

## II.

### NOTICE OF SEPULCHRAL MOUNDS AND CUP-MARKED STONES, NEAR FORTINGALL, IN GLENLYON, PERTHSHIRE. BY CHARLES STEWART, F.S.A. SCOT., TIGHN DUIN, KILLIN.

In March last Mr Archibald Menzies of Edinburgh accompanied me to make rubbings of a cup-marked stone in Dalreoch, Fortingall, where are the remains of what is known as "The Roman Camp." We found the stone lying lengthways, and close beside a small mound, on the top of which it had apparently at one time stood on end. The mound is about 30 feet in diameter, surrounded by a fosse 9 feet broad, and beyond the fosse there is an outer mound or enclosure encircling it. I subsequently made two transverse sections through the central mound from north to south and from east to west. Below a coating of soil we found an artificially constructed cairn of smallish stones about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in depth, which is about the height of the mound above the surface of the ground. In the section which had been cut from north to south we found two small flags in the lower part of the cairn, and under them a

few fragments of bones very much decayed and mixed up with earth. These I submitted to Dr Hamilton Hodges of Killin, who identified them as portions of the human skeleton, consisting mainly of parts of the long bones with some fragments of skull. This places it beyond doubt that the mound was sepulchral. The interment was not under the centre of the mound, but betwixt that and the southern edge. These burials in mounds and cairns, with commemorative stones upheared, are constantly referred to in our ancient Gaelic poetry.

On making a further search over the field, we came upon several other mounds apparently of the same class. One of these had stones of about 6 inches to a foot in height, marking the circumference of the outer enclosure, and others of small size differed from the largest one in having no fosse encircling them. In one place, near the deep fosse of what is called the Roman Camp, we counted about twenty of these.

It appears, from observations that have been made in this district by Mr Donald Haggart and myself, that wherever there is a *crom-leacan*, a cup-marked stone or stones are usually to be found in the neighbourhood. A very large stone circle is situated on the Haugh of Fortingall about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the eastward of the Dalraoch stone. Under the guidance of Mr Cameron, Fortingall, we found a cup-marked stone near the mill of Balnald, and other two, of which one had two cup-marks and the other three cup-marks, on the hillside above the circle. Since then Mr Cameron has found a beautifully cupped stone at a place called the *Cuile*, not far from Dalraoch. Mr Haggart remarked to me that from the name of a place in Fortingall called *Cromraor* (*raor* meaning haugh), there would be a circle found there. I considered that, as *crom* meant "crooked" when an adjective, as well as "a circle" when used as a noun, the place should be visited before coming to a final conclusion on the subject. Mr Haggart accordingly visited the locality, and found a circle as he had anticipated, and also observed that the haugh was not crooked, but oblong. From this it follows that if *crom-raor* means "the haugh of the circle," *crom-leacan* must mean "the stones of the circle." Mr Haggart failed in finding the expected cup-marked stone, but such a stone was afterwards found by Mr Alexander Campbell, Borland, and a rubbing of it is now exhibited. My attention has been

called to two other cup-marked stones just found in Fortingall, near Dalreoch—one at Auchtar, and one at Clach-an-Tuirc; also to one in the immediate neighbourhood of Borland.

It is of some importance to note that the stones of these circles are known by the name of *clachan* as well as *leacan*. Thus, the circle on the haugh of Fortingall is known as "The Clachan," and the adjoining village is from it called *Clachan-Feart-a-chill*, or the Clachan of Fortingall. When a special distinction is made between *clachan* and *leacan*, the former means stones of any kind, and the latter flat slabs or flagstones. It is evident alike from the remains found in the circles, and also from the references in the ancient Gaelic poetry, that they also were sepulchral. In my opinion, there cannot be anything more out of reason than calling the *crom-leacan* Druidical circles. In all my reading of our ancient poetry, I have never come across a reference to the class known to English literature as Druids.