

## II.

NOTE ON CUP-MARKED STONES IN SUTHERLANDSHIRE, IN A LETTER TO DR. ARTHUR MITCHELL, SECRETARY. BY THE REV. J. M. JOASS, LL.D., GOLSPIE.

May 5, 1881.

I see by your billet for Monday, just received, that Mr Jolly's paper on cup-marked stones comes before you, and, thinking that it might be of interest to have our specimen discussed at the same sitting, I send a box with two casts of the stone, and also one of a flake of chert found near it, which has been used apparently for some such purpose as the picking out of holes or cups in sandstone. There is another flake (of quartzite) somewhat punch-shaped and much abraded by use at the point, but I failed to get a good cast of it owing to the number of re-entering angles.

The white cast of the cup-marked stone will show you the state of the surface and prove that the cups were picked out, not rubbed or ground. Sir James Simpson, I think, said that picking was rare in Scottish examples. ("Archaic Sculpturings," p. 13).

The dark cast is in single paper of the sort used by bird-stuffers for making rocks. Either can be set at such an angle to the light that the design may be fairly brought out. In making these casts I found more lines faintly picked out within the roundish enclosure than I had noticed on the stone when I last wrote.

I have seen only five other cup-marked stones in Sutherland.

1. Found in Broch of Kintradwell or Kintrolla—slab 1 foot square with one cup.
2. Lintel on secondary doorway of Carnliath-Broch—two cups.
3. Earthfast boulder at Ribigill (*vide* "Archaic Sculpturings," p. 64).

In a sketch of this I find nine cups with single ring, and one with two rings—and eleven plain cups. A rubbing on cloth was sent to Sir James Simpson.

4. At Kinloch—a few plain cups on boulder near new road, found by Mr Fowler, Golspie.
5. At Embo near Dornoch—on a cover of cist with flint implements, found by Dr Lawson Tait.