

II.

NOTICES OF THE SEVERAL OPENINGS OF A CAIRN ON CUFFHILL;
OF VARIOUS ANTIQUITIES IN THE BARONY OF BEITH; AND OF A
CRANNOG IN THE LOCH OF KILBIRNIE, AYRSHIRE. BY ROBERT
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This highly interesting cairn, which when entire was of an oval or elliptical form, has been hitherto on three occasions partially opened, first in 1813, next in the winter of 1863-4, and lastly in the spring of 1874. And as a knowledge of many of the appearances which were manifested on the first two occasions, especially the first, have been already lost, the object of the following paper is chiefly to collect and record as many of the more material facts as are now recoverable, with a view to their preservation.

Cuffhill, or, as it is sometimes called, *Cuff-Parc*, is in the barony of Hazlehead, and forms the east end of an elevated hill range which trends nearly west and east, and is not much more than a mile in length. It is precipitous at both ends, and essentially so also on the north side, while its decline towards the south is much less steep. The most elevated part of it is at the west end, which is locally called "The Lowes (or Lochs) Hill,"¹ but in the Ordnance Map, "Lochlands Hill," and which is about

¹ Adjoining this hill to the north is a natural loch, which is called the "Lowes Loch," and the land surrounding it on its south side is called "Lowes Lands,

679 feet above sea-level; while at the east end the highest part of Cuff hill is about 13 feet less, or about 665 feet. From the summit of every part of the ridge of this short range, especially from a point near the centre called "the Cufflaw"—which was at one time a circular *mound*, or *rath* as it would be called in Ireland—of some elevation, the prospect is the grandest and most extensive imaginable, in all directions.

The Cuffhill¹ at its east end forms a precipitous promontory overlooking the valley of the Cadgerford Burn more immediately, and also the upper valley of the Dusk Water, a little further off to the east. And it is on the south-east corner of this hill, and downwards on the slope some 160 feet, on a small plane or knoll declining rapidly to the east and north, and situated outwith the base of the hill only a few yards, that this cairn has been reared by means of stones which are in great abundance all around. The surface of this plane is a brown or reddish indurated earth, which is apparently very impervious to moisture. The cairn ranges nearly south-east and north-west; and in length is from 150 to 155 feet, measuring from the outer base at either end. In breadth, according to the like measurement, it is variable, being, at the distance of 25 feet from the south end, 47½ feet; at 57 feet, 57 feet; at 77 feet (the position of the two cists exposed in and since 1813), 58 feet 6 inches; at 102 feet

possibly from *Llo* or *Llow*, in the British signifying a hill. This loch is near the upper end of the valley of the Cadgerford Burn (Ord. Map)—one which separates one of the three portions of which the barony of Beith is made up—Threepwood, from Beith, the mid part, and from the lands of Cuff, lying to the south-west and west, Cuff protrudes northwards far between Beith, lying to the south-west, and Threepwood, to the east.

¹ This name Cuff in its orthography has assumed several forms, the more common of which are *Cufe*, *Cwiff*, and *Coiff*, or *Koif*. There is a Cuff in Carrick, and another near Douglas Castle, Lanarkshire. Some have said that Cuff or Coiff is the Celtic *coibhí* or *coivi*, importing a Druid or Arch-Druid. Jameson's Dict. Sup., *Coivi*; Palgrave's Rise and Progress, i. 155; Macpherson's Crit. Dissertations; Rust's Druidism Exhumed, and others). Coifi was at least the name of the heathen high priest of Edwin, king of Northumbria, if it did not also import the office of high priest, as it is contended it did. It was he who, on the conversion of Edwin and his people to Christianity in A.D. 627, profaned the heathen temple at Godmundingham, near Wighton, in Yorkshire, at which he ministered (Bede, b. ii. ch. 13; Palgrave's Anglo-Saxons, ch. iii. 65; Fergusson's Rude Stone Mon., p. 23). But Lingard thinks it not probable that he was a British Druid, or that a Druid should be the "primus pontificum" of a Saxon king, so late as 627 (A. S. Church, i. 29).

(the position of the limestone cist after mentioned), $61\frac{1}{2}$ feet; at 128 feet, 58 feet; and at 150 or 155 feet (the north extremity) it is some little less than 58 feet, owing to its being here, as well as at the southern extremity, somewhat rounded off. The average of these five breadths is $56\frac{1}{2}$ feet. It was the north half of this cairn, when entire, that was greatest in height, the depth of stones there being from 11 to 12 feet; but from the centre of the cairn, southwards there was a regular decline in height. The height at the south end it is not now possible to state with any exactness; only the mass of stones there was of such a depth as to overly and completely cover several of the smaller cists.

In was in 1813 that the first material infringement of this cairn took place. Before that—from being overgrown with a stunted herbage, and the surface so swarded as to conceal the artificial nature of the stone deposit—it was looked upon simply as a rocky knoll. However, in that year a public road in the neighbourhood being in course of formation, it was entered upon at its south end for a supply of stones; and from this point the work of removal proceeded northwards along the centre of the cairn, and almost from the one to the other side of it, until about a half of the whole in length was carted off. It must be stated that, besides this, there had been most probably an anterior removal of a small part at its north-west corner; yet, so far as known, without any cists or other thing extraneous having been disclosed.

The only printed account of the result of this demolition in 1813 is to be found in Robertson's "Top. Description of Cuninghame," published in 1820 (p. 293; Beith Parish), seven years after the date of the excavation. From whom the author derived the information which he transferred to his Book is not known; but regarding this account, it must be said that, locally and generally, it is reckoned as exaggerated in many particulars. As this account, however, is to be found in a printed book accessible to most, it has not been thought proper here to refer to it at length. Neither, for the like reason, will those remarks be given which are contained in the New Statistical Account drawn up by the late Mr J. Dobie of Beith, in 1839 (Beith Parish). This last, however, as it will be observed, although subsequent in date to the first opening, is anterior to the two last, to which consequently it could not allude; and

regarding it, it may be said that it endorses almost none of Robertson's statements. Very fortunately, another account of this opening exists in MS., in the form of a letter which has never been published. It is that of the late Mr Andrew Aitken, farmer and lime-burner at Overtown, the farm which immediately adjoins Cuffhill on the south-west. Aitken was constantly on the spot in 1813; and, as he says, paid frequent visits to the cairn in course of its demolition; and Mr Dobie being aware of his personal knowledge of the facts, when preparing his account of the Antiquities of Cuffhill, seems to have submitted his paper to him for observations. Aitken replied by a letter, dated 26th February 1836, and as it is invaluable from being the statement of an intelligent and trustworthy man, who saw with his eyes all that he speaks to, its full import, as far as it bears on the matter, is here submitted, in order that, among other reasons, it may be contrasted with the view of the facts as they have been enunciated by Robertson.

After speaking generally of Mr Dobie's "elaborate and voluminous essay," he says in this letter,—“ I will, therefore, according to your desire, state briefly what I *saw*, and what were my feelings on witnessing the opening of the cairn. The cairn in its original state was of an oblong shape, and from 35 to 40 yards in length, running from south-east to north-west. It was perhaps 30 feet broad, and 10 to 12 feet deep at the north end, narrowing and lowering gradually towards the southern extremity. It was here the road-makers commenced their operations, the south end being the most accessible. After removing a few carts of stones, they encountered two small cells about two feet long, and proportionately wide and deep, formed of broad stones set on edge, and covered with stones of a similar description. Proceeding onwards, they met with other two cells like the former, but a size larger, &c., &c.; always increasing in size to 6 or 7 feet long, and composed of stones which eight or ten men could not carry. The smaller cells were broken down and carted away with the other loose stones. A few of the uncovered large ones remain; for the labourers were stopped ere they got their large hammers brought to the spot.”

Aitken then, in continuation, says,—“ After repeated visits to the spot, and seeing nobody offering to prevent its total removal, I hastily addressed a note to Dr Patrick in nearly the following words, and dis-

patched it to Trearne with my father:—Overton, 1813. Sir,—I am this moment returned both vexed and angry from visiting the cairn. It has turned out, as I expected, a very extensive cemetery of the sort, containing two regular rows of tombs or cells, of lesser or larger size, to perhaps 40 in number. These curious and interesting relics of antiquity the mercenary and boorish labourers are “breaking and undoing” with the most unfeeling apathy.” Then, having placed various reasons before Dr Patrick to induce him to put an immediate stop to a further demolition, he concludes—“The doctor put a stop to the proceedings as requested, in the course of half an hour, and you (*i.e.*, Mr Dobie) are aware what he has subsequently done towards ornamenting and protecting the spot. It was visited,” as Aitken adds, “at that time by thousands of people; and individuals fond of antiquarian research are yet attracted to the place. It was said that *human* skeletons, &c., were found in the cells, but I never saw anything except fine black earthy mould. A single bead, and a small bit of copper like a defaced coin, were the only extraneous things found. Had any person among the vast crowds who visited the interesting spot found anything of consequence, it could hardly have been concealed.—I am, &c., Andw. Aitken.”

In regard, then, to this (Aitken's) narrative of the facts, it has never been impugned in ought, except in as far as he says no human bones were discovered. He never saw any, he says, which may be true. Nevertheless, Mr Dobie inserts this discovery as a fact into his account; and one recently dead was heard to say that he saw some bones—a small quantity it is understood; and another, who is yet alive, of the age of 69 or 70 (Hugh Stevenson, grandson of the late Hugh Stevenson, in Townend of Threepwood, an immediately adjoining farm), says that, when a youth of seven or eight years, he was taken to the spot by his grandmother, and saw a few bones in a handkerchief, which was lying by the side of a dyke, which were represented as human. In which of the cists, however, or if in more than one of them, these bones were found, are facts which have not reached this time. Neither is the cist, or place, known in which were found the bead and small bit of copper, objects which certainly were discovered. It is, however, Mr Dobie, and not Aitken, who would have this bead to be of “burnt clay,” upon information, no doubt, which he had otherwise obtained, and believed satisfactory.

Dr Patrick having stopped the further demolition of the cairn, had the site enclosed with a stone wall, and planted; and, from 1813 to the present time, two, and only two, of the larger cists which remained intact have lain exposed to view. They stand opposite each other in the *width* of the cairn, and no doubt form one of the pairs referred to both by Robertson and Aitken. Between the inner, which is also the wider, end of each is a space or passage, near the centre of the cairn, that is from 6 to 7 feet in breadth—a breadth, however, which might not uniformly exist between the cists lying to the south. That cist (one of the pair) which is on the west side of this passage was constructed of stone slabs, there being three on each side, all of which are placed either on their edges or ends. Each end of the cist is closed with a single slab, and the lids or capstones are four in number, none of them very large. This cist, inside, is in length 7 feet 2 inches; in width, inner end, 3 feet, outer end, that towards the west, 1 foot 3 inches; and in depth from the under side of the capstones it is from 3 feet to 3 feet 4 inches according as the rubbish, which is on the floor inside, in depth may be. The other cist—that to the east—is formed also of stone slabs, there being two on each side, also set on their edges; that on the north side is large, being 7 feet in length, and has been projected westwards into the passage mentioned some 2 feet. The capstones are two; that over the inner end of the cist is large, being in length 6 feet, and in breadth 4 feet 5 inches, and of an average thickness of about 10 inches. A single stone, set also on edge, closed each end of this cist, which measures on the inside—length, 8 feet; breadth of inner end, 3 feet 1 inch; and depth, from the under side of the capstones, 2 feet 7 inches. All the stones of which these two cists were constructed, except possibly one or two which are whinstones, are a brown porphyryite, the same as the rock of Cuffhill, and might be obtained on this hill or in the neighbourhood. Both cists have been raised on the surface of the ground, and lie, as near as may be, at a right angle with the cairn, or north-east and south-west. As to the heads, or wider ends of each of these cists, they are in the centre of the cairn; and therefore any idea of orientation in their construction, or in the deposition of the body, would seem excluded.

Then, it was in the winter of 1863-4 (December?) that the next aggres-

sion on this cairn took place, the object in view being the formation of some fox-earths. The workmen commenced operations on its east side, and had not proceeded far towards the centre till they reached a covered way or passage, to be immediately mentioned. Working along the top of the covering slabs of this passage, they reached a large cist, constructed altogether of limestone slabs. The capstones of it, which were probably three in number, were found within the cist in fragments, as well as many of the incumbent stones of the cairn; the capstones having apparently been pressed down by the great weight of the stones composing the cairn. These being uplifted, human bones were discovered on the floor of the cist, some being in a good state of preservation; while, as to the most part, they were so decayed and fragile as, on exposure, to crumble into dust. When first seen, they were, say the workmen, lying "a' thegither" in the upper and inner part of the cist, not quite close to the enclosing head stone there, but near it; and on this account, and by the jawbone discovered being distant from this end about 18 inches, and in connection with some of the arm bones, an opinion, formed at the time by the workmen, was, that the body had been deposited, if not in a doubled up posture, with face to the south, and thus on its right side, at least in a sitting one. But as these bones, in as far as they were preserved, have been presented to the Society, and fully described in Mr Cochran Patrick's paper (Proceedings, vol. ix. p. 231), any particular reference to them now is uncalled for. There is, however, one fact not noticed in that gentleman's statement, which is this, that among the other bones recovered was one supposed by Drs Speirs and Boyd to be that of a dog. In what part of the cist it was found, the workmen, however, cannot say. It is said, besides, that a small quantity of dark unctuous matter (adipocere it might be) was found at the outer and lower end of the cist, but as a fact this find has not been verified. It is certain, at the same time, that on the floor of the covered passage, 6 feet or thereby from the east end of the cist, about two shovelfuls of black calcined matter or earth were found. Some, who saw it, say it contained fragments of bone; they call it "burnt bones," while others are at least certain that one of its constituents was charred wood. Unfortunately, no part of this, or of the other matter has been preserved. Nothing else was discovered; there was no urn or other vessel or utensil—no pottery, no tool of stone or metal, not even a chip or

fragment of any of these ; and in particular no sculpturing is observable on any of the slabs.

This large cist, more elegantly constructed than either of the other two which lie to the south, at the distance of 20 or 21 feet, was formed of limestone slabs ; there being one at each side, both large—one at the head or inner end, while possibly three acted as capstones. Such slabs were procurable at Overton, a mile or so to the south-west, but not nearer, also at Broadstone, which is a mile further off. On the inside, this cist measures in length 7 feet 6 inches, in breadth at the head 3 feet 8 inches, and at the other end about 2 feet, and in depth it is 3 feet 10 inches. The slab inclosing the inner end, and which stands upright, and some 9 inches within the side slabs—and thus had the effect of preventing them closing—rises some 10 or 12 inches higher than the latter, and of itself is 4 feet 10 inches in length by 3 feet 8 in breadth, the width of the cist. Whether, however, the cist was closed at the outer or east end—that end which connects with the covered passage—is somewhat uncertain. At the opening, a whinstone slab was found rather within the cist than at its lower end ; and as it lay on end somewhat diagonally across the cist, and is not of limestone, an impression not improbably arises, that when *in situ* it acted as a lid ; and being rather short, or from some other cause, that it was forced down into the cist by the great weight of the stones. The covered passage is distinctly an opening either in continuation of, or in connection with, the cist, and by means of which ingress and egress might be obtained. It is nearly on the same alignment as the cist ; its dimensions *inside* are nearly those of the cist where the two connect, being 2 feet in width at the inner end, decreasing outwards to about 1 foot 6 inches ; and its height is about 2 feet. The sides of it are formed of a dry stone rubble, and therefore it is not like the cists in its formation, all of which were constructed of stones set on their edges or ends. It was covered with slabs considerable in size, and of poryphyrite or whinstone, procurable on the adjoining grounds. These slabs were five or six in number. During the excavation of 1874 this passage was traced outwards from the cist for about 12 feet ; and if it did not originally altogether extend to the base of the cairn, it must have done so to a point only a few feet inwith the base. Here the cairn has not yet been satisfactorily explored.

This, then, is about the sum of all that was discovered at the opening in 1863-4; and because after that operation a considerable part of the cairn remained intact, the proprietor, Mr Kaston Patrick of Trearne and Hazlehead, on being applied to, handsomely agreed to make a further exploration, in the hope that, as a double row of cists existed in the south half, it would be continued throughout the north half, of the cairn. In the course of this operation, undertaken in the spring of 1874, and in which ten or twelve men were engaged over two days, the most part of the cairn remaining undisturbed was turned over. The result, however, was *nil*, except that the explorers were in consequence fully certiorated that within this northern half there was no cist, at least none of the larger description, but the limestone one, with its peculiar adjunct of the *passage*, or whatever it was. And with this other exception, that a dry stone wall of curious import was discovered faced only on one, and that the north, side, standing in a vertical position, about $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet south of the limestone cist, and having the stones of the cairn as a "backing" or support to it on its south side. It had been drawn right across the cairn from side to side or at least nearly so, and extended upwards from the surface of the ground until it reached within a foot or so of the summit. It does not, however, maintain a straight alignment throughout; there is a break of a few feet west of the centre of the cairn; the west part, although like the other extended right across, was advanced about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet more to the north than the east parts. The flatter description of stones available had been adopted; these have been placed upon their flat sides, and closely set together. Being $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet south of the limestone cist, it thus lies between the latter and the other two described above, from which it is distant 12 or 13 feet. This wall is undoubtedly ancient; inasmuch as in 1813 it was not approached, and as the workmen in 1863-4 say they did not form, or even see it. The ground to the north, and outside of it, at the time of its construction must necessarily, for a greater or lesser space, have been void of the cairn, or any other object having an obstructing effect. The stones lying in front of it, supposing such to have existed at its construction, would probably be thrown up and behind it, to the south; and a presumption, in the circumstances, is held by some as arising, that the limestone cist and its enveloping cairn, as they lie north of this wall, are the work of some age later than the cists and cairn which are on

its south side. There is another supposition which is feasible, if only the limestone cist (apparently the principal sepulchral structure of this cairn) may be assigned an age *anterior* to the other two to the south; namely, that this *walling* was formed when means of access to the limestone cist became desirable or necessary, for it might be, visiting, or making a second, or additional interments within it. And the fact of there being evidence, from the bones recovered, that there was at least two bodies interred within the cist, seems to afford support to such an idea. Besides, regarding this covered passage, there may be this not very presumptuous conjecture, that it was no part of the original design, but formed at some later period to admit to the cist, for, it might be, to avoid the great trouble of providing ingress by a repeated displacement of that portion of the cairn which surrounds it. It falls to be stated, however, that there was no appearance manifested at the opening of a similar, or any other, wall *north* of the limestone cist; a fact which probably shows that it was the stones of the cairn lying south of this wall *only*, which required to be prevented from spreading outwards, and causing an obstacle to some operation, whatever that was, which was in progress at the time of construction of the wall.

This, then, taken in connection with the accounts of Robertson, Dobie, and Aitken, may be considered as authentic a narrative of the material facts as it is now possible to obtain. Those, however, who look into Robertson's statement will find that, on many points, it is not reconcilable with that of Aitken. We presume the latter must be regarded as the more trustworthy. Robertson would induce a belief that, besides this large cairn, there were several others, which were separate, and much less in size, "heaps of stones" indeed, as he calls them; under which, in square cells, were found human bones. Some of these cells, as he says, were entirely removed. There is no evidence, however, of the existence of any such, but much that is opposed to the idea. The small square cells of 2 feet were really *within* the large cairn at its southern extremity, as Aitken's statement shows. Then, proceeding to a description of this large cairn, Robertson is found advancing, that the "cells for depositing the dead within it" were "*each* about 6 or 7 feet in length," which is just about the length of the two largest discovered, yet extant, and visible since 1813. But that all the others were as large as these, Aitken's state-

ment is quite contradictory of the fact. The cists, he says unhesitatingly, increased in size as they were discovered in the course of the removal of the cairn northwards; and those two yet extant are the northmost of the whole ever discovered excepting the limestone one. Robertson also says that these large cells were planted "in *two* regular rows fronting each other, with a passage between." In this Aitken concurs; and of the fact there can be no doubt. Then, in as far as Robertson would have the bones of a man found lying "extended" in *each* of the cists, there are no grounds for believing that such was the fact. Aitken's report is utterly subversive. When, however, Robertson says that the cells were "so nearly laid together" as that the interval between the side of one cist and that of the adjoining was little, the statement is materially confirmed by what Aitken says, in his letter of 1813, to Dr Patrick—that it (the cairn) has turned out a very extensive cemetery, there being cells lesser and greater "to perhaps 40 in number." This number seems incredibly great; and it is possible that what Aitken meant to convey was, that the cells disclosed, and those which he presumed would be in the remaining half of the cairn, might number perhaps 40. Then, as to the single bead being of "burnt clay," which is the statement in the New Statistical Account, Aitken seems not to traverse it in his letter of February 1836.

These facts are no doubt suggestive of many questions, as, among others, of (1.) Whether this cairn may not have been in construction during a long period of time? (2.) Whether the half, north of the two cists, or the other, within which is the limestone cist, is the more ancient? (3.) Whether there is not material evidence that, at one period during its formation, interment was by simple inhumation, and at another after cremation of the body? And (4.) Whether, looking at the relative position of the various kinds of cists—at the less height of the cairn at its south end, and other circumstances—there is not, to say the least, some evidence, that the larger ones of 7 feet and upwards in length, near the centre, are antecedent in age to the smaller class, which, according to Aitken, by a regular decreasing graduation southwards resulted in those which were only 2 feet in length?

It may only be proper, in any consideration that may be given to the origin or age of this cairn, to have regard to the fact, that this hill-range

of Cuff almost without any doubt was the *Moor of Beith*, and that this moor Dr W. F. Skene would identify as the "Wood of Beit," in which, at the close of the day, a battle, supposed to have taken place in the latter half of the sixth century, occurred, if only the Welsh bard, Taliessin, may be credited in what he says in a historical poem relating to the British Leader, Gwallawg-ap-Lleenawg (Four Ancient Books of Wales, vol. i. pref. pp. 248, 9; also p. 337—and vol. ii. pp. 149–401.) This hill-range is much the most elevated land of the parish of Beith (Beit?); a considerable part of it is even now moorish and heathy; and over its whole extent, as well as over the country by which it is environed, *wood* seems to have abounded, if any reliance may be given to the ancient place-names, and yet in use. There is *Fullwoodhead* (possibly Fowl-wood or Fowler-wood), the name of about the west half of the whole, a four pound land of old extent—the east or Cuffhill portion is part of a barony called *Hazlehead*; and then, stretching to the north and east, there is another wooded place, Threepwood (town or hamlet in, or by, a wood?), a hill of which is called *Barcood*; this affix *cood* being apparently the British *coet*, or *coed* = wood.¹

¹ "Bythh, Batth, and Threppewood," taking Pont's orthography to be correct, who quoted from the Register of Kilwinning—of which he had a perusal about the beginning of the seventeenth century, but which is now amissing—are the names by which the three portions comprising the barony of Beith are called, when towards the end of the twelfth century it was conferred on Kilwinning by the wife of Sir Richard de Moreville. Beith, including possibly Brown-Moor, is the central of these three portions, having Batth on its southern boundary and Threppewood on its eastern, with Cuff lying in part between. Batth is the name of a *burn* as well as land, which has its origin at Gillsland, east of Beith, and flowing westwards through that village, falls, after a course of about two miles, into the Loch of Kilbirnie. This burn probably formed the boundary between Beith proper, and Batth which lay on its south side; while another burn, called, on the Ordnance Map, by a modern name, the *Cadgerford Burn*, was the boundary between Threepwood to the east and north, and Beith and Cuff to the south-west.

CRANNOG IN THE LOCH OF KILBIRNIE.

This loch of Kilbirnie is situated in the parish of that name, and in, as it is understood, the ancient barony of Glengarnock, which skirts it nearly throughout on its north-west margin, and which was long a possession of a family of the name of Cuningham, an early, if not the earliest cadet of the Kilmaurs family, first ennobled as Lords Kilmaurs and latterly as Earls of Glencairn. The earliest name discovered which was given to this loch is "Loc Tancu," which is contained in a charter to the Monastery of Paisley of the Barony of Peti or Little Auchengown, in the parish of Lochwinnoch. This charter, which is dated between 1208 and 1214, is to be found in the Register of Paisley (p. 23). Locally this loch has been known for a long time as "Loch Tankard" or "Thankard," although little in use, and a small farm at its north-west corner is called the "Unthank," or "Onthank," a name which, as well as Thankard, probably had its origin in "Tancu," or, what is possible, the latter may be a corrupted form of the former. At a considerably later period, however, this loch is by Boece (Bellenden's translation) and Hollinshead called "Garnoth," from, it may be, its being part of the barony of Glengarnock, or if not, then from the Garnock Water passing near its west end.

There was a little island in the upper end, and near the north-west corner of this loch; and most who knew it when entire, fifty or sixty years ago, are agreed that it was essentially circular, although some little pointed towards the south. It was, they think, of the diameter of from 23 to 25 yards, a view that is confirmed by the Ordnance Map, the survey for which was happily made before the island was encroached on by the deposition of *débris* or *slag* from the adjoining ironstone furnaces of the Glengarnock Company. It was distant from the north-west margin of the loch some 56 yards, and from the west margin three times that distance, or about 168 yards. It was elevated, at least in modern times, above the water of the loch in its ordinary state, from 2 to 4 feet; and on the surface was entirely overlaid with stones of the boulder sort, not large, and which might have been got on the margin of the lake. Manifesting thus a stony appearance, the name of "The Cairn" (an aggregation of stones) was generally applied to it in the locality. Some

say that beams or logs, and piles of wood were noticed during protracted droughts on or along the margin of the island, but if they were, it notwithstanding never occurred to any one that the island was other than natural. In the summer of 1868, however, its artificial nature became quite evident. This was occasioned in consequence of the *slag* from the furnaces having been for several years and in great bulk deposited within the loch to the west of and behind this island, which sunk down through the soft yielding mud deposit there, which is of the great depth of 30 or 40 feet, a fact that was ascertained by borings near the site of the furnaces. This had the effect, while it overlay and bore down that part of the island which is towards the west, of moving the east portion of it forward and into the loch, and, at the same time, of upheaving it so that it was elevated considerably above the water. In consequence, this part spread hither and thither and split up; many fissures were the result, both in the artificial deposits and in the underlying mud, which were of a depth that varied from 4 to 6 feet; and it was by means of these that the various artificial *strata* became disclosed.

It has been said that the surface of the island throughout was overlaid or paved with stones. The depth of these was not great, possibly not more than from 1 to 2 feet, there not being in any part that became visible more than two courses. Wood ashes were discovered on the surface—a portion being also found a little below, and some of the stones at one part, in particular the fragments of a sandstone flag, bore distinct evidence of the action of fire; and it was supposed that this flag might have been the hearth of some structure reared on the surface. These stones are to be held as the uppermost artificial *stratum*. The next in descent was a layer of large coarse water-borne gravel mixed with finer sand, which was of the depth of from 18 inches to 2 feet. The third layer was brushwood, boughs of trees, among which the hazel predominated, ferns, &c., &c., but the whole was so compressed as not to manifest a greater depth than about 6 inches. The fourth layer was beams or logs of wood, some of which were nearly 2 feet in diameter, although the greater number was less. These seemed laid down horizontally, and so as to cross or intersect each other, similar to a raft of wood; some of them showed that they had been mortised or checked into

each other, or into vertical piles, and that the tenons when inserted had been fastened by wooden pins, and in one or two instances by large iron nails. The whole of this wood-work, however, when exposed, was in a greatly disturbed and loosened condition from the movement and upheaval of the structure; and in consequence what space in depth these cross-beams occupied was not ascertainable. Then the fifth, and lowest stratum, was the underlying mud, which was fine, pure, and free of stones, and not at all like boulder clay. Besides, there was manifested as having been planted on the surface, one if not more wooden structures, houses or huts they might be, small in size, and one of which at least was in the form of a parallelogram, having been constructed of small round posts of wood used in forming the sides and ends. How it had been roofed did not appear. There was seen also bits of bone, as those of birds, as well as a few teeth, similar to those of the cow or ox. Trees, for the most part of a low stature, were over all parts, as well as reeds and other coarse grasses which sprang up between the stones on the surface.

Then as regards the *margin* of this island, it appeared to have been palisaded; at least this was the case on its north-east side—that which only was visible. The piles used for this purpose were apparently of oak, and not great in girth; they were driven down into the mud bank as the foundation; and on these, as well as upon the beams, the cutting of an edged tool, not a saw, was quite distinct. Within these vertically placed piles, and resting on the surface, stones, it is said, were placed, which was the case more certainly around the whole margin. It is also said that stones were even placed outside of these piles, in a row, and on the very margin; but it is only probable that *outwith* this row there had been an outer course of piles, by means of which the stones were kept in position, but which, from weathering, had gone into complete decay.

It is known that this island was approachable by means of a kind of stone causeway which led from the north-west margin of the lake. According to the report of those who saw it often, it was only of the breadth of two or three feet, and was never visible above the water of the loch, which on either side is said to have been 6 or 7 feet in depth. It is not said that this causeway was protected or fortified in any way

by piling. It was near the south end of this causeway, along the north-east margin of the island, that in 1868 several canoes or boats, as many it was believed as four, in a less or more entire condition, were discovered. Only one of these, however, when found was partly entire, and it even wanted some two feet at the bow to render it complete. But as this canoe, formed out of a single tree, and the bronze utensils which were found imbedded in mud within it, have been well described in Mr Cochran Patrick's paper, printed in the Society's Proceedings (vol. ix. 385), none of these need now be referred to, further than to say that the pot, the repair, or clouting, of which was with *iron*, is not by any means uncommon in shape, and that the ewer is not *unique*, inasmuch as, besides the example figured in Wilson's "Preh. Annals" (p. 556, 1851), there is another very similar, also figured in the "Memorials of the Maxwells of Pollok." The fragment of another canoe was found by the tenant of the adjoining farm of Pudevaholm in removing some of the mud for cultivation. It also lay close by the island on its north-east side; was formed of a single tree, that oak, and measured 5 or 6 feet in length by 2 feet 2 inches or so in breadth; the wood in thickness not being more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 inches at the bottom, which was flatly formed, and some little less at the sides. Moreover, it was peculiarly shallow, not being more than 5 or 6 inches in depth below the gunwale, although possibly some allowance must be made for decay. Of the other canoes no description can be given, owing to their fragmentary condition.

It may be mentioned, that there was a breaking and destruction of boats on this loch, in the course of disputes which arose between the lairds of Glengarnock and Kilbirnie, with the view of preventing, as it would appear, the establishment of rights by the running of prescription. This will be seen by referring to a case of 18th July 1626, reported in Morr. Dict. p. 10,631, and by an Act of Parliament in 1641, ratifying a charter dated 2d March 1626 (Thomson's Acts, v. 521). It would seem as if the laird of Glengarnock was owner of the loch, while the laird of Kilbirnie (the name of a large adjoining barony lying to the west) possessed a right of fishing in it.

Timothy Pont surveyed the Cuninghame district of Ayrshire, within which this loch is, about the beginning of the seventeenth century; and it is curious to remark that in his map, which was published by Blaeu, this

island does not appear. May it not then have been invisible, and have only come into view after repeated deepenings of the stream called "The Dubbs," the outflow of the loch, which are known to have been made by parties who had an interest to increase their land boundaries by lessening the extent of the loch?

That these crannogs were constructed, and resorted to, for safety to life and property in times of danger would seem apparent. But we have failed to discover that any strong place of defence, such as a British fort, or Irish rath, ever existed in the neighbourhood of this loch. There were the castles of Glengarnock and of Kilbirnie, but both are a considerable distance off. The kirk of Kilbirnie, however, is near; and between it and the loch was a barony Mill on the left bank of the Garnock, called the "Nethermilln of Kilbirnie," where was one of these ancient sepulchral tumuli (New Stat. Account, Ayrshire, *v.* Kilbirnie). And it is only presumable that, in this district in early times would a considerable population be collected, which would require often to attend to its safety. Crannog, says Joyce, is from *crann* (Erse), a tree, and literally, denotes a wooden house. They were "generally placed," as he adds, "on artificial islands in lakes. These were formed in a shallow part by driving stakes into the bottom, which were made to support cross-beams; and on these were heaped small trees, brambles, clay, &c., till the structure was raised over the surface of the water. On this the family, and in many cases several families, lived in wooden houses, sufficiently protected from enemies by the surrounding lake, while communication with the land was carried on by means of a small boat." ("Irish Place Names," 2d ed. p. 288.) The author refers in this to the Irish crannogs, but the description is equally applicable to the Scottish examples, and to this in Kilburnie Loch in particular. (*Vide* also Dr. Stuart's elaborate and valuable paper in the Proceedings, vol. iv.; the late Dr. Joseph Robertson's article in Chambers' Ency., *v.* "Crannoges;" "Archæology," in Chambers' Information, &c.)

Note.—1. In the parish of Beith, one adjoining Kilbirnie on the south, is Loch Brán or Brand; but which now generally passes by the name of "Boghall Loch," from being partly on lands of that name. As part of the barony of Beith, it was given to the monastery of Kilwinning towards

the end of the twelfth century, and is only a short distance south of the Monk's Grange, or Great Home Farm, and north from the Motehill of the barony, called the "Hill of Beith." And either on or around the margin of this lake, at various times, have piles or stakes of oak or elm been discovered, which, although sometimes looked upon as having been used in fishing the loch, may have been only vestiges of a crannog.

2. Another loch in this parish of Beith is the "Lowes Loch;" and at its west end is a plot of considerable extent, which is not above the water of the loch many inches; for the most part it is overgrown with willow and birch, and is never submerged during the greatest floods, but rises and falls with the water. Although probed with a rod, anything like the substructure of a crannog has not, however, been found.

3. Dr Stuart's conjecture (Proceedings, vol. vi. part 1) regarding the existence of a crannog in Lochwinnoch Loch, 2 miles east of that of Kilbirnie, may be well founded. The great number of canoes supposed to have been seen by one party embedded in the mud north of the old castle called "The Peil" was probably no other than the *wooden* portion—the beams and cross-beams and interlacing work—of a crannog, which held place on the islet before the erection of the stone and lime castle during, as it is believed, the first half of the sixteenth century. This islet, which is near the centre of the loch, opposite the old kirk of Lochwinnoch, and the surface of which is freestone, could not be above the water prior to the several deepening of the loch at its outlet, which are supposed to have occurred, the first of them, by the Sempills, towards the end of the seventeenth, or in the beginning of the following century.

ANTIQUITIES ON CUFFHILL, AND OTHERWISE IN THE BARONY OF BEITH.

Besides the Long Cairn, situated on the south-eastern slope of Cuffhill (the facts manifested during the several openings of which have been communicated to the Society, *supra*, p. 272), there are other antiquities there, and within this barony, which are almost of equal interest. And the object of the following remarks is simply to record, for their preservation, as many of the facts illustrative of them and their history as are either now known, or likely to be recoverable.

1. *The Rocking-Stones* (so called) *of Cuffhill and of Threepwood*.—That of Cuffhill is a large boulder; geologists call it an "erratic," and an

eminent local one is of opinion, that it now occupies the very same position as it did when dropt during one of the glacial periods. He is also of opinion it came hence from the north-north-east, its parent bed having been at Barcood or Barcraigs, places within the barony, which lie not much more than a mile off. The site of this remarkable stone is about 150 yards to the west by north of the highest point of Cuffhill, and is not much less elevated than that point, about 665 feet above sea-level. It is a basaltic greenstone, and in form an irregular oval or ellipsis, lying on a smooth bed of *porphyrite*, of which Cuffhill is all composed. It rests not on its *whole* bottom, but on two points,—one near each end, and at its centre is so much concaved (naturally or artificially?) as that the hand and arm of any person may be passed through below it. Its longest axis ranges about north-north-east (magnetic); its greatest or thickest end is towards the north, and it *rocks* at a right angle to its length. In circumference it is about 19 ft. 7 in., in breadth 5 ft. 5 in., and in height 4 ft. 4 in.; and according to a calculation made by the late Mr Robert Aitken of Beith, land-surveyor, &c., a competent party, it contains 141 cubic feet, and will weigh 11 tons 7 cwts.

The other rocking-stone on part of Threepwood is about a mile to the north-east of the last. It is on the summit of a rocky knoll within an enclosure long called the "Thinkillgreen" or "Finkillgreen," for in pronunciation the name assumes both forms. As regards material, it is the same as that of Cuffhill. It is, however, less than this last by a third; and instead of being oval, is rather of a flat and square form. It, as the Cuffhill stone, may still be rocked.

[A third such stone is in this district, although not in the barony of Beith, but in the moor of Moniabroc, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, part of the "moor land of Glen," and a possession of the Monastery of Paisley (*vide* "Reg. de Passelet"). Its site is the east end of a rocky ridge near the upper and west end of that moor; and close by it, on the slope of an adjoining hill, out of the rake of the south-west winds, are vestiges of, to appearance, several upland summer huts of the herdsmen. It, too, is much less in bulk than the Cuffhill stone.]

2. *Cuff-Law*.—This artificial law, hill, circular mound, or vallum, having much the same appearance as the Irish *raths*, has been planted on the very summit of the ridge, and near the centre of this Cuffhill range.

When entire, it was about 30 yards in diameter (measurement at base); and one who died in 1859, of the age of 79, said that within his recollection it was of the height of a man. However, about forty years ago, when the greatest part of it was carried off for the stones which it afforded (for it was composed of earth and stones), it was found to be not much more in height than 3 or 4 feet, being correspondingly broad, and hollowed some little in the centre. In the excavation which at this time took place, a great number of flint *chips* were found, not in one place or in a heap, but, all over the excavated parts. Nothing else was discovered. None of the chips were large; nor were any of them formed, as far as can be now learnt, into any kind of instrument; and the impression of the workmen engaged was, that the place had been a manufactory of flint tools, from the number of "shivers" that were found. If bailfires were ever lighted on this hill-range, it more probably was on this spot than anywhere else, and yet it is not known that any traces of fire, of charcoal, &c., have ever been discovered.

3. *Four Standing Stones.*—These are upon an enclosure of Cuff-Farm that is called the "Lang-green." They are only about 80 yards south-west of Cuff-Law, from which to their position the slope of the land is very gentle. They stand apart, one being at each angle, apparently of a square area or rectangle of about 15 or 16 feet. One side of this area ranges nearly north by west, another necessarily east by north. The two stones on the north side are more than double in size the other two; the former appear as yet *in situ*, standing on their longest axes, while as to the other two, both have been overturned in part. That on the north-west angle measures—in height 3 feet 9, and in girth, near the centre, 12 feet 4. The other, in the north-east corner, is 4 feet 8 in height, and 11 feet in girth. And in the centre of this area, within these stones, when the surface was dug into some sixty years ago, it is said there was found a considerable quantity of dark mould or earth, which contained "burnt bones." Nothing else was discovered; and here, as local tradition would instruct, was the place within this district at which the Druidical priesthood were wont to make their public sacrifices. If these stones may be viewed, as they may be no doubt by some, as the vestiges, the less easily removable part, of a tumulus or cairn, there is *now* at least no evidence of such a structure manifested in the appearance of the ground, which, however,

it is necessary to say, has been all cultivated, turned over several times, and possibly levelled.

4. *Cinerary Urns*.—Upon the *Townend* portion of Threepwood, near and west of the farmstead, and in an enclosure called the “Barn Fauld,” three urns of burnt or hardened clay were discovered about the beginning of this century by old Hugh Stevenson, the farmer. They were found at the south end, and on the slope of a ridge of rocky land, which fronts Cuffhill, and the Cairn thereof, not being much further off than a quarter of a mile. When found, they were not overlaid by either tumulus or cairn, but were uncovered by the plough in turning over a furrow some little closer to a stone wall than the ground was wont to be cultivated. One of these urns was very large—so large, indeed, as to contain about three gallons, but on exposure to the air it went into fragments and dust. Inside of it was a quantity of ashes said to have been “burnt bones,” as well as a small urn similar to those which have received the name of “Incense Cups.” In form it is of the older shape of the tea-cup, not tall, but shallow and rather wide or expanding at the mouth, and has two small perforations in its sides, near the bottom of the concavity. The third urn was discovered at the same time, and close by; and is described as one of the smaller class also, but not as having any perforations. (*Vide* International Congress of P. Archaeology, Norwich vol. p. 383 *et infra*; New Stat. Account, v. “Beith Parish.”)

While, then, all or most of these antiquities may be classed as vestiges if not of Druidical yet of pagan or heathenish times, there are others the construction of which may be ascribed possibly to some time during the Christian period, when Christianity was encroaching on and supplanting the former faith, probably somewhat after the manner recommended by Pope Gregory the Great, in his letter to Mellitus in 627 A.D., directed to be communicated to Augustine, and which Bede embodies in his Ecclesiastical History (B. I. chap. 30).

1. *The Kirkly-green*.—This place has been said, but with doubtful accuracy, in the Ordnance Map to have been the site of a “Druidical circle.” It is the name of a small pendicle of hard, dry pasture land near the base of Cuffhill, at its east end and north-east corner, yet considerably elevated above the valley of the Cadgerford Burn, so called on the Ordnance Map, which drains the valley to the north. Part of it is a fine green conical

knoll; and although not exactly on its summit, yet close by, rather on its south-east side—out of the rake of the west and north-west winds—was raised a circular, rath-like vallum, now no doubt greatly less in height than what it was originally. This wall, apparently composed both of earth and stones, measures, like Cuff-Law, 30 yards in diameter, is about 4 or 5 feet in breadth, and, where now most entire, about 3 feet in height. None of the stones of which it has been constructed, and now to be seen, are large; only it is probable that the larger and better sort were removed and utilised in fencing, there being several stone walls hard by. This encircling vallum must be of considerable antiquity, as a very ancient public way intersects it near its centre, which on the Ordnance Map is called the “Threepwood Road,” as leading from the town of Beith eastwards towards Threepwood, &c. Possibly it may be only a fair hypothesis that this vallum was raised to enclose the cell or oratory of some ascetic Christian missionary. There is the “Hermitage Land of Beyth,” described in a Retour as lying in the barony of Beith and regality of Kilwinning, to which a William Mure (not designed, unfortunately) is retoured heir-male of his grandfather, a Hector Mure, designed as “*apud ecclesiam de Beyth*,” on 23d March 1636. (Printed Abridg. vol. i. v. “Ayr.”) And if this small plot, the retoured extent of which is only fourpence Scots, be not this Kirkly-green, which consists of five or six acres, it is not known where otherwise it is to be found. At the same time, Kirkly-green would rather seem from its position to be a part of Cuffhill, which is not within the barony of Beith, but of Hazlehead, a barony subsidiary to that of Gyffyn. At the base of this knoll, to the north, is a copious spring. For purification, and for baptism especially, water could not be wanted; and according to a local tradition, it was from this spring up the steep acclivity of the knoll to the cell, penances were enjoined, the penitents making the ascent upon their bare knees over sharp stones.

2. *St Inan's Chair of Stone, and Well.*—This chair is in the rocky hill-face at the west end of the Cuff range, and from its elevated position a wide tract of country, all around from south to north, is overlooked. At the base of the hill, and only distant from the chair some 100 yards, is a well called “St Inan's Well,” a double spring, which issues from the rock at two points close by each other, and which is almost unapproachable in respect of its abundance and purity. This chair is formed,

in part possibly by nature, out of the rock of the hill. Its back and two sides are closed in, while in front, to the west, it is open. The sitting part—the seat proper—is above the ground in front about 2 feet 2 inches, is 2 feet 4 in width or breadth, and 1 foot 4 in depth backwards. On both sides for a space upwards, the depth is uniform, but at the height of 2 feet 10 inches above the seat, the *breadth* becomes less, narrowing gradually for $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet more when the top of the rock, as it is of the chair, is reached.

3. *The Cruxlee (ly or lea ?)*.—The import of this name is either possibly the “Cross-place,” or the “Cross pasture-Ground,” a place on which at one time a cross (of stone ?) had been erected. In front of St Inan’s chair, half a mile to the west, is a high conspicuous hill, the house on which is sometimes called “The Hills,” and sometimes “Gateside.” It is part of Fullwood-head ; and over this hill the old road mentioned passes in its course eastward towards the Kirkly-green, which is better than a mile to the east. The highest part of this hill is that called “Cruxlee,” and another part behind, to the north-west of the road, is a deep hollow, which is called the “How o’ Cruxlee,” which would afford an excellent retreat for shelter or concealment. This name may mark the site of some *wayside* cross, serving as a silent monitor to holy thoughts and deeds, as some sacred spot was approached, or as a guide-post to St Inan’s cell, wherever that was, whether near the well, at Kirkly-green, or elsewhere, or if not, then possibly for the purpose of intimating that all the lands around belonged to the Kirk—that is, to the monastery of Kilwinning.

4. *Another Cross*.—On Blaeu’s map of Cuningham, published in 1656, and the survey for which was made by Timothy Pont in, as it is understood, the beginning of the seventeenth century, is a cross figured, which is either upon part of Threepwood, the Lang-park Hill, or on Bareraigs, both places being near the north-eastern boundary of the Kilwinning monks’ barony of Beith. Here it could serve no perceptible purpose except to make known the Kirk’s possessions. The most elevated site in the locality is this Lang-park Hill, the north-east end of which runs out into the valley of the “Moor Burn” (anciently Mereburen), a barony and also a county boundary, and ends in a precipitous headland. This headland is often called by the curious name of “Bawty’s End.” *Bawta* in the Norse, as Worsaae explains, is a battle, or memorial stone ; and so this

appellation may have had its origin in this cross, supposing its site to have been upon this hill.¹

5. *St Inan's Festival: its Site.*—St Inan's Day, now vulgarly called "*Tenants'-Day*," has been commemorated for a considerable time within the town of Beith, on the 18th of August, Old Style, or the 30th, New. According, however, to a generally accepted tradition, it was wont to be celebrated in early times on the Cuffhill, or on that part of Fullwoodhead which lies in front of St Inan's chair; that is, it was held there up to the time when Beith became populous and the centre of a populous district. Tradition also says that there was a *chapel* in this locality, the site of which was the Barn of the farmstead of Laigh or South Fullwoodhead. Part of its walls, or at least the walls of some ancient structure, is still remembered by the aged; and hard by are places, the names of which are thought to denote the existence of a market in the neighbourhood, as the "Stabbie-Hill" and the "Pound-fauld."

Mr George Chalmers has said that St Inan was an Irish saint, and confessor at Irvine, where his principal abode was, and where he died, on the 18th of August A.D. 839. But in all these particulars it may only be presumed that he, and those whose views he has adopted, as Dempster (*Hist. Eccles. ii. p. 379*), are not correct; for, if they were, the saint certainly would have been commemorated by his name being given to some cell or chapel at Irvine, or in its neighbourhood; yet such is not the case, although there churches, chapels, and altars existed not a few. A chapel which was situated "*super ripam aquæ de Irvine*," was, as Mr Chalmers says, dedicated to the Virgin (*Caledonia, iii. pp. 515, 516*). At Southannan, in the parish of West Kilbride, however, was a chapel, which the same author says (*Ibid. p. 561*) was founded by John Lord Sempill, in the reign of James IV., and dedicated, following a more ancient dedication, to a St Annan or Enan, whom, as there is no saint known of that name, he would identify as St Inan. Timothy Pont adopts a different view in describing the Abbey of Kilwinning (*Top. of Cuninghame, v. Kilwinning*), saying that Southannan is a corrupted form of "*Suyinnen*," which, he thinks, signifies "*St Vinnin's Seat*," St Winning,

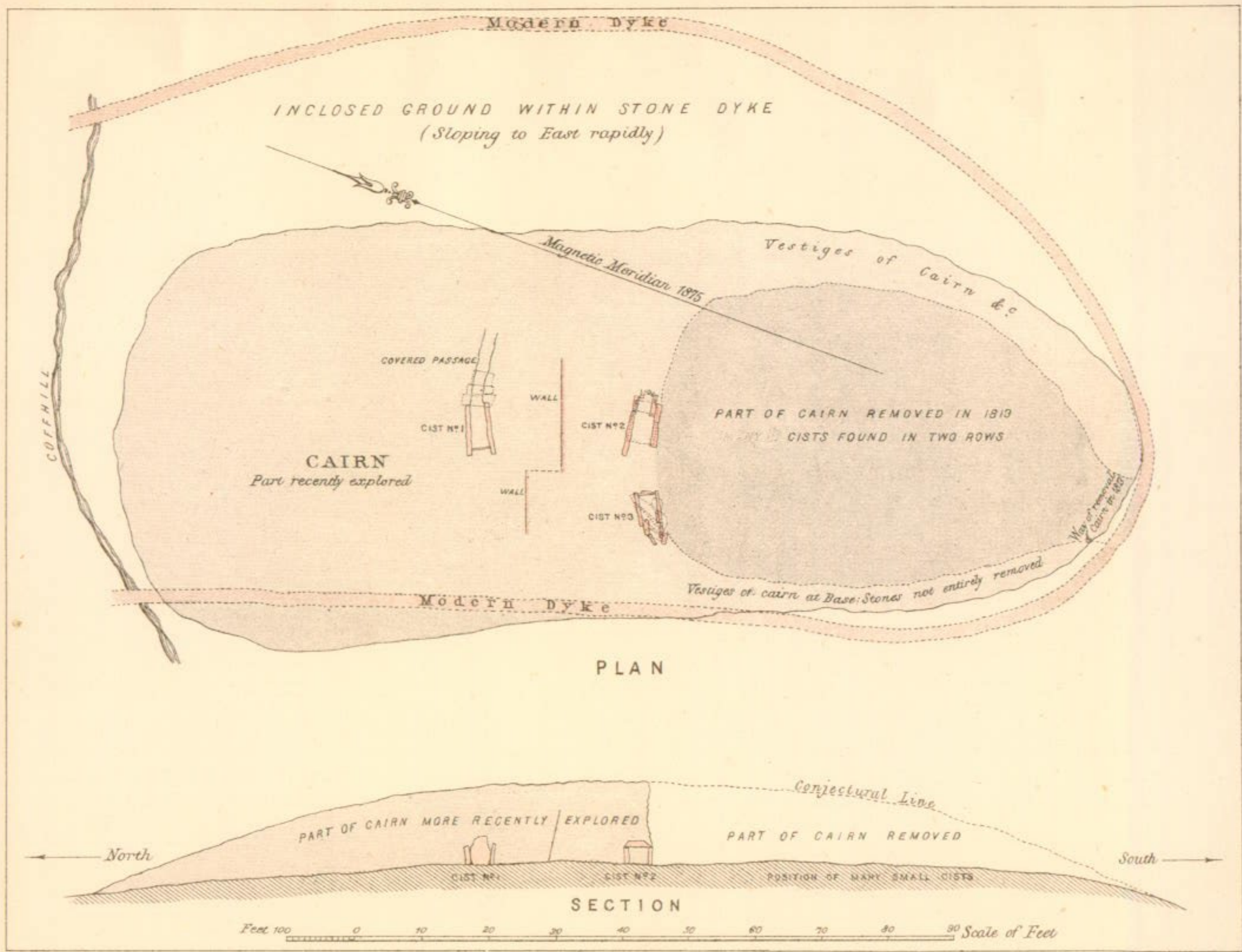
¹ In another part of the parish of Beith, Middletown, though not in this barony, was, or is still, a large boulder, which was, or is now, called "Bawty's Clod."

or Vinnen, being the tutelar saint of Kilwinning. In this view, however, which is not better than a conjecture, he may be wrong. Then, there is Inchinan, the name of a parish and kirk-town near Renfrew, the kirk of which is situated on a somewhat elevated oblong knoll near the confluence of the Water of Gryfe, and two Carts. The name seemingly imports Inan's Inch, or island, and might be applied to the eminence referred to, on which the kirk stands, because it was at one time insulated, or, if not, then applied to a small island in the Gryfe, nearly opposite the kirk, but now removed. At the same time, the weight of authority, as that of Fordun, Boece, the Breviary of Aberdeen, Spottiswood, &c., although Chalmers is opposed (Cal. iii. p. 834), would seem to incline towards the hypothesis, that St Convall, rather than St Inan, was the tutelar saint of Inchinan—a view which may be considered as receiving support from the fact, that an old grey sandstone, having a socket on its upper side, and being otherwise, in form and size, much like the pedestal of an ancient Popish stone cross, was anciently called "*St Connallies Stane*," although latterly "*Argyle's Stane*," from being that on which the earl is understood to have sat down on his apprehension at Inchinan ford, in 1685. This stone is said to have formerly stood by the side of the water, at the east or Renfrew end of this ford; although now it is in the Blytheswood grounds hard by. It is accounted the *currus*, or coracle, on which St Convall, according to the Breviary of Aberdeen, voyaged from some part of the Irish coast to the banks of the Clyde. (Orig. Par. Scotie. vol. i. "Inchinan;" Renfrewshire Characters and Scenery, Motherwell's Notes; and New Stat. Account, v. "Inchinan.")

6. *Kilwinning: its Chapel, Grange, &c., at Beith.*—(1.) The village of Beith is believed to have arisen around another chapel, which was planted by the monastery on part of its demesne land, namely, on a rocky knoll which is on the north-east bank of the Batth Burn. This knoll, which overlooks a deep cascade of this burn, was the site of the ancient parish kirk of Beith, the old glebe having extended back from it northwards. (2.) The Home Farm, or Grange, is clearly denoted by the name *Grange-hill*, and the other name "*The Maynes*," the latter being the name of that land which extended from the Grange, or Grange Hill, westwards as far as the Loch of Kilbirnie, and embraced lands on the south-west side of the Batth Burn, called by the names of "*Mains Hill*" and "*Manor o'*

Head," if not other lands there also, as Morrishill and Pedderland. This mains, or demesne land (in Latin, "*dominicales terras*"), was of considerable extent. It was farmed by the monks,—not demitted on lease to the *husbandi*, or *cattarii* classes,—and that by means of their *nativi* and other serfs and dependants, who were generally placed under the superintendence of some lay brother of the monastery; and, looking to Blaeu's Map, there appears to have been a castellated mansion, or tower house, on part of the Maynes, half a mile south-west of the Grange, in which the abbot may have resided when occasion brought him to the locality. (3.) Then there was the Law, Court, or Mote Hill of the barony. The monks enjoyed baronial and regality jurisdiction. That hill is yet, partially, at least, extant. It is situated less than half a mile south of the Grange, on land called by it "*The Hill of Beith.*" An old way conducted to it, which, passing from the Grange, entered on a piece of flat land, partly boggy, and thus requiring a causeway. This land is called "*The Common,*" or "*Hill of Beith Common.*" The Motehill is in a valley, by the side of the stream which issues from Boghall Loch, or, as it was anciently called, *Loch Brand*, originally an extensive lake, and a fishing of the monks. The hill occupies a dry, rocky, but not elevated knoll, which at one time must have been almost altogether surrounded with a marsh, and thus insulated—*isolation* after some manner, and for some purpose, having been very often aimed at in the selection of sites for such hills. This artificial hill has never been explored, but apparently was constructed of earth and stones, some of which, of considerable bulk, show themselves a little above the base. It is conical, and will measure in diameter at the base about 60 feet; at the top, which is level, 20 feet; and in height, 10 or 12 feet. (4.) A Water-Mill was another requisite; and that of this barony, on the Moor Burn, is called "*The Mill of Beith,*" distant from the Grange to the north-east about a mile; and as there is at this place a very deep cascade, the site of the mill must have been chosen on that account.¹

¹ This burn is not only the boundary of the barony of Beith on the north throughout, but a county boundary—Renfrew, originally a barony, and now a county, being on its north side, and the principal inheritance of the High Stewards of Scotland.



CUFF-HILL CAIRN PARISH OF BEITH AYRSHIRE.

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