

II.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A CINERARY URN AT GAULDRY,
FIFESHIRE. BY ALEXANDER HUTCHESON, F.S.A. SCOT., BROUGHTY
FERRY.

On 11th February last a fine cinerary urn was uncovered by the plough in a field on the farm of Balgove, close to the west of the village of Gauldry, the property of Mrs Anstruther Duncan of Naughton. I heard of the discovery a day or two afterwards, but could not manage to visit the place until 20th February, when I did so along with Rev. Dr Campbell, Balmerino. I found the urn had been, unfortunately, much broken, the plough having removed the base as it stood inverted in the ground, and no part of this portion has been recovered.

The urn has been of large dimensions, and it is possible to give all these with accuracy except the height. It is tall and graceful, of overhanging rim, neck and body form. It measured 14 inches across the lip and 16 at the lower part of the neck, whence it, curving, tapered to about 6 inches at the base, and could not have been less than 20 inches in height and from $\frac{3}{4}$ to an inch in thickness. The rim, which is 3 inches high, is divided into a series of rectangular panels, the field of each being crossed by groups of right lines produced as if by the impress of a twisted cord, and arranged vertically and horizontally alternately. Below this, on the neck, is a succession of chevron-like triangles, crossed like the panels in the rim by a like series of right lines of similar impress, but in this case wholly horizontal, and plain between.

The lower part of the urn is perfectly plain. From its broken condition, a photographic representation would have been ineffective, but for the information of the reader, I may be permitted to refer to the illustrations to the Hon. John Abercromby's paper in the last volume of the *Proceedings*, taking No. 13 for the form of the urn, although the

Gauldry example is of more graceful outline than that. The markings on the overhanging rim are similar to those on No. 13, while the type of ornament on the neck will be found on the rim of No. 43, but without the vertical lines between the chevrons.

The urn was said to have been inverted over a quantity of bones, and on visiting the site this was abundantly evident, many small pieces of calcined bones being visible amongst the earth. I should have liked to put the earth through a riddle, but none was available. Mrs Anstruther Duncan being at the time from home, no further search could be made, but information of the discovery having been made to her, she has most obligingly signified her desire that further search be made on the site, and it is to be hoped that when the crop is off the ground this may be accomplished, as it seems probable other urns may be met with. The urn has been deposited in the Duncan Hall, Gauldry.

I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr Thomas Barrie, schoolmaster, Gauldry, who kindly accompanied us to the field and pointed out the site and furnished particulars of the discovery.