

#### IV.

NOTICE OF AN UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE RECENTLY DISCOVERED  
ON THE FARM OF MICKLE KINORD, ABERDEENSHIRE. BY REV. J.  
G. MICHIE, M.A., COLDSTONE. COMMUNICATED BY JOHN STUART, Esq.,  
LL.D., SECRETARY. (PLATE XXVIII.)

On the southern margin of Loch Kinord there is a peninsula, known by the name of Gardè-been, which bears evident traces of having been once fortified by a moat and rampart, and shows faint traces of a rampart all round. Before the level of the lake was reduced in 1826 the water very nearly encircled this place. The ground immediately adjacent has been under cultivation for about forty years; and no one recollects anything peculiar about the surface before it was brought under the plough, except some traces of a paved way noticed below.

While a servant was ploughing in this field, at a spot about 100 yards from the moat of Gardè-been, he felt his plough irons several times graze the surface of a stone, and thinking the sound hollow, he made some investigation, and found that beneath the stone there was a space nearly filled with soft mould. With some assistance from the farm the stone was removed and turned out to be a granite slab of an irregular oblong shape, measuring 4 feet 7 inches in medial length and 3 feet in average breadth. It was supported at either end by flat-faced stones set on end and laid together with some care. The space thus enclosed was 3 feet broad at the top, 2 feet at the bottom, and 20 inches deep. This portion was also roughly paved with stones, but there was no pavement in any other part. A stone ball 3 inches in diameter was found among the soil excavated; something resembling a bone was also discovered, but as it crumbled away in the handling, it is doubtful whether it really was one or not. The stone-ball has been taken charge of by Mr Brooks, Glen Tanar Forest. In attempting to remove a second cover the stone was

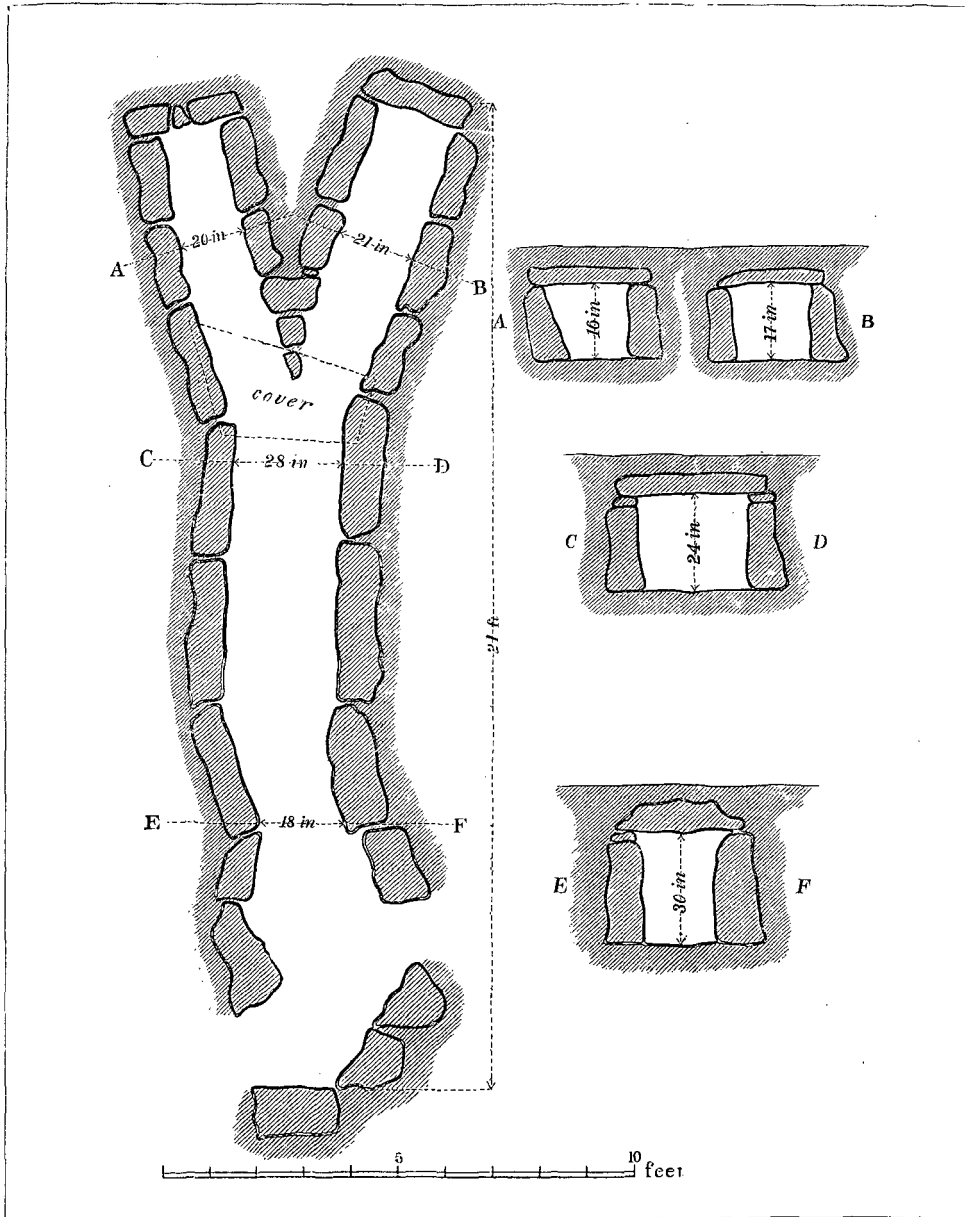
broken ; but judging from the fragments it does not appear to have been dressed, but to have been a rough gneiss boulder.

A few days after its discovery, Mr Brooks caused the whole space to be cleared out, and the slab to be replaced in its original position.

[The accompanying plate (from a survey and drawing by Mr Alexander Ogilvy, communicated by Sir John Clark, Bart., F.S.A. Scot.) shows the ground plan, sections and measurements of this curious structure.]

The side walls are composed of a single course of stones set on edge ; some of these are placed with some art and apparent care, both as to joints and levelling atop, but the rest are roughly set side by side. The entire length of the structure is 21 feet ; and the broadest part, at the bifurcation, is 3 feet, the passage gradually narrowing towards E, F, where it is only 18 inches wide and 30 inches high ; one of the covers in position at this part is a shapeless block of gneiss (the rock most abundant in the neighbourhood), which probably would weigh a little less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., *i.e.*, about a fair lift for a man. Under it was found a concave stone in the bottom with the concavity turned upwards. The hollow appears to be the result of the natural cleavage of the block from which it has been obtained. It is in position. Below the large flag, and for some distance (2 or 3 feet) towards *d*, a quantity of cinders and charred wood was found, which Mr Brooks took charge of. The side stones at this part bore marks of the action of fire, but the overlying flag was but slightly stained with smoke.

An old man who had occupied this piece of land about forty years ago, informs me that while trenching a part of it opposite to Gardè-been, he came upon a paved way passing over a small marsh, but states that it ceased when the hard ground was reached. Having got him on the spot, I asked him to point out, as nearly as he could recollect, the direction taken by this paved way. He did so without hesitation. The line he indicated fell forty yards or thereabout to the left, or east of the underground structure now excavated.



PLAN AND SECTION OF UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE AT MEIKLE KINORD, ABERDEENSHIRE.