

## IX.

NOTE ON ARROW-HEAD OF "CORRIGIL" PITCHSTONE. By  
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This interesting specimen was found, along with a portion of a flint knife, in the Corrigil district of Arran. In connection with this find it may be well to recall the observation made by Robertson in his "Remarks made in a Tour through several of the Western Isles and West Coast of Scotland," 1768.<sup>1</sup>

"Arran—Elf Shot.—About half a mile to the north-east side of Kilbride there is an uncommon kind of rock. It is, upon comparing, the same in substance as that with which the ancient inhabitants tipped their arrows, many of which the natives even now frequently find in the island. They have an absurd and superstitious notion that they are shot by infernal spirits, and will affirm that they have stuck so fast in the shafts of their spades that it required much force to disengage them. They call this stone the Elf shot stone, supposing that it is from the cows receiving a wound by this stone that they become elf shot."

The arrow-head now presented to the Museum by Mr Cook, the finder, dissipates the doubts cast on the accuracy of Robertson's statement as to the use of pitchstone instead of flint in the making of arrow-heads<sup>2</sup> in Arran.

Professor Thomas H. Bryce and the writer are impressed with the fact that flakes of "Corrigil" pitchstone have invariably been found in all the cairn-burials in Arran and Bute. In some cases the distance being considerable from the source of supply the element of chance seems more improbable than that of design.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. of Antiq. Scot.*, vol. xxxii, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.