

## II.

### NOTICE OF A PECULIAR TYPE OF IMPLEMENT FOUND IN ANCIENT GRAVES IN PERU. BY GEORGE F. BLACK, ASSISTANT IN THE MUSEUM.

The Museum of the Tweedside Physical and Antiquarian Society at Kelso contains an interesting collection of objects found in an ancient cemetery at Arica, in Southern Peru, after the earthquake in August 1868. Among the articles found are six curiously formed implements, the use of which has hitherto been only guessed at. Five of these implements consist of short wooden shafts from six to sixteen inches in length, and with a uniform thickness of about three-fourths of an inch. Each of these shafts is pointed with an arrow-head of chalcedony, inserted into a slit, and bound on with thin well-made cord; while the butts in all are

<sup>1</sup> Uachter Muaidhe, obviously Auchtermuchty. Palladius, according to Nennius, "died in the land of the Picts;" another authority says "that he died in the plain of Girgin, in a place which is called Forddun."

<sup>2</sup> Vol. ii. p. 44.

finished off in cone-like projections. The sixth has a head of bronze instead of chalcedony.

These implements appear to be very rare in the museums of this country, there being only twelve known to me. Of this number the British Museum possesses three; the Museum of the Cork Institution, two; and the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, one, which is here figured (fig. 1) through Mr Walter Clark, keeper of the Ethnographical Department. The Peabody Museum of Archæology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States, also possesses three specimens, which were found at Attacama, on the shore of the Bay of Chacota. Two of those in the British Museum were found at Molle, while the third is from the same place as those in Kelso. The two in the Cork Museum and the Edinburgh one are without precise localities.

The National Museum possesses an implement of a similar type (fig. 2), which was also found at Arica. On this specimen the head is unfortunately absent, but the implement has in addition a barb of bronze or copper attached to one side. In the woodcut the outline of a head has been added to complete the figure.

In most cases these implements seem to have been laid in the graves unassociated with any object likely to afford a clue to their use. General Pitt-Rivers, in his lectures on Primitive Warfare before the Royal United Service Institution, suggested their use as knives, and referred to the common custom of the Indian Tribes of North America of using arrow-heads of flint mounted in a handle as cutting implements; but the discovery of the Kelso specimens has enabled us to determine the use of these implements as harpoon heads. In digging out the

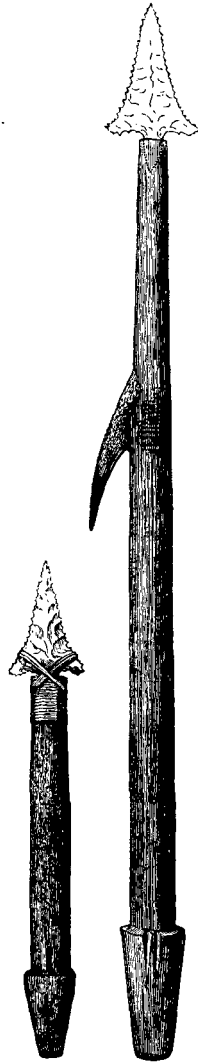


Fig. 1. Fig. 2.  
Implements from Graves  
at Arica, Peru.

grave at Arica, two mummies were found with their backs supported against a number of stout poles from three to four feet in length. These appeared smooth with use and handling, and on examination proved to have at one end a conical cavity corresponding to the ends of the short shafts. In addition to this, a complete harpoon was found with its two sections joined together by a long thong of hide in precisely the same manner as the fish-harpoons of the Eskimos. The larger shaft was intended to disengage after the fish was struck, and serve as a float to indicate the whereabouts of the fish. The occurrence of this peculiar type of weapon in Peru is interesting, and it shows that the ancient Peruvians had a type of implement which is more or less common among the aborigines of North and South America.