

I.

REMAINS OF EARLY ANTIQUITIES, IN AND ON THE BORDERS OF THE PARISH OF URQUHART, ELGIN, INCLUDING HUT CIRCLES, KITCHEN MIDDENS, STONE CISTS WITH URNS, STONE WEAPONS, &c., &c. BY THE REV. JAMES MORRISON, F.C., URQUHART, ELGINSHIRE. (PLATE XXI.)

This parish is bounded on the north-east by the Moray Firth, and extends on that side from the mouth of the River Spey to the mouth of the Lossie, a distance of about seven miles. It stretches eight miles inland in a south-west direction, and at its southern extremity narrows to a point. The north-west angle, near the Lossie, is a dead level, elevated only a few feet above the sea. This flat, which runs through the Loch of Spynie, and the valley of Drainie and Duffus on towards Burghead, sends at many points small branches or arms a considerable way inward amid the higher grounds, almost surrounding some of the eminences. With these exceptions, the whole district is irregular and undulating, finely diversified with heights and hollows. Along the shore there is a barren strip, of a mile in breadth, of shingle arranged in nearly parallel ridges, which have been piled up by the waves from the materials carried down by the Spey. Inside these links, the ground has been brought under cultivation for fully three miles toward the south. The soil generally is very light and sandy, and when broken up by the plough in spring, the whole surface, and the higher knolls especially, are exposed to the fury of the prevailing west winds, and for days the sky will be darkened by thick clouds of dust. Thus year by year the hillocks which dot the district are bared and lowered by the drifting away of the lighter portions of the soil.

Above this sandy tract, farther inland, on both sides of the road which connects Fochabers with Elgin, there stretches a wide belt of very dry gravelly land, of which considerable portions have been brought under cultivation during recent years. May it not have been the lightness and dryness of the surface which in ages long gone by led our predecessors of early times to form settlements in this district? Be this as it may, there can be no doubt that they had early taken up their abode in this eastern corner of the province of Moray, and that they must have occupied it for a long time. They have left unmistakable traces of their presence in flints,

cists, urns, huts, circles, pit dwellings, and kitchen middens, scattered pretty abundantly within or on the borders of the parish.

Kitchen Middens, &c.—As the most interesting of these remains have been found on the farm of Meft (Upper and Lower), it may be well to describe its form and position. It lies fully four miles, due south, from the sea at Lossiemouth, and contains some four or five hundred acres, being about a mile long from north to south, and about three quarters of a mile across. Its form is that of an oblong promontory, jutting out into the level plain already referred to, and surrounded by it on all sides save the south. On the north front it rises abruptly, as a steep headland, out of that wide sea of plain which stretches away through Drainie and Duffus. This headland is more than a hundred feet above the plain at its foot. The ground sinks slightly as we proceed southward till we come to the centre of the farm, where it rises and swells into a conical eminence covered with wood, called “the Castle Hill,” which has along its face a deep gash or trench, evidently artificial. From this the field slopes gently till it falls to about the same level as on the north side, and then it joins on to the wide undulating sandy expanse which runs through the middle of the parish, from the mouth of the Spey westward to Birnie. The northern headland is styled “the Hill of Kinnairdie;” and there is a tradition that a harbour at one time existed at its base. The sea is now four miles away, but there are good grounds for believing that within the human period, the tides rose and fell daily at the foot of the promontory. At high water, the canals and ditches within a mile of it are affected and dammed back. On the top there occurs a very extensive “kitchen midden;” and Sir John Lubbock tells us that in Denmark such heaps are always found on the shore, or on what must have been the shore at the time of their formation. This “kitchen midden” lies in a slight depression about a hundred and fifty yards back from the crest of the northern headland, and covers nearly two acres. I have had a trench cut across it for fifty yards, and pits dug out at many different points, so as to ascertain accurately its nature and extent. There are first fully eighteen inches of excellent soil; and then beneath this, and resting on the yellow sand so common in the district, there is the same depth of shells, of a nearly uniform thickness of from eighteen to twenty inches. They are closely, densely packed together.

At some points they are almost wholly of the common whelk; at others, exclusively of very large oysters, but more generally oysters, whelks, cockles, mussels, and limpets are jumbled together. These are by far the most common varieties, the specimens of *Buccinum undatum*, and of one of the forms of *tapes* being of rare occurrence. Ashes, cinders, and stones, which have been in fire, are seen here and there. But the most careful search failed in detecting any fragments of flint, pottery, or bones, such as might have helped in determining the age of the mound. Quite close to it, however, on a sandy slope, I have picked up numerous flint chips and flakes, as well as a few rudely or imperfectly finished instruments, and fragments of pottery are met with on the same spot. In the "Natural History Review," of July 1863, Sir John Lubbock describes a shell heap at Brigses on the loch of Spynie, two miles nearer the sea than the heap on the Hill of Meft, and he figures a bronze pin found there (and now in Elgin Museum), which competent authority pronounces to be a thousand years old. Eastward from Brigses on the links, half way 'twixt Lossie and Spey, small shell mounds are seen with fragments of pottery and large rusted iron fish-hooks. I am inclined to think that the Meft mound is much older than either those at Brigses or on the links. Its distance from the sea, its contiguity to the flint manufactory to be noticed presently, its extent, and the existence of pottery, flint-chips, and instruments in its close neighbourhood, all point in this direction. But its age cannot be conclusively determined so long as no remains of domestic or warlike instruments occur in it. Oysters, whose remains constitute a large part of the heap, are not now to be found on the south side of the Moray Firth, though they were common enough at one time, living and dying in countless thousands in the bed of the Loch of Spynie, when it formed an arm of the sea.

About half way between the shell heap and the Castle Hill there is a mound-shaped hillock called "The Witches' Hillock," crowned with a solitary boulder of granite about five feet high. The mass was not always solitary. Several years ago it had a good many companions as stately as itself. These, however, were broken up and removed to help in the erection of a threshing mill. There are a good many largish boulders around and upon the mound, and it is probable that the upright stones had been grouped around a tumulus of earth and stones; the latter

mostly carted away for building purposes, and the former gradually drifted away by the wind. There are no quarries in the parish, and few surface stones in the lower part of it, and so cairns are known to have been removed for the erection of houses.

Flint Implements, &c.—But the most interesting spot on Meft farm is a small field of about eight acres at its southern extremity, a mile further inland than the shell mound. The soil is exceedingly light, and of no great depth. For ages it had lain under heather and broom. In 1840, the father of the present tenant had it cleared and improved. Owing to the lightness of the soil, and the elevation of the ground, exposed to the full sweep of the prevailing west winds, the field, as often as it is broken up by the plough, is subject to “blowing” or drifting; the higher parts have in consequence been considerably lowered since it was first reclaimed, and huge wreaths of drifted material have accumulated in the adjoining hollows. In the spring of 1870, it was prepared for green crop. The earth had been thoroughly pulverised by the prolonged and intense frosts of the preceding winter. In the middle of April a fearful gale of wind swept over it, carrying before it most of the surface soil, and leaving only a thick covering of small stones and gravel. Crossing the field shortly after, I picked up a rudely wrought piece of flint. This led to a search for more. The result was that I found the ground, especially about the centre of it, sprinkled with thousands of fragments of flint of all shapes and dimensions. The great bulk of these are chips, some of them very minute, others pretty large and passing into flakes. There were found several blocks or cores which had been partially used, none of them much more than two inches long. Not many complete instruments occur, nor is this to be wondered at. The arrows and spear heads which had been manufactured in this extensive workshop were meant for war and the chase, and not for use on the spot. Still a goodly enough assortment of wrought and half-wrought articles have been picked up. Among these is a polished stone axe, six inches in length, while well-formed arrows of the barbed sort have been gathered. Several diamond or lozenge-shaped, and some leaf-shaped, have also been got. Scrapers are more abundant than arrows, though generally they are small in size. In addition to a larger assortment of rough flakes, there are many flake-shaped pieces all more or less chipped and wrought, and which may

have been rude spears, or arrow heads, or instruments marred in the making, and then thrown aside as useless. Besides all these there are very many small pieces undoubtedly manufactured, though for what purpose I do not know.

Among the countless chips, there are hundreds which are plainly chips never touched by tool since they were broken off, but which are so thin, and sharp, and neat, that they might well have been employed as tips to arrows, many of them being larger than the lozenge-shaped arrows, and as well adapted for use as they.

While the flints were found abundantly all over the field, there were certain spots where they were very thickly scattered, and from which probably the outlying ones had been dragged by plough or harrow. Plainly there had been an extensive manufactory of stone implements on this field, and in some places one could almost point to the spot where the old workman sat as he laboriously chipped out his instruments.

Stone Cists, &c.—But there are other indications on the same field of the presence of man. In the Statistical Account of 1842 it is stated that in carrying out the improvement, “a hillock or barrow on being opened was found to contain two very rude urns full of ashes and burnt bones.” The urns fell to pieces, and no account can be got of their shape or size. One of them was found in a stone cist of four slabs, covered with a large flag, and a skeleton of a full-grown man lay in the cist. The slabs were carted away and the bones buried. Many years ago, a gravel pit was opened in a corner of the field, and an urn was found at a considerable depth in the gravel. During the past summer a rude cist was opened. In forming the drills for the turnip crop, the plough struck against an earthfast stone. In removing it many similar boulders were observed and removed, and the earth was about to be levelled, when the spade touched a rough sandstone slab, set on edge. Clearing out all round, we had before us an exceedingly rude cist, about three feet in length by two in breadth. The sides were formed of six thin pieces of sandstone, so placed as to give the appearance of a modern coffin, wider at the middle than at the ends. The cavity was filled with sand, and on clearing it out a very rude urn was exposed lying on its side at the south end. The urn was broken, but had enough of completeness to show both its form and size. The bottom, fully an inch thick, is four inches in diameter.

It is flower-pot shaped, stands seven inches high, and had been seven across the top. It is marked round the upper edge with three rows of indentations, such as might be made by the point of a small finger. Below this it is surrounded by a double line, followed by another series of indentations. Then come two lines, and triangular figures, one within another, rest on the lower of these lines. There was no cover upon the cist, and no appearance of either bones or ashes in it or in the urn; and a careful search failed in detecting any pieces of flint or remains of any sort.

Ancient Dwellings, &c.—The field had its houses as well as its workshops and graves. After it had been ploughed there were observed black mossy-looking patches, very noticeable amid the light-coloured sandy soil. The blackness was found to be occasioned by the presence of ashes and cinders. On clearing away to a depth of about fifteen inches, we met beds of ashes and charred bits of wood, with occasional fragments of pottery and small stones that had been in the fire. These lay on the even surface of the yellow sand. Neither the shape nor dimensions of these pits could be accurately ascertained. The ground had been much lowered by the wind, and greatly disturbed and broken up by the plough. The pieces of pottery, some of them ornamented, are in general of better quality than the urn found in the cist. Many fragments have been picked up on the surface over the whole field, and some of them are calcined. From some of the pits pieces of flint have been taken, one small flake being bedded in a consolidated lump of ashes. While the forms cannot be determined with any accuracy, the number of the pits has been great. They are common over all the eight acres, which must have been honey-combed with them; and burned stones are scattered about in all directions. Bones, and oyster and other shells occur plentifully. Evidently there had been in this corner a considerable settlement of the flint-using people, and here are the remains of an extensive village of pit-dwellings, the homes of those who wrought the flints, and built the cists, and baked the pottery.

On the slope of a wooded knoll, about three hundred yards from the flint field, there is a circular bowl-shaped hollow, having a raised border with a break in its south-east side, and a diameter of twelve feet. On digging into it, there were two feet of sandy soil, beneath which lay

twenty-two inches of ashes and cinders. There were some fire-blackened stones lying in the ashes, but no traces of bones, pottery, or flint.

Cairns, Cists, &c.—Two years ago, on a slight eminence about half a mile south of the flint field, a remarkably fine cist was discovered. There had at one time been a cairn or tumulus upon the spot, the materials of which had been removed for building. The cist was four feet two inches long, by two feet four in depth and breadth. The sides and ends were huge slabs of great thickness, and a massive flag of sandstone, six feet by four, formed the lid. The cist was about half filled with sand, in which lay the perfect skeleton of a man of more than ordinary height, the bones being in excellent preservation. Near the middle, on the right hand side, lay a flint spear-head, now deposited in the Elgin Museum. The skull and some of the bones have been sent to Professor Turner, of Edinburgh, for examination. A similar cist was found many years ago in another corner of the parish; and in March past a ruder one, containing some decayed bones, was exposed on a sandy knoll, where twenty years ago a cist with a complete skeleton was discovered. In this last, a jet necklace, now in Elgin Museum, was found.

Standing Stones, Circles, &c.—Near the centre of the lower part of the district, a mile east from Meft, on a commanding situation, there are the remains of a stone circle. It is called "the nine stanes." They are now only eight, two of them prostrate, and are six feet high. They form a semicircle, having several breaks in it, with a diameter of fully thirty-five yards. About half a mile to the north of these, there were, thirty years ago, several upright stones of the same character and size, which were broken up and carted away to build cattle sheds. On the borders of the parish, near the pretty village of Lhanbryde, stand two fine solitary stones, more than six feet high, to testify to the existence of a circle destroyed in 1810, to aid in the erection of a bridge. About 1830, five similar stones, named "The Haer Stanes," placed in the form of a horse shoe, and standing about half a mile from Lhanbryde, were unfortunately found to lie in the line of a road then formed, and were ignominiously tumbled down the slope on which for ages they had rested, and buried in a gravel pit by the side of the road.

Flint Implements, &c.—It has been stated that the parish exhibits

a constant succession of heights and hollows. Generally the former have only a thin covering of light soil, and until a recent period they lay waste, bearing only thickets of furze and broom. Gradually they have been brought under cultivation, and, save when laid out in grass, they are more or less stript every spring and left covered with gravel. On most of these knolls when thus bared—and there are scores of them in the district—flints and fragments of pottery occur. Spears, arrows, scrapers, and other instruments have in years past been picked up by ploughmen, and in most cases been either lost or destroyed. Still, however, they are far from uncommon. Flakes, blocks, chips, and wrought articles can be gathered after a high wind in spring, and the writer has a goodly variety, all collected during the past twelve months, and which are of the same character as those found in Meft. One man tells me that for years he has supplied the smokers in his neighbourhood with flints found on a small eminence on his croft, and the numbers still to be seen, and the presence of fire-touched stones, and the existence of pits filled with charred wood and ashes, show that there had been a settlement and a small manufactory on this spot. A little below and to the east of the conical hillock of “the law”—when some years ago a valuable find was made of three dozen pieces of gold armlets, two of which are in Edinburgh Museum—quantities of flints occur, while on a sandy field near they are met with in numbers as large as on the Meft field. In a few days this spring, a herd boy has gathered on the slope of a small grass park hundreds of fragments and flakes, besides a few barbed arrows, and several small scrapers. And there can be no doubt that when the ground is broken up, they will be found more abundantly still. On the same spot an irregularly-shaped stone whorl has been got, and many fragments of old pottery, while the stones scattered on the surface show that they have been subjected to the action of fire, and the indications of pit dwellings are very marked. On a rising ground near this field, inside the plantation that borders it, there is a cairn surrounded with massy stones. It has been opened, but I am not aware that aught but ashes has been found.

There are several other localities where flints are met with in considerable numbers, and where they must have been abundant when the plough first disturbed the ground; and it is clear, that, while the most extensive

manufactory existed at Meft, there were smaller ones, as well as many isolated workshops, scattered up and down the district. The mere finding of a few finished instruments would not suffice to show that this was the case, but the presence of such articles alongside of thousands of chips and fragments, of multitudes of half-wrought pieces, and of blocks—the raw material of the workers—manifestly leads to this conclusion.

The notes hitherto given refer exclusively to the lower district from the shore inward for about three miles. Farther up, in the southern parts, the character of the soil changes, and instead of a light, soft, sandy surface, we have a hard, dry, and gravelly one. The highway from Fochabers to Elgin enters this upper district about two miles west from the river Spey, and intersects it for three miles. On both sides of the road the ground is hard and shingly, and until lately was covered with wood. A broad belt of moorland stretches away on the south-west side of the road, past the Fochabers station of the Highland Railway, crosses the southern portion of St Andrews-Lhanbryde, and swells up into the Brown Muir, a hill of 800 feet, in the eastern extremity of the parish of Elgin. Near the side of the road, about three miles west of the Spey, is seen

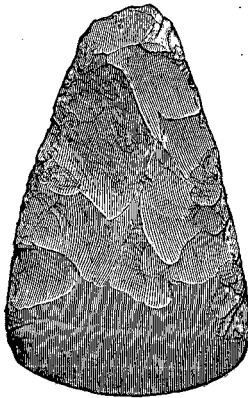


Fig. 1. Flint Celt.
(3 inches long.)

“Kenny’s Hillock,” on which, a hundred-years ago, Kenny Leal was executed for robbing the mail, his body being hung in chains, and buried along with the chains at the foot of the gallows. All round this spot the early remains are numerous. From fields recently reclaimed I have got, besides many pieces finished or half finished, four stone axes, ranging in length from three to five inches. They are all polished. One is of yellow flint (fig. 1), ground to a fine edge, and which may have been originally of a ruder form, and then been polished and improved. One was found in levelling a tumulus of earth and stones. Here, too, from near Kenny’s Hillock, is a hammer, apparently of white flint, streaked with red, 3 inches long. In the plate a figure

of this hammer (Plate XXI. fig. 1), is placed alongside of that of the beautiful specimen found near Corwen in Merionethshire (fig. 2), and presented to the Museum, by Rev. E. L. Barnwell, F.S.A. Scot., in 1864 (Proc. vol. vi. p. 43). The latter is slightly larger and is complete in its ornamentation, which is wrought with much precision and must have cost great labour. The Urquhart one, exactly of the same pattern, is in an unfinished condition. The Welsh workman was able to finish his weapon. The Scots one was arrested when he had only completed part of his work and outlined the remainder. The Urquhart specimen is interesting as being the only Scottish example of this type; one end is fluted diagonally, with great labour. The process, which was meant to have been extended over the whole surface, was never finished; down one side the flutings are begun, and down the other the pattern is merely marked off by little nicks rubbed with sharp sand into the hard stone. The hole for the handle, which is not in the middle of the implement, but nearer its small end, has been bored from both sides, but the borings have not met exactly in the middle, and the hole has been made straight by subsequent grinding.

Of the Corwen specimen Mr Barnwell says:—"The enormous amount of labour that must have been bestowed on cutting and polishing, would indicate that it was not intended for ordinary use as a common hammer. Various suggestions have been made. Some have considered it as the war implement of a distinguished chief; others, that it was intended for sacrificial or other religious purposes, or as a badge of high office. Whether it has been worked with metal tools or not is uncertain, but probably with the latter, owing to the hardness of the stone. The hole seems to be slightly converging at each aperture. How the polishing has been effected is also uncertain, as the ordinary method of friction would have been difficult from the nature of the pattern."

Several blocks, flakes, and chips of flint, with a few arrows, have been recently gathered in the neighbourhood. The flint knife (fig. 2), p. 260 ($2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by half an inch broad), also found here, is a beautifully finished specimen, of a kind by no means common (see Donation List, p. 239). The back is carefully wrought by chipping, and the cutting edge finely ground on both sides. The notch in the blade was made by the youth into whose hands it fell. Only a few more

specimens of this form of knife are known, all of which are in the Society's Museum.

Tumuli, Cairns, &c.—All around there have been numerous cairns or tumuli, some of them composed of earth and stones, and others wholly of stones. Generally, they have had round them a circle of large stones. From one of these cairns a fine urn was got, which is now deposited in the Elgin Museum. Two, which I had opened this spring, had only layers of ashes. Not far from these is a cairn eight yards in diameter, opened on 4th May. As from others, many loads of building materials had been removed from it. Four large masses of stone lie round the edge, marking where a complete circle had existed. About two yards within the circumference, on the east side, a pit five feet deep



Fig. 2. Flint Knife with ground edge. (Actual size.)

had been dug. Its bottom was covered by two inches of ashes, and over these lay a flag of 3 feet long by 20 inches broad. Above this were heaped massy boulders. Beneath the flag and the ashes an urn was got lying in a sloping direction, broken in several places. But all the parts have been obtained and put together. It is 3 inches across at the bottom, 7 at the middle, and 6 at the top, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ deep. Internally, the bottom resembles the circular hollows found at the extremity of ordinary glass bottles. Round the exterior are two rows of triangular shape, formed thus $\nabla \nabla$. The lip is not rounded but flat, sloping inward, and is ornamented with two rows of dotted lines. It had been filled with blackened sand, not much darker, however, than the sand into which it had been sunk.

All around Kenny's Hillock, near which the urn, hammer, hatchets, and many flints have been found, there are great numbers of pits, many of them hitherto untouched. Some of these are twelve feet in diameter,

and are filled with ashes and cinders, beneath a foot or two of sandy soil. A few of them have been dug into, but nothing save ashes and burned stones have been met with in them. At a distance of a quarter of a mile from the hillock there is a long wedge-shaped ridge. At its western extremity the ridge has a deep trench across it. This trench is carried all round the extremity, and at several points in the bottom of it there is a considerable depth of ashes and cinders, similar to what is found in the pit dwellings. This circular trench will be about two hundred yards in length, and encloses a flat-crowned eminence, which rises some fifteen or twenty feet above the bottom of the ditch.

Flint Weapons, &c.—On the south-west side of the Fochabers road, on the expanse of moorland which stretches past the railway station to the Brown Muir, there have been gathered, and are still gathered, countless flints. In some spots they lie so thick that a ploughman tells me he has picked them in handfuls while letting his horses breathe for a few minutes. Near the Fochabers station, close to the spot where the beautiful gold lunette, now in the Society's Museum, was picked up about a year ago, some fine arrows and spear heads have recently been got. The barbed arrow head (fig. 3), is of chalcedonic flint, and remarkable for the elegance of its form and the neatness with which its edges are serrated. The chisel-shaped instrument (fig. 4) beside it, is thus described by Mr Evans:—"It appears to be a large arrow of the chisel-ended type. The edge is formed by the sharp side of a flake, and the sharp angles at the two sides of the arrow-head have been removed by chipping, probably to prevent their cutting the ligament that attached it to the shaft." He speaks of it as resembling some specimens from Egyptian tombs, where the head differs from all the ordinary forms, being chisel-shaped rather than pointed. Arrows of this type are very rare. The simplicity of their form may have caused them to escape observation. A spear head 3 inches long, pointed at both ends; another triangular one $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and several arrows, both of the barbed and the diamond form, were also found in this locality. A little further south there is, beside a small mountain burn, an eminence called Auld Shiels (Alt-Shiels?) where pit dwellings are abundant, and in which flints, and occasionally pieces of agate, occur, and near which there is a curious gathering of stones broken to the size of road metal, which bear

evidence of having been subjected to fire, and which have mingled up with them very richly heaps of ashes and charred wood. Similar small mounds of broken stones and ashes are to be met with in several places through the parish, and in such of them as have been levelled down nothing is seen but the blackened fragments of stones and the ashes. In the Statistical Account of the parish of Rafford of 1842, the late Dr Mackay makes mention of many such heaps in that parish, and states that when turned over there was emitted a smell like what would be experienced from a newly dug grave in a churchyard.

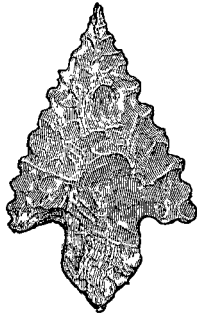


Fig. 3.

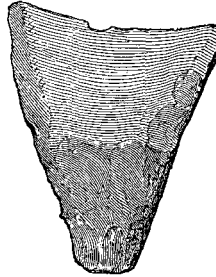


Fig. 4.

Serrated and Triangular Arrow Heads of Flint. (Actual size.)

I am satisfied, from statements made to me, that from the moorland in the upper portion of the parish, where cultivation of the waste has been going on extensively for the past quarter of a century, there have been during that time picked up, and either lost or destroyed, as many flint instruments and weapons as might have formed a good collection for a provincial museum. The considerable number of specimens in my possession have almost all been found during the past twelve months. The abundance of remains in this eastern corner of the province of Moray demonstrate that a numerous colony of the flint-using people had long been settled here. It may be difficult to say where the materials which they have wrought so well came from. Dr Gordon, of Bimie, in a paper read before the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association in 1864, says,

“Although a few of them (the flints) may have been picked up upon the shore, the vast bulk of them must have been brought from afar. To upset this idea it is not enough to say that those who thus so highly valued flints may have so long and closely ransacked our shores for it, that almost none of it has been left on them. Since these weapons were made and used the surface of the land by the edge of the sea has again and again been changed. In some places fresh banks of sand and shingle have been thrown up, and in others as much washed away, so that in our day we have as full and fresh an exposure of flint pebbles (poor, in fact, as they are) as the Allophyllian races could have gathered theirs from. Knowing pretty well the contents of the beaches around the Moray Frith, I am persuaded that no such collection of flint could be made in a lifetime from any spot nearer, at least, than the *debris* of the chalk formation that remains at Cruden, in Buchan. But it is far more probable that early traffic or barter has brought these flints from a much greater distance, and, at least, from beyond the Tweed.” Such is the opinion of Dr Gordon, and no man’s opinion on such a matter is entitled to greater weight. The flints found here are of every variety of colour, and Mr Jamieson, of Ellon, writes me that the Buchan flint nodules are “of all colours—yellow, red, white of a great variety of hues, and a dark smoke-grey.” This exactly describes the prevailing colours of our Urquhart specimens, lending strength to the conjecture that, however it may have been with other parts of Scotland, our predecessors in Moray were acquainted with the remains of the chalk formation in Aberdeenshire, and drew upon them largely for the manufacturing of those tools and weapons which have for countless centuries resisted the wasting tooth of time, remaining as fresh to-day as when they left the workman’s hands. It is, at the same time, by no means improbable that portions of the rude material may have been gathered out of the chalk cliffs of Old England, and that a system of traffic may have existed then, as now, between the northern and southern parts of the island. The moulds found in Ross-shire for casting weapons of bronze prove that such traffic existed in the bronze age, and favour the conjecture that it may have sprung up long before. This much, at least, we think is certain, that Moray itself never furnished the flint pebbles, the chips and flakes of which are found so abundantly within its borders.

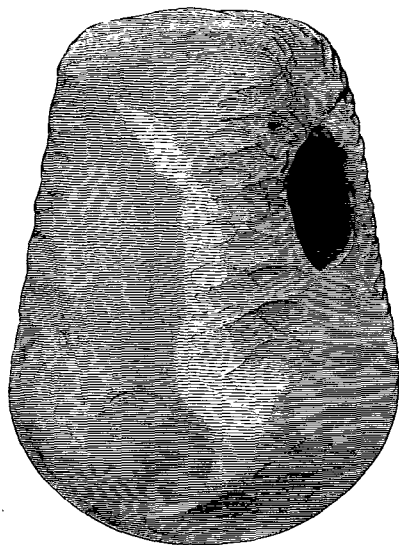


Fig. 1. Found in Urquhart, Elginshire, Scotland.
(Ornamentation Unfinished.)

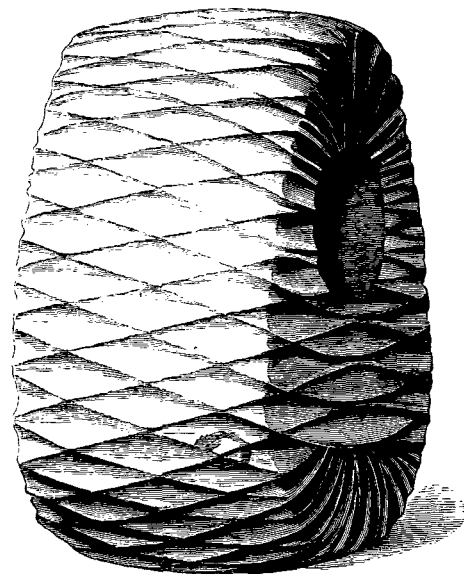


Fig. 2. Found near Corwen, Merionethshire, Wales.
(Ornamentation Finished.)

ORNAMENTED STONE HAMMERS.
(Actual size.)