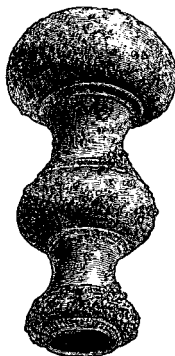


III.

NOTE RESPECTING VARIOUS ARTICLES IN BRONZE AND STONE ;
 FOUND IN ORKNEY, AND NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM.
 BY JAMES FARRER, Esq., HON. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

The following is a brief account of my recent explorations in Orkney, which, though not very successful, have not been without interest. I have done as much as the time at my command would admit of. I have cleared out a Brough in Harray, which presented nothing very peculiar. Within the ruins, however, were found many worked stones, stone lamps, fragments of coarse pottery, perforated stones, and some of those curious circular discs, hitherto only found at Skail (I met with a few in my Roman excavations), and described as plates by Mr William Watt ; a



Bronze Implement ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height) found in a Brough in Harray.

modern-looking bronze implement, the handle of some weapon I imagine, which I saw dug up myself. (See the annexed carefully-figured woodcut of this curious bronze.) It could not, under any circumstances, have found its way into the Brough *since* the destruction of the building. A small fragment of iron was also found, but at some distance from the bronze. The

round stones, flattened at the sides and ends, appeared to have been used for grinding down or shaping weapons. A large flat stone, unlike anything I have previously met with. There were kists, or rather underground cupboards, partly beneath the floor of the main circular chamber. There were also three steps—portions, no doubt, of a flight leading to the upper part of the building.

I send these various articles for presentation to the Museum. I also send a small copper Fibula, and a portion of a Brooch, which I have accidentally met with. (See woodcut, page 37.) One of the *small* stones has a remarkable resemblance to a celt—a small axe-head. It may, however, be only the natural shape of the stone, but I send it with the others.

At the "Knowe of Saverough," where I found so many skeletons some years ago, only a bone pin and an oblong stone, ground round the edges and across the sides, together with fragments of deer horns, cut with some instrument (but not worth sending), rewarded our labours. The stone in question was found at a considerable depth, and is not unlike what were used on "*hand-lines*," for fishing, some forty years ago;* the Knowe has, doubtless, at one time been an extensive weem. I penetrated into the interior, where a well-built wall enclosed what appears to have been a flagged yard. The enormous quantity of sand rendered it impossible to carry the investigation any further. Over a very large area outside this wall was a thick deposit of limpet and whelk shells—a sort of Orkney *kitchen midden*. No human bones, with the exception of a piece of a skull, were found.

I also opened some tumuli near the Free Church in Birsay. The only peculiarity seemed to be, that unlike most of the graves that I have opened, they contained only *one* kist, in the centre of the tumulus. In only one instance was the kist entire; in the others—the smaller ones—the coverstones had fallen in, and the bones, though burnt, had nearly passed away. The tumuli were entirely composed of earth, which must have been brought from a great distance, and it is a remarkable fact, that the peat and heather growing on and around the tumuli, is of precisely the same thickness as that which grows on the ground immediately about the

* A similar stone was found by Mr Samuel Laing in a brough, and was presented to the Museum of the Society (p. 50).

graves, almost leading us to infer that the interments had taken place before the commencement of the growth of the peat.

I made a short trip to Shetland, and visited the east coast, but there is no prospect of my doing anything, in the way of digging, in Shetland ; however, I had a pleasant cruise in a yacht that I chartered, and, like a snail, carried my house over my head.
