

## II.

## NOTICE OF A FIND OF BRONZE WEAPONS AT FORD, LOCH AWE.

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This find belongs to the later period of the Bronze Age. It was discovered in the spring of 1881, on the farm of Torranbeg, at the south end of Loch Awe, Argyleshire, by Mr Thomas Orr Richmond, tenant of the farm. It consists of three objects—two spear-heads and a gouge. They were found while digging for a ferret, which had been lost amongst fallen rocks and loose stones at the foot of Craigbeoch. Six feet down the rabbit hole ceased, and there, where the rabbits had lain, were found the two weapons and the gouge.

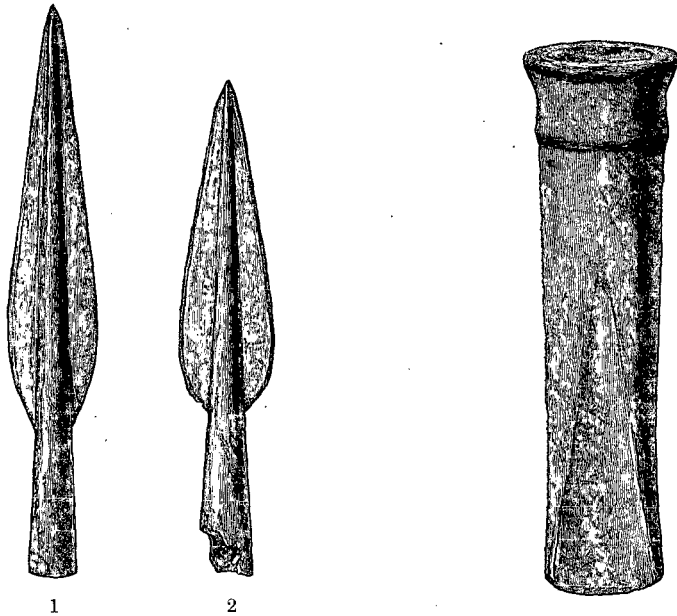
The first and largest and best preserved (fig. 1), which is exhibited by the kindness of Mr Henry Bruce of Ederline, F.S.A. Scot., is 12 inches in length, the socket being  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches and the blade  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

The second (fig. 2), which is in the writer's possession, is also a spear-head, broader than the first and not so long. It is slightly broken at the lower end,  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches long; socketed to a depth of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, *i.e.*, to within  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches from the point; the blade leaf-shaped,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. It has two rivet holes opposite each other 3 inches from the bottom. Its greatest breadth across the blade is  $2\frac{1}{10}$  inches; its greatest thickness  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

The third and most interesting article is also in the writer's possession. It is a gouge. It is the third Scottish specimen known to be in existence, the first having been found in the Tay, and the second at Killin. It differs from the one found at Killin in having a collar and flange and a straighter cutting face. It is 3 inches long, socketed to a depth of 2 inches, and slightly tapering. It is a little worn with use, having evidently been sharpened both from the inside (which is now only done for finer work), and from the outside (which is still the easier and usual way). The socket is strengthened by a flange and collar  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch long. There is on one side the mark of the division of the

moulds, one mould containing the plain under surface and the other the cutting groove. Its greatest breadth is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. All three articles are in good preservation.

[Mr Henry Bruce of Ederline, F.S.A., Scot. (by whom the larger of the two spear-heads was exhibited), stated that he thought Mr Strachan



Figs. 1, 2. Bronze Spear-Heads found at Torran, Ford, Loch Awe (12 inches and  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length).

Fig. 3. Bronze Socketed Gouge, found with two Spear-Heads at Ford, Torran, Loch Awe (actual size).

had considerably over-estimated the depth at which the objects were found. He had visited the place quite recently in company with the farmer by whom they were found, and had the spot pointed out, and he was quite sure it was not much over 2 feet under the original surface. The find was a very interesting one in many respects, especially as showing the skill and perfection of workmanship which had been attained

by the makers of these finely-modelled and skilfully-cast spear-heads. If it was true that they belonged to the later period of the Bronze Age, it was considered certain that the Bronze Age had ceased to exist before the advent of the Romans, who found the people of this country in possession of weapons of iron; and it was certainly a very remarkable fact which was thus indicated that in this remote district at that early date there was so much skill and civilisation as was disclosed by the use of these weapons and implements of bronze.]