

3. *Account of a large Tumulus or Barrow, near the west coast of the peninsula of Cantyre.—Communicated by A. SETON, Esq.*

This tumulus is situated on the west coast, about a quarter of a mile south-east from Maharehennish bay. It occurs upon the estate of Mr M'Neil of Uggadale, adjoining to the road leading from Campbeltown to Ballenahoolly inn. It appears to have been raised upon a substratum of sand, a few feet in height, and about 100 yards wide, which had either been formed by nature, or thrown up artificially. The circumference of the tumulus itself was about half as much as the mound upon which it reposed, and it was 12 or 15 feet high. Previous to the tumulus being opened, information was given of some large stones which were said to have formerly stood on the north of it. The basis of the tumulus itself was also found to be sand, upon which was raised a tomb, covered by a cairn 8 feet in height, and an outer coating amounting to near 200 cart loads of sand, earth, and turf.

In the cairn, 5 or 6 feet from the top, were found many bones, and the teeth of horses and cows, in a state of decay. There was also discovered a piece of red Lancashire or Westmoreland iron ore or hematites, worn flat on the sides, apparently by having been rubbed upon some other substance.

At the bottom of the cairn, the workmen struck upon a whin stone of great magnitude, lying north-east and south-west, and being in a direct line with the stones which were said to have once stood outside at the north of the tumulus. This tomb-stone was fourteen inches thick at the centre, and ten or twelve inches at the edges; it was full five feet long, by four feet broad, and bore no marks of tools upon it. It had stood upon four other stones, viz. two side ones and two end ones. The side ones, which were placed on edge, were of great magnitude, being near a yard in depth. All these, except the eastward side stone, had sunk much from their original perpendicular position. The northward end stone had fallen inward, flat down. There was no stone flooring, but loose sand only, which formed the bottom of this sepulchral coffer. The interior was found to contain only some bones of the lower limbs and arms of an adult. There were no skull nor vertebræ to be seen. Along with the bones, we discovered a small portion of a substance like the leaves of a plant, blackish or dark grey, which crumbled to dust upon being handled. A great part of the stones were supposed to have been brought from the shore, as well as from the bed of the adjoining small river, Maharehennish, which runs into the bay of the same name. It may be mentioned, that there is a tradition of battles having been fought on the plain of Maharehennish. Many fragments of bones have been found near the surface of the ground. A mile or two westward, near the shore, other *tumuli* are to be seen, which are of smaller dimensions; and two miles east, on Arras Moss, was found a stone hatchet or battle-axe.