

II.

NOTE ON A STONE CELT FOUND, IN OCTOBER 1881, ON THE ESTATE OF NAEMOOR, THE PROPERTY OF J. J. MOUBRAY, ESQ., IN THE PARISH OF MUCKHART, KINROSS-SHIRE. BY JAMES BARCLAY MURDOCH, F.S.A. SCOT.

The celt under notice was found during the operations of draining a field lying on the north of, and not far from the banks of, the Devon, near Rumbling Bridge, and immediately adjoining the policies of Naemoor, the residence of J. J. Moubray, Esq. Until within the last fifty years, a large portion of the ground here was in a state of nature, and only within that time has it been gradually taken into cultivation. From the position of a portion of the field in question it has evidently been a marsh, and, indeed, probably at an early period, a small loch may have covered its surface.

When the drains were being cut there were exposed a curious mixture and alternation of deposits,—beds of gravel, of sand, of clay (the latter being very tough, and of a dirty-white colour), and of peat. The peat was the principal deposit, and, as a rule, underlay the others so far as cut through,—the drains being to a depth of 5 feet,—the inference therefore being that the other beds were laid down subsequently, and in an irregular way, by the action of running water.

The celt was found about 3 feet below the surface, lying upon peat. Several feet from it were dug up two slabs of charred wood, which lay in a hollow between two gravel mounds. These pieces of wood I have not seen, and cannot say to what kind of tree they belonged, but a description of them sent to me states that they are about 6 feet long by 1 foot 4 inches broad, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick at one side, the thickness being gradually fined away to a sharp edge at the other side, after the fashion of a knife blade.

About 20 yards off two large pieces of wood were found, seemingly charred, and hollowed on one side. These latter may probably have formed portions of a canoe.

This celt, which is 13 inches in length and 5 lbs. in weight, is formed of a greenish-coloured compact felstone (which is an igneous rock), and of an extremely close-grained fine texture. Professor Heddle of St. Andrews, who is no mean authority upon mineralogical questions, has lately stated with regard to a celt formed of an identical kind of felstone, which is in the Hunterian Museum of Glasgow, that he has seen various examples of celts made of the same peculiar rock, and that it is one which does not to his knowledge occur on the mainland of Scotland. The probability is, therefore, that it was an imported stone.

Dr. Joseph Anderson has informed me that instances of the occurrence of celts beside fragments of wood are rare in Scotland, and I am therefore sorry that I have not been able to produce those pieces of wood which were found in juxtaposition with the celt under notice.