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Notices of Archaeological Publications

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Notices of Archaeological Publications.

THE SCULPTURED STONES OF SCOTLAND. Aberdeen. Printed for the Spalding Club. 1856. Folio. 138 plates.

SUCH is the simple title of one of the most remarkable contributions to archaeology which has ever been published in this or any other country. In the year 1848, a volume of unrivalled excellence was produced by the late Patrick Chalmers, Esq., of Auldbar, and most liberally presented to the Bannatyne Club, containing figures and notices of the ancient carved stones of the county of Angus, of which an account will be found in our volume for the following year (vol. vi. p. 86). Previous to the appearance of this work, our knowledge of these singular monuments was mainly confined to the very insufficient engravings and descriptions published by Gordon, Pennant, and Cordiner. Mr. Chalmers' volume taught us not only how numerous were these stones in certain districts in Scotland, but also how beautiful were their details, how singular the symbols and ornaments represented upon them, and how interesting the many archaeological lessons which they taught. The seed sown by Mr. Chalmers' volume took deep root. The archaeologists of Scotland considered it a duty to seek out and illustrate in a fitting manner the many monuments of a similar kind scattered far and wide over their country, and the Spalding Club have been induced to undertake the publication of the present volume, which, although of a smaller size than Mr. Chalmers' plates, contains figures sufficiently large to bring before us all the minutize and details of the most complicated ornament with which many of the stones are so unsparingly decorated. Mr. Chalmers himself (to whose loss a sincere tribute of regret is paid in the preface of the work before us) approved of the design which was entertained by the Spalding Club, to include in this work the whole class of symbol stones in Scotland, as well as all the crosses of the more ancient types; and with the view of aiding in this design, suggested that the drawings in his great work should be reduced to the same scale as those in preparation for the Spalding Club, and be included in their collection, further contributing at his own expence drawings of most of the stones in Fife and Perthshire for the work. "The design of the present volume has thus been widened, so that it may be said now to include all the known stones with symbols, and the more ancient sculptured crosses of Scotland."

If we have thus to thank the Spalding Club for a work of this character, we have more especially to acknowledge the great services rendered in the preparation of the volume, and in the excellent introductory remarks and descriptive details concerning each stone given by the secretary of the club, John Stuart, Esq., whose name appears at the end of the preface. In fact, it is to the energetic efforts of this gentleman that we are further indebted for the discovery of many of the stones here illustrated, and who, by means of circulars of inquiries sent to every clergyman in the North of Scotland, containing a printed return to be filled up by him, succeeded in obtaining much additional information. Moreover, in order to afford the

means of instituting a careful consideration of the circumstances connected with the original position of these stones, every vestige of information has been preserved with reference to the traditions of the different localities, with notices of any early remains, such as earth-works, cromlechs, or other stone erections in the immediate vicinity, which might be supposed to bear upon the subject. In this manner many curious facts have been collected; one of which appears to be that, in many instances, these stones, although evidently Christian from their details, were found in immediate connection with works or erections of a pagan character, leading to the inference that pagan monuments themselves, such as the Meini-heirion of Wales and Ireland, had been converted by the addition of sculptured details into Christian memorials. This seems in a considerable degree confirmed by the fact, that in many cases, especially between the Dee and the Spey, these Scotch stones are undressed slabs, upon the broader faces of which the symbols and ornaments have been sculptured. This is especially the case with those stones on which the class of symbols, more fully noticed in the subsequent part of this review, are represented, whilst those which contain representations of the cross with other Christian devices, and those with the more elaborate archaeological details, have evidently had the edges and faces more carefully tooled; but there are not more than half-a-dozen stones throughout the whole of the work which have been worked into the shape of the cross, thus differing materially from the Irish and Welsh crosses, whilst the almost total absence of inscriptions distinguishes them from the crosses of Cornwall and Wales,—which also scarcely ever comprise illustrations of scenes of the chase and other analogous subjects, so common on the Scotch stones, as they are also on those of the Isle of Man. The latter further agree with those of Scotland in being unshaped slabs: the Manx stones, however, present certain analogies with the design of those of Scotland. Referring to our notice of Mr. Chalmers' work in our sixth volume, and also to the observations made upon these stones by Mr. Stuart himself, at the Edinburgh Meeting of the Archaeological Institute (published in our preceding volume, xiii. p. 383), we prefer on the present occasion to call more especial attention to the peculiar character of the ornaments, symbols, and sculptured figures upon these stones.

The ORNAMENTS with which a considerable number of these monuments are sculptured correspond almost entirely with those which are found in the finest Irish and earliest Anglo-Saxon MSS., and which are described in considerable detail in a paper by the writer of this notice, published in the *Journal of the Institute* (vol. x.). The interlaced ribbon pattern, the interlaced lacertine or other zoomorphic pattern, the spiral pattern, and the diagonal pattern are all found on these stones as elaborately and carefully executed as in the *Book of Kells* or the *Gospels of Lindisfarne*, occurring sometimes as surface decorations of the cross, or at others as marginal borders or frames to the design, being arranged in panels, just as in the MSS. The reverse, for instance, of the Nigg stone (pl. 29) might almost be supposed to have been designed by the artist who composed the decorations of that most beautiful frontispiece to the MS. of the *Commentaries on the Psalms*, by Cassiodorus, in the cathedral library at Durham. At a period like the present, when attention is so strongly called to the capabilities of surface decoration, the publication of such a series of plates as the present, exhibiting as they do so fully the capabilities of these old Celtic designs for panel work, is very opportune, and capable of infinite

variety in their application; the ornamentation of these stones, in fact, offers quite a mine of design to the decorative artist.

We shall here notice a few of the chief modifications in the different patterns above alluded to, exhibited by the more elaborately carved stones before us. In the Maiden stone (pl. 2), the diagonal Z-pattern is arranged into a circular wheel with remarkable elegance and simplicity, the central space being filled with the spiral or trumpet pattern with less effect. The splendid stone at Shandwick (pl. 26 and 27) exhibits in the middle of the reverse side a large square panel filled with the spiral pattern, arranged in gradually enlarged circles in a very unusual manner; the two groups of interlaced serpents at the foot of the stone are also as elegant as they are novel in their arrangement. The groups of lacertine animals on the Nigg stone are very elegant, and bear considerable resemblance to the groups on one of the tessellated pages in one of the St. Gall MSS., of which the writer of this notice has given two examples in one of the plates of Owen Jones's "Grammar of Ornament," as well as a few others (pl. 48-56).

These stones also exhibit another peculiarity of which we have only found other instances on the Irish crosses, namely, circular convex bosses, covered with interlaced or other designs. In the stones before us they are connected together by means of the long and slender bodies of serpents, but in the Irish examples, they generally form the centres of the spiral design.

In Sueno's stone (pl. 20, 21,) the edges are ornamented with a flowing arabesque design in which, although the details are rather confused, there is considerable interlacing intermixed. The same occurs also on the Hilton stone (pl. 25), in which the marginal ornament has quite a Norman scroll-like character, with small leaves and berries at the ends of the scrolls, and with birds and fantastic dragons introduced into the whorls on this stone. A very similar marginal design also occurs on the fragment at Tarbet. A somewhat similar design at Mugdrum (pl. 52), in which a series of circles are united by foliated branches, is very effective. The Dupplin cross (pl. 57) has the central portion ornamented with a very remarkable foliated and branching design, of which also another example occurs on the edges of the Crieff stone (pl. 65). The stone at Abercorn (pl. 128) has a very charming foliated and branching arabesque on the broad edge.

In the Golspie stone (pl. 34), as well as in the Strathmartin stone (pl. 77), and the Abercromby fragment (pl. 124), the edges are decorated with a series of S-like guilloche frets.

The Farnell stone (pl. 86), St. Orland's stone (pl. 85), and several others have the lateral borders ornamented with a long narrow decorated ribbon which forms the body of a strangely attenuated pair of animals, the heads and fore-legs of which appear at the top of the stone. In the Farnell stone the long bodies of these animals are decorated with plain circular pellets, in the latter with interlaced ribbons.

The Benvie stone (pl. 126) has one of the edges and the marginal border of a panel ornamented with a genuine classical fret, formed by opposite lines, bent at right angles.

Space will not allow us here to enter into the *national character* of the ornaments which appear in such great profusion upon these stones, or on the question of their extraneous origin. We regret this the more as the opportunity seemed a fitting one for discussing what appears to the writer of this notice to be the questionable nature of some of the remarks on this subject offered by Dr. Wilson in his "Prehistoric Antiquities of Scotland." We

believe the Norwegian, Danish, or Teutonic influences not to have had the slightest effect on either the formation or modification of the ornamental details on these stones; firstly, because they occur in our national monuments (especially Nigg) centuries before the northern nations of Europe were Christianized; and, secondly, because they do not occur at all in the earliest Norwegian or Danish Christian and Runic monuments. The writer must refer to the Chapter on Celtic ornamentation which he has contributed to Owen Jones's work, recently completed, "The Grammar of Ornament," for a partial discussion of this question.

The SYMBOLS upon the sculptured stones of Scotland constitute their most remarkable and indeed unique peculiarities.

The cross, as the chief symbol of the Christian faith appears on a great number of the Scottish stones. The work before us contains 150 stones, and of these 75 or exactly one half are without representations of the cross, which is often accompanied only by ornamental details, but oftener by the remarkable symbols noticed below, which appear not only on the reverse side of the stone, but often occupy the open spaces above and below the arms of the cross. In a few instances the cross is of the eastern form with all the four limbs of equal length, as at Papa Stronsay (pl. 42), Rosemarkie (pl. 105), and Abbotsford (pl. 99). Such also seems to have been the original idea in other cases, in which the cross design itself has the four limbs of equal size, but in order to give it more the appearance of the Latin cross, the lower limb is supported by a narrow stem or occasionally by a wider stem, as at Fowlis Wester (pl. 60).

In a few cases the cross of the Latin form is represented quite plain, as at Old Deer (pl. 11), Kirkclauch (pl. 123), and Abercromby (pl. 124); but more commonly it is richly ornamented, the stem disposed in squares, each with a different design. Occasionally the limbs of the cross are represented as united by a circular band, giving the appearance of the large Irish crosses, the spaces also between the inner edge of this band and the angles at the intersection of the limbs of the cross are deeply incised or even pierced. In the Maiden stone (pl. 11) we have the representation of such a cross surmounted by a standing figure, which is engaged in grappling with two dragons, an evidently Christian symbol. Often, also, the angles at the intersection of the limbs are rounded, so as, with the circular band, to form four nearly circular spaces or holes; and this rounding of the angles of the arms also takes place in some stones which have not the circular band.

The Elgin stone appears to have contained figures of the busts of the four Evangelists within the angles of the cross; it is however too much weathered to allow us to be certain on this point.

The stone at Nigg, which is one of the most beautiful in the volume, contains a remarkable group on the front side, on which the cross is represented. In the centre above the head of the cross is the Holy Ghost, under the form of a dove holding the consecrated wafer in its mouth, and beneath it is the patera. At each side is a bearded man holding a book, in the attitude of adoration, each attended by a crouching dog.

In some cases (but rarely) the cross is represented on both sides of the stone, as at Edderton (pl. 31).

And in a few instances angels are represented at the sides of the cross in the act of adoration, as at Aberlemno (pl. 81), and Brechin (pl. 138). The last mentioned stone is further remarkable, and indeed unique, as con-

taining a figure of the Virgin Mary with the Infant Saviour in her arms in the circle formed by the centre of the cross, inscribed S. MARIA M^R X^RI., with angels at the sides and with a dove in the open space of the upper limb of the cross. The Strathmartin stone represents a human figure with a monstrous head, holding a double cross upon his shoulder.

Of the seventy-five stones here figured which are destitute of the Christian symbol of the cross, a considerable portion occur within a limited district, namely, along the banks of the river Don and its tributaries, or rather in the north-eastern extremity of central Scotland, bounded by the river Dee and the eastern stream of the river Spey; throughout this district, which comprises about forty stones, not more than five bear representations of the cross, and these are but moderately ornamented; the work, in fact, in this locality being comparatively rude. They are not, however, confined to this district, since we find a stone at Sandness (pl. 138) in Shetland (being the most northerly monument figured in the work), on which the symbols occur which have been termed the mirror, the fibula, and another not unlike a folded and sealed letter; another at South Ronaldshay, in the Orkneys (pl. 96), bearing two crescents, with the double oblique sceptres, the mirror, and an elegant and unique ornament; others also on the main land of the north of Scotland, as at Thurso (pl. 30); Ulbster (pl. 40); and Dunrobin (pl. 32, 33, and 112); others, again, in the middle of Scotland; and to the south of the Forth, a fragment recently found at Edinburgh on the east side of the castle (pl. 125), on which the crescent and double sceptre and the fibula appear; and even in the southernmost group in Galloway, near the mouths of the rivers Cree and Fleet, the spectacle symbol with a dolphin (?) is sculptured on a rock at Anwoth (pl. 97).

Thus, although the great Grampian range (better, perhaps, than the river Dee) forms a geographical division of these stones to a certain extent, we find that unquestionably the feeling which led to the adoption of these symbols was spread over the whole of Scotland, and this is exactly what we also find exhibited by the ornamental devices and sculptured figures. The Brassay stone in Shetland (pl. 95 and 96) which bears a lion, pig, dogs, monkeys, interlaced ribbons, wheel crosses, and monsters devouring a man, might have been sculptured in Angus; and the stones at Farr (pl. 35), Golspie (pl. 34), at Hilton (pl. 25), Shandwick (pl. 26, 27), Nigg (pl. 28, 29), and Rosemarkie (pl. 105, 106, 107, and 108), all north of the Moray Firth, are all as elaborately carved as any of the stones in central Scotland, with which their designs agree; in fact some of the latter equal in their enrichments the most intricate of the ornaments in the finest Anglo-Saxon and Irish MSS., and could only have been executed by men perfectly familiar with such works, although we find mixed up with them some one or more of the strange symbols which never occur in the MSS. That local influences had a share in some at least of these crosses is evident, since we find the Thornhill stone (pl. 121) almost identical in its tall, upright shape, and in its peculiar heading, with the stone pillars still standing in Penrith churchyard. So again the stones at Mountblow, &c., near the mouth of the Clyde, as well as that at Ellanmore, on the western coast, are entirely destitute of the symbols above alluded to, and bear a much greater similarity to the Irish stones. With reference to the origin of these symbols, Mr. Stuart observes, that if they could have been derived from Rome, we might "naturally expect to find them in other countries open

to the same influence, whereas we have seen that the reverse of this is the case. If again the symbols had been Christian ones, then we should certainly have found them in other parts of Christendom, as well as in Scotland. The only inference which remains, seems to be that most of these symbols were peculiar to a people on the north-east coast of Scotland, and were used by them at least partly for sepulchral monuments. It seems probable that the early missionaries found them in use among the people of the district, and adopted them for a time, and in a more elaborate shape on the Christian monuments, on the principle of concession." He further adds some extracts from letters written to him in 1851, by the late Mr. Patrick Chalmers of Auldbar, suggesting a gnostic origin of these symbols. We believe, however, that we may claim the merit, whatever it may be, of such a suggestion first made in our notice of Mr. Chalmers'



Gnostic gem, from the collection of the late Viscount Strangford.

work in this Journal two years previously (in 1849); and, in addition to the illustrations referred to in our former notice, we may observe that Cliffllet, Kopp, and Montfaucon (especially in plates 156, 164, and 166, of the great work of the latter author) have given other engravings of gnostic gems in which the Z, or reversed Z traversed by a cross-bar, accompanied with rings and surrounded by serpents biting their tails occur. We have also here engraved the symbols on a gnostic gem of agate, in the collection of the late Viscount Strangford (Walsh's Coins and Gems, pl. v. p. 48).

Mr. Stuart gives a summary of the number of times in which these symbols occur in the stones figured in the work :—

Crescent, with the Double Sceptre	34	
do. without ditto	9	
	<hr/>	43
Spectacle Ornament	6	
do. with Sceptre	30	
	<hr/>	36
Mirror	26	
"Elephant"	22	
Comb	17	
Arch, or horse-shoe figure	7	
Fish	13	
Serpent	9	
do. with Sceptre	8	
	<hr/>	17

"It is deserving of observation, that while the same symbols perpetually

occur on different stones, yet on no two stones is the arrangement the same, which seems to imply a meaning and intention in the arrangement of them. It must also be remarked, that, while the shape and outline of these objects are the same, the filling up and design are very different on different stones. The 'spectacle' ornament, which on most of the stones in Aberdeenshire consists merely of two circles in outline connected by transverse lines, becomes on some of those in Forfarshire and Ross-shire quite filled up with ornament, and in these last the upright bar of the 'sceptre' passes through a loop in the line which connects the circles. The 'elephant,' which formerly was merely in outline, becomes covered with interlaced ornament. The same may be said of the 'crescent' and its 'sceptre,' both of which become ornamented, and in some instances this figure occurs twice, and in one case (Rosemarkie pl. 105, 106) three times on one stone, with a difference in the ornamental design in each case. The mirror also varies. In some cases the surface of this object appears convex, whilst in others it is rather concave, like a shallow patera. Sometimes its surface becomes covered with ornament, when it resembles a circular enamelled ornament mentioned in the *Archaeological Journal* for 1846 (vol. ii, p. 162). Sometimes it has two handles, or a small circle on each side, when it resembles some ornamental lamps engraved by Montfaucon. The sceptre, instead of the dot in the angles, which appears in the Aberdeenshire stones, has an oval figure resembling an eye in each angle. The crescent also is filled with ornaments."¹

With the view of drawing more particular attention to these remarkable symbolical figures, we have had a series of those of most frequent occurrence engraved, and these appear in the accompanying illustrations. The crescent with the double ornamented sceptre and Z-like ornament with the ends of the upper and lower limbs also sceptre-like, are the most common and the most striking of these figures. The latter, either with the spectacle design or with an oblong ornament, or represented as crossing a twisted serpent, occurs on no less than forty stones; whilst the crescent with the double sceptre occurs thirty-four times; so that one half of these Scotch stones present one or other of these two designs. The crescent occasionally occurs without the sceptre, and is occasionally doubled (as in fig. 2).

Figure 3 shows the ordinary form of the spectacle pattern, with its Z-like double sceptre. Fig. 4 shows us the spectacles without the sceptres, and fig. 5 the same, with the circles ornamented with spires. Fig. 6 appears to be intended for one half of the spectacle pattern, without the sceptre, and figure 7 exhibits one of the most elaborately ornamented of the spectacle pattern. Fig. 8 exhibits the oblong pattern, occasionally introduced instead of the spectacles, with the Z-like sceptres, and fig. 9 shows us a writhing serpent with the Z in lieu of the spectacles.

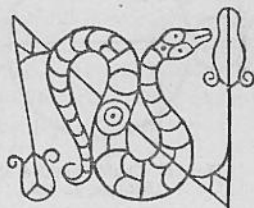


Fig. 9. Serpent with Sceptres.
Newton, pl. 37.

The Z never occurs more than once on a single stone, but the crescent with the double sceptre is sometimes repeated, even thrice on a stone, as in the remarkably elaborate example at Rosemarkie (pl. 105, 106).

¹ Bearing on this branch of the subject, Mr. Stuart adds, that in some instances, while all the other parts of the

sculptured stone are in relief, the symbols are incised.

The mirror and comb (fig. 10) are of common occurrence, not only on the rude stones, but also on those more elaborately ornamented, and occasionally in decided connection with females, as seen on the very beautiful stone at Hilton of Cadboll (pl. 25), where a lady is seated on horseback (sideways) accompanying a hunting party, and near her, in the upper angle

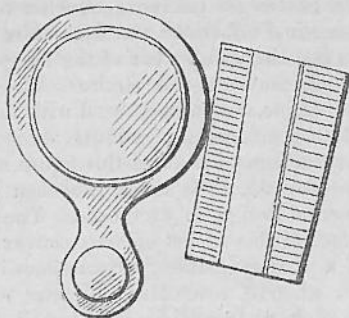


Fig. 10. Mirror and Comb. Maiden Stone. Garioch, pl. 2.

of the panel, are represented the mirror and comb. We have the authority of Montfaucon, that in Roman tombs, as exemplified by that of Hamila Alpionia, a tire-woman, the mirror was employed as the symbol of females; whilst the sepulchral stone of the last Prioress of Iona (A.D. 1543) bears the same emblems, showing that their use as indicating the female sex was still prevalent. (See Mr. Graham's work on the sculptured memorials of Iona.) There is, however, no instance of their occurrence in any of the tomb-stones figured or described by Mr. Boutell in his "Christian Monuments of England and Wales."

The symbols shown in figures 11 and 12 have sometimes been supposed to represent mirrors with two handles, the lines, however, running across the figures may possibly indicate some other object.

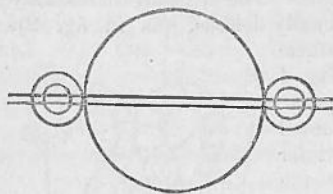


Fig. 11. Double-handled Mirror. Kintore, pl. 109.

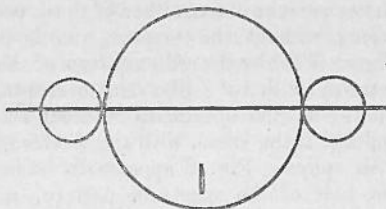


Fig. 12. Double-handled Mirror. Lindores, pl. 102.

The strange animal, of which fig. 13 is an instance, occurs very often, and having been supposed to represent an elephant, an eastern origin has been ascribed to these devices ("Pict. Hist. of England," vol. i. p. 218, 221). As, however, there is no appearance of a tusk in any of the examples, we are inclined to object to this supposition. It, indeed, seems to us to be intended as a representation of the walrus, an animal occurring, but very rarely, on the coast of Scotland, and which, as we learn from the numerous passages on the subject collected by Sir Frederick Madden, in his paper on the Chessmen found in the Isle of Lewis ("Archæologia," vol. xxiv. p. 244), was

held in great esteem at the period when many of these stones were sculptured. The figures certainly represent an animal of an anomalous kind, although evidently treated in a conventional manner; the body is attenuated behind and sloping; the legs terminated by feet of a kind unlike those of ordinary quadrupeds; and the head is terminated in front by a long deflexed snout or jaws. Such a description accords entirely with the walrus, the jaws being intended for the long and deflexed pair of teeth of that animal. The artist has indeed added a curly tail

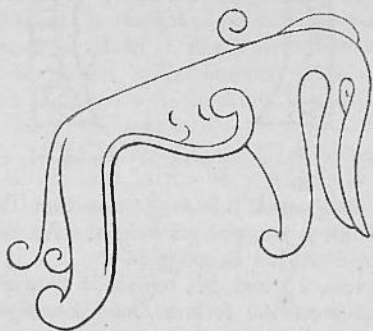


Fig. 13. The Walrus(?). Crichtie, pl. 10.

and top knot, but they seem to be ornamental appendages introduced rather for effect than as representing real portions of the animal's fanciful body. The figure is, in fact, such an one as would be a traditional representation of a strange animal, not before the eyes of the artist, but of which the accounts had reached him from earlier observers. An elephant thus treated would be a very different figure. Why such an animal should be represented on these stones it is difficult to imagine, but the latest account we have met with of the appearance of the walrus in Scotland bears some-

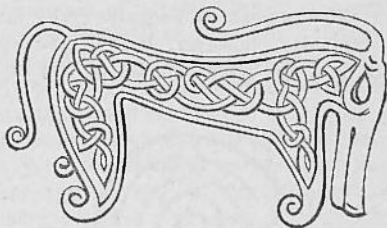


Fig. 14. Ornamented Walrus? Brodie, pl. 22.

what upon the subject. MacGillivray, in the "Naturalist's Library," mentions that a specimen was shot in 1817, as it reposed on a rock in the island of Harris, and the author adds, "The occurrence of so rare an animal caused great astonishment at the time, and the courage of the person who ventured to shoot it was highly extolled. It formed the subject of many a conversation over the whole district, and its ghost appeared to a young woman in a dream, stating that it had visited their inhospitable coast in search of a lost brother." ("Mammalia," vol. vii. p. 224.)

Our figure 14 represents this animal with the body filled up with an interlaced ribbon pattern, from the Brodie Stone (pl. 22).

Another pattern of an arch or horse-shoe form occurs rarely ; it is difficult to imagine what it may represent, but if the comb and mirror

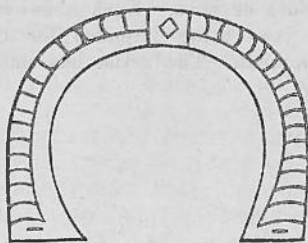


Fig. 15. Horseshoe or Fibula. Percylow, pl. 5.

symbol be rightly designated, the suggestion that this may be intended for a fibula, or a collar, is not without weight. An instance of it is given in figure 15 from the Percylow Stone (pl. 5).

Our two other figures, 16 and 17, represent two ornaments of a somewhat analogous character, the former from the Clyne Stone (pl. 131),



Fig. 16. Fibula? Clyne, pl. 131. Compare Dyce, pl. 9.

where it occurs with the crescent and sceptre ; the latter at St. Madoes (pl. 55). This is evidently, however, half of the spectacle pattern, of which the other half and the greater part of the double-sceptered Z is defaced.



Fig. 17. One end of spectacle pattern with sceptres (remainder defaced).
St. Madoes, pl. 55.

The SCULPTURED FIGURES lastly claim our attention ; and these, with the exception of the drawings in illuminated MSS. executed previous to the Norman Conquest, are almost the only illustrations of figures and scenes which we possess of so great an age ; the old stones of Cumberland,

Wales, and Cornwall being almost entirely ornamental in their details, and thus differing from those of Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man. Their value cannot, therefore, be too highly appreciated in an archaeological point of view.

These sculptured figures naturally divide themselves into religious and secular. The former are comparatively few. Of the Saviour on the Cross there is evidently a small fragment represented in pl. 93., whilst of the Temptation of Christ by two monstrous-headed figures (of not uncommon occurrence on the Irish crosses), there are one or two delineations, especially in pl. 93. Of the figure of the Virgin and Child, we have spoken above; and of the Saviour in the act of benediction with attendant angels, there is a rude figure in pl. 87. The Temptation of Adam and Eve is evidently intended in pl. 86. The curious stone at Auldbar seems to represent the conflict of David with the Lion, the rescued lamb, harp, and pastoral staff appearing in the middle of the stone. David (?) surrounded by Lions appears in pl. 84, and Sampson (?) is seen smiting a Philistine with the jawbone of the ass, in pl. 68. Angels in the act of adoration appear on a few of the stones. Several bishops with low mitres and short pastoral staves of the Cambatta form occur on both sides of the Stone at Bressay, Shetland, pl. 94, 95. A group of Ecclesiastics holding books (see Wilson's *Prehist. Ann.* p. 523), the two outer ones with a large circular fibula on each shoulder (if indeed they be not intended for angels, and these fibulae the ornamental bases of the wings), are represented in pl. 88; a group of monks on horseback with cowls and knotted bridles appears in pl. 55, and another group of tonsured monks walking with their cowls thrown back, one holding what appears to be a lighted taper in his hand, is seen in pl. 70; the form of the shoes in this group deserves notice.

Of secular subjects, scenes of the chase and of battles are by far the most numerous, single figures of men on horseback are very frequent, and in one instance, a lady on horseback, seated pillion fashion, is represented. There is in some of these figures a wonderful amount of spirit (a single horse in pl. 114 may especially be instanced), and we were assured by the late Mr. Chalmers that the originals were even superior in this respect to the engravings. Animals of strange forms constantly occur with others well-known and well-drawn; the boar and bull figured in pl. 38 are especially to be noticed. The monkey occurs occasionally, and a bear devouring a man, in pl. 76. We are inclined to refer many of these strange creatures (both quadrupeds and reptiles) to the fancy of the artist, rather than consider them as representations of Eastern animals, the knowledge of which had been gained in Oriental travel. Fish occur occasionally and singly, but whether symbolically or otherwise is matter of conjecture. The sea eagle seizing a fish is represented in pl. 69. The centaur with a branch of a tree is seen on several of the stones.

In the scenes of the chase the horsemen are generally armed with a small circular shield and a long spear, the hair of the head seems to have been allowed to grow long. The battle-axe and short sword seem also to have been favourite weapons. Duels are represented, in which the combatants use these weapons. The bow and arrow seem also to have been common. A group of warriors occurs in pl. 57, and a battle in pl. 79. We may cite also the figures upon the great stone of Sueno, near Forres, pl. 18 and 19, and others; the details on the St. Andrews' stones, pl. 61 and 63, and a stone in pl. 130, are full of interest. A group of led

captives and oxen occurs in pl. 60. A carriage or cart with two persons riding and another driving in pl. 76. Of musical instruments also there are several representations; a large harp is figured in plates 58 and 92, and long trumpets in pl. 80. In some few instances the details of the dress and armour may be well made out, as in plates 46, 55, 68, and 92. Chairs, a pair of pincers, hammer, and anvil appear in pl. 47.

A great peculiarity of these stones consists in the scarcity of inscriptions, in which respect they contrast strongly with the Welsh and Manx stones. The inscription on the Newton in the Garioch Stone has baffled the skill of inquirers. The late Dr. Mill, in a learned treatise yet unpublished, ascribed it to a Phœnician source. Dr. Wilson, the celebrated Oriental scholar, and Colonel Sykes, thought they traced Indian letters in some of the forms, but the remainder were unintelligible to them. The St. Vigean's Stone with its inscription, which has formed the subject of several communications published in this Journal, is also here carefully refigured. The Papa Stronsay Stone, pl. 42, seems also to bear an inscription, of which we should wish to see a careful cast or rubbing. The inscription also on the Brechin Stone has been alluded to above.

Four of these stones are also evidently inscribed with Oghams, the interpretation of which, thanks to the dauntless researches of Dr. Graves, is now likely to be effected. Of these characters examples occur in plates 1, 3 (the Oghams inscribed on a circle), 34, 94, and 95.

We trust that the Spalding Club will persevere in this good work. There are still many highly curious stones in Scotland remaining unpublished. Those of the West especially deserve careful investigation, from the probable influence which they would exhibit of Iona and Ireland. We may also allude to the stone supposed to cover the remains of Rob Roy, at Balquhiddy, in the south-west of Perthshire, with its remarkable carvings.

J. O. W.

ANTIQUITIES OF KERTCH. By DUNCAN M'PHERSON, M.D. Smith, Elder, & Co.

WHEN the British army first landed in the Crimea, it was felt as a natural cause of regret, that steps had not been taken by the Government at home, to attach to the force sent out some scientific men, who might have been ready to avail themselves of the many chances they would probably have of promoting researches on the spot into the numerous antiquities, Greek, Roman, and Mediæval, which it was well known were to be found in the old Tauric Peninsula. It was remembered how much had been done at different times by the savants attached, according to the usual custom of France, to the French expeditionary forces in Egypt and Algeria, and it seemed not too much to hope that our own people, wise by the experience of their neighbours, would have been willing to profit by so good an example. Nothing, however, of this kind was done; nor, perhaps, would there have been, at this time, any ancient remains in this country from this old Hellenic province, had it not been for the individual energy of some of the officers who were encamped either on the plateau before Sebastopol, or on the heights overlooking the Bay of Kertch. More than this—when it would have been quite possible for a very small guard of soldiers and marines to have preserved what the Russians had themselves collected in

their beautiful little museum at Kertch, Sir George Brown insisted on hurrying forward with ill-judged and needless haste—and so this elegant structure with its valuable contents was left to the sack of Frenchmen and Turks, aided by the miscellaneous Tatar rabble of the town—the natural enemies of whatever tended to civilisation, no less than of their former masters, the Russians. It was not, indeed, till the close of the second year of the war, that anything was really effected towards the examination of the ancient localities among which our army had been so long stationed.

The first to commence operations was Colonel Munroe of the 39th regt., who, in the autumn of 1855, was encamped with his men a few hundred yards from the English head-quarters. On this spot, Colonel Munroe made some very curious excavations, and disinterred a circular building, about thirty feet in diameter, with traces of lateral walls, running southerly and easterly, together with some gigantic amphoræ, the use of which has not been satisfactorily determined. Whatever their use, however, it is clear that these vessels were, in ancient times, of some value, more than one of them exhibiting triangular rivets of lead, whereby they had been formerly mended.

It is, however, to the writer of the present volume, Dr. Duncan M'Pherson, of the Madras army, at that time holding the rank of Inspector-general of Hospitals to the Turkish contingent, that the public are indebted for the most complete and the most useful excavations made in the Crimea.

Besides a general knowledge that the Crimea had long been occupied by Greek colonies, many works had been published, calling particular attention to the remains of Greek occupation, at its eastern end, on the shores of the Sea of Azof. It was natural, therefore, that the late Sir Richard Westmacott, who had always taken a great interest in Greek art, should have early desired his son, then commanding one of the Infantry regiments of the Turkish contingent, to procure such fragments as might have escaped in the general destruction of the Museum at Kertch. When, too, at a somewhat later period, Colonel Collingwood Dickson, C.B. accepted the command of the Turkish Artillery at that place, the advisability of making further excavations there was suggested to him, and careful tracings from Russian engravings of the tombs they had opened, and of the relics they had discovered, were sent out to him, in order that he or those whom he might employ might have an accurate knowledge of the localities previously examined, and of those places, therefore, which were likely to prove the fittest fields for future excavation.

The general result of these exertions at home was an application, first to General Vivian at Kertch, and then to Lord Panmure, as Secretary-at-War, for permission to employ soldiers and others, when off military duty, in collecting what remained above ground, or in prosecuting future excavations under it. On the War Department assenting to these representations, Dr. M'Pherson, Major Crease, and Major Westmacott were appointed a committee to decide on such relics as were worthy of removal to the British Museum; and Dr. M'Pherson was induced to set on foot those further researches, which are recorded with much clearness and good sense in the volume before us. It ought not, therefore, to be forgotten that the labours of Dr. M'Pherson were, strictly speaking, twofold, and that the country is indebted to him, on two distinct occasions, for the zeal with which he has exerted himself in procuring and conveying to England some of the treasures of antiquity which once abounded in the neighbourhood of Kertch.

On the first occasion he was engaged with the other officers, to whom we have alluded, in the removal of such objects as had been found in the town or among the debris of the Museum ; a collection comprehending a large number of sepulchral monuments and fragments of Sarcophagi : on the second, he excavated, with some scanty aid from Government, in sites which, as far as he knew, had not been previously examined. It is to the narrative of this second work that the present volume is devoted.

Dr. M'Pherson commences his narrative with a concise historical account of the Crimea, and of the successive settlements or colonies in that land from their commencement under the Greeks to the present Russian occupation. Of the period preceding the arrival of the first colonists from Miletus, he is wisely silent, little being known of those times which can be deemed of any historical importance. We observe, however, that he favours the theory stated first many years ago, and since revived in more than one popular narrative, that Balaclava is the harbour of the Cyclops which Ulysses is said, in the tenth Book of the Odyssey, to have visited—a theory of which it is enough to remark that it has no satisfactory foundation, though Homer's description of the unnamed port suits well enough with the natural features of that inlet. It does not detract from the merit of Dr. M'Pherson's work that in this abstract he is wholly indebted to those who have gone before him—for the able and comprehensive accounts of M. Dubois de Montpereux, and the detailed narratives of MM. Ashik and Sabatier, with more especial reference to Kertch, have left little that can be added by any subsequent visitor to the scenes they have so fully described.

He then proceeds to give some account of the researches made by the Russian government into the monuments which still attest the ancient potency of the Greek and Roman colonies in the Crimea, with a sketch of the excavations made by Colonel Munroe, within the camp of Sebastopol, which, as we have stated, preceded his own at Kertch by a few months. It is not necessary for us to follow him over this ground, the more so, as these important Russian discoveries have been completely described in two magnificent volumes published during the last year at St. Petersburg.

We proceed now to notice the principal works on which Dr. M'Pherson was himself engaged, and the results of these labours.

Dr. M'Pherson having carefully ascertained what tumuli had been previously examined, and having found out that there was little chance of his meeting with any novelties in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, determined to commence operations on one six miles distant from Kertch, in the direction of Yenikale. "Its circumference was 346 feet, and its height about eighty, and it presented no appearance of its having ever been disturbed. Two parties of six men each were set to work with directions to tunnel their way in, at right angles with the other party ; the one proceeding to the left, the other to the right." The results, however, of his first diggings were not so great as the virgin appearance of the mound had led him to anticipate. The labour was found to be very severe ; the cold (early in March) was still intense, and the distance his labourers had to go to and from the town greatly retarded his operations. Ultimately, however, he was able to penetrate into the interior of the mound ; but he discovered nothing there but a few amphoræ standing upright.

On continuing his excavations a little to the left, he came on the remains of several large upright beams occupying an oblong space ; within this

space were human and animal bones which had, as it would seem, fallen in from above. There was much wooden fibre lying about the remains, probably portions of a roof, with the fragments of an antique urn, having dark figures on a cream-coloured ground. Among the ashes which had once been in the urn was a female bust of pure gold, an inch in length, a twisted gold ear-ring, and part of a pair of gold bracelets. These various objects are excellently engraved in a plate which illustrates this portion of Dr. M'Pherson's work. Unluckily, at the moment when this discovery was made, our author was absent on an official inspection of the hospitals along the Bosphorus and Sea of Marmora. Hence it was, that the most valuable object was secured and subsequently retained (it seems to us most unfairly) by some one else. The bracelets only were left for Dr. M'Pherson, and are now with the rest of his antiquities in the British Museum. Of the golden bust he adds:—"The face is purely Grecian, and the bust presents that of a beautiful woman with her hair thrown off her forehead, and encircled on the back of the head with a veil of light exquisite workmanship, so perfect, that the butterfly or insect pattern is distinctly visible. A beautifully worked tiara in form of a crescent, with the Greek honeysuckle ornament embossed thereon, encircles the forehead, and a gem adorns each ear. A small ring at the crown of the head evidently points out that this very beautiful and chaste figure was worn as a pendant to a necklace or chain. The figure is probably that of the Tauric Diana, who had her temple in the Taurida, and who was worshipped in the colonies around; the peculiarly formed tiara being the distinguishing mark of the Goddess."

Subsequently, Dr. M'Pherson made some examination of the northern side of this tumulus, and discovered a curious wall of great strength and solidity (the stones being four feet long, two broad, and two deep,) which extended about half way round it. What was the purpose of this wall, or when it was built, was not ascertained, though a Greek coin of Panticapæum, large quantities of bones, crushed urns, beads, and small fragments of fictile vessels were discovered lying parallel with it, together with several of the so-called red *lachrymatories*, in its recesses. The labour of further excavation was too great for his small party, and we may, perhaps, lament that, owing to this weakness, he has only pointed out the way for great and future discoveries, for those who, living on the spot, can afford to work more easily and more cheaply.

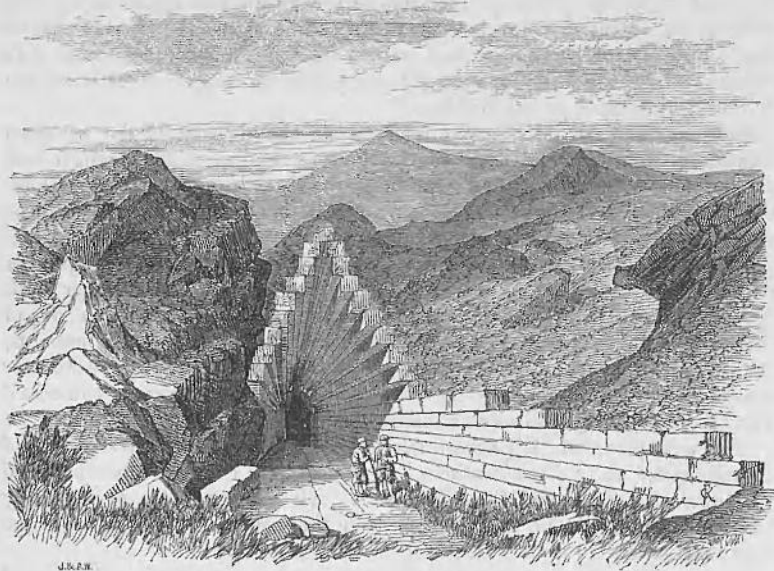
The next place Dr. M'Pherson determined to examine was in a cluster of tumuli, called the "Five Brothers," which stood to the south-west between the town of Kertch and Cape St. Paul. All of them were considerably larger than the first he had opened, and three were so uniform in shape that they looked as if they had been cast in a mould.

Into each, shafts were sunk, and tunnels run; but the labour was not for some time compensated by the results; although in one of the tumuli a stone sarcophagus was found considerably below the natural surface of the plain without. It was clear that this tumulus must have been opened, though there was no external appearance of that fact. In a second tumulus a similar sarcophagus was met with; "the roof was formed of slabs resting on and projecting beyond each other, supported on a niche cut out of the side wall; a most simple, efficient, and durable construction." The third tumulus opened appeared intact, till at length an aperture was detected in the roof big enough to admit a man's body. The mound itself was composed

of large masses of stone heaped one on the other, sloping downwards as we proceeded with our shaft"—the roof was in fact an arched vault. All the contents had at some remote period been removed from the tomb, and a rude cross had been traced on the wall, apparently with the smoke of a candle or torch.

In the exploration of the fourth tumulus Dr. M'Pherson was more fortunate in his researches. It was a mound of remarkable construction, consisting, as it did chiefly, of huge boulders heaped upon the top of a natural peak of coral rag. There was a natural separation in the hill. "This was cased round with masonry; but the roof, which was formed of wood, had fallen in. Portions of carved ivory which appeared to have been inlaid in wood, great numbers of coarse unglazed *terra cotta* vases of rude workmanship crushed by the superincumbent earth, and a fine Greek Hydria of bronze were found here; also the distorted bones of a deformed adult, whose curved and united vertebral column marked him as a hunchback.

"This bronze Hydria, when discovered, stood as entire as is represented in the plate (plate 3). The superincumbent earth, as I have said, had fallen in, and on this being removed, the Hydria broke down. Two of the



handles only have reached me. They are both alike, as shown in the accompanying woodcut. A third, having, I am informed, a figure of Victory on one end, and that of a Medusa on the other, has been retained by the gentleman then in charge of the work."

We don't understand upon what principle either the golden head or this bronze handle were kept by the persons who happened, during Dr. M'Pherson's accidental absence, to be superintending the excavations. Unless we are much misinformed, the cost of these works were defrayed by public money; it seems, therefore, that, as all Dr. M'Pherson obtained

has been placed by him in the National Collection, those who were no more than his agents were bound, in honour and in justice, to surrender their curiosities to him for a similar purpose. Had each man been digging at his own charge, the case would have been different. It is probable that, in this case, the individual excavators would soon have tired of their profitless exertions, and, although the nation would not have obtained many interesting remains, which are mainly due to the zeal with which Dr. M'Pherson prosecuted his researches, we should have been spared the effusions of a certain disappointed digger, Mr. Olguin, who was ready to bring, we know not what, charges against our author, but who has wholly failed in substantiating the assertions which he so hastily put forth. Dr. M'Pherson adds, in concluding this portion of his labours: "Although no large amount of success attended my researches among the tumuli, still my labours proved deeply interesting. The successive layers of earth by which these huge mounds have been formed establish, beyond a doubt, the fact that the heap was raised, as tradition assigns, at successive dates. We were fortunate, moreover, in our selections, inasmuch as each of those opened have presented to us distinct varieties, either in the construction of the tomb, or the mode of sepulture."

Having spent about two months in exploring these tumuli, Dr M'Pherson resolved to see what could be done towards the excavation of some parts of the ancient city of Panticapæum, which, curiously enough, appears now to be almost entirely buried under the heaps of debris which support the present town of Kertch. "There is little or no appearance," says he, "of the ancient city on the surface of the soil, which, to the depth of from five to thirty feet in a circumference of about four miles, is composed of a mass of broken pottery and debris of every description,—an accumulation of successive ages, without any convulsion of nature."

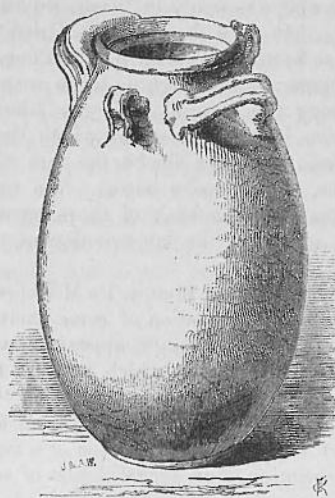
It would have required Herculean labour to have made any extensive examination of a city so buried. Something, however, was done. Shafts were sunk to the ruins of the ancient houses, and tunnels were carried, here and there, along their walls. In this way many interesting remains were met with; such as handles of amphoræ, with inscriptions and designs on them, fragments of beautiful patterns of *terra-cotta* and bright polished plaster, and bronze coins. To aid the diggings, the workmen were occasionally ordered to dig alongside huge masses of coral rock, which in different places cropped up out of the soil, and to excavate along their sides: in this way, some curious discoveries as to the mode of life of the ancient inhabitants were brought to light.

"On one occasion an extensive rock chamber was exposed, the abode, probably, of the Tauric aborigines of the country. It was warm and dry. A rude seat or couch was hewn out of the side, and there were small recesses in the rock. The entrance was partly artificial, partly natural; small, and capable of being closed by matting or otherwise. There was a quantity of earth and rubbish within, which was not removed, as there appeared no object to be gained in doing so. The rubbish gave cover to human remains, but no relic was discovered along with these." In another similar chamber the excavators were employed for five days in removing human bones: as many of these exhibited fractures and other injuries, it was natural to suppose that these remains were the memorial of some great battle.

A little later a series of twelve tombs was discovered at a depth of from

eight to twelve feet below the surface. The roof and sides were composed of two or three slabs of sandstone about four inches thick ; and, adjoining them, amphoræ of baked clay were usually found much crushed by the superincumbent earth. Each of the stone tombs contained the bones of one person only, and there was seldom any ornament within. Moreover, it was not unusual to find the remains in one spot, and the relic in another.

In one instance, they came upon a large ornamented unglazed vase of baked clay with some small vessels of glass. Dr. M'Pherson adds :



"Doubtless these amphoræ contained wine when originally placed there; for the lees or scoriæ of the wine encrusted the inside, and had accumulated in considerable quantities at the bottom, as the fluid portion dried up. The fixed acid in the deposit was proved to be still present, on the application of litmus paper, by a gentleman at the late meeting of the British Association held at Cheltenham, an extraordinary fact, after so great a lapse of time."

It seems, however, difficult to determine the limit of time for the endurance of vegetable acids ; and it is well known that Sir Henry Rawlinson discovered similar remains in an alabaster vessel procured by

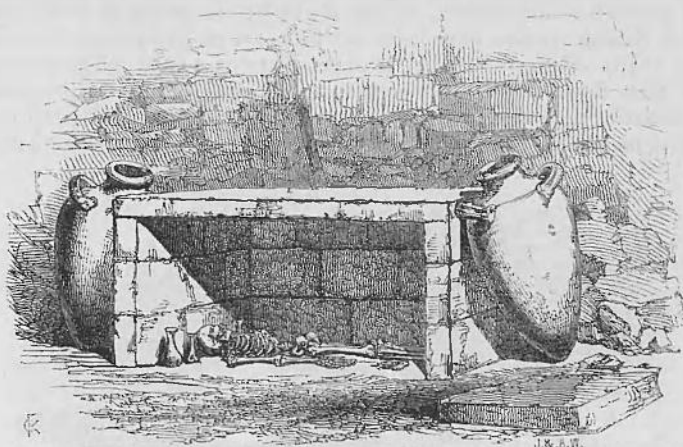
one of his agents at Nineveh.

One of the most remarkable excavations Dr. M'Pherson made was into a subterranean vault or chamber, on the walls of which were still to be traced the outlines of birds, grotesque figures, and flowers. Opposite the entrance were representations of two figures on horseback, sketched in black on the wall. One seemed to be a person in authority, the other his attendant. "Hung on the shoulders of the latter could be traced a bow and a quiver of arrows, (the Scytho-Grecian bow and arrows are a common emblem on the coins of Phanagoria), and he held in his hand a long javelin, also a formidable weapon in those days." In a recess was found the skeleton of a man, and a portion, too, of that of a horse. The discovery of the bones of the horse so frequently among these researches proves the fact, that the most ancient inhabitants of the Crimea (doubtless of a Scythian or Tatar race) were in the habit of burying their horses, just as Herodotus relates of the Scythians, and Tacitus of the Germans. We have abundant evidence that the same custom prevailed in different ages among the Celts in Gaul, the Franks, the Saxons, and the Northmen. As the late Mr. Kemble has justly remarked, "The horse is a sacrificial animal, and, as such, slaughtered and eaten at the tomb—the head in this case being deposited with the dead."

It would not be possible within the limits assigned to us to enter into more detail of the many interesting researches which Dr. M'Pherson was enabled to make. For such fuller accounts, the reader must go to the work itself. Before, however, we conclude this notice, we must briefly allude to two

more discoveries which were made, and of which Dr. M'Pherson has given a full and interesting narrative. One of these was that of a grave cut out of the rock : in front of this was a large flagstone, and near it the bones of a horse : Dr. M'Pherson adds—

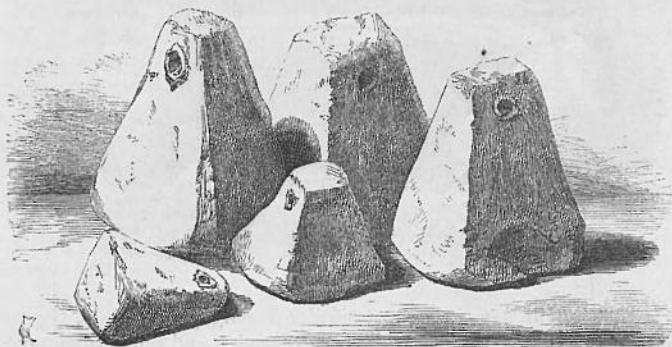
“The cut represents the position of the various objects in the Tomb. There was no confusion here ; the floor was covered with the same beautiful pebbles. On the niches around, all the objects remained as they had been placed twenty centuries ago There, in the stillness of this chamber, lay the unruffled dust of the human frame possessing still the form of man. The bones had all disappeared, or their outer surface alone remained. The place occupied by the head did not exceed the size of the palm of the hand ; yet the position of the features could still be traced on the undisturbed dust. There was the depression for the eyes, the slight prominence of the nose, and the mark of the mouth ; the teeth being the only portion of the entire frame which remained unchanged. The folds in which the garments enveloped the body, nay, even the knots which bound them, could be traced in the dust. A few enamelled beads were found in the right hand of the dead, and some walnuts in the left, and the green mark of a copper ring, into which a stone had been fixed, was on one finger. On each niche one body had been placed. The coffins, crumbled into powder, had fallen in. At the head was a glass bottle ; one of these still held a table-spoonful of wine : the nuts and the wine being doubtless placed there to cheer and support the soul in its passage to paradise. There was a cup and a lachrymatory of glass, and an unglazed earthenware lamp stood in a small niche above the head. This tomb was sufficiently spacious to permit ten of us to stand upright. . .”



On a subsequent day, an almost similar discovery was made, the remains of the skeleton being that of a man of great size and more than seven feet in height. On his heart was a brooch studded with garnets, and near him a glass decanter, holding still a portion of red wine ; walnuts, and other glass vessels, and a carnelian, representing the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, were found with this skeleton. There could be little doubt that this tomb was the resting-place of some distinguished chieftain.

The second principal excavation and discovery arose from the removal of the earth above one of the great shafts which he had found it necessary to sink. "On the second day," says he, "of the work, at a depth of twelve feet from the surface, we struck upon two stone tombs, containing adult remains. Reclining, and, at the same time, resting upon them, were fragments of large amphoræ, each of which contained the remains of a child. Beneath, at a distance of some three feet, was a skeleton of a horse." Adjoining the tomb, Dr. M'Pherson found many of the same indications he had noticed elsewhere; and immense heaps of broken amphoræ, fragments of wine-jars, the insides of which were still encrusted with the lees of wine, ox and sheep bones, portions of earthenware black with smoke, and great quantities of charcoal, clearly showed that a great festival had been once held here. On further digging, many more remarkable facts were brought to light; and with the aid of some sailors of H. M. S. Snake an ancient shaft no less than forty-two feet deep was cleared out. In the centre of the shaft was found the skeleton of a horse, and "a few feet beyond the bones of the horse, the skeleton of an adult female, partly enveloped in sea-weed, was found. . . . Three feet lower down, we reached a layer of human male skeletons laid head to feet, the bones in excellent preservation; as indeed we always found them to be, wherever the calcareous clay came into immediate contact with them. There were ten skeletons on this spot; and separated by a foot of sand we came upon four similar layers, being exactly fifty in all. There was no ornament or relic discovered in this space."

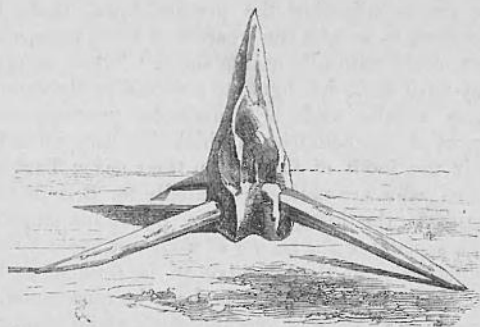
Dr. M'Pherson has discussed at some length the various reasons which have been assigned for this remarkable system of entombment, and has alluded to the discovery in other places of analogous shafts or pits. We cannot, however, think that any satisfactory reason has yet been given for the adoption of this custom, or that the instances quoted of similar pits in which Roman remains have been met with, are really much to the purpose. The shafts discovered by Dr. M'Pherson are on a scale much more extensive than those elsewhere reported, and require a much more complete examination than the brief time and slender means he had at hand enabled him to make. All that we can say on the subject is, that our author seems



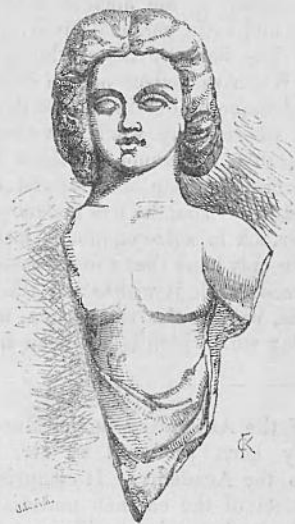
to have worked with great assiduity, and that we much regret he was compelled to stay his hand, just as he had acquired a practical knowledge of the utmost value for future researches.

In the course of the excavations Dr. M'Pherson met with several of the

curious pyramidal objects of terra-cotta which have not unfrequently occurred with *amphoræ* and the like, a circumstance that has induced some Archæologists to suppose that they were employed for some purpose in the wine-cellars. A group of them is represented in the accompanying woodcut. They vary in size, the largest being about four inches in height. A few of them are stamped with impressions of gems or seals. It is very uncertain to what purpose they were applied. Mr. Kemble supposed them to be weights for fishing-nets (see p. 69, *ante*). The locality in which they were found does not seem to support this view.



Among the other miscellaneous objects brought to light "was a calthrop formed from the head of the human *radius*. The representation here given will explain itself. There are four points so joined at the base that, being thrown on the ground, one stands upright; one point



is formed from the human bone, the other three are ivory spikes (one being broken) introduced into the articulating end of the bone. The specimen is probably unique."

Again, Dr. M'Pherson notices that "in the great shaft were discovered two female busts in baked clay, and one of a youth in the same material. The modelling of the former is good, though apparently moulded by the fingers from wet clay and afterwards baked, as the impression of the fingers can be traced on it." (See woodcuts.)

"I likewise found in the same place," he adds, a figure about six inches in height, representing a senator in robes: it formed one of a cluster, which stood out in relief on a large earthenware jar which held the remains of an infant."

With regard to the fibulæ, which were found in great abundance when excavating the tombs adjoining the present town, there has been much interesting discussion as to who the wearers of them were, and to what age their style of art would naturally assign them. There seems to be now no doubt that they must have belonged to a race directly connected with the Anglo-Saxons, as metallic work of a character precisely similar has been met with in almost all the countries in which that race settled. The Greek emperors were in the habit of keeping in their pay a Teutonic body-guard called Varangians, who are noticed repeatedly for their bravery and other excellent qualities in the histories of the Byzantine empire, especially in Villé-Hardouin's account of the taking of Constantinople by the Franks and Venetians. Whether or no they deserve to be termed, as Dr. M'Pherson has called them, "Englishmen," may perhaps be questioned, but that they were of the same race as some of our ancestors would appear to be certain. According to Gibbon, who has traced their history with much care, they were first induced to travel southwards by Vladimir I., and the name of Vladimir I. directly connects them with the Crimea.

We here take leave of Dr. M'Pherson, and of his interesting and important volume; not without the hope that the spirit he has shown in procuring for the English nation many excellent relics of the ancient inhabitants of the Crimea, a service of much labour and little personal profit, may be acknowledged more adequately than it has been by those who are best fitted to appreciate what he has done. When we reflect on the difficulties he had to encounter, the little real assistance he obtained, and the great zeal with which he continued working where many would have been but too ready to abandon the enterprise altogether, we cannot but think that he is personally deserving of the highest praise that can be bestowed by the antiquary or the student of ancient history. That he has not more completely worked out the problem he undertook to solve cannot in justice be adduced as any charge against him. We only hope that the extensive sale of the interesting volume he has produced, while it will satisfy the public generally as to the nature of his labours, will, at the same time, in some degree recompense him for the large outlay with which it has been brought out.

The first portion of the Catalogue of the Antiquities in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy has recently been produced by Mr. Wilde, Secretary of Foreign Correspondence to the Academy. It comprises the antiquities of stone; the urns and objects of the earthen materials, and those of vegetable materials. The volume is copiously illustrated with woodcuts, and exemplifies in an instructive manner a large class of the earlier remains found in Ireland. It may be obtained from Messrs. Hodges and Smith, Dublin.