

IV.

NOTE ON A BRONZE SCABBARD-TIP FOUND ON GLENCOTHO FARM,
PEEBLESHIRE. BY WILLIAM BUCHAN, TOWN CLERK, PEBBLES,
F.S.A. Scot.

The object to which this note refers was found in the month of June 1899, on the farm of Glencotho in Holms Water, Peeblesshire, by Mr Walter Smail, shepherd. He states that one showery day in the end of June he was passing an open grassy space amongst the surrounding heather near the head of Glencotho Burn, when he saw something

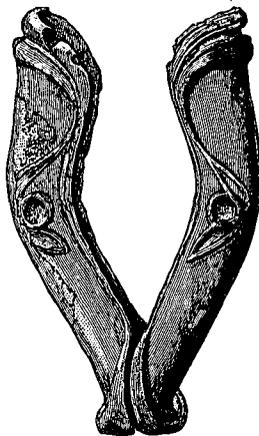


Fig. 1. Bronze Chape of Scabbard for a Sword of the late Celtic period.

glittering in the sun on the top of a newly thrown-up molehill, about fifty yards from the burnside. He picked up the object here shown (fig 1.), which is the bronze chape or tip of a scabbard for a sword of

the Late-Celtic period. It weighs a little over two and a half ounces and is formed of two curved pieces of bronze, separate at the top and joined at the foot, but it is possible that it may have been cast in a single piece. It is three inches in length, each arm is on an average half an inch wide by three-eighths of an inch deep. At the top the arms converge to within half an inch of each other, then open out to a width of seven-eighths of an inch and gradually converge towards the foot where they join. The outer sides of the arms are rounded, and the inner sides are deeply grooved or hollowed out from top to bottom. On the outside of the inner edges of each arm, back and front, there is a narrow moulding which at the top of each arm swells out into two lip-like mouldings with a well marked groove between them and smaller mouldings at the edges of the lips. At the foot the narrow lateral moulding swells out into another lip which curves outwards and backwards upon itself. There is a deep groove between the mouldings where the arms join. On what may be called the front of the chape the lower of the two lip mouldings at the top runs downwards for about half the length of each arm, and curves outwards, ending on each arm in an ornament like a leaf or bird's head, in the centre of which is a small hollow circle with the ring in relief. The outer surface of the chape is polished except where eroded. The right arm looking at the front has a small nail or rivet hole near the top running from the outside of the arm through to the inner groove.

Mr Smail says that the locality of the find, although on a hillside, is not on steep ground. He saw no trace of a camp or fort, but states that in the grassy area there are a number of small knolls like large mole-hills grown over with grass. The place is about 1200 feet above sea level.

Glencotho is about two miles from the watershed between the Tweed and the Clyde. About two miles to the east as the crow flies is the farm of Stanhope on Tweedside, where in 1876 a Late-Celtic bronze armlet, a Roman patella and two small bronze ornaments were found—these are numbers F.A. 25-28 of the Museum Catalogue.

I have much pleasure in announcing that since this paper was read, the bronze scabbard-tip has been presented to the National Museum by Rev. Andrew Baird, B.D., minister of Broughton, to whom it had been given by the finder.
