

## VI.

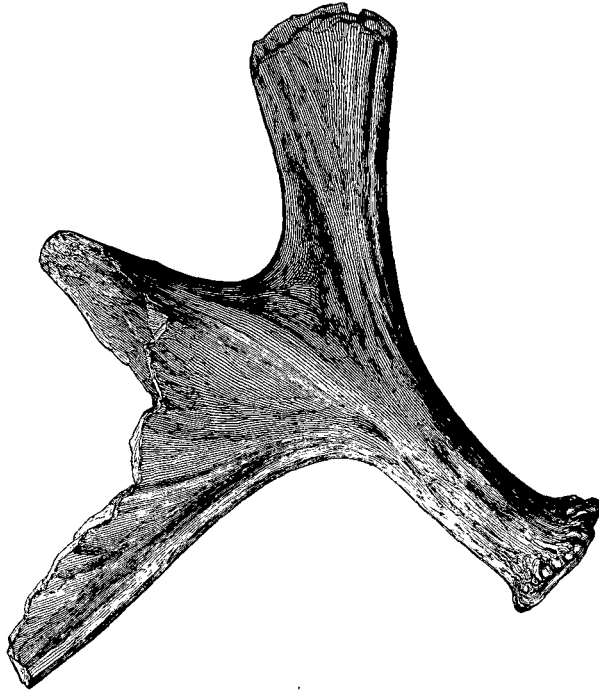
NOTICE OF THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ELK (*CERVUS ALCES*, LINN.,  
*ALCES MALCHIS*, GRAY), RECENTLY FOUND IN WIGTOWNSHIRE.  
BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., SEC. F.S.A. SCOT.

Some time ago I learned from the Rev. George Wilson, Glenluce, that he had recently obtained possession of a "palmated antler and a fragment of large deer horn with three tines." At my request, he was good enough to promise that he would send them for my inspection, and he has now not only sent the horns, but also presented them to our National Museum, along with a large collection of stone implements. Of course, the Fellows are all aware how very much we have been, and are indebted to Mr Wilson for quite a series of collections of all kinds of stone implements, &c., beautifully arranged, from his district of Wigtownshire.

The palmated antler is of great interest. It is apparently a horn of the left side of a *true Elk*. Some years ago, in 1871, I brought before the Society a paper giving details of the true Elk for the first time discovered in Scotland. I was then able to bring together instances of its discovery from various parts of Scotland. This specimen furnishes us with a new locality in the south of Scotland. It is very distinct in character, the palm spreading out into its three branches, the broad palmated brow antler to the front, the beam-like portion running straight outward from the burr of the horn, and the large palm or back antler running apparently from the whole of the back part of the beam.

It was drawn out of the estuary of the River Cree, Mr Wilson informs me, somewhere between Newton-Stewart and Creetown, in a salmon net, and was given to him by the man who got them; for the two horns, I understand, were got at the same time.

The discovery is of much interest, as it gives an additional locality in Scotland to this very rare species of our extinct deer. The other horn is the upper part of the beam of a very large round-antlered stag, a red deer, *Cervus elaphus*, showing the size attained by these animals when they roamed and fed over the best lands of the country. It is a richly



Horn of the Elk (*Alces malchis*), found in Wigtownshire.

marked horn, terminating above in two points, the third having been broken off, the whole showing the cup-shaped extremity of a crown antlered stag. The broken beam measures about 14 inches in length, and the points 7 and 5 inches respectively from the cup of the horn;

the large circumference of the beam under the cup being 12 inches, and at the broken extremity  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in circumference. The remains of various large red deer have been got from time to time in the moss or in the estuary of the Cree, and various examples of the Urus, the *Bos primigenius*, as Dr Arthur Mitchell also tells us in his interesting paper on the "Forest of Cree," brought before the Society in January 7, 1863 (*Proceedings*, vol. v.). This, however, is the first time I have ever heard of the presence of the Elk having been observed in this district.

The Society have been much indebted in various ways to the Rev. Mr George Wilson ; and this last donation is a valuable addition at once to our Museum and our knowledge of the district, for which Mr Wilson deserves our best thanks.