

A Fence of Old Scotch Swords.

That the swords of his gallant adherents who fell on Drumossie Moor should be found by a descendant of his hereditary enemy of Argyll in a fence at Twickenham is certainly a very singular circumstance. In his pamphlet, "Notes on Swords from the Battlefield of Culloden," (C. J. Clark.) Lord Archibald Campbell gives an account of his discovery, with some notes on the blades, and on Andrea Ferrara. Some years ago Lord Archibald, whose knowledge of dirks and claymores is extensive, heard that there existed such a fence of steel. Years passed again, and then he found the fence in a back yard at Richmond. It is described by the Rev. R. S. Corbett in his "Memorials of Twickenham." Twickenham House belonged to Dr. Johnson's very unclubbable" Sir John Hawkins. The next information came from Mr. Edward Ross, the famous rifle shot, who had seen the hedge of blades in situ. They were said by Dr. Diamond to have been made into the fence of a flower garden by a Lord Tweeddale.

When Lord Archibald secured these heroic relics, he found that six inches had been broken from the point of each blade, while the tang of the hilt end had also been shortened. They were welded into two horizontal iron bars. The paint which covered them has preserved the metal so well that they are as good as on the day when they were first forged. There are five kinds of swords—(1) a broad, double-edged blade with a heavy centre rib, ("a heavy small sword";) (2) a broad-backed sword with a single cutting edge. These are often stamped with a fleur de lys, and, we presume, came over with Fitzjames's horse, or from other French sources, but some are of English make. (3) There are small-swords, some without groove, the rib rising in the centre. Andrea Ferrara's name is on the short groove of other small-swords, a thing very unusual. (4) There are Highland broadswords proper, with one, two, or three grooves or flutings. Andrea's name is in the grooves. (5) There are a few Hanoverian swords; two bear a crowned G. R.—The Saturday Review.