

### III.

NOTICE OF AUDUN, AN OLD CALEDONIAN FORT ON BENLEDI. By COLONEL SIR JAMES EDWARD ALEXANDER, K.C.L.S., F.R.S.E., AND F.S.A. SCOT. (SKETCHES AND PLAN WERE EXHIBITED.)

Benledi, the "mountain of God," nearly 3000 feet high, is the grand feature in the landscape at Callander, lifting its majestic (and for months snow-crowned) head among the other conspicuous summits of the Grampian range.

The north side of the mountain, rugged and precipitous, flings its shadow into the waters of Loch Lubnaig; the crags of the eastern face look towards Callander; the south-west side is tame, and easier of ascent. High up the mountain is a small loch called Loch-an-Corp, or the Lake of the dead bodies, because a funeral party, crossing it on the ice, fell through and were drowned, on the way from Glenfinlas to the chapel of St Bride.

Mr Binning Home of Argaty, F.S.A. Scot., having informed me that he understood there were the remains of an interesting fort to be seen on one of the spurs on the south side of Benledi, I went with him there last year, and we found, after a climb of several hundred feet, a circular Caledonian fort overlooking the Coilantogle ford.

The gleaming waters of Loch Venachar and some wood appear in the distance, and a Roman station is on the plain below, and the whole locality is very interesting.

On the south of the old fort there are inaccessible cliffs, and some trees amongst them. To the north the ground slopes off towards the summit

of the great Ben, and thus requires the defence of three lines of ramparts and ditches. The larger or outer entrance was probably for the castle. The inner fort is circular, and in the centre is a well, now filled with stones for fear of accidents to sheep and cattle grazing around it. Mr Home and myself measured the fort,—63 feet long, and the same in breadth. The entrance is on the west side, and the first rampart there to the next is 29 feet, and from the second to the third, 25 feet, and to an imperfect fourth line of rampart, 19 feet.

I was quite pleased to see the ramparts and ditches so well marked and preserved. A large stone on the next hillside, and well seen by travellers passing to the Trosachs, marks where the old fort is to be examined. AU DUN is the name by which it is known in the vicinity.

[This Dun is also described, and a plan given at p. 36 of this volume.]