

## II.

NOTE OF A KIST, WITH A CUP-MARKED COVER, FOUND IN A MOUND ON THE LINKS OF DORNOCH. BY LAWSON TAIT, Esq., SURGEON, GOLSPIE.

On the 12th of April I opened a large tumulus situated on the Dornoch Links, about a mile to the east of the town, and about 500 yards from the shore. It was 11 feet in height, and nearly 30 feet in diameter. It was composed of rubble work and earth. After removing about three feet of stones and earth from the surface, I exposed a large flag of yellow sandstone, 6 feet 4 inches long, by 4 feet 10 inches broad. On it were various cup-shaped markings (as shown in the drawing exhibited). They are distinctly artificial in appearance, every one, even the very smallest, bearing the rugged impression of a rude tool. I have produced very similar cup-markings by chipping flint flakes with an iron tool upon a flat sandstone. The drawing shows a flake off from the stone, and this has evidently occurred before the cup-markings were made. The relative positions of the markings are most accurately rendered in the sketch, each having been carefully measured. On raising the flag a kist was exposed, which contained a few shreds of bones, lying apparently in position, and one tolerably well-finished flint-head. The dimensions of the kist were 3 feet 7 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches wide, and 2 feet 1 inch deep. Its long measurement was north-west and south-east. The sides were formed of large sandstone slabs set on end, and there was a floor formed of smaller flags. There was no indication of the position of the body.

Numerous hut-circles occur along those links, together with the small aggregated tumuli which here invariably accompany the hut-circles. I cut trenches through several of the latter, but with no positive result beyond finding in the centre of one traces of fire. At this spot the lapse in the wall, which indicates the door-way, always faces the south-east, for the very evident reason, that here the inhabitants suffer most from the north-west wind. This point is put beyond doubt by the persistent occurrence of the hut-circle entrance at the point opposite that from which the wind comes with greatest bitterness or frequency, in every instance which I have examined. To this subject I shall again allude in another communication to the Society.