

III.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A CIST WITH AN URN AT BRUACH,
 GLENLYON, PERTHSHIRE. BY CHARLES STEWART, F.S.A. Scot.,
 TIGHNDUIN, BY KILLIN.

On the 19th of July last I received a letter from Mr Gorrie, post-master, Glenlyon, stating that the Messrs MacDonald, Bruach, in cutting through a gravelly knoll, had come upon a stone cist, and requesting me to go and see it opened. This, along with my antiquarian friend Mr Haggart, I did on the following Monday. On opening up the knoll further we found that the cist was made of eight flags,—three in the front, two at the back, one at each end, and one above. They were carefully and neatly placed. The knoll itself was about 60 feet long, by an average of about 14 broad. The cist would be about the centre lengthways, and four feet from the upper side, and lay from east to west. The dimensions are as follow :—

Length of flagstone covering,	. . . . .	5 feet 9 inches.
Thickness do.	. . . . .	0 „ 4 „
Maximum breadth,	. . . . .	4 „ 0 „
Minimum do.	. . . . .	3 „ 0 „
Inside length,	. . . . .	3 „ 9 „
Do. breadth,	. . . . .	2 „ 0 „
Do. depth,	. . . . .	2 „ 4 „

The cist was covered by the usual burial cairn, 2 feet in height, and made of gathered stones. Above the cairn there were two feet of earth. In front there was a retaining wall, built of the larger stones in the knoll, and which were of a yellow colour, contrasting with the grey stones in the cairn. In the cist we found a skeleton lying on its left side, with the knees doubled up. The side next the earth was somewhat decayed, but the right side was nearly perfect. Strange to say, the skull was wanting. On submitting the skeleton to Dr Hamilton Hodges of Killin, he pronounced it to be that of a large and powerful man about 6 feet 2 in height. Dr Crerar, Tirarthur, who has since examined

it, practically confirms Dr Hodges. We found an urn near the north-eastern side of the cist, lying on its side. The urn is of burnt clay, of the class known as "food vessel," ornamented with the "herring bone" pattern, and bands of oblique and parallel lines going round the vessel. Part of its contents were analysed by Mr MacGregor, chemist, Killin, and were found to consist of about 90 per cent. of dark earth, mixed with which was some of the gravel at the bottom of the cist, and with a trace



Urn found in a cist at Bruach, Glenlyon ($7\frac{3}{4}$ inches high.)

of iron, and about 10 per cent. of unburnt bones. One side of the urn is perfectly whole, the other got a little broken at the edge. I exhibit a beautiful drawing of it, kindly done for me by Miss Cameron of Sunderland, and three photographs by Mr MacGregor of Killin, which give an excellent idea of its appearance.

Such then are the facts connected with this find. I will not indulge in many conclusions, but I think the following may safely be drawn, that the burial belongs to very ancient times, and may be placed considerably beyond the Christian era. This is evidenced by three things—first, the manner of the burial is evidently pre-Christian; second, the form of the urn associated with it is characteristic of the Bronze period, and has often been found deposited with weapons and implements of bronze; and

third, the character of its ornamentation is not what we know as Celtic, and must therefore be referred to the period of that historically unknown race which preceded all the known manifestations of Celtic art within the Scottish area. Again, if we judge from this one skeleton, that race must have had some very tall and powerfully developed men amongst them. By and by perhaps, from records of old customs, we may get some explanation of the fact of the head being wanting. The contents of the urn were probably the remains of food. Urns of this shape are, as already said, known as "food vessels," but in this case it is not evident from the nature of the contents that such was really the intention of the vessel.

Mr Bullough of Meggernie, on whose property the cist was found, and who has now the urn in his keeping, is, I am glad to find, to enclose the cist with an iron railing. I owe my best thanks to Messrs Alexander and John MacDonald, and to Mr Gorrie, for their kindness in allowing me to see the cist opened, and for the valuable assistance they rendered.