

II.

NOTICE OF AN 'EIRDE HOUSE' AT BOGFECHIL, PARISH OF UDNY. By
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Esq.

THIS subterranean abode of ancient times was discovered on August 13th, 1862, at Bogfechil, on the property of Alexander Milne, Esq., of Pitrichie, in the Parish of Udney, Aberdeenshire, by the tenant Mr Murray, while in search of a quarry for stones to form a road. It was situated on a small rising ground opposite Pitrichie House, was of a semi-circular form (or rather of a bent pear shape), with its two ends towards the west. One of the ends was larger than the other and rounded. From the round end to about 30 feet, it had been vaulted with an arch of a rude construction. This part of the roof had given way, but sufficient remained to show its construction. At the largest extremity it was 5 feet wide—from the surface of the ground to the

bottom 9 feet deep. From the middle to the other extremity it became narrower, and was covered with granite flags 5 feet in length, and 2 in breadth. The walls were built of rough field stones without any mortar.

This house is similar to one discovered in 1813, at Mill of Torry, in the other end of the parish, with this difference that there was none of it arched. It was entirely filled with the stones of the roof—earth—ashes of wood—and bones seemingly of cattle. There were some pieces of pottery found—pieces of flint—something resembling a pearl button—two parts of the upper and one of the nether pieces of a small hand mill. They are in Mr Murray's possession. The arched part being situated in the new road made for the farm has been entirely cleared out from the foundation ; but the other, covered with flags, remains untouched and unexplored.
