

IV.

NOTES OF TWO STONE CISTS AT CARSECREUGH, IN THE PARISH OF OLD LUCE, WIGTOWNSHIRE. COMMUNICATED BY THE REV. GEORGE WILSON, FREE CHURCH, GLENLUCE, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

These graves were found on the summit of a glacial drift knoll, in a peat moss about a quarter of a mile south-west of Carsecreugh Castle. There are traces of a small cairn having once been over them. The undermost was first discovered about eighteen months ago. Some workmen in digging gravel laid bare and partially destroyed the south-west end without observing it. A few days after John Forsyth, the shepherd, noticed an opening, and on looking in saw a rib, and on thrusting in his staff stuck it into a human skull lying about the centre. On examining the grave, he saw at the south-west or open end, on the right hand corner, a coarse earthen pot, shaped like a flower-pot, horizontally ribbed, about 6 inches high, and estimated to hold three choppins. On being touched it fell in pieces. It contained only fine dark brown or reddish mould. Near it lay the skull of a young child. The adult skull was that of a woman. Dr M'Cormack observed a well-preserved femur. The teeth were sound and unworn, one upper incisor wanting. There were portions of the ribs and vertebral column. I had both skulls in my hands. There was no peculiarity in their shape. There were no flint or other instruments.

This lower grave lies south-west and north-east. The extreme depth from surface, about 5 feet; length of cist, 38 inches; width at south-west end, 28 inches; at north-east, 14 inches; height, about 15 inches. The bottom is of rough stones, on the right or south-east side are two stones on edge, on the left three, and at the foot (or north-east end) two on edge capped by one laid flat. The cover is a single rough greywacke flag. This last winter the weather caused the earth above to slip into the

gravel pit, when the *upper cist* was exposed to view. It lay across the under one at right angles; that is, north-west and south-east. It contained only fine mould. A side stone measured 30×10 inches; the greywacke flag covering it was 36×24 inches.

It seems probable that the woman's body, when doubled up, had been laid on the left side; but the men did not notice this.