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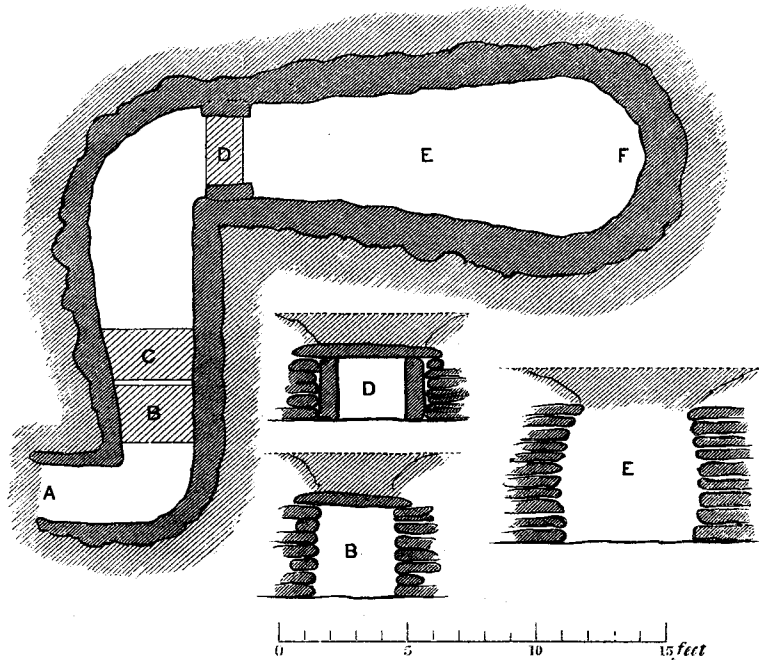
ACCOUNT OF A SUBTERRANEAN BUILDING FOUND NEAR BROOMHOUSE, THE PROPERTY OF COLONEL LOGAN HOME, IN THE PARISH OF EDROM, BERWICKSHIRE. BY D. MILNE HOME, Esq., V.P.S.A. Scot.

During the last week of September, a field was being ploughed, when in the most elevated part of it the plough struck on a large flat stone. The ploughman lifted the stone, and saw appearances of a wall.

The proprietor having been informed of the circumstance, caused some digging to be made. It was found that beneath the flag-stone, which the plough had struck, there were rudely built walls. Farther explorations were made, and the result was the discovery of a subterranean chamber and passage leading to it, as shown on the accompanying ground-plan, made out by Colonel Logan Home's son.

The walls in the largest part—viz., D, E, F, show a vertical face of

about 5 feet. The walls in the part A, B, C, D, are not so high. I assume in this statement that the excavations have reached the foundation of the walls. At one or two spots, on making a trial, I found nothing below the walls but a sandy clay ; at one or two other spots there



Subterranean Building found near Broomhouse, Berwickshire.

(A) Ground-Plan, and (B, D, E) Sections of Building.

were stones below the level of the excavations. I therefore hope that the proprietor may be induced to ascertain this point more clearly.

The axis of the larger part D, E, F, is by compass S.E. by S. ; the axis of the narrower part B C, is N.N.E.

The walls are vertical in all parts except between D F. There, at the

height of about 4 feet, they approach each other in the manner represented on section E. The width between the walls there at the top is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet; and I have little doubt that they have been covered by flags long enough to form a roof. I found one flag lying amongst the rubbish of the excavations $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, which probably formed one of the roof flags. It would be desirable to have all the large flags collected together, that it may be seen whether this conjecture is correct or not.

The only places where I found flag-stones resting on the walls are indicated by the letters B, C, D. Their size is shown by the plan and sections. The flag-stone B is not absolutely horizontal. It is laid with a slope upwards towards A, in correspondence with the floor of the passage. At D, the flag-stone rests on two upright stones, as shown in section D. They have evidently been squared for the purpose; but I could see no marks of tools on them or on any other stone.

These upright stones are of sandstone,—the rock which abounds in the adjoining banks of the River Whiteadder. From the number of water-worn stones, adapted for paving, lying at or near the bottom of the walls, it struck me that a floor had existed composed of these stones.

At the corner there are several upright stones of a massive character, similar to those at D, which had evidently been squared.

The level of the original floor between D F, had apparently been horizontal, and probably 8 or 9 feet under the surface of the ground. The floor, however, from D to A, slopes upward at an angle of about 11° , or 1 in 6. In order to suit this gradient, the flag B is about 6 inches above the level of C. It is from these circumstances plain that the tortuous passage A, B, C, was the entrance to the chamber or apartment D, E, F, and that the door of the chamber was at D; though there is nothing to show how the door was closed.

There were no appearance of charred wood, or any work of art; fragments of bones were found, which are now in the possession of the steward at Broomhouse Mains. I picked up a few hazel leaves, very much decayed, from below the floor at D. There are now no hazel trees near the spot.

When this building was first discovered, both the chamber and the passage to it was found full of earth. The earth was entirely free of

stones. The supposition is, that after being abandoned and unoccupied, the rains penetrating through the soil, which is in the whole field of a very sandy nature, had, in the course of time, carried sand through the interstices of the roof and walls, and thus filled what had been previously empty spaces. If this theory be correct, a very long period indeed must have elapsed before these spaces were filled.

There is no tradition in the district of the existence of this building ; nor has the field any particular name.

The height of this field above the sea is about 200 feet.

On the north side of the chamber, near the middle of it, one of the stones in the wall at the bottom is curved in a singular way. It is about 2 feet long, and 6 inches deep. It is possible, however, that the stone may have been worn into this curved form by the effects of water.

I have avoided expressing any opinion regarding the intention of this building, and would prefer to be guided by your greater knowledge of such antiquities. If it was not meant as the dwelling of our savage forefathers, it may possibly have been intended as a place for concealing treasures in more recent times.