

MONDAY, 12th *March* 1883.

ARTHUR MITCHELL, M.D., LL.D., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were duly elected
Fellows :—

JAMES CURRIE BAXTER, S.S.C., 45 Heriot Row.

SAMUEL COWAN, Publisher, Perth.

W. E. LOCKHART, R.S.A., 9 Chamberlain Road.

GEORGE MILLER, C.A., Acre Valley, Torrance of Campsie.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the
table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1.) By Mrs RAMSAY, Kildalton, Islay.

Cast in Portland Cement of the Cross at Kildalton, Islay, 9 feet in
height. [It is hoped that engravings with detailed descriptions of this
fine cross may be given in the next volume of the *Proceedings*.]

Cast in Portland Cement of an unshaped Slab, 26 inches in length,
with an incised Latin cross on one side, found under the pedestal of the
Kildalton Cross.

Cast in Portland Cement of an erect Slab, unshaped, and sculptured
on one side only, the other side and the edges being left in their natural
condition. On the sculptured side is a Celtic cross in relief, very rudely
executed, with a circle connecting the arms with the shaft and summit, the
sun and moon over the arms, and the spaces underneath filled with rudely
executed interlacements, with scroll-like terminations. The slab is in-
teresting, as being the second known in Scotland which has the conven-
tional representation of the sun and moon over the arms of the cross.
The other specimen, which was found at Craignarget, Gillespie, Glenluce,
is also in the Museum, and is figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. iii. (New
Series), p. 251. This one is from Doid Mhairi, near Port-Ellen, Islay.

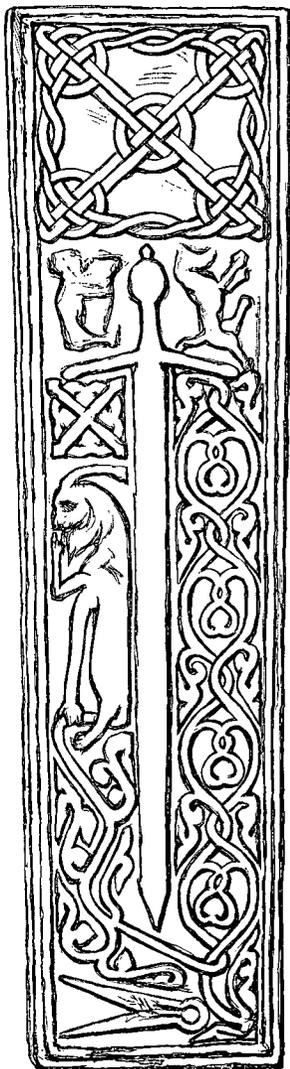


Fig. 1. Recumbent Slab in Kildalton Burying-Ground (6 feet 2 inches in length).

Cast in Portland Cement of the upper portion of a shaped Slab with rounded head, bearing an equal-armed cross within a circle. The slab is broken in the lower part, and now only measures 2 feet 3 inches in length. It was originally found at Kilbride, parish of Kildalton, Islay.

Cast in Portland Cement of a recumbent Slab (fig. 1) in the Kildalton burying-ground, 6 feet 2 inches in length, 20 inches wide at the head, and 16 inches at the bottom. It bears in the centre a sword with guard reversed, and scroll-work of the usual foliageous kind proceeding from the tail of a nondescript animal. Below the sword are a pair of shears; the spaces on either side of the hilt are filled up with animal figures, and a pattern of interlaced work fills the space between the sword and the top of the slab.

Casts in Plaster of two Inscriptions on recumbent Slabs from the island of Texa, Islay.

Mrs Ramsay has kindly sent the following notes regarding the monuments from which these casts were taken:—

THE KILDALTON CROSS—(*Cast No. 1*).—The old parish church of Kildalton is situated in the graveyard on the farm of Ardmore, about nine miles north-east of Port-Ellen, and the ancient cross stands a few yards north of the church, within the wall which surrounds the burying-ground.

Previous to August 1882, when the cast

of the cross was made, it had long stood in a roughly-dressed stone which had no sufficient foundation, and the cross had consequently fallen to a slanting position. To allow a proper foundation to be made for the cross, the stone in which it had stood was lifted, and immediately under the south-west corner of it the unshaped slab (Cast No. 2) was found, lying face downwards. (See fig. 2.)

A number of water-worn stones, such as are to be got in the bays near, were also found, and amongst them a rough stone, nearly round, and about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, one side of which had the appearance of having been worn smooth artificially. Below these water-worn stones, human remains, apparently of more than one body, were come upon.

Dr Mitchell was present when the basement was removed and the slab, &c., discovered.

The cross of Kildalton now stands erect on the spot it formerly occupied, with the same stone as basement, though part of it is hidden by the new steps and built into the foundation, in the hope of making it more secure.

Cast No. 2.—The cast of the unshaped slab mentioned above, bearing the incised Latin cross, found in the foundation of Kildalton cross, August 1882 (fig. 2). The stone is 26 inches in length, and sculptured on one side only.

Cast No. 3.—The original of this cast, bearing a Celtic cross (fig. 3), is a rude irregular slab. Its length from base to summit is 2 feet 9 inches; width at summit, 14 inches; width at base, 10 inches;

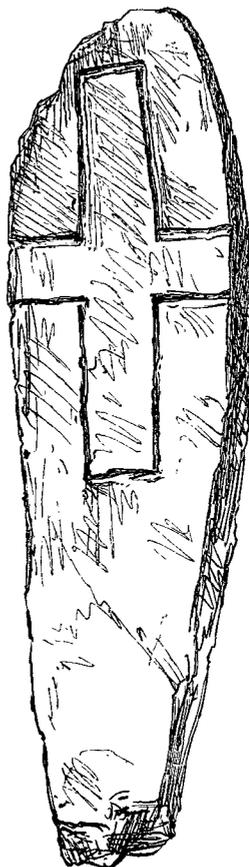


Fig. 2. Stone with Incised Cross, found under the Kildalton Cross (26 inches in length).

average thickness, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the 30th January 1883, Donald M'Nab,



Fig. 3. Erect Slab with Cross, in relief, from "Doid Mhairi" (2 feet 9 inches in length).

who has been in Mr Ramsay's employment for nearly fifty years, took me to the spot where he found the slab about forty-five years before, and which was called "Doid Mhairi." It is situated in a large park about 300 yards west of Port Ellen distillery, and north of the limekiln which is on the side of the public road leading to Kintraw. I believe in a direct line it is nearly midway between the ruin and burying-ground of Kilnaughton and Tigheargamau, where another cross once stood, the site of of which is still to be seen.

Donald M'Nab describes "Doid Mhairi" (previous to the date of finding the slab) as an uncultivated spot in the field about the size of a small potato plot or garden, on which a considerable quantity of stones lay, and there was some appearance of an enclosure or building having

existed. The other parts of the field had been cultivated, but "Doid Mhairi" had not, owing to a belief, as Donald M'Nab stated, that it might once have been a place of burial, from its resemblance to other places of burial in the district. It was, however, resolved to clear the spot, and while Donald M'Nab was removing the stones he found amongst them the slab now under notice. It was set up in the old distillery garden, where it remained till a few years ago, when the garden was covered with buildings, and the cross brought to Kildalton House, where it now is. "Doid Mhairi" signifies in English "Mary's Croft," meaning a small piece of ground such as a potato plot or small garden. No other object of interest, nor bones of any kind, were found at "Doid Mhairi," or in any other part of the field when it was trenched or ploughed.

KILBRIDE CROSS—(*Cast No. 4*).—The slab, of which this is a cast, measures 27 inches long by $9\frac{1}{2}$ broad, and is 3 inches thick. It is rounded at the top, and on one side bears a Latin cross within a circle, in low relief. This cross was known as *Crois-an-t-sagairt*, the Priest's Cross.

A son of the Rev. A. M'Tavish, late minister of the parish, carried the slab from Kilbride to the old manse garden, where it remained till August 1882, when it was taken to Kildalton House.

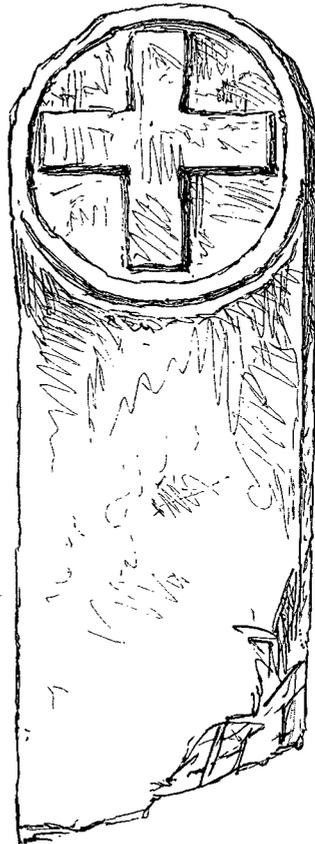


Fig. 4. Slab with Cross from Kilbride, Islay (27 inches high).

The farm of Kilbride is situated about a mile and a half north-east of Port Ellen. On this farm is the ruin of the church of Cille Bhrìde. The burying-ground surrounding the old church has long been disused, but the present tenant of the farm says he has known of children being buried there. He pointed out the site of the cross, about 11 feet east of the ruin, where part of the foundation is still to be seen. There is a well, about 13 feet south-east of the ruin, which is called Tobar-an-t-sagairt, the Priest's Well.

(Extract of a Letter from Rev. John M'Tavish, dated Inverness, 2nd February 1883).

"You may inform Mrs Ramsay that I remember having fallen in (when once on my way home from Kilbride) with, I suppose, the very stone which she inquires about, though my impression is that it was not quite so long as she says. I think it was lying on the ground in a small, neglected, and long-disused graveyard; at all events I thought it a pity, plain as it was, that it should lie there uncared for, so I shouldered it, and conveyed it, I cannot say whether with or without any assistance, to the old manse. It is so long since this happened—I suppose not less, possibly more, than forty-five years ago—that the only wonder to me in connection with it is that so much has been remembered about it, and that my exploit should now come to light and be a matter of history!"

(Extract of a Letter from Miss M'Tavish).

"If my brother's memory serves him right, he can tell you that he carried the cross you ask about on his shoulder from Kilbride, and set it up on one of the pillars of a small gateway that led to the road to the office houses. I fear no one of us is in a position to throw any light on the antiquity of the stone, but the rude carving may be a guide to those who are versed in such matters. There may be other remains where it was found, as of course the name of the farm tells that it was the resting-place of one of the saints of old.

"At the time John brought the cross to the manse, there were threatened disturbances in Ireland, and Donald Carmichael (mason), said, 'If the Papists come over, they will not harm the minister, as the cross is set up here.'"

In the hurriedly written description of the slab which was sent to Mr M'Tavish, I gave its length as "about 3 feet." Its length, however, is only 2 feet 3 inches. Mr M'Tavish therefore correctly remarks that, so far as he could remember, the stone was not quite so long as I said. I sent a rough sketch of the slab to Mr M'Tavish to make sure that we referred to the same stone.

Cast No. 5 is that of the sculptured sepulchral slab, showing a sword, shears, &c., in the Kildalton burying-ground, which has been already noticed as fig. 1 on page 278.

(2.) By the Right Hon. the EARL OF STAIR, F.S.A. Scot.

Bronze Javelin Head, 3 inches in length, found in Balgown Moss, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire.

(3.) By K. H. MACDONALD, M.D., Marathon House, Cupar, through J. M. DICK PEDDIE, F.S.A. Scot.

Enamelled Crucifix of Bronze, found in the Churchyard of Ceres, Fife. (See the previous paper by Mr Peddie.)

(4.) By JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., *Secretary*.

Eight rude Stone Implements and one Stone Pounder, from Kennaby, Fair Isle.

Two oblong Stone Pounders, found at Gillie, Fair Isle, Shetland.

Oval Boulder of Sandstone, perforated, from Setter, Fair Isle, Shetland.

Two "Collies" or Shetland Crusies, one of iron, another of copper.

(See the subsequent paper by Dr Smith.)

(5.) By JOHN BRUCE, Jun., of Sumburgh, Shetland.

One Sinker, two broken perforated Stones, and portion of the side of a large Vessel of Steatite, from Kennaby, Fair Isle.

Portion of a Stone Cup, found at Gillie, Fair Isle.

Oblong Stone Vessel, found in Fair Isle.

Oblong water-worn Boulder, found at Boddam, Dunrossness, Shetland.

Two carved Discs of stone, found in a Broch on Scatness, Shetland.

Three Whorls of steatite, from the remains of buildings in Fair Isle, Shetland.

Two Corn Rubbers, found at Kennaby, Fair Isle.

Two "Collies" or Shetland Crusies of iron, one from Fair Isle.

Hand-loom for Garters, in use in Fair Isle.

Two large Stone Sinkers, as in use at Sandwick, Shetland.

Stone Window Frame, from Boddam, Dunrossness, Shetland. (See the subsequent paper by Dr Smith.)

(6.) By GEORGE BRUCE, Sand Lodge, Sandwick.

Two terminal Stone Sinkers, and one of the Middle Sinkers of a "long line," as presently in use, from Sandwick, Shetland. (See the subsequent paper by Dr Smith.)

(7.) By A. CUNNINGHAM HAY, Lerwick.

Iron Padlock, and Wooden Door-lock, from Norway.

(8.) By G. R. GRANT, Schoolmaster, Boddam, Shetland.

Penny of Edward II., Penny of Henry II., and Dutch Copper Coin.

(9.) By SYMINGTON GRIEVE, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Notice of the Discovery of Remains of the Great Auk in the Island of Oronsay. Reprint from the Linnean Society's *Journal*.

(10.) By the SENATUS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Edinburgh University Calendar 1878-79 and 1879-80.

(11.) By Col. YULE, C.B., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Notes on the oldest Records of the Sea Route to China from Western Asia. Reprint from *Proceedings* of the Royal Geographical Society.

(12.) By the DEPUTY CLERK-REGISTER OF SCOTLAND.

Records of the Privy Council of Scotland. Vol. V.

(13.) By GEORGE HAY, F.S.A. Scot., the Editor.

Round about the Round O, with its Poets. Edited, with Notes by George Hay, F.S.A. Scot. The Drawings by John Adam, Edinburgh. 4to. Arbroath: Thomas Buncle. 1883.

(14.) By WILLIAM MACKAY, F.S.A. Scot., Inverness.

Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness. Vols. II-IX. inclusive.

There were also exhibited:—

(1.) By CHARLES ELPHINSTONE DALRYMPLE.

A Portrait on Panel, formerly in Stirling Castle. (See the subsequent communication by Mr Dalrymple.)

(2.) By J. SANDS.

Bronze Sword, 22 inches in length, slightly broken at the hilt and point, having two rivet-holes in the wings and two in the handle-plate, with a slot between them.

Bronze Pin (fig. 5), $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, with swivel-head, the ring and the pin-head decorated with prickly ornamentation. The diagrams *a* and *b* show the ornament of the head and the reverse side of the pin.

Bronze Needle, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, with oval eye. All found in the Island of Tiree.

The following Communications were read:—

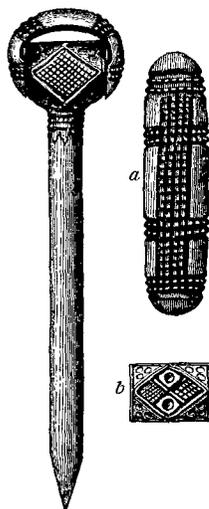


Fig. 5. Bronze Pin, found in Tiree ($2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).