

5. *Narrative of Human Remains, a Comb, &c. which were dug out of the Burgh (or circular fort) of Burgar, in the parish of Evie, Orkney.—Communicated by A. PETERKIN, Esq. in a letter to DR HIBBERT, of which the following is an abstract:—*

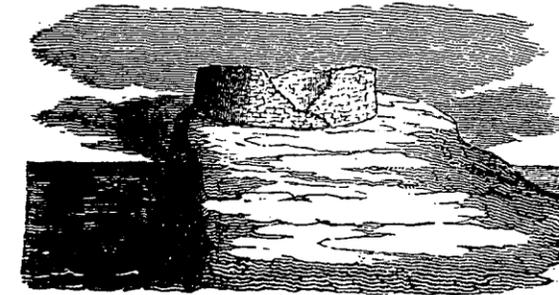
*Newington, 31st March 1825.*

DEAR SIR,—I send herewith the fragments of a human skull and a comb, which were lately dug out of a Pict's house at Burgar, in the parish of Evie, Orkney. I tried, several years ago, along with some friends, to explore it; but as the country people are very averse to the opening of these remains of antiquity (being generally satisfied with carrying off the useful materials of the outer walls) we could not easily get assistance, and were soon tired of the personal labour which was requisite before our curiosity could be gratified. The clergyman's son of the parish, however, lately renewed the task of exploring it; and, after digging out the earth and rubbish in an opening on the top of the ruin, he found a human skeleton, a comb of very antique fashion (*See Plate 5, Fig. 3*) and part of a deer's horn. He took out the fragments of the head, and re-interred the rest of the bones. I now send you all that he kept out, for the inspection of the Antiquarian Society.

Although the upper part of the skull be separated into two parts, you will observe, on joining them together, that it is of a very singular conformation. The extreme lowness of the forehead, and length backward, present a peculiarity which may be interesting to phrenologists.

It was my intention, some weeks ago, with the permission of Mr Gordon of Outer

Evie (on whose property the Brough of Burgar is situate) to have explored it still farther; but the weather being unfavourable while I remained in that quarter, it could not be done. Mr Gordon, however, intends to do it; and I shall be able, perhaps in the course of the ensuing summer, to communicate the result to you. In the meantime I send you a rude sketch of the ruin whence the relics were taken.



It is the most perfect, although not the largest of those in that neighbourhood; there is about twelve feet in height of the wall now standing. There are three more in similar situations on the shores of Evie. Several barrows also occur in the neighbourhood, in which, I have no doubt, urns will be found when opened. A few years ago, the urns which were in some of those opened were broken by the carelessness of the workmen; but care will now be taken to preserve any which may be discovered.