

## I.

NOTICE OF BRONZE ORNAMENTS AND A THIN BIFID BLADE OF BRONZE FROM THE BRAES OF GIGHT, ABERDEENSHIRE. BY GEORGE MUIRHEAD, F.S.A. Scot.

The bronze ornaments and tanged blade now exhibited by the kind permission of the Earl of Aberdeen were found by some workmen who were engaged in the construction of a private carriage road from Haddo House to the Braes of Gight in 1866. A man who was present



Fig. 1. Necklet of bronze found at Braes of Gight (half size).

at the discovery informs me that the ornaments were got during the removal of some huge old fragments of rock which were lying at the

bottom of a lofty precipice. The Braes of Gight, which overlook a beautiful and romantic sylvan valley, through which the river Ythan winds, are situate on the march between the parishes of Methlick and Fyvie; and here, peering above the lovely trees which adorn the northern bank of the ravine, are seen the picturesque ruins of the old Castle of Gight,

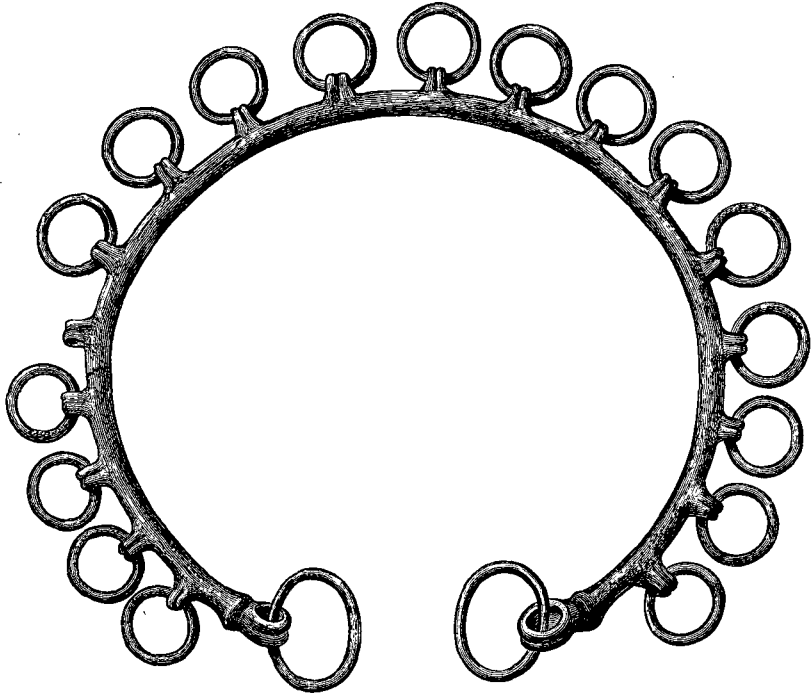


Fig. 2. Necklet of bronze found at Braes of Gight (half size).

an ancient seat of the Gordons, and celebrated for all time as the ancestral inheritance of Catherine Gordon of Gight, the mother of Lord Byron.

The ornaments consist of three necklets, six armlets, and three small rings rudely attached together by short, narrow, flat bands. The necklets are somewhat oval in shape and vary in size. Two are of plain construction and similar to each other, the smaller measuring 17 inches

in circumference, its greatest and least diameters being respectively  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches and 5 inches; and the larger (fig. 1) 20 inches in circumference, its greatest diameter being  $6\frac{5}{8}$  inches, and least 6 inches.

They have rings of about  $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch in diameter attached to their

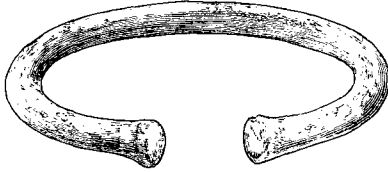


Fig. 3. Penannular armlet of bronze found at Braes of Gight (two-thirds size).

ends. One of the rings has been lost. The third necklet (fig. 2) is of very beautiful and elaborate workmanship, having, besides the two end rings of  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch in diameter, eighteen others, about half an inch in diameter, attached to its outer edge. One of the latter has been lost, and unfortunately the necklet itself is now broken into two pieces, but otherwise it is in a very perfect state of preservation.

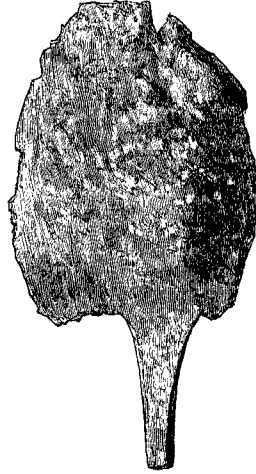


Fig. 4. Bronze bifid blade with tang found at Braes of Gight (two-third size).

The armlets (fig. 3) are of the usual penannular form, with slightly ex-

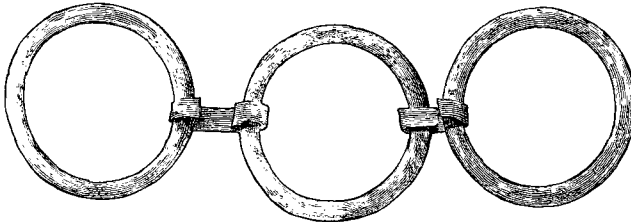


Fig. 5. Rings of bronze attached by thin bands of bronze, found at Braes of Gight (two-thirds size).

panding extremities. They also differ in size, two pairs measuring in-

dividually  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter, and the third pair  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 2 inches.

The three rings (fig. 5), attached together by the small metal bands, are each  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch in diameter.

The tanged bronze blade (fig. 4), which appears to have been of bifid construction, measures about  $2\frac{2}{3}$  inches long and 2 inches broad, and the "tang" for insertion in the handle is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch long.

It is believed that the ornaments now exhibited are unique in Scotland, that they probably belong to the close of the Bronze Age, and certainly to a period anterior to the Roman invasion.

It may be mentioned that there were formerly cairns on some of the heights in the vicinity, including Little Gight, Balquhindachy, Belnagoak, Cairn Orié, and Tuxton; the last being very large, and locally known as the "King of Denmark's Cairn."

Stone coffins, cinerary urns, celts, and numerous flint arrow-heads have also been found in the vicinity.