

## VI.

NOTES OF EARLY REMAINS ON THE FARM OF KNAUGHLAND,  
ROTHIEMAY. BY JAMES HUNTER, Esq., BANFF, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

On visiting Rothiemay, in consequence of hearing of a stone sculptured with cups and circles, I found first a large, flattish stone lying prostrate, with thirteen or fourteen cups, most of them very distinct. No concentric circles, nor any *clear* appearance of a circle of stones. One stone, a rounded boulder, thick at the base and somewhat pointed at top, *stands* with its base fixed in the earth about 15 yards off. It is very like many of the *secondary* stones of the circles in this district. It is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high.

Mr Cruickshank, who had sent me the information, told me that he had found a piece of clay or brick by digging close to the claystone, but had lost it. I got him and his father to dig round it a little, but found *nothing*.

I found marks of five trenches on the side of the hill of their farm of Knaughland, and traced two of them. The point at which the trenches meet is about 350 yards from the top of the hill. The two trenches I traced are about 240 yards long, going up to within 100 or 150 yards of top of hill. Near where they terminate, there are faint indications of an old cairn. Each line represents a separate trench. They correspond in their bendings, and are always about 20 yards apart.

There are remains of a cairn at top.

Mr Cruickshank is between sixty and seventy, and remembers the removal of another cairn, much farther down the hill, in 1816. Part of it, however, had been removed a century ago, and a cist disclosed, which was allowed to remain entire till 1816, and of which the cover yet remains. He says the cist was built of small stones, and was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot deep, or high, and covered by the large stone yet remaining.

He mentioned a curious thing. The farm has been in their family two hundred years. In the rebellion, his grandfather, on the approach of the rebels, buried his *cheese* in the stone grave, raising the lid with a "pinch," and letting it down again. He has heard him tell of it.

In 1816 the whole was removed by Mr Cruickshank's father, and the cover only preserved. It is fully  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet long by 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and about 6 inches thick—like a strong flag.

Mr Cruickshank took me to a place where he says his father had, on penetrating, found an apartment of some 8 feet. It is heaped up on the surface, something like the Pict's House at Bircham. I could hear no sound indicating hollowness underground; but I had no time, and there are clear marks that the little mound is artificial. It is close to where the old church or chapel of Knaughland stood, and where there were marks of a churchyard wall, Mr Cruickshank says, till lately. He remembers it 6 feet high. I scarcely think, however, that it was connected with them. I should rather be inclined to suspect a Pict's house.