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Carltonian Coins

Vicar of South

J. F. Campbell with the warmest respects.

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Howth
May 14 1872

My dear Sir
Your kind letter of the
3rd has duly reached me
I am much obliged for your
invitation but regret that there
is but little chance of my going
to London to avail myself of
your generous hospitality. An opportunity
should I ever have again to
be in London I hope to have
pleasure in seeing you there —
I suppose by this time you have
exhausted Sir John's pedigree
& would think that our Hibernian
authorities will appear
to you more satisfactory

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As being certainly older than
you can find elsewhere I
send you reference OSS Socy
Vol 4. and I think the pedigree
then given is the same as I
sent you - except that I jotted
down some relatives to it.

Hemmesy told me he wrote
to you about the pedigree you
enclosed me. I regret very
much that he is not this
year working for Lord Cornwall
this is why that amount of
his ability should not be kept
at one old MSS. I trust the
pensioner spirit that he is,

J. F. Campbell with the warmest respects.

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got into that department will be soon
elucidated by the exertions of
all who are interested in Gaelic
literature. As there is no time
to be lost in developing it -
I send you with this two papers
which may interest you. I am
bending up the history of Dubh
-tach Mac Na Lugaic. I presume
I have found his "tomb stone" &
may call the bilingual letter-
such. His great grand father lived
in sight of the locality William
Cornac. This day I have been
on investigation one finds these
old documents to doctail into each
other. which is I am sure not
justification. I trust you are quite
well as there any probability of
your coming to Ireland this
Summer for fresh investigations? I
must close with many thanks,
for your kind offer of help.

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Wishes you to remain
very truly yours
John T. Shannan

Saw Hennezy lately he is quite
well.

S. F. Campbell with the writer best respects.

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DISCOVERY
OF
CARLOVINGIAN COINS
AT MULLABODEN, BALLYMORE EUSTACE.

BY THE REV. J. F. SHEARMAN,
Curate of Howth, Co. Dublin.

From the "Journal" of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland.

“ In the first week of March, 1871, some excavations were made in the pleasure-grounds at the residence of Mr. Hoffman, at Mullaboden, county Kildare. During the operations, some graves, made after the fashion of pagan kistvaens, were discovered, the sides and ends being built of uncemented stones, &c. In these were found, with the coins, human remains, a flint hatchet or arrow-head, and a small bronze pin, with a ring at the top, in the usual style of these articles. This pin, which I have seen, is not of a very artistic character. The arrow-head, which I did not see, is rather an unusual article to be found with the remains of a more recent date. It may not have been originally placed with the pin and coins. Its being found with them may be accounted for in this way, that at Mullaboden there were remains of a more ancient period than that connected with the deposition of the coins and pin. Even Christian burials were sometimes made in pagan tumuli. A curious instance of this is recorded in the ‘Annals of Lough Cé,’ edited by William M. Hennessey, Esq.:—‘A. D. 1581: Brian Caech O’Coinnegain, an eminent cleric, and keeper of a general house of guests, died; and the place of sepulture which he selected for himself was, *i.e.*, to be buried at the mound of Baile-an-tobair,’ &c., &c. I have been unable to discover anything of the ancient history of this locality; but as it lies near one of the great fords or passes over the River Liffey, these coins may

have been deposited in the graves of the Danes who fell in some local conflict, of which the historical details are either lost, or not as yet identified—if, indeed, they were ever recorded. It is a curious fact that, even in our own times, small coins are cast into the new-made grave when the coffin is deposited in it, in some localities, by our own countrymen, as also by the Scotch, who seem to have received that custom from the Scandinavians. Within the last two years, at the funeral of a fisherman from the Isle of Skye, who was buried in the cemetery at the old collegiate church of Howth, his countrymen carried out the above-named custom, which evidently reaches back to the time of paganism, and which was, most probably, in vogue with the Danes who infested these shores in the eighth and ninth centuries. In the year 999 the Danes of Leinster got a signal defeat at Glenmama, on the boundaries of the parishes of Dunlavan, Cryhelp, and Tubber, about four miles to the south of Mullaboden. They were pursued by the victorious Brian and Maelsechlan from Glenmama to the Liffey. A party of the Danes fled from the scene of defeat through Glenvegiha, and some of them were, it is said, engulfed in a quagmire at Moinavantry, in the direction of Mullaboden. Some of them crossed the ford at 'the Brook of Dunode,' which debouches into the Liffey (vide Dr. Todd's 'Wars of the Gaedhil with the Gall,' Introduction, p. cxliv., note 3). However this may be, it is useless to speculate further in the absence of more definite information. As far as I could learn, eleven silver coins were found. It is probable that a greater number were got, but those who discovered them most likely kept their own secret, as the 'crock of money' was much spoken of among the people. Of these eleven, I have three coins. Mr. Henry Copeland, of Ballymore Eustace, who has kindly recorded for me the information I here give, has five. The others, which I have not seen, were given to Mr. Hoffman, and one to Mr. Latouche, of Harristown. The impressions of these coins, taken in tinfoil, which accompany this paper, will give a better idea of them than can be had from any written description. They are made from the originals, and are, consequently, fac-similes:—

"1.—No. 1 weighs 29 grains. Obverse: Legend, ✚ CARLVS REX FR(ancorum). Reverse: METVLO. In the centre is a kind of cross, to the arms of which are insinuated letters, forming a curious kind of monogram, reading KROLS, which stands for CAROLVS. The s is so arranged as to form the letter v in one of the loops. This is a denar of Charlemagne, who was King of the Franks from 769, and Emperor from 875–877. Metullo is the name of the city in which it was minted, which was Melle, a city in Poitou. This coin is described and engraved in 'Reichel,' Vol. VII., No. 102.

"2.—No. 2. A denar of Pipin, King of Aquitaine, A. D. 817–838. Obverse: ✚ PIPINVS REX EQ. (for Aquitaniæ). Reverse: ✚ METVLO, with a cross in the centre like that on the preceding coin, with letters arranged about it, reading PIPINVS. This coin also weighs 29 grains, is rare, and is to be found described in 'Le Blanc Mon. de France,' p. 105, fig. 3.

"3.—No. 3 weighs 29 grains; is a denar of Louis le Debonnaire. Obverse: ✚ HLVDVVIGVS IMP(erator). Reverse has the name of the place of issue, and reads, $\begin{matrix} \text{META} \\ \cdot \\ \text{IIVM} \end{matrix}$ in two lines, with a pellet over the v.

It was struck at Melle, in Poitou. Louis le Debonnaire, or 'the Pious,' reigned from A. D. 814-840.

" 4.—No. 4 weighs 29 grains. Denar of the time of Louis le Debonnaire, A. D. 814-840. Obverse: ✚ HLVDOVICVS IMP. Reverse: ✚ XPSTIANA RELIGIO. In the centre is the façade of a basilica in the classical style, with a small cross patée at each side. There is also one in the space between the pillars supporting the pediment. The style in which this coin is struck is much bolder than No. 5, which is the poorest in execution of the whole find.

" 5.—No. 5. Weight, 29 grains. Obverse: The same as No. 4. The letters are more attenuated. In centre is a cross, with pellets in each angle. Reverse: The same legend as preceding coin, with a basilica in the centre, with a cross between the pillars. There are no crosses at the sides. This is also a denar of the time of Louis le Debonnaire, 814-840.

" These coins represent the varieties which came under my observation. The three others were, I have learned, of the same description. I am not aware of any other find of Carolingian coins in Ireland. A gold coin of the Merovingian dynasty, found near Maryborough, Queen's County, is engraved in Vol. IV., page 246, of our 'Journal.' A considerable number of the coins of Charles the Bald, A. D. 857-877, were found in England, with Anglo-Saxon coins of the same period. They most probably formed part of the dower of the Princess Judith, wife of Ethelred I., King of the Anglo-Saxons, 866-871. These coins may have reached this country through the ordinary channels of commerce, and circulated through the Danish and native population; but it is, nevertheless, a curious fact, that donations for charitable purposes were sent to Ireland by the Emperor Charlemagne. In the epistle of the famous Alcuin to Colgu 'the Wise,' the Lector or Moderator of Clonmacheois, who died, according to the annals of that celebrated monastery, A. D. 791, he writes:—' Misi quoque quinquaginta siclos fratribus de eleemosyna Caroli Regis (obsecro ut pro oretis) et de meâ eleemosyna quinquaginta siclos: et australes fratres Balthuminega triginta siclos de eleemosyna Regis et triginta de eleemosyna mea et viginti siclos de eleemosyna Patrisfamilie Ariedæ et viginti de eleemosyna mea et per singulos anachoretas tres siclos de puro argento, ut illi omnes orent pro me et pro Domino Rege Carolo,' &c., &c.—*Vide* Colgan, 'Acta SS.,' p. 379, xx Februarii. The learned Colgan tells us that Colgu was of the Hy Dunchada. He, unfortunately—or rather the authority he quotes—does not say to which of the Hy Dunchada Colgu belonged. The territory of the Leinster Hy-Dunchada was situated in the neighbourhood of Mullaboden. It embraced the south-west portion of the county Dublin, and extended into a part of Kildare and Wicklow. The Ossory Hy Dunchada branched off from the parent stem—the Dal Birn of Ossory—toward the close of the ninth century. Colgan suggests an identification of *Balthuminega* as in his text, but in his note printed *Baldhunnega*, with either Kilkenny or Acadhboe—both foundations of St. Canice, the patron of Ossory. He says that an error of transcription must have occurred, and seems to think the original spelling was *Baille-Chunnigh*, which, if it were so, would indeed be of great interest to the members of our Association, and especially to those who are natives of the 'faire citie' itself. As the period of Louis le Debonnaire is later than either Colgu or Alcuin, who died May 19, 804, another suggestion occurs to me, which is, that Louis d'Outrémer, A. D. 936, may have been for some time a fugitive in Ireland with

his mother, Elgyfu, or Ogiva, who fled, with her infant son, to her father, Ethelred, in England, to avoid the persecutions of her brothers-in law, Carloman and Louis, successively Emperors of the Franks. If it be true, as some writers say, that she came to Ireland, she only acted on the precedent given by Dagobert II., who was tonsured by Didon, Bishop of Poitiers, by order of Grimoald, Mayor of the Palace, who then sent him into exile in Scotia. Irish traditions maintain that he was educated in the monastery of Slane, on the Boyne. He returned to France A. D. 670, and fell there by the hand of an assassin seven years after. The annexed table will show the descent of the personages whose coins are here described :—











