XXXVIII. On the geology of Loch Leven in Scotland

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XXXVIII. *On the Geology of Loch Leven in Scotland.* By
Mr. GAVIN INGLIS.

To Mr. Tilloch.

DEAR SIR, — WHEN I sent you Outlines of the Geological History of Loch Lomond, I pledged myself to furnish a similar account of Loch Leven in Fife, or rather in Kinross-shire. Since that period I have been diligently making observations and collecting materials for that purpose.

Taking advantage of the present low state of the river flowing from the lake to examine the depth and strata of the alluvial soil, occupying what had formerly been deep water, and now forming the coarse lands between Auchmoor Bridge and Loch-end, I took a trip up the river in a small flat-bottomed boat. I was favoured with a still day, a clear sky and radiant sun, whose rays darting direct to the bottom of the deepest pools, uninterrupted by the smallest ruffle on the surface, enabled me, by the reflected light, most distinctly to observe every layer of stratified soil, the roots, trunks and branches of large oaks lying at the depth, in some places, of 20 and 30 feet under the surface of the bank. Doubling on by the windings of the stream, where the last winter's floods had brought down part of the bank, I observed hanging loosely from the side, something like a piece of broken tile. Rowing immediately towards the spot, I discovered it to be a fragment of one of those ancient *terra cotta* vessels that have occasionally been dug up in different parts. Looking attentively into the opening left by the portion taken from the bank, I could observe the edge of remaining fragments, which I obtained by digging into the sandy clay; and from the position of what was thus procured, I judged the remainder must have fallen into the water with the avalanche from the bank, and might be found at the bottom. Shoving off the boat a little from the edge and remaining still, till the ruffle on the surface had subsided, I could distinctly observe the other parts lying at a considerable depth, part still adhering to a lump of clayey soil in which it had originally been imbedded. After many efforts and considerable difficulty, I succeeded in recovering all the mouth of the vessel, and some fragments of the side corresponding to those parts taken from the bank.

The mouth is $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter; no handles have been attached to it; and it is of this form: The whole bears evident marks of having been turned on a wheel. No glazing could be discovered either on the surface of the vessel itself, or in the surrounding soil, which was carefully examined on finding none attached to the surface.

The

The position of the vessel, its contents, the soil in which it was imbedded, added to every other circumstance connected with its situation, leaves not a doubt on my mind, of its having found its resting-place by chance. It was buried two feet seven inches under the surface of the bank, with two unbroken *straths* of turf soil above it. Standing nearly erect, it was filled with the same materials in which it was enveloped. It must have been crushed by the consolidating pressure of the superstratum on the subsiding of the waters of the lake, as each fragment lay conjoined to its corresponding fracture.

Could the age of these vessels be ascertained, might not some data be formed as to the duration of this depth of the alluvial matter now occupying so large a proportion of what must have been deep water when the lake was in its primitive majesty? I intend sending these fragments to Edinburgh for preservation, and that they may be compared and remain with their kindred shreds of former times.

I am, &c.

Strathendry, Aug. 27, 1819.

GAVIN INGLIS.

XXXIX. *Notices respecting New Books.*

Peintures Antiques de Vases Grecs, de la Collection de Sir JOHN COGHILL, Bart. publiées par JAMES MILLINGEN, Rome, 1818.*

MR. MILLINGEN has been long honourably known as a learned and judicious antiquary; having published in 1812 a valuable collection of inedited Greek medals in quarto; and in 1813, a collection of paintings of Greek vases in folio, with 63 plates, preceded by an introduction full of curious researches and observations. This present work is the more valuable, as the collection of Sir John Coghill has been lately brought to the hammer, and we believe entirely dispersed. This precious collection had been formed by M. de Lalo, private treasurer to the late Queen of Naples; at his death it was purchased by Chevalier Rossi, and afterwards came into the hands of Sir John Coghill.

Mr. Millingen's present work contains in the introduction some positive ideas on the manufacture of the Greek vases of baked earth: they are in a great measure contained in three letters written by M. de Rossi.

The site of some very great ancient cities is still a subject of dispute and learned research; and two or three thousand vases of baked earth, most of them made four or five centuries before

* We are indebted for the following review of the ingenious work of our countryman Sir John Coghill, to the *Journal des Savans* for May last, and for the translation of it, to the Literary Gazette.