

## VI.

NOTE ON AN ARTIFICIAL ISLAND AND ANCIENT CANOE FOUND IN DRAINING A LOCH NEAR TOBERMORY, MULL. IN A LETTER TO JOHN STUART, LL.D., SECRETARY. BY FARQUHARD CAMPBELL, ESQ. OF AROS, MULL.

The loch called *Na Mial*, in English *Of Deer*, is about a mile south of Tobermory, and about 150 feet above the level of the sea, and 50 acres in extent. There was in the loch one of the artificial islands which are found in almost all the lochs of Mull. I drained the loch, which was only about 6 feet deep of water, by blasting a passage through whinstone rock 20 feet deep. The mud under the water is of great depth. Of course, we had to make deep drains round the loch, to catch the water. On coming with the drain to the edge of the loch opposite this island a large canoe was found 4 feet under the surface of the mud. The canoe was of black oak, 17 feet in length, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet beam, quite fresh and sound. Several canoes of a smaller size were also found, but near the surface of the mud, and in a half decayed state. Three boats, of modern *clinker-built* construction, of whose history none of the natives had any knowledge, were also found. I had the large canoe dug out of the mud, and put into the sea, in order that, being saturated with salt water, it might be preserved from cracking. There is another loch on my property which has two of these artificial islands. The loch is large---about 1500 acres. I may also mention that, close to the site of the large canoe, I found *a stone causeway laid upon oak trees*. This was at the same depth under the surface of the mud (viz., about 4 feet). This causeway led direct to the artificial island, which was formed of a quantity of loose stones, on the only rock near the surface of the water in the whole loch.

I converted this loch into a beautiful hay meadow, and it now gives me large crops of hay, and grazes a number of sheep in winter.