

I.

AN ACCOUNT OF EXCAVATIONS IN CAIRNS NEAR CRINAN. BY THE  
REV. WILLIAM GREENWELL, M.A., CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT. COMMUNI-  
CATED BY JOHN STUART, ESQ., SEC. S.A. SCOT. (PLATE XX.)

There is no part of Scotland which possesses more remains of interest,  
connected with its early inhabitants, than that district of Argyleshire

which borders upon the Crinan Loch, and is included within the parishes of Kilmartin and Kilmichael. The signs of early occupation are numerous, and it also appears to have been the centre round which the religious associations of the neighbouring people were drawn; for I cannot but regard the series of standing-stones, three of which still remain, as places of religious and perhaps political assembly. The very large number of cairns and other places of interment seem to point to some sacredness in this locality, just as, about the great circles of Avebury and Stonehenge, the barrows have gathered in more than ordinary numbers. Some persons, and amongst them many whose opinion is of great value, are, I am aware, in favour of the theory that all circles and standing-stones are nothing more than the distinguishing marks of places of burial; but to many of them I do not hesitate to attach a still more sacred use. It cannot be denied that burials are found associated with all, even the large circles and series of standing-stones; but this is nothing more than what has occurred in Christian times, when the dead were laid beside, and even within the church. At the same time, I am quite willing to grant that the smaller circles, which enclose one or more sepulchral deposits, in urns or cists, are nothing more than the fence which made sacred the space within, and that they answer to the ring of stones<sup>1</sup> or earth, which so often encircles a tumulus. Nor do I deny that many standing-stones are simple memorials of the person who lies buried beside or beneath them.

As I have said above, three series of standing-stones still remain in this district, and in each case the series consists of seven stones. One series, upon Largie farm, about a mile south of Kilmartin, has upon two of the stones a great number of the small pits which are found so often associated with the concentric circles. In one case a pit is surrounded

<sup>1</sup> It has been conjectured that the circle of stones round the base of a tumulus is merely placed there to support the sides. This view is, however, quite untenable. In many instances circles are found within the tumulus, whilst, as at Kilmartin (see p. 339), two are sometimes placed closely parallel to each other. In other cases this circle is not close to the base of the tumulus, but some little space apart from it, and therefore could not be intended as a support to it. The intention had doubtless a deeper significance than this, and they were either sacred fences or possessed some symbolical meaning.

by an incomplete circle, and has a duct leading from it. The stone upon which this circle is engraved has about thirty of the pits, and four smaller stones are set round it near the base, whilst close to it is the remains of a sepulchral cist. The second series, near Ballymenach, about three miles from Kilmartin, has four stones upon which the pits are engraved, several of which have a circle round them, and a duct. One of the stones, which has upon its east face several pits, has also a large circular hole cut through it, near the base, of a similar shape to that which exists in one of the stones at Stennis, and also upon other standing-stones in Scotland, England, Ireland, and many other parts of the world. Places of interment are connected with this series of standing-stones, which will be noticed more particularly hereafter. The third series is near Kilmichael, but no pits or circles are found upon the stones which compose it.

The same locality has already produced four rocks, profusely covered with the enigmatical circular markings; and it is probable that many others exist, now covered with turf. As it is not the object of this paper to do more than give a record of the examination of some of the sepulchral remains of the district, I will not enter further into the question of these marked rocks, which, I am glad to say, is at present engaging the attention of Professor Simpson.<sup>1</sup> A vitrified fort at Duntroon, though a good deal destroyed, has still sufficient remains left to show its peculiar character; and the neighbourhood affords some specimens of small fortified places, half camp, half burgh.

The places of interment, in the shape of cairns, circles of stones or of earth, and cists, placed below the surface of the ground, without any mound over them, are very numerous. Most of the cairns have been

<sup>1</sup> An account of all the circular-marked stones and rocks in Northumberland, with very accurate engravings, on a small scale, has just been published by Mr George Tate, F.G.S., in the Transactions of the Berwickshire Club; it is also issued in a separate form. Most careful and beautiful lithographed plates of the Northumberland circular markings, with a selection from those found in other parts of the United Kingdom, drawn full-size, were in preparation by the Rev. J. C. Bruce, LL.D., the learned author of the "Roman Wall," under the auspices of the late Duke of Northumberland. May we hope that the liberal patronage of his predecessor will be extended by the present Duke to so magnificent and valuable a work?

wholly, or in part, destroyed, many of them about forty years ago, when very considerable agricultural improvements took place; but many still remain, a few of which I examined during the autumn of 1864; and of these I propose to give a detailed account in this paper.

The first which I examined is situated upon the glebe land of Kilmartin, about one hundred yards west of the church, on the haugh, by a tributary of the River Add. It was opened to the centre on October 3d and following days, a partial opening having been made July 12th. It is made entirely of stones, the greater part of which are such rolled stones as are found upon the land, whilst every here and there were slabs of chlorite schist, which had apparently been taken from a neighbouring rock. The cairn is 110 feet in diameter, and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The examination was commenced on the south-west side, when, about 8 feet from the outside, some stones were found standing upright and apart. This proved to be a portion of one of a double circle of stones which was enclosed within the cairn. The inner of these parallel circles was 27 feet in diameter, the outer one being 37 feet, the two thus standing about 5 feet apart, and the outer circle was about 16 feet from the centre of the cairn. The stones which composed these circles were about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide, and stood from 3 feet to 5 feet apart, except for a space towards the centre of the cairn, where, in both circles, four stones were found placed close together;<sup>1</sup> whilst another portion, a few feet distant from these four stones, had the space between two upright stones filled in by a wall of smaller stones placed flat. In the centre, within the circles, was a cist made of four slabs of schist set on edge, with a cover of the same stone. The cist, which lay N.E. by S.W., was 3 feet 5 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches wide, and 21 inches deep. It was

<sup>1</sup> This is not an unusual feature in circles which enclose burials; in fact it is, in one shape or other, an almost universal one. The object seems to be to make the circle incomplete. In cases where the circle is made of stones standing apart, and whether it surrounds a tumulus or burials without any mound, or is enclosed within a tumulus, it has usually one or more spaces between two of the stones filled up, either by one stone or more. Where the circle is made of stones placed close together, or is formed of earth, then one or more openings occurs in it. Is this the same idea which is represented by the incomplete circles on the marked rocks, and by the penannular rings, which presents so marked a feature in the gold remains of the period?

half filled with river gravel, and contained an urn covered by the gravel, and a necklace of jet beads placed above the urn; all trace of the body, which had, there is no doubt, been an unburnt one, had disappeared.<sup>1</sup> The urn is  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter at the mouth, 9 inches at the middle, and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches at the bottom; and is 5 inches high, of a globular form, with a round bottom, and four pierced ears, apparently for suspension. It is completely covered with ornamentation, except on the bottom, and is a very beautiful specimen of this class of urn. The ornament upon this, as upon all the globular-shaped urns mentioned in this paper, is of the same character as that on the urn from the centre of this cairn, fig. 3, Plate XX.

The beads are twenty-eight in number, of which two are oblong,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, with six holes drilled through them lengthwise; three cylindrical; the rest being thin and rounded plates of various sizes, some of them not above  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter.

On reaching the centre of the cairn, the primary interment was found in a cist, formed by a hollow sunk in the surface of the ground, and lined with rounded boulders, and having a large slab of schist, 9 feet long by 4 feet 7 inches wide, for its cover. The cist, which lay exactly N.E. by S.W., was 7 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet wide, and 3 feet deep, and was filled to within about a foot of the cover with gravel. At the south-west end was a flat stone laid across the cist about a foot from the bottom, and upon this was a quantity of black unctuous matter and charcoal. About a foot from this stone, on the south-east side, and nine inches higher than it, was an urn, much broken and in part decayed, placed amongst the gravel. At the north-east end of the cist was a flat stone, similar to that at the opposite end. Upon it was a small, and below it a large quantity of dark unctuous matter. No trace of bone was found in

<sup>1</sup> When no remains of the bones are found, I feel satisfied that the interment has been by inhumation; and the very fact of the bones being absent would lead one to infer this, without taking into consideration the type of the urn, if such was present, which, however, would itself, as in this case, almost settle the question. Where the body has been burnt, the remains of the bones are always found, for burnt bones seem indestructible; at least in above one hundred cases which I have examined, I have invariably seen the bones in precisely the same condition as they were when they were deposited.

the cist; the body, or bodies—for it is probable, from the separate masses of unctuous matter, that more than one was interred—had gone entirely to decay, leaving no further trace than the dark substance which was found upon and under the flat stones. The urn is one of a type similar to many of the Irish urns, and is very characteristic of those which have been found with unburnt bodies, and sometimes with bronze daggers, in this part of Scotland. It is well made by the hand, of fine clay, and fairly baked, and is of a pale reddish-brown colour. It is 5 inches high, 7 inches wide at the mouth, and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the rib just below the mouth, and 3 inches at the bottom. It is very elaborately and tastefully ornamented over the whole surface in series of horizontal and diagonal lines, with a reticulated and scalloped pattern as well, the lines being apparently formed by the impression of a narrow piece of bone or hardwood divided into squares by the raised ribs, fig. 3, Plate XX.

A considerable portion of the cairn on the north and east sides was left untouched, and, judging from other cases, it is very probable that one or more cists still remain undiscovered.

October 7th, 8th, and 10th was spent in examining a large and very remarkable cairn at Largie farm, about 300 yards N.E. of one of the series of standing-stones. It is upon the property of John Malcolm, Esq. of Poltalloch, by whose permission, and most liberal assistance in providing labourers, the examination at this and all the other cairns was made. This cairn has originally been a very large one, having a diameter of 134 feet, but the greatest part had been removed many years ago, when the stones had been taken for making walls and drains. During this operation three cists were laid bare. The first, which is 41 feet from the centre, and on the south side of the cairn, is made of four slabs of schist, with a cover, and is 3 feet 8 inches long, 2 feet 8 inches wide, and 3 feet deep—the cover being 7 feet 4 inches long, by 3 feet 6 inches broad. Whatever it contained had been removed when the cist was laid bare, and it is now empty. The second one, on the north side, is 24 feet from the centre of the cairn, and consists of four slabs of schist, with a cover, and is 5 feet 4 inches long, 3 feet 1 inch wide, and 4 feet deep. When opened in the summer of 1864, it contained an urn, much decayed, but no remains of the body, which had, no doubt, been an unburnt one. The urn is of globular form,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches high,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches

wide at the mouth, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the middle. It is highly ornamented over the whole surface, except on the bottom.

The central cist, of very large proportions and most interesting structure, had been rifled in part when the removal of the cairn had laid it bare; so much, however, of its contents had been left undisturbed as to make it one of the most instructive places of sepulture I have ever seen. The cist is a long chamber, lying nearly due north and south. It has a length of above 19 feet, a breadth of about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  feet, and is about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height, the sides being made of very large slabs of chlorite schist, with portions of walling of smaller stones. It is covered with long slabs of the same stone. The south end is filled up by one slab of schist; whilst the north, which has been the entrance, is open, with two large upright stones placed transversely to the walls of the chamber, and forming a rude kind of portal.<sup>1</sup> It is divided into four compartments by three flat slabs placed across the chamber, each being 2 feet 7 inches high, and there was at the extreme south end an oblong stone resting upon two upright stones, one at each end, which crossed the chamber 2 feet 7 inches from the bottom. At a distance of 11 feet 6 inches from the north end, and 6 feet above the bottom, a long slab, 3 feet broad, crossed the chamber. I regard all these cross slabs as a provision made to prevent the collapsing of the sides when the large mass of stones, which formed the cairn, pressed against them. The position in which they are placed, relative to the side stones, and the apparent absence of any other purpose in the supported slab at the south end, and in that which crosses the chamber, 6 feet above the ground, seem to warrant this conclusion. At the same time, these transverse stones practically divide the chamber into four compartments, and in my description of the contents I will treat it in this way. To commence, then, at the south end. This compartment is 6 feet 8 inches long, and 3 feet 9 inches wide, having at the south the crossing stone, supported upon two pillars, mentioned above. This compartment, like all the rest, was filled to a certain extent with a considerable quantity of stones and rubbish, which had fallen or been thrown in through holes in the roof since

<sup>1</sup> There are five large slabs, besides walling, upon the east side; four, besides walling, upon the west side; one at the south end; and the two transverse ones at the entrance. The roof is formed by six slabs.

the mass of the cairn had been removed. On clearing this out we found a small cist placed in the south-east corner. This, which was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and 2 feet wide, was made of four stones, resting upon another flat one, and had once possessed a cover, which had been taken off, and which was lying by the side of the cist. We found nothing in it, the persons who first rifled the chamber having lifted the cover and thrown out the contents; but I think we may refer some unburnt bones and fragments of pottery, which were afterwards met with, to the burial in this small cist. On removing it we found beneath a layer of dark earthy matter, thickly interspersed with burnt bones; this layer spread throughout nearly the whole compartment. Just north of the small cist, and on a level with its bottom stone, was another flat slab, also covering burnt bones amongst dark mould. Down the centre of the compartment, running from south to north, was a pavement of small pebbles, very carefully laid down, about 9 inches wide, having at its south end one flat stone laid on the same level, and at the north end three smaller stones, also laid flat, thus forming a termination to each end of the pavement. Below this pavement was the layer of dark earthy matter already mentioned, and a few burnt bones, these becoming more thickly spread in the space between the pavement and the sides of the chamber; this dark layer was found to rest upon a second pavement of pebbles. Amongst the dark matter and burnt bones were great numbers of broken quartz pebbles,<sup>1</sup> one cow's tooth,<sup>2</sup> several fragments of flint, amongst which were two knives or scrapers,<sup>3</sup> a portion of a knife, three

<sup>1</sup> The number of quartz pebbles purposely broken was very great in this cist. The same has occurred elsewhere. They must have been placed there with some intention, and probably possessed a symbolic meaning. In other districts flint chippings are the usual accompaniments of interments, and it is possible that the flints and quartz pebbles had the same significance.

<sup>2</sup> Teeth of cows or oxen have been frequently found with burials, not apparently the remains of feasts, but placed, like flints, &c., with some symbolic meaning.

<sup>3</sup> The knife or scraper is the commonest implement which is found. It occurs by thousands in the North and East Riding of Yorkshire upon the surface of the ground, and is also the most frequent accompaniment of burials after cremation, having been sometimes burnt with the body, and sometimes placed amongst the burnt bones after they were collected. It is of various shapes, the most common



perfect and two broken barbed arrow-heads, very beautifully and delicately chipped, all being unburnt. On the west side of the small cist and lying upon the dark layer, was a single fragment of an urn, of which we found several other fragments in another compartment. To the north of the cist, and lying close to the side of the chamber, was an urn sadly broken and decayed, but of a very novel and peculiar type, both as regards its material and ornamentation, fig. 1, Plate XX. It has a round bottom, from the centre of which run shallow and narrow flutings reaching to the lip, which is broad and thick, and turns over with a convex surface, that also being fluted like the side. The ware is dark coloured, almost black, like some of the Anglo-Saxon pottery, well worked and thin, with no broken stone amongst the clay, but apparently with a good deal of sand worked into it. It is  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches high,  $12\frac{3}{8}$  inches wide at the mouth, the rim being  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide. From the way in which this urn was deposited amongst the undisturbed layer of dark earthy matter and burnt bones, I cannot hesitate to attribute it to the primary interment, novel as its type is, and though it partakes much more of a late than of an early character. The introduction of the secondary interment and of the small cist had probably caused it to be broken, but it had certainly been deposited as a whole vessel at the time when the layer of dark matter was placed in the chamber.

The next compartment is 4 feet long and 3 feet 9 inches wide. At the bottom of the rubbish which had fallen through the roof, and above the undisturbed deposit at the bottom, were numerous fragments of three urns, of one of which a portion was found in the last compartment. Of one of these sufficient is left to show the shape and style of ornamentation; of the other two there is just enough to show that they are of the same type, which is of the so-called "drinking cup" pattern. They are very well made by hand, of fine clay, well baked, and of a reddish-brown colour, and the ornament delicately and tastefully applied. This

being the round one, generally called a "thumb flint," and it varies in size from less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch to above 3 inches in diameter. Another common form is an oval one, sometimes rather pointed, which is the shape of those found at Largie farm; a rarer form approaches in shape to an unbarbed arrow-head. Its use is evidently to scrape hides and bone. Implements of flint, identical in form, are used for the same purpose by the Esquimaux at the present day.

consists of series of horizontal impressed lines running round the urn, alternating with similarly encircling impressions of saltires, the first made by a narrow piece of bone divided into squares by sunk lines, the other by the application of a sharp oval-ended piece of bone or wood  $\frac{3}{4}$ th inch long, impressed saltire-wise; below this is a plain band, and then impressed lines similar to those first mentioned, but having between them, in place of saltires, horizontal impressions made by the same instrument which made the saltires; below this a plain band, and then the first series repeated. The inside of the lip has an encircling row of the saltires between four lines of impressed thong, two on each side. These urns are of the type<sup>1</sup> which is always found with unburnt bodies, and I have no doubt that they had been originally deposited with such—one probably in the small cist, the other in different parts of the chamber, and associated with the secondary interments of which we found some remains nearer the entrance.

On reaching the bottom of this compartment there was found the same deposit of dark earthy matter, with burnt bones as in the last, and also, like it, resting upon a rough pavement of pebbles.

In the next compartment, which is 4 feet 6 inches long, we met with, amongst the rubbish which partially filled it, several bones of unburnt bodies, together with some animal bones of oxen, and a few fragments of a rudely-made, dark-coloured urn, without any pattern upon it. All these remains had evidently been removed from their original place of deposit, and thrown in amongst the rubbish. There was no layer of earthy matter, burnt bones, chippings of flint or quartz, or pebble pavement, at the bottom of this compartment, nor the slightest trace of any interment.

The outer compartment, which is 4 feet long and 3 feet 8 inches wide, had a wall of small flat stones built up on each side to a height of about 2 feet 7 inches, having a space 2 feet 2 inches wide in the centre. Amongst the rubbish which filled this space we came upon a considerable quantity of ox bones, and several unburnt human bones, amongst them

<sup>1</sup> An urn, almost identical in size, shape, and ornamentation with those in the Lergie farm chamber, was found with an unburnt body in a barrow on Roundway Hill, near Devizes, Wiltshire. There were also found, accompanying the body, a barbed flint arrow-head and a bronze dagger. The urn is figured in "Crania Britannica," plate xlii.

portions of three lower jaws. All these had certainly been displaced from their original position and been redeposited here, and were no doubt other portions of the secondary interments with which the urns of the "drinking cup" type had been deposited. Lower down were two pieces of flint, but no trace of a burial.

The features connected with this sepulchral chamber supply us with some valuable facts relative to the different modes of interment which were in use, it is most probable, at different periods. We learn from it that, in this part of Scotland, at all events, the earliest interments in the large megalithic chambers are of burnt bodies. The original and undisturbed layer, with burnt bones in it, at the bottom of the two most southern compartments—the only ones which contained any primary burials—proves this most distinctly. The examination of the similarly constructed chamber in a cairn at Kilchoan, by my friend the Rev. R. J. Mapleton, of which a detailed account is appended, has produced very strong corroborative evidence of this. The remains of unburnt bodies which were found in this chamber in the cairn at Largie farm, and also in that at Kilchoan, belong most unquestionably to a later, it may be to a considerably later, period than the deposits of burnt bones in the same chambers. These unburnt bodies belong most probably to the same period as that during which the corpse was frequently placed in a cist sunk below the surface of the ground, and where apparently no mound<sup>1</sup> was ever raised over it. With these interments were buried beautifully made urns, and in some cases bronze daggers, and of such cists numerous examples have been found in the district. This priority of cremation to burial by inhumation quite agrees with my experience in districts farther south; and though I do not doubt that there was a still earlier time than this of burning, during which the body was interred unburnt, I am

<sup>1</sup> I have known of so many instances where cists containing unburnt bodies, sunk below the surface, and having no perceptible mound over them, have been found in situations where the plough cannot have destroyed all trace of a mound, that I am persuaded a great number, perhaps the greatest number, of cist burials in the later period of bronze, were without barrows. Their number must be great, for very few out of those which no doubt exist, owing to there being no outward indication, are likely to have been discovered; and yet great numbers have turned up, principally through deep ploughing.

inclined to think that many of the instances, upon which Dr Wilson bases his theory of the megalithic chambers having been made by a people who buried their dead unburnt, would have turned out, if the examinations had been made with care, to have been, like that in question at Largie farm, the places of burial after cremation, and used in later times for the reception of unburnt bodies. The contents of this chamber enable us to trace either identity of race or the influence of intercourse between widely separated tribes, for the Largie farm cairn and a Wiltshire barrow have produced urns, the one almost a facsimile of the other; and though we may imagine that natural cleavage, and a want common to all races in the same stage of civilisation, might produce similar implements in flint, we cannot conceive such to hold good in productions showing design and artistic feeling, such as these urns exhibit. There must have been some common teaching other than that which nature bestows to give rise to articles manufactured like these.

October 14th was spent in examining a cist in a large cairn at Duncraig, the greater part of which had been previously opened by Mr Mapleton. I include both the examinations in one account. The cairn, which consists entirely of stones, is about 100 feet in diameter; what the height has been it is impossible to say, as the greater part had been removed long ago. In the centre was a cist, made of four slabs of schist, with a cover, 4 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet 6 inches wide, and 2 feet 6 inches deep, lying E.N.E. and W.S.W. Upon the cover stone was an unburnt body, gone almost entirely to decay, lying east and west. The cist was nearly filled with a mixture of clay, sand, and gravel, amongst which were calcined bones and charcoal, an urn, and a few flint chippings. Below the mixture was a pavement of flagstones, and under that, amongst clay, an unburnt body, doubled up, the head being to the N.E. The urn is of a globular form, 4 inches high,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide at the mouth, and  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the middle, and covered with ornament, except on the bottom.

About 22 feet east of this was a second cist, 1 foot 6 inches long, 1 foot 3 inches wide, and 1 foot 3 inches deep, lying N.E. by S.W., and partly filled with gravel. Upon the surface of the gravel was an urn, and amongst the gravel burnt bones, and a few flint chippings. The urn, of a globular form, is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches high,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide at the mouth,

and  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the middle, and is ornamented over the whole surface, including the bottom.

On the south side of the cairn, 27 feet from the outside, was a very large and remarkable cist. It consisted of a hollow made in the natural surface of the ground, and lined with rolled stones, which also rose above the surface. Upon these rested a large slab of chlorite schist, 14 feet long, 8 feet 4 inches broad, and 15 inches thick. The cist, which lay W.S.W. by E.N.E., was 7 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet 2 inches wide, and 3 feet 6 inches deep. On a pavement of flat stones at the west end was a deposit of dark earthy matter, which contained the remains of more than one burnt body; and under three of the flat stones, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the west end, was another deposit of burnt bones. About the middle of the cist, where the burnt bones had become less frequent, were some remains of an unburnt body much decayed, and possibly disturbed since it had been first deposited. Beyond the middle, and towards the east end, all trace of bone, either burnt or unburnt, was wanting, nor was there any signs that an interment had ever taken place at that end. No flint, quartz, or fragment of pottery was found in any part of the cist. It will be observed that in this cist, as in those at Largie farm and Kilchoan, the primary deposit had been of burnt bodies, to which had afterwards been added a burial by inhumation. It is true that in the central cist in this cairn, and which might, therefore, be regarded as the primary place of interment, the burial was by inhumation. Judging, however, from the size of the large and exterior cist, and the correspondence of its contents to those at Largie farm and Kilchoan, it is not improbable that this large cist had been the primary place of interment, and that the cairn had been added to it towards the north at a later period. Amongst the stones of which the cairn consisted were found at different spots a whetstone, a hatchet of greenstone 6 inches long and 3 inches broad at the cutting edge, a flint knife, and several fragments of pottery.

On October 15th a sepulchral circle at Ballymenach was examined. It is situated 140 yards south of one of the series of standing-stones, before mentioned—that which has one of its stones with a pierced circular hole in it, and several with pits and circles engraved upon them. The sepulchral circle consists of an earthen mound, with stones placed upon

it at intervals, having a ditch within it. It is 95 feet in diameter measuring to the outside of the mound, and 66 feet diameter within the ditch. Two opposite entrances<sup>1</sup> lead within the circle, on the east and west sides. A careful examination of the enclosed space disclosed two cists. One was south-east of the centre, and 29 feet from the exterior mound; it was formed of four side stones and a cover, and was 3 feet long, 1 foot 4 inches wide, and 1 foot 10 inches deep, and lay N.E. by S.W. At the bottom was some mixed sand and gravel, above which were the broken remains of an urn of the "drinking cup" type, and the remains of unburnt bodies, in the shape of the teeth of apparently three persons. The cover had been previously removed, when the urn was broken, and a considerable portion of it taken away. It is 7 inches high,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  wide at the mouth, and 5 inches at the swelling part above the base, fig. 2, Plate XX. It is ornamented with three lines running round it below the lip; under these are reversed triangles, those which point upwards filled with horizontal lines, the alternate ones pointing down being plain; below these are three encircling lines, then a plain space, then three encircling lines, and below them triangular spaces similar to those above, but having the series of horizontal lines in those spaces which point down. All the lines are made by the impression of a narrow piece of wood or bone divided into squares by thin grooves.<sup>2</sup> Near the centre was a much larger cist, 6 feet long, 2 feet 9 inches wide, and 2 feet 4 inches deep, the side stones of which were 9 feet long. It lay N.E. by S.W. A portion of the cover stones had been broken off at some former time, and an entrance effected, when no doubt the cist was rifled. The bottom had a few inches of gravel upon it, and above the gravel was a very regularly formed pavement of small rounded pebbles. Nothing whatever was found in the cist.

October 16th was spent in examining what was left of a partially destroyed cairn at Rudle, of which scarcely anything remained of that above the surface of the ground. Three cists were found below the surface, all upon the south-east side,<sup>3</sup> and of small size. One contained an

<sup>1</sup> See note, p. 338.

<sup>2</sup> I have an urn, almost identical in form and ornamentation, found near Rothbury, Northumberland, with an unburnt body.

<sup>3</sup> It may be laid down as a rule, that other interments than that in the centre of

urn, rudely formed, with no remains of the body. The urn is 6 inches high,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the mouth, and  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the bottom. It has a projecting rib  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the top, from which it gradually tapers to the bottom. The ornament is formed by vertical and horizontal lines of impressed thong.

A second, which had been opened before, contained a few portions of an unburnt body, some small fragments of a very rudely formed urn, and a "thumb flint," of the long type, fig. 4, Plate XX. The third cist, which had also been previously opened, contained nothing.

In concluding this notice of places of burial, which I either partially or wholly examined in person, I may also mention that, from time to time, several cists have been found in the same locality, over many of which no cairns seem ever to have been raised. These cists have been placed below the surface of the ground, and have generally been found to contain urns of a very superior make and style of ornamentation, in type much like that from the Kilmartin cairn, fig. 3, Plate XX.; in some instances these cists have contained a bronze dagger. The skeleton, or indeed any part of it, has very rarely been found, having gone entirely to decay, as is usually the case when a cairn of stones covers the interment. Where air and wet get such free admission as they do in cairns, the body decomposes much more rapidly than where a compact mass of earth covers it.

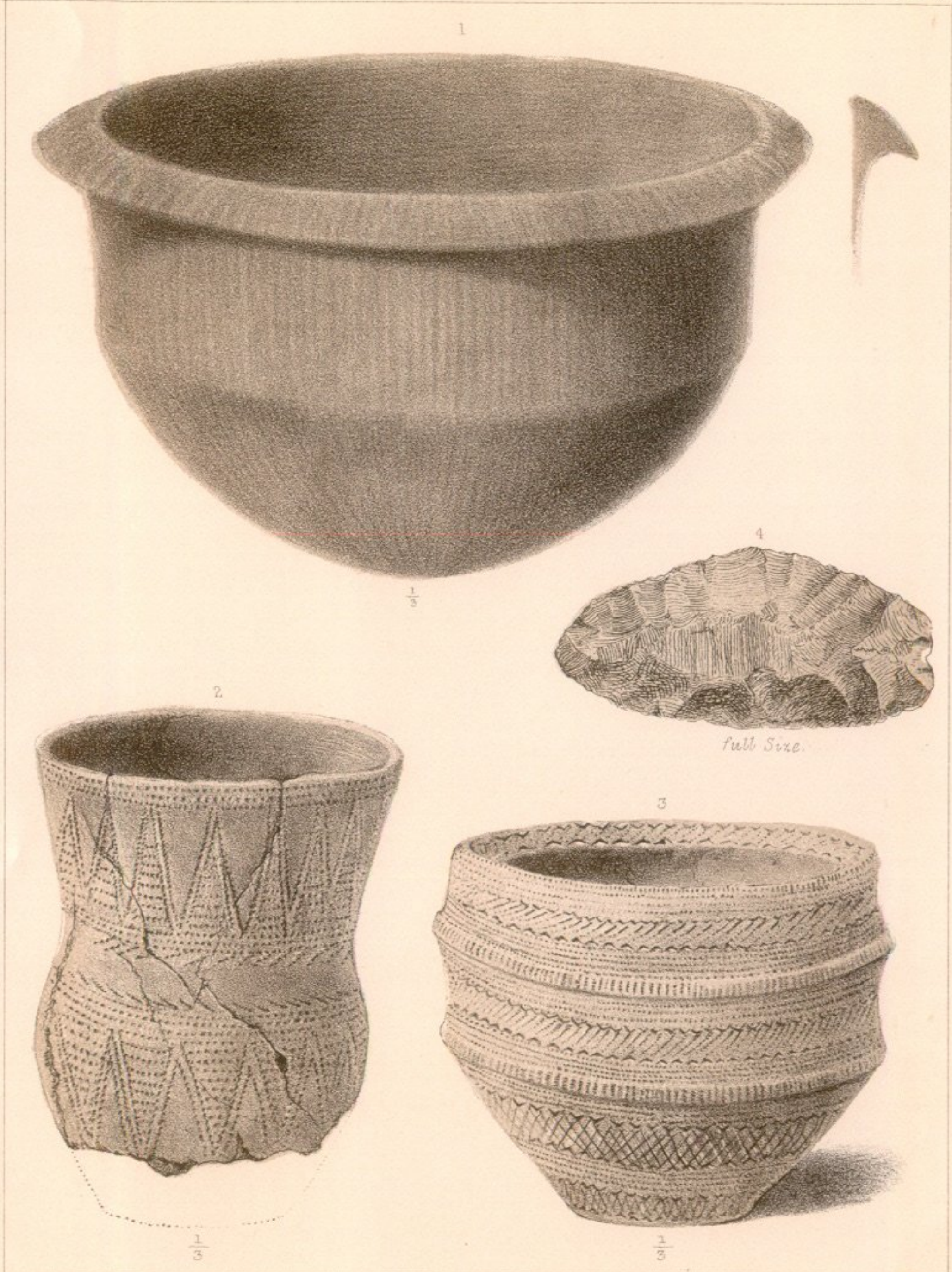
The examination of the burial places, described in this paper, affords some facts bearing upon the question of the relationship which existed between the people of Argyleshire and of other and neighbouring countries. As was mentioned before, the urns which occurred in the cairns and burial circles are, in shape, material, and style of ornament, very similar to those which have been found on the opposite coast of Ireland, and from this it may be inferred that the two countries were, in prehistoric times, occupied by the same race. That a constant intercourse was kept up between the two shores is evidenced by the Argyleshire implements, which are made from a chertsose flint coming from

a tumulus are upon the south and east sides. The same feeling which prompted this prevailed in Christian times, when the south side of the churchyard was always selected as the place of burial.

Ireland. The identity of the people who inhabited the west of Scotland and the north-east of Ireland, in historic times, is certain, and that can scarcely have altogether arisen from the later Scotie occupation from Ireland, which was indeed only the migration of tribes to places already occupied by others related to them. This earlier and prehistoric relationship is quite borne out by the evidence which the burial mounds afford. At the same time they show a wider intercourse and influence in art and manufacture, and probably a racial connection, which extended far beyond the limits of adjoining districts, for some of the urns are scarcely to be distinguished from those which have been found in England at places far removed from Argyleshire. One cist produced an urn identical with one from the middle of Northumberland, whilst another showed fragments of three urns, of a very marked type, almost facsimiles of one found in Wiltshire. Unfortunately nothing as to race<sup>1</sup> can be gathered from the remains of the bodies, of which no portions of skulls were found, save the fragments of some lower jaws.

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*J. Story del. et lith. Leeds.*

*Newbold & Stead Imo. York.*

URNS' & FLINT KNIFE, KILMARTIN ARGYLESHIRE.