

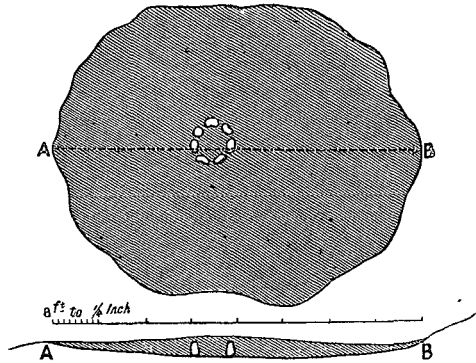
I.

NOTE OF A BURNT CAIRN DUG OUT IN CULCALDIE MOSS, NEAR LOCHINCH, WIGTONSHIRE. IN A LETTER TO JOHN STUART, LL.D., SECRETARY. BY THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF STAIR, F.S.A. Scot.

In his letter Lord Stair states that he has enclosed an account of the discovery of this curious cairn in the progress of some operations connected with the making of a new approach to Lochinch, together with a plan and section of the mound which had been made by Mr A. Fowler, gardener at Lochinch, by whom the discovery was reported to his lordship as follows:—

In making the new approach to Lochinch, we came in contact with what appeared to be a small knoll in the little field known as Culcaldie Moss. The knoll had evidently been levelled down to some extent, spread out, ploughed and harrowed over in the course of cropping the field for an unknown period. As it was near the line of approach, it was necessary to lower the level of the higher portion of it, and in the process of doing so we came in contact with seven large stones which were found standing on end, as shown on the plan.

The large stones were of various sizes and shapes, all boulders common to this locality, longer than they were broad, the larger ones about 2 feet 6 inches by 20 or 22 inches. The others were somewhat smaller. The interior of the circle formed by the large stones was from 4 to 5 feet in circumference. They did not stand exactly in the centre of the raised part, but a little towards the one side, as shown on the plan. When being removed, all but three of the stones fell to pieces from the effects of the fire. The mound was composed of broken stones, and either peat or wood ashes in nearly equal proportions. Nothing else was observable. The stones were generally from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, a few being larger



Plan and Section of Burnt Cairn in Culcaldie Moss.

and many smaller. The stones have all passed through the fire, and consequently are all reddish coloured. They appear to be different from the stones of the district, but perhaps the action of the fire may account for the difference in appearance. There are a number of similar old fire-sites in Balker farm. There are three forming a triangle in the Tower park, near its centre, standing less than 2 yards apart; one nearly as large as the one described above. The other two much smaller. The park being ploughed they are at present easily seen from a considerable distance.