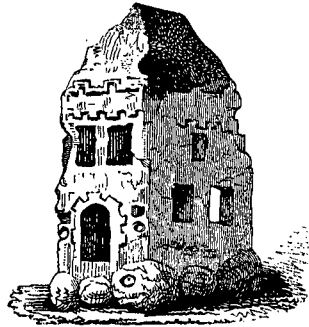


I.

NOTES REGARDING HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN PECULIARITIES OF THE DISTRICTS IN FORFARSHIRE, WHERE THE VARIOUS RELICS NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM OF THE SOCIETY WERE FOUND. By ANDREW JERVISE, Esq.

The Castle Hill of Forfar is on the north side of the town, within the old boundary of the loch, and was surrounded by water. Malcolm and his "good Queen Margaret" lived there occasionally, and a rising ground, about half a mile west of the Castle, still washed by the waters of the lake, is called Margaret's Inch, in honour of the queen, who is said to have had a chapel there. It is a tradition, that the top of the market cross, which was long since demolished, was a representation of Malcolm's castle. That idea may be taken for what it is worth; but, believing that a sketch of it may be interesting in connexion with the *trophies* found near the castle, a drawing of it is also exhibited, which I made from the original last summer. The drawing shown in the accompanying woodcut is to a scale, and the original, cut out of a single sandstone, is a little mutilated, and about two feet high. Though strictly Burgal property, that fragment is at Damside, parish of Aberlemno, whither it was taken by Dr Smith, who found it in the garden wall of a property he bought in Forfar.



The cross was erected in 1684; and this fact serves to establish the exact

date of Ochterlony of Guynd's Account of the Shire of Forfar, as he there says that at Forfar "they are *presently* building a very stately cross." Guynd's account has been generally said to be written "circa 1682."

The historical incidents connected with Forfar and its castle are numerous, but one or two bearing on the relics now shown need only be given. It is admitted that it was a residence of Malcolm and his Queen, and the Chartularies and Acts of Parliament prove it to have been the abode of several later monarchs. Tradition says that the murderers of Malcolm II. were drowned in the loch in making way from Glamis, the reputed scene of his slaughter. A coat of chain armour, and two or three breastplates and helmets of steel, with some other warlike weapons, have been found in the loch at various times and places, and are said to be those of the regicides—an idea suggested, no doubt, by the existence of the story of their fate, which appears to have originated with Boyce. These articles are preserved at Glamis Castle, the loch of Forfar having belonged in property to the noble family of Strathmore since 1378, in which year Sir John Lyon had a charter of the same from his father-in-law, Robert II.; and the relics now exhibited, as found at Forfar, were got about the same time, and near to the same place, as were some of those at Glamis. Waiving the doubtful story of Malcolm's murderers perishing in the loch, it is much more probable that the relics at Glamis belong to the period of Bruce,¹ who in the year 1308, by stratagem of Philip, forester of the neighbouring forest of Plater, succeeded in entering the Castle of Forfar, then garrisoned by the English. He put most of them to the sword, and many are recorded to have perished in the loch in attempting to escape.

About twenty years ago, while some workmen were digging a drain near this reputed site of the Castle of Malcolm Canmore, at Forfar, the following articles were found:—*Four bronze looped celts* of different sizes, from 3 to 5 inches long, a *bronze axe-head*, a *bronze spear-head*, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, the *tooth of a horse*, also a *small half-length female figure, in brass*, which had evidently formed part of an ornamented pilaster of a cabinet: which, with the relics I am about to describe, are now presented to the museum of the Society. The other relics consist of:—

The Celt (No. 5), found on the farm of Halhill, near the kirkyard of the suppressed parish of Neudos in Kincardineshire. Nothing is known of its history beyond the fact, that when Lord Adam Gordon erected the house of The Burn, in 1791, it was used by the plumbers as a soldering bolt; it still

¹ Barbour, B. ix. 313.

retains marks of solder, and also of having been filed. This district has claim to considerable antiquity. It was held partly under the superiority of the Knights of St John ; and Bricius,¹ parson of " Neudonaise," and Cormac de " Neudoesc," are both mentioned in the famous decret of the Synod of Perth, in the cause betwixt William Bishop of St Andrews and Duncan de Aberbothenoth, A.D. 1206. In 1365² David II. gave a grant of " all the king's lands in the thanedome of Newdosk" to Sir Alexander Lindsay of Crawford, father to the first Lindsay of Glenesk, in the hands of whose descendants these lands continued down to 1714, when the last Lindsay of Edzell sold the estates of Glenesk and Edzell to the Earl of Panmure. The temple lands of Newdos are now likewise the property of Lord Panmure.

An Iron Spear-Head, much corroded, measuring $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, was found in a haugh of the North Esk, near the " Court Hill" at Fernybank,³ about two miles north-west of the Druidical circle at Colmeallie, in the year 1851.

A few stone hatchets, flint arrow, and spear-heads (similar to that now shown), have been found, not only on the pointed hill of Rowin (*Roim* in Gaelic means a point) but in various other parts of the glen.

SEPULCHRAL CISTS OR GRAVES FOUND ON ROWIN HILL.

A glance at the peculiarities of the graves found on the flat part of Rowin Hill—the reputed battlefield of Bruce and Cumyn—may be interesting. Whether all of them are older than the time of Bruce's reign, I shall not attempt to determine ; but the greater part of them certainly belong to a much more remote period, and present some singular characteristics. Graves have been found, not only on the flat of Rowin Hill, but in other parts of the glen, at various periods, some of which were built of rude mountain stones, about three feet in depth, and four in length, and in some instances containing bones, but devoid of urns and weapons.

Perhaps the most interesting discovery of that sort took place here some years ago, while a road was being made round Rowin Hill to Invermark, consisting of a cluster of graves which was found in cutting through a gravel hillock. One of them was built in a circular form of rough stones, and filled with earth and gravel: the rest, about eight or ten in number, which surrounded the first, were without any building, being merely in excavations ; some of them were covered with flat stones, and contained bones. Each had a conical mound raised over it, which, in the homely language of an old parishioner,

¹ Spalding Club Miscel., vol. v., p. 213.

² Robertson's Index, p. 79, 130.

³ For notice of a cairn found in the same haugh, see Land of Lindsays, p. 89.

looked "like a burroch o' bee scapes" (*i.e.* a cluster of bee-hives). Being little thought of at the time, little notice was taken of them, and the only facts preserved are those above given, which I collected while staying a week in the glen some time ago.

An adjoining field on the glebe lands of the Episcopal Church, and one of the best fields of the locality, is called "Droustie's Meadows," being an evident corruption of the name of St Drostan, the founder of the first church in Glenesk, who died A.D. 809.¹ There is, indeed, another place about four miles farther up the glen, also called "Droustie," near the old kirkyard and Loch of Lee. It is probable that St Drostan had one of his cells or residences at or near to the meadows, and that this ancient place of sepulture was the burial place of, if not the aborigines, some of his devoted followers. It is certain that Drostan himself was buried at the Church of Aberdaur, in Aberdeenshire,² of which he was the patron; and, from the time³ that he closed his ministry down to 1260,³ and the ever-memorable year 1296, when the Lords de Glenesk went to Montrose and did homage to Edward I,⁴ the history of Glenesk is quite a blank, its name being not even mentioned.

It ought also to be observed, that near to the site of that primitive place of sepulture, there stands a large boulder, with a rudely incised cross upon it. This, too, is said by the peasantry to have reference to the engagement between Bruce and Cumyn; but, as it was removed within those sixty years from a place nearer both to Droustie's Meadows and to those graves, perhaps (for its original site is quite unknown) it had been connected with St Drostan's Cell at the Meadows, or with the burial place.

The Stone Lamp or *Censer* now presented to the Society, is a cup-shaped vessel, nearly 5 inches in diameter, with a groove encircling it, and others crossing it at right angles in which the cords or twigs were drawn for suspending it by; the cavity of the lamp has a burnt appearance. It was found at the base of the hill of Laws, in the parish of Monifieth. That hill is a well-known vitrified site, and has traces of partial vitrification upon it; it occupies an isolated position, and is about 500 feet above the level of the sea; the top is about 130 yards long by 66 yards broad, and an extensive view of Fifeshire and the Lothians is obtained from it. An old parishioner, who will enter his 100th year if spared till next February, remembers of a wall from 4 to 5 feet in height, which surrounded the top of the hill; but that dyke has long since dis-

¹ Collections on Aberdeenshire, &c., p. 442.

² *Ibid.*

³ Regist. de Aberbrothoc, p. 336.

⁴ Ragman Rolls, pp. 93, 94, 126.

appeared, and the hill is now under wood. Towards the close of last century, the foundations of a house were found on the south side of the same hill, and a quantity of gold coins got among the rubbish. The coins were speedily disposed of by the finders, so that nothing is known either of their age or the people to whom they belonged. Still later, in a trench beside the same building, several iron spear-heads were got, mixed with bones of men and animals. This relic is one of several of the same kind which have been found at this place; hence it would be interesting to know if any similar relics have been got near other vitrified sites. It is certain, from inquiries I have made, that nothing of the sort has been found on Finhaven Hill.

The six Silver Pennies now exhibited, bear to be from the mints of Alexander III. of Scotland; and from those of London, Canterbury, Durham, Bristol, and Dublin, of Edward I. and II.^F They formed part of a collection of nearly 700 pieces, found on the 15th of September 1854 on the south side of the kirk of Monifieth, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface, while the kirkyard was being enlarged. A small piece of an earthenware vessel was found beside them.

Ob. ALEXANDER . DEI . GRA. Head of King to left, crowned, with sceptre.

R REX . SCOTORUM. Single cross, with four mullets of six points.

Ob. EDWAR . R . ANGL . DNS . HYB. R CIVITAS CANTOR.

And :—

Ob. EDW . R . ANGL . DNS . HYB. Front face, crowned. R CIVITAS LONDON.

Cross, with three pellets in each quarter. The others of similar type and the following Reverses :—

R CIVITAS DVREME.

R VILLA BRISTOLLIE.

R CIVITAS DVBLINIE. With the exception of the last, which has the front bust of King, crowned, in a triangle.

Before the discovery of the coins became generally known, the greater part were disposed of by the workmen, who were Irish. On being made aware of the matter two or three days afterwards, I immediately went to Monifieth, and succeeded, through a common friend, in recovering nearly 200 of them. From these I selected one of each mint, and sent them to Lord Panmure, &c., proprietor of the patch of ground on which they were discovered.

The silver pennies sent to Lord Panmure bore the following legends in Roman capitals :—

¹ Folkes's Coins, Plates II. and III.

Ob. ALEXANDER . DEI . GRA. R̄ REX . SCOTORUM.

And:—

Ob. EDWARD . R . ANGL . DNS . HYB. R̄ CIVITAS . CANTOR.

Ob. EDW . RX . ANGL . DNS . HYB. R̄ CIVITAS LONDON.

And the following Reverses:—

R̄ CIVITAS EBORACU.

R̄ CIVITAS LINCOL.

R̄ VILLA BRISTOLLIE.

R̄ CIVITAS DUNELM.

R̄ CIVITAS DVBLINIE.

R̄ ROBERT DE HADELEIE.

R̄ VIL . KYNGESTON.

R̄ VILLA BEREVICI.

R̄ VIL . SCI EDMVNDI.

R̄ CIVITAS DVREME.

R̄ VILLA NOV . CASTRI.

R̄ †† DVX † LITBVRGIE. DVX † BRABANTIE.

The history of the church of Monifieth, and the patch of ground on which those coins were discovered, can be traced in the “*Registrum de Aberbrothoc.*”¹ From that invaluable record we learn the interesting fact, that in A.D. 1242–43, Maude Countess of Angus gave the monks of Arbroath a gift of the land *on the south side of the church of Monifieth*, which the Culdees held in her father’s time. If the kirk and kirkyard of Monifieth occupied the same position then, as at present, which there is every reason for believing, the above is quite a correct description of the piece of ground on which the coins were found. That property, there is also good cause to believe, was held under the superiority of the old Earls of Angus in the time of Edward I. and II.

Powder Horn.—The only fact known regarding the history of this curious Highland relic is, that it was found in the house of an old woman in the parish of Lethnot, soon after her death, which occurred in 1840. She was the daughter of a Jacobite soldier called Peter Grant, who died in 1820, at the great age of 110.² He was a native of Braemar, in Aberdeenshire, and for several generations his forefathers held the farm of Dubrach, in that district. The initials “A. G.” are perhaps those of some of his ancestors. It is orna-

¹ P. 82.

² Land of Lindsays, p. 109.

mented by interlacing circles, &c., dated "1676," and elsewhere initialed "I. B."

Photographs from eight panels of Carved Oak.—These panels are each about 10 by 18 inches in size. I lately found them in a wright's shop in the village of Edzell, where they had lain for a great many years; and I ascertained from a descendant of a servant of the last Lindsay of Edzell (in whose possession the panels were at one time), that they were the panels of the windows of the great room or hall of Edzell Castle.

The carving is, in many instances, delicately executed, particularly that of the Annunciation and Crucifixion. The dove descending on the sunbeam is beautifully portrayed on the first, and the scroll bears an abridgment of the common legend "Ave [Maria] gracia plena." A lily is on the forehead and garment of the angel, and a cross-crosslet on the head and breast. The legend "I N R I" surmounts the Crucifixion; and in the right hand of the Child on the knee of the Virgin there is something like an apple.

In all probability these panels were executed either for the ninth Earl of Crawford, or for his son Sir David Lindsay (1558 to 1610), as during their time the castle received those additions and unique ornaments which have rendered it so famous. On finding the panels, I handed them over to Lord Panmure, in the belief that they could not be more appropriately placed than in the Castle of Edzell, to which they originally belonged; and his Lordship, with a true feeling of propriety, gave orders for fitting up a room in the castle expressly for receiving them, and thus securing their preservation.

From a similar conviction that the articles now exhibited could not be better deposited, I have much pleasure in presenting them to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, in the hope that they will be thought worthy of a place in their National Museum.