

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. very truly

J. Romilly Allen.

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(L94)

Dear Sir

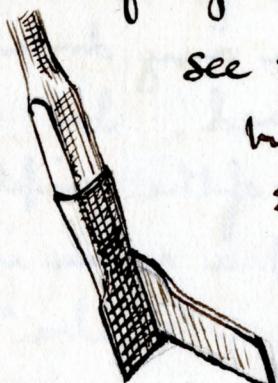
I have today despatched  
the spades and hope they will  
arrive safely. The one with the  
wedge driven in for the foot to  
rest on came from the I. of  
Colonsay; it is called a "ceaba"  
and an illustration of it appears  
in the Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.  
vol 5 p 113 also in Drummond's  
Scottish Arms. The other spade  
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  
Cædmon'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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 "caschorn" (see Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot. vol 3 p 463 and Drummonds 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 lock case 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 were made of wood or some perishable material. I should