

Mr. Wilde presented to the Museum, on the part of the Rev. Mr. M'Loughlin, P. P. of Antrim, a number of articles found in one of the crannoges described in his paper (p. 135).

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1859.

JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D. D, President, in the Chair.

MR. WILDE presented several donations, and made the following remarks on them :—

“On the part of His Excellency the Earl of Eglinton, two iron basket-hilted swords, Nos. 160 and 161, each three feet long in the blade, with fish-skin handle covers and buff leather under-guards. They were found in an old press in the Privy Council Chamber in Dublin Castle, and were procured for the Academy through General Larcom.

“By reference to the ‘Proceedings’ for April 12, 1858, we find at p. 41 the acknowledgment of a collection of bronze pins from the neighbourhood of Gweedore. As neither the name of the noble donor nor the circumstances under which they were found has been mentioned, I beg to record the following communication from Lord George Hill upon the subject :—‘The ancient pins which I presented to the Royal Irish Academy were found at different times, within these four or five years, upon the shore of the townland of Magheraclogher, in the district of Gweedore, parish of West Tullagh-obegley, barony of Kilmacrenan, and county of Donegal. There are shifting sand-hills on various parts of the coast, the wind and rain affecting which, expose these ancient relics to view; and also the remains of the habitations of the former inhabitants, who must have retreated inland as the sands encroached upon them.’ These pins will be kept as a separate find, illustrative of the style of art in such articles used at their time, and in the locality from which they were obtained; but in numerical order they will follow after No. 504 of the bronze pins described in the manuscript registration, and the list of purchases for the year 1858-59. See also the ‘Ulster Archæological Journal,’ vol. vi., p. 351.

“I allude to the circumstance of these numbers here, because I look upon it as of the greatest importance, that in all future donations made to the Academy, some distinctive mark should be attached to the objects, by which they can be subsequently recognised in the Museum, and that everything that is known about them should at once be furnished to the editor of the ‘Proceedings’ for publication. Had this been done when we first began to collect and to record these donations, a catalogue would have been formed of immense value in the present day. As, however, the Committee of Antiquities have undertaken to present the Academy, once a quarter, with an account of the various articles which have been purchased, as well as of such donations as have not been already described, I hope to see adopted a better mode of recording the history, and a better form of identifying those antiquities which come into the Museum, either as purchases or donations, for the future. It is right

that the Academy should know that the manuscript Museum Catalogue, such as it was, has not been written up for a considerable length of time. If the plan I propose is followed out for the future, the records of all additions to our catalogue will be a matter of comparative ease. Besides, the proper public acknowledgment of these donations is gratifying to those who have given, and may prove an incentive to those who still have to give.

“On the part of Richard Maguire, Esq., of Newgrange, county of Meath, I beg to present a rather rare form of bronze pin, No. 524, discovered in the rampart of one of the circular enclosures which lie between the great tumulus of Newgrange and the River Boyne; it possesses peculiar interest from the circumstances of the locality in which it was found.

“On the part of Marcus Harty, Esq., C. E.—A very beautiful cinerary urn, now numbered 50 in the collection. It is 4 inches high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ broad in the widest portion, which is a little above the middle, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the clear of the mouth. The ornamentation upon it, although performed by a rude instrument, exhibits considerable skill and handiwork. The form of the vessel is very graceful, and the lip has been decorated in a manner similar to the external surface. It was found in June, 1849, in the centre of a stone cairn on the top of Tibbradden Mountain, county of Dublin, in a stone chamber filled with charcoal and burned bones, of which latter there is a collection on the table, and although so great a length of time has elapsed since they were deposited, they exhibit unmistakable evidences of the rapid action of fire. A second urn was found in the same tumulus, but was so much broken, that no portion of it remains to the present day. Mr. Harty has added to the value of his donation by affording an accurate drawing and ground plan of the mound, together with a tracing of the road from Dublin to the spot, and both of which are deposited in the archives of the Academy.

“Also from Mr. Harty, a crescentic piece of cast bronze, No. 65 in the registration of Miscellaneous Articles. It was found in a gravel pit near the River Boyne at Navan, immediately beneath Athlumny Castle. What renders it particularly interesting to the antiquarian is, that it presents all the appearance of having been the ferule at the end of an ancient sword scabbard, an implement which we do not possess an example of in the Academy, nor indeed in any other collection of Irish antiquities that I know of.

“From Mr. Hayes, of Moate, county of Westmeath, I present two curious ancient single-piece shoes. Having carefully examined and completed the catalogue of leathern objects during the past year, I can speak as to the value of this donation, to which, although we have many objects of a like nature, we have nothing identical in the Museum. Although right and left shoes, they are of totally different patterns, and, I should say, belonged to different periods. The first, now No. 13 in our collection, is a left-footed, round-toed shoe of the pampoota shape, with an open-work front, so that it was not intended to keep out the wet. It is sewn with a thong both in the back seam and along the open-work, and was laced to the foot with leathern sandals like the modern pampoota. ‘It was found in the bog of Buggaun, parish of Ballymore, near Moate, in July, 1858, many feet under the surface;’ and, adds the

donor, 'there was no appearance of a crack or flaw in the bog where it was found, which was the case with the other shoe.' No. 14 is a right-footed shoe, pointed at the toe, but also composed of a single piece of thick tanned leather; it has a triangular seam behind, and an overlapping upper in front, which is gathered in along a seam of beautiful workmanship, and presenting an interlacement of the material itself. A similar form of decoration is often observed in Irish art, both in metal-work and upon our illuminated manuscripts; thus showing that, even in leather manufacture, a *style* of art influenced the taste of the mechanic up to the period when this shoe was worn. The seam is closed with gut, and, therefore, I would place this shoe as second, in point of antiquity, to the first specimen described, which is sewn with leather. It also was found in the bog of Buggaun, but not in the same locality as the former.

"On the part of Dr. Ringland, I present an antique bronze spoon, No. 52, originally tinned, and bearing a curious trade-mark on the inner surface of the bowl, consisting of three spoons enclosed within a circle, and which was evidently struck after the casting, as shown by the indentation on the convex side. Although not of very great antiquity, it is an object of interest in continuation of similar articles in the Museum, after which it will come in as No. 52.

"On the part of Mrs. Rothwell, of Rockfield House, Kells.—A unique bronze pin, No. 525, with three rings passing through the stem, and decreasing in size from above downwards. This pin is now imperfect, being but three inches in length; it was found at Dunshaughlin, and formed a portion of the collection of articles from that locality possessed by the late Mr. Rothwell.

"On the part of George Sandford Wills, Esq., of Castlerea, county of Roscommon, two antique horse headstall ornaments of the usual spur shape, similar to those already in our collection, where they form Nos. 178 and 179 on Tray PPP; the one is 12, and the other 13 inches long. They differ slightly in character, but were evidently pendant and swinging, as shown by the worn loops at the ends of the prongs. Both have knobs at the handle-like extremities, but the loops for attachment to the bridle differ considerably, being in one specimen continuous with the side of the prongs, and in the other projecting at right angles to them. Having tried articles of this description on different horses, I find that they will not fit on the head either in front of the ears, or hanging under the jowl, like some of our modern bridle ornaments of leather and hair, but must have hung from the bit, in which position they to a certain extent prevented the horse from grazing while caparisoned, and, according to some trainers whom I have consulted, prevented the animal kicking. Both these articles were found in the neighbourhood of Castlerea, the one at Creggane, and the other at Clooncunra. It will be in the recollection of the Academy that I recently presented another specimen found at Emlagh, in the same locality (see No. 173, described at p. 19).

"On the part of Joseph H. Smith, Esq.—A very rare and curious iron small-sword, No. 142 on Tray G, now 16 inches long, remarkable for the blade being composed of barred open-work for about 6 inches; it was found at Dunshaughlin, and is alluded to in the 'Proceedings,' vol. i., p. 420, in 1840, when it was exhibited to the Academy.

“From Arthur A. Nugent, Esq.—The upper stone of a quern, No. 36 on the ground floor, beneath the south-western staircase. It is 12 inches in diameter, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ deep, was found in a bog near Portaferry, and presents a unique form of ornamentation, being grooved like a melon.

“On my own part I present a collection of sixteen articles, viz., six stone celts of different sizes and shapes, but all capable of being classed under some of the heads under which the other celts in the Museum have been arranged and numbered, in continuity with which the first of these will form No. 521. They vary in length from 4 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and some of them are remarkable for the sharpness as well as the wave-line of the cutting edge. They were all found in the bed of the Shannon.

“Examined by Mr. Haughton, their composition is as follows:—No. 521, fine-grained syenite; No. 522, syenitic slate, probably metamorphic; from the northern or central districts. No. 523, mica slate; No. 524, clay ironstone; from a colliery district. No. 525, fine-grained white sandstone; and No. 526, sandstone, containing specks of green silicate of iron; probably derived from the Connaught side of the river.

“No. 21.—A dagger-shaped stone, sharp at both ends, similar to those weapons already described at page 34 of the ‘Catalogue.’ Like most of those we already possess, ‘it was taken up in the bucket of the dredger from the bottom of the Shannon above the new bridge at Athlone, opposite Northgate.’ It is about 12 inches long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide in the broadest part, and is composed of hornblende slate.

“No. 270, the blade of a bronze dagger; of the broad shape, 9 inches long, and $1\frac{3}{4}$ broad at the base, with a detached metal-riveted handle, like those on Tray CC.

“No. 78, a very perfect iron spear-head, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, with the rivet remaining, and projecting a considerable distance beyond the outer surface of the socket, like Nos. 11 and 49 in the registration.

“No. 79, a rude fragment of another iron spear-head, 5 inches long.

“No. 80, a remarkable four-sided iron spear, or pike-head, of which there is a more modern specimen in the collection; it is about 22 inches in length, including a portion of the socket, which remains.

“No. 162, an iron knife-shaped sword, or skein, with a broad back, very perfect in the blade, which, with the tang, measures $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches. There are several similar specimens on Tray F. All these weapons are said to have been found in the Shannon.

“Nos. 526, 527, 528, and 529, are four bronze cloak-pins, which I procured many years ago in the southern islands of Aran. The first of these is, for its size and form, one of the most elegant specimens of casting in the Academy’s collection.

“No. 21, an iron key of antique shape, and probably of the sixteenth century; in a very good state of preservation.

“No. 158, a portion of an antique wooden chair, containing two mortices. The ornamental circular knobs have more the appearance of being carved than turned. It also was found in the bed of the Shannon.”

Parke Neville, Esq., presented a small bronze pin with a movable looped head, found in Upper Exchange-street, at a depth of eighteen feet below the surface of the ground.