PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION, 1903-1904.

Anniversary Meeting, 30th November 1903.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., LL.D., M.P., President, in the Chair.

Sir James Balfour Paul and Rev. Francis Gebbie were appointed Scrutineers of the Ballot for the election of Office-Bearers and Councillors.

The Ballot having been concluded, the Scrutineers found and declared the List of the Council for the ensuing year to be as follows:—

President.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT E. MAXWELL, Bart., LL.D., M.P.

Vice-Presidents.

The Right Hon. The EARL OF SOUTHESK, K.T., LL.D. ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., LL.D. Lieut.-Col. A. B. M'HARDY, C.B.

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Councillors.

Sir Arthur Mitchell,
K.C.B., M.D., LL.D.,
The Hon. Hew HamilTON DALRYMPLE.
Sir Kenneth J. Mackenzie, Bart.,
Representing the Treasury.
Robert Bruce Armstrong.
Thomas Ross.

T. H. BRYCE, M.A., M.D.
WILLIAM GARSON, W.S.
JOHN M. HOWDEN.
Prof. P. HUME BROWN, M.A., LL.D.
Prof. G. BALDWIN BROWN.
Right Rev. JOHN DOWDEN, D.D.
JAMES ROBERT REID.

Secretaries.

DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D. | The Hon. John Abercromby.

For Foreign Correspondence.

THOMAS GRAVES LAW, LL.D. | WILLIAM K. DICKSON.

Treasurer.

JOHN NOTMAN, Actuary, 28 St Andrew Square.

Curators of the Museum.

Professor Duns, D.D.

ALEXANDER J. S. BROOK.

Curator of Coins.

GEORGE MACDONALD, M.A.

Librarian.

James Curle, Jun.

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

D. J. Cunningham, Professor of Anatomy, University of Edinburgh.
Banter Gray, Springbank, Broughty Ferry.
Rev. John Gray, St. Patrick's Rectory, High Street, Edinburgh.
Charles Macdonald, Solicitor, Glasgow, Dunglass Castle, Bowling.
Thomas May, F.E.I.S., Lonmay, Lower Walton, Warrington.
John Charles Miller, Agent, Commercial Bank, 133 West George Street, Glasgow.

OLIPHANT SMEATON, 37 Mansionhouse Road, Edinburgh.
Rev. John Stuart, B.D., Kirkton, Hawick.

James B. Taylor, Sherfield Manor, Basingstoke, Hants.

James Alexander Waddell, of Leadloch, 12 Kew Terrace, Glasgow.

Walter Crum Watson, B.A. Oxon., 50 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

The meeting resolved to record their sense of the loss the Society had sustained in the deaths of the following Members deceased since last Annual Meeting:—

Lady Associate. Mrs Annie Chambers Dowie,		Elected 1891
$Honorary\ Member.$		
ALEXANDRE L. J. BERTRAND, Conservateur du Musée des	Anti-	
quites Nationales, Saint Germain en Laye, France		1892
Fellows.		
Rev. D. DOUGLAS BANNERMAN, M.A., D.D., Perth,		1877
WILLIAM BOYD, M.A., 56 Palmerston Place,	•	1873
John Shedden Dobie of Morishill, Beith,	•	1877
THOMAS L. GALBRAITH, Sheriff-Clerk of Stirlingshire,		1884
Rev. Hugh MacMillan, D.D., LL.D., Murrayfield Road, .		1884
A. J. MITCHELL, Advocate, 60 Frederick Street,		1886
DONALD N. NICOL, M.P., Ardmarnach, Argyleshire,		1901
WILLIAM M. OGILVIE, Banker, Lochee,		1877
JOHN SCOTT, C.B. of Halkshill, Largs,		1895
Andrew Smith of Broompark, Lanarkshire,		1899
GEORGE H. M. THOMS of Aberlemno,		1874
ROBERT THOMSON, LL.D., 8 Sciennes Road,		1875
ALEXANDER WALKER, LL.D., Hamilton Place, Aberdeen, .		1874
W. L. Watson, Ayton House, Abernethy,		1884

The Hon. John Abercromby, Secretary, read the following Report on the progress and work of the Society during the past year:—

Membership.—The number of Fellows on the Roll on the 30th of November 1902 was 705, of whom 178 were Life Members and 527

Ordinary Members. Of these we have to regret the loss of 14 by death; of 11 by resignation, and 5 have lapsed through non-payment of their subscriptions. This leaves a balance of 675 Fellows. To these must be added 34 new Members, making a total of 709 Fellows. Of these 176 are Life Members and 534 are Ordinary Members; a decrease of 2 Life Members and an increase of 7 Ordinary Members. The net gain in the year is therefore 4; a small number, though perhaps as many as could be expected considering the great number of Societies and Associations of all kinds that exist, each competing with the other in the struggle for subscriptions and adherents to the cause that it champions.

Publications.—This year is rendered eventful in the annals of the Society by the publication of The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland, by Mr Romilly Allen, F.S.A., with an introduction by Joseph Anderson, LL.D. Many books are written in too great a hurry, without proper consideration, but this great work is produced after a preparation and gestation of fully eight years. It is a monumental volume; one of that rare kind that can scarcely be superseded, that can never get quite out of date, and must therefore remain the best book on the subject for many generations. Though it is of imposing size, containing 1062 pages and upwards of 2550 illustrations, it was issued to subscribing Fellows at the remarkably low price of £2, 2s., a sum too low for the excellence and importance of the work.

The Proceedings.—The volume for 1902–3 is smaller than that of last year, but contains 415 pages, many illustrations, and several papers of unusual interest. It is opportune at the beginning of a new Session to pass in review the results of the previous one, so as to co-ordinate the acquisitions to our knowledge in various departments. It shows what remains to be accomplished; it acts as a spur to further exertion. During the last Session there was no intermission of the perennial stream of archaeological and historical facts that find their way into the annual volume of the Proceedings. Several of these are of remarkable interest, and open up new vistas in the realm of Scottish archæology.

Four papers concerned themselves with the Neolithic Period. T. H. Bryce during a second year has continued and completed his excellent work of exploring the chambered cairns of Arran. Though the relies brought to light were less numerous and interesting than those of last year, yet our knowledge of the structure of these cairns is increased. At Carn Ban he found and planned what seems to have been a horned cairn, a structural arrangement hitherto observed only in Caithness. An account of the excavation of a circular-chambered cairn in Rousay, Orkney, of a different type from the Arran examples, was communicated by Sir William Turner and General Burroughs. belongs to a well-known Orcadian type, but in this instance there was the novel feature that the passage diminished towards the exit to the dimensions of a drain. As is usual in Orkney, the chamber contained a skeleton interment. But more singular than the Rousay chambered cairn with its drain-like passage was the chambered mound in the district of Stromness, Orkney, opened by Mr Charleson. The singularity consists in the fact that the plan of the underground structure was more like that of a dwelling than of a sepulchre. It contained traces of human occupation, but no human remains. If Mr Charleson is right in his conjecture, we are confronted by something new and unexpected, by a chambered mound that was used for a dwelling. Even this does not exhaust all the surprises of last Session, though now they come from the other extreme of Scotland. Mr Mann read an elaborate paper on some pile-structures that he had very carefully excavated in Wigtownshire. They were found in five pits covering an area of about 10 feet by 8 feet, and were placed nearly in line. It would seem that they were not pile-dwellings in the sense that the piles supported a platform raised above the ground, upon which a house was constructed. Mr Mann arrived at the conclusion that the floor of the oval dwelling, though supported on piles, was at a depth of some feet below the surface of the ground, and that the walls of the pit were lined with wattle-work. How it was roofed is a matter of pure conjecture, though Mr Mann supposes it had a mound-like appearance. From neat experiments on bars of soap he concludes that the piles were cut with stone, not with bronze or iron, axes. The only relics were of flint or other stone; and the shards of pottery, ornamented with a horizontal raised moulding at intervals, compare well with what Mr Knowles has frequently dug from the sandhills along the north coast of Ireland, and which he believes to be Neolithic. Now, if Messrs Charleson and Mann are right in their suppositions, Scottish Archæology has been enriched in a single Session by the discovery of two types of Neolithic habitations, and before now not one was known. Yet they will both admit that more light is required, for single instances are unsafe foundations for positive statements of fact.

Bronze Age.—For a fourth year, Mr Coles, Assistant Keeper of the Museum, was awarded the Gunning Fellowship to continue his most useful work of planning and describing the stone circles and standing stones in Aberdeenshire. He reported on forty-two new sites. But it must be remembered that the presentation of these annual surveys of what is visible above ground is like a Barmecide feast unless the Society completes the work by excavating the sites with pickaxe and shovel. Besides the paper on Aberdeenshire circles, Mr Coles contributed another of equal value on stone circles, cairns, and cup-marked stones in other parts of Scotland.

The discoveries of new specimens of sepulchral pottery were perhaps less numerous than usual. But Mr F. Lynn reported upon and exhibited a food-vessel and a cinerary urn, both of well-known types, from Lauderdale. Some fragments of a smallish drinking-cup, apparently of late date, were reported from Invertine. And a cinerary urn of overhanging rim type, from Lamington, was sent to the Museum by Lord Lamington.

Mr Graham Callander read a paper upon, and exhibited a collection of perforated stone objects from Garioch, Aberdeenshire, the exact age and precise use of which are points difficult to determine. In discussing their possible use the author hardly laid stress enough on the probability that many of these rude stones had a magic, prophylactic purpose—that suspended round the neck of man or beast they warded off the evil-eye, elf-bolts, and other malign influences.

Roman Antiquities.—The laudable task undertaken by the Society, some years ago, of exploring as thoroughly as possible the Roman remains in North Britain, was continued last year. Several months were spent in excavating the fort of Castlecary on the Antonine Wall. results were placed on record in a model report, full of accurate detail, by Mr Mungo Buchanan, to whom the Society already owes much. It was preceded by a historical introduction by Dr Christison, and followed by an appendix, describing the relics in detail, by Dr Joseph Anderson. The conclusion arrived at is that the fort was built in connection with the vallum which forms its front face. It belongs, therefore, to the middle of the second century or about the year 142. Dr J. Anderson also observed that the Samian ware from Castlecary was later than some of that from Camelon. The exact length of time that the occupation of the fort by the Romans lasted was not ascertained. But it seems to have been of some duration, for Mr Buchanan found reason to believe that the buildings inside are not all of the same date, and that reconstructions had taken place while the Romans were in possession. That there were women and children in connection with the garrison is proved by the small sandals and shoes that had been thrown into the refuse-pit when no longer serviceable. Children's cast-off sandals have also been found in the Roman camp at Barhill on the Antonine Wall.

Post-Roman and Mediaval.—Mr Alex. Hutcheson, to whom the Society is indebted for many valuable contributions, described the discovery near Dundee of a skeleton, buried at full length in a stone cist lying east and west. It was accompanied by a penannular brooch, apparently of iron. On good grounds he assigns burials of this type to a comparatively recent time; in this case probably to the Viking period. Mr A. Johnston contributed a learned paper to show that the present

Bú of Orphir is the bú in Örfjara, where Earl Haraldr lived in 1136, according to the Orkneyinga Saga, and that the ruins of the round church existing there belong to the above period. Dr Ireland read a paper to show that Dr Skene was right in identifying Eileach an Naoimh with the Hinba of Adamnan. But neither mention an essential point in its identification. On the shore of the island is there any bay or creek large enough to be termed Muirbolc mar? For there Vergnous, a member of the religious community of Hinba, died. If the island possesses no "fair-sized bay" (muirbolg már) it cannot well be Hinba.

Sir James Marwick contributed a paper, interesting from a sociological point of view, on forestalling, regrating, and engrossing, which shows that the fiscal policy adopted by Scottish burghs was not always a wise one.

Accessions to the Museum.—Among the more interesting may be noted a collection of flint and stone implements, and objects in jet and bronze, from the sands of Glenluce Bay. A collection of flint implements from the Culbin Sands, and another from Tannadice, Forfarshire. A bronze flat axe from Mull; four bronze swords from Midlothian, and a fine Celtic penannular brooch of bronze from Mull. A silver spoon with the Cannongate Hall mark and the date 1589.

Mr G. Goudie exhibited a stone with portions of three lines of an Ogham inscription from Cunningsburgh, Shetland. Unfortunately, the legend, owing to the fracture of the stone, is imperfect, but Prof. Rhys believes it is written boustrophedon. It is gratifying to know that this stone will remain in the National Museum.

Exploration Fund.—I would call the attention of Fellows of the Society to a small fund of from £150 to £200 a year that has been established for the annual exploration of British prehistoric sites. All members of the Society are invited to make use of it on condition that the excavations are conducted with proper care and personal supervision; and that the reports on the work done, accompanied by sufficient plans, are read before the Society with a view to publication

in the *Proceedings*. I urge members, especially the younger ones, that have the interests of Scottish prehistoric Archæology at heart, to bestir themselves while there is yet time. For it is a lamentable fact that every year ancient monuments are swept out of existence, are annihilated or threatened with destruction, in the course of agricultural and other modern improvements. And at present the Fund depends upon a single life, which in the ordinary course of nature is not likely to last for more than eight or ten years.

The use of an Exploration Fund is incontestable. Yet I would draw the attention of the younger members who have to pass most of their time in Edinburgh, who have leisure for work, and also the use of the library, to another aspect of Archæology, to its synthetic and constructive side. In the *Proceedings* there are figured, in the cases of the Museum there are exhibited, whole classes of objects that seem to cry out for some one to take a special interest in them and assign them a definite place in time. Take, for example, the perforated stone axes, the bronze daggers, swords and spearheads, etc. All that we know of them is that some belong to the beginning, others to the middle and end, of the Bronze Such knowledge is vague and unsatisfactory. The whole Age. tendency of modern Archæology is to make clear what was obscure; to make more precise what was indefinite; to contract long stretches of time into far narrower limits. No mere accumulation of additional material to our Museums can effect this. It can only be done by bringing the action of the mind to bear upon the subject matter. is that if these classes of objects were first classified in order of development and then linked on, where possible, to similar objects in England and on the Continent, the limits of time proper to each could be determined with far greater precision than at present. It might take four, five or more years to collect and arrange the material, but that is nothing for a young man, and the result would be worth the trouble. Scottish Archæology would certainly be enriched thereby. the work must inevitably be done. Archæology is not merely a national study; it is also international. Of one thing you may rest

assured: if a task of this kind is not undertaken by the native-born Antiquarian, it will eventually be tackled by a foreigner with a Teutonic name, with a Teutonic hunger for hard work, and that to our shame and disgrace.

The Treasurer submitted a statement of the Society's funds, which was ordered to be printed and circulated among the members.

The Secretary read the Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, with reference to the National Museum of Antiquities under their charge, for the year ending 30th September 1903:—

During the past year the Museum has been open to the public as formerly, and has been visited by 16,323 persons, of whom 1166 were visitors on pay days, and 15,157 on free days.

The number of objects of antiquity added to the Museum during the year has been 163 by donation and 376 by purchase. The number of books added to the Library has been 109 by donation and 71 by purchase.

Among the more important additions to the Museum may be mentioned the collection of Professor Duns, D.D., consisting of 230 objects, chiefly Scottish, which has been acquired by purchase, and an Ethnological collection of 90 objects which has been presented to the Museum by Professor Duns.

D. Christison, Secretary.

Monday, 14th December 1903.

ROBERT MUNRO, M.D., LL.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

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

James Shelley Bontein, J.P., of Glencruitten, Argyleshire. Joseph D. Campbell, Solicitor, 142 West George Street, Glasgow. W. M. Mackenzie, M.A., 20 Wilton Gardens, Glasgow.

The following articles and books, acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library during the recess, 4th May to 30th November 1903, were exhibited:—

Gold spirally-twisted Torc Armlet, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with recurved ends, found on the farm of Cothill, Belhelvie, about 1835. Weight 8 dwt. 9 grains.

Screw-bolt of iron, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, with the figure of a man in armour on the one end, found in digging at Lethendy.

Carved Highland Powder Horn, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, with the initials I. C. and W. F., and date 1686.

Two Bronze Axes, from Lhanbryd, Morayshire. One is a flat axe $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length and $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches across the cutting face, the surface much corroded, but showing slight traces of punched chevrony ornamentation. The other has slight flanges and is $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length and 2 inches across the cutting face. It was found on the farm of Aultonside, Lhanbryd.

Ornamented Stone Cup, found at Balmacaan, Glenurquhart. This chalice-shaped stone cup is figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiii., p. 168.

Slab of Sandstone, with portions of three lines of an Ogham inscription, found at Cunningsburgh, Shetland. It is figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii., p. 350.

Ornamented Flanged Axe of bronze, from Jordanhill, Meigle. It is $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches across the expansion of the cutting face, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the butt. The flanges are very slight, and there is no stop-ridge. The sides are ornamented with cable-fluting, and one side has in addition marginal rows of punched depressions about half an inch apart. On the flat faces, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the cutting edge, is a horizontal band of small zig-zags; and immediately above them are two triangles of punched ornamentation, their broad bases parallel to the inner line of the flanges on either side, and their apices meeting in the middle. The ornamentation is almost similar to that on a flanged bronze axe from Ireland figured in Evans's Bronze Implements, p. 66, fig. 38.

Two polished Stone Axes found together in digging in a peat-moss near Lerwick, Shetland. They are fine examples of a common Shetland type, with cylindrically conical butts, widening to a strong and boldly-rounded cutting edge. They are nearly of the same size, and both are made of the same kind of darkly-mottled porphyritic stone, one measuring $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, and the other 11 inches in length by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the cutting face. It is very rarely that stone axes are found together.

Stone Axe, ornamented with a slightly incised interlaced pattern; and another Stone Axe, polished and plain, found at Balnahannait, Loch Tay. The ornamented axe has been figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv., p. 311.

Three ornamented Stone Whorls, found in the neighbourhood of Hawick.

Two polished Axes of clay-slate, one measuring $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches across the cutting face, and having both ends the same shape; the other measuring $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, the butt end broken; both found on Kirton Farm, near Hawick, Roxburghshire.

Small polished Axe of greenstone, 2 inches in length by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch across the cutting face and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across the butt, found in a garden at Hawick.

Polished Stone Axe, 4½ inches in length, by 2 inches across the cutting face, from Stonykirk, Wigtownshire.

Whorl of clay-slate $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, ornamented with radial lines on both faces, and on the periphery with two marginal lines and lines crossing from one to the other at intervals, found in digging a drain near Delvine, Perthshire.

Rapier, $26\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, found at Hilton Castle, Berwickshire.

Books for the Library:—St. Fond's Travels in Scotland, 2 vols., 1799; Transactions of the Buchan Field Club (1887–1902), 6 vols.; Roessler's Celtica; Mortillet's Musée Prehistorique, 2nd edition; Antiquarian Supplement to Scotlish Art and Letters; Hamilton's Art Workmanship of the Maori Race in New Zealand; Johnston's Place Names of Scotland, 2nd edition; The Jacobite Peerage; Journal of Hellenic Studies, vol. xxiii.; Report of Departmental Committee on the Board of Manufactures; Musées et Collections Archéologiques de l'Algérie et de la Tunisie, Part i., Musée de Timgad.

There were also exhibited:—

(1). By W. W. Robertson, F.S.A. Scot., H.M. Principal Architect and Surveyor of Works for Scotland, through George Robertson, F.S.A. Scot., Keeper of the Abbey at Dunfermline.

Two large Photographs of a Norman Doorway, recently discovered in Dunfermline Abbey Church.

The following description of the doorway was given by Mr George Robertson:—

The doorway is at the south-east corner of the ancient Abbey Church. It has been built up for many years with rough rubble stones, and though a plain archway was seen on the interior wall, it was not known that the rubble concealed a Norman doorway of highly ornamented and interesting character. The plain-bordered doorway, which showed inside, is 10 feet 6 inches in height from the floor of the church, and 5 feet 5 inches wide. Underneath the arch of this doorway, and back

from the face of the wall, is the ancient doorway, measuring 9 feet 7 inches in height, and in width about the same as the other. Nothing is seen of either doorway outside the church, owing to the burial-vault of the Wardlaws, baronets of Pitreavie, being built against this part and concealing the outlet. The date of this roofed Wardlaw vault is 1616, so that there has been no outlet by the doorway since then. The discovered doorway is of purely Norman architecture, and of the same age and character as the church. Its arch is decorated with deeply-cut and moulded chevron ornament, and the supporting attached columns have the well-known Norman abacus with raised ornament of scroll or floral design on the cushion capitals. Though little of the rubble has as yet been removed, it can be seen that the chevron is carried back on the soffit of the arch, through the thickness of the wall—which is about 2 feet 8 inches—and other columns and capitals can be partially seen behind. The photographs well show the character of the whole. The transverse stone below the capitals, cutting into the columns at each side, had evidently been placed later to form a receptacle for the skeletons of two young persons which were discovered amongst a mass of large and small rubble and lime in the space beneath the transverse stone. These skeletons had probably been removed from some other burial-place, as there was no trace of coffin-wood nor any other thing such as nails, or metal in any form. The skeletons, which have been re-interred in the churchyard, are those of youths from eight to ten years of age. They appear to have been placed "heids and thraws"—one skull being to the east and the other to the west. But the body and limb-bones were so much separated, and so much mixed up with the débris of stones and lime, that their original position in the chamber could not be definitely ascertained. discovery was made when a place was about to be given in the church for the erection of a mural memorial to soldiers of the Western district of Fife who died in the late South African War. Another mural position in the church has been given for that memorial, which it now occupies.

I understand that His Majesty's Board of Works intend to have the old doorway cleared out, and all repairs executed that may be required for preservation.

The photographs are presented to the Society by Mr W. W. Robertson.



Fig. 1. Snuff-box of Carved Ivory in form of a Highlander. $(\frac{2}{3})$

(2). By Charles E. Whitelaw, F.S.A. Scot.

Carved Ivory Snuff-box (fig. 1), representing a three-quarter length figure of a Highlander, fully accounted—period about 1715.

Mr Whitelaw has supplied the following description of the figure :—
"This Ivory Snuff-mull, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches high by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, is carved to represent the three-quarter length figure of a Highlander fully accounted. The workmanship is fine, showing all the details with minute care. It was probably carved in Dieppe for some Jacobite, waiting an opportunity to cross over to Scotland. The person represented is a man over middle

age, with his hair in ringlets down to his shoulders, and a moustache brushed up at the ends. He is clothed in a belted plaid fastened at the shoulder by a pin (not a brooch), and wears a flat bonnet with a cockade attached to the right side. His tunic is unbuttoned, showing the cambric stock and gathered shirt. The armament is noteworthy. He is represented as carrying on his left arm a targe, tooled with Celtic ornament, while with his right hand he draws his backsword, of the usual type with the pierced basket hilt, the scabbard being suspended by two short straps from the waist-belt, and not slung in a broad cross-belt as usual. From the waist-belt are suspended: from the centre, a dirk, apparently of the type having the handle carved with two bands of interlaced work, and the sheath carrying a knife only; to the right of the dirk hangs a gathered leather sporran (without clasp), and on the left, under the arm, a pistol with the "kidney" form of butt. He has his powder-horn slung over his left shoulder, and there is another small strap over his right, the purpose of which is not evident."

The following Communications were read:-