

## VI.

### NOTES ON STONE CIRCLES IN DURRIS, KINCARDINESHIRE, AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD. BY R. ANGUS SMITH, Ph.D., F.R.S., F.S.A. Scot, &c.

Some time ago I had an opportunity of examining certain stone circles in the parish of Durriss; and as they and their surroundings may present some points of interest even to those who may be familiar with the general subject, I send this account to the Society. My chief examination was made in 1873; but, unfortunately, some photographs which I took at the time were spoilt, and I was dissatisfied with the results which I had to show. I was especially annoyed at the failure of one representing an open digging at Esslie. I had trusted the preparation of the dry plates to a man unaccustomed to the work.

About the same time I received an account of several stone circles in Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire, most of those that I had examined, with an exact enumeration of the stones and in many cases with measurements of each stone. The gentleman who sent them, Dr Wm. Brown of Edinburgh, knowing that I had given some attention to such subjects, wished me to make use of his material, and I have now to thank him. Dr Brown begins with a quotation from the "Statistical Account of Scotland," which will make a good preface to this.

The "Statistical Account of Scotland" (1842) has the following:

Kincardineshire, Banchory Ternan, "on the moorlands, at the bottom and sides of the hills, north and south, are many stone cairns, and others of a similar kind are said to have formerly existed in various central parts of the parish. One of these lately opened contained a small coffin about

a yard long, formed of rude stones, with a little dust within; another had various bones of a human skeleton without any coffin. In the neighbourhood of those near Kerlock, on the farms of Esslie and Garrol, are three stone circles, the largest about 25 yards diameter and the others about 15 yards. In each the remains of an inner circle are visible, within which is a small cairn, and in all the outer circles are tolerably complete, containing what is called the altar-stone placed on the south, and of nearly the same dimensions in each, 8 feet long and 4 feet high. The whole are composed of micaceous schist, with some limestone and granite, the common stones of the place. In the moors around, besides many small cairns and some traces of former cultivation, there is a place called Knocking, or Rocking-stones, and a small peat bog, in which twenty years ago a circular copper vessel, apparently very ancient, and of very rude workmanship, was found. In a belt of planting between the road to Aberdeen and the Dee (on Inchmarle) a stone is seen standing 5 feet high above ground and 13 feet in circumference, which is the only remains of a large Druidical circle, almost entire about fifty years ago."

*Durris*.—"Several Druidical circles are to be met with in the parish, but none in a perfect state."

Whatever is quoted from Dr Brown's manuscript will be found marked as a quotation.

As I was staying at the house of the proprietor of Durris (James Young, LL.D., F.R.S.), I naturally went first to the nearest circle, which is on the hill called Cluny, or "The Rees o' Kleen," about 450 feet only above the sea, but having a very extensive view into Aberdeenshire: although, at a distance, it is not prominent on account of the much higher hills to the south or behind it. Before reaching the top of this elevation we pass through a plantation, and above this we find a cairn of considerable magnitude on the northern slope. It is from 30 to 40 feet in diameter, and is composed entirely of boulders. I know nothing more of it; it may be merely a clearance cairn, a spot where stones are laid from ground when preparing for crops. Above this on the top of this hill is a stone circle very prominent. On going over the hill a great number of small clumps

of stones were seen, these are often considered solely as clearance heaps, although I have not seen them so numerous elsewhere. Still we must remember that the ground is peculiarly stony, and that in the whole parish there are great collections of stones, most of them, however, not in the usual cairn form : they usually line the road to an extent such as I have not seen elsewhere. The reason of these collections is well known. They are the work of men, some of whom are still living, as the work was continued by the father of Mr Mactier who lately sold the estate. At first I was disposed to think the Cluny hill a great burial-ground, and as indicating either a large population or one long continuing ; but familiarity with the habit of stone lifting had weakened although not quite removed this idea. The number of stone circles in the neighbourhood brings the opinion up again with somewhat of the early vigour. There is a greater collection of stone circles also in this district than on any spot I know, at least there were till lately, if we may judge from the information received of the destruction of several. Still, considering the number of people who die, we cannot hold that a dozen stone circles or small places of burial in the same number of lineal miles is a great amount, although to archaeologists of this era and in this country it is a considerable find. The land was lately forest land, and has not been known to be in a state fit for cultivation before last century ; and the local knowledge, which is so late that I can scarcely call it tradition, gives us the fact that the whole parish was stony, rough, and neglected, as if it could scarcely be a habitation for any but the dead. The belief is that this hill was not one of the places cleared in the last century ; and if we go back we certainly could not suppose that a steep hill looking north would be cleared when the plains below were neglected. When we go farther west and come to the farm of Garrol we find near the bottom of the valley, although still on ground south of the Sheeoch brook, and on its banks covered with heather, a similar accumulation of stones to that on "Kleen." They may be small cairns. The land is apparently quite incapable of cultivation. Everyone has observed the marks of furrows on ground long considered incapable of bearing grain ; and it seems as if we must make up our mind to believe that the early

inhabitants found it convenient to reap even very small crops for want of better, and to cultivate spots because of safety which they could not suppose fertile. A large crop is a comparative thing; and I have seen land cultivated in the west of Scotland from year to year when a good crop was not three times the grain sown, and the thrashing of any crop was a great uncertainty. We must remember, too, that the men who came here and began to sow grain were ignorant of the climate, and may have toiled long before they gave the struggle up in despair. That despair may have come in early ages to some, it has in some cases not yet arrived. It depends partly on the accessibility of markets and partly on the tastes changing. The knowledge of better land in other places sometimes makes men despise their own, and they stand idle all day earning, of course, nothing, even when they can earn the value of a shilling, because they hear that there are places in the world where they might earn five.

I could not help such thoughts coming to me under the circumstances described, and they may lead to some further ideas. On the lower ground spoken of on Garrol there was no stone circle among the small heaps, and no large cairn as at "the Rees o' Kleen." These numerous small heaps are also, I believe, incompatible with good husbandry. People speak of great burial-places as indicating great battles, but the "Rees o' Kleen" could scarcely have been a battle ground, and Garrol South is still more among the hills. Men die even where there are no battles, but great burial-places are generally near great populations. There are some exceptions.

It would seem that the Dee valley had a population in its south sufficient to produce men so prominent in their times that they obtained elaborate burial, and if we wonder where all their habitations are we may also ask, Why was there a castle of a chief at Durris when Edward I. went there in 1396, and when the land was desolate all around? We may reply there probably never was a time when hunting and fishing allowed no population to live in the valley since the days when glaciers covered it, and this may be an answer to the main question, but let us add also that a little grain may have from earliest times been sown.

I would not attempt to compare this wild district in its ancient times with that of Italy, but there are many descriptions in that interesting work by George Dennis, "The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria," which will help us to understand that desolation at present may not point to desolation in the past, although the condition of the land may point to its continuance in the future. Speaking of the ground around "the spot which bore the walls, the temples, the palaces of ancient Tarquinii," he says, "It is a wild and dreary scene; not a tree on either height, or in the vale between (the city and the necropolis), wide sweeps of bare country on either hand, . . . and the Mediterranean the only cheerful feature in the landscape gleaming on the horizon" (vol. i. p. 302). The changes which may come on a country by neglect are numerous. The destruction of trees is known to cause violent floods and excessive droughts, as well as that uncivilised condition which springs from want of fuel. On the hills of Scotland where trees are absent either from neglect of man or by a law of nature, peat has often taken their place, and the removal of peat without giving those conditions which will cause it to grow again will produce results exactly like those caused by the reckless cutting of timber. The effect of the latter is most strikingly illustrated by Antonio Gallenga in his small but interesting volume on Piedmont (not his longer history). For these reasons I do not suppose that a population of some importance never lived in the valley of the Dee, and I am more inclined to compare great things with very small, and to think of another observation by Dennis on the necropolis of Tarquinii, "the whole surface of which is rugged with tumuli, or what have been such, but are now shapeless mounds of earth overgrown, and giving to the hill a strange pimply appearance." Those who seek to see if I am accurate must remember my expression *very small*.

When thinking of these things I received a letter from the Rev. John G. Michie of Dinnet, which strongly confirmed my first impressions as to the heaps being sepulchral remains. He says: "On the estate of Durris there are, or rather there were, many stone circles. The valley of the Sheeoch Burn was at one time studded with them, but much of the ground on which they stood has now been brought under the plough, and all traces

of them have been obliterated. There are, or at least there were, some ten years ago when I last saw them."

I will now give a short account of the circles seen in the district, premising that I am extremely sorry to give little more than a catalogue, and feeling that more careful study might bring out more peculiarities. If it is asked, What is the use of my list? I may say that my chief object has been to see if anything in this East of Scotland connects itself with parts of the Continent so as to indicate the place from which emigrations came over our eastern shores, a point to which I have several times called attention.

1. The stone circle on Rees o' Kleen is nearly perfect; the lying stone is to be seen at the south, and a standing stone close to each end. The diameter of the circle is 14 yards. There are five stones standing in their places, one lying, one fallen or knocked down, and a piece blasted off—making seven; one place is empty. The lying stone is a little east of South; it is 3 yards long. Description by Dr Brown:—

"Raes of Clune circle, nine stones; 50 feet one diameter, 55 another.

No.	1.	...	...	Height.	...	...	Girth.
	1.	...	...	5 ft. 0 in.	...	...	10 ft. 5 in.
	2.	...	...	4 6	...	...	9 0
	3.	...	...	9 0	...	...	(lying stone)
	4.	...	...	5 8	...	...	10 0
	5.	...	...	6 10	...	...	6 0
	6.	...	...	5 4	...	...	8 0
	7.	...	...	5 0	...	...	8 8
	8.	...	...	6 0	...	...	4 6

The ninth stone is in a broken state. The large stone is south. The distances are—25, 23, 22, and 25 feet. No. 3 is the large or prostrate stone. The length is 9 feet, its breadth 3·2 and 3·2 on each side. All the stones have a flat side outwards."

I send a photograph, but it is not very telling.

The name "Rees o' Kleen" is best described by a letter from the Rev. John G. Michie of Dinnet, who says: "The word *Ree* means a booth or

enclosure for cattle, and as these stone circles suggested the idea of enclosures for this purpose, they were frequently called Rees, or Raes. Rae-dykes is a common term bestowed upon them in Aberdeenshire. Although I do not know the Rees o' Kleen, I think you must be right in identifying Kleen as a form of Cluny. It is just the transformation of the Celtic word that was likely to have taken place in Aberdeenshire. Nearly every Celtic name of a locality is pictorial. Clune is (Celtic) the knee or bend resembling the human knee in the outline of the district; *oo* or *u* is in Aberdeenshire and other parts connected with *ee*, *i.e.*, *boots* is *beets*, *fools* is *feels*, and so forth, therefore Clune is Kleen. Cluny is a common highland term, and always descriptive of this feature. The Rees o' Kleen would, therefore, mean the stone circle at the knee or bend of Strath, or other reach of country. Claoin is generally called the origin of Cluny, but *glun*, the knee, is closer."

In Joyce's "Irish Names of Places," 2d edition, p. 223, we have "Cluain (Cloon) often translated *pratum* by Latin writers, and for want of a better term it is usually translated *lawn* or *meadow*. Its exact meaning, however, is a fertile piece of land or a green arable spot, surrounded, or nearly surrounded, by bog or marsh, or by a bog or marsh on one side and water on the other. The word forms a part of a vast number of names in all parts of Ireland; many of the religious establishments derived their names from it, and this has led some writers into the erroneous belief that the word originally meant a place of religious retirement. But it is certain that in its primitive signification it had no reference to religion; and its frequent occurrence in our ecclesiastical names is sufficiently explained by the well-known custom of the early Irish saints to select lonely and retired places for their own habitations as well as for their religious establishments." The custom was not confined to Irish saints, and the word Cluny is found in other Celtic countries—Scotland and France for example.

2. *Garrol*.—On Garrol farm, in the corner of a fir wood, and near the main road, at the highest point as it looks towards Strahan, is a stone circle of about 60 feet internal diameter. It is difficult to take the diameter. It was got only by stepping, and I prefer the number given by Dr Brown. The

highest stone is 5 feet. There are nine standing stones and one lying stone. The latter is very large and irregular, and is placed, I think, a little east of South, a standing stone being at each end. There are indications of a small inner circle, but the centre has been disturbed and nothing definite is left. The main circle is bold and pretty complete.

The description by Dr Brown is as follows :—

“Garrol circle ‘The nine stones.’ One diameter is 56 feet, another is 48 feet.

No. 1.	Height.		Girth.	
	6 ft. 6 in.	...	10 ft. 0 in.	...
2.	3	10	9	0
3.	4	8	8	6
4.	4	10	9	0
5.	4	3	8	6
6.	3	4	6	0
7.	3	2	8	0
8.	5	0	6	3
9.	4	2	8	0

The distances of the stones from each other are in feet—41, 13, 14, 17, 23, 13, 19 ; in all 145 feet.”

The photograph of the “lying stone,” with a “standing stone” at each end, shows very well the usual position and character of this characteristic of the eastern Scottish circles.

3. Going down the valley westerly we come to Esslie farm, South. In the open plain, and in the midst of a field, is a compound circle of a remarkable character. It is slightly raised above the average of the ground, that is, the base appears as if raised a couple of feet. It is about 300 feet west from the public road which here turns northwards.

The circle most prominent is the outer one of three, the smallest being much dilapidated, and separate from the other, *i.e.*, not concentric. There is a trace of two lines of small stones coming from these two smaller circles and leading to each end of the lying stone, which is at the south. Outside the complete circle there is evidence of a fourth from one standing stone remaining.



These two separate internal circles are peculiar. The whole of the eastern one remains and about half of the western one. The stones are scarcely a foot above the ground, and were almost concealed by the long grass. The main circle is 27 yards across, or 80 feet, unless we suppose that 27 yards being the cube of three was a preferable number. Dr Young and I opened the ground of the smaller circles, that to the east and the most complete. On going down about 2 feet a hard "pan" was found 4 or 5 inches thick. (This thickness I give from memory.) This "pan" is very general in the district. A space of 7 or 8 feet in diameter was laid bare with more or less care, and on the outer part there were found certain black marks on the hard ground, and along with them small pieces of bone. The dark marks, in some places quite black, extended so as to be the length of a not tall human being in three cases; a fourth was uncertain. There seem to have been three or four bodies laid so as to form a circle, within which were no black marks or bones. One of the men who were digging tried the centre with his pickaxe, and said that it had been opened; there was no hard pan, and he marked out a place, feeling his way with the pickaxe, and found a softened part about 6 feet long. This space was opened without difficulty with the spade alone; the observation had been correct. After digging down  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet a stone kist was found, if we may call it one, built of common boulder stones, little more than half a foot, *i.e.*, from 8 to 10 inches in diameter. It was a very rude grave considering the elaborate character of the circles, and the imposing appearance that must have been given to it by the surrounding dead. In the grave were found black marks and pieces of bone, but no more.

This style of burial is not common, and I do not know that it was ever found in Scotland before. It seems to be another evidence of that influence in the East of Scotland, not to say more at present, to which I have more than once called attention, and which is necessary to explain some of the peculiarities of building and sculpture which are too many to be put down as native inventions.

The account sent me by Dr Brown is as follows:—

"At Esslie, on the estate of Durriss, there is a circle consisting of about

ten stones ; one diameter is 78 feet, another diameter is 74. There is an inner circle, consisting of about twelve stones. Its diameter is 20·7.

No.	1.	...	...	Height.	2 ft. 6 in.	...	...	Girth.	3 ft. 11 in.
2.	...	...	...	4	0	...	...	8	7
3.	...	...	...	2	8	...	...	10	0
4.	...	...	...	3	9	...	...	2	1
5.	...	...	...	4	7	...	...	2	6
6.	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	9	7
7.	...	...	...	4	6	...	...	9	0
8.	...	...	...	4	8	...	...	6	9
9.	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	5	9
10.	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	6	0

The distances of the stones from each other are in feet—48, 37, 20, 11, 22, 25, 31, 27 ; in all 221. On the south is the large flat stone. I made these measurements in 1868. In 1872 I had a visit from Mr George Carfrae, a promising young surveyor, and I asked him to measure the stones for himself. I transfer his report to these pages. It differs from mine, and is perhaps more accurate.”

The drawing is here, but it is not clearly seen which are standing up. Mr Carfrae has given only the main circle and not the centre ones. Dr Brown has mentioned only one centre one.

One cannot help feeling that somebody very important was buried in this cairn, and by persons with habits somewhat advanced on those common to the region, although not dissociated from them.

4. On Mulloch West, north of Esslie, not far from the last but on higher ground, where the road begins to turn eastward, there is another circle seen from the road, and about the breadth of an average field from it. It consists of six standing stones and a lying one, almost exactly at the South ; one standing stone being at each end of the lying one as in the others. This circle is 48 feet in diameter. In the centre is one made of smaller stones. This was opened to the depth of from 3 to 4 feet, and several large and flattish stones were found very irregularly placed ; and

apparently the remains of some structure broken and tossed into the hole which had been formed in opening it. It had been probably a large stone cist, but if so, it was different from that at South Esslie, which was made of small boulders. The MSS. quoted gives—

“Mulloch circle, six stones, 43 feet in one diameter, 37 in another.

No.	1.	...	...	Height.	...	...	Girth.
				3 ft. 9 in.	...	...	9 ft. 2 in.
	2.	...	...	4 0	...	...	7 0
	3.	...	...	4 0	...	...	7 3
	4.	...	...	3 0	...	...	4 7
	5.	...	...	3 8	...	...	8 0
	6.	...	...	4 6	...	...	7 3

The distances of the stones from each other are in feet—23, 13, 27, 21, 16, 17; in all 117 feet.”

5. At Cairnfauld is another circle, 24 yards in diameter; only five stones remain; two places at least are empty. The lying stone may have been removed, or it may be hid in a mass of stones which are heaped on the wall near and interfere with this circle. There was no digging undertaken, but I show a photograph which, however, gives an exaggerated idea of distances. Dr Brown says:—

“Cairnfauld circle, five stones, 73 feet diameter from north-west to south-east.

No.	1.	...	...	Height.	...	...	Girth.
				4 ft. 9 in.	...	...	8 ft. 6 in.
	2.	...	...	4 3	...	...	7 10
	3.	...	...	3 10	...	...	7 8
	4.	...	...	5 9	...	...	8 10
	5.	...	...	6 10	...	...	7 7

The distances of the stones from each other are in feet—25, 56, 52, 50, 25; in all 208 feet.”

6. East Mulloch. 100 yards west of the farmhouse is a circle or space, evidently the remains of a stone circle. Only two stones are unbroken and in their places, but there is a circle of broken pieces very clear; pro-

bably it was a circle of small stones broken down, as they stood in the way. It was about 36 feet in diameter.

7. To quote again Dr Brown :—"On the Estate of Durriss there is a farm called 'Standing Stones.' The name surely implies that the stones were more conspicuous than others. They were all removed in the trenching operations of the late Mr Mactier." It is at least a satisfaction to know their historic end. I am sorry that my paper is little more than a small catalogue of circles. I had hoped to find something to connect them either with some age or, better, with some year. I strongly imagine that circle-making and cairn-building ran far down towards our times ; and I think there is room for an illustrative if not decisive paper on this subject, but I do not undertake it.

8. When staying at Durriss last September I heard of other stone circles at the east of Kincardineshire, and I paid two of them a few minutes' visit. They are certainly worth more attention, but I was not prepared for any full examination, and went only to find the places as a first visit, whilst Mr John Young drove me to the Stonehaven railway station, a rather round-about way through the parish of Banchory-Devenick. In the south-west of that there is a farm called Auchorthies,<sup>1</sup> and behind the house is one of the most interesting and elaborate of stone circles. It is 23 yards in diameter and somewhat raised. There may have been a square building about it made in later times. There are twelve stones, the highest about 7 feet out of the ground. The lying stones south from 9 to 10 feet long. An inner second circle has a diameter of 16 yards and is irregular. The stones are small, and touch each other. There is a third circle within these, and about 4 yards in diameter, made of stones about 2 feet high, flattish and touching each other. It is called a circle but is not necessarily quite round. There seems to have been a good deal of investigation about this place ; the inner circles might show themselves to resemble the one at Esslie, which had the dead around the principal grave. The

<sup>1</sup> I do not recognise this circle in former descriptions of a circle at the place of the same name in Banchory-Devenick, but the name exists also in Aberdeenshire, and perhaps elsewhere.

similarity, however, is chiefly in the number of circles. Perhaps the quotations to follow may refer to it. In outward appearance this circle is both interesting and imposing, and is an ornament to the place. I was sorry to be in a hurry for the train south.

9. On the same farm in a field adjoining are the remains of another circle, which when more complete must have been still more imposing. It has been sadly broken down, and uselessly. It is a good deal overgrown with long grass. The diameter is 27 yards (we again come to 27). Only four stones are standing, one is 9 feet high and 6 feet broad, another is 9 feet high and about 7 broad above ground; both are thick and strong. Some stones were lying down. The striking appearance from a distance arises partly from its position, but also from the size of the stones, which are broader than any that I have seen in Scotland. They do not come near some at Avebury in size, although they remind one of that place from the shape.

Little as I have done here I think it well to speak even of my hasty visit. We want a book of the Archæological Remains of Scotland, and those I now add to the list seem to have been strangely neglected, although I do not say that they have never been alluded to. I ought to add, however, the following from the "Statistical Account" (1842), and quoted by Dr Brown:—"There are on the property of Auchloss, belonging to Mr Boswell of Kingcaussie, two of these circles of stone, commonly called Druidical temples, very perfect. One of them is composed of a double row of stones, in the centre of which a stone coffin was discovered many years ago, but containing neither urn nor bones; perhaps the circle of the dead may yet be found." This perhaps may refer to Auchorthies.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is another farm to the south-west of Auchorthies called Auchollies. It is not possible to obtain the original meaning, and in seeking etymologies it is better to restrict oneself to that which is quite clear. A Celtic authority has given me as translation the following for Auchorthies:—"The field of scarcity," which is possible enough. This does not include the *s*, which if it stood for *uisge*, water, might mean the "field of the scarcity burn." (*Gorta* is scarcity.) Garrol, a rough flood or brook—very common. Eslie might be a rapid flood. Cluny is common, and means a meadow. Mullach is simply a hill.

In the "Statistical Account" (1792) there is under Banchory-Devenick the following:—"There are several very large cairns both on the north side of the river and towards the coast, and in one place in particular a number of small ones are scattered over the moor near them." This resembles the description I gave of the "Rees o' Kleen," and also of the banks of the Sheeoch at Garrol. It seems to mark a habit of the district.

Again, "There is also in the south side of the parish a Druidical temple that is worthy of notice. It is situated on an eminence about a mile and a half from the coast, and was still within these few years remarkably perfect. It consisted of three circles of stones within each other. The outer circle, which was about 45 feet in diameter, consisted of twelve large stones placed on end. The inner circles were composed of smaller stones placed in the same manner, and between the two outermost on the east side there was a stone chest sunk in the earth, about 3 feet long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide, which having been accidentally uncovered by a country man, he found an urn, which disclosed nothing but a little dust or ashes. A little farther down the hill towards the south-east there is another erection of the same kind. It consists of one circle of pretty largestones" ("Statistical Account," 1792, vol. iv. p. 450). The description of the positions does not suit well those at Auchorthies; the first is certainly on a rising ground. I would not say that it was on a hill, and the second is not down a hill to south-east. The distance from the coast is about 2 miles, or a little more, and so far agrees pretty well.

I shall now add a little from the MSS. so often quoted, giving an account of circles which I have not visited.

10. "On the Estate of Inchmarlo, 90 feet from the wall, in the plantation on the south side of the public road, and 115 yards from the approach gate to Inchmarlo cottage, there is one stone. (Inchmarlo is in Banchory Ternan.) Its height on the north side is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and on the south side 8 feet. The breadth on the north side is nearly 4 feet, and on the south about the same. The thickness on the east side is 2 feet 7 inches, and on the west side 5. It is commonly known as "The Druid's Stone." The late Sheriff Douglass, who was born at Inchmarlo, told

me of the existence of other stones near this one, and I think he had seen them."

11. "In the parish of Midmar, at the farm of Sunhoney, on the estate of Mr Gordon of Cluny, there is a stone circle. There are twelve stones, one of them flat.

No.	...	...	Height.		...	...	Girth.	
No. 1.	...	...	7	ft. 8 in.	...	...	12	ft. 0 in.
2.	...	...	7	0	...	...	8	0
3.	...	...	7	2	...	...	8	1
4.	...	...	4	5	...	...	5	0
5.	...	...	5	3	...	...	7	0
6.	...	...	5	0	...	...	7	8
7.	...	...	5	0	...	...	7	8
8.	...	...	5	0	...	...	7	10
9.	...	...	6	0	...	...	8	11
10.	...	...	6	2	...	...	8	5
11.	...	...	7	0	...	...	9	11

12. "The large flat stone to the south occupies all the spaces between Nos. 1 and 2. Its length is 16·5 feet. Breadth of upper surface and across the middle of the stone 4 feet; breadth at the ends 2 feet.

"The distances of the stones from each other are in feet—22, 19, 24, 19, 19, 19, 22, 22, 22. All the upright stones are of red granite. The large flat stone is of very grey granite. Some excavations were made here some years ago (in 1868)." (All this information was given me by Dr G. W. Hutchison.)

13. "At Glassel, half a mile above the station, in a plantation called Ordie Gordin, there are six stones; the diameter of the circle is 13 feet 6 inches.

No.	...	...	Height.		...	...	Girth.	
No. 1.	...	...	3	ft. 6 in.	...	...	5	ft. 4 in.
2.	...	...	3	0	...	...	6	0
3.	...	...	3	3	...	...	5	3
4.	...	...	3	4	...	...	5	9
5.	...	...	3	0	...	...	4	9
6.	...	...	3	0	...	...	7	0

The distances of the stones from each other are 8, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8. "This information was given me by Mr James Dawson in 1869."

Dr Brown says : "When at Castle Forbes in October 1868, I examined the circle there. Mr Rait, the ground officer, afterwards sent me the drawing and measurements, which I send along with this, but which I wish to be returned to me." I returned the drawing, which was that of a lying stone.

I have still some sadness in ending without drawing conclusions ; but it may happen some day that a reader of this, when wandering over some European shores, most probably to the north, may see characteristics such as I have described, and may be led to a knowledge of a point from which men who have much influenced Scotland have certainly come ; people different from the Western Celts, and, so far as we know, different from Scandinavians who have landed elsewhere in many parts of the country.

---