of William the Lion. But, suppose that a find containing the very latest coins, bearing the name of William, should turn up, as it might any day,—let it be hoped not in the far north,—a find which the intermixture of contemporary English coins—occurring as these usually do in large proportions—would show must have extended far into the reign of Alexander II., and where, moreover, while the William the Lion short double cross coinage was plentifully represented, the corresponding Alexander II. coinage was entirely absent, would not that be powerfully confirmatory evidence that Alexander II., for the greater portion of his reign, had done as his contemporaries Richard I. and John of England, by continuing the national currency in his father's name, and with his father's type? Such a find was the great Eccles hoard of short double cross pennies. At Eccles, near Manchester, were found on the 11th August 1864, about 6000 Henry short double sterlings, together with 105 Irish coins of John of the triangle type, struck after he had become King of England, with a few foreign coins, and 196 sterlings of William the Lion, all apparently of the short double cross type. This hoard, from internal evidence, is believed to have been deposited about 1240, for there were contained in it coins which could not have been struck much before that time. With the exception of about 200 sterlings,

all the Henry short double cross money were of the varieties struck under John and Henry III., rendering it the more striking that the hoard did not contain one single Alexander II. penny, for had coins been struck by Alexander II. with his own name, from his accession in 1214 till the date of the deposit of this find,—about 1248,—it might naturally have been expected that these would have been met with in much greater proportion than the coins bearing the name of William his father, struck some twenty-six years before. Other hoards that have occurred are to the same purport. I mention these matters, not so much with a view of explaining here why the pennies of Alexander II. should be so rare, but to illustrate the great importance of keeping finds of coins intact, so that they may be properly examined and reported upon.