

III.

NOTE AS TO THE RECOVERY OF THREE VOLUMES OF THE MS. COLLECTIONS OF SCOTTISH ANTIQUITIES OF THE LATE ROBERT RIDDELL, Esq. OF FRIARS CARSE AND GLENRIDDELL. BY A. G. REID, F.S.A. SCOT.

Last spring the family of the late Dr W. C. Henry, F.R.S., of Manchester, wrote to Mr Sutton, Chief Librarian of the Manchester Corporation Free Library, saying that they were in possession of a number of papers and books, many of which had been in the collections of their father and grandfather, and that they should be glad to let him have them to go through and do what he liked with them, as there might be some books of local interest or value amongst them. They had been lying for forty years in a room at the Chemical Works of Messrs T. & W. Henry in Manchester. Mr Sutton, after going carefully through them, showed a number of them to Mr Albert Nicholson of the Old Manor House, Sale, a well known local antiquary. Amongst these were three folio volumes of the Riddell MS. Collections. These he asked Mr Nicholson's opinion about. As they seemed to be notes almost exclusively about Scotland, he proposed to send them to Mr A. G. Reid, Auchterarder, to give his opinion about them. They were accordingly sent, when Mr Reid at once saw from internal evidence they were collections made by Mr Riddell, the Scottish antiquary, and friend of

Robert Burns and Captain Grose. He informed Mr Nicholson of their nature, and shortly afterwards, being in Edinburgh, he told Dr Anderson, the Curator of the Museum of Scottish Antiquities, of the volumes which had come into his possession. Dr Anderson then told Mr Reid that the Society of Antiquaries were in possession of other five volumes of the set, being Volumes III. VII. VIII. IX. and XI., while those which had been in Dr Henry's possession were Volumes II. IV. and VI. Dr Anderson having expressed a wish to acquire the three volumes to add to those in the Society's possession, Mr Reid put himself in communication with Mr Nicholson, and, through his good offices and those of Mr Sutton, it was agreed that the volumes should be handed over to the Society, in whose possession they now are. As a recompense for the donation, the Council agreed to hand to the Manchester Free Library the volumes of their publications required to complete the set they possessed.

The volumes, like the other volumes in the previous possession of the Society, contain interesting collections as to Scottish genealogy and antiquities, original and selected; also a number of original sketches in water-colours and pen-and-ink, with etchings of Scottish castles, buildings, and other antiquities.

The following is a rough abstract of the contents of the three volumes :—

Vol. II. (1786) contains Notes on Galloway, Annandale, the Sculptured Stone in the churchyard of Aberlemno, with an engraving; Castle of Strathaven, Lanarkshire, with an engraving; Description and sketch by Lieut. Sandby of a waterfall on the Steel Burn, parish of Kier; Note of discovery of twenty Stone Coffins at Scone, 1785; Genealogical and historical notes on many Scottish families, extracted chiefly from Douglas's *Peerage and Baronage*; Account, with plan and drawing in water-colour, of Lincluden Abbey, by Sandby, 1786; Account of Sweetheart or New Abbey, from Dr Clapperton's collections; Notice and drawing of the Cavers Standard, said to have been taken at Otterburn, but "which appears to have belonged to the family of Douglas, Lord of Galloway, by the lion argent, which is the arms of Alan of Galloway"; Drawing of gravestone with Torthorwald arms, in church of Torthorwald; Of the Dragon Stone in the churchyard of Currie in Annandale; Notes on the Bruce family; Sasine of the Templelands in Scotland in favour of Ross of Auchinlossan, 1694; List of Religious Houses, &c., demolished at the Reformation; List of Manuscripts in the Advocates' Library; Account of the Nobility of Scotland, and names of barons, lairds, and gentry in the different Sherifdoms of Scotland, 1597;

Inventory of writs taken from the charter-chest of Dumfries, to be sent to Edinburgh, 1729; Notes on the bridge of Dumfries; On a Druidical temple a mile west from Holywood church, consisting of a circle of twelve stones; Inscriptions on the seal and on the bells of Holywood; Stewart genealogy; Druidical temple 300 yards west of the church of Kier, with plan; Copy of charter by Alexander II. to Alan, son of Gillespie of Lany, of the lands of Lany, as formerly possessed "in virtue of a small sword which King Culenus formerly gave to Gillespie Moir," with a drawing by Grose of the "little sword" of silver (now the property of Mr Buchanan of Arnprior), which the writer saw in August 1789 in the possession of Mr Antony Barclay, W.S., Edinburgh; Ground plan and east view of Dundrennan Abbey (1791), and rental of the abbacy, 1640; Roxburgh Castle, with an engraving; Genealogical notes; Account of the Castles of Dunottar and Dalswinton; Gift, by the Justiciaries, of Alexander Stewart and other two prisoners to perpetual servitude, each to wear a brass collar with the sentence inscribed on it.

Volume IV. is a collection of transcripts of charters from various sources.

Volume VI. contains—Notice of discovery of gold coins at Crieff, 1787; Drawing by Naismith of Friars Carse; Engravings, with notes, of Burnbreich and Elcho Castles and Culzean Castle; Twenty-two etchings, with notes, of ruined castles and abbeys, by Cardonnel; Descriptions of Melrose Abbey; The Cross of Merkland or Woodhouse, and the Crosbie tombstone, Annandale; Buchanan House, Strathendrick; Catalogue of great and learned Men born in Dumfriesshire, 1688-1788; Extracts from Anderson's *Diplomata Scotiæ*; Engraving and note on Balgonie Castle; Verses on the threatened destruction of Sweetheart Abbey; Verses—"The Bedesman on Nithside"; Engraving and note on Dunskey Castle; Transcript of "The Buik of the Ordour of the Lawis of Marche, the Stewartries of Galloway and Annandale, with the Ordour of Plaigeing pertaining to John Lord Maxwell, Wardane of the West Marches," from a MS. by John Goldie of Craigmuaie, late Commissary of Dumfries; Engraving and note on Perth Bridge and Gowrie House; Two Roman Altars found at Carlisle; Drawings of the separate parts of the Ruthwell Cross, with descriptions and note—"The Ruthwell monument has since these drawings were made been engraved by the Antiquarian Society of London in the *Vet. Mon.*"; Effigy of Alan, Lord of Galloway, in Dundrennan Abbey; View of Terregles church, 1788, and two sides of the Cross at Boatford, Dumfries, four drawings by Adam de Cardonnel; Anecdotes of the late Pretender; Tombstone and Font in old churchyard near Ecelefechan; Church and Round Tower of Brechin; A short account of the English Historians; List of Manuscripts necessary for writing a History of Galloway and Dumfriesshire; A List of the Manuscript Histories and Chartularies of the Bishopsrics, Monasteries, and Universities of Scotland; Ancient Monuments and Inscriptions in Cornwall, Wales, and the Isle of Man; Ancient Monuments in Scotland, copied from Gordon and Pennant; Notice of a visit to Hoddam Castle with Capt. Grose, 1789.