

PART II.

LOCALITIES IN WHICH THE CUP AND RING SCULPTURES HAVE BEEN FOUND.

The cuttings of cups and rings described in the preceding pages have now been discovered under various circumstances, and in various positions and localities. They have been often found on stones used in connection with the burial of the archaic dead, and with various forms of ancient sepulture. They have also been detected within the underground-houses, the domestic cyclopic dwellings, and the fortified strongholds of archaic living man. Numerous examples of them have now likewise been found cut upon stones and rocks lying within and without the walls of the ancient camps or towns in which the communities of our olden forefathers dwelt. And latterly, these enigmatical carvings have been traced engraven on the surfaces of isolated stones, and of rocks *in situ*, covered over in some instances by turf and soil that has evidently been the accumulation of many long centuries. I shall adduce a few specimens of them in each of these various localities.

CHAPTER IV.—ON STONES CONNECTED WITH ARCHAIC SEPULTURE.

This is no fit place to debate the question whether the megalithic or so-called "Druidical" circles, which formerly stood in great and imposing numbers in different localities in Great Britain, and many remains of which still exist, were used by our archaic forefathers as temples for worship, or places for political assemblages, or courts of law, or places of sepulture,—or whether all of these characters and uses did not pertain to them. Various analogies and inferences from superstitious usages, &c., have been adduced; but we have no classical or other ancient and direct data left us to prove them to have been sacred fanes or courts of convention and justice. The circles themselves offer no tangible or visible evidence that can settle such questions.¹ But they usually contain within their

¹ By far the ablest defence of the sacred or temple character, &c. of our Megalithic Circles is to be found in Dr Thurnam's very learned Essay on the Historical Ethnology of Britain in the "Crania Britannica," p. 121, &c.

flat area sufficient evidence—as ascertainable by the spade and mattock—that they were used as places of human sepulture at least, whether they were used for other purposes or not. Occasionally the centres of the smaller circles contain sepulchral mounds or barrows; or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, the barrows are surrounded by a single or double circle of stones. Again, in regard to our ancient cromlechs, we have not the slightest evidence that they were ever intended for aught else than sepulchres; but we have ample evidence that they were used for this purpose, in the finding of bones, urns, and sometimes of cists, within their cavities. The same proof applies to the old chambered tumuli, which often, indeed, contain within their centres cromlech-like structures as their skeletons or nuclei. The single standing stones or monoliths of our island,—erected occasionally, we know from ancient records, for various other purposes,—were often also raised as monumental stones for the dead, as we learn from the sepulchral urns, and the human bones and ashes oftentimes found deposited at their base. The remains found in the interior of the ancient kist-vaen or stone coffin, and of the stone-covered urn, afford also incontestible evidence of their sepulchral character. And in all of those localities of ancient sepulture,—on the megalithic circle, on the cromlech, on the stones of the cairn and chambered tumulus, on the monolith, on the lid of the kist-vaen, and on the stone-covering of the mortuary urn,—cup-cuttings and ring-cuttings have been detected.

1. ON STONES OF MEGALITHIC CIRCLES.

I have had the stones of many megalithic or “Druid” circles in Scotland and England examined, with the view of ascertaining the presence or absence of cup or ring-cuttings. In most instances no marks of ancient artificial tooling or sculpturing have been traced upon the surfaces of the stones. But in several examples, both cup-markings and ring-cuttings have been detected upon them, as in the following examples:—

Circle at Rothiemay, Banffshire.—About a furlong north from the house of Rothiemay “stands a Druidical temple,” to use the language of the old Statistical Account of Scotland.¹ The circle consists of five

¹ Statistical Account of Scotland, 1797, vol. xv. p. 386.

remaining stones, the others having been removed. My friend Dr Black examined the stones for me, and found one of them distinctly marked. The marked stone is an immense oblong block thirteen feet long, six feet high, and about four in thickness. On the side of it, looking to the interior of the circle, are between fifty and sixty cups. Two of the cups are surrounded with rings. The sketch of this stone in Plate III. is accurately copied from a photograph of it. On the upper surface of the stone are also ten or twelve cup-cuttings. Upon the adjoining stone in the circle there are also four or five cups.

Circle at Thorax, Banffshire.—The circle is situated in the parish of Marnoch, Banffshire. It consists of six stones. On the inner surface of one of them, carefully copied into Plate IV. fig. 1, from a photograph, are numerous cup-cuttings; and an appearance of a ring-cutting is traceable around two or three of the largest cups. The cut stone, in this instance, as in the one at Rothiemay, is a hard granitic or syenitic rock.

*Circle at Bankhead, Banffshire.*¹—About four miles from Thorax is a stone marked with cups. It stands in the parish of Boyndie. In the new Statistical Account of Scotland it is stated that “three Druidical circles are in the parish; one near the parish church; another within a mile to the north-east; and a third on the farm at Bankhead.” Of this last circle three stones only remain, two standing and one lying. On the north side of one of the erect stones—a granite—Dr Black found twelve cup excavations of the usual size. He could not detect any similar markings on the other stones.

Circles at Bruiach, Inverness-shire.—At Bruiach, near Beaufort, stands a double circle of stones. About a dozen stones of the outer circle remain. On the upper surfaces of two of the fourteen or more stones left to form the inner circle, the Rev. Mr Joass of Edderton lately discovered markings of a few cups, and one or two connecting gutters, similar to those which his brother had discovered on other stones in that vicinity, as depicted in Plate XIV. At Bruach the inner circle is thirteen yards in diameter, and the distance between the inner and outer circle about nine feet. None of the stones are very high or large. Eight or nine measure about three feet in height, and the same in breadth.

¹ See the Spalding Club Volumes on the Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff, vol. ii. p. 118.

Circle at Cults, Perthshire.—In the parish of Caputh there exist at Cults, within a few miles of Dunkeld, three stones,—the remains, it is alleged, of a large circle. Two of the stones are erect. The third is half prostrate. This reclining stone is nearly six feet long, and about two feet nine inches broad. Its upper surface is marked with numerous cup excavations, most of them round, a few oblong, and three sets of of them joined together by intermediate grooves or gutters.

Circle at Glendevin, Perthshire.—Two or three miles from the Cult stones, and within the policy of Glendevin, is an elevated round barrow now planted with trees. A circle of several large stones formerly stood around this barrow. On the face of one of them, which still remains, I found three or four cup excavations.

Circle at Moncrieff, Perthshire.—Behind Moncrieff House, a few miles south of Perth, is a small but complete megalithic circle. The stones are apparently secondary traps. In the centre was formerly a barrow, as the partial rise in the ground still indicates. Lately bones have been found in this position. A large block, which is said to have been removed from the centre of the circle about forty years ago, and now lies a few feet outside of it, has carved upon its surface a series of cups of different sizes, as represented in the sketch of it given in Plate IV. fig. 2.

Circle at Craighall, Perthshire.—Cup excavations exist also upon an erect stone standing at a megalithic circle behind Craighall House, Blairgowrie. The cups are five or six in number, and placed in a group near the foot of the stone.

Circle of Turin, Forfarshire.—On a large erect stone which once formed one of a fine circle of boulder stones at Nether Turin, my esteemed friend Dr Wyse discovered “several carefully excavated cavities upon its top in groups, without circles.”

Circles of Graystone and Holywood, Dumfriesshire.—Dr Dixon of Dumfries has been so good as send me drawings of a stone at Graystone, the only one left of a circle that formerly existed there. Its face is marked by four small cups, which (he writes) “occur in a linear series, and are obviously artificial.” The stone is a whin. In a subsequent section I will have occasion to allude to cup-marked stones in the great Circle at Holywood, in the same neighbourhood.

Circle of Calder Stones, Lancashire.—I have already (p. 7) referred to the circle standing near Liverpool, as remarkable by presenting specimens of all the types of cup and ring cuttings. The Calder circle is about six yards in diameter. It consists of five stones, which are still upright, and one that is fallen. The stones consist of slabs and blocks of red sandstone, all different in size and shape.

The fallen stone is small, and shows nothing on its exposed side; but possibly, if turned over, some markings might be discovered on its other surface.

Of the five standing stones, the largest of the set (No. I.) is a sandstone slab between 5 and 6 feet both in height and in breadth. On its outer surface—or the surface turned to the exterior of the circle—there is a flaw above from disintegration and fracture of the stone; but the remaining portion of the surface presents between thirty and forty cup depressions, varying from 2 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; and at its lowest and left hand corner is a concentric circle about a foot in diameter, consisting of four enlarging rings, but apparently without any central depression. (See Plate VI. fig. 1.)

The inner surface (Plate V. fig. 2 of this Calder stone slab (No. I.), or that surface which is directed to the interior of the circle, has, near its centre, a cup cut upon it, with the remains of one surrounding ring. On the right side of this single-ringed cup are the faded remains of a concentric circle of three rings. To the left of it there is another three-ringed circle with a central depression, but the upper segments of the rings are broken off. Above it is a double-ringed cup, with this peculiarity, that the external ring is a volute leading from the central cup, and between the outer and inner ring is a fragmentary line of apparently another volute; a double-ringed volute being common on some Irish stones, as on those at the great archaic mausoleum at New Grange, but extremely rare in Great Britain. At the base of this stone, and towards the left, are two volutes respectively of two and three turns.

The next stone, No. II. in the series, is about six feet high, and somewhat quadrangular. On one of its sides, half-way up, is a single cup-cutting; on a second side, and near its base, a volute, consisting of five turns, and seven inches and a half in breadth; and on a third side (that pointing to the interior of the circle) a concentric circle of

three rings placed half-way or more up the stone. (See Plate VI. figs. 3 and 4.)

The stone, No. III. (Plate VI. fig. 5), placed next to it in the circle, is between three and four feet in height, thick, and somewhat quadrangular, but with its angles much rounded off. On its outermost side is a triple circle, produced by a spiral line starting from a central cup. The diameter of the outermost circle of the volute is nearly ten inches. Below this figure, and on the rounded edge between it and the next surface of the stone to the left, are the imperfect and faded remains of a larger quadruple circle. On one of the two remaining sides of this stone (Plate VI. fig. 6) is a double concentric circle, of an oval form, and measuring five inches by seven. The two rings are united together by a radial groove or gutter, the only instance of the radial groove which I observed on the Calder stones.

The fourth stone (No. IV.) is too much weathered and disintegrated on the sides to present any distinct sculpturings. But it is flat on the top, and there are nine or ten cups—one large and deep (being nearly five inches in diameter); and seven or eight of these cups are irregularly tied or connected together by linear channels or cuttings.

The fifth stone is too much disfigured by modern apocryphal sharp-edged cuttings and chisellings to deserve archæological notice.¹

Circle of Salkeld, Long Meg, Cumberland.—By far the most magnificent megalithic circle in the north of England is that of Salkeld, formed of sixty-seven stones, some of them of very great size. Standing a few yards outside of the circle is a huge square-shaped monolith, formerly about eighteen feet in height, and known under the quaint name of “Long Meg.” This monolith is—unlike the stones composing the circle—formed of sandstone. Three of its four sides are utterly destroyed by weathering. The fourth or east side is much more entire. Upon it Sir Gardner Wilkinson discovered a concentric circle of four rings, placed around a cupped centre. Lately I had an opportunity of

¹ The whole circle was enclosed some years ago by Mr Walker within an excellent iron railing, and the generous protection thus afforded will, it is hoped, save them for many years from farther mutilation. The day on which I visited these stones was damp and wet. On a brighter and more favourable occasion, perhaps, some additional markings might be seen.

examining this stone, and found, not one, but several series of concentric circles carved upon it, three or four of them low down on the stone, and much faded. The most entire—that discovered by Wilkinson—consists of four concentric circles, and is about ten inches in diameter; a straight radial groove or gutter runs from its third circle, outwards and upwards through the outermost ring, and onwards to the edge of the stone. This gutter does not apparently penetrate the two innermost circles. From the centre of this circle to the ground is a distance of four feet and a half. A foot lower down, and more to the middle of the stone, is a second series of four concentric rings, with a shallow cupped centre and a radial groove running from the innermost ring obliquely downwards and outwards. Still lower, and to the left, a third ring-cutting of four concentric circles, with its centre one foot nine inches high above the ground, has a sharpish radial line, most probably a natural fissure in the stone, passing from the cupped centre outwards and downwards to the edge of the monolith. A fourth ring-cutting of three concentric circles is placed immediately below this third or last group, and is connected to it by a groove or channel which runs from the centre of the concentric circles above to the edge of the group below. Alongside of it and to the right is another faded circle, apparently of three rings. Other more indistinct appearances of portions of circles are traceable higher up the stone than the circle first described, and between it and the second circle. My friend, the Rev. Mr Paterson of Melmerby, had a photograph of the stone kindly taken for me; and from this photograph the figure of Long Meg, in Plate VII., is taken. I found no traces of human art upon the surface of any of the sixty-seven stones of the Salkeld circle, except one, a large block placed on the opposite side of the circle from Long Meg, and which has the doubtful appearance of a faded circle upon its western face.

Circle at Maughanby.—Ring-cuttings have recently been found by my friend the Rev. James Simpson, vicar of Kirkby-Stephen, on two boulders, forming part of a circle of eleven stones placed around a short cist in a large cairn situated a few hundred yards to the east of Long Meg. I have seen them along with him. Two or three cairns or tumuli existed till lately in the same locality. One of them, of large size, stood on land belonging to the free school of the township of

Maughanby. After removing from its central mound or barrow a quantity of cobble stones mixed with earth, several large stones, one of them only erect, were found arranged in a circle about eighteen feet in diameter. Several of them were buried beneath the projecting edges of the barrow. In the centre of the circle was placed a semiovoid cist formed of rough stones, and measuring only three feet nine inches in length, two feet four inches in breadth, and ten inches in depth. The cist contained an urn, burnt bones, and charcoal. The only ornament upon the rude urn was a raised line near the top. No ornaments or weapons were detected, though careful search was made for them. On the inner and upper side of a large whin boulder, forming one of the eastern stones of the surrounding circle, is cut a spiral line which makes four turns or circles, the outermost having a diameter of ten inches. Alongside of it is a group of four concentric circles without any cup-centre or radial duct. The diameter of the innermost circle measures four inches, that of the outermost nineteen inches. The outermost edges of the volute and of the concentric circle touch and meet at one part. (For a drawing of this combined volute and series of concentric circles, see Plate V. fig. 1.) On the top of a second stone on the western side are two circles, both about eight inches in diameter. The lower has its centre cut out; the higher encloses within it the remains of a small central cup, with a ridge around it, as is shown in the sketch, Plate V. fig. 2.

Circle at Oatlands, Isle of Man.—Small megalithic circles, placed around a central kistvaen, like that previously described at Moncrieff, &c., seem to have constituted a not unfrequent form of sepulchre in ancient days in the Isle of Man. One of the best marked of these sepulchral mounds and circles that remains is situated at Oatlands, on the right side of the old road between Douglas and Castleton. In the centre of the mound is a stone cist, surrounded by a closely set circle of stones, seven of which are still in place. A second or outer circle is planted at the distance of some yards; and of this outer circle only four stones remain. On the outer surface of a stone belonging to the inner circle are some eighteen cup-markings, methodically arranged in five rows, as represented in Plate VIII. fig. 1. No artificial markings have been discovered on any of the other stones of this sepulchre.

PLATE III.

STONE FROM CIRCLE AT ROTHIE MAY.



PLATE IV.

STONES AT 1, THORAX. 2, MONCRIEFF. 3, DUNBAR,



PLATE V.

STONES AT MAUGHANBY AND CARGILL.



PLATE VI
THE CALDER STONES

FIG. 1.

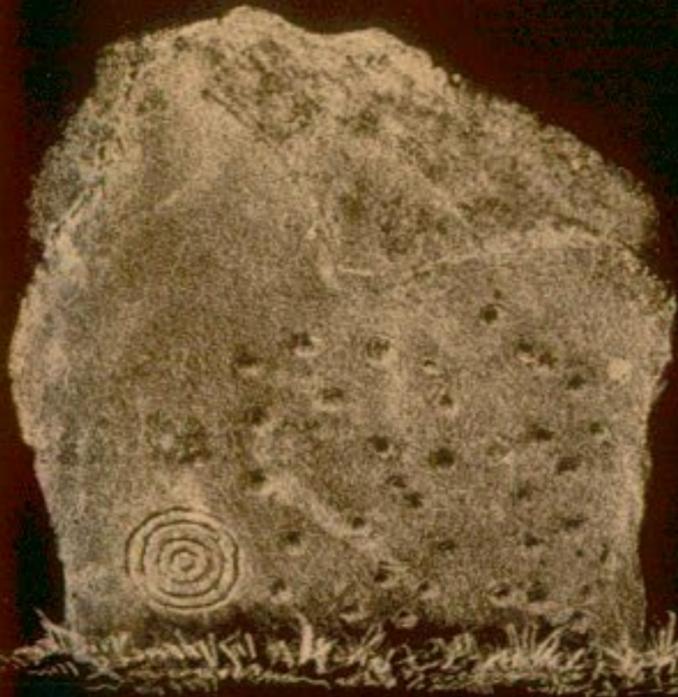


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

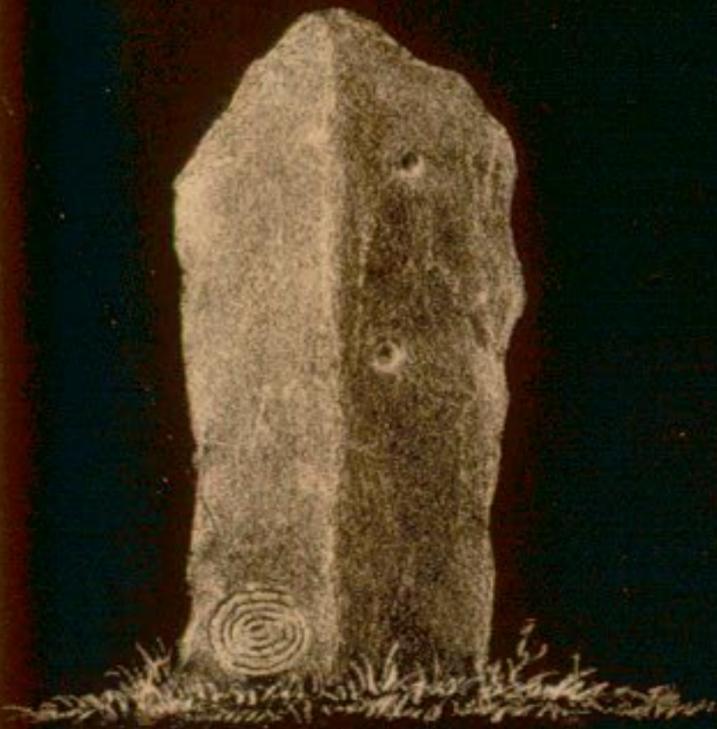


FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



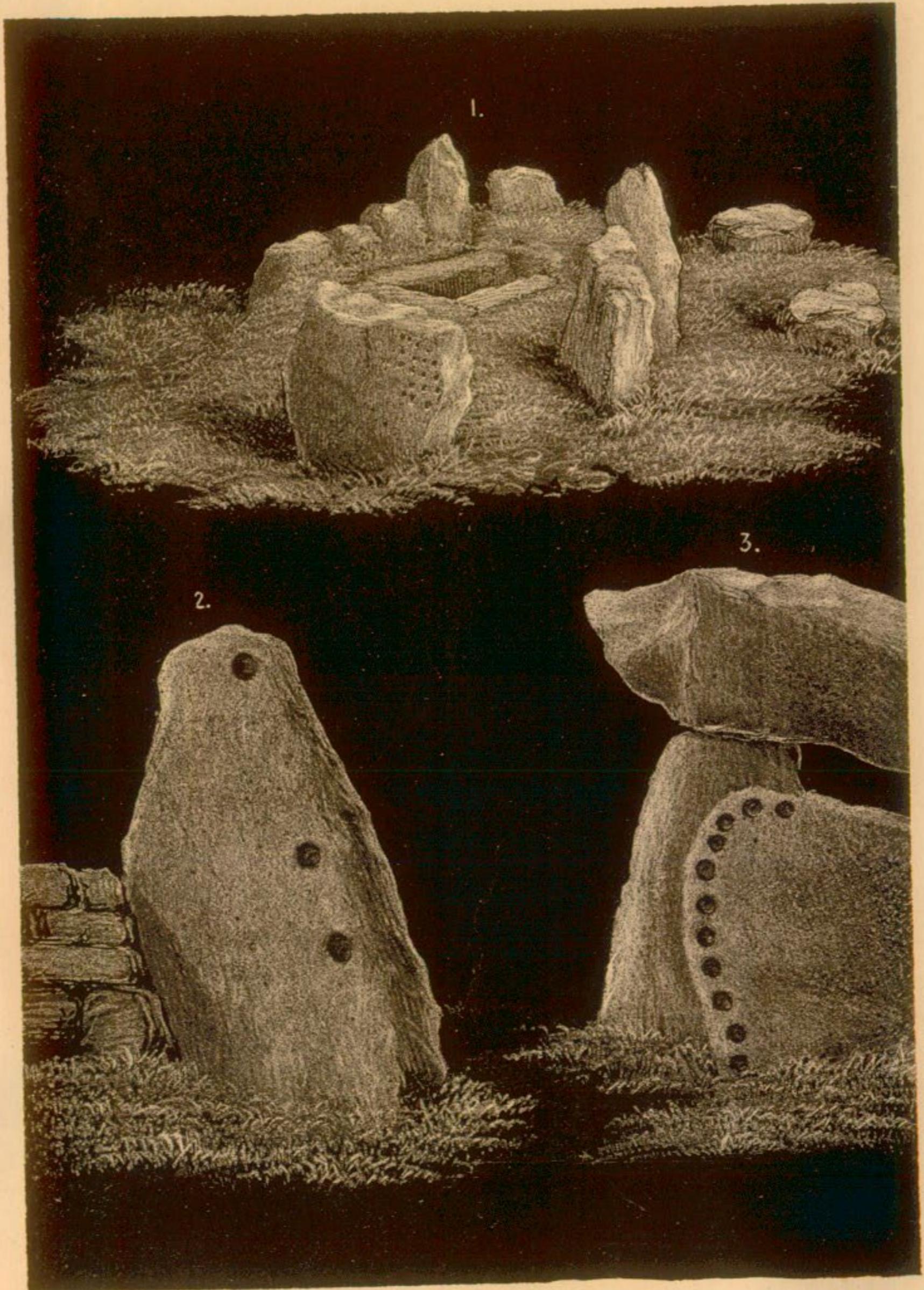
PLATE VII.

"LONG MEG," FROM SALKELD CIRCLE.



PLATE VIII.

OAKLAND CIRCLE, ISLE OF MAN, & CROMLECH, &c. IN GUERNSEY.



2. ON STONES OF MEGALITHIC AVENUES.

Leading to some megalithic circles are planted, in a few instances, long double rows of megalithic stones, generally spoken of as alleys or avenues. The most marked instance of this arrangement in England was that which formerly existed at Abury. At Callernish, in Lewis, we have a well-known example of a Scottish megalithic circle, with its avenue, still standing.

Formerly a long avenue of this kind seems to have existed near the circle or circles at Shap, in Westmoreland. Camden, in his "Britannia," writing towards the end of the sixteenth century, describes the avenue at Shap as consisting of "huge stones of a pyramidal form, some of them nine feet high and four thick, standing for nearly a mile at an equal distance." In Gough's edition of Camden's "Britannia," published in the latter part of the last century, it is stated that within the memory of man this avenue, or "double row of immense granites," extended for about a mile through the village of Shap, but has since been "removed to clear the ground."¹ A few of the stones, however, of this Shap avenue still exist. One of them is an oblong massive block, about nine feet high and five feet broad, now half fallen, and prostrated against a bank of earth in Aspers' field. On its flattish top I measured one cup six and a half inches broad, and one inch and a half deep; and a second cup nearly three inches in breadth, three-quarters of an inch deep, with a single circle nine inches in diameter, cut around it. These cups and ring-cuttings on this Shap stone are represented on Plate XVII. fig. 4, but the outline of the stone itself is imperfectly given in the lithograph.² A second of the Shap avenue blocks stands still erect about one hundred and fifty yards south of this marked monolith, and is known under the name of the "Goggleby Stone." It is a hard, round block, about ten feet in height and eighteen in circumference. On its north side, about two and a half feet above ground, there is carved out upon it a circular disc, five inches broad, excavated but flat in the centre—the remains, I believe, not of a cup, but of a worn-out ring-cutting. I could

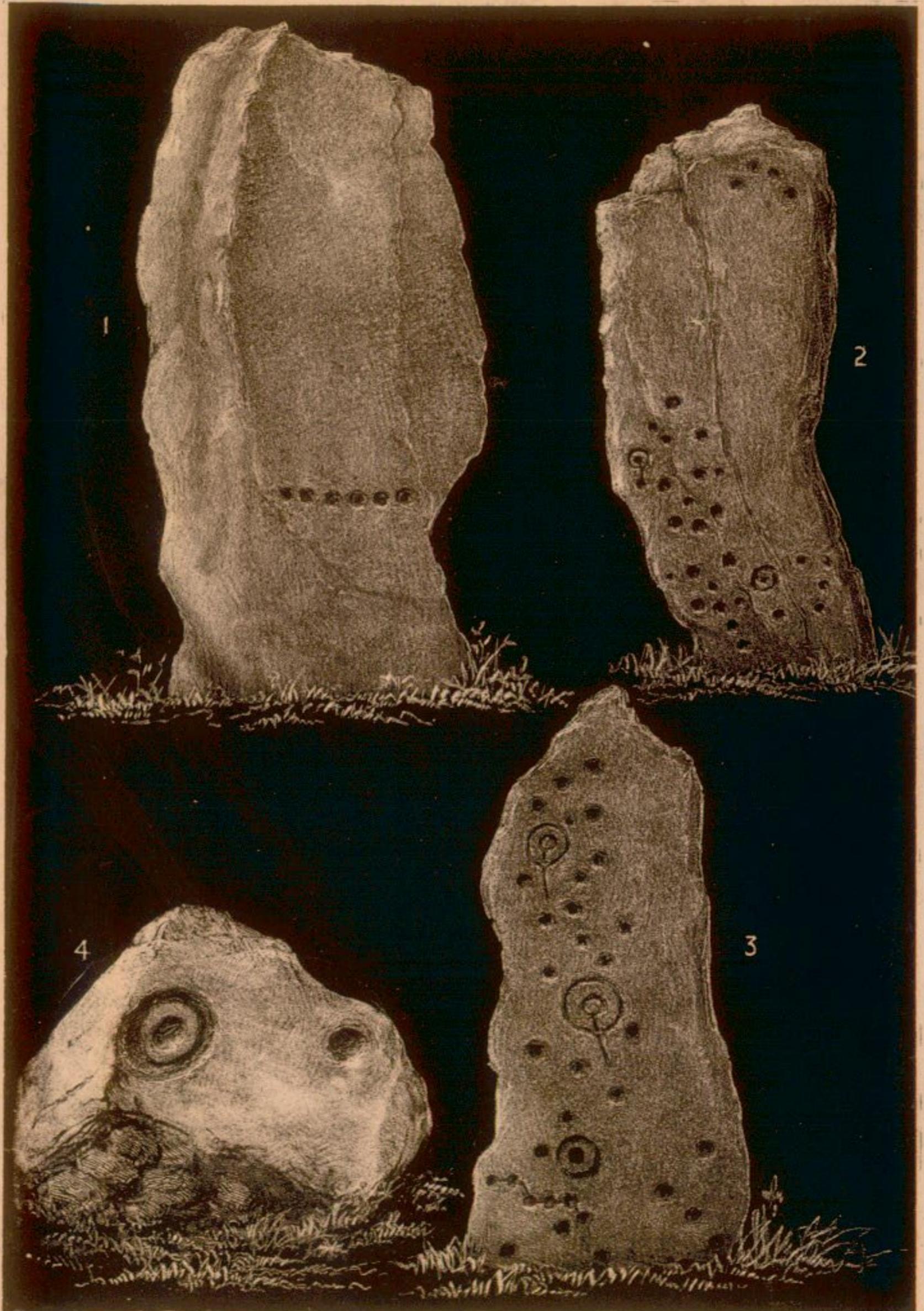
¹ See Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, 1806, vol. iii. p. 414.

² This stone is noted as marked in Hodgson's work on Westmoreland, p. 139.

not trace any evidences of artificial tooling on any of the stones of the Shap circle placed by the side of the railway, about a mile south of the village, nor on the double circle at Gunnerkeld, two or three miles northward.

PLATE XVII.

OBELISKS AT COLINTON, LARGIE, BALLYMENACH AND SHAP.



3. ON CROMLECHS.

Cromlechs, or structures consisting of a large, heavy, flat capstone, resting upon two or more upright stone props, appear to have formerly existed in considerable numbers in various parts of the British Isles. Their numbers are now much reduced.¹ The stones composing these massive archaic monuments are usually and correctly described as presenting no evidence of having been tooled and cut by man. But there are some exceptions to this general law in the appearance of incised cups and lines upon them. For instance, a remarkable example of a sculptured cromlech-stone, popularly called the "Witch's Stone," exists at Ratho, within eight or ten miles of Edinburgh.

Ratho Cromlech.—On the farm of Bonnington, about a mile beyond the village of Ratho, Mid-Lothian, are the remains of this "partially ruined cromlech" (as it was first described by Professor Daniel Wilson), with the capstone partially displaced, as if it had slid backwards upon the oblique plane of the huge stones or stone which still supports it. Two or three large blocks lie in front of the present props. Its site occupies a most commanding view of the valley of the Almond, and of the country and hills beyond. The large capstone is a block of secondary basalt or whinstone, about twelve feet long, ten in breadth, and two in thickness. Its upper surface has sculptured along its median line a long row of some twenty-two cup-cuttings; and two more cup-cuttings are placed laterally, one, half a foot to the left of the central row and at its base; the other, two feet to the right of the tenth central cup, and near the edge of the block. The largest of the cups are about three inches

¹ By far the largest and most imposing cromlech which I have seen in Scotland is the so-called "Auld Wives' Lift," at Baldernock, nine or ten miles north-west from Glasgow. It consists of three enormous sandstone blocks. Their surfaces are cut in many parts, but the carvings are all, I believe, quite modern and apocryphal. There are various smooth scalps and outcrops of rock near this cromlech, but I could trace no sculpturings upon any of them.

in diameter, and half an inch in depth; but most of them are smaller and shallower than this. Professor Wilson¹ speaks of these cups as "possibly indicating a design of splitting it [the stone] in two." But the shallowness and scooped form of the cups show that they would have been utterly incompetent to accomplish any such object in a whin block so massive, hard, and thick. The lateral cups offer strong additional evidence against any such idea. Besides, among the various concentric ring and cup carvings which I have seen at Old Bewick, in Northumberland, one huge squarish block of stone which is carved with concentric circles on its upper surface, has a row of cup-carvings cut along two of its sides exactly similar to those on this cromlech; and no one can possibly imagine that on the Northumberland rock the cup-cuttings were made with any object, but as a portion of the numerous rude ring and cup sculpturings which abound upon the upper surface and-sides of this block.² (See this Bewick block and its cups and ring carvings represented in Plate XXV. figs. 1 and 2.)

Clynnog Fawr Cromlech (See Plate IX. fig. 2).—About ten or twelve miles from Caernarvon, and half a mile to the south-west of the village of Clynnog Fawr, stands near the sea a cromlech, consisting of a cap-

¹ See his "Prehistoric Annals of Scotland," vol. i. p. 95. On a very large prostrate block of Sarsen stone, lying on the left side of the avenue, and several yards to the exterior of the outermost circle of Stonehenge, there is a row of six small oblong, narrow, and deepish cavities. They are evidently artificial, and apparently made to cut off, as it were, a corner of the stone. But the cavities are too sharp in their edges and sides to be of any great age. One of the prostrate trilithons which, in falling, has broken into three pieces, has on one of its fractured surfaces a large and a small lateral cavity, with smoother surfaces already weathered out upon it.

² Since the account in the text was printed I have had an opportunity of re-examining this Ratho or Bonnington group of stones, and altogether doubt if they are the remains of a cromlech consisting of isolated and separate stones. They appear to be formed, on the contrary, of one large boulder of whin, which has partially split up. The upper layer or so-called "capstone" has cleft off by disintegration, and is slid backwards about a foot upon the earthfast masses which form its props. The largest of these props or under-masses is as broad at the "capstone," and after underlying all its eastern side, projects beyond it. The large fragments in front are fallen and separated portions of the same mass of rock. If either a heavy boulder or a mere outcrop of rock, it would resemble the sculptured projecting stones and rocks at Bewick, Rowtin Lynn, and elsewhere in Northumberland.

stone and four props. This cromlech is described, under date 1772, in the old Rhyl MSS., compiled by the Rev. J. Llwyd, of Caerwys, as having upon its capstone "near a hundred shallow cavities running in oblique but almost parallel lines along its surface, three much larger than the rest in a triangular position; it is supported by four strong bearers, and in length four cubits, in breadth three, its inclination towards the setting sun."¹ One large and two small carved or chambered cairns formerly stood near it. For the accompanying sketch (Plate IX. fig. 2) of this interesting cromlech as it exists at present, I am indebted to the great kindness of my friend, Dr Hughes of Llanwrst. The cup depressions are isolated and separated, except where some of the largest are united by a groove or gutter.

Lancrese Cromlech.—Among the numerous remains of cromlechs and sepulchral chambers which exist in the Channel Islands, none (according to Dr Lukis) show any carving or ornamental work upon them. "But," he adds, as exceptions, "in a small cromlech at Lancrese, Guernsey, there are on one of the props about fourteen circular hollows, as if they had been drilled with the intention of breaking the prop in the direction of the line of hollows. These depressions have been evidently worn with a rude muller to the depth of about one inch, and three or four inches in diameter. Only in one instance have I observed," he adds, "depressions similarly made; it is upon a menhir-like stone appertaining to the Abbey of St Michel du Valle, situated in the bourg or village of the Forest, Guernsey."² For sketches of this cupped cromlech prop, and monolith, I am beholden to the courtesy of Mr Uniacke. (See Plate X. fig. 2.)

Cromlech and Circle at Holywood, Dumfriesshire.—A few miles from Dumfries is a megalithic circle nearly eighty feet in diameter, and eleven of its massive compact stones are still left. The largest, about ten feet long and seven broad, is prostrated forward, and has upon its face, its top, and one of its sides, about thirty smooth and rounded cup excavations. At one side of the circle, and somewhat within the circuit of it, are three or four stones, which appear to me to be the prostrated remains

¹ See the *Archæologia Cambrensis* for January 1849, p. 1.

² *Journal of the British Archæological Association* for 1858, vol. iii. p. 276.

of a cromlech and its supports. The capstone has, running across its back, four oblique rows of cup-like excavations, some of them round and others irregularly elongated in form. One of the fallen props is similarly marked. It would be important to note accurately if the various strings of cups correspond in any degree with natural lines in these stones, and if, therefore, they may possibly have a natural origin; or if they are arranged quite independently of the mineralogical peculiarities of the blocks, and are hence, as they seem to be, the results of artificial tooling.

Rathkenny, Meath.—The cromlech markings which I have hitherto spoken of consist only of cups or excavations. An instance of a cromlech carved both with cups and circles has lately been discovered at Rathkenny, near Slane, in Ireland, by Mr Conwell of Trim; and I hope he will soon himself publish a full account of it. In the meantime, he has kindly favoured me with a sketch of the upper surface of the capstone. From this sketch the cups or depressions, whether natural or artificial, seem to be above a hundred in number, and are intermixed with straight lines or scores running in diverse directions. The capstone is about ten feet long, and six feet broad. On its under surface are “seven separate circles; and seven other circles of varying size are cut on the upright stone or prop upon which it leans, at an angle of 32°.”

In Great Britain, perhaps the most celebrated cromlech is that known as Kits Coty House, near Maidstone, in Kent. On visiting it some time ago when professionally in that neighbourhood, I found the huge capstone completely perforated or “holed” on one of its projecting sides, like some of the “holed” cromlech stones in Yorkshire¹ and Cornwall, in France, Algeria, Circassia, and India.²

¹ See Rooke in the *Archæologia*, vol. viii. p. 209.

² See Mr Brash on “Holed Stones” in the “Gentleman’s Magazine” for December 1864, where a number of instances are collected. As examples of holed cromlech-stones additional to those mentioned by Mr Brash, I may refer to the model in the British Museum of one that formerly stood at Trevethy in Cornwall (see Norden’s “Cornwall”); and to the holed prop of the cromlech at Trie in France, described and figured by Carro (“Voyage chez les Celts”). Bertrand, in a late essay upon the “Monuments Primitifs de la Gaule” incidentally states, that in perhaps a dozen of cromlechs (“*dolmens*”) in France there are “holes” (“*trous*”) “in the supports.” The capstone of a cromlech at Oulad Mohammed in the African province of Constantin

This capstone and its three supports are further scooped out in various parts by cup-like hollows, for the most part shallow, but some of them passing deeply into the stone. The outer or exposed face of the eastmost of the three props shows about fifty such round, smoothed excavations, two inches and upwards in diameter. Their irregular distribution, and the occasional obliquity and depth of their orifices, seemed to me to prove that they were the work of nature rather than of art. They are comparatively wanting, however, on the exposed edges of the blocks; and they exist, in some instances, on the protected interior aspects of the stones of this cromlech. One on the inferior and protected surface of the capstone penetrates upwards some eight or ten inches into its substance. The stones themselves are extremely hard blocks of limestone grit. It would be interesting to observe whether that rock *in situ*, where it had been long exposed to the action of the elements, weathered into any similar forms. They might, it must further be remembered, have been weathered blocks even before being used in the construction of the cromlech; and possibly they, and some similar stones, are originally hardened lapidary nuclei, left as relics and waifs out of geological superficial strata, the softer materials of which have all been long ago washed away by the action of water and time.

In a paper by Dr Lukis, in the "Archæologia,"¹ on Ancient Celtic Lapidary Remains, the author incidentally refers to traces of human chiselling upon cromlechs in the district of Dyffryn, North Wales—a region rich in antiquities. The reference is specially, I believe, to a cromlech called Arthur's Quoit, near Llanddwywe, Merionethshire. There is a second and larger cromlech within a few feet of it, and numerous cairns in the immediate neighbourhood. One of the supports of Arthur's Quoit has

was found "holed" by M. Feraud ("Revue Archæologique" for March 1865). Lately Captain Meadows Taylor has shown that a form of cromlech or external kistvaen, "holed" in one of its props or sides, is very common in the Dekkan of India. In the district of Bellary alone he alludes to 2129 cromlechs and kistvaens, 583 of which have "slabs on four sides, roof slab, and one side perforated by a circular hole;" and 527 as presenting no top or covering slab, but composed of four sides, and one of these sides "pierced with a circular aperture." (Trans. of R. Irish Academy, vol. xxiv.)

¹ See Archæologia, vol. xxxv. p. 250.

the heavy capstone resting merely on its edge ; and the remainder of the summit of this prop-stone is flat, but weathered and broken off at two sides. The free and uncovered flat top of the support presents a surface of about eighteen by twelve inches, and it has eight or nine very slightly curved, parallel, deepish lines run obliquely yet fully across it. These lines, if artificial, are quite different in form from any described in this essay. The sepulchral character of these two cromlechs—and consequently of cromlechs in general—is strongly shown by their interiors still containing short stone cists about four feet long and three feet high.

PLATE VIII.

OAKLAND CIRCLE, ISLE OF MAN, & CROMLECH, &c. IN GUERNSEY.

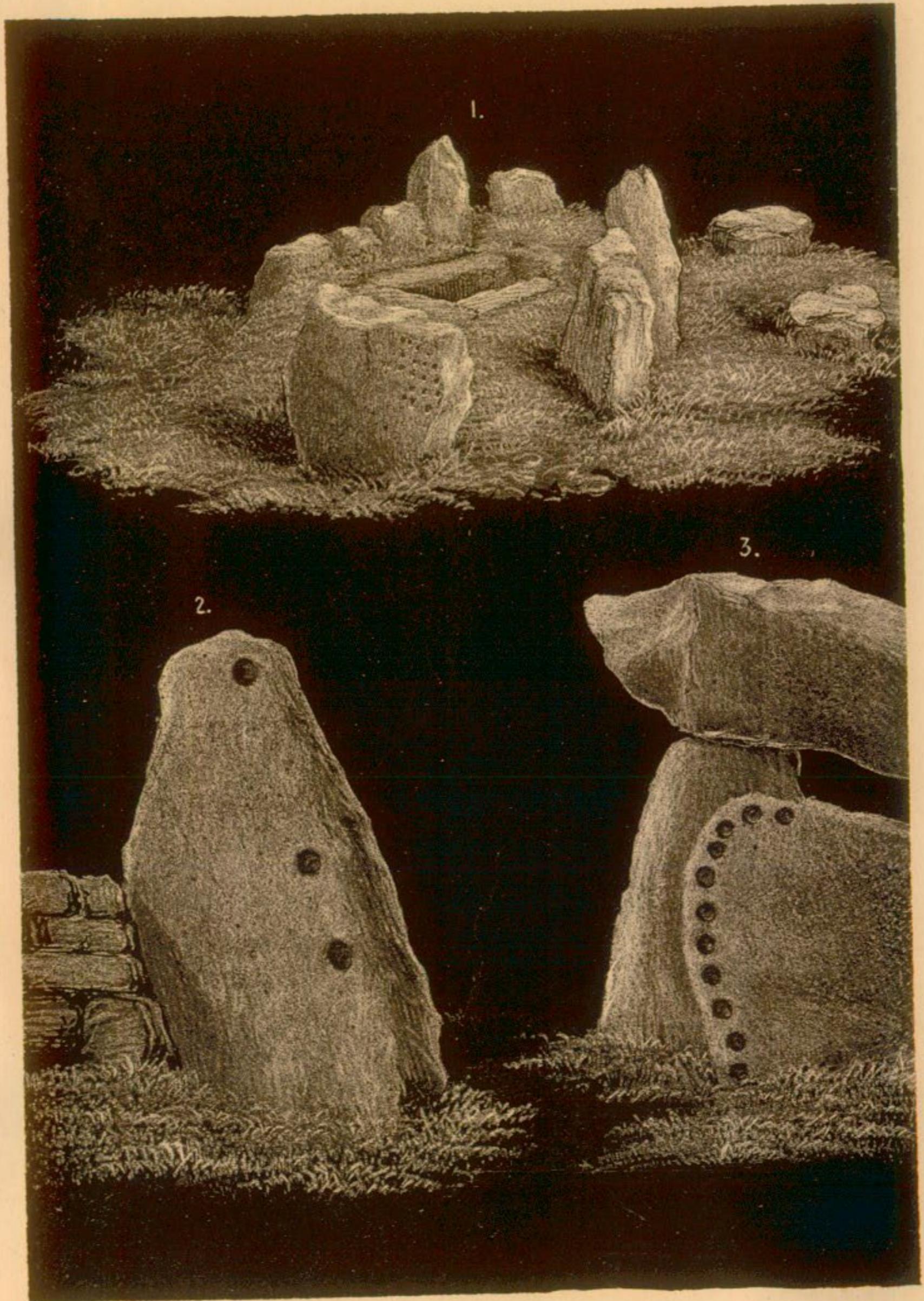
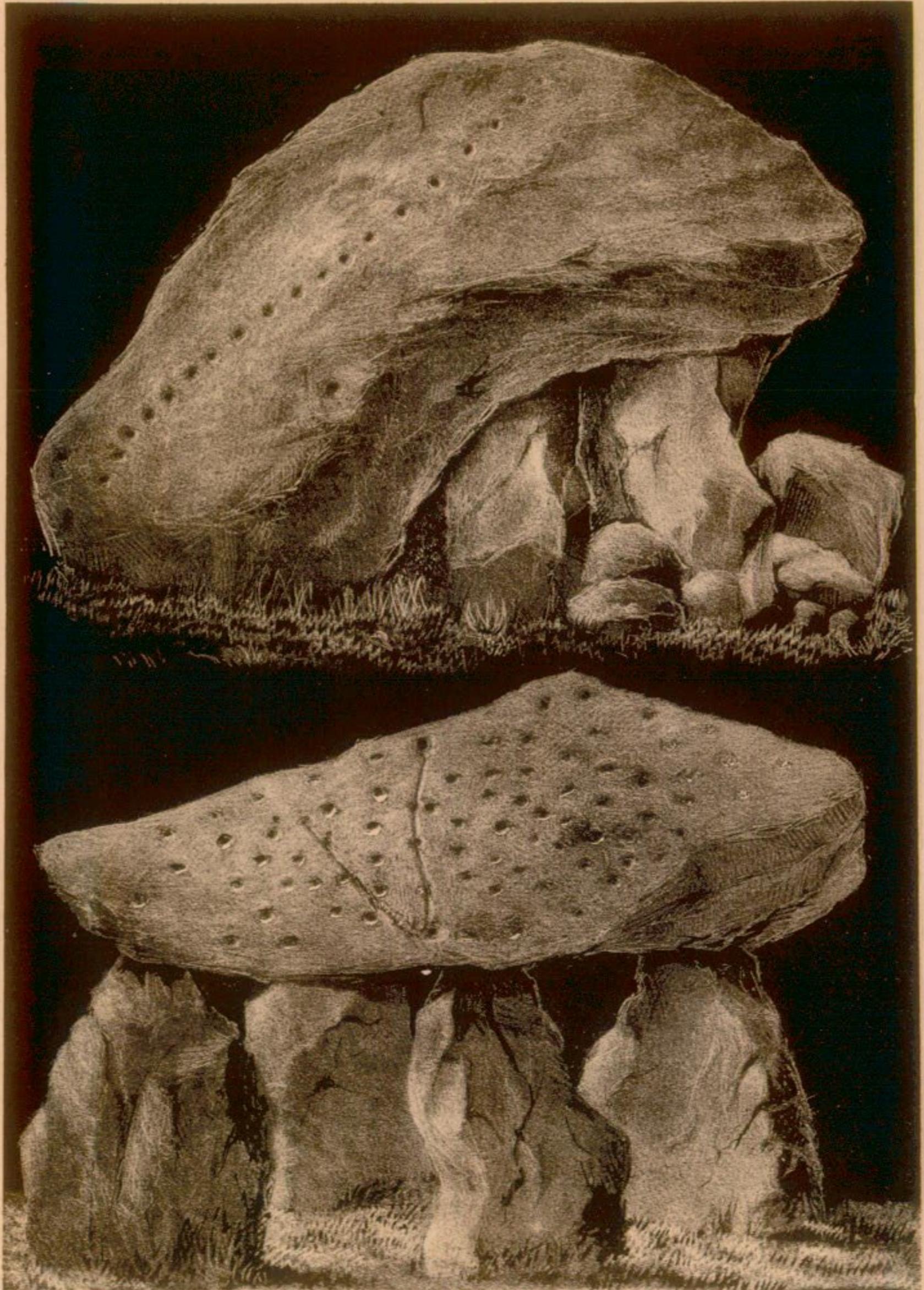


PLATE IX.

CROMLECHS AT RATHO AND CLYNNOG-FAWR.



4. ON THE STONES OF CHAMBERED TUMULI.

Many of the chambered tumuli and cairns which the ravages of time have spared us, have been diligently ransacked in search of their osseous and other contents; but the stones composing them have in very few instances been examined with the view of tracing any human tooling or sculpturing upon their surfaces. Perhaps a more extended search in this direction will yet be followed by success, as the following examples tend to show:—

Clava, Inverness-shire.—One of the most remarkable archaic cemeteries or cities of the dead in Scotland, is well known to be that of Clava, near Culloden. It is now much destroyed and dilapidated. Several cairns, however, and chambered sepulchres, still remain more or less entire, and have been described and figured by Professor Innes in the Proceedings of this Society (vol. iii. p. 47, Plates VI. and VII.) My friend, Dr Grigor of Nairn, has examined the chambered tumuli for me. He has found cup-markings on some of the stones in two or three of the Clava sepulchral chambers. Thus in Plate X. are represented, at figs. 1 and 2, the circles of supporting stones forming the walls of two of these chambers, and the entrances leading to them. The two stones painted dark in these sketches, both present, on their interior surfaces, cup excavations, as represented in figs. 3 and 4 of the same Plate.

As an instance of both cups and concentric circles found on the stones of chambered sepulchres in England, let me cite the observations

of Mr Tissiman of Scarborough, published in the "Archæologia" for 1851.

Cloughton Moor, Yorkshire.—On Cloughton Moor, near Scarborough, are the remains of a so-called "Druidical circle" and some sepulchral cairns. Within the area of the megalithic circle are the remains apparently of one side of a vault or chamber, "near which was found" a stone with cup excavations or "pecked holes." The figure of this "pecked" stone is copied into Plate XI. fig. 4. "In very numerous openings of tumuli," observes Mr Tissiman, "I have often found stones with pecked holes, varying in number of holes and sizes, and in most instances immediately surrounding the interments." At Ravenhill he met with a vault or cist, with four concentric circles incised on one of its end stones, as shown in Plate XI. fig. 3; and he represents two other slabs, "part of the sepulchral chamber of a cairn," covered over with cups and grooved concentric circles.¹ Copies of these figures are given in Plate XI. figs. 1 and 2; and an urn found in the tumulus is represented in fig. 5 of the same plate. The Museum at Scarborough contains, I am told, other cupped stones from the same locality.

I shall have to refer in the sequel to the existence of cups and circles, as well as of far more elaborate carvings upon the interior of some of the chambered tumuli of Ireland and Brittany.

PLATE X.

FROM CHAMBERED TUMULI AT CLAVA.

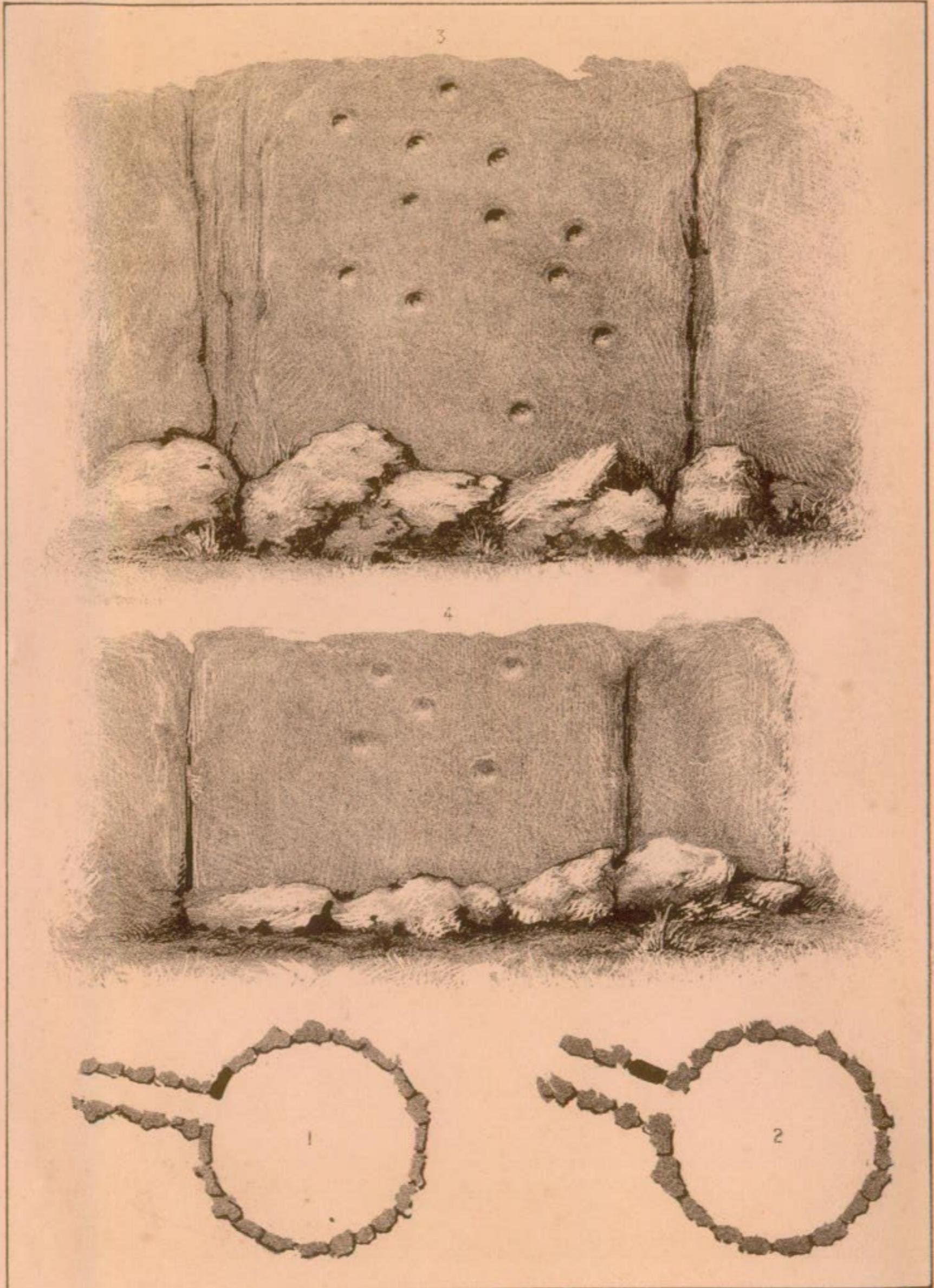
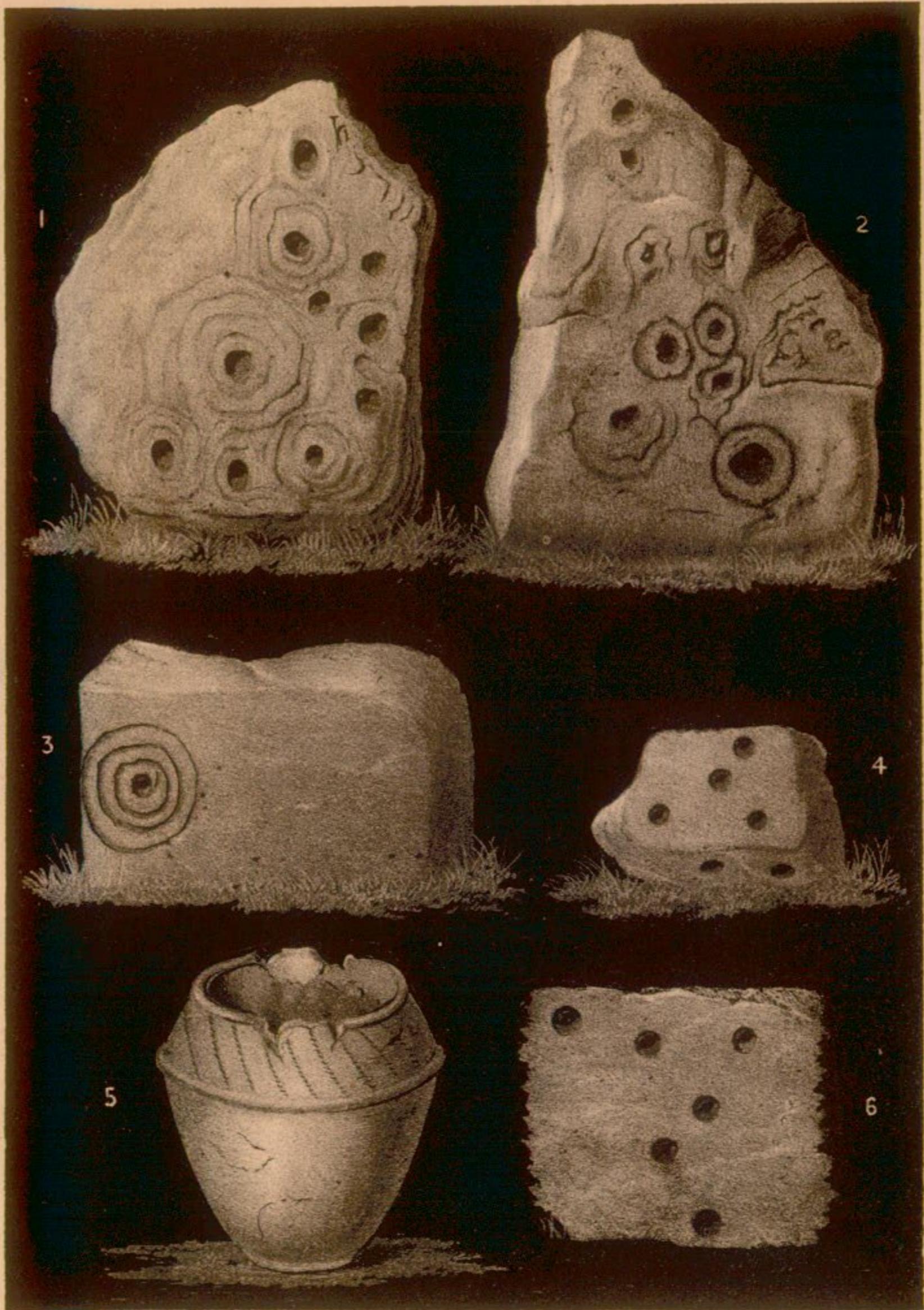


PLATE XI.

FROM YORKSHIRE AND BRITTANY TUMULI.



5. ON STONE CISTS AND STONE COVERS OF URNS.

The first instance in which the concentric ring-cuttings seem to have been made a subject of special observation, referred to specimens of these carvings upon the stones of an ancient kistvaen or stone coffin. This stone coffin was dug in a gravel pit upon the classic land of

Coilsfield, Ayrshire.—In 1785, Colonel Montgomery, afterwards ninth Earl of Eglinton, sent a drawing of the cover of the kistvaen and enclosed urn to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The cist cover was about five feet in length and two and a half in breadth. Internally, it

¹ See the *Archæologia*, vol. xxiv. p. 446. Mr Greenwell informs me that in a tumulus at Way Hag, near Hackness, a few miles from Cloughton Moor, slabs were found, showing several groups upon them of concentric circles, provided with the usual cup centres and radial ducts.

had cut upon it a series of concentric circles, consisting of six rings placed around a central cup, the rings traversed by a straight radial groove. On the drawing are marks of other cups and rings, or rather volutes, and a number of angular lines. Unfortunately, a variety of inquiries which I have made after this interesting stone, shows that it has been lost now for many years, and that it is therefore impossible to correct the rough original drawing of it, copied into Plate XIII. fig. 1. This sculptured stone covered an urn of the pattern given in the same Plate, fig. 2.¹

Craigie Hall, Edinburgh.—About forty years ago, when a new road was cut through Craigie Wood, eight miles from Edinburgh, the end of a stone cist was left exposed. It lay about three feet below the surface of the soil, and long remained there projecting out of the side of the cut, and overhanging the road by eight or ten feet, as seen represented in a sketch made several years ago for me by my friend Mr Drummond, and copied into Plate XV. The breadth of the cist was thirty inches, and its depth eighteen inches. Latterly its length was under three feet, but a part had been broken off. From the removal and disintegration of the earth around this sandstone kistvaen, it threatened to fall; and the proprietor of the ground, Mr Hope Vere, has latterly removed the stones, and carefully preserves them. The cist consisted of two lateral stones and apparently two end stones, with a covering slab which is about three feet broad, and now only about four feet long. The interior of this slab is carved with nine or ten groups of concentric circles; and formerly one or two more sets existed in portions of the stone that were broken off. Of these circles some have, and others have not, a central cup, as represented in Plate XV. fig. 2. The diameter of the largest circle is about ten inches; the smaller do not exceed four or five inches. As usual, the circles are carved on the rough unprepared surface of the stone, and follow into its sinuosities and depressions. This sepulchral cist seems to have contained an “urn;” if we interpret aright the irreverent observation of one of the workmen still alive, who states that, on opening it, they found within it “an auld can.”

Caerlourie, Edinburghshire.—On the low ground, about a mile south-west of the kistvaen on Craigie Hill, my friend, Mr Hutchison, has

¹ See Dr Wilson's Prehistoric Annals, vol. i. p. 480.

lately found within his policy at Caerlowrie a short cist, with the interior of the covering stone marked with three series at least of concentric circles. The grave was so near the surface, that the carved stone had been much broken by the plough. The cist was composed of rude, unmarked freestone slabs; but without a stone bottom. It contained a stratum of unctuous, black, fatty earth, with traces of decomposed softened bones, and one or two human teeth. The widest diameters of the sets of rings cut on the inside of the lid is about five inches, and each set is composed of five concentric circles.

Bakerhill, Ross-shire.—At Bakerhill, on the estate of Brahan, and about two miles west of Dingwall, during the trenching of some uncultivated land, a cist-like structure was met with, consisting of slabs set on edge, and covered by an overlaying schist stone, four feet in length, two and a half feet in breadth, and six to eight inches in thickness. One of its sides is marked by above thirty isolated cups, and by several sets conjoined together in groups of two or more by connecting grooves or gutters. Six or seven of the cups are surrounded by a circle, usually imperfect or wanting at one point or side. See Plate XIV. fig. 1. This stone was discovered on the roadside, some time ago, by Mr Joass of Dingwall, and its history traced by him. I am indebted to his courtesy for these particulars, and for a sketch of the sculptures.

Carnban, Argyleshire.—Carnban, or the White Cairn, is a village and station on the line of the Crinan Canal. It derives its name from a large cairn which formerly stood in the field opposite to the present Inn, but the stones of which have now been almost entirely removed. Placed on the rock, and at the base of the cairn, was found, and still exists, a stone cist. Dr Hunter of Lochgilphead, and Mr Richardson Smith of Auchnaba, opened and cleared it some years ago, and found a schist slab,—slid in as an upright loose panel,—and resting against the stone forming the western end of the grave. This moveable panel is twenty-five inches long, eighteen broad, and two and a half in thickness. It has cut on one surface a series of five concentric lines, and the commencement of a sixth, not of a round, but of a lozenge or quadrangular form (see a sketch of the carving in Plate XIII. fig. 4). The sculpture is seventeen inches long by fifteen broad. It is not placed centrally on the slab; and portions of its outermost parts have been broken off,

apparently to reduce and fit the slab to the size of the cist. There is an appearance of a central depression, and of a straight bisecting line passing through the middle of the lozenged lines. This panel was presented by Mr Smith to the Edinburgh Antiquarian Museum. When discovered, its cut surface was directed to the interior of the grave. I had, some time ago, an opportunity of re-opening the cist with Dr Hunter. We could find no markings on any of the other stones composing it. Its bottom was formed by the solid rock, and its sides, ends, and lid, each of separate slabs. The cist is short, being only four feet in length. It is one foot ten inches wide, and about two feet two inches in depth. The covering stone or lid is a large heavy slab five feet and a half in length, and two and a half feet in breadth. When the cist was first opened there was found within it yellow sand with some black charcoal and several burnt bones lying upon its bottom. Some flint fragments have, I believe, been discovered in a later search. Stone hatchets, and forty or fifty large chipped flints, were found some time ago in the moss of the Hill of Craighlas, immediately opposite to Carnban.

High Auchinlary, Wigtonshire.—On the farm of High Auchinlary, in the parish of Anwoth, are six standing stones, apparently the remains of a "Druidical circle." Some years ago, on this farm, there was turned up by the plough, when trenching a piece of waste land, a slab presenting on one side a variety of concentric linear cuttings, as represented in Plate XIII. fig. 3. One of these sculptures is a grooved concentric circle of six rings. Other cuttings are of the fourth type in one series, and one presents a series of circular dots or cups between two of its rings. Mr Stuart, who has figured this slab in his great work on the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," compares it to the cist-cover at Coilsfield, &c. Unfortunately the exact relations of this Auchinlary slab to any cist or other stones do not seem to have been ascertained at the time of its discovery.

Forfarshire.—A slab marked with several concentric and single circles and deep cups, united by radial lines, one of which assumes an unusual zigzag form, was some years ago found at Walltown, Forfarshire,¹ and a drawing of it has been obligingly made for me by an excellent antiquary,

¹ Attached to a pencil sketch of this Walltown slab shown me by Mr Stuart is a note written by Dr Hibbert, about 1827, as follows:—"Part of stone at Walltown, near Forfar; the other part said to remain in the ground at St Peter's Well."

the Rev. Mr Shaw of Forfar. It belongs to this same category of doubtful cist-stones or covers. It was found in a locality where numerous sepulchral remains exist. See a figure of it in Plate XIII. fig. 5.

In England stone urn covers have been repeatedly found carved with concentric rings, and especially in

Northumberland.—Several examples have been discovered in Northumberland principally by the Rev. Mr Greenwell, of the cutting of cups and concentric circles upon stones covering cists or the mouths of sepulchral urns and pits. Instances of this kind have in particular been found at Black Heddon, and Ford West Field. One of the urn slabs in this last locality was cut on its under surface with three incomplete concentric rings on its inferior surface (see Plate XV. fig. 3); another showed only cup excavations. Six or eight similar urn covers were quite unmarked. All of them, both the marked and unmarked, covered small sepulchral pits dug in the soil. Two of those discovered by Mr Bigg at Black Heddon were apparently the coverings of urns placed in tumuli. In all cases, I believe, in which these sculptured cist or urn covers have been found in Northumberland, the accompanying bones and urns indicate cremation.

Dorsetshire.—In his antiquarian researches in this county, Mr Warne opened, at Camedown on the Ridgeway, a tumulus of rather an unusual form. At its base, when reached, were found the remains of six unburnt human skeletons, placed without order or regularity, and some few bones of the ox. Above them, and in the centre of the tumulus, was built up a cairn or heap of flints around a coarse and broken urn, which contained calcined bones. This mass of flints was surrounded and covered by a horizontal rough slab. Above and upon this slab was built another large heap of flints, six or seven feet in thickness. This second heap was capped with another rough slab, lying two or three feet below the surface of the tumulus. Both these flat unhewn covering slabs had a group of concentric circles cut upon them. Fig. 1 in Plate XII. represents a section of the tumulus, and fig. 2 gives a sketch of the circles on one of the stones.¹

¹ For a copy of these sketches I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr Warne. They form part of a forthcoming volume by him on the Antiquities of Dorsetshire. Some account of this tumulus is published in the *Journal of the Archaeological Association*, vol. iii. p. 51.

PLATE XII.

FROM DORSETSHIRE, NORTHUMBERLAND AND FORFARSHIRE.

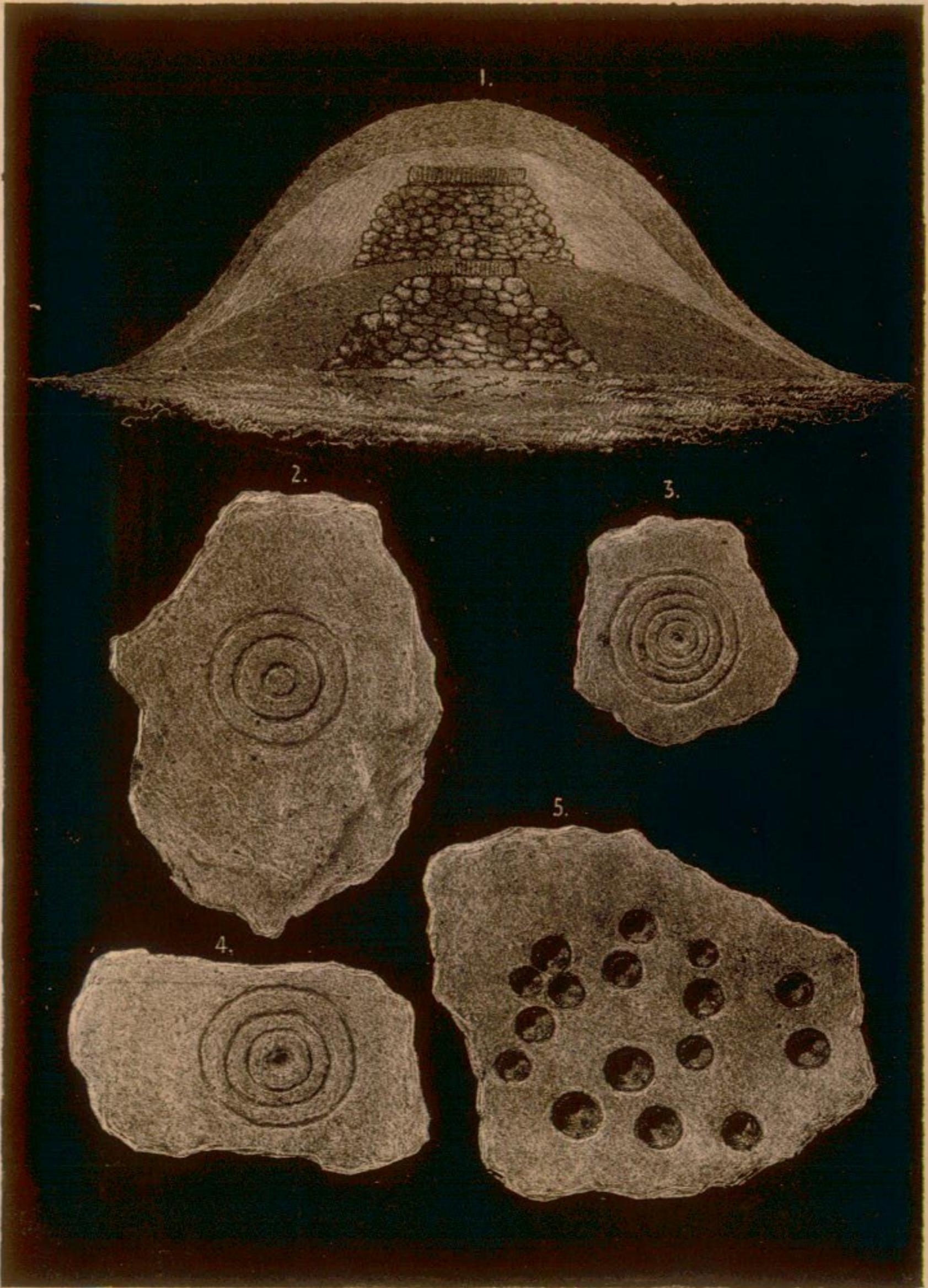


PLATE XIII.

CISTS AT COILSFIELD, ACHINLARY, CARNBAN, AND WALLTOWN.

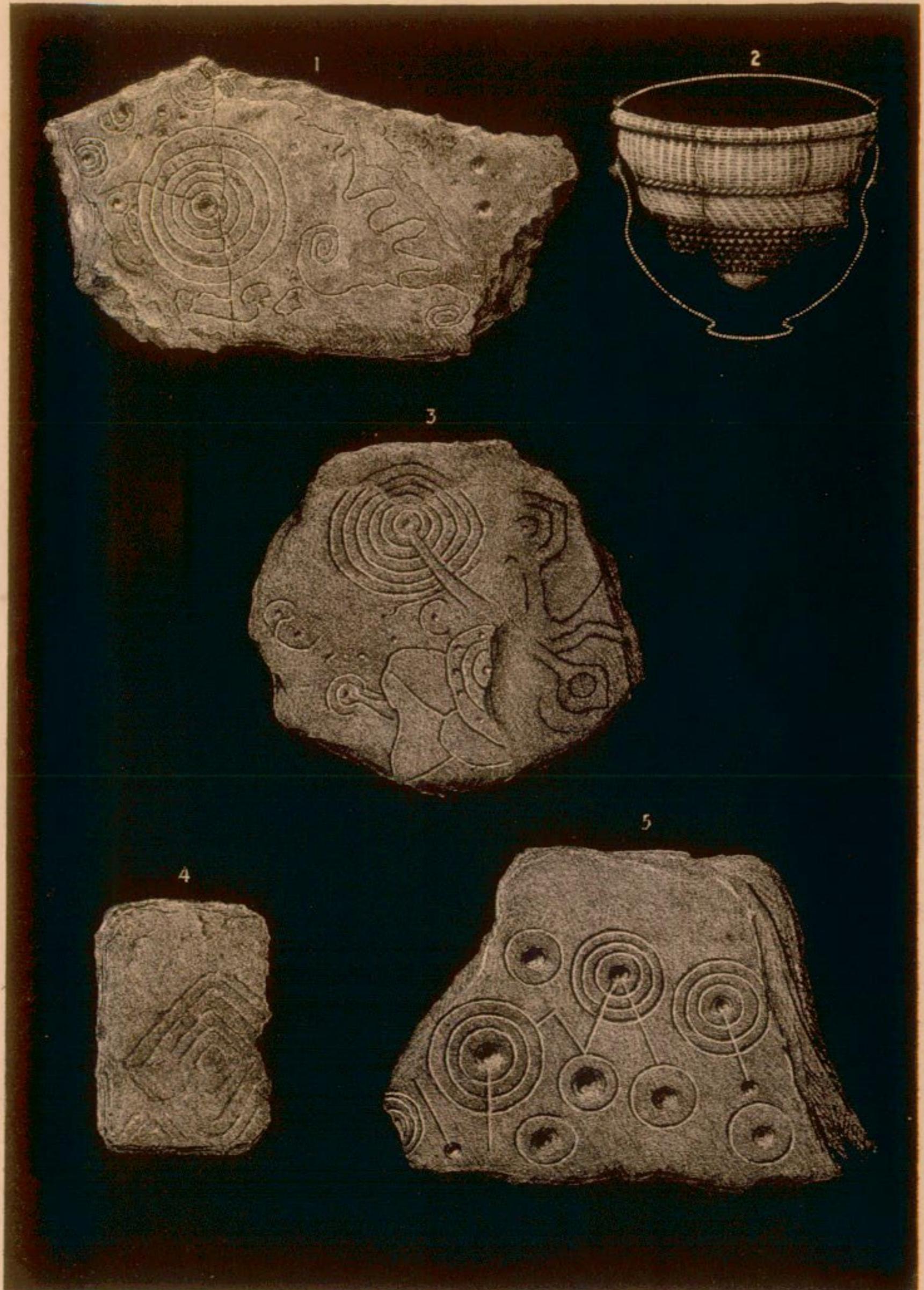


PLATE XIV.

STONES FROM ROSSHIRE AND FORFARSHIRE.

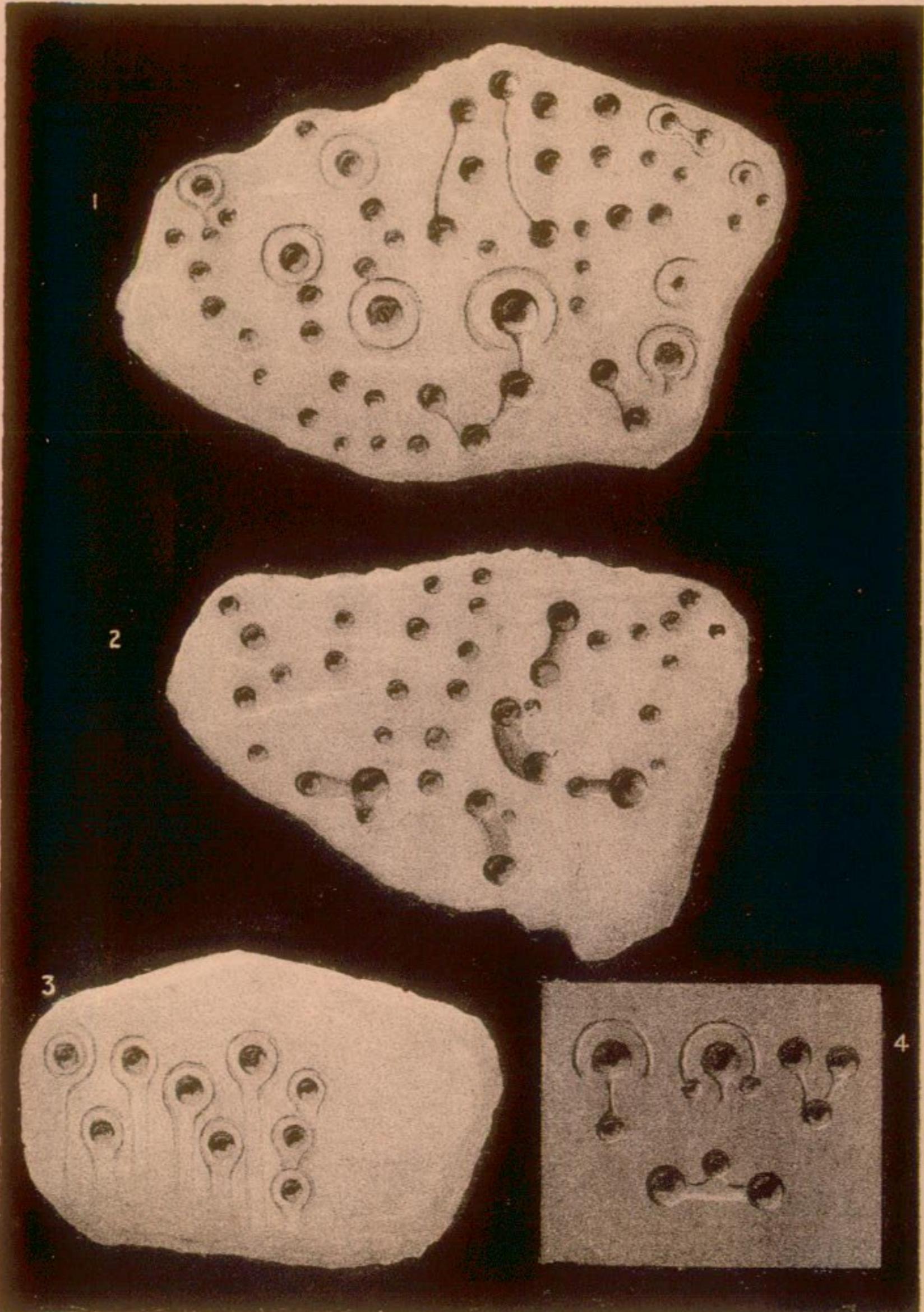


PLATE XV.

KIST-VAEN, AT CRAIGIE-HILL, LINLITHGOWSHIRE.

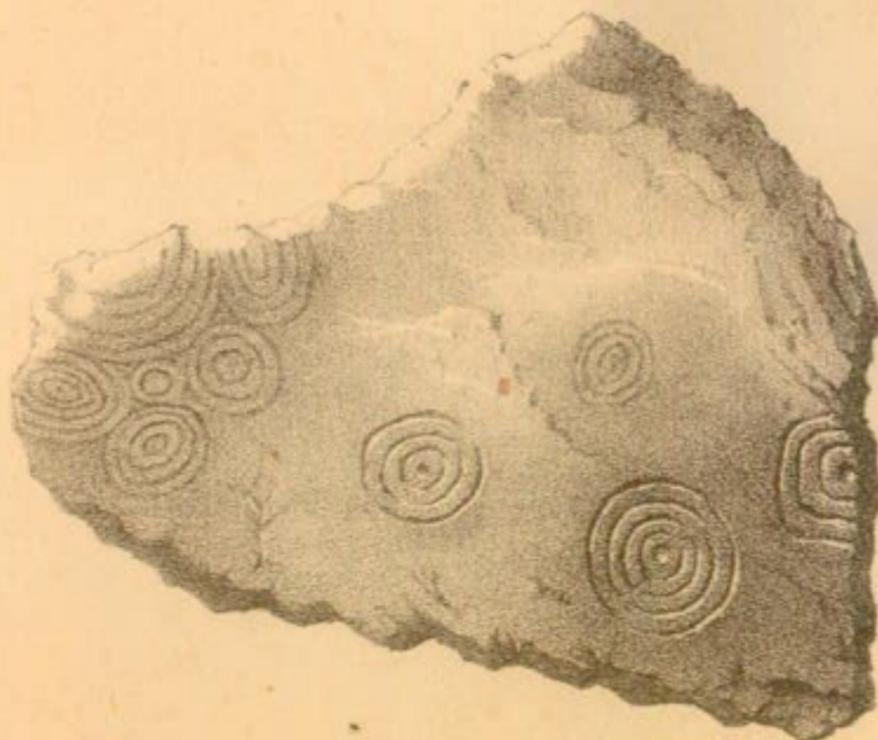


PLATE XXVI.

FROM CARLOWRIE, ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, &c.



6. ON STANDING STONES OR MONOLITHS.

Large unhewn standing-stones, stone columns, obelisks, monoliths, or menhirs, abound in different parts of Scotland, sometimes standing alone, more rarely placed in groups or lines. They were, as already stated, raised with various objects. One of these objects was, as we know from the urns and bones near their base, as a memorial of the dead.

“Of single memorial stones,” says Professor Wilson, “examples might be cited in nearly every Scottish parish; nor are they wanting even in the Lothians, and in the immediate vicinity of Edinburgh, where the presence of a busy population, and the unsparing operations of the agriculturist, have done so much to obliterate the traces of older generations. But nearly all are of the same character, differing in nothing but relative size, and the varying outlines of their unhewn masses. They have outlived the traditions of their rearers, and no inscription preserves to us the long-forgotten name.”¹ In every district of North Britain, according to George Chalmers,² these stone pillars are to be found “in their natural shape, *without the mark of any tool.*”

This last observation certainly holds good with regard to most of the Scottish standing-stones. But latterly, since studying the subject of lapidary cup and ring cuttings, I have found these archaic tool-marks on no small number of our ancient monoliths; and the surfaces of some of the stones have become far too broken and disintegrated to show them now, if ever they did exist on them. In his “Prehistoric Annals,” Dr Wilson gives figures of two monoliths standing in the Lothians,—namely, the Caiy stone within a few miles of Edinburgh, and a tall monolith near Dunbar. Markings were only lately detected on them when they were specially examined for that purpose.

Caiy Stone near Edinburgh.—The Caiy stone, in the parish of Colinton, about three miles south-west of Edinburgh, is a massive, unhewn, flattened sandstone obelisk, standing about ten feet high. Its surface is much weathered, but near its base there are still distinctly marked the remains of seven cup excavations of the usual form, and arranged in a row like those on the cromlech at Bonnington, some six or seven miles

¹ Wilson's Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, 2d edition, vol i. p. 130.

² Chalmers's Caledonia, vol. i. p. 87.

distant. The sketch of these cups on the Caiy stone, given in Plate XVII. fig. 1, is from the able pencil of Colonel Forbes-Leslie. There are other more dubious and lesser excavations placed higher up. "On digging," observes Professor Daniel Wilson, "in the neighbourhood of this primitive monument, a quantity of human bones were found."¹

Monolith at Dunbar.—When speaking of the great memorial stones which still survive in dumb forgetfulness in many a populous centre of the low country, Dr Wilson gives a masterly sketch by Mr Drummond² of, to use his own words, "one such fine monolith which stands in massive rudeness in the vicinity of Dunbar. In a neighbouring field," he adds, "a number of rude cists, containing sepulchral urns, were dug up in the early part of the present century."³ When Mr Drummond originally sketched this stone, he did not observe any cup excavations upon it. But lately he has furnished me with a new drawing of the monolith, copied into Plate IV. fig. 3, taken by a friend, and showing five cup markings upon one face of the stone.⁴

I have notes of similar cup markings upon other Scottish monoliths, as in Fifeshire, at Pitcorthy and Torrie; in Stirlingshire, at Ruehill, near Doune; in Perthshire, at Belmont Castle; in Wigtonshire, on a standing stone at Whirlpool, in the parish of Stoneycirk; in Cantyre, on a monolith near Campbelltown, &c.; and no doubt many others exist; and many others which formerly existed, cut both with cups and rings, are now lost and destroyed.⁵ By far the most interesting specimens

¹ Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, vol. i. p. 137.

² See the stone represented in Mr Drummond's interesting paper on Stone Crosses, in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. iv. p. 87.

³ See his Prehistoric Annals, vol. i. p. 125.

⁴ Four large obelisks stand within a few miles of Dunbar, viz., one at Kirklandhill, a second at Markle, and two on Standingstone farm, near Duppender. None of them have any markings upon their present surfaces; but they are all much weathered.

⁵ As an illustration of this remark, let me adduce a notice of a monolith in Galloway which Andrew Simson alludes to in his history of that district, written towards the end of the seventeenth century. In Camerot Muir, in the old parish of Kirkdale, there is, says he, a stone four or five feet in diameter, called the Penny Stone, which "hath upon it the resemblance of that draught which is commonly called the walls of Troy," viz., a volute or spiral. (See Mr Nicolson's History of Galloway, vol. ii. p. 47.) It is stated in the last Statistical Account that this stone has disappeared.

which I have myself happened to see are in the vicinity of Kilmartin, in Argyleshire, at a short distance from the western end of the Crinan Canal.

The village of Kilmartin is situated upon a rising ground, and commands a striking view of the valley of the Add and of the mountains beyond. Its interesting and antique churchyard is—like some others in Argyleshire—full of sepulchral slabs and tombs, covered with rich olden floriated and figure carvings. But, stretching out for a course of three or four miles below it, is a scattered archaic necropolis of immensely older date,—and having spread over it, at various distances, single and grouped monoliths and megalithic circles, cairns and barrows, chambered tumuli, stone cists, &c. Some of the monoliths show no decided evidence of tooling upon them. But amongst the extant groups of ancient obelisks at Nether Largie, Ballymenach, &c., several of the stones are strongly carved, and hence require more notice from us here.

Largie, Argyleshire.—Along the low ground, from Kilmartin to the farm of Largie, runs a string or succession of large cairns or barrows, terminated by a group of six or seven tall monoliths, planted very irregularly—six of them in pairs. One of these obelisks, about nine feet high, and three and a-half broad, presents on its flat eastern side a series of above twenty cup-markings. This stone is represented in Plate XVII. fig. 2. Two of the cups are each surrounded by a deep and smooth ring. The largest of these circles is from six to seven inches in diameter, and its central cup three inches broad. One of these ringed cups has a groove or gutter traversing its circle, and running downwards into a second cup placed a few inches below. The base of this monolith is surrounded by a circlet of stones placed on edge. The ring-markings upon it were first discovered by the Rev. Mr Mapleton, to whose extreme courtesy I—and other antiquarian visitors to the district—feel most deeply indebted. One of the other Largie stones has an appearance of three cup excavations upon it. With this exception no other tool-markings

In the *Archæologia*, vol. v. p. 315, &c., there was published in the last century an account of several megalithic circles at Achencorthie in Kincardineshire, and two stones are alluded to having each a cup and channel leading out from it. These circles have latterly become much destroyed, and some friends have searched in vain for me for those described as cupped and channelled.

seem to exist on the Largie obelisks; nor on the thirteen upright stones which form the remains of a megalithic circle, fourteen or fifteen paces in diameter, standing on the opposite side of the road, and surrounding a stone cist, five feet long and two feet nine in breadth. In the adjoining field are the remains of a large cairn containing several sepulchral chambers; but no apparent markings exist upon any of the huge stones composing the walls of these chambers.

Ballymenach, Argyleshire.—Proceeding along the valley from the Largie group of monoliths, we pass on the left a cairn in a wood, with one or two large chambers or cists already opened within it; and about a mile beyond the Largie stones, we come upon another still more stately and imposing cluster of seven pillar-stones standing on the farm of Ballymenach, in the parish of Kilmichael-Glassary. The field containing them is skirted at two sides by woods, which have been found the seat of isolated stone cists. In the field itself are placed the levelled remains of two barrows or cairns, and a small closed circle of stones, the circle measuring only six paces across, and the stones being about three feet in height. Thirty or forty paces behind this circle stand arranged in a straight row the four tallest monoliths, looking nearly directly east; about forty paces further back are a pair of the stones placed side by side, and parallel with the first row; and some twenty paces still further back, but obliquely, and somewhat to the left, the remaining seventh pillar-stone is situated. In Plate XVII. fig. 1 is represented this group of seven stones, with the small stone circle placed in front of them.

Four of the seven Ballymenach monoliths show no appearances of artificial cutting upon their surfaces; the most southerly in the first row presenting no markings, though it is the most stately in the whole group, overtopping them all by two or three feet. Three of them are more or less carved—two on the eastern, and one on the western side of the stone or slab.

The two stones principally carved are the two innermost of the first row of four. The most southerly of these two is a huge slab above twelve feet in height and six in breadth. To trace all its markings, Dr Hunter and I were obliged to clear portions of its surface of accumulated moss. Its eastern face shows about forty cup excavations. Five

of the cups are surrounded each with a deep circle or ring, and near the top is a sixth appearance of a ring without any central cup. The circles are from seven to nine inches in diameter. The central cup of the largest is nine inches broad and about two and a half in depth. Four of these cup and ring cuttings show the common radial groove passing through the circle. The western face of this stone does not present any markings. In Plate XVII. fig. 2, is a representation from a careful sketch, kindly drawn for me by Mr H. D. Graham, of the eastern surface of the stone, showing the appearances I allude to. The opposite or western surface of the next stone in the row has about forty cup markings upon it. Three of the cups are surrounded by rings with a traversing radial gutter. Six of the cups are tied together by a continuous grooved line. The carvings on this stone are represented in Plate XVII. fig. 3. The isolated monolith is the only other one exhibiting any markings. It is above nine feet in height, and its eastern face shows eighteen cup excavations. (See the sketch of it in Plate XVIII. fig. 3.) In addition, it is a specimen of a so-called "holed stone;" for between two and three feet above its base it is completely perforated.¹ The opening which is represented in the sketch is much splayed on either side. At its centre it is about three inches wide; and externally

¹ The stone at Torrie, Fifeshire, alluded to at p. 31, is a flattened sandstone flag, deeply guttered in longitudinal lines, and presenting cup-markings on its eastern side. It has been attempted to be made "a holed stone," like this block at Ballymenach, but the artificially splayed perforations from the opposite sides do not meet in the middle. About fifty paces from it are the remains of a small circle of stones. Let me here add, what I ought to have noted before (p. 25), that two of the stones at Stonehenge are "holed;" no doubt merely by weathering and disintegration. One of the holed stones is the first upright stone in the avenue at Stonehenge; the perforation is very irregular in shape, and traverses obliquely its south-east angle. The second holed stone is one composing the first upright trilithon on the right side of the circle. It has a deep longitudinal perforation in its back; and below this perforation there is, to use the old description of Dr Stukely, "a cavity in which two or three persons may sit, worn by the weather." (See his "Stonehenge," 1740, p. 29.) In his "Abury" (1743) he describes a perforated stone standing outside the southern interior circle, which has, he states, "a hole in it, and probably was designed to fasten the victim in order for slaying it. This I call the Ring Stone," p. 25. I did not observe this holed stone in visiting Abury; but the Rev. Mr Ross, late rector of Abury, tells me, that it still remains.

it is seven inches in diameter on the east side and four on the west. There are no cups nor rings on the eastern side of this stone.

Passing along the road from Kilmartin to Lochgilphead, we come, about a mile or less beyond Ballymenach, to a field lying between the road and the farm of Dunadd, where stands a very broad and tall monolith. At the distance of half a mile or so beyond this point is the new village of Kilmichael-Glassary. On the western side of the village, and on the banks of the river Add, are placed, on the farm of Dunamuk, first, three stately stones, of about nine or ten feet each in height, arranged originally in a straight row as a trilith, but the middle stone is now prostrate; then a quarter of a mile higher up the stream there stands together a pair of still taller monoliths; and lastly, in the field above this erect pair, and on the higher ground, are two great prostrate pillars, with the remains of three large cairns—one of them within a few feet of the fallen monoliths. There are stones also showing the remains of three circles and cairns in the adjoining and lower field, but their true appearances have lately been destroyed by blasting them with gunpowder. On examining the surfaces of these various monoliths, I could only trace on one of them—namely, the eastermost of the tall standing pair—one circular cup depression of the usual form, and near it an elongated smoothed oval cavity, measuring about six inches in length and one and a-half in breadth and depth.

My friend Mr J. MacGow Crom has lately examined for me other standing stones near Kilmartin, as two on the road to Ford, and one at Lechguary to the northward of Kilmartin, twelve feet high,—all of them unmarked. But about a mile or more above the village of Kilmichael-Glassary he found a carved stone above ten feet high, at a place bearing the name of “Tor-a-Vlaarin” or “The Mound of the Battles.” The stone was “half buried in the earth, and almost all its marks were placed low down below ground.” These marks consist of several cup excavations on the north and south sides of the stone; and one of them on the north side is surrounded by a circle, like the ringed cups on the Largie and Ballymenach stones, and has also, like them, a radial duct or groove traversing it.

I have examined two monoliths placed on the low ground below Auchnabreach, and hence a mile or more further down the valley of the

Crinan Canal than Dunamuk; but I could discover no markings or cuttings on them. One of them, which is now prostrate, was found, it is said, to have evidence of sepulture near its base.

There has been already described and figured the panel (see Plate XIII. fig. 4), with angulated concentric carvings, taken from the barrow at Carnban, about a mile or so nearer Kilmartin.

We shall see subsequently that several rocks *in situ* on the sides of the Crinan Valley, and in the vicinity of this archaic cemetery—running from Kilmartin to Auchnabreach—are cut with numerous groups of concentric circles and cups.

Hence in this limited district we have specimens of rings and cups cut upon the surfaces of solid rocks, upon monoliths, and upon cist-stones; and the specimens already discovered amount, I believe, to upwards of two hundred in number, in a locality about five or six miles in length and a mile or two in breadth.

In England the most striking and magnificent group of monoliths that I have seen are the so-called "Devil's Arrows" at Borough Bridge, in Yorkshire. Three only of these tall and enormous monoliths are now left, and stand in a line about a stone's throw from each other. They are all pillars of a squarish shape, and said to be formed of millstone grit. Each at its upper part is deeply and vertically guttered, apparently by long weathering and exposure; and their lower portions show round, smooth, cup-like excavations upon some of their surfaces. The most northerly of these imposing monoliths is especially marked in this last way. Many, if not all, of these excavations, have probably been effected by the elements and weather; while some of them, which look more artificial, are of the same shape and form as those on the Kilmartin stones, &c. But unfortunately we have not here the presence of rings or circles around the cups to determine conclusively their artificial character.

PLATE IV.

STONES AT 1, THORAX. 2, MONCRIEFF. 3, DUNBAR,



PLATE XVII.

OBELISKS AT COLINTON, LARGIE, BALLYMENACH AND SHAP.

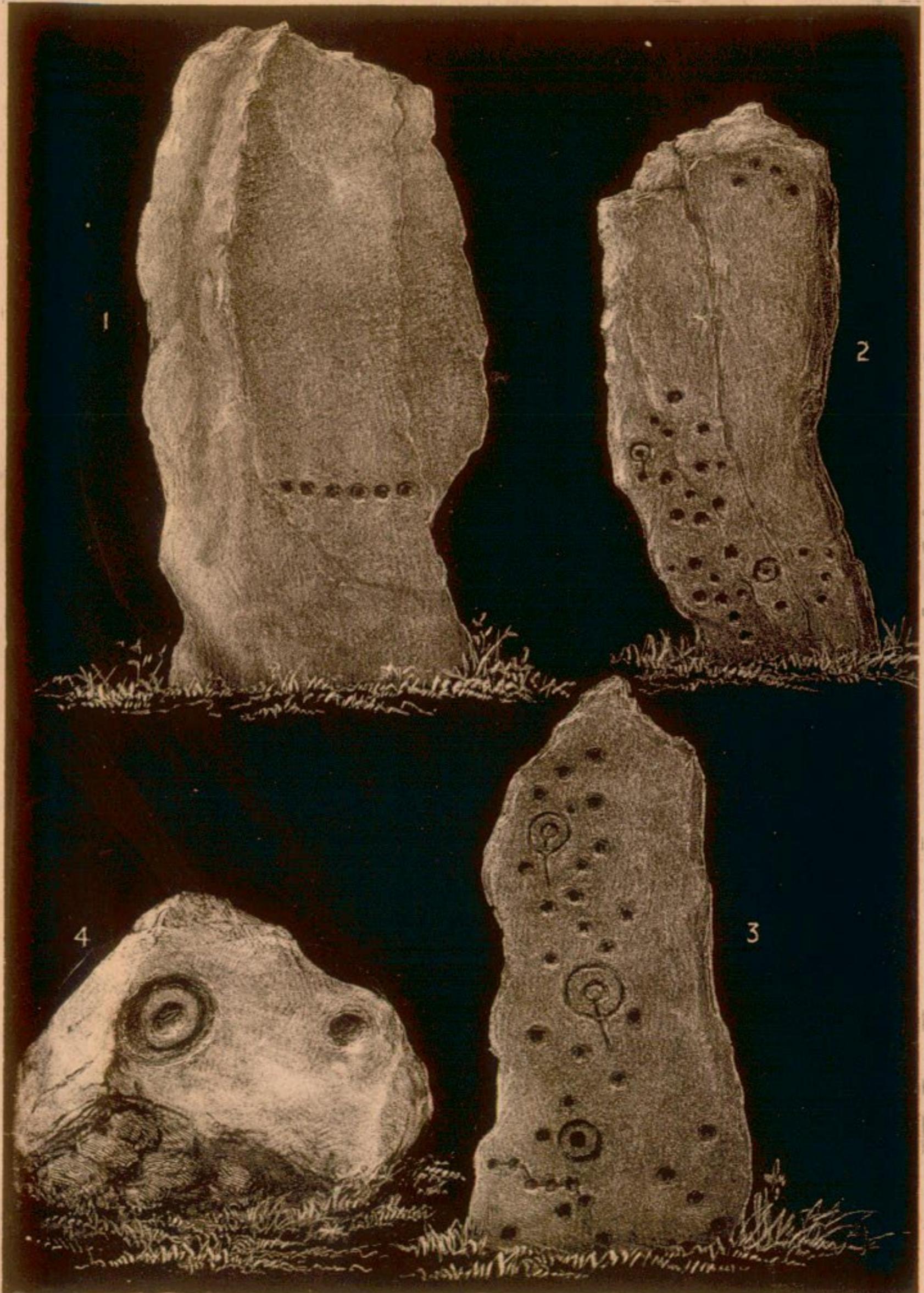
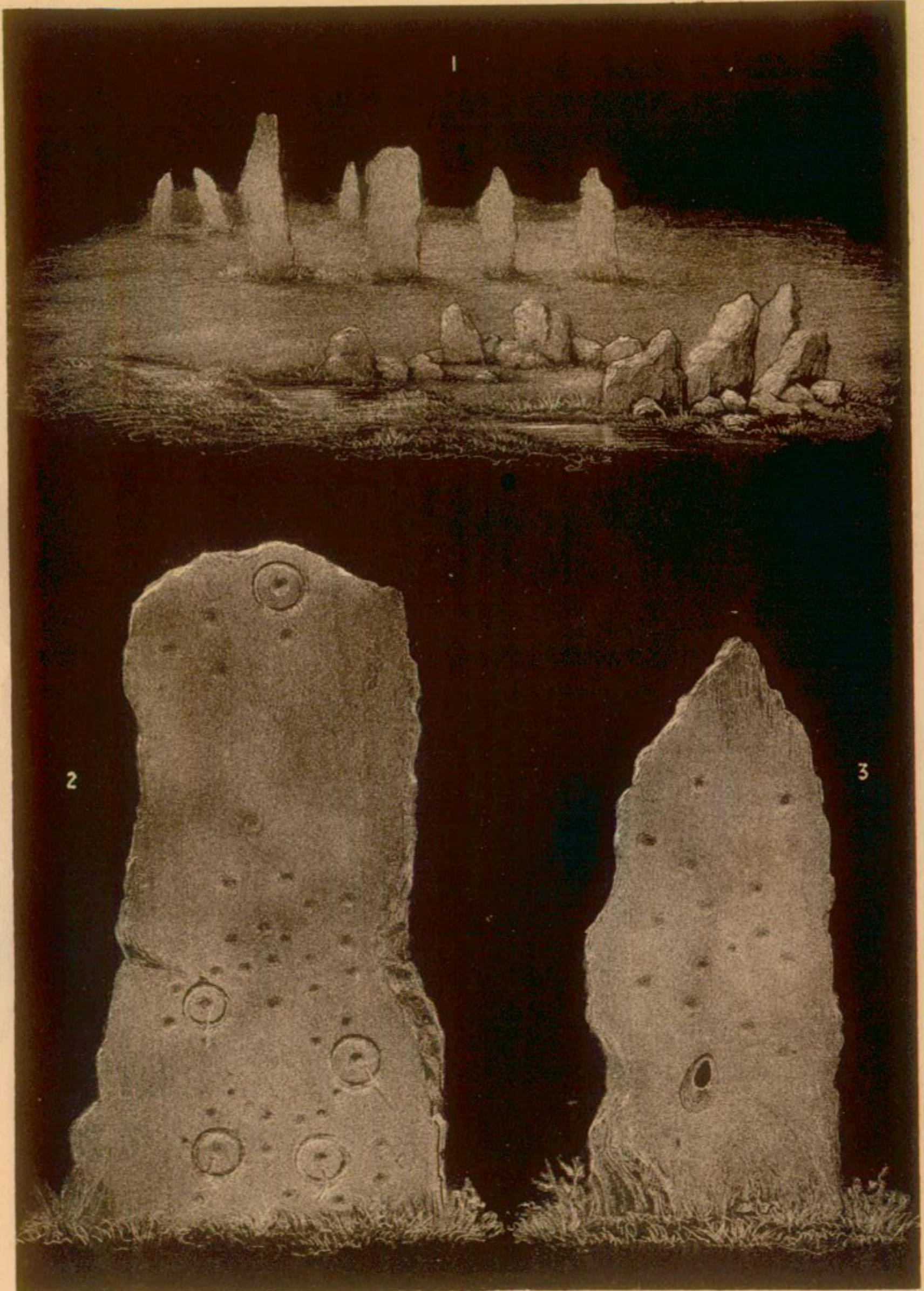


PLATE XVIII.

STANDING STONES AT BALLYMENACH.



CHAPTER V.—ON STONES CONNECTED WITH ARCHAIC
HABITATION.

Hitherto we have spoken of these rude ring and cup carvings as seen

on stones, all of them probably connected with the sepulture of the archaic dead. But the same strange and curious markings have been found connected with the dwellings of archaic living man,—as in the dwellings and forts which he occupied, and within or near his ancient towns and camps. I shall proceed to adduce a few examples in illustration of this remark.

7. IN UNDERGROUND HOUSES, &c.

Among the oldest forms of primitive domestic architecture of which we have the remains in Scotland, are those rude and dark subterranean, or semi-subterranean dwellings which are known under the names of "Earth Houses," "Picts' Houses," "Weems," &c. These cave-like dwellings are usually built with rough cyclopic walls of large stones, and roofed over by flat flags and a covering of earth and soil. Some of their component stones have been found marked with circles and cups; as at

Eday, Orkney.—There is in the Museum of the Antiquarian Society a stone from the island of Eday, Orkney, marked with two sets of triple concentric circles, each having a cupped centre; and a faded portion of a third set. There is also a double spiral cutting of several circles; and the outer spiral line of one volute crosses and makes a junction with the outermost spiral line of the other volute. The stone was discovered in Eday a few years ago, in a large pile of ruins which had once formed a so-called "Pict's house." The building, according to Mr Hebden—who presented the stone to the Museum—was about forty yards long and ten broad. The incised slab is of sandstone, and is three and a-half feet long, fifteen inches broad, and eight inches in thickness. (For a representation of the cuttings on it, see Plate XIX. fig. 4.)¹

Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney.—In 1849, in examining a Pict's house in the Holm of Papa Westray, my friend, Captain Thomas, found on a stone—built into the wall near the entrance—a neatly engraved circle about four inches in diameter, and two other small conjoined circles on another stone in the building. Mr Petrie has more lately detected on other stones in this subterranean building other circular and linear markings, which,

¹ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. iv. p. 185.

he says, "it is easy to see have been formed by a pointed instrument tolerably sharp."¹

Pickaquooy, Orkney.—In 1853, Mr Farrer excavated a built subterranean structure in Pickaquooy, near Kirkwall. The building was so dilapidated that it was difficult to trace whether it was a grave for the ancient dead or a house for the ancient living. Mr Petrie, a most excellent judge on such a question, thinks that it was an archaic dwelling-house. In one of the chambers a stone with a central cup and a group of concentric circles engraved on it was found built upright into the wall. The appearance of the circles upon this stone is copied into Plate XIX. fig. 5. Another long slab was found with thirteen small cavities along one of its edges, and a larger cup or cavity in the centre of one of its sides. "When," remarks Mr Petrie, "a short time afterwards I examined the engraved circles, and especially the cavities cut in the stones in the walls of the Pict's house at Papa Westray, the similarity was so striking that it required no stretch of imagination to suppose that the same instrument chiselled the figures in both places."²

Frith, Orkney.—Mr Petrie has found an elongated stone sculptured on one end in a ruined wall in the parish of Frith. The sculpturing consists of a volute or spiral line making four turns. The diameter of the outermost circle is above six inches. See it drawn in Plate XIX. fig. 6. I allude to this stone here, chiefly as forming one of the Orkney group; and partly because it had been used in building, though not apparently in the construction of a Pict's house. The ruined wall, in the base of which it was discovered, stood at an ancient broch or burg at Redland, where it turned up in some diggings conducted by Mr Farrer. But this was possibly not the original site of the stone; for it seems to have been used casually for building material. The stone itself is now in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh.

We do not know the age at which the "weems" or underground houses were used by our Scottish forefathers; but there are one or two pieces of evidence which go far to prove that the carving of cups and

¹ See notices and figures of these carvings, in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 61.

² Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 61.

circles upon large stones existed apparently before these underground houses were built, as in the following instance in a Pict's house at

Letham Grange, Forfarshire.—Several years ago the stones forming a Pict's house built into the banks of the river Brothick, near Letham Grange, were removed for building purposes. Some of the foundation stones of the walls were left. Lately, on removing these foundation stones, one was found carved on both sides with cups and circles, and has been kindly presented to the Museum of the Society by Mr Hey of Letham Grange. It is a sandstone block measuring three feet nine inches in length, three in breadth, and one in thickness. Both sides are very rough and broken, and in this uneven condition have had chiselled upon them the cups and circles, single and double, which they contain. See Plate XX. figs. 1 and 2. One side of this sandstone block has carved upon it some forty cups. Most of these cups are isolated; but some are connected together by intervening ducts or gutters. The two largest and deepest are surrounded each with two encircling rings traversed by the usual radial groove. Several cups have one surrounding ring. At the upper and right hand corner a centre cup is surrounded by a circle of seven cups. Two of these cups are themselves ringed. On the opposite side of the block are carved fourteen or fifteen cups; three of them surrounded by a single guttered or incomplete circle; and seven of them encircled with two rings each, with the usual radial duct traversing them.

The original underground house, of which this sculptured block had been used as one of the foundation stones, was a structure about six feet in diameter, and six feet in height. It was built into the side of a gravelly bank or ridge. The masonry was of the rudest description. The floor of the house was only a foot or two above the level of the Brothick. The sculptured foundation stone was built—the Rev. Mr Duke of Arbroath writes me—“into the base course of the south wall, with the most deeply marked side facing the interior. Of course, as the whole building was originally under ground, the other side of the stone on which there were also ring markings was embedded and hidden in the soil. It is thus (he adds) clear to my mind, that whatever may have been the meaning or use of these markings, they were made at a date anterior to the building of the house,—that the stone, in fact, was an old stone, and had served

a different purpose before the Pict built it into the foundation of his dwelling.”

Ruthven, Forfarshire.—A notice and sketch of a sculptured stone, from another weem in Forfarshire, has been obligingly furnished to me by my esteemed friend Dr Wise, of Rostellan Castle, Ireland, who, a few years ago, devoted great attention to early Scottish antiquities, when residing in this country. This carved stone was an oblong piece of sandstone, which formed a portion of the roof of a weem at Ruthven, near Meigle. Upon one of its surfaces are several isolated cups; two, surrounded by a single ring; one, by a double ring; and another is enclosed by three circles. Three of the ringed cups are traversed each by a radial groove or duct which runs downwards into three cups set in a row. See Plate XXV, fig. 3. “The cups and circles were,” Dr Wise writes me, “partly covered with the other roofstones of the weem, proving the sculptures to have been cut before this carved stone had come to be used as a corner building stone.”

PLATE XIX.

FROM TORWOOD, STIRLINGSHIRE, AND ORKNEY.



PLATE XX.

FROM WEEM AT LETHAM GRANGE, FORFARSHIRE.

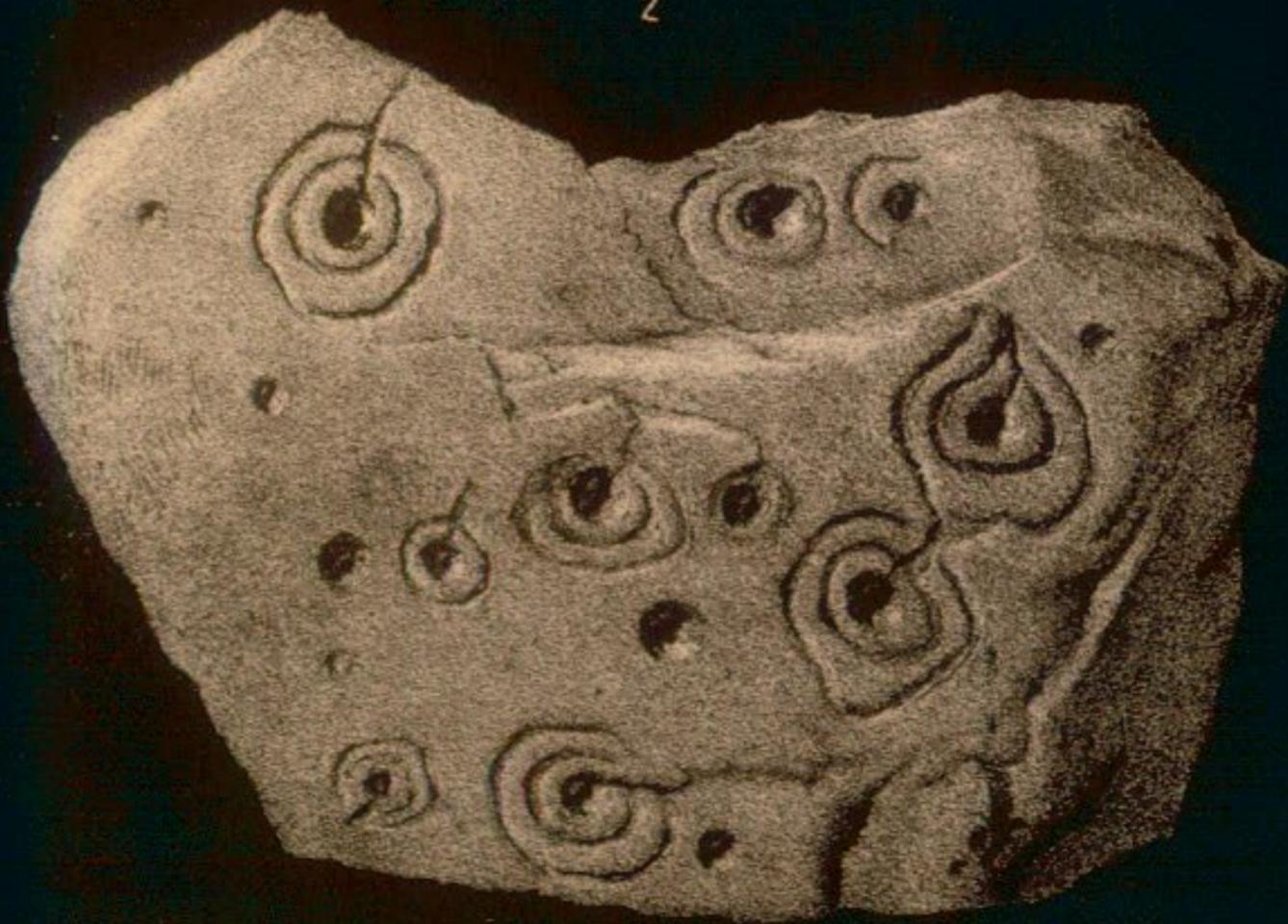
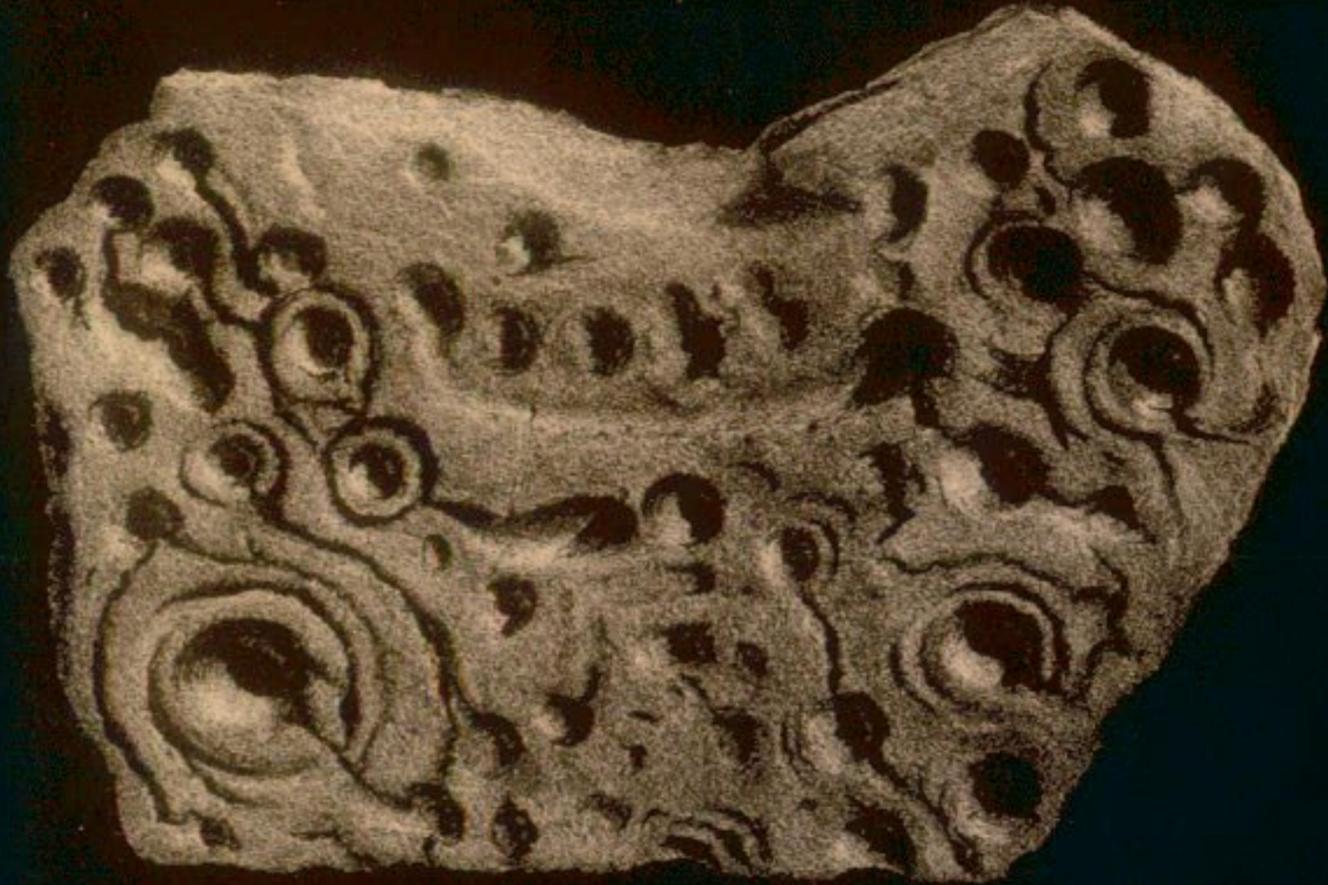
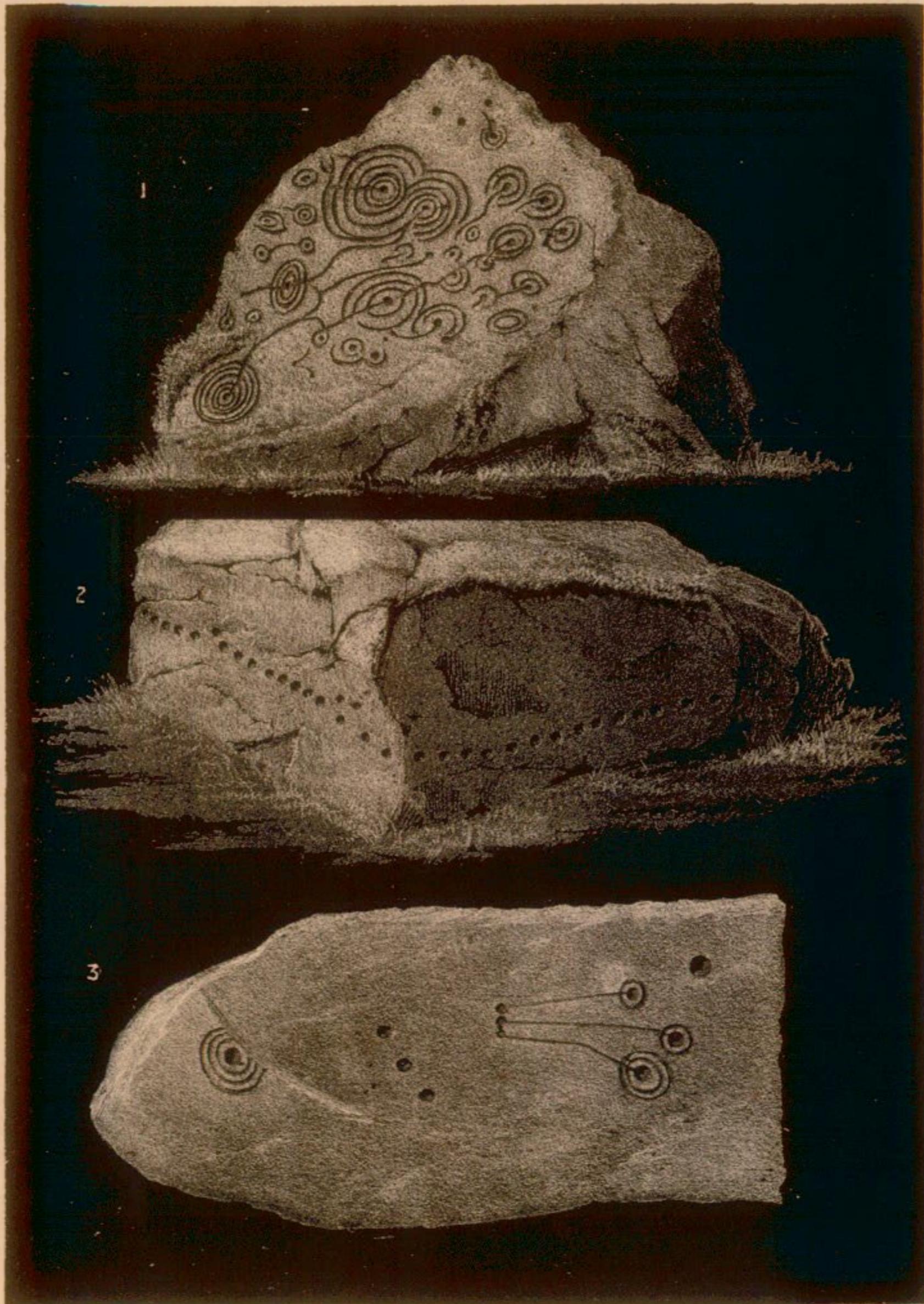


PLATE XXV.

ROCK AT BEWICK, RUTHVEN WEEM.



8. IN FORTIFIED BUILDINGS.

The spade and mattock—those indispensable aids to archæology—have of late disclosed to us, in the eastern parts of Scotland, strange types and forms of archaic houses and places, furnished with more or less powerful artificial defences, analogous to, and yet differing from, the archaic burghs of the northern and western counties. In one or two such fortified dwellings, or clusters of dwellings, stones have been found cut with ring and cup carvings; as at

Tappock, Stirlingshire.—In the old forest of Torwood, lying between Falkirk and Stirling, Colonel Dundas, of Carronhall, has lately made some antiquarian excavations which have resulted in striking success. On the top of a hill in the wood he thought that he saw some indistinct evidence of building. He cut down the trees growing upon the spot, and, digging downwards, he excavated, with great zeal and skill a large strongly-built circular area, above thirty feet in breadth, and ten in depth. A passage from this central area was followed outwards, and opened externally, after going through twenty-five feet of continuous wall. The walls of the passage were built of large stones; and it was

roofed over by horizontal blocks. A second door passed out of the central area, and led to a stair, which mounted upwards to the ground, on a level with the top of the circular building. Externally the building has sloping sides all around; but whether it was originally constructed in this fashion, or the slope is the result of earth and stone accumulated by time, has not yet been ascertained. The interior walls of the central area are cyclopic, or built of large stones without lime. Probably at one time this circular structure was much higher, as Colonel Dundas found in its interior a great accumulation of large stones, similar to those composing the remaining lower portions of wall; and this accumulation looked like the debris of a higher portion of the building that had tumbled and fallen inwards. Amid this debris Colonel Dundas found three stones with circles cut upon them. The carved lines are about an inch broad and half an inch deep. These three stones are represented in Plate XIX. Like the walls of the building, they are composed of sandstone. Two of the stones (figs. 1 and 3) are each about two feet long, by fifteen inches or more in breadth at the broadest part. The stone (fig. 1) shows upon it the remains of two double concentric circles, each provided with a central cup. The stone (fig. 3) has sculptured upon it two concentric rings, the broadest and outermost being nearly six inches in diameter. There is no distinct central cup, but a radial duct or groove traverses the two circles. The second stone (see fig. 2) is about eighteen inches long and sixteen broad, and has on one edge a broken portion of a similar double circle and central cup; and a second figure, consisting of a single ring without a central cup. Three of the four double rings or concentric circles on the stones have thus central cups. From these carved stones being broken in some points through the line of the circles, Colonel Dundas inclines to think that they were probably cut and sculptured before they were used as building material in this ancient structure. Within the central area were found some flat querns.

Laws, Forfarshire.—To another Scottish proprietor, who has made upon his estate extensive diggings, in the same scientific and generous spirit as Colonel Dundas, we owe the disentombment of another and still more extensive series of old fortified buildings. I allude to my friend Mr Neish, of the Laws, who, as is well known to the Members of the Scot-

tish Society of Antiquaries, has, in digging upon the high grounds above his house at the Laws, between Dundee and Arbroath, disclosed a building, having a central circular area like that at Tappock, paved with two or three layers of stone; and near it and around it a long series of strong and strange cyclopic walls running in the most enigmatical and curious directions. (See the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 1860, vol. iii. p. 440, &c.)

In the course of his diggings among the old and puzzling structures covering this hill, Mr Neish has met with and preserved some stones with cup excavations; and one with a series of three concentric circles cut around a large central cup, the outermost ring being about eleven inches in diameter. This ringed stone and another from the Laws, with cup markings alone, is represented in Plate XII. figs. 4 and 5. The stone with the ring cuttings on it is apparently a fragment of a larger stone. Another similar piece was found, and lost.

PLATE XII.

FROM DORSETSHIRE, NORTHUMBERLAND AND FORFARSHIRE.

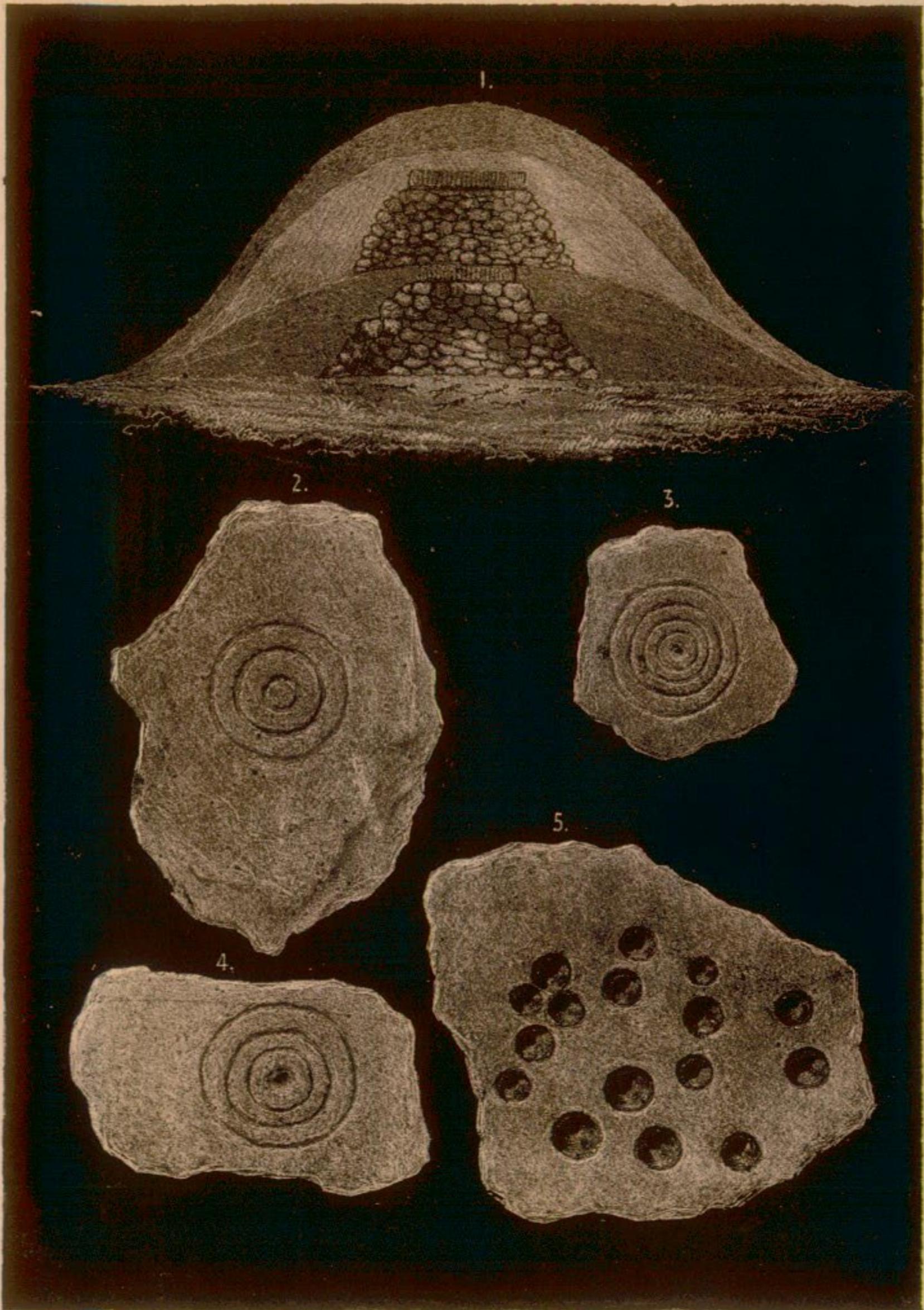


PLATE XIX.

FROM TORWOOD, STIRLINGSHIRE, AND ORKNEY.



9. IN AND NEAR ANCIENT TOWNS (OPPIDA) AND CAMPS.

In many parts of Scotland and England we have the remains of the structures in which large congregations or communities of the ancient inhabitants dwelt, in the form of more or less extensive strongholds, defended by ramparts and ditches, and containing within their circuit the round foundations of those hut circles which then formed the dwellings of our British forefathers. Often, when the strongholds are on elevated spots, the clusters and relics of the hut circles are found arranged together, lower down the hill, in more favoured and sheltered situations. Near these remains of olden British habitation are sometimes seen megalithic circles, monoliths, and barrows; sometimes the cairns of the ancient dead are interspersed among the hut dwellings of the ancient living;¹ and occasionally the cairns now alone remain.

¹ One of the most remarkable examples of this kind which I have seen exists in the parish of Kirkmichael, in Strathardle, Perthshire. In this parish there formerly stood above twenty megalithic circles (see their enumeration in the old Statistical Account, vol. xv. p. 516, and in Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. i. p. 72); and Archdeacon Williams and others have hence described the locality in question as an ancient centre of Scottish Druidism. Some time ago, when in the neighbourhood, I took

Within and near these archaic and now nameless towns, cup and ring cuttings have been found occasionally, as in the following examples :—

Lothians.—The summits of various hills in the Lothians and adjoining districts have remains of ancient strongholds and defences upon them. These fortified hills are generally not the highest, but those of minor elevation, and isolated. Within the walls, and oftener still below on the slopes of the hills, are frequently the remains of hut circles, and other pit-like excavations. Few or none of them have yet been searched for sculptured stones and rocks. On the middle hill of Craigiewood I found, *some time ago, within a few miles of Edinburgh, an ancient British city of this description, abutting on a steep rock on the eastern side; and on its other sides defended by a triple rampart, and entered by gates placed obliquely. The proprietor, Mr Hope Vere, was so kind as to examine, by the spade and mattock, the mode in which the three inclosing valli on the western side were constructed. We found that originally they each consisted of a rude cyclopic wall of uncut stones, now buried under a covering of accumulated soil and turf. The area of the inclosed town extends to about forty acres. In different parts of it are still visible the hollows or pits which formed the flooring of the original houses or huts; and a little digging beneath the turf showed rude circular walls built around over several acres. Not many yards outside the southern wall of this ancient town was placed the stone cist, which I have described (page 28) and figured (Plate XV. fig. 2), with nine groups of concentric circles cut upon its covering stone; and, in the low ground below, another cist at Caerlowrie, with circles cut inside the stone lid.*

occasion to examine the few stones now left of the circles, with a view of ascertaining whether they presented any ancient cuttings upon them; but detected none. On walking up to the higher muir-ground above, in the direction of a rocking-stone and some other reputed “Druidical” relics, I unexpectedly came upon a series of extensive stone remains of circular hut foundations; and in the midst of this extensive archaic town stood a very large cairn which had been partially thrown down in an attempt to open it. In the “Old Statistical Account of Scotland” it is stated, that from the east side of this cairn there formerly extended two straight stone avenues, above thirty feet broad and a hundred yards long, while each had a small cairn at its further extremity. My excellent and active friend, Mr John Stuart, has latterly prosecuted various researches with the spade and mattock amid these remains of ancient human habitations.

In describing previously (p. 28) this cist-cover at Caerlowrie, I omitted to refer to the drawings of it, kindly made for me by Mr Hutchison, and copied into Plate ~~XVI~~ ^{XV}. fig. 2.

The Caiy Stone, in Colinton parish, a few miles south of Edinburgh (see antecedently, p. 32), is also placed near the remains of ancient sepulchres and dwellings. "Not far from it," writes Dr Daniel Wilson, "are still visible the rude earthworks of a British camp."¹ Maitland, in his History of Edinburgh (1753), describes the Caiy Stone as standing in the neighbourhood of "divers large cairns," which were placed near a "large oval camp," through which an old military way passed.² General Roy speaks of this military way as the continuation of the English Watling Street, which runs "under the east end of the Pentland Hill," onward to Cramond.³ Professor Walker describes this ancient encampment as of an oval figure, surrounded by one great ditch and rampart, and containing about fifty acres of ground.⁴ This fortified inclosure was, in the end of the last century, more correctly described by the Rev. Mr Whyte, of Liberton, as an ancient town rather than a camp; and this obliterated and long-forgotten city "must" (he naively remarks) "have made an important figure before the Castle of Edinburgh—so greatly famed for antiquity—existed, and, consequently, long before there was any appearance of the adjoining city, which is now so flourishing and extensive, and which has been so much admired on account of the height and grandeur of its buildings."⁵

Ross-shire.—Perhaps we may justly refer to this division some sculptured stones lately found by Mr Joass, of Dingwall, near that town. The hill Crock-ri-avach is situate about two miles from Dingwall. A mutilated megalithic circle stands on its south-west shoulder. Near its site, within a dilapidated circular wall, about fifty yards in diameter, is a hut circle, nearly thirty feet across; and at a short distance there are the more indistinct remains of a second. On the hill, nearly half a mile from these habitations, lie nine or ten loose schistose slabs, averaging

¹ Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, vol. i. p. 138.

² History of Edinburgh, p. 507.

³ Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain, p. 103.

⁴ Essays on Natural History, p. 605.

⁵ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. i. p. 308.

about five or six feet in length and breadth, and a foot and a half in thickness. Their upper surfaces are exposed, and sculptured with cups and rings. The figures vary from single isolated cups to two or more cups connected together with a groove or gutter, and others are surrounded completely or partially by a single ring. In some instances, the incomplete ring surrounding the central cup ends in two cups or depressions, as represented in the diagram of them in Plate XIV. fig. 1. On one slab there is the appearance of one central cup, surrounded by a circle of seven other cups. A piece of yellow flint was found near one of the stones. Near a hut circle on the top of the hill, flint arrow heads and cups are reported to have been formerly found in abundance. One of the sculptured stones was carefully dug under by Mr Joass, and was found to lie on undisturbed boulder-clay, while the boulder-clay rested on the soft shale of the district.

Kirkcudbrightshire.—The Rev. Mr Greenwell has directed my attention to a flat rock-scalp on the farm of High Arvie, in the parish of Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire, as presenting appearances of artificial stone-cutting, which he believes to be referable to the class described in this memoir. The carved rock is known as the “Cow’s Clout,” and is marked with three or four cup-hollows of the usual form and size, and a slanting ovoid circle, not unlike that which a cow’s foot produces in softish soil. It would be interesting to examine and uncover the neighbouring rock surfaces in search of other markings. Cairns, &c., exist in the immediate vicinity.

Berwickshire.—About two miles west from Spottiswoode is Harefauld, a camp or habitation of an irregular circular shape. The walls are formed of stones, and in many places are from ten to twenty feet thick. The enclosure is about fifty-five yards across in one direction, but more in an opposite line. There are vestiges of a dividing wall, running from north to south. On the north side, in the thickness of the wall, are several cells or houses—one of them measuring nine feet long by four across; and others also occur in the thickness of the wall towards the west. On the north side are circular walls projecting into the area from the outside wall, forming inclosures of varying size, from six feet to twenty feet in diameter. On the south side, in the wall, and near to what was the entrance to the fort, my friend, Mr John Stuart—to whom I am indebted for these and other notes—found a large slab or

gate-post, having several cup excavations of varying size cut upon its surface.

Doubtlessly a little more extended inquiry in Scotland will increase much the number of instances of stones with cup and ring carvings, found in connection with those aggregated hut circles, towns, and camps of ancient man that lie scattered in various positions over the country. If, passing from Berwickshire, we cross the Tweed, we find—within a few miles of the Scottish border—numerous and remarkable examples of cup and ring carvings upon the stones and rocks of Northumberland; and many of these lapidary sculptures stand in more or less direct relation with the sites of ancient human habitations in that county. In this district their character and numbers are so interesting as to deserve a more detailed notice of their position and peculiarities.

Northumberland.—A high and broad ridge of sandstone runs for a distance of many miles from north to south through the moorlands of Northumberland. There still remain, scattered thickly along its course, numerous relics and evidence of ancient human habitation, in the form of old camps or cities, hut-circles, cairns, barrows, stone cists, &c. The sandstone of the district projects upwards in different places, in the form of bare scalps and blocks of rock; and in various localities, near the sites of ancient human occupation and dwelling, these scalps and blocks have cup and ring markings cut upon them. It is further remarkable that,—as has been specially pointed out to me by my friend, Mr Tate, of Alnwick,—while the sandstone rocks in the northern region of Northumberland are thus profusely sculptured, the hard porphyry rocks in their immediate neighbourhood, forming the Cheviots, show no sculptures at all, although on their lesser heights, flanks, and spurs there are also camps, hut-dwellings, and sepulchres apparently of the same type and same age as those situated on the adjoining sandstone moors. Mr Tate believes that the sandstone, as more easily cut than the hard porphyry rock by the imperfect tools of the archaic sculptors, was alone carved by them. But possibly any sculpturings made on the porphyry rocks have—like other similar carvings on hard rocks elsewhere—disappeared before those on the sandstone, in consequence of the more deep and destructive weathering of the surface of the former.

The sandstone blocks and platforms on which the Northumberland

lapidary sculpturings have hitherto been chiefly found, stretch from Rowtin Lynn, not far from the village of Ford, to Beanley Moor, near to Eglington. Betimes they will probably be detected running further south. Between Rowtin Lynn and Beanley Moor—or within a distance of twelve or fifteen miles—between forty and fifty sculptured rock scalps and stones have been already detected, with, I believe, above three hundred examples of rings and concentric circles cut upon them. Mr Langlands, of Old Bewick, who most kindly showed me the rock carvings in his neighbourhood, was the first to notice one of these Northumberland sculptures as far back as 1825. In 1852, a most accomplished and able archæologist, the Rev. William Greenwell, of Durham, when accidentally resting, as he has informed me, near the sculptured rock at Rowtin Lynn, observed some appearance of carving upon an exposed piece of it, and speedily satisfied himself of the fact, by removing from the surface of the rock portions of its thick and ancient covering of turf. A few months afterwards, Mr Greenwell read an account of his discovery to the Archæological Institute, at its Newcastle meeting; but unfortunately the paper was lost, and hence not published in their Transactions. Next year (1853) Dr Johnston of Berwick figured and briefly described the Rowtin Lynn rock in his “Natural History of the Eastern Borders.” Subsequently notices of this remarkable rock were given to the Berwickshire Club, and to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland by Mr Tate, who has extended his inquiry into all the other known sculptured stones of Northumberland with indefatigable zeal and characteristic talent.¹ Another very distinguished Northumberland antiquary, Dr Collingwood Bruce, has laboured most assiduously in the same walk, and

¹ The publication of the present essay has been greatly delayed by various circumstances, besides the more urgent claims of professional work; as by the search after new specimens; by the collection of drawings of the sculpturings; and, above all, by the misfortune of a half of the manuscript being lost with a travelling portmanteau on the railway. After it was communicated to the Society of Antiquaries, I had the pleasure of reading over the principal heads of it to Mr Tate, and found that in most points he and I were agreed. He has latterly drawn up and published, in the “Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalist’s Club” for 1865, p. 153, a long and admirable account of all “The Ancient British Sculptured Rocks of Northumberland and the Eastern Borders,” illustrated by careful and accurate plates.

has collected for the Duke of Northumberland an elaborate series of large and magnificent drawings of these sculptured rocks and stones.

The Northumberland rock sculptures present all the usual types of these lapidary carvings, with the exception of the form of the volute or spiral; no instance of which, I believe, has yet been detected among the three hundred and odd ring sculptures which have been found in that county. Cup-cuttings, though not specially noticed by the Northumberland antiquaries, are as frequent upon their rocks as upon our Scottish stones. On the rock at Rowtin Lynn, which stands out as an irregular oblong outcrop of stone some ten feet high by sixty feet in length and forty in breadth, there are still about fifty or sixty ring-cuttings and about thirty cup-cuttings;¹ but many more probably existed on it formerly, as a considerable portion of this rocky outbreak has been removed by quarrying. This is still the largest of the carved rocks in Northumberland, though some other rock-platforms and stones in the district—as those at Old Bewick and High Chorley—have each on their surfaces twenty or more groups of ring-cuttings. The figures in Plate XXIV. give a good idea of the general character of the Northumberland rock cuttings. They are taken from one of Dr Bruce's drawings of the sculptures on Chatton Law, two or three miles south of Rowtin Lynn. But, as already hinted, one of the most interesting facts connected with these sculptures on rocks *in situ* in Northumberland, and the circumstance which leads me to notice them under the present head, is their relation to the numerous old British towns, cities, or camps of the district. The position of these archaic towns or camps is marked by the existence of ramparts formed of rude earth and stone walls, and ditches; and sometimes, as at Beanley, Bewick, Horton, and Dod Law, the roots or foundations of the ancient hut circles or dwellings can be yet traced within the enclosed space. The camp or town walls are,—like the many similar structures in Scotland and England,—usually of a roundish form, and have generally a large second or supplemental enclosure—less perfectly defended—attached to one side of the primary camp. All, or almost all, of the Northumberland sculptured rocks are situated within a

¹ On the Rowtin Lynn Rock is an example (the only one I have noticed in England) of a cup surrounded by a circle of five or six cups—instead of a circular line—a already described at p. 8.

distance of ten, fifty, or at most a hundred yards of those archaic dwellings of human communities; and a few of the carved rocks are placed within the artificial ramparts. The camp or city of Old Bewick—strongly and strikingly situated on the brow of a high hill, with one side protected by a deep cliff, and the other, or land side, defended by four high and formidable ramparts—has two sculptured rocks or stones within the ramparts, and two or three placed outside of them. In Plate XXV. figs. 1 and 2, are two sketches, kindly drawn for me by Miss Langlands, of one of the sculptured stones at Old Bewick. The stone, which is placed about one hundred yards outside the walls of the camp, is nearly ten feet square on its slanting top, and stands about three or four feet high. Fig. 1 shows the ring sculptures on the top of this large sculptured block of rock, and fig. 2 represents a row of cup-cuttings carved upon its sides. The large sculptured rock at Rowtin Lynn stands within the enclosure of a secondary camp, the primary camp or town being defended by four separate ramparts and ditches. The carved stones at Beanley, placed amid the foundations of hut circles, are also situated in the supplemental enclosure near the old strongly-walled camp.

Stones sculptured with cups and rings have been found in connection with ancient camps and towns in other districts lying still farther southward, as in Yorkshire, Wales, Cornwall, &c.

Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire.—A large mass of sandstone in the moor above Robin Hood's Bay, near Whitby, had some sculpturings upon it, part of which were split off by Mr Kendall of Pickering, in whose garden I have seen the slab of carvings which he thus procured. Mr Kendall's slab is about five feet long and two and a-half broad. Upon its surface are three or four isolated cups about an inch and a-half in breadth, and five or six others surrounded by ring-cuttings. See a sketch of it in Plate XXVI. fig. 1. Two or three of the ring-cuttings consist of single circles. One consists of a triple circle and straight radial groove. The ends of the circles, as they reach the traversing groove, turn round and unite together, as in the horse-shoe pattern in Plate II. fig. 9. The two remaining circles, which are respectively five inches and eight inches in breadth, and consist of cups surrounded by two and by three circles, are conjoined together by a long gutter. The upper circle shows a single and the lower a double horse-shoe pattern. In the uppermost or

double circle the rounded ends of the rings are united and bestridden by a shallow right-angled line; and the ends of the lowest or triple circle are in part also conjoined by the gutter which runs from the double circle above, and by a cross straight line which runs off from it. The circles are more imperfectly finished than usual, and at some parts present almost an appearance of being punched out rather than cut out.

I am not aware whether or not any other evidences of the habitations of ancient man were found in the immediate vicinity of these rock-carvings on the Robin Hood Bay Moor; but, in his excellent History of Whitby, the Rev. George Young has shown that, in the vicinity of that town, barrows, stone circles, and pillars are common; and the remains of clusters of hut circles and circular pits, or "ancient British settlements, abound."¹

Wales.—No careful search has yet, as far as I know, been made among the ancient fortified stations and towns scattered over Wales for the presence of ring or cup carvings; but I have seen one remarkable specimen, and from it I should expect that many others will betimes be discovered in the Principality. Near the village of Llanbedr, in Merionethshire, are two tallish monoliths, and one intermediate stone of much smaller size, inscribed as "Meini Hirion" in the Ordnance map. The three are placed near each other, and stand in a row. The two lateral monoliths are respectively about seven and ten feet high. The short intermediate stone is only about three feet in height, and is cut on one of its faces with a faded volute, consisting of six or seven spiral concentric lines, the diameter of the outermost being about eleven inches. But this carved stone, instead of being a part—as supposed—of a set of standing stones belonging to the spot where it now stands, was—as I am assured by Dr Griffith of Hyeres—removed several years ago down to its present site from one of the ancient fortified enclosures, camps, or towns, which abound on the neighbouring high grounds.² *See Plate xxvi. fig. 8.*

Cornwall.—My friend Mr Blight, of Penzance, who has already done so much for the archæology of his native country, writes me, that he has found at Lancreed, on a fine-grained granite rock *in situ*, five cup carvings, with a curved incised line over them. The cups are, as usual,

¹ History of Whitby, 1817, vol. ii. p. 666.

² Mr Cliffe, in a short letter published in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1849;

from two to three inches in diameter. These sculpturings are placed, Mr Blight adds, "about two hundred yards from a strongly fortified group of hut circles, and one hundred yards only from the site of a large walled grave, which, on being opened by a former occupant of the estate, was found to contain an urn with ashes."

Isle of Man.—In the wood situated immediately behind the churchyard of Kirk Braddan—a locality so celebrated for its number of Runic inscriptions and crosses—is an ancient city or town, with an angled portion of its strong encircling walls still standing, and faced with huge upright stones. The foundations of circular and other forms of ancient structures and dwellings exist in a secondary town or camp within the circuit of the wood. On the sides of the largest outcrop of rock standing within this circuit, Professor Babington and I traced, after the removal of a covering of old moss, a number of cup excavations, some of them conjoined together, by grooves or guttered lines, as represented in Plate II. figs. 1 and 2. One of a great group of massive stones placed on the northern border of the wood has between twenty and thirty cups cut upon it,—some of them apparently arranged in a circular form. Three or four stones within or near this interesting site of an ancient Manx community, appear to show artificial straight lines and markings, for tracings of some of which I am indebted to the kindness of Dr Alcock of Birmingham. In his "Vestigia Insulæ Manxiæ Antiquiora" (pp. 96 and 190), Dr Oswald alludes to this ancient town, and states that its remains extend over ten acres or more; and he gives a drawing of portions of the walls, and of a flat excavated flagstone surrounded by the remains of a small circle.¹

p. 321, alludes briefly to some of the many megalithic remains in this district of Merionethshire, and incidentally states that, in a large cairn on the summit of Penmorn, he observed "a huge stone with remarkable indentations." Are these indentations artificial cup excavations?

¹ Another old churchyard in the Isle of Man, rich in Runic monumental stones,—that of Manghold,—is still surrounded at different parts with a deep ditch and a high rampart. Within the area of these ancient fortifications at Manghold stands the church, thickly surrounded by graves. The line of fortifications is much more extensive than the site of the interments, containing about five acres; and in other parts within their circuit, I traced in the green sward the remains of old hut

PLATE XXIV.

ROCKS AT CHATTON LAW, NORTHUMBERLAND.

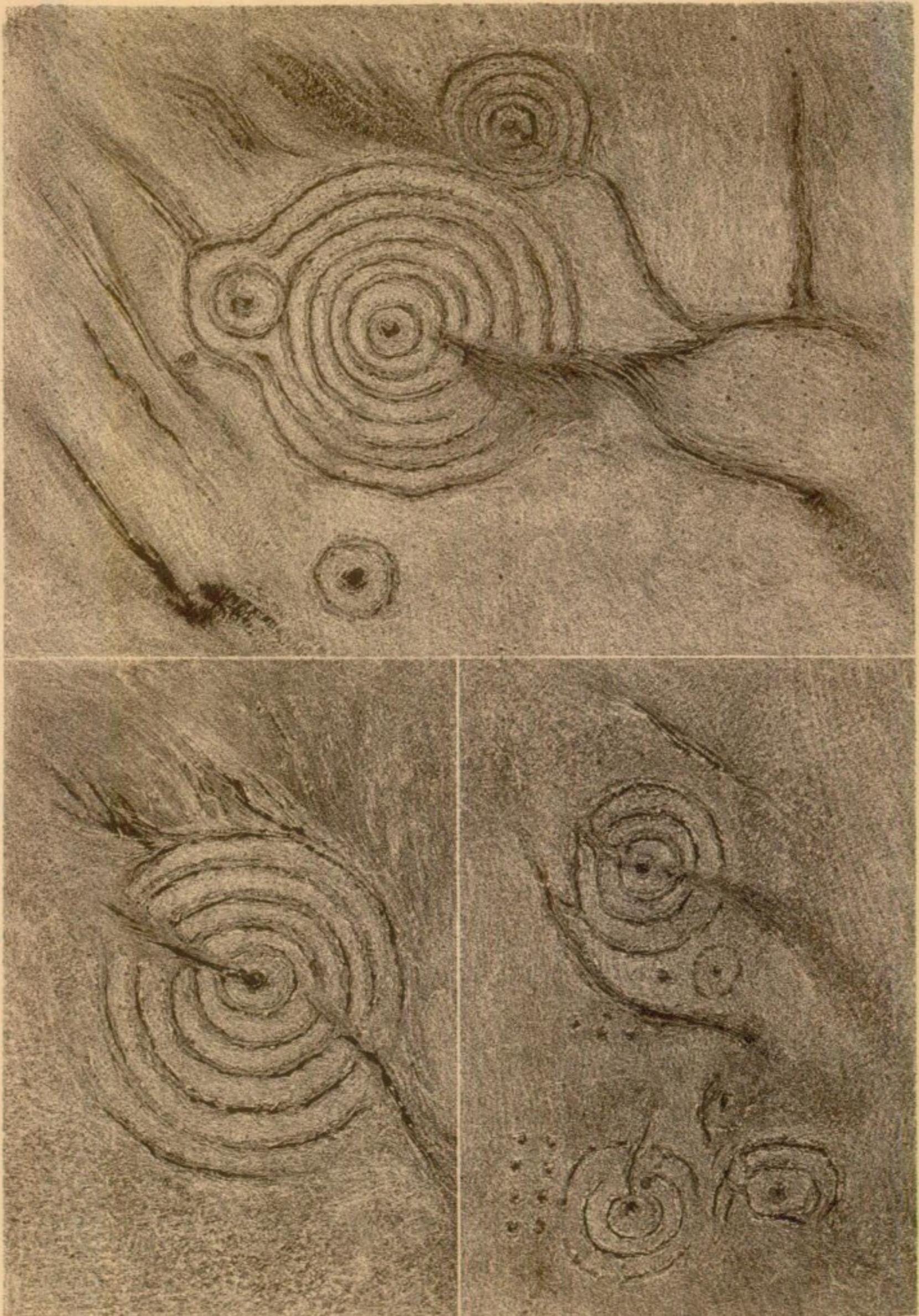


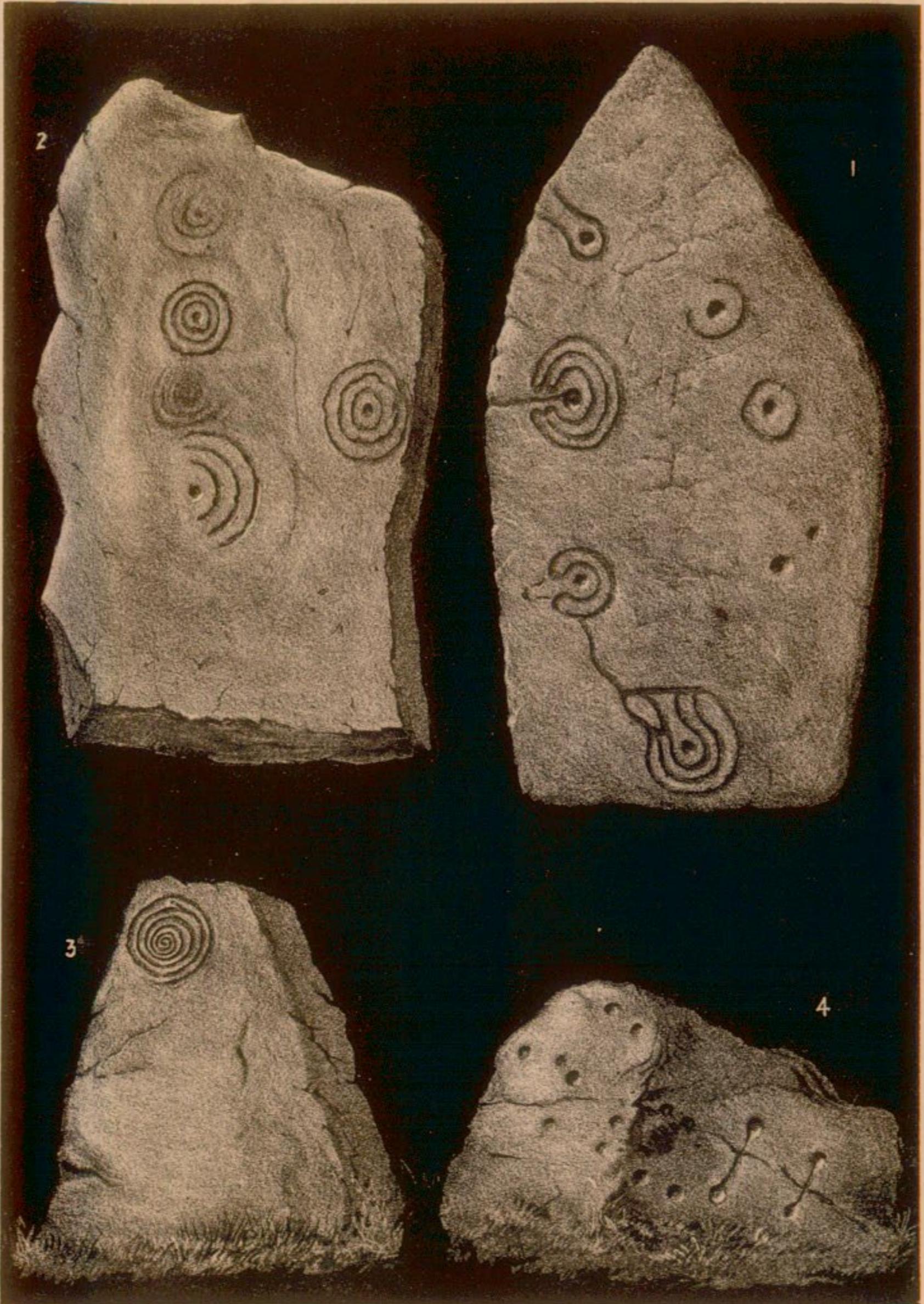
PLATE XXV.

ROCK AT BEWICK, RUTHVEN WEEM.



PLATE XXVI.

FROM CARLOWRIE, ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, &c.



10. ON THE SURFACES OF ISOLATED ROCKS.

Several of the lapidary carvings included in the last section were found cut upon rocks *in situ* within or near old British strengths or towns. But there is another section of them carved on rocks which are so far isolated, that nowhere near them do there now exist any traces of ramparts, walls, fosses, or circular hut foundations, such as are so often observable in our island in localities of ancient human communities.

In all likelihood, however, the rock carvings I allude to were cut originally in the vicinity of collections of human population, though there now remain no visible evidences of that population except their rock sculptures and their sepultures.

We have a variety of examples of this last kind in Argyleshire, in the district lying between Lochgilphead on the east, and Crinan on the west coast of that county. In other words, on the higher grounds skirting the valley in which the Crinan Canal passes from Loch Fyne or Loch Gilp to the Atlantic Ocean, several localities have been here discovered with the rocks *in situ*, sculptured with ring and cup carvings; as at Carnban, Auchnabreach, Tyness, and Calton Mor.

Carnban, Argyleshire.—The first notice of the rock-sculptures in Northumberland, and, as I believe, in England, was published, as I have just stated, in 1852. The Rev. Mr Greenwell, of Durham, who discovered the carvings on the Rowton Lynn, &c., read, as already stated, a paper on the subject earlier in the same year to the Archæological Institute. In 1830, or twenty-two years before, a notice of the analogous rock ring-cuttings at Carnban was published by Mr Archibald Currie, formerly a schoolmaster at Rothesay, in his Description of the Antiquities, &c., of North Knapdale. He urges that the lapidary carvings on the sculptured rock at Carnban are “worthy of the attention of the scientific antiquarian;” and to his account of the ring-cuttings there

circles and dwellings. At Manghold, as at Kirk Braddan—which were both probably in ancient times the sites of fortified towns—there now are to be seen within the area of the old walls, the graves of the modern dead, and the remnants of the dwellings of ancient living man. In the centre of each is the Christian church—the only modern building—and in both localities it may possibly occupy the site of some ancient fane for Pagan worship.

he adds a theory of their import which possesses probably one merit, namely, that it is at least both as reasonable and as ridiculous as many hypotheses that have since been broached on the same subject. "In the hill," writes Mr Currie, "about a mile above the 'Doctor's' (the sobriquet, as I am told, by which Mr M'Callum, the former innkeeper at Carnban, was usually known), on a rock whose surface is level with the plain, there are cut groups of concentric circles, three in a line, and fifteen in number. These circles are similar to those used in astronomical plates for elucidating the revolution of the planets round the sun. Of these circles, there are five in each of the concentric ones, probably to correspond with the number of the planets then known. The Doctor is of opinion that this is one of those methods which were in use previous to the introduction of letters into this country, for commemorating extraordinary events; and in the case in question, he thinks these circles represent the right of the proprietor to the estate where the rock lies on which they are engraved, and that they signify that his descendants were to enjoy it as long as the celestial luminaries which the circles represent should perform their unerring revolutions round the sun. This opinion is not at all improbable; for of old, rights to inheritances were in many instances conveyed by hieroglyphic symbols, similar to those now described. I am informed, on unquestionable authority, that the right of Macmillan to the estate of Knap, in South Knapdale, was cut in rude characters in the Celtic language on a rock in the shore at the point of Knap, which are now obliterated by the action of the waves on its surface."¹

Auchnabreach.—About a mile and a half north-eastward of Carnban, and higher on the sides of the valley, are rocks which show still more extensive ring-carvings.² On the high ground upon the farm of Auchnabreach

¹ See Description of the Antiquities and Scenery of the Parish of North Knapdale, Argyleshire, by Archibald Currie, author of the "Principles of Gaelic Grammar, &c., Glasgow, 1830, p. 34. The appearances presented by the cup and ring cuttings on the hill above Carnban are all faithfully represented in Plate XXII., and it is hence unnecessary to describe them. I have already (p. 2) enumerated the figures of which they consist. No other carvings have hitherto been found on the same hill.

² The existence of sculptures at Auchnabreach was first discovered by the former intelligent farmer there, Mr Maclean, now innkeeper at Kilmartin.

are various bare, rounded scalps of Silurian schist, projecting to the height of two, ten, twenty or more feet above the surface. These scalps are magnificent specimens of rock surfaces ground and planed down by old geological glacier action. The surfaces of three of these rocks—thus smoothed and prepared as it were by the gigantic polishing machinery of nature—have been subsequently scratched and carved in numerous places with rude cup and ring cuttings by the frail and feeble hand of archaic man. See specimens of these Auchnabreach carvings in Plates XXI. and XXIII.

The three rocks on which the cup and ring carvings have hitherto been discovered are in the second field above the old farm-house of Auchnabreach.

The first and highest of these rocks has, scattered over a surface twenty-nine yards long and seven yards wide, about forty concentric ring-cuttings, and nearly an equal number of cups and hollows without circles around them. The Rev. Mr Mapleton, who has most carefully examined these sculpturings, informs me that of the ring-cuttings one is three feet in diameter, and composed of seven circles and a central cup; a second, two feet five inches in diameter, consists of six circles cut around a central cup; a third, two feet seven inches in diameter, is formed of four concentric circles; a fourth, one foot nine inches broad, contains six circles and a central cup; a fifth, eight inches in diameter, has a cup surrounded by two circles; and so on.

The second rock scalp at Auchnabreach is about forty feet long, and thirty-six feet broad. It contains thirty-six groups of ring-cuttings, and fourteen cup-cuttings. The largest concentric ring-cutting is two feet seven inches in diameter, and consists of nine or ten circles; a second, of nearly the same diameter, has nine circles carved around its central cup; a third, seven circles; and so on. Almost all, but not all, of these concentric circles at Auchnabreach are traversed by the usual straight radial groove or duct. These grooves run on in some instances and unite with others. Their direction is generally, but not always, downwards.

My kind friend, the Rev. Mr M'Bride of Bute, the well-known geologist, discovered the third sculptured rock here, when looking for the effects of glaciation. This third rock is placed about a hundred or a

hundred and fifty yards south of the others, and its exposed surface is much smaller than the other two, being as yet cleared of turf only to the extent of about three yards in length, and two in breadth. Upon the cleared portion I counted twelve ring cuttings, each with a radial groove, and seventeen cups and hollows with no surrounding circle.

On the Auchnabreach rocks most of the concentric circles are so scattered as to be separate and unconnected with each other, but occasionally two or more touch at their edges. The radial groove is usually, but not always present. Some consist only of one cup and one surrounding ring, and the radial groove is untraceable in several of these. There are two or three peculiar sculpturings, especially on the second rock-scalp. One of them consists of a very distinct double volute, as represented at the bottom of first section of Plate XXII., the whole lateral breadth of the two combined spirals being about ten or eleven inches, while their depth is about eight inches. A second group of three circles near this touched each other and amalgamated at their sides. (See the same Plate.) Near these two groups was a third, consisting of one concentric ring around a central cup, and with a radial groove. The ring was six inches in diameter. From its outer edge, on the side opposite the radial groove, proceed three straight parallel lines, each about eleven inches in length. See Plate II. fig. 12. The radial line from this same circle joins the outer circle of another ring-cutting. These, and some surrounding circles and cups, are represented in Plate XXXII., first section. Some of the ring-cuttings, particularly on the third rock, are much twisted and indented on their sides (see same Plate, second section), and by no means so accurately and regularly round in form as these lapidary circles usually are.

The rock upon which the first and largest collection of concentric rings and cups at Auchnabreach is placed has a Gaelic name, which, according to John Kerr, an old shepherd brought up on the farm, is "Leachd-nan-Sleagher"—the rock of the spears. Mr Henry D. Graham, to whom I am much indebted for drawings of the Auchnabreach sculptures and others, believes the word to be "Leachd-nan-Sluagh"—the rock of the hosts or gatherings. The Rev. Mr M'Bride has perhaps more happily suggested it to be "Leachd-nan-Slochd"—the rock of the pits or impressions. The rock itself, let me add, is in a position which commands a

charming view of the waters and shores of Loch Gilp and Loch Fyne, with the distant and magnificent hills of Arran serving as a gigantic background.

Calton Mór and Tyness, Argyleshire.—A few years ago, when a few miles west of Auchnabreach, some rock in the garden of Calton Mor, the beautiful seat of Mr Malcolm of Poltalloch, was being blasted and removed, several carved concentric circles were observed by the workmen to be cut on the rock when it was exposed. But, unfortunately, ere these sculpturings attracted sufficient attention, all were destroyed except two specimens, which are carefully preserved, and show the usual forms of these concentric rings and cups. Calton Mor is four or five miles distant from Carnban; and about a mile north from Calton Mor are the sculptured stones at Leargie, near Kilmartin, described already at p. 24.

Near Calton Mor, is a rock at Tyness, with eleven ring cuttings upon it, and some cups. Mr Mappleton informs me, that on the hill-top above Tyness there stood a cairn, in which he found lately the remains of two cists and some burnt bones, with "a skeleton, of later date, between the two cists, but probably put there by the men who destroyed the cairn. There is also," he adds, "apparently the remains of a 'dun,' a quarter of a mile north-east of Tyness."

I have spoken of these sculptured rocks at Carnban, Auchnabreach, Tyness, and Calton Mor as "isolated," because few or no evidences of ancient camps or communities are now, as far as I could observe, to be found near them. They all lie, however, within a few miles of each other, along the valley of the Crinan Canal; and that valley—forming the neck to the peninsula of Cantyre—is, as we have already seen, full of the sepulchral remains of an ancient and large population. All the neighbouring ground belongs to the rich and princely estate of Poltalloch, and is in most places too highly cultivated, agriculturally, to allow of the foundations of hut circles, ramparted walls, and other such signs of human habitations, to have remained. But the very nomenclature of the hills, lying within the circuit of this valley of sculptured rocks and stones, sufficiently attests its former populousness and importance, by showing that every hill-top was formerly a fort or "dun." My friend, Dr Hunter, pointed out to me that, standing on the hill on which the Carnban sculptures are cut, we had, within a radius of one or two

miles only, Dunamuck, Dunans, Dunbuy, Dunchain, Dquamarak, Duncraig, and Dunadd,—the last of these a fort, still remarkable by its huge cyclopic walls, and the high and isolated conical rock on which it is built. In the seventh and eighth centuries it continued to form, as we know from ancient Irish annals, one of the most important strongholds in the Western Highlands.¹

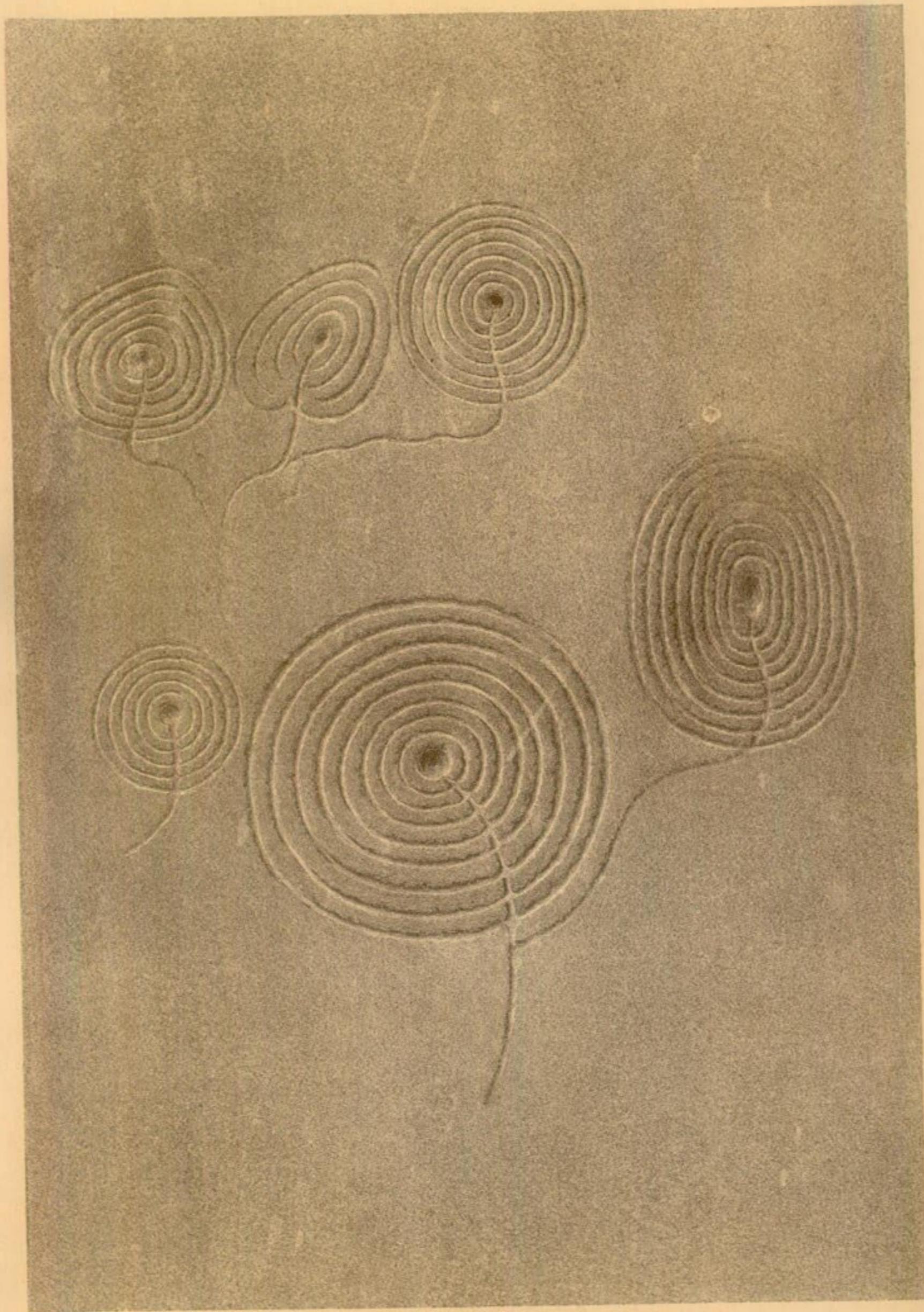
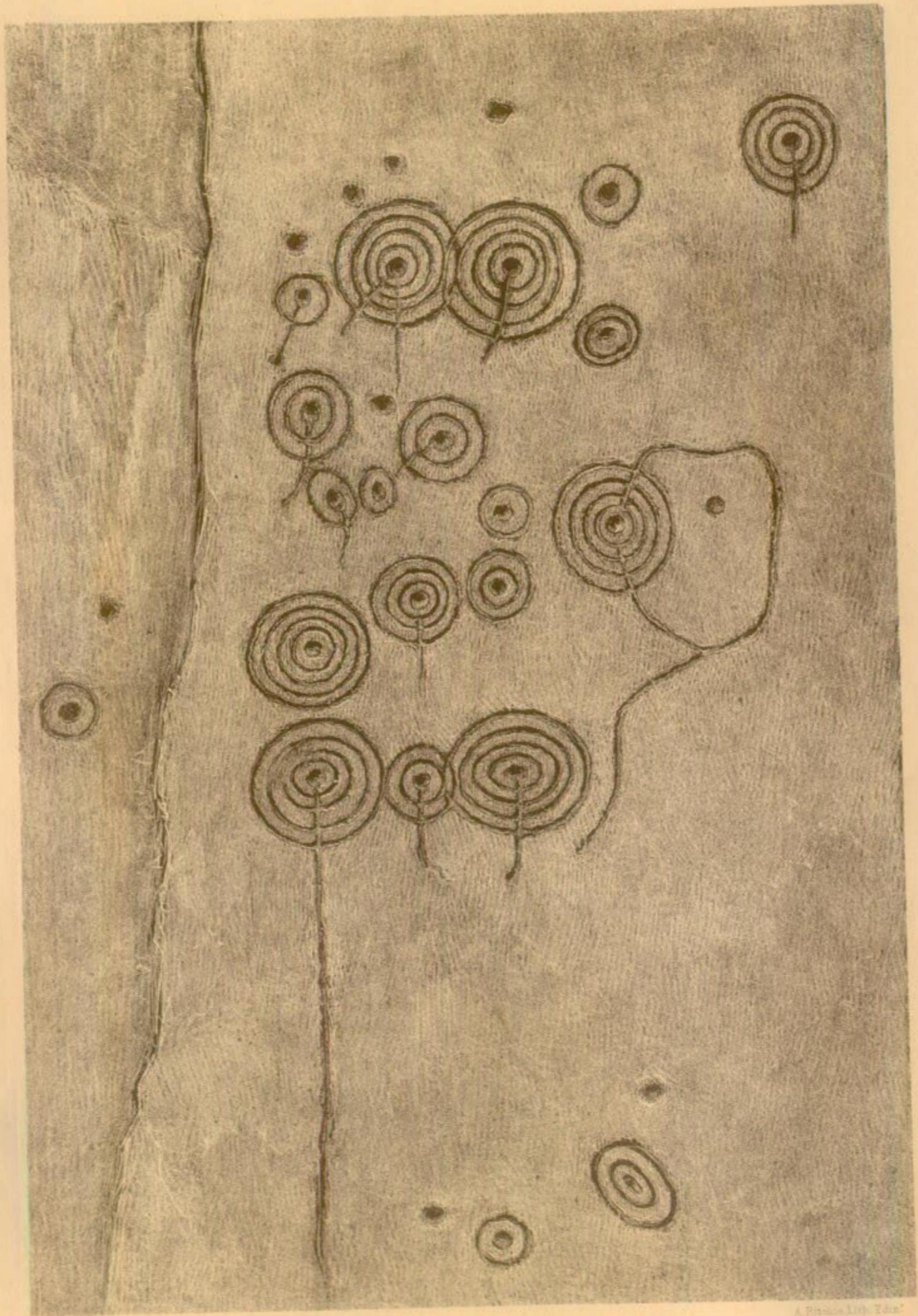
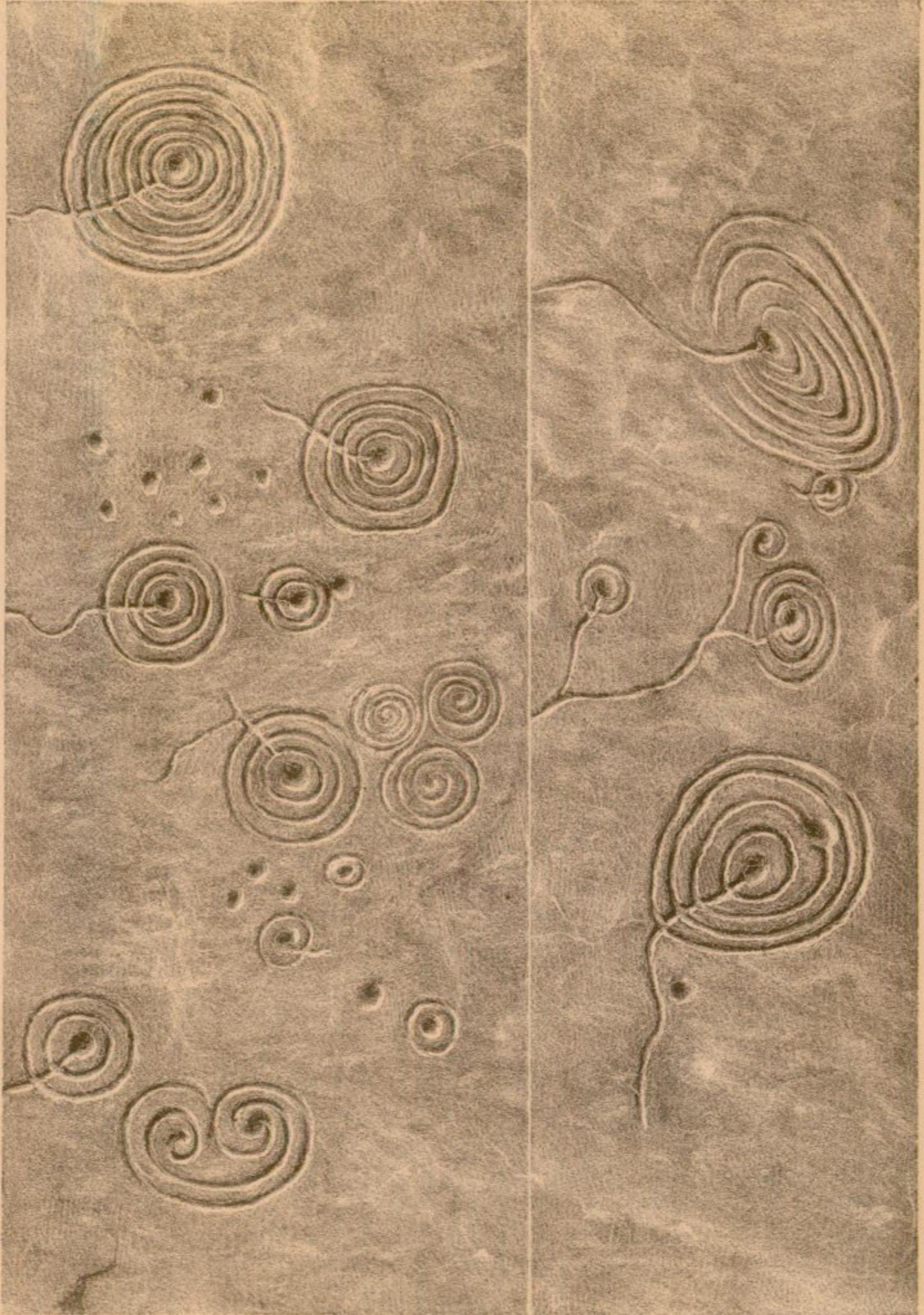


PLATE XXII.
SCULPTURED ROCK AT CARNBAN.





11. ON ISOLATED STONES.

In the preceding pages I have cited numerous examples of the cup and ring carvings, as found on individual stones connected with archaic sepulture or habitation. Some of the examples already quoted, as the stones found at Walltown, Auchinlary, Frith, &c., are so indeterminate in the conditions under which they were found, that perhaps they should have been more correctly placed in this chapter. I have notes of a few instances where the sculptures were found on stones of a still more isolated cast; as at

Balvraid, in Glenelg, Inverness-shire.—Mr Joass, of Dingwall, discovered, about half a mile from the well-known old brochs of Glenelg, a stone covered with cup-markings, and represented in Plate XIV. fig. 2. "The stone, which measures above six feet in length, is," he writes me, "lying on the ground. The markings I have sketched are quite distinct; but there are a great many more, particularly towards the left-hand end, which are rather faint, and they appear to be disposed in rows with a certain degree of regularity."

Cargill, Perthshire.—In the thirteenth volume of the first Statistical Account of Scotland, a description of the parish of Cargill was published about fifty years ago. It is therein stated, "Near the village of Cargill may be seen some erect stones of considerable magnitude, having the figure of the moon and stars cut out on them, and are probably the rude remains of Pagan superstition. The corn field where these stones stand is called Moonshade to this day" (p. 536). The stones thus marked, and standing in Moonshade or Moonbutt's field, were dug around and under,

¹ See Dr Reeves' *Life of St Columba*, pp. 377 and 384; Anno Dom. 683, "Obsessio Duin At.;" Anno Dom. 736, "Engus Mac Fergusu, rex Pictorum, vastavit regiones Dailriatai et obtinuit Dun Att."

and buried some half century ago in the agricultural improvement of the ground. Mr Fergusson, the very intelligent schoolmaster of the parish, has repeatedly tried to discover these buried stone relics, but hitherto in vain. But he has been more successful in disinterring other marked and carved stones in his neighbourhood.

A. In Newbigging, which borders upon the Moonshade fields, he raised a stone, a corner of which jutted from the earth. It is a slab of grey whinstone, three feet six inches in length, two feet one inch in breadth, and seven inches in thickness. Upon one of its faces—as represented in Plate V. fig. 3—are five series of concentric circles and some isolated cups. The external rings of four of the series of circles run more or less into each other. The radial ducts from two of the largest unite into a common gutter, which, after running a considerable space, ends in an isolated cup. Two of the circles do not show any radial groove.

B. More lately in Gladesfield, about ten or twelve hundred yards west of the supposed site of the Moonbutts, Mr Fergusson has uncovered a stone still more sculptured. The stone is about five feet in height, and three and a half broad. One side of it is sculptured in the way represented in Plate V. fig. 4. The sculptures consist of a number of scattered isolated cups, of several cups surrounded with circles, and of radial grooves, some of which are connected with a gutter which runs straight along the surface of the stone for a distance of about four feet. Some of the circles are single; one cup has two, another three, and a fourth has four or five concentric circles drawn around it. One concentric circle has its outer ring passing in its course through three cups; and its radial duct runs outward to the left, and forms the beginning or end of the long, linear straight groove which passes longitudinally along the face of the stone.

C. About two hundred yards north of the stone (*A*) is the Brisbane stone, about six feet in length, and three and a half in breadth, with a cup-marking or two upon its face.

D. Upon a stone, about a hundred yards or more east of the school-house, Mr Fergusson has found a stone with twelve or fifteen cup-marks upon it. The stone was discovered in “a small mound” composed of stones and earth. The mound is about twenty-four feet long, fifteen broad, and three high. Further researches in this mound or barrow may

possibly result in the discovery of sepulchral remains, which may prove interesting.

Mr Fergusson believes that the stones at Cargill are arranged in a methodic and angulated direction in regard to each other. In their near neighbourhood one or more megalithic circles are reported to have formerly stood.

Migvie, Aberdeenshire.—At a distance of about two hundred yards eastward from the old churchyard of Migvie, the plough, a few years ago, struck upon a flat stone, which, when dug out, was found to be nearly triangular in shape, about two feet nine inches long, and three feet across at its broadest part. Part of its surface was covered with various cup excavations, four of which were united crosswise by ducts or gutters, and some in pairs by grooves of various depths. For a drawing of the stone I am indebted to the kindness of Dr Robertson, of Indego. The field in which this stone was discovered, and still lies, is about a mile distant from an earth-house or weem, which was found in the same parish.

Inchtute, Perthshire.—My friend, the Rev. Mr Honey, of Inchtute, showed me some time ago a whinstone block, found in the foundation of a wall opposite the church, and having on its hard and smooth surface three or four cup markings, of the usual breadth and depth.

Arbirlot, Forfarshire.—About two miles from the Kirktown of Arbirlot, Mr Gibb, of Aberdeen, some years ago observed and sketched an earth-fast stone presenting the cup and ring markings figured in Plate XV. fig. 3. They will be observed to belong to the second type, described in p. 4. Other similar stones are said to be in the neighbourhood. Dr Dickson, of Carnoustie, and Mr Miller, of Arbroath, have both of late searched, but hitherto unsuccessfully, for these marked rocks. The so-called "Girdlestone," in the adjoining parish of Rescobie, about four feet long and three broad, is cut on its surface with two circles, the largest of which is above two feet and a half broad, and hence does not, I believe, belong to the class which we are considering in this essay.

Pitscandly, Forfarshire.—In Mr Stuart's work on the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland" he mentions a carved fragment at Pitscandly, in Forfarshire. Mr Shaw has kindly examined this stone for me, and furnished me with a drawing of it, which is copied in Plate XVI. fig. 4. The stone is about a foot and a half in breadth and length; on its surface are two

or three cup-excavations, a single incised ring, and two concentric circles, with a central cup and long radial groove. In the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland," vol. ii. p. 190, Mr Jervise mentions this piece of carved stone, and describes it as reputed to have scaled off from one of the two remaining large obelisks of Pitscandly—an opinion which, he informs me, some later observations of his own have confirmed. These Pitscandly stones stand on the top of an artificial mound. One of them is of great size, and "both," adds Mr Jervise, "appear to be the remains of an ancient circle. A clay urn, with burned ashes, was found at the base of one of the stones. The whole of the locality abounds in traces of ancient sepulture."

La Mancha, Peeblesshire.—A broken slab, about two feet square, covered with very rude double rings and a spiral circle, was found by Mr Mackintosh, at La Mancha, in Peeblesshire, in digging in a bank of gravel. There were some other large stones near it; none of them marked. Possibly this stone, therefore, is sepulchral in its character. The half-effaced circular sculptures upon it are represented in Plate XVI. fig. 3.

Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.—Sometime ago Mr Tate, of Alnwick, discovered in the garden of Mr Matthewson at Jedburgh a stone cut with concentric circles, possibly a sepulchral cist, but peculiar in some respects. The stone is roundish, but broken off at one side, and about eighteen inches broad. Its face is covered by five incised concentric rings, and through the central cup pass at right angles two straight lines, which completely bisect all the circles. The outermost circle is about fourteen inches in diameter. Some inches to the left of the central cup is a second, with one incised circle around it. Arranged circularly outside of the outermost circle is a series or ring of points or stars, each cut out—so Dr Falla writes me—"as with a single stroke of a pick, rather than hewn out." I am indebted to the same gentleman for the sketch of this stone, given in Plate XVI. fig. 1.

High Hucklow, Derbyshire.—A detached flat stone, found in the Peak of Derby, and which I have already alluded to at page 6, is of the same shape as some of the urn covers met with elsewhere. The cast of it sent to me by Dr Aveling shows it to be a broken slab, measuring twenty-one inches by eighteen, and cut on one side by a concentric

circle of seven rings, and probably of twenty inches in diameter, when the stone was entire. There is no central depression nor radial groove. See a representation of this fragment in Plate XVI. fig. 2.

PLATE V.

STONES AT MAUGHANBY AND CARGILL.



PLATE XIV.

STONES FROM ROSSHIRE AND FORFARSHIRE.

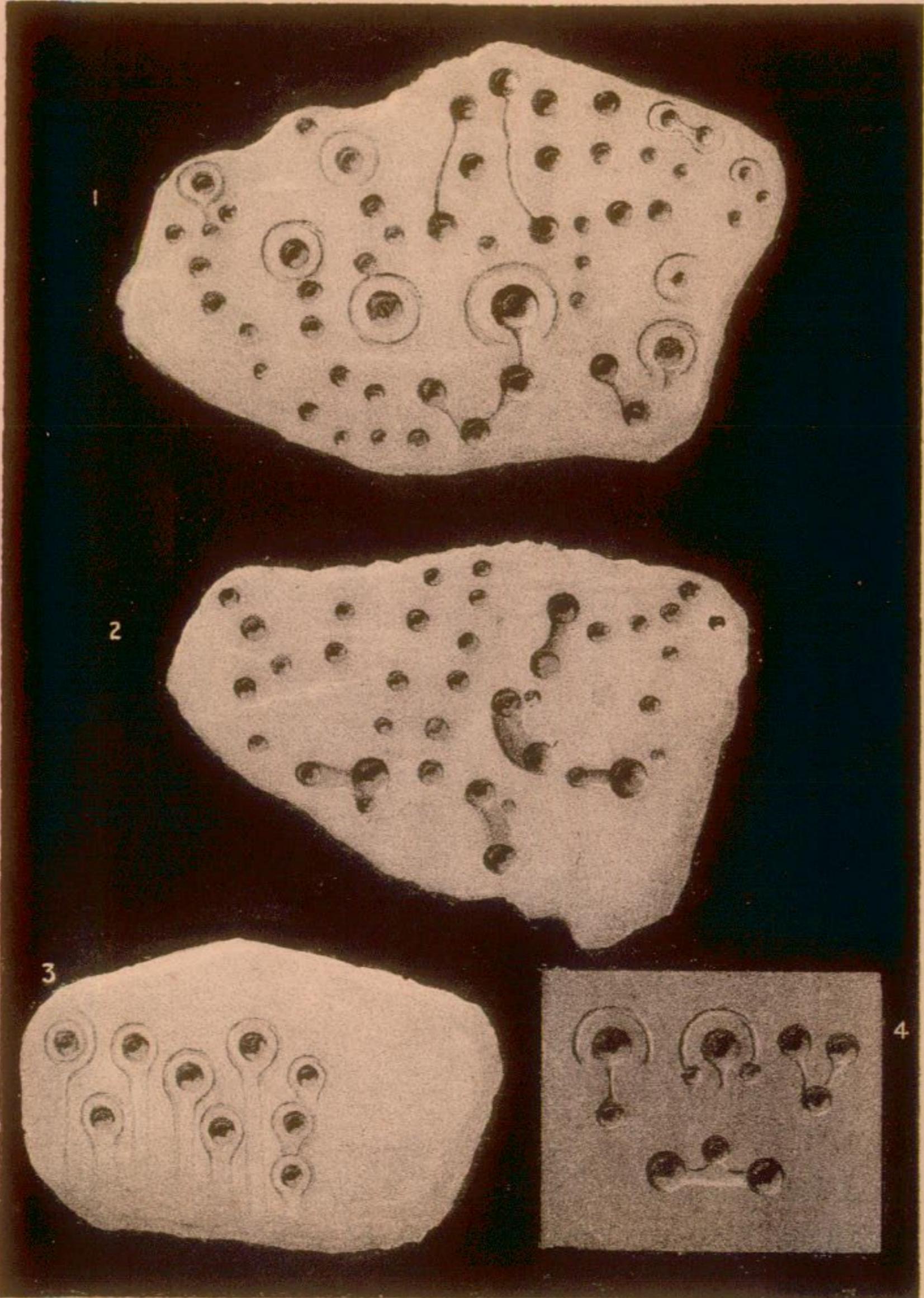


PLATE XVI.

ISOLATED STONES FROM JEDBURGH, &c.,

