

3d, *Account of a Section made of the Vitrified Site of Dun Fion in Inverness-shire. By Sir George Mackenzie, Baronet, &c. Extract from a Letter dated Coull, September 1, 1825.*

I must now give you an account of what I saw at Dun Fion, which has been opened across by the direction of Mr Fraser of Lovat, who, with promptitude that does him much honour, complied with my request which I made on your suggestion. In the box you will find the relics, and the section will explain the appearances, some of which are not less interesting than puzzling.



The section extends about 100 feet from A to B. On the natural surface of the hill is diluvian gravel, &c. Above this we find charcoal and bones along the whole line, but not regularly disposed. Above this is a heap of stones of small size, chiefly sandstone; and from C to D, the west side, this heap is mixed with slags in a very curious manner. The melted matter appears to have run down amongst the stones in some places. Masses of the slag were turned out of the trench, of considerable size; and on some of them the marks of the wood used as fuel were distinct, as in the masses I have often seen on Knockfarril, from which I had removed the charcoal. At C there are some pretty large rounded stones, apparently built up to form a regular rampart. Nothing of the kind appears at D, where there is nothing but loose stones, evidently affected by heat, but very little vitrified. One thing appears quite certain, that the line of charcoal and bones has been deposited before the masses found above them. It appears to me likewise certain that the vitrification that is seen between C and B has been formed subsequently to the heap of stones being placed in its present position. This heap has been mixed with the sand from the hill, or rather brought with the stones from the rock, as they appear to have been taken from the surface; and the sand has been so much affected by heat, as to have assumed the appearance of mortar, for which it might be easily mistaken.

This fact seems to confirm the other, that the stones have been heaped up subse-

quently to the deposition of the bones, and of the charcoal with which the animals to which they belonged have been roasted. We must suppose, I think, that these stations had been used for signals, before it was found necessary to fortify them; at least we must suppose this of Dun Fion, because, had this hill been fortified in the first instance, we should not find the stones above the charcoal and bones.

The most interesting article which I found on digging a little on the outside of the rampart, was a piece of yellow flint. It is probable, from the general appearance of the surface, that the defences extended beyond the top of the hill to the eastward, where the bit of flint was found. This stone does not belong to this part of the country.

Another section of Dun Fion, at right angles to the one I have described, is in progress, but I do not expect it to throw any additional light on the subject.