

I.

NOTICE OF A NUMBER OF CIRCULAR STONE HUTS, SURROUNDED BY A THICK STONE WALL, ENCLOSING ONE AND A-HALF ACRES, CALLED THE HAREFAULDS, IN LAUDER PARISH, BERWICKSHIRE. BY DAVID MILNE HOME, LL.D., F.S.A. SCOT. (PLATES XXIX.)

All persons now acknowledge the propriety of preserving records of old monuments or other relics, which throw light on the races of people by whom Scotland was inhabited in former times, their pursuits, modes of living, the arts with which they were acquainted, and the physical condition of the country. It is much to be lamented that the perception and acknowledgment of this truth is only of recent date, when so few of these works remain for preservation and study.

"The *Harefaulds*" is one of these works. It is surprising that no account of it should have been published. The only account of it which I have found is in the Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club. In August 1870, some of the members of that club met at the place; and in the yearly report given of its doings "*Harefaulds*" is thus referred to:—

"The members who recently saw the excavations at Edin's Hall viewed with great interest this large camp, or ancient British oppidum or town, (referring to the *Harefaulds*). Within the thick wall enclosing the inner area there are cells similar to those in the wall of Edin's Hall. The structure, however, both of the wall and the cells is much ruder. The cells at *Harefaulds* are undoubtedly coeval with the camp."

Happening last October to be visiting the proprietor (the Earl of Lauderdale), on one of whose farms the *Harefaulds* is situated, I availed myself of the opportunity of inspecting it.

It is on the farm of Blythe, in the east end of Lauder parish, on the slope of a hill facing the south. Whenever I reached the spot, it struck me that it was in a situation by no means favourable for a camp, and was quite unlike that usually occupied by the old camps of the country, not being like Edin's Hall, defended by precipices, or similar specialties of ground.

When I got within the precincts, I was greatly shocked at the dilapi-

dated scene which presented itself. The ruins were so promiscuous, that it took me some time before I could make out what had been the original design of the structure.

I may here stop for a moment to explain, how the place had got into its present lamentable condition. After my inspection I wrote to a friend, giving some account of it. My correspondent had known the place almost from childhood, had always taken an interest in it, and had frequently visited it. The answer which I received, informed me, that "up to about seven or eight years ago, the Harefaulds had remained in the condition in which it had been for the previous 100 years, but that then the tenant of the farm pulled down a great portion of the walls, carted away the stones to build them into new dykes, and took the great stone door posts and lintels, some of which were of immense size, to build into new farm offices, where many of them may be seen to this day. Irreparable injury was the consequence; for the Harefaulds then lost most of its circular chambers."

Here it is only fair to the noble proprietor to state that these terrible dilapidations were not only without his knowledge, but in express opposition to his wishes and injunctions; for on succeeding to the Thirlstane estate, some years before they took place, Lord Lauderdale had given directions that all relics of antiquity should be preserved, and especially the Harefaulds. When he discovered what had been done, he expressed much dissatisfaction, and gave still more peremptory orders that not another stone was to be removed.

But notwithstanding the mutilation from which the place has suffered, I am happy to say that enough remains to gratify curiosity, and reward a careful inspection. After examining the spot, and ascertaining its general design, I took some measurements and sketches, which will enable me now to indicate the extent of the place, and at all events, a few of its original features.

The ground plan exhibited will give an idea of what had been the original arrangement of the structure. (See Plate XXIX.)

The longer diameter, running E.N.E. and W.S.W., is 399 feet to the inside of the enclosing walls. The shortest diameter, running N. and S., is about 272 feet. An intermediate diameter, running N.W. and S.E., is about 327 feet. The extent of ground enclosed is about $1\frac{1}{2}$

acres. It will be seen from these plans that there are two entrances, one on the south, the other on the south-east side. From each entrance there is a track or road way, fully 12 or 14 feet wide, and both entrances appear equally ancient. Within the enclosure, there are the remains of about twenty small buildings, from 8 to 15 feet in diameter. The two most perfect are on the west side, and three or four on the east side. There is also one at or near each entrance. The rest are all ranged along the north side. Most of these small buildings are round in form, and have one opening, as if for a door. They are similar to the numerous circular huts, of which there are vestiges in many other parts of the country, and which have been proved to have been human dwellings. In three of these huts at the Harefaulds, there is a square flat stone projecting from the wall inside of them, of such breadth and position as to suggest the idea that it had been used for a seat.

Lady Warrender, when residing at Spottiswoode with her aunt, Lady John Scott, has frequently visited the Harefaulds, which is about two miles distant from Spottiswoode House. In the course of last summer she was present when Lady John Scott caused some excavations to be made within the walls of these circular huts. Traces of fire were, as she informs me, found in almost all of them; but no other family tokens.

On the occasion of this visit, Lady Warrender, in order to preserve a record of the appearance of the huts, and of the general style of masonry of the place, took some sketches. Having lately seen these, I at once recognised their truthfulness, and begged to be allowed to have copies made on an enlarged scale, so that I might exhibit them in illustration of my paper this evening. She very kindly undertook to make these enlarged drawings herself, and I have now the pleasure of exhibiting what is not only a faithful representation, but a work of high artistic skill. The very sight of these primeval dwellings, so wretchedly small, and so little calculated to exclude either the wind or the cold, makes one shiver at the thought that families of human beings—our own ancestors—should ever have lived in them.

Mr Macdougall, the present tenant of the farm, informed me that some years ago a Spanish coin had been found at the Harefaulds, though in what part I omitted to ascertain. He had lent the coin to the Rev.

Mr Middleton, so I wrote, at his suggestion, for a sight of the coin, and with the coin, Mr Middleton stated, from his reading of the inscription on it, that it was a coin of Philip IV., king of Spain and the Indies, Archduke of Austria, and Duke of Burgundy and Artois—1639.

Mr Middleton goes on to observe, that "The reference on the dollar to *Artois* is explained by the fact that it was not until 1640 that the Netherlands were formally given up by Spain."

Mr Middleton adds, "that it was at this time that money became so scarce in Spain, that copper was declared of equal value with silver—an edict which would have the effect of sending silver immediately out of the country."

The size of the Spanish dollar found in this place is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, and its weight is exactly 1 ounce.

I was at first much surprised at the finding of a Spanish coin in this remote part of the Lammermuir Hills; but on inquiry I learnt that for several centuries, the quantity of Spanish coins circulating in Scotland was not inconsiderable. Thus, in the "Statistical Account of Lauder," it is stated that Spanish coins had been found in different parts of that parish. Also, I may here add, that during the course of last summer Sir David Baird of Newbyth, on the occasion of a visit to the Bass Rock, picked up a silver coin, bearing to have been struck at Grenada in 1591.

Both coins I have shown to Mr George Sim, and, in returning them to me, he states that in two "treasure troves" of coins submitted to him by the Exchequer for examination some years ago, he found a number of Spanish coins. He adds, that even so late as the reign of George III. Spanish dollars were put by our Government into circulation, stamped officially with a small head of George III.

With regard to the wall which surrounded and inclosed the Harefaulds, it varies in thickness. On the south and west it is now only about 4 feet thick. On the north-east side it measures 12 feet in thickness. On the north and north-west it seems to have been even thicker. It is in this thickest part of the wall that there are one or two curious recesses or cells, which are probably those referred to in the extract I have given from the Berwickshire Club Proceedings. But these cells are much Warrender that traces of the embankment are still visible in the Spottis-

smaller than the recesses in the walls of Edin's Hall, and totally unlike in shape. The ground outside of the Harefaulds is rough, rocky, and steep on the south-west and west sides, and on the west side, within half a mile, there flows the stream called Blythe Water. The ground on the north rises above the level of the Harefaulds. Towards the east and south-east the land slopes down gently from the Harefaulds.

It is quite apparent from the nature of the ground, as well as from the structure itself, that the place was not intended as a camp, meaning thereby a place of military strength or occupation. It more probably was a small town or village of peaceful inhabitants, who agreed to live near one another for social enjoyment and mutual protection, at a time when there was no law, and at all events, no government to enforce law, in the country. The object of the wall which surrounded these dwellings would also probably be, to add to the safety of the inhabitants, and aid in the keeping of cattle.

It is proper to mention that close to the Harefaulds there are two copious springs of water. One is situated about 250 yards to the south. It is now no longer visible; for being situated on land capable of being cropped, the present tenant drained the land, and ploughed it up. The spring now does not rise to the surface. He told me that he had found at it the remains of a tank or reservoir, the bottom and sides of which had been formed with round pebbles cemented together. He also found some bits of tin, which, he supposed, were portions of an old pipe, or a ladle for lifting water.

The other spring I myself discovered. It is situated about 300 or 400 yards to the eastward, and near the line of one of the tracks leading to the Harefaulds.

In connection with this place, I must allude to a very old artificial mound or embankment, called "Herrit's Dyke," mentioned by Chalmers in his "Caledonia," and also in the statistical accounts of the parish. It is supposed to have been erected by the Romanised *Ottadini*. Perhaps this dyke was not intended to be a military work; it may only have been a boundary fence, separating one large district of country from another. This embankment, Chalmers says, had been, shortly before he wrote, traced for fourteen miles, running in a south-east direction through the parishes of Westruther and Greenlaw; and I understand from Lady

woode Plantations as well as on the muir north of the town of Greenlaw.

When I visited Harefaulds, I saw the traces of what had been evidently a mound, composed partly of earth, and partly of large stones. It runs in a south-easterly direction, and goes right up into the Harefaulds. It is also a curious circumstance that the two entrances in the outer wall of the Harefaulds are on each side of this old embankment.

How the whole area within the massive walls was occupied must be matter of conjecture. I understand that no excavations have yet been made except within the huts. Perhaps if the rest of the ground within the walls were trenched some discoveries would be made, calculated to afford information.

At Linhope, on the Cheviots, where, a few years ago, a cluster of circular huts was discovered surrounded by a wall, there were enclosures not far off, the area of which seemed to have been used, either for gardens, or more probably for folding cattle in. It is not at all unlikely that the space within the Harefaulds not occupied by the huts may, in like manner, have been devoted to the gathering of cattle at night, or feeding them during the storms of winter; and this supposition is strengthened by the traces of walls which seem to have divided the area into two spaces corresponding with the two entrances. Sometimes the name given to a place had some reference to the use it was put to, or to its local position. The word "Harefaulds," in its terminating syllable, suggests that it was a place where something was "*faulded*," and the first syllable, by most archaeologists, is thought to indicate a boundary. There are hundreds of places all through Scotland the names of which have Har or Hare as the first syllable. In the index to the Statistical Account, I see thirty such places; and there are seven in Berwickshire, as, viz., Hare-law, Harcarse, Harden, Hareur, Harper-rig, Hair-Craigs, Harrit.

If any inference is to be drawn from etymology, it would therefore be, that the place received its name because used for the faulding of cattle, and situated at or near the great boundary called Herrit's Dyke.

It seems probable that the place continued to be inhabited, down to a late period; inasmuch as the Spanish coin found there was stamped in 1639; and some years must have elapsed before it could have reached the pockets of the inhabitants of Harefaulds.

The situation of this ancient town, on the southern slope of the Lammermuirs, and at a height of about 1000 feet above the sea, is entirely in accordance with what seems to have been the usual place selected by the general population in these early times. The ancient village of Linhope, consisting of a cluster of circular huts and cells in the surrounding walls, is similarly situated on the south slope of the Cheviots, at a height of more than 800 feet above the sea. There are among the Lammermuir Hills, as well as among the Cheviots, traces of very old dwellings at even higher elevations. It is on the sides of these hills that we see many artificial terraces, where crops had been raised; and it is chiefly in these moorland districts, that the stones which were used as trysting places for worship, and sepulture, are most abundant. If the fact be, as these things seem to prove, that the great mass of the population lived on and among the hills, and not in the low country of Berwickshire or Northumberland, the reason is pretty obvious. The low country then abounded in thick forests, and extensive marshes, which, besides obstructing cultivation, and being unhealthy to live in, might enable an enemy to approach without being seen at a distance. On the hill sides, the soil was favourable for cultivation, the air healthy, and a general view of the country for many miles round could be obtained.

If the Harefaulds were, as I suppose it to have been, a small town, there should be some other traces in the neighbourhood, to verify this conclusion. I understand that places of sepulture have been discovered not far off, and also that there are vestiges of so-called Druidical circles. It is very desirable that some account of these should be drawn up, whilst evidence yet remains of their existence.

Perhaps it may not be irrelevant to mention that, since my visit to the Harefaulds, I received from the Rev. Mr Stobbs of Gordon an account of a place near the Harefaulds,—for it bears on the point to which I have just been alluding. The place is about two miles north of the Harefaulds, and on the same range of hills where it is situated. It goes by the name of the “Burrow” or “Barrow Stones.” I should not be surprised if, on farther examination, it proved to be the old Burial place of the Harefaulds. Mr Stobbs says that there are upwards of thirty stones visible, and that doubtless there are others concealed by the turf or moss. These stones are from $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and are all of

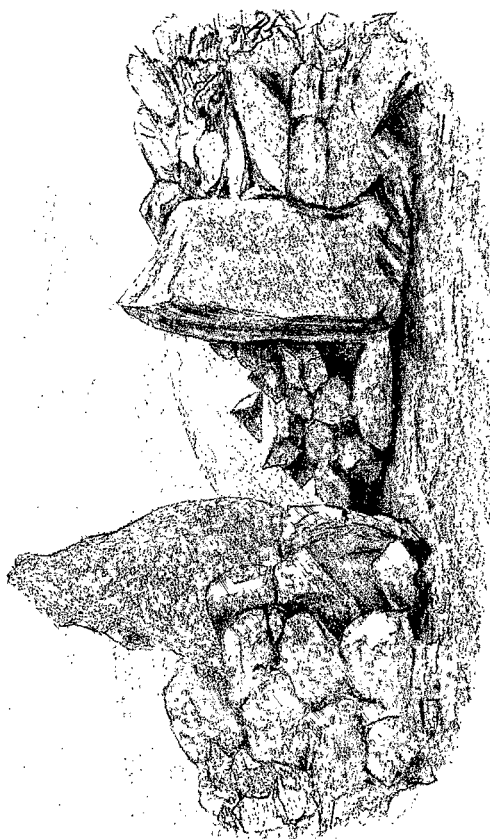
red granite or porphyry, being a tough, reddish-grey stone, well known to curlers for hardness, as the Blythe Water stone. They are different from the greywacke rocks which prevail in this immediate district, and must therefore have been brought to this spot, for some special purpose. Mr Stobbs states that the stones are generally flat, and not like the ordinary round-shaped boulders found on the moors; moreover, it appeared to him that they were not lying in a natural position, but had been set up on end.

These stones are described as being on a gently swelling eminence; and in the middle of the group there are traces of what seemed to Mr Stobbs to have been an enclosure 30 yards long by 20 yards wide, with an entrance at the south end. Mr Stobbs states that the tenant of the farm where these stones are, informed him of a tradition that they indicated the interments of persons slain in battle. But it seems to me a more probable conjecture, that the remains rather indicate the existence of a very ancient place of worship, with gravestones surrounding it.

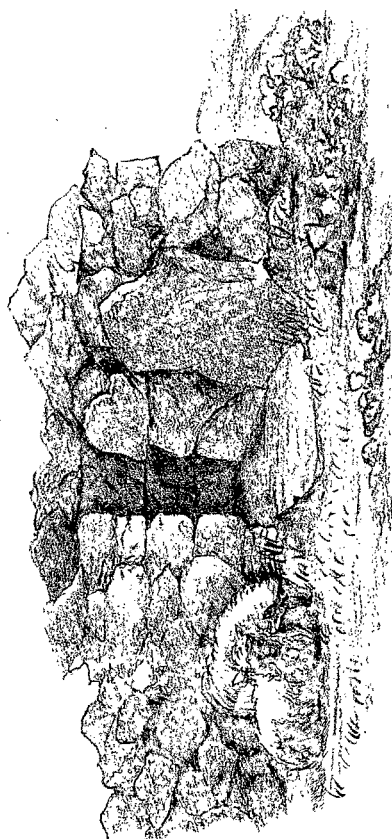
The truth of this conjecture might be easily solved by a few excavations; and if the Society considered such an experiment desirable, I have no doubt that the noble proprietor, on being informed of this fact, would willingly give directions to have diggings made at sight of some competent person.

[Since the foregoing paper was read, a search has been made by Lady John Scott among the Barrow Stones, viz. in August 1872. Lady Warrender informs me that she assisted. To their great disappointment, no discovery was made. Though the upright stones (referred to by Mr Stobbs) had evidently been *placed* there (*i.e.*, were not "earth-fast" stones), there did not appear to have been much, if any, movement of the soil round them.—D. M. H.]

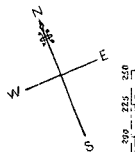
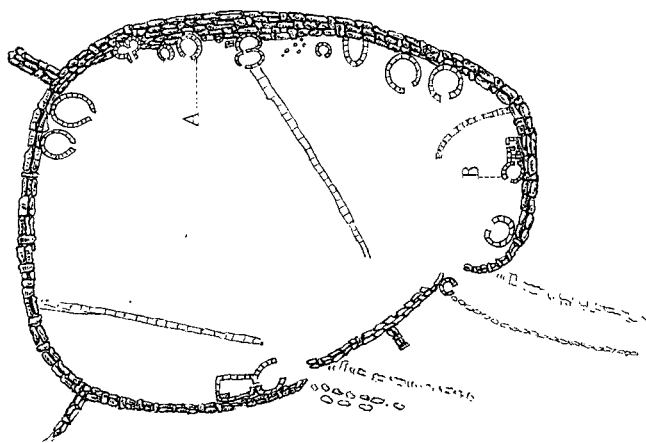
View from inside of Circular Hut, marked A on Plan



View from outside of Circular Hut marked B on Plan



GROUND PLAN OF THE HARE FAULDS



Scale of Feet

