

VIII.

NOTE OF A BROCH AT DUN VORADALE, ISLE OF RAASAY. By J. M. JUDD, Esq. COMMUNICATED BY REV. JAMES M. JOASS, M.A., GOLSPIE, Cor. MEM. S.A. Scot.

This structure is situated in the south-west of the Isle of Raasay, about a quarter of a mile to the west of the kirk. It stands on an eminence (rising about 500 feet above the sea) composed of syenite and altered white sandstone. It is constructed of blocks of the rocks on which it stands, the outer portions being composed of large and well-squared stones, and the inner filled in with smaller and rubbly materials. There is no kind of mortar used in the erection. It does not stand on the top of the hill, but on its eastern brow.

The form of the structure is a somewhat irregular ellipse, flattened on the east side. This form seems to have been determined by the nature of the ground on which it stands. The interior space measures 35 feet by 24 feet, and the breadth of the walls varies from 12 feet to 15 feet or more. The slope of the outer walls is about 75° , of the inner 80° —a kind of step or seat a foot wide appears to have run round the interior.

The entrance faces nearly due east. It is 7 feet wide where it opens into the central area, and on the outside only 3 feet. (These measures are, however, somewhat doubtful, owing to the dilapidated state of the structure, many of the stones having slipped out of place.) There are traces of openings from the sides of the entrance into the wall chambers. One of the long stones which bridged the entrance still remains in place. The entrance appears to have *sloped upwards* in conformity with the inclination of the ground.

From the account of the country people, the structure some years ago appears to have been in a much better state of preservation, and the wall chambers could be entered. Now, however, though there are sufficient proof of their existence, they are completely blocked up by the fallen stones. On the north-west side there is clearly seen a small square opening into the wall chambers. A little to the south of the centre of the structure is a hole like those occurring in other brochs.

The structure is now in a very ruinous condition; on the west side, where most perfect, it rises about 20 feet above the ground, but the greater part is much lower.

The only trace of connected structure is a doubtful wall on the north side, running due east. (This, however, is very doubtful.)

I found no implements or antiquities of any kind, the whole of the interior being covered with fallen stones.

From the portions of the wall which remain undisturbed, it is evident that the building was very regularly and admirably constructed.