

## II.

### NOTICE OF REMAINS NEAR PETERHEAD, IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. BY MR ALEXANDER MURRAY, NETHERMILL OF CRUDEN.

On the farm of Lunderton, Mr Logan tenant, in the parish of St Fergus, near Peterhead, is situated a mound which was formerly probably 20 feet in height, but in consequence of the tenant ploughing and harrowing over the mound (as it stands in a field of cultivated land), it is now not above 8 to 10 feet high. There is a similar and much higher mound in an adjoining field, unopened. I dug a trench diagonally through the mound in the direction of south-west to north-east, and then excavated the centre, in which I discovered a small chamber lying north and south, which I found had apparently been used as a living apartment, with the remains of a fireplace on the east side of the floor, which was covered with 3 inches deep of burned ashes of peat. There was a narrow passage or entrance at the south end of the mound, say 2 feet wide. The floor was simply formed of earth, with a good deal of bits of peat or "drush." I dug under the floor, but found the subsoil had not been disturbed. The apartment is about 8 feet wide and 12 feet long. In the area of the apartment I found no implements, &c., but boulders of stones and clay, which had been tumbled down from the sides. The sides now stand from 4 to 6 feet high, and are formed of a few rough boulders of stones and clay, or turf that may have been got on the sides of banks; but I could not trace anywhere such marks as would show that a spade had been used to dig the turf, &c. The north end of the apartment was partly formed of the natural subsoil or gravel that had been partially removed. The mound lies in a wet clay field, at the side of what had been a large loch; and

<sup>1</sup> The stone mould figured on page 383 has since been presented to the Museum.

the people had taken advantage of a naturally dry gravelly hillock to form their home. My impression is, that the walls had been built about 6 to 8 feet high, of such stones and turf as could be easily found, and the roof covered with brushwood, &c.; and after the place had ceased to be used as a habitation, the walls had been partially thrown down, and the whole place covered over with clay, &c., to a great depth, the mound having been formed over the original wall. From the size of the apartment and nature of the material, it did not appear to me that the roof could have been arched in from the sides. This mound is not above one mile from the old castles of Ravenscraig and Invernugie, and quite near to the large mound on the top of a hill called Gallowhill, beside Invernugie Castle.

In this parish, in a den or ravine at the west side of Stirlinghill, there are a great many small excavations on the sloping sides of the braes. They are round and from 6 to 8 feet in diameter. The entrance opened to the brae, which would let any water get out of the flow. There are frequently hillocks of chips of flint beside these places, and there is an abundant supply of peat and flint stones in the neighbourhood.