

## II.

NOTICES (1) OF ECCLESIASTICAL MUSIC DISCOVERED IN THE BURGH CHARTER-ROOM OF DUNDEE, (2) OF TWO STONE COFFINS DISCOVERED AT INVERGOWRIE, (3) OF A CURIOUS PEWTER CASKET FROM DUNDEE. By A. H. MILLAR, F.S.A. Scot.

Whilst engaged in research amongst the documents in the Burgh Charter-Room of Dundee, in connection with the recently published "Roll of Eminent Burgesses of Dundee," I came across the sheets of Ecclesiastical Music now exhibited. Through the courtesy of Mr William Hay, town-clerk, the sheets have been sent to the Society for inspection. They were found in the inside of the parchment cover of a Protocol Book written by Robert Wedderburn, notary public, and dated 1580 to 1585. This book is a volume of 126 folia of antique paper, closely written on both sides in the cleric Latin of the period, and covered with a sheet of time-stained vellum. To stiffen the outside cover the vellum has been folded over the edge, and several thicknesses of paper placed inside. The front cover is filled in this manner with several fragments of old legal deeds, apparently first drafts of documents, and the back cover is stiffened by the insertion of four sheets of music, the first of which is pasted to the vellum, and the others merely laid in front of it. The latter were therefore easily removed for examination.

The sheets measure 12 inches by  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and are in very good preservation. The paper is of a thick cartridge texture, bearing no trace of a water-mark. The music is printed on the four-line staff still in use in the Romish Church, and the text is black-letter, with red uncials and a rubric also printed in red. The lines of the staff are printed in the same colour, and have been formed by an impression taken from blocks measuring 2 inches. Both music and text are admirable specimens of early block-printing, and seem to date from the close of the fifteenth century.

An examination of the contents enables us to determine that two of the sheets form consecutive leaves, whilst the others are odd sheets of a

Roman Missal; and there can be no doubt that these were used in the Church of St Mary in Dundee before the Reformation. Robert Wedderburn, in whose book they were found, was a younger son of the first Alexander Wedderburn, town-clerk of Dundee, and was therefore a near kinsman of the celebrated Robert Wedderburn, vicar of Dundee, the putative author of *The Complaynt of Scotland*, and one of the joint-authors of "The Gude and Godly Ballads" known as the *Dundee Psalms*. His possession of them may thus be easily accounted for.

A careful comparison of these fragments with the *Graduale Romanum* at present used in the Romish Church distinctly proves their antiquity. The ancient Gregorian Gradual was altered in 1614, during the Pontificate of Paul V., and the form of the present service differs slightly in its order and arrangement from that given in the Dundee fragments. These sheets were regarded by Robert Wedderburn as old and worthless paper in 1580, and their remote age is thus confirmed.

The first sheet is a portion of the Office for the Twelfth after Pentecost. The part of the page contains the concluding phrases of the Offertory, the missing portions being here enclosed in square brackets. It reads as follows:—

[Memento Abraham, Isaac, et Jacob, quibus jurasti dare] terram fluentem lac et mel et placatus est Dominus de malignitate quam dixit facere populo suo. Co [mmun] io.

De fructu operum tuorum, Domine, satiabitur terra, ut educas panem de terra, et vinum lætificet cor hominis, ut exhilaret faciem in o[leo, et panis cor hominis confirmet].

As the other side of this sheet continues the service with the omission of four lines, we are thus enabled to discover that the page originally measured 12 inches by 12 inches. The fragment begins with a portion of the Office for the Thirteenth after Pentecost.

[Respice, Domine, in testamentum tuum, et animas pauperum tuorum ne derelinquas in finem : exur]ge, Domine, et iudica causam tuam, et ne obliviscaris voces quarentium te. Ps[alm]. Ut quid, Deus, repulisti in finem ; iratus est furor tuus super oves pascuæ tuæ ? Gloria : Euouæ.

The last combination of letters indicates that the Doxology and Hallelujah are to be intoned here.

The next fragment, according to the rubric, is a portion of the Offertory for the Twentieth after Pentecost, though the Graduale now in use places it for the Eighteenth after Pentecost. It is as follows :—

[Sanctificavit Moyses altare Domino, offerens super illud holocausta, et] immolans victimas : fecit sacrificium matutinū in odorem suavitatis Domino Deo in conspectu filiorum Israel. Co[m]mun[io]. Tollite hostias et introite in atria eius adorate dominū in aula facta eius. Dñica xx post penthe.

The phrases on the other side of this leaf form now portions of the services for *Feria III. Post Dominicam I. Quadragesimæ* and for *Sabbato Post Dominicam IV. Quadragesimæ*, though these services are by modern usage placed in a different sequence. There is no rubric to show precisely where these passages were formerly placed. The *Graduale* beginning *Dirigatur*, &c., is still used on the Nineteenth after Pentecost, which brings the phrase into its usual order.

[Attendite, po]pule meus, legem meā[m] : inclinate aurem vestram in verba oris mei . V . Gloria . Euouæ . Dirigitur oratio mea, sicut incensum in conspectu tuo domine . V . Elevatio manuum mearum sacrificium [vespertinum].

The next sheet contains a part of the service for the Seventeenth after Pentecost, which is as follows :—

[Vovete et reddite] domino deo vestro omnes qui in circuitu eius affertis munera : terribili et ei qui aufert spiritum principium, terribili apud omnes reges terræ. Exultate deo adiutori nostro, iubilate deo Jacob, sumite psalmū iucundum cum [cithara : canite in initio mensis tuba : quia præceptum in Israel est, et iudicium Deo Jacob].

The phrases on the other side of this leaf are now used as a portion of the *Missa Votiva de Sancto Spiritu*, though they seem formerly to have been part of the Pentecostal services. The Graduale runs thus :—

[Beata] gens, cujus est dominus deus eorum populus quē elegit dominus in hereditatem sibi . V . Verbo domini cæli firmati sunt, et spiritu oris eius omnis [virtus eorum].

As the last page is pasted to the vellum cover, it has not been removed, and consequently only one side has been examined. The exposed side contains a portion of the service for the Twenty-first after Pentecost, including the Psalm,—

Beati immaculati in via : qui ambulant in lege domini . Gloria . Euouæ .  
R . Beata gens, etc.

Two woodcut initial blocks have been used in the printing of these fragments, one being a capital E, the first letter of the word *Elevatio*, which is filled in with a grotesque profile mask ; the other is the initial V of the word *Verbo*, the enclosed space showing a full-front mask, very sharply cut. The latter is repeated on the page which has been left pasted to the vellum cover.

In the appendix to *The History of Old Dundee*, by Alexander Maxwell, F.S.A. Scot. (David Douglas, Edinburgh, 1884), reference is made to a similar discovery of ancient Ecclesiastical Music made by the author in the Burgh Charter-Room of Dundee, the fragments then found having been identified by Mr William Blades as portions of a Sarum Gradual printed in 1532, and of a Sarum Missal printed at Venice in 1494. A full description of these interesting fragments will be found in Mr Maxwell's book. They have since been glazed under double sheets of glass by order of the Town Council of Dundee, and placed in the Museum of Dundee for preservation.

*Stone Coffins at Invergowrie.*—Two stone coffins were discovered here on 5th September 1887. Whilst ploughing in a field near the Cottarland of Invergowrie, the workmen came upon a stone cist containing human bones, and lying about eighteen inches below the surface. On excavating the cist it was found that the bones of a complete skeleton—excepting the small bones of the hands and feet—were within the slabs which formed the coffin, and in a very good state of preservation. The cist was composed of thin grey sandstone, similar to that found in the exposed strata of Kingoodie Quarry in the vicinity, and was made by laying flat slabs to form the bottom, with upright slabs as sides, the whole being covered with similar broad flags of sandstone in the usual manner. Unfortunately this cist was demolished before it had been thoroughly examined. The skeleton which it contained was apparently that of a young man. The skull and lower jaw were intact, and show a cerebral conformation and facial angle, which seem to indicate a high organisation. The teeth were entire, and did not exhibit the slightest token of decay,

the striæ on the crown of each tooth being perfect, and the enamel quite uninjured. The vertebræ, ribs, and the femur, tibia, fibula, and pelvis bones were complete, only the minor bones of the extremities being wanting. The coffin was laid with an almost exact orientation, the head lying towards the west and the feet towards the east, as in early Christian interment.

Shortly after the discovery was made the proprietor of Invergowrie, Captain G. D. Clayhills Henderson, R.N., was communicated with, and he proceeded to the spot. Under his directions, a careful examination of the ground in the neighbourhood was made, with the result that at a distance of 34 feet from the first cist, a second and similar coffin was found. The excavation in this case was conducted more carefully, and the cist was uncovered and measured exactly whilst it was in its original condition. One of the covering slabs at the head of the body had been displaced at some time, and portions of the earth had fallen into the cavity, consequently the skeleton was much more decayed than that in the first cist. Of the skull only a fragment remained, and many of the principal bones were wasted away. From the conformation of some of the latter, the skeleton seemed to have been that of a young woman, although certainty on this point was hardly attainable. With the exception of the one top slab, the cist was entire. It has been made by the placing of three slabs to form the floor, and slabs set edgeways to form sides and ends, the lid being composed of three slabs laid across, and resting on the sides so as to exclude the soil. The measurement of the inside space was 5 feet 9 inches long by 1 foot  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, and 10 inches deep. The cist was tapered towards both ends, measuring 15 inches at the head,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the foot, and  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the widest part. The greatest breadth was at a point 2 feet 9 inches from the head, and was made by merely setting the side slabs at an obtuse angle instead of leaving them in line. On the sides of this cist a chalk-like mark was clearly visible, showing where the legs had been resting after the body was deposited, and where the flesh had gradually decayed, leaving the bones in contact with the stone. The flakes of sandstone of which these coffins were formed were about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 2 inches in thickness, and may have been surface-stones from the locality of Kingoodie. Like the other cist, the second was strictly oriented, and lay almost in a due line east and

west with the first. No ornaments, cups, or trinkets of any kind were found in either of the graves. Trenches were dug at right angles to these graves for some distance, but no other discoveries were made.

The knoll on the summit of which the graves have been made is about 100 feet above the level of the Tay, and overlooks the bay at Invergowrie. The field where they were found seems to have been kept as pasture-land up till a comparatively recent period. In a plan of the estate of Invergowrie made for the then proprietor by Thomas Winter in 1736, and now in the possession of Captain Clayhills Henderson, the spot is described as "the Outfields of Wester Invergowrie," the field of the Cottar-land lying a little to the south of the place of interment. The precise date when the field was first transformed into arable land is not known; but it may have been within the present century, and this accounts for the fact of these coffins remaining so long undisturbed.

*Pewter Casket.*—The casket now to be described is unique, both in form and design. It is composed of pewter, and is in shape a flattened sphere, measuring 14 inches in circumference from pole to pole, and  $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the greatest circumference. A band passes around the globe consisting of a moulding in the form of a flattened arch, enriched with two bead mouldings on each side. The spaces between these beads and the poles of the globe are divided by incised lines, radiating from the axis, the one portion having twenty-four, and the other thirty-two lines. The alternate lines of the former are terminated half an inch below the bead, so as to permit an inscription to be placed between the dividing lines, and the names of the months of the year, with the number of the days in each month, are incised between the dividing lines, thus:—

|                 |                               |                |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Januar.<br>XXXI | Februa <sup>r</sup><br>XXVIII | March<br>XXXI  | April<br>XXX    |
| Maii<br>XXXI    | June<br>XXX                   | Julii<br>XXXI  | Agust<br>XXXI   |
| Septemb.<br>XXX | Octob.<br>XXXI                | Novemb.<br>XXX | Decemb.<br>XXXI |

The other portion of the globe has the lines produced to meet the bead, and the enclosed spaces are filled in with the numerals from

1 to 31, the initial space having an equal-armed cross to separate the first from the last figure. On the middle moulding, directly opposite the figure 1 on one side, and the dividing line between "December and January," on the other, a circular hole has been drilled, half an inch in diameter, and on each side of this aperture two slits have been cut at right angles to the radiating lines, measuring respectively one inch and one inch and a quarter in length, apparently intended for the insertion of coins of different thicknesses. At the opposite side of the globe, there is a single slit which measures  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch by one quarter inch, and a circular opening has been cut near the centre of this slit, corresponding to that on the other side. The globe has been suspended at the poles, and it is likely that movable index fingers have been placed on each side so as to make it serviceable as a calendar.

The symbols which localise and identify this curious casket are incised on this moulded band. They consist of the name "duncane" on one side of the central aperture, with the initials "C. W. D.," and the arms of Duncan, a chevron between two roses, with a horn suspended in base, and also the monogram "S. J. S." in cursive characters. On the other side of the aperture, and reading the reverse way, are the name "Wedderburne," the initials "C. W.," with the arms of Wedderburn of Kingennie,—a chevron charged with a fleur-de-lys, between three roses, and the date 1600. It seems probable that a rod has passed through the circular apertures between the slits, finished with a bolt head at one side, and fitted with a lock of some kind at the other, so as to prevent the abstraction of coins by the widest aperture.

The incised names and coats of arms very clearly show that this casket or cash-box belonged to "Chirurgion William Duncan," an eminent physician in Dundee, and to his wife, Catherine Wedderburn, sister of Sir Alexander Wedderburn, first Baron of Kingennie. The monogram "S. J. S." may be the initials of Sir James Scrymgeour of Dudhope, who was Provost of Dundee from 1593 till 1609. William Duncan was the second son of Finlay Duncan, surgeon, who was admitted a burghess of Dundee in 1550. The eldest son of Finlay Duncan was John Duncan,

goldsmith, who settled in England; and from an interesting deed entered in the Protocol Book of Robert Wedderburn, notary public, under date 1586, it appears that the father expressly declared that his son John was not to succeed to his tenement of land in the Argyllis-gait of Dundee, unless he returned out of England, and married amongst his own kinsfolk. This deed was witnessed by William Duncan, the next heir. William Duncan followed the profession of his father, and took a prominent part in civic affairs. He was repeatedly in office as Dean of Guild, and survived till 1608. His wife, Catherine Wedderburn, must have died either in that or the following year, as appears from the following inscription upon the tombstone which covers their last resting-place in the Howff, or Old Cemetery of Dundee :—

W · D : K · V.—Hic dormit honorabilis vir, Gulielmus Duncane, medicus, civis de Dundee, qui obiit die—Maii mensis, Anno 1608, ætatis suæ 52.

Heir lies als wae ane godlie honorabil Voman, Katerin Vedderburne, spouse to Villiam Duncane, who departit this lyif ye — day of — 160 .

Discite ab exemplo mortales discite nostro.

Mors sola fatetur quantula sunt hominum corpuscula.

William Duncan was the grandfather of William Duncan of Seasyde and Lundie, the progenitor of the Earls of Camperdown. It has been suggested that the casket was intended as a cash-box for holding fines connected with the Guildry, but the arms and initials of Catherine Wedderburn, beside those of her husband, seem to indicate that it was for domestic use. The history of this relic during the last 280 years cannot be traced. It is now in the possession of Mr G. B. Simpson, F.S.A. Scot., Broughty Ferry, near Dundee. [The casket has since been acquired by Mrs Morison-Duncan of Naughton, Fife.]