

I.

AN ACCOUNT OF TWO BARROWS AT SPOTTISWOOD, BERWICKSHIRE,
OPENED BY THE LADY JOHN SCOTT. COMMUNICATED BY PROFESSOR
J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D., F.S.A. SCOT. (PLATE IX.)

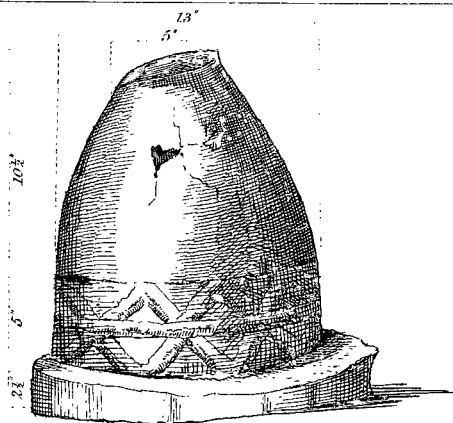
There had at one time been a cairn on Clacharie, though not since I can remember, but the remains of it were visible, from its site never having been cultivated. The name, "Clacharie," in Celtic signifying "Stones of Judgment," incited us to dig there, which we did for the first time last November 1863. We trenched into the ground from east to west, and then took a cross trench from north to south. At the south-east side of the place, about a foot and a-half below the surface, and standing on the till or natural soil, we came to three stone cists; the first was covered with three flat stones, two laid side by side, and one as a band stone over them. The cist was built with five upright stones, and a flat stone laid at its base. The stones were all whinstone. The cist, about a foot and a-half deep, nearly filled, first with black ashes and charred wood, and then with a quantity of bones, apparently some of them human, and some of birds and animals, all broken small, but not burnt. Two feet north-west of the first cist we came on a second, similar in appearance, but when the flat, coarse stone was taken off, we found it filled up with fine gravel; and on taking out some of this, we found an urn of sun-dried clay, shaped like a cone, with the top flat. A moulding round the lower part, of a fine bold pattern. The urn rested

on a hexagonal stone, not freestone, but much whiter than any other stone we came upon. The depth of the stone on which the urn rested is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; that of the moulding 5 inches; from the top of the moulding $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the summit of the urn. The urn, which was in an inverted position, is 5 inches in diameter at the base, and 13 inches diameter at the mouth; on lifting it from the stone, we found it filled up to two-thirds of its height, first with a layer of burnt ashes and bits of charred wood; then with bones of different kinds, broken small. (See Plate IX.) Round the outside of this cist we found part of a circle of upright stones, some of them a foot, some not quite half a foot, in height from the ground.

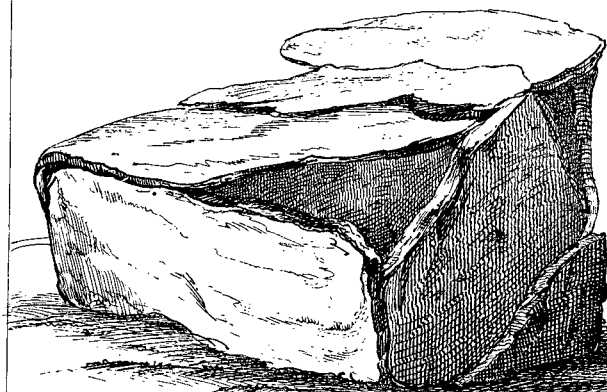
Exactly east from this cist, and about three feet distant, we came on a third, built against the end of a wall, which we found ran nearly round the inside of the cairn. This third cist was, like the first, full of black ashes and bones, without an urn.

The wall is built of large stones, and is about 2 feet broad, raised rather more than a foot and a-half from the ground, and in three places intersected by cross passages about 8 or 9 inches wide. The whole wall is built in an egg shape, and at the small end of the egg, on the north side of the cairn, we came on a cell or chimney, built with large stones, overlapping, so as to contract it towards the top till one flat stone covered it. It was egg-shaped like the wall, and filled with gravel. In it we found pieces of clay burnt red, and one cubical brick, also of red burnt clay. In three places, on the east and south side of the mound, we came on deposits of ashes and bones. In different parts we found two flint implements, several sling-stones (?), and three or four stone celts, and a stone (not flint) arrow or spear head. About fifty feet south-east of Clacharie, the ground rose a little, which impelled us to dig there. At two feet down we found a stone cist, apparently the same as those in the other mound, and with a flat stone laid on the top. We opened it, and went down fully five feet, coming to nothing but stones and gravel; then we came to a great deposit of black ashes, charred bits of wood, and sticky black matter, which filled the space to ten feet below the surface. All this had no stone to rest on like the contents of the other cists, but for nearly five feet in depth this excavation was filled with it. At about a foot below the surface, the whole of this mound was built over with

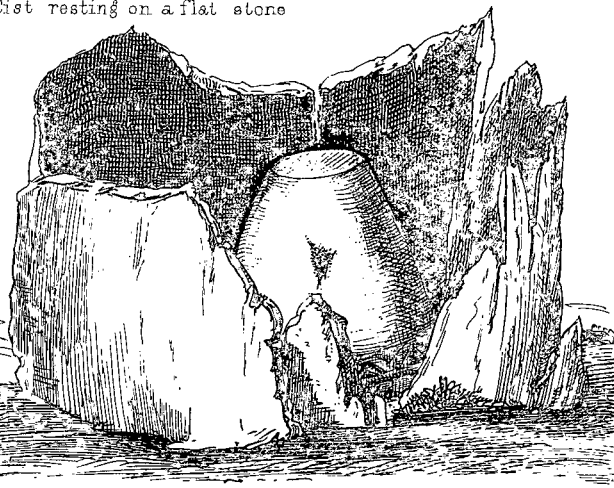
stones laid something like a causeway, and honey-combed with small open cists, about 8 inches across and 6 deep. We traced this building towards the north-east, and opened the ground about 40 feet distant, where we found a circular mass of the same kind of causewayed building, but without the little open cists. In this third place we found some scattered ashes and bones at about the depth of three feet below the surface of the ground.



Clay Urn inverted from 2nd Cist resting on a flat stone



1ST CIST
Full of bones & charred ashes.



2ND CIST
Full of dried earth, two-thirds full of charred ashes & bones.