

think it more probable that they were like the Norse locks than the Chinese. I enclose a rough tracing of a scale drawing of the Chinese lock which will render its construction more intelligible.

I must apologise for such a lengthy communication, but I am very much interested in these matters and scarcely know when to stop when I once begin

I remain

yrs. v. truly

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(L94)

Dear Sir

I have today despatched the shades and hope they will arrive safely. The one with the wedge driven in for the foot to rest on came from the I. of Colonsay; it is called a "ceaba" and an illustration of it appears in the Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot. vol 5 p 113 also in Drummond's Scottish Arms. The other shade with the peg projecting at right angles to the shaft, for the foot to rest on came from Shetland but I have never seen any drawings of similar ones published. In Caedmon's paraphrase of the scriptures (see Archaeologia vol 24) a man is shown digging with a "ceaba"

so that this was probably the usual form of spade employed in England in the 10th cent. In the sculptures on Lincoln Cath. is also a similar spade. The hand plough I got in the I. of Skye and was in use at the time; it does its work well and is quite adapted for the soil. The local name for it is a "caschnon" (see Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot. vol 3 p 463 and Drummond's Scottish Arms)

There is a curious form of implement used in Shetland for cutting the strips of turf which are employed for roofing instead of thatch

see sketch...

but I have not got a specimen



The Chinese lock is opened by inserting the key with the T shaped end in a vertical plane; it is then pushed forward and when it has got through the thickness of the door and lockcase the T shaped end is turned round thus bringing it into the horizontal plane; it is then pulled back a little so as to catch under the notches of the tumblers and these are lifted by raising the key.

The method of using the key is exactly similar to the case of the horse lock except that it lifts tumblers instead of depressing the ends of a spring. The fact of no Saxon lock-cases being found with the keys would go to show that they ^{cases} were made of wood or some perishable material. I should