

VIII.

THE DUNS AND FORTS OF LORNE, NETHER LOCHABER, AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. By DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot., SECRETARY.

Before undertaking an investigation of the prehistoric forts in any part of Scotland, it is natural to inquire whether the results may be expected to repay the trouble. At first sight it seems as if this question must be answered in the negative, so great is the state of ruin and decay into which these structures have fallen. Yet the poverty of the remains is perhaps an insufficient reason for neglecting to record their characteristics, ere they suffer still further dilapidation, and the important part which they must have played in the obscure early history of our country surely entitles them to receive more attention from archæologists than they have hitherto met with. I trust I shall be able to show, in the present instance, that the field of inquiry is more productive than appears at first sight, and that amidst the general ruin, occasional fragments in fair preservation are encountered, which are both interesting in themselves and afford a key to the original structure of the forts in the district in general.

An important question at the outset is, How are we to find out the forts? Obviously, in a district so rough and broken as Lorne, of which it was said of old, "that it was as ill to harry as to pyke a sheep's head," it would be folly to search for forts on the innumerable likely sites which meet the investigator at every turn. Inquiry among the natives would be equally futile, as I have found them ignorant of the existence of forts which they "see without seeing" every day of their lives. It is to the Ordnance maps that we must turn for guidance; but, unfortunately, the 1-inch map is insufficient for an exhaustive inquiry, and the 6-inch scale must be carefully searched, as many forts are marked on the latter which are omitted in the former. It is also necessary to visit every *Dùn* marked on the map. This arises partly from the wide signification of the word, which apparently may mean either a fort whether on a hill or not, or, unluckily for the investigator, a hill on which there is no fort;

partly because the Ordnance maps are not to be trusted to show whether, on the dùns marked upon them, the remains of forts exist or not. It should also be noticed that even the 6-inch map does not give all the forts, whether entered as such or under the name of dùn. Probably the number omitted is trifling, but I have met with three instances in the present inquiry. If by such defects we are constantly made to feel the irreparable loss sustained by science through the omission of a systematic archæological survey from the general survey of the country, we may at least be thankful that the Ordnance maps afford a degree of guidance in finding archæological remains, without which an exhaustive inquiry like the present would be impracticable.

Several of my expeditions were made alone; in a good many others I was accompanied by my brother, Mr John Christison, or by Dr Allan Macnaughton of Taynuilt; and on one or two occasions by the Rev. Alexander Stewart, LL.D., Ballachulish; Dr Campbell, Craigrannoch; Dr Beddoe, F.R.S., Clifton; or Dr Rawdon, Liverpool. Even with the able assistance of these gentlemen it was impossible to make other than rough plans and observations of objects so widely scattered, often reached with difficulty, and generally with but scanty time for investigation. I claim therefore no more than to give a fair general idea of the size, construction, and other attributes of these forts, leaving it to others to fill up this sketch with accurate surveys and minute details, where such seem to be desirable.

As the most convenient method of treating my subject, after some preliminary explanations I shall first describe the forts and dùns, and then offer some general remarks based on the detailed descriptions.

Explanation of the Descriptions and Plans.

1. The numbers prefixed to the descriptions correspond with the numbers of the forts in their respective districts on the sketch map (Plate XXIII.). Dùns without remains are not numbered, and they are not entered on the maps because of the smallness of the scale.

For the same reason the forts are numbered on the map by districts, instead of as a whole, to avoid double figures; and names, except those of the large districts, have been dispensed with.

2. The names of the duns are taken from the Ordnance map, as the only published authority; but in the general remarks I have given reasons for doubting their accuracy in several instances.

3. The forts are approximately laid down on the plans as if the north were at the top of the page.

4. The measurements are in feet.

5. The scale of 120 feet to the inch was selected in my paper on the forts of Peeblesshire (*Proc.*, 1886, p. 13) as the most suitable in their case for the size of the pages in our *Proceedings*. A larger scale might with advantage have been chosen for the Argyleshire forts, as they are much smaller than the Peeblesshire ones, but on the whole it seemed preferable to preserve the same scale for both. Some of the plans are not quite to scale, but the figures on them are accurate.

6. In some instances the sites, as well as the forts, are laid down on the plans, but as a rule the general nature of the site is merely indicated on a system slightly modified from that adopted in my plans of the Peeblesshire forts, the steepness of slopes being marked by the feathering of an arrow from 0 to 4, and the perpendicular height above the nearest level ground noted in feet.

The heights are mere eye-estimates, except where greater precision was attainable by aid of the Ordnance Survey's contour lines.

7. Absolutely mural precipices guard one or more sides of many Argyleshire forts. These are drawn on the plans as if slightly sloped, but are shown correctly in the sections.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE FORTS.

A. FORTS OF LOCHABER, LINNHE LOCH, AND WEST SHORES OF THE FIRTH OF LORNE.

1. *Dùn Dige*.—In the marshy flat, close south of Glen Nevis House. A circular flat-topped mound, apparently of earth, 6 feet high, and 80 in diameter, without rampart or parapet, surrounded by a shallow ditch 24 feet wide, partly wet, with a low mound outside it. Possibly this is a mediæval work. *Dige* is the Gaelic form of *dyke*, in the English sense of either ditch or wall.

2. *Dùnbhairdghall* (fig. 1) stands on the highest and most southerly of six little eminences, which crown a depression in the hill range forming the western side of the lower stretch of Glen Nevis. The fort is 1127 feet above the sea, and about 1000 above the river, the slope to which is very steep, and at the top precipitous. The descents of 200 feet to the ridge on the south, and of 400 feet towards the Kiachnish waters on the east, are also steep, and so is that towards the other little eminences on the north, but as it is only about 50 feet high, the most accessible face is on this side. The vallum is somewhat

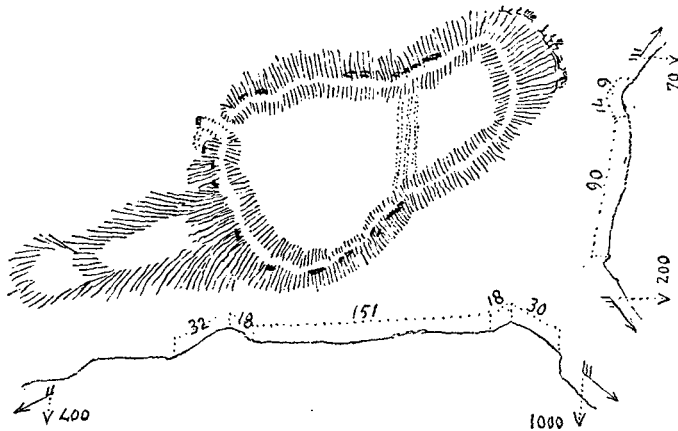


Fig. 1. Dùnbhairdghall.

pear-shaped, measuring from crest to crest about 185 feet by 110, and is not regularly curved, but consists of a number of tolerably straight facets of various lengths. It rises from 6 to 7 feet at the two ends, but not more than a foot or two on the flanks, above the interior. The exterior height is vague, as it is difficult to say where the vallum ends upon the natural slopes. The vallum consists now of a grassy mound with stony débris on it, but not in large quantity. A considerable amount of débris has also slipped down the slopes on the flanks. The entrance, at the north-west corner, is quite ruined, but the foundation of a wall

23 feet long remains, which appears to have formed its south side. The interior consists of a smaller eastern portion, and a larger western portion at a somewhat lower level, which seem to have been separated by a straight double or even treble wall, running obliquely across the fort.

The vallum has been broken into in several places, but no built masonry is revealed, only stones rudely piled upon each other. Mingled with the ordinary débris, both on the vallum and down the slopes, are vitrified masses, concerning which my brother and I came to the following conclusions:—

(1) The amount of visible ordinary débris greatly exceeds—perhaps twenty times—the vitrified part.

(2) Vitrified masses are found on the vallum, at intervals, all round, except at the east end, where however there is but little débris, and the mound is comparatively unbroken.

(3) The masses when *in situ*, or nearly so, are invariably on the outward slope of the vallum near the top.

(4) They are found in sixteen portions without reckoning trifling specimens, and if allowance be made for a certain amount of slipping down the slope, are pretty much in line with each other. Their position is roughly shown on the plan by thick lines.

(5) They have a perpendicular, very rough face outwards, from 1 to 5 feet in height, but only small portions exceeding 2 feet. One nearly continuous mass extends about 30 feet, another 12 feet; few of the rest exceed 3 feet in length.

(6) The bases of the masses are concealed by débris, but as far as can be seen are not more than 6 feet below the top of the vallum. One piece, however, 5 feet in height, is well defined below, as there is a slightly arched space underneath it. It rests on unvitrified stone.

In the absence of sections through the vallum, it is impossible to speak with confidence of its construction; apparently it consists of unbuilt stones, vitrified at irregular intervals along the top, but only to a depth of a few feet, as far as can be seen. The exposure of the outward faces of the vitrified fragments may have been original, but it seems more likely to have resulted from the slipping down of loose

stones, which originally lay against the outward faces and concealed them. On my first visit I was inclined to think that the vitrification was *structural*, but on a second visit, subsequent to the reading of this paper, I was led to doubt it. There is a good deal to be said on both sides, but no satisfactory decision can be arrived at by mere surface observations. As to the general question whether vitrification, or the binding together of stones by the action of heat, is *structural* or *incidental*, notwithstanding all that has been written about it, much remains to be done by experiment and investigation before it can be settled. The older writers seem to have been too much influenced by the theory that vitrification could only be accomplished by heating from below. Even in the latest article on the subject in our *Proceedings* ("Remarks on the Vitrified Forts of Scotland," vol. viii., 1868-70, p. 151, by John Stuart, LL.D.), the author, after specifying the Hill of Noath as being "perhaps the most remarkable" of the many vitrified forts investigated by him, speaks of "a great central core of vitrified *foundations*." But it does not appear that he actually saw these, in the only possible way, by making sections to the ground; and investigations undertaken a few years ago by Mr Macdonald, of "the Farm," Huntly, lead to a very different conclusion. He made wide cuts down to the ground through the vallum in two places, and found that it consisted of a mass of loose stones, with no vitrification at all in one section, and only vitrified at the top in the other. This is one of the most precise and valuable contributions on the subject yet made, and it is to be regretted that Mr Macdonald's account is confined to the pages of the *Proceedings of the Huntly Field Club*. In similar investigations the most important points to establish are just those established by him at Tap o' Noth, viz., the precise position of the vitrification, and the structure of the wall in which it occurs; the latter in order to determine whether vitrification is confined, *primarily*, to walls of mere heaped up stones, or is also associated with walls of dry masonry. I may add that in the few vitrified forts seen by myself I have been amazed to find so little vitrification where from description I was led to expect so much.

In connection with *Dùndbhairdghall* it may be noticed that on the nearest eminence there are traces of a wall all round the top, and that

there is a stone circle on a little, perhaps artificially, levelled flat on the ridge 800 yards north of the fort. The circle is 18 feet in diameter, composed of fourteen stones nearly a foot high, touching each other, with sockets in the ground for two others, and a few stones within the circle.

An Dùn is written in large letters on the 6-inch Ordnance map 400 yards north-west of *Dùndbhairdghall*, but there is no likely site for a fort there. I could find no trace of one, and the name seems unknown in the locality.

3. *Fort at Onich*, Lochleven (fig. 2).—Not in the Ordnance maps; about 700 yards north of Onich Bay, on the north side of Lochleven and

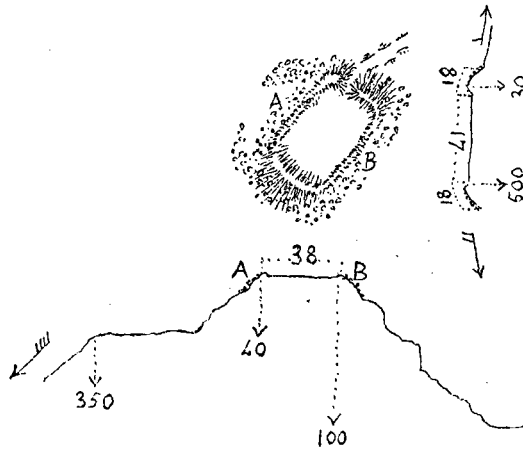
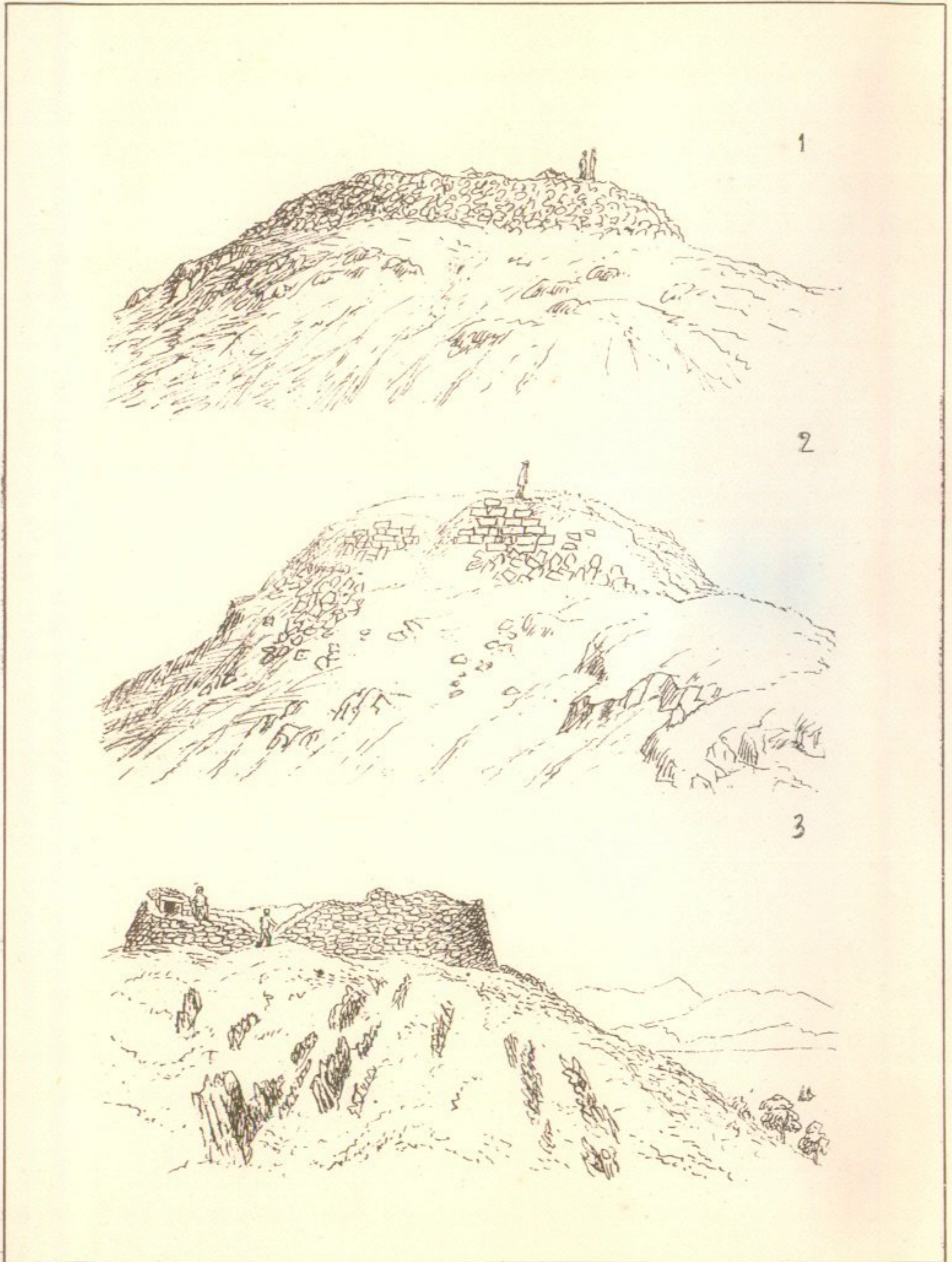


Fig. 2. Fort, Onich.

near its mouth; strongly placed 555 feet above the sea, on the ridge to the east of the singular cleft called Dù-glac. It is oblong, with straight flanks and rounded ends, and measures 41 by 30 feet internally. Large stony mounds remain at the two ends. The defences on the flanks, which are strong by nature, seem to have been formed by banking up the sides with earth and stones, partly springing from little rock-faces, to a height of 8 or 10 feet, thus bringing them to the level of the



1. N. Fort. 2. S. Fort, Luing. 3. Tirefour Broch, Lismore.

interior, and building on the top a slight wall, the foundations of which remain. Many stones are visible on the grassy mounds, but although this fort is said to be vitrified, I failed to find any evidence of it. The fort has no name, but the ridge on which it stands is the "Sean Druim," which probably points to a tradition of former inhabitation.

An *Dùn* (Table of Lorne) represented on the Ordnance map as an oval hill-top 500 feet long, surrounded by precipices, on the watershed at the north point of the east end of the Sound of Mull, about a mile north of the Sound, and 1500 feet above the sea. There are no remains of a fort on the map. I have not visited the spot.

Dùn Fuaraidh, Mull, 500 yards south-east of Duart Castle, a mere name on the 6-inch Ordnance map. I have no information about it. This is the only *dùn* on the map along the whole east coast of Mull, including Loch Don and Loch Spelve, and there is no *fort*.

B. FORTS OF LISMORE.

1. *Tirefour "Castle"* (Plate V. fig. 3, from a drawing by Dr Beddoe). In his well-known account of the brochs, Dr Joseph Anderson observes that several of the dry stone forts of Argyleshire may have been brochs, but that the only instance in which any proof has been adduced is that of Tirefour, of which he remarks: "Tirefour in Lismore is described by Pennant as a dry stone fort, 17 feet high, having a gallery within the wall, and round the area, a ledge or scarcement. This is suggestive of a broch (Captain Thomas says that it is one)." This opinion was confirmed on a visit paid to it in 1881 by Sir Robert Christison, the Rev. Dr Stewart of Ballachulish, Dr Rawdon of Liverpool, Dr Campbell of Craigrannoch, and myself. We found the ruin to be still about 15 feet high on the outside towards the west, and not much less most of the way round, except near the entrance, where the wall is much broken down, the entrance itself being completely destroyed. The exterior face is very regularly built of large limestone blocks, and has a considerable batter. The interior diameter, below the scarcement, which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, is 33 feet. The width of the wall at the base can hardly be less than 15 feet, as, at the base of the gallery, which is several feet above the scarcement, the outer concentric wall is $4\frac{1}{2}$ and the inner one

4 feet thick, the gallery between being 2 feet wide, making $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet of width in all. The gallery is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, its roof being of large flat stones. There was no distinct evidence of a stair, but a deep depression in the interior wall perhaps indicates the position of one, the stones of which had been removed. Altogether the evidence, if not quite conclusive, is strongly in favour of Tirefour having been a broch. The interior is so hampered with débris that it is impossible to say whether chambers exist in the wall or not. Tirefour occupies a prominent position on the summit of a conical hillock, 157 feet above the sea, near the edge of an irregular plateau, which falls to the sea by a steep slope, interrupted by a line of precipice. The name Tirefour, pronounced as a trisyllable, is believed by Dr Stewart to be derived from *Tùr*, a tower, and *foor* or *fuir*, an older form of *foir*, help or safety. It is interesting to note that the same root, *fuir*, and the middle syllable *i* or *e*, occur in the name of another Argyleshire fort, which there is reason to believe may have been a broch—*Ardifour*, *Ardinfuir*, or *Ardifuir*, near the north end of the Crinan Canal.

2. *Sean Dùn* (fig. 3, and Plate VI.), on the east coast, nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$

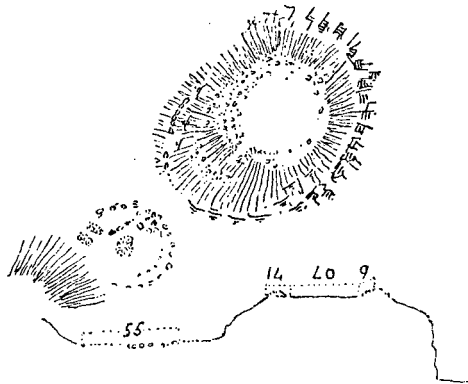
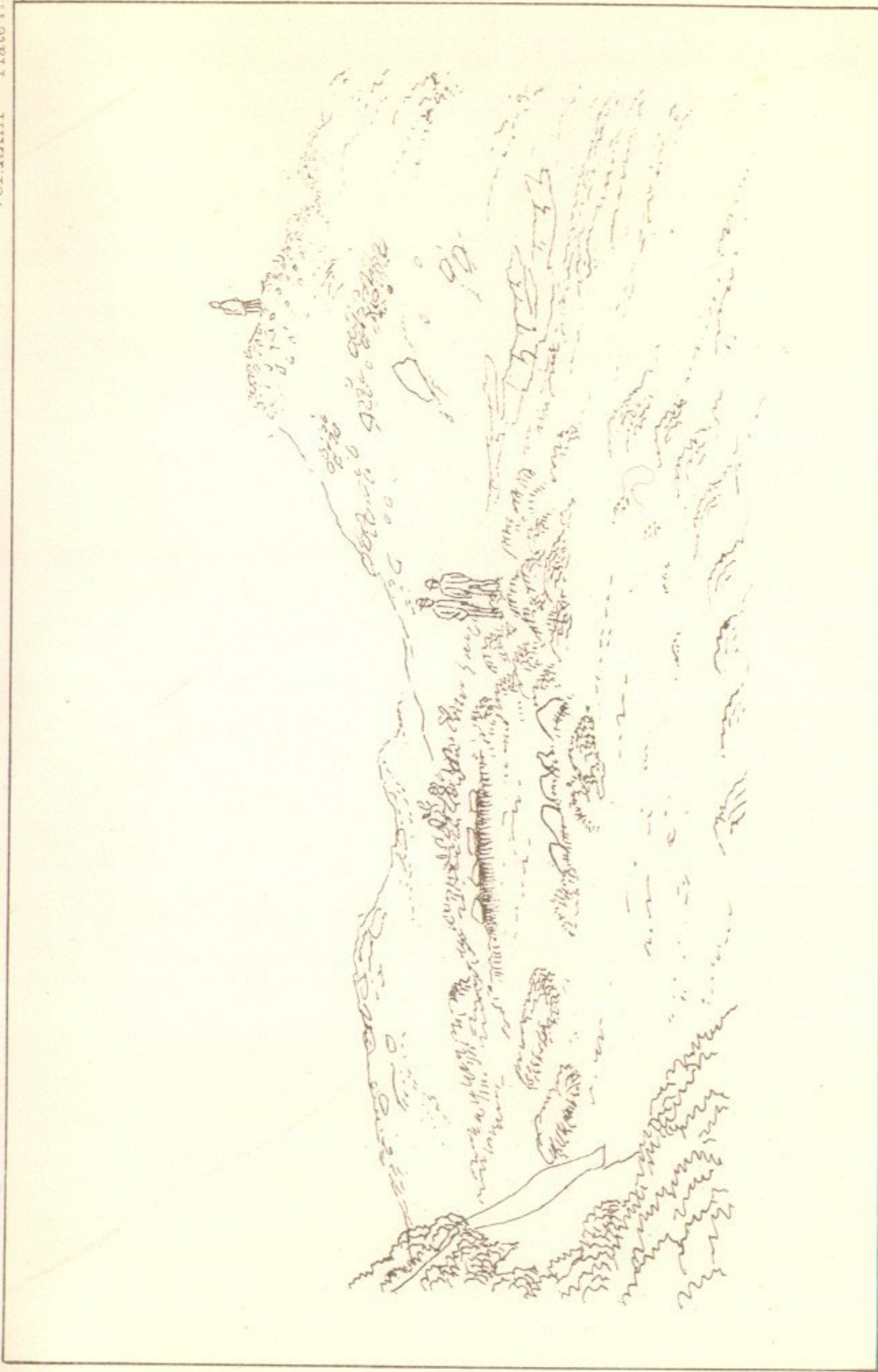


Fig. 3. Sean Dùn, Lismore.

miles south of Tirefour, on a rocky, partly precipitous little knoll, from 20 to 30 feet high, and about 80 above the sea. The *enceinte* round



SEAN DUN, LISMORE.

the level top shows no building in the stony grass grown mound, but there is distinct dry masonry in the slight remains of an outer defence which enclosed a part of the westerly and southerly slope. A depression or neck to the south-west, separating the knoll from the continuation of the coast range of little eminences, and about 20 feet below the fort, is entirely occupied by the remains of a double stone circle about 50 feet in diameter. The stones are detached and small, mostly covered with turf, and have much the appearance of being intended for seats (Plate VI.). Two low, rectangular, grass-grown cairns, measuring about 10 by 7 feet, lie side by side close within the circle to the west; and near the centre five low stones in a row, with another at right angles and one or two grassy mounds, enclose a space of about 20 by 6 feet: a number of grass-covered stones connect this with the circle to the north-east. In the present investigation I have met with three other instances of stone circles in connection with forts.

3. *Dùn Mòr* (fig. 4), about half a mile due west and inland from *Sean Dùn*, near the farmhouse of Balygrundle, the low ground near

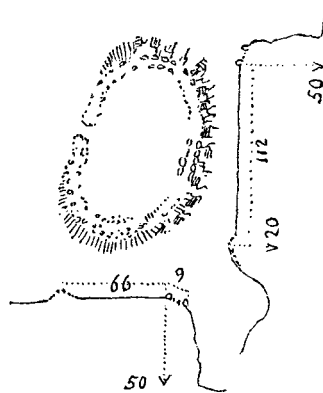


Fig. 4. Dùn Mòr, Balygrundle.

which it dominates. To the north and east it is defended by a mural precipice. From the high ground to the south it is cut off by a rather artificial looking deep narrow trench, which on the side of the fort has

much the appearance of being banked up with stones. The entrance is at the easily approached western bank side. The circumvallation consists now of a grassy, stony mound to the south and west, and at the precipice-edge of a few remaining large stones of a double row on a slope, the outer row at the very edge, indicating a wall originally 7 to 9 feet wide. No masonry visible.

4. *Dùn Cuilein*, exceptionally situated on the west side of the island, about 400 yards from the sea, and a few hundred yards south-west of the hamlet of Frackersaig. The fort stands on the top of a short ridge, which bounds the high road on the east side, and rises about 70 feet above it. The flanks are steep, and the ascent along the ridge from the south rough and rocky, but from the north long and easy, except a final climb of 15 or 20 feet to the fort. The insignificant remains consist of an enclosing mound 2 or 3 feet high, apparently of stone, overgrown with green turf, polygonal to suit the site, and enclosing a space of about 60 by 45 feet. There are also faint traces of a small outwork on the platform, at the foot of the little descent to the north from the fort.

5. *An Dùn*, Loch Fiart (fig. 5), close to the north-east end of this fresh-water loch, about 50 feet above it, and about 500 yards from the

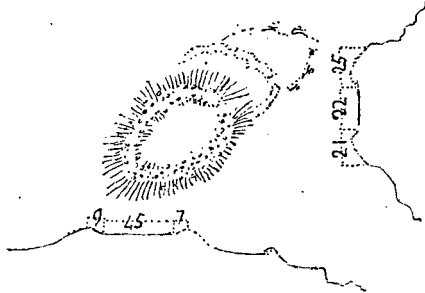
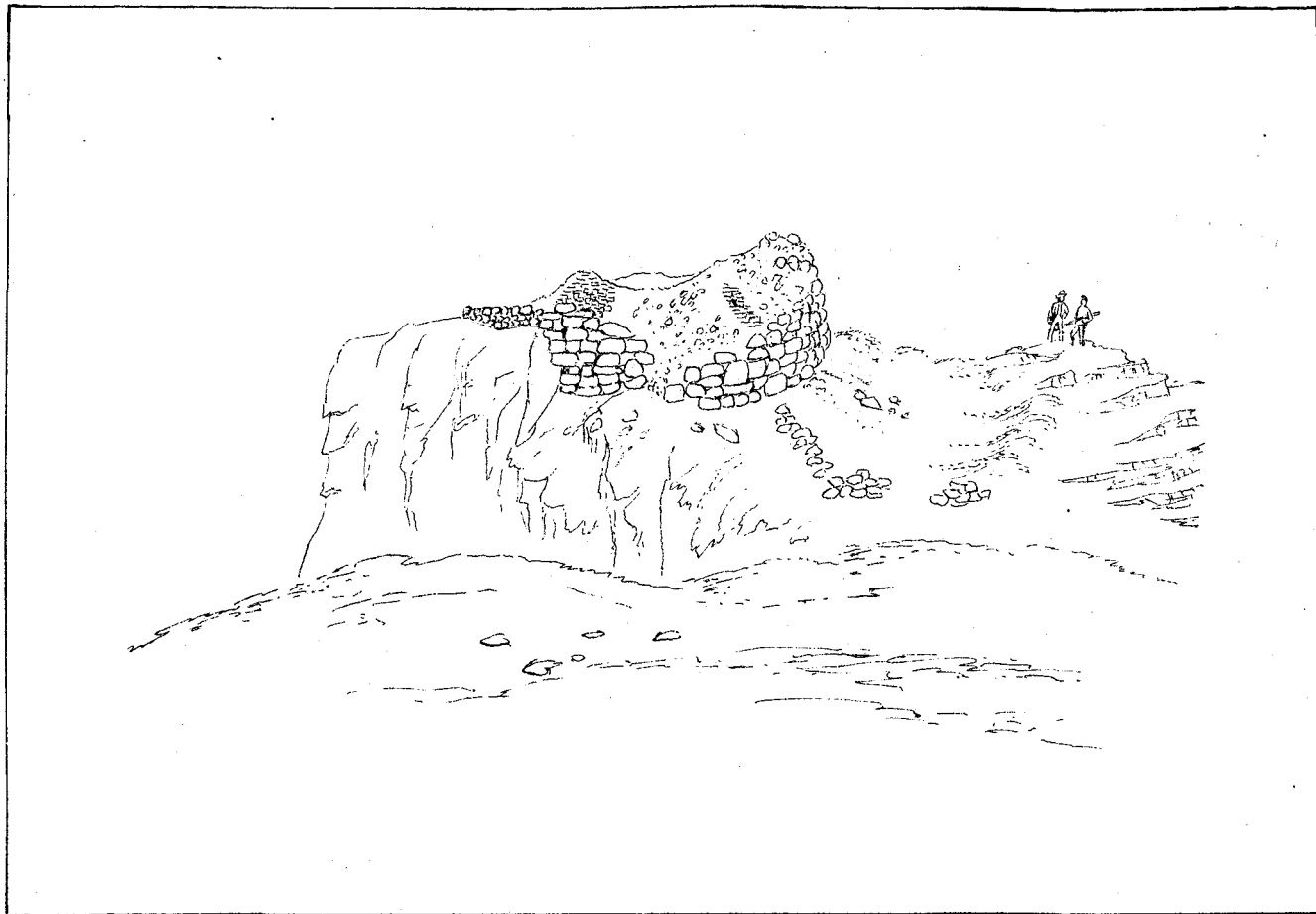


Fig. 5. An Dùn, Loch Fiart.

sea. The knoll is precipitous on the flanks, and has a rough narrow approach from the north end, upon which are remains of two ramparts curving from the precipitous flanks down the approach, thus enclosing



DUN CHRUBAN, LISMORE, from the West.

two small spaces in addition to the main oval above. Some rudely built masonry is visible in the mounds.

6. *An Dùn* (fig. 6), on the east coast, about a mile from the south end of the island, 50 yards from the sea, and about 80 feet above it. It is projected from the higher interior upon the narrow raised beach which runs along the whole east coast, and which here is about 30 feet high. The knoll is girded by mural precipices except inland, whence the approach is easy by a wide nearly level neck. On this side is the entrance, guarded within by a straight traverse measuring 15 by 7 feet. The defensive mound goes about half way round on the weakest side, and in one place is several feet in height and 24 feet wide. It shows some rudely built masonry. Like No. 2, this dùn is near one of the few little gravelly creeks or bays of this rocky coast.

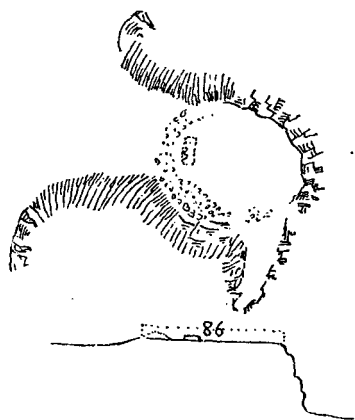


Fig. 6. *An Dùn*, south-east coast, Lismore.

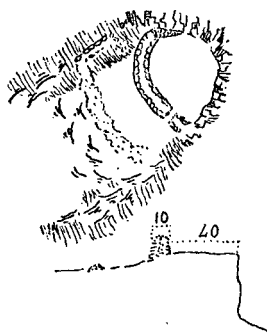


Fig. 7. *Dùn Chrùban*.

7. *Dùn Chrùban* (fig. 7, and Plates VII., VIII.), half a mile southward from the last, and about as much from the south point of the island. The site is on a rocky ridge, 20 to 40 feet high and 250 feet long, distant about 80 yards from the sea. The fort has been formed by cutting off from the rest of the ridge a space at the north end, defended by a mural precipice and only about 40 feet in diameter, by means of a massive wall, which, beginning with a curve on the land-

ward side, runs straight across to the seaward side. This wall is in unusual preservation, regularly built to a height of 8 feet in some places, and rising several feet higher in a ruined state. It is 10 feet wide at a height of 8 feet, and, as there is a considerable batter outside, the width must be greater at the base. It consists of well-built casings, with ruder masonry between. Outside, the stones are squarish and of considerable size, two of the largest measuring 4 feet 9 by 1 foot, and 4 by 2½ feet. Inside they are longer and more uniform in size. Above this 8-foot wall, breaking through the débris (Plate VII.), are remains of a totally different structure, consisting of stones of uniform size less than bricks, but fitted together with the utmost neatness and care. A precisely similar combination of big stones below with small ones above occurs in a fort on Bernera, Barra Head, of which the Society has a drawing.

Round the top of the precipice there is no wall, except one of smallish stones for a short distance from the landward end of the great wall. The entrance is through the wall near the seaward end, but is entirely ruined. The front has been covered at a distance of 8 or 10 yards by a curved rampart or wall of considerable strength, of which little remains.

Remarkable Enclosure.—Three-quarters of a mile south-west of Loch Fiart, on the east side of the road, and near *An Dùn*, an irregularly oval space of about 360 by 250 yards is enclosed by a wall, which follows the minute irregularities of the ground so as to stand on the edge of every little rise, rocky promontory or rock, thus assuming an extraordinarily irregular form. It is impossible, however, to ascribe to it a defensive purpose, even although it is double in some places, as it is only from 2 to 3 feet wide. Its present height varies from 1 to 4 feet, and it is of dry masonry, mostly buried under green turf. At the south end it becomes a *revêtement* 6 feet high, built against the ridge beyond, which is level with its top. The enclosed space is the main part of one of those low ridges, traversed from south-west to north-east by parallel, nearly perpendicular, outcroppings of limestone, and bounded at the foot on each side by smooth level flats of grass, which are so characteristic of Lismore. I have never seen an enclosure at all like this anywhere else.



DUN CHRUBAN, LISMORE, from the North.

C. FORTS OF LOCH ETIVE.

1. *Dùn Bachloch* (fig. 8).—Although outside the loch, this dùn is so near it that I have included it in the Loch Etive set. On small flat islands in the western seas, as well as on level shores of the mainland, we frequently see solitary, little rocky knolls, which in the case of such islands has procured for them the name of “Dutchman’s Hats.” These knolls spring directly from the level, and being generally inaccessible

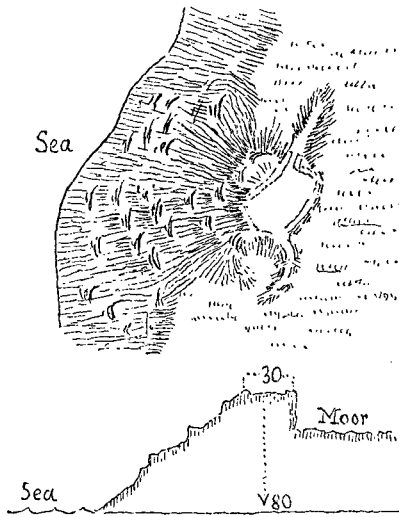


Fig. 8. Dùn Bachloch.

on several sides, are very suitable as sites for primitive forts. *Dùn Bachloch* is a good example of one on the mainland; it projects above the surface of a plain, which lies about 50 feet above the sea, is nearly 2 miles long and several hundred yards wide, and forms the coast opposite Lismore, ending southwards at Fionn Ard, the promontory on the north side of the entrance to Loch Etive from the Linnhe Loch.

The tolerably level interior of the fort forms an irregular pentagon, raised about 30 feet above the boggy moor, and measuring only about

40 by 35 feet. The sea, some 80 feet below, washes the skirts of the site to the west and north-west. The whole enceinte is defended by steep slopes or little mural precipices. The entrance has been from the north-east, first up a short, steep, projecting, narrow ridge, precipitous on one side; then through 12 feet of masonry at the north angle of the fort. Merely the foundation of the enclosing wall remains, most distinctly at the edge of the highest precipice, on the south-east front, where it is 5 feet thick. Two short, narrow, rocky ridges thrown off to the south scarcely weaken the defence, as they can only be climbed with difficulty. Within, close to the east wall, a little square space, enclosed by turf-covered stones, suggests a well.

2. *Dùn Mac Sniochan*.—Dr Angus Smith so fully mapped and described this interesting dùn that I shall only notice a few novel points that struck me on visiting it last autumn. I was surprised that neither on his map nor on that of the Ordnance Survey is there marked a mound which separates the higher from the lower part of the main fort, although this mound is quite as distinct as the enclosing one. I think also that an indubitably artificial mound stretches from the south-west angle of the fort to the *Bealach na Banrigh* of Angus Smith's map. Dr Smith does not expressly state that he uncovered the whole wall of the fort, although it is so represented on his map. Possibly he only made a series of openings, and concluded that the intervening unopened parts were of the same structure as the parts actually revealed. At all events, the only vitrification now visible in the main work is in five or six places on the outside of the north-west wall, where breaks in the green mound show a few square feet of stone at each place, all vitrified however. An intelligent herd boy showed me an excavation he had made in a mound, facing eastwards, at the extreme north-east end of the hill top, exposing a vitrified surface 5 or 6 feet in length and 2 or 3 feet high, with a hollow space underneath at the level of the ground a few inches high, several feet wide, and at least 3 feet deep. This mound, together with what seemed to be pretty distinct traces of another, running westward from it on the south side, makes it probable that the confused foundations on the east end of the site were surrounded by a fortification originally.

Dùn Valanri or Bhail an Ri.—I could find no trace of a fort on this well-known promontory near *Dùn Macsniochan*.

3. *Fort* on Eilean Mòr off Dunstaffnage (fig. 9).—Eilean Mòr is a "Dutchman's Hat," consisting of a rocky but tolerably flat-topped knoll rising abruptly from the middle of a low flat island. But little remains of the fortification, which seems to have comprised a wall along the top on the east or weakest side, with another below it on the plain; a wall at the entrance, which is on the south side, and approached by a difficult path; and at some distance in front on the plain perhaps another wall, of which only six or eight large stones remain.

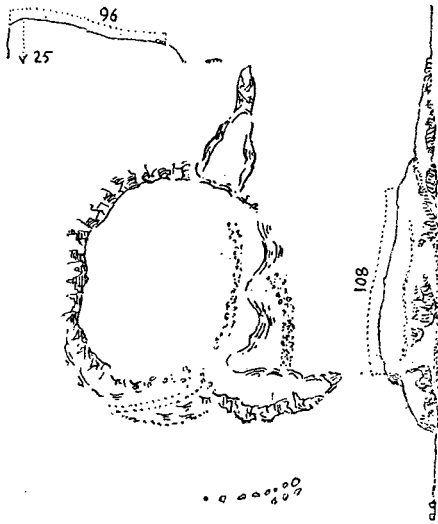


Fig. 9. Fort, Eilean Mòr.

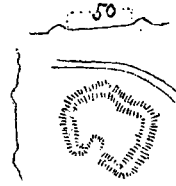


Fig. 10. Dùnbeg,
Dunstaffnage.

4. *Dùnbeg* (fig. 10).—The name of this fort, without any indication of remains, is alone given on the Ordnance maps. Yet the remains are distinct enough in the shape of a low green mound enclosing a small somewhat pentagonal space, situated on nearly level ground at the head of Dunstaffnage Bay, about 80 yards from high-water mark, and elevated only a few yards above it. Dr Angus Smith remarks that *Dùnbeg* is

said to be vitrified, but I could find very few stones on the green mounds, and none vitrified.

5. *Dùnán Creagach*.—At the highest part of the hilly ground to the south of Connel Ferry, and half a mile from it, there is a flat-topped hill with steep sides, 244 feet above the sea, which bears this name. The summit is 550 feet long, and shows no trace of a fort, but at its south end, at a lower level by some 20 feet, and cut off by a shallow neck, there is a lesser flat-topped round summit, 120 feet in diameter, with precipitous sides, which render it almost impregnable except at the neck. The only remaining sign of artificial defence is a trifling rampart, apparently of earth and small stones, at the top of the little bank at the neck.

Dùnán Clachach.—A lower and more broken summit, which rises close to the west of the last, with no trace of fortification.

6. *Dùn Creagach*, at Achnaclòich, nearly opposite Abbot's Isle, on a little knoll 40 feet high projecting into the sea, with a precipice seaward and a broad access from the land, which is but little lower than the knoll. The only defence apparently has been a curved wall on the landward side, of which a débris of small stones alone remains. The oval space enclosed between this and the precipice measures about 80 by 65 feet.

7. *Dùn Chathach* (fig. 11, and Plate IX. fig. 1), a mile east of the last, on a prominent knoll 162 feet above the sea, and 300 yards south of Rudha nan Càrn. Dr Angus Smith has described and figured it under the name of *Dùn Cathich* (*Loch Etive and the Sons of Uisnach*, p. 331), and rightly describes it as "not a common style of fort." It seems to have consisted of an outer circle of smooth boulders, of which twenty-seven remain, touching each other, and placed 5 or 6 feet below the level of the small flat interior. Within these rises a bank of earth and stones, about 12 feet wide, the top of which forms a low parapet. If this be a correct interpretation, the circumvallation, when entire, would form no inefficient defence, as it

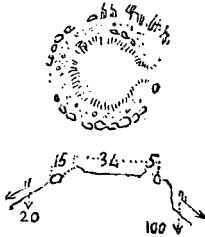


Fig. 11. Dùn Chathach.

of which forms a low parapet. If this be a correct interpretation, the circumvallation, when entire, would form no inefficient defence, as it



Fig. 1.

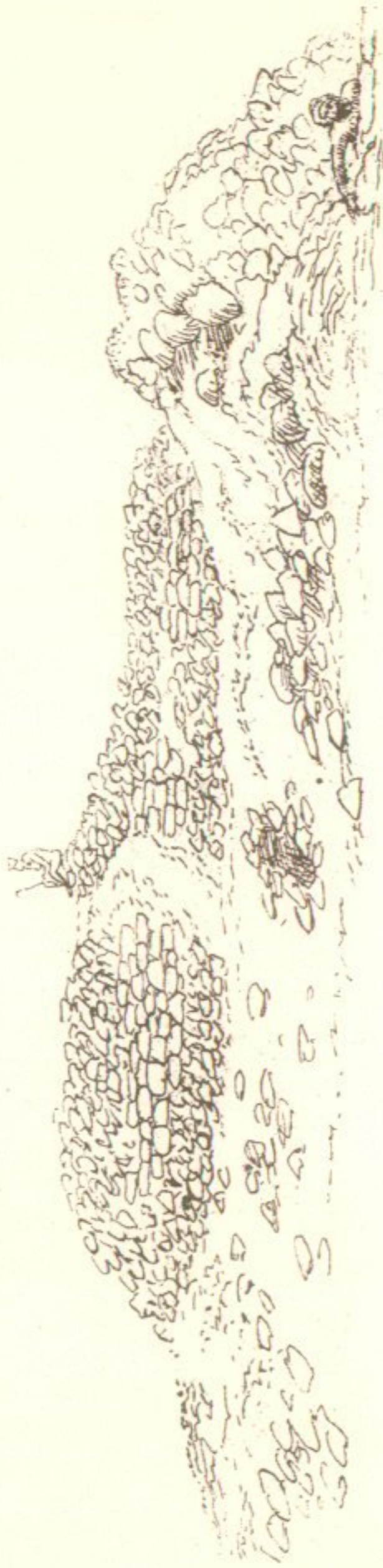


Fig. 2.

1. DUN CHATHACH. 2. GALLANACH CASTLE.

would be difficult to get a footing on the slippery boulders crowned with a steep bank.

8. *The Law, Dùn Mòr* (fig. 12).—Such are the names on the Ordnance map of a fort on the east side of the mouth of the river Awe, but I am assured by Dr Macnaughton of Taynuilt that it is not known by any name on the spot. The site is the termination, at the ferry of Bonawe, of an extensive triangular alluvial plain 40 or 50 feet above the sea. The fort has apparently been raised 10 or 12 feet above the plain by the earth and stones removed from a wide shallow trench, which cuts off the fort from the plateau. The interior forms a truncated triangle,

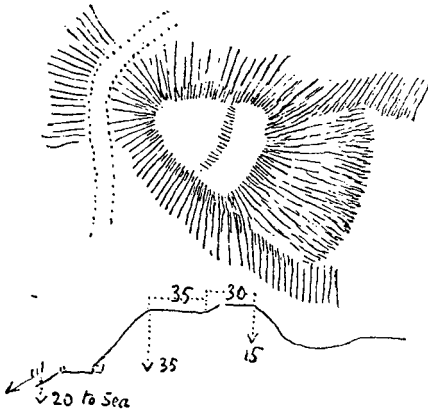


Fig. 12. Dùn Mòr, Inverawe.



Fig. 13. Fort, Ballure.

only 35 feet long and 47 wide at the base, with very steep sides, and is protected by a rampart now only 2 feet high but 29 wide, on the weakest side, on the top of the descent to the trench. The form and construction are quite exceptional, and I should have considered this to have been a redoubt of comparatively recent date, intended to guard the rmerly important ferry of Bonawe, the old road to which winds under its base, were it not that no idea of the kind lingers in the locality.

9. *Fort, near Ballure* (fig. 13, and Plate XXII. 3).—Not in the Ordnance maps, although fairly well preserved, but discovered by Dr

Macnaughton. It is about one-third of a mile east of the last, on one of the lower knolls of a rough, rocky, wooded hill, rising 250 feet above the sea. At the east end of the small oval there are considerable remains of a wall $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, well built of large stones (Plate XXII. 3). There are only the merest traces of a wall at the west end, and the sides, better protected by nature, seem to have been formed of banked up earth and stones.

10. *Dùn Mhuirgeal* (fig. 14), Glen Nant.—Not in the Ordnance maps, but known to Dr Macnaughton. It is on an inconspicuous knoll in the wood on the east side of the Nant, and about a mile and a half

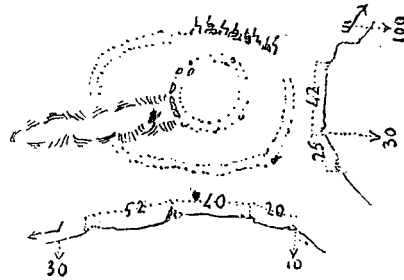


Fig. 14. Dùn Mhuirgeal.

from its mouth. The remains are scanty, and principally at the west end, where the wall seems to have been of substantial casing-stones with small rubble between. The ground plan, however, can be made out to consist of a nearly circular work, only about 40 feet in diameter over all, with an outer circumvallation lower down, at a distance of from 18 to 52 feet, crossing a rocky tongue on the west, and running along the edge of a precipice on the north.

D. FORTS OF OBAN AND KERRERA.

a. OBAN.—A considerable number of duns are marked on the 6-inch Ordnance map in or near Oban. Those in the town or suburbs are probably merely the fancy names of modern houses. *Dungallan*, at the south end of Oban Bay, is probably an old name, as *Dunolly* undoubtedly is, but no prehistoric remains are indicated on the map at either of them.

1. *Dùnans* (fig. 15), half a mile north-east of the town, on the southern and somewhat the lower of two considerable heights, separated from each other by a trifling dip in the ground. The dimensions of the tolerably level summit are about 240 by 70 feet. The grass-covered remains are very slight, but there appears to have been a double

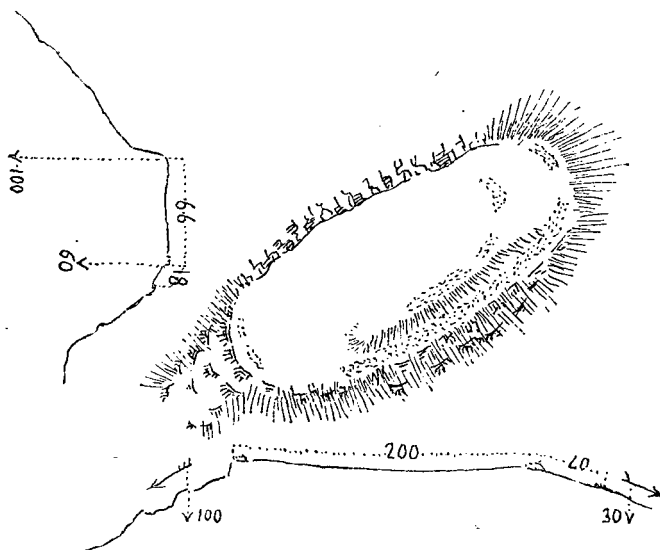


Fig. 15. Dùnans, Oban.

wall on the south-east side and at the north-east end, where the slopes are comparatively short and smooth. The outer wall on the south-east side lies a little downhill, bringing within the fort some 15 or 20 feet of width, in addition to the 70 feet on the summit. The north-west side is defended by a formidable mural precipice, and the south-west end by a little perpendicular rock face at the top, and a steep, narrow, rocky ridge leading to it.

2. *An Dùnan*.—An isolated eminence, 20 to 30 feet high, behind the poor-house, has a low mound traceable most of the way round its level top, which measures 90 by 45 feet over all.

b. KERRERA.—It is remarkable that there appear to be no remains of forts on the large island of Kerrera. We may conjecture that a fort may have preceded Gylen Castle on the same site, but neither there nor on the following duns, marked on the 6-inch Ordnance map, is there any sign of a fort.

Dùnan Mhic Ronuill.—An irregular height near the centre of the island, ill adapted for a fort.

Dùnan Droighionn Mòr.—A prominent, flat-topped, rock-girt eminence, rising 60 or 70 feet above level ground near the sea, and 250 yards north-west of Gylen Castle.

Dùnan Droighean Beag, close to the last and still nearer the sea, 40 to 50 feet high, with an artificial-looking passage to the flat summit between two pillars, 10 or 12 feet high, which, however, are nothing else than masses of the conglomerate rock, which is so characteristic of Kerrera.

c. KERRERA SOUND.—*Dùn Uabairtich* overlooks Kerrera Sound from the mainland, 2 miles south of Oban, from a height of 290 feet. On the little ridge which forms its summit are several tops, with obscure circular remains, too small and trifling, I think, to be considered of a defensive nature.

3. *Dùn Ormidale*, above a mile south by west of the last, at the south end of a long range, from which it is separated by a slightly depressed neck, and overlooking to the south-west from a height of 550 feet, the house, ground, and bay of Gallanach. A high wall of precipice guards it on the west, and the easiest approach is from the neck about 30 feet above which, where the slope eases off, a wall, nearly 500 feet long, has been drawn across, resting on the precipice to the west and on a small cliff to the east. This wall is straight in the main, although following the slight sinuosities of the hillside, but curves inwardly at the ends; not one stone remains on another, and there is no loose débris, but the form and dimensions are well marked by stones half sunk in the soil, detached or touching, and sometimes in rows. The width varies from 6 feet, where the slope is steepest, to 12 feet at the entrance, which is 90 feet from the west end, and slightly retired so as to give a flanking defence. Thence a roadway descends by a single zigzag to



DUN FHEURAIN, GALLANACH. 1. From the East. 2. From the North.

the neck. In rear the hill rises to two heights, the highest 40 or 50 feet above the wall, but there is no trace of other defences, not even at the top of the long but easy enough ascent from the south.

Altogether this fort, if it be one, is of no ordinary type, because of the size of the site, which greatly surpasses that of any other in Lorne, the peculiar character of the wall-foundation, the evidence of strong fortification on one accessible side, and the absence of it on another.

4. *Dùn Fheurain* (Plate X.), pronounced by a native *Airen* with an emphasis on the first syllable, 100 yards north of the head of Port Làthoich, and 60 south of Kerrera Sound, is an irregularly shaped rock fortalice of conglomerate. The ascent on the only accessible side, by a tortuous, dangerous path, commencing on a tongue of grass, and continued over slippery rocks and grass, is shown in both views (Plate X.). The only evidence of fortification is at the entrance, on each side of which stones have been piled to heighten the little natural cliffs. The available space on the level top is only 63 by 45 feet.

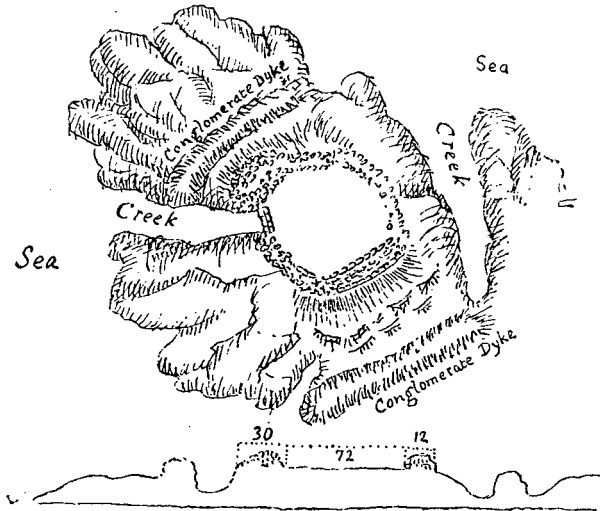


Fig. 16. Gallanach "Castle."

5. *Gallanach "Castle"* (fig. 16, and Plate IX. 2) is so named in the

Ordnance map, but I found it to be a "fort" in the sense of being a simple wall-enclosure built without mortar. It stands at the end of a narrow, low, rocky promontory in Gallanach Bay, much exposed to south-west gales, and is only about 15 feet above the sea. The form is an irregular heptagon, and the wall varies in thickness according to the natural strength of the faces. The best preserved face, about 50 feet long, is the landward one. It stands from 7 to 9 feet high, and a considerable stretch of built masonry, 4 feet in height, is clear of débris inside (Plate IX. 2). Outside, only a foot of the base remains, beautifully built of small close-fitting stones. This wall is at least 12 feet thick, and from its base a steep slope, apparently banked up with stones, descends about 12 feet to a natural trench, bounded on the other side by a straight conglomerate dyke. A creek from the west running up to and slightly within the wall has apparently been an entrance, perhaps the only one, as there is no break in the landward wall. In the view of the interior its position is indicated by the head and shoulders of a man, standing at the head of the creek. The interior is rough, with half concealed débris and obscure traces of building.

E. FORTS OF LOCH NELL AND LOCH FECHAN.

a. LOCH NELL.—1. *Dùn Neil*, a prominent knoll, 50 feet high, level on the top, half a mile west by north of the north-west corner of Loch Nell. The slight remains of two ramparts, advanced down the easy ascent from the north, with an entrance piercing them, and sockets of big stones in the grass at the entrance above them on the top, are the only remains. The summit measures 90 by 30 feet.

2. *An Dùn*, Glen Lonan, about 2 miles from the mouth of the Lonan and 500 yards above the farm of Clenamachie, on an isolated height, 30 feet above the road and about 100 above the stream, with steep but not precipitous slopes. The flat, oval summit is surrounded by the remains of a wall, which apparently has been 12 feet and upwards in width, enclosing a space about 85 by 50 feet. This wall has stood entirely on the top, not partially on the slope as is usual. Big and little stones are visible, but no building.

Dùnan Tìodhlacaidh.—A trifling elevation in the plain at the top of

the loch, 50 yards from its north-west corner. In the 6-inch Ordnance map it is marked "Burial-Ground." But there is no trace on it either of tombs or fortifications.

Dùn an Ceardaich, projects into the plain, 250 yards north-west of the last; well adapted for a fort, but no signs of one.

b. LOCH FEOCHAN.—3. *Dùnach* (fig. 17), at the head of the loch, half a mile north-west of the mouth of the river Nell, on a wooded knoll, projecting from the higher ground, and almost touching high-water mark.

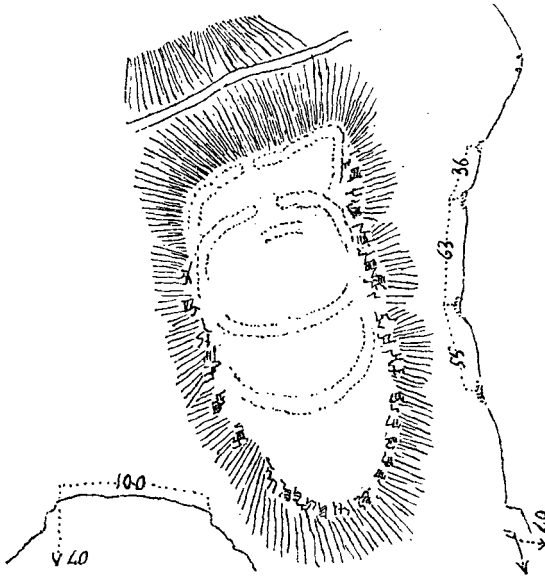


Fig. 17. *Dùnach*.

The artificial stony mounds are quite distinct, although only a foot or two in height, and show that this fort had been of unusual size and complexity, comprising an irregular oval work, with one enclosure landward and one if not two seaward, pushed down the slopes. All rest on precipices at the sides, and the end towards the sea is protected by a mural precipice 9 feet high. It is only landward that the access is easy

by a short, gentle slope. The entrance is here, and the remains of a curved wall, facing it within the main work, may indicate a traverse specially designed for its defence. The total length of the fort is upwards of 200 feet, and the breath about 70.

4. *Dùnan Molach*, a mile and a half westward from the last, on the east side of the Allt Mòr Lerags, and close behind the farm-house of Lower Ardoran, on a conspicuous, beautiful, green eminence about 150 feet high. Of the slightly oval circumvallation, enclosing a space averaging only about 40 feet in diameter, little remains except low mounds, about 18 feet wide at the north and south ends. There is no trace of building, although good sized stones are visible in the mounds.

5. *Dùnan Corr*, 1100 yards west of the last, on the north side of a little burn which flows eastwards into the Allt Mòr Lerags. The site is a flat-topped, steep, rocky mound projecting from the higher ground into the little flat-bottomed ravine. The only sign of fortification is an apparent banking-up of the top of the gentle rise from the neck. The available interior measures about 52 by 36 feet. Probably there was a fort here, as it is difficult to explain otherwise why it alone, among the numerous more conspicuous knolls around, should have a name. A few hundred yards farther east there is a similar projecting knoll, the small level top of which rises a few feet above the table-land in its rear, and is enclosed by the remains of a built circular wall, not modern, but too feeble, I think, for a fort.

6. *Dùn Bhlàran* (figs. 18, 19), a little under a quarter of a mile north-east of Minard Farm-House, projected from the rough mass of Tom nam Buachaille (688 feet), on a little knoll about 100 feet above the sea, which is not visible from it. It is well defended on three sides by steep slopes of from 30 to 50 feet, but is easily accessible by a nearly level neck from the hill. Here, therefore, the defence has been strengthened by doubling the wall. The outer one has apparently consisted of a straight line of upright stones, of which three remain standing, and two or three others prostrate. A quantity of very small rubble lies beside them. Six feet in rear is a straight, low mound, 9 feet wide, the remains of an interior wall, which probably overlooked the outer one. Elsewhere the mound is single, enclosing a space, on the whole

circular, of about 60 feet diameter. A break in the mound discloses fairly well-built, dry masonry. Connected with this knoll is another at

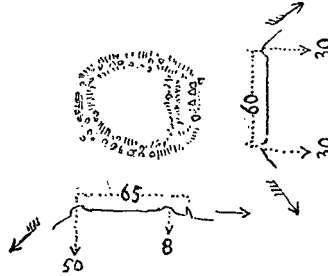


Fig. 18. Dùn Bhlàran.

a lower level of about 20 feet, with a double mound partially round it but I think it is a natural formation.



Fig. 19. Dùn Bhlàran.

7. *An Dùnan* (fig. 20), at the mouth of the loch on the north side, 200 or 300 yards east of Minard, the extreme point of Loch Feochan. This point is formed by a remarkable, isolated, round and very steep hill, Cnoc na Faire, 329 feet high, at the foot of which, completely commanded by it and projecting into the sea, are several little hillocks, on one of which, three parts surrounded by water at high-tide, is the fort.

The steep, rocky mound, about 30 feet high, is cut off from the shore by a low gravelly neck, and is defended on each side by a creek. The summit is level, and is enclosed by a mound drawn close to the edge of slopes and little cliffs. Breaks and openings, however, show that this mound conceals the remains of a wall of fairly well-built, dry masonry, the stones being of good size outside and smaller within. This wall must certainly have been 10, and may have been 12 feet wide. The entrance is at the south-west corner, and a foundation running eastward from it divides the interior into a narrow southern and larger northern space. The interior

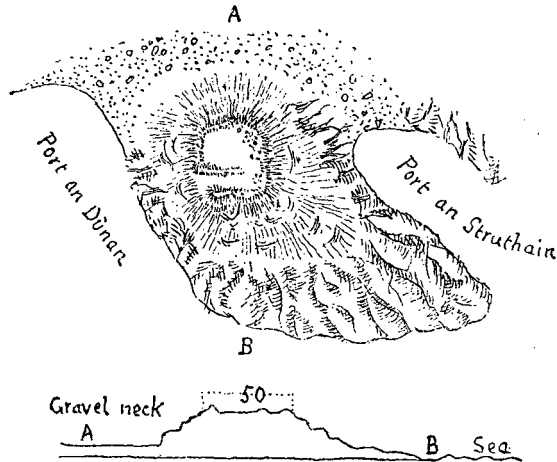


Fig. 20. An Dùnan, Minard.

measures only about 30 by 25 feet. The little bay to the west is called *Port an Dùnan*, and the next creek westward *Port Nighean an Rìgh*.

8. *Dùn Mhic Rhonuil* (figs. 21, 22), on the south shore facing the last, at a distance of under half a mile. This is a rock fortalice which stands on a narrow, level foreshore, 60 or 70 feet above the sea, at the foot of a lofty promontory, the knoll itself rising 25 or 30 feet above the foreshore. The descent to the sea is very direct, steep, and rocky, and the other sides, although not altogether inaccessible, are well defended by mural precipices and steep rugged slopes. The difficult entrance is by

a grassy notch in the landward precipice, now concealed by a "cataract" of stones thrown down from the fort (fig. 22). The nearly rectangular level top has been surrounded by a wall of dry masonry, now almost entirely cast down, but which a few remaining fragments show to have been 12 feet thick. The best preserved portion, about 2 feet high, on the south side (Plate XXI. 5), shows that the wall has been carefully

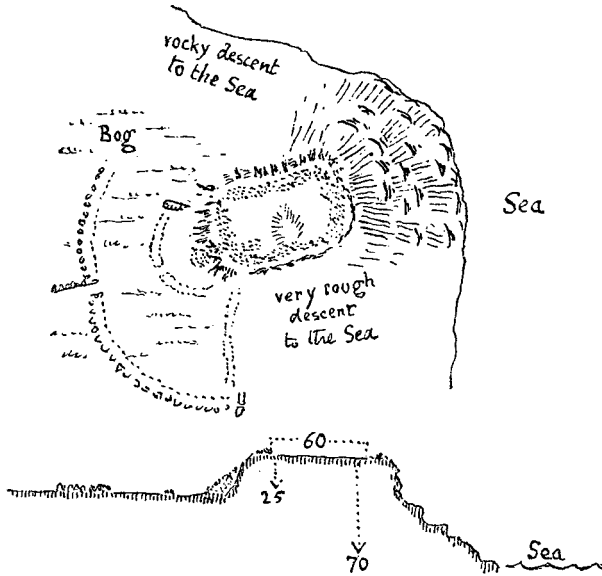


Fig. 21. Dùn Mhic Rhuail.

built. The interior measures 60 by 35 feet, and contains on the south side a low oval mound 20 by 12 feet, with stones showing through the turf.

At the foot of the rock on the landward side, 20 feet in front of the entrance, a low mound curves away on each side to join the rock; 36 feet in front of this is another curved mound, lost to the north in a bog, and ending southwards in rough ground, whence a low, straight, ill-preserved mound goes off at a right angle to join the rock. This outer mound is nearly 300 feet long, and is apparently the remains of a strong wall, 10 feet thick, of small stones within, but faced with a row of large,

rough blocks, 2 to 3 or even 4 feet high, near to but not touching each other. Opposite the entrance to the rock, a passage, lined by small stones, pierces the inner mound, and in continuation there is a passage through the outer mound, lined on each side with large blocks, prolonged, on the west side only, outwards for 25 feet, by a row of seven blocks. The whole of this outer mound was concealed by high bracken, so that my representation of it is probably too formal, and other details

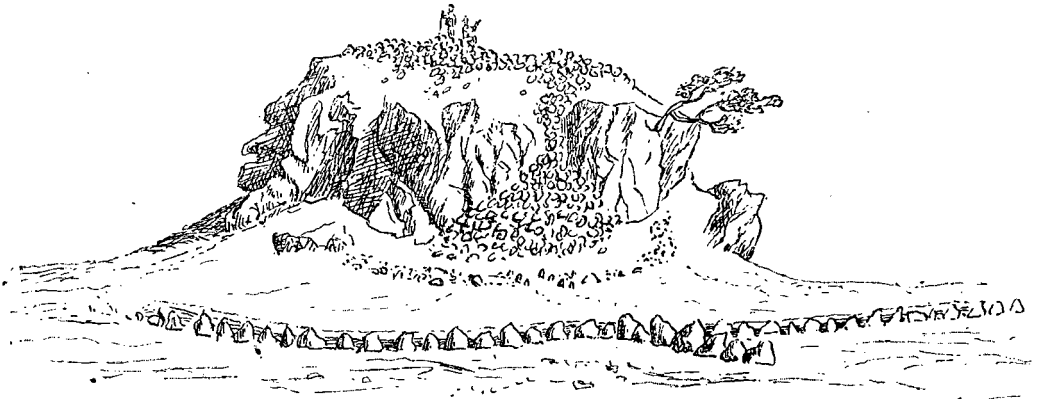


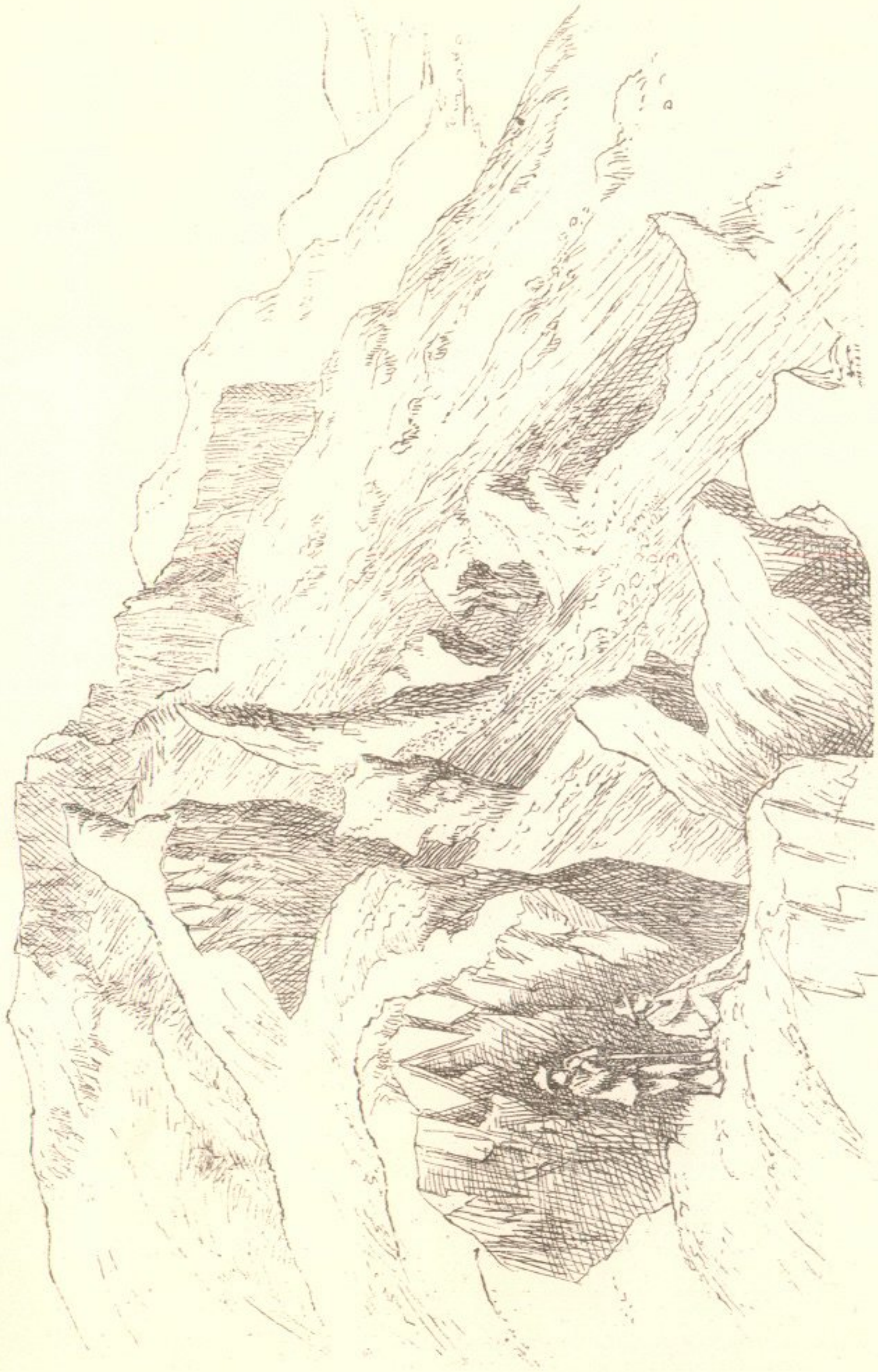
Fig. 22. Dùn Mhic Rhonuil.

may have been missed. The Ordnance map gives no indication of remains at this fort at all.

Dùn Buaig, in a low level field, 150 yards from the Free Church, Kilmniver. The remains consist of a quantity of small stones, surrounded by a congeries of little, grassy mounds, and cover a space of about 90 by 75 feet. They are more suggestive of a cairn than of a fort.

9. *Fort*, on *Losgann*¹ *Lornach* (figs. 23, 24, and Plates XI. XIV. 1).— This fort is situated a little over a mile south-west of *Dùn Mhic Rhonuil*, 300 yards short of the summit (Ben Mòr, 639) of the ridge, running south from the mouth of Loch Feochan, with the sea to the west and the valley containing Loch Seil to the east of it. The site is only about

¹ This name has been misprinted *Tosgann* on Plate XIV.



PART OF INTERIOR OF FORT, LOSGANN LORNACH.

30 feet lower than the summit from which it is cut off by a considerable fall in the ground, and it is a conspicuous landmark from the west as it rises against the sky in a line of precipices which strongly resemble towers or bastions (fig. 24). This is as seen from the westward, but the view from the north (Plate XIV. 1) has probably earned for the site the name of "The Toad of Lorn." The elevated mass which forms the site is somewhat triangular in form, and rises from the ridge, on the south side, as a

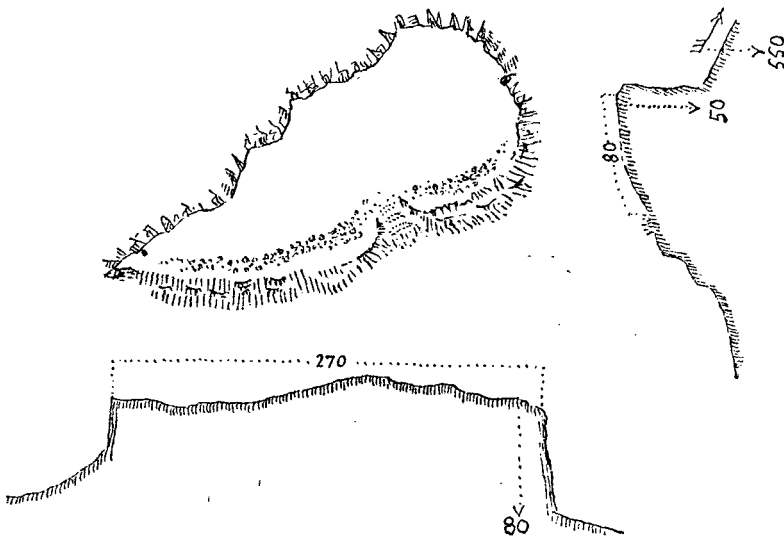


Fig. 23. Fort, Losgann Lornach.

steep rough bank with low cliffs. The ground continues to rise, but more gently, in the interior of the fort, and ends suddenly on the edge of mural precipices on the other two sides. The precipice facing north-west is 260 feet long, and varies from about 25 to 60 feet in height. It is mural, except at its lowest point, where the broken surface might be scaled by a good climber. The north-east end, about 100 feet long, is protected by a mural precipice about 60 feet high. Thus the site is only assailable by the steep bank, 230 feet in length, on the south. Here, therefore, and here alone, are remains of fortification,

consisting of a line of débris at the top of the bank representing a wall with some trace of building, which it can be clearly made out must have been 12 feet thick at the base. The entrance is by a hollow in the bank, with a somewhat easier gradient, and apparently has been defended by three walls drawn across it, besides being flanked by the main wall on each side above. The interior is rough and irregular, and slopes inconveniently to the south.

Although the precipices are of no great height, they are diversified by salient and re-entering angles, and by a fantastic peak at the south-west

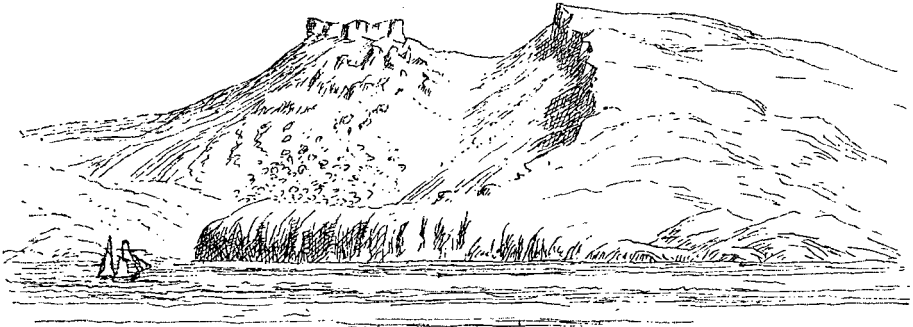
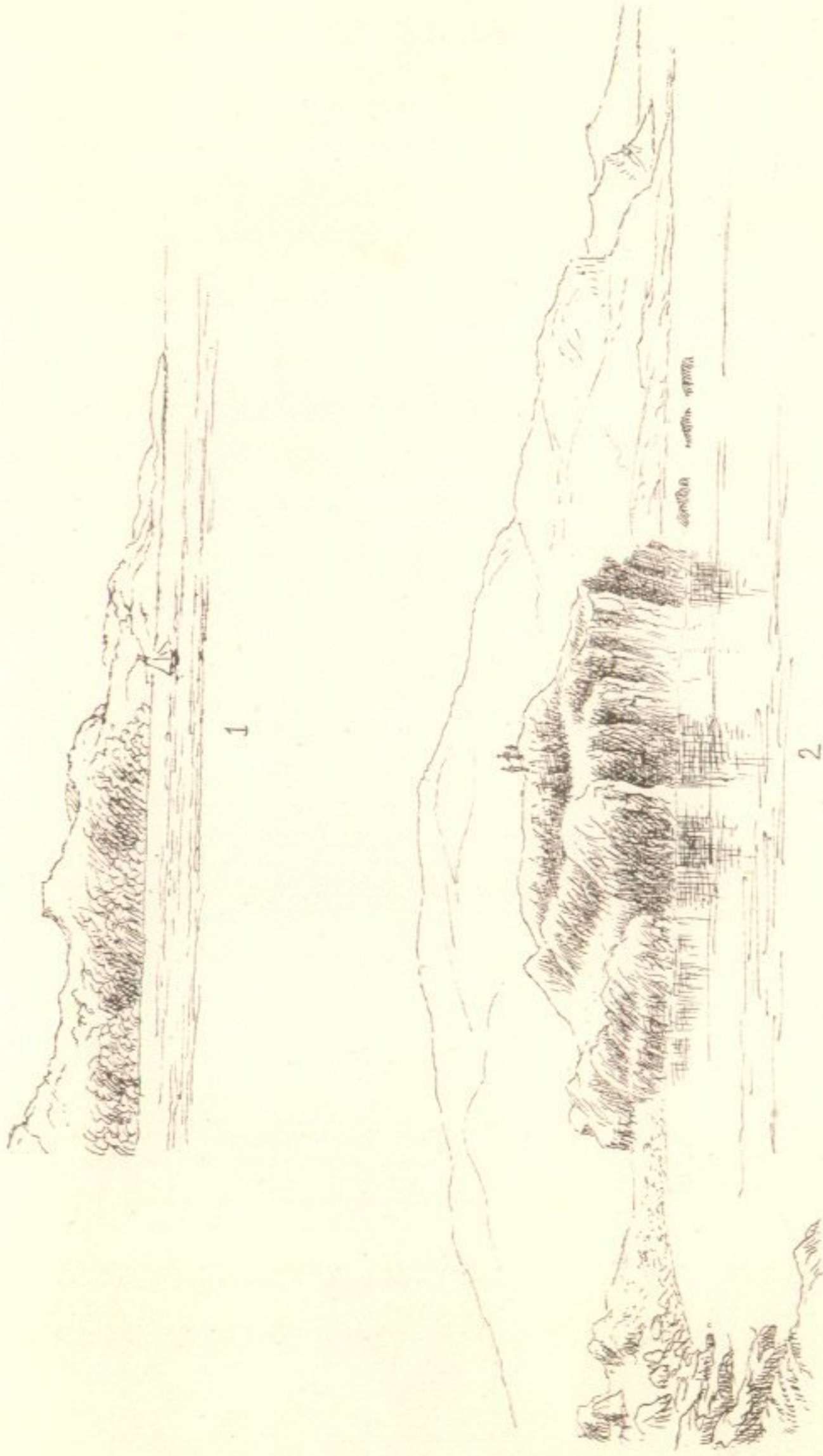


Fig. 24. Losgann Lornach from the sea.

end (Plate XI). From their foot the ground slopes away steeply, and is broken into masses of bare rock or elevated tables covered with grass and heather, and a conspicuous needle rock, 60 feet in height, stands immediately beneath the peak at the south-west end. The slope continues to fall steeply to the sea, 600 feet below, and is strewn with large rocks and diversified with scattered trees. Looking southward across the neck to Ben More, a fine precipice is seen, about 100 feet high, beginning at the summit and curving in a semicircle about a quarter of a mile down the slope. The whole forms an interesting and even grand scene, although not on a great scale, and is certainly quite unparalleled in this part of the Highlands.



1. DUN FADAIDH, DEGNISH. 2. DUN AORAIN, SEIL.

F. FORTS OF SEIL AND LUING.

a. SEIL, *Eilean Dùin*.—The most northerly of the small isles at the north end of Seil. A "Dutchman's Hat" island. I could see no remains on passing it in the steamer.

1. *Fort* (fig. 25), three-quarters of a mile south of Ardfad, and a quarter of a mile from the sea, on a strong site overlooking the level country below, from a height of 150 feet. The defences consist of a mainwork and small outwork pushed out to the south. The main mound, broad and massive in some places, shows rude building of big stones and slates here and there. A distinct roadway leads up to it from the north.

Dùn Mòr.—A precipitous, flat-topped hill rising upwards of 300 feet above the sea, and overhanging the village of Easdale. The site is about 400 yards long. I could find no trace of a fort on it.

Dùn Diomanhais.—A small, prominent, precipitous site close to the east of the last, with no vestige of fortification.

2. *Dùn Aorain* (fig. 26, and Plate XII. 2), on a little rocky promontory in the bay, a quarter of a mile south-west of the village of Easdale, three parts surrounded by water at high-tide, and rising about 25 feet above it. Towards the sea the site is well protected by a mural precipice on one side, and by steep, rocky slopes on the other two. The approach by a smooth, narrow neck from landward is barred first by a straight, low wall of rock, capped by a short, steep bank, with the remains of a wall, overgrown with turf, on the top, the whole being about 15 feet high. A narrow entrance through this gives access to a triangular platform or outwork, a few yards beyond which rises a second barrier of rock and slope, topped with a wall of slates and stones, grown over with turf. A steep narrow passage through this conducts to the interior, which is somewhat hexagonal, and measures about 60 feet by 40. Breaks in the principal mound show a some-

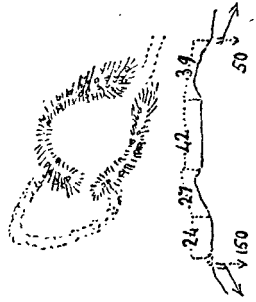


Fig. 25. Fort, near Ardfad.

what rude wall of slates and stones, from 8 to 10 feet high and probably from 8 to 10 feet wide. In this wall, which faces east and is 70 feet long, there are distinct indications of a small recess. On the other sides the wall is either lower, or, on the edge of the cliff, deficient.

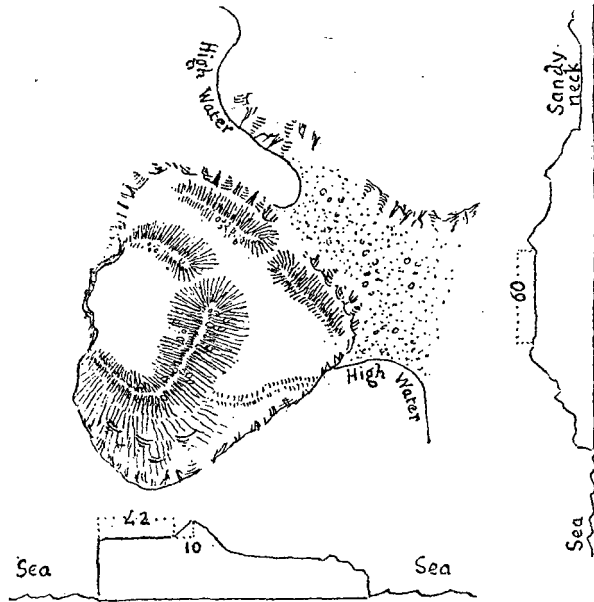
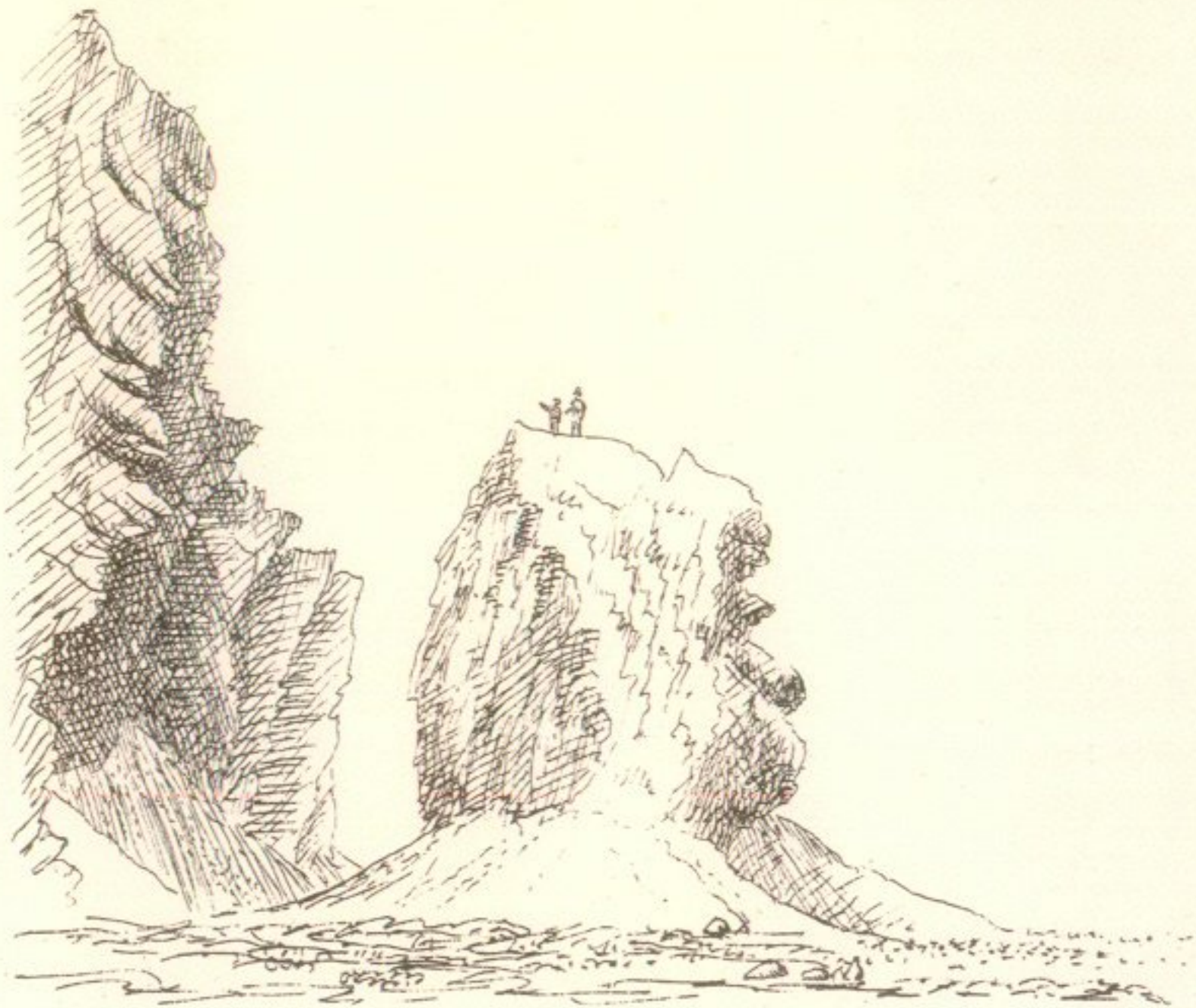


Fig. 26. Dùn Aorain.

3. *Dùn Mucaig* (fig. 27, and Plates XIII. XIV. 2).—This singular rock fortalice, on the coast a mile south of *Dùn Aorain*, rises from a plain that skirts the sea, and is but little elevated above it. The rock is 100 yards from the sea, and lies at the foot of an overhanging headland (Plate XIII.), from which it appears as if it had been torn, without being overbalanced, so as to leave a cleft 40 feet wide between them. The detached rock is about 70 feet high, with mural precipices on three sides; the fourth side, to the south (Plate XIII. 2), rises as a steep grass slope, broken half-way up by a cliff, round the west end of which the wet slippery path, 2 or 3 feet wide, conducts, on the edge of the pre-



1.

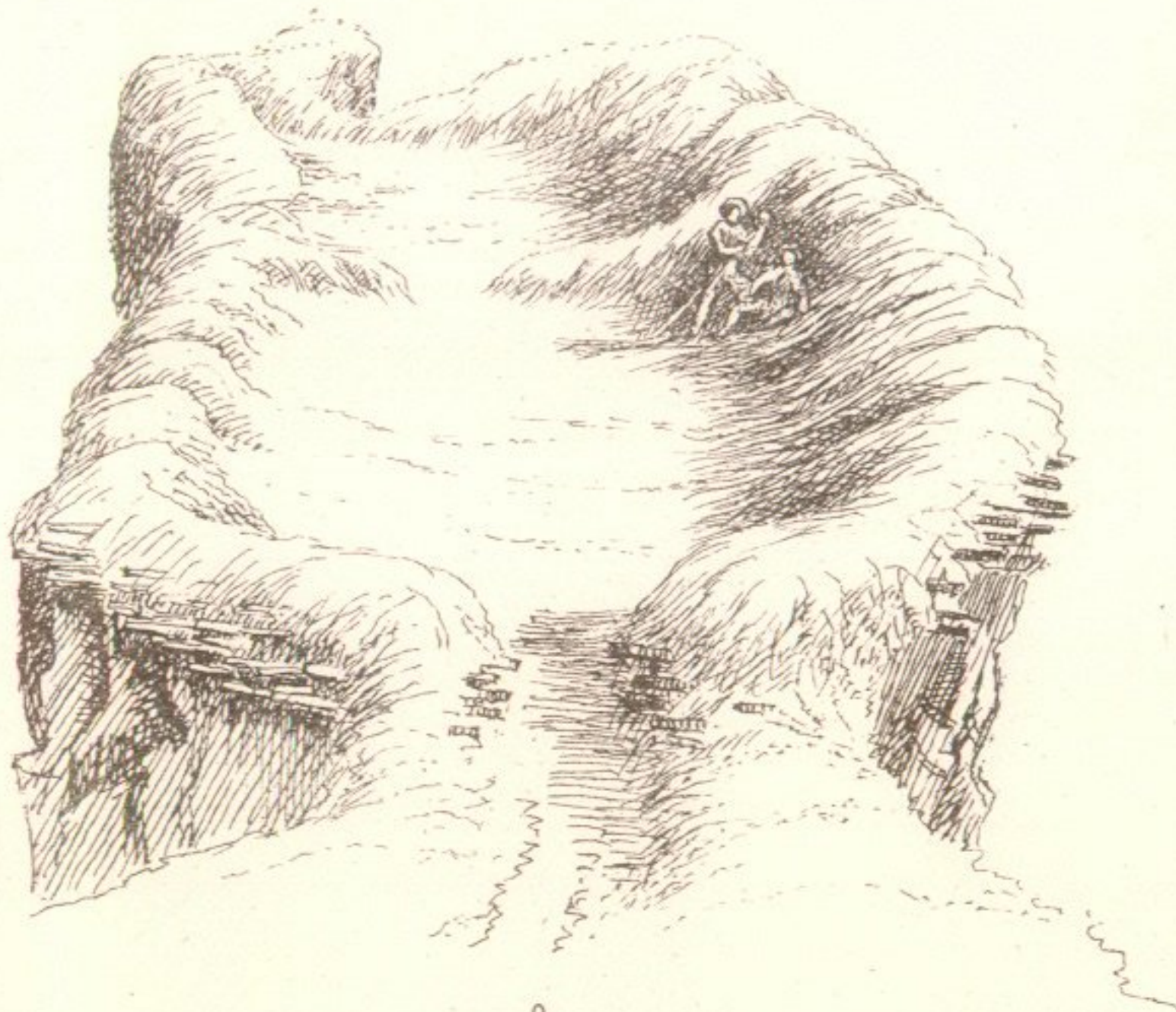


2.

DUN MUCAIG, SEIL. 1. From N.-W. 2. From S.



1.



2.

1. TOSGANN LORNACH from N. 2. INTERIOR OF DUN MUCAIG.

cipice which faces the sea, to a level platform, about 50 by 20 feet, which has been defended by a rampart at the edge of the half-way cliff, thus forming an outwork to the fort. The level interior (Plate XIV. 2), 14 feet higher, measures only 45 by 21 feet within the wall. The steep path to it from the platform below passes through a narrow ruined entrance. The true character of the now mound-like wall is shown, chiefly near the entrance, by exposed surfaces several feet in height, showing slates piled on each other, and continued right upwards from the mural precipice. The wall, elsewhere quite low, is raised to a height

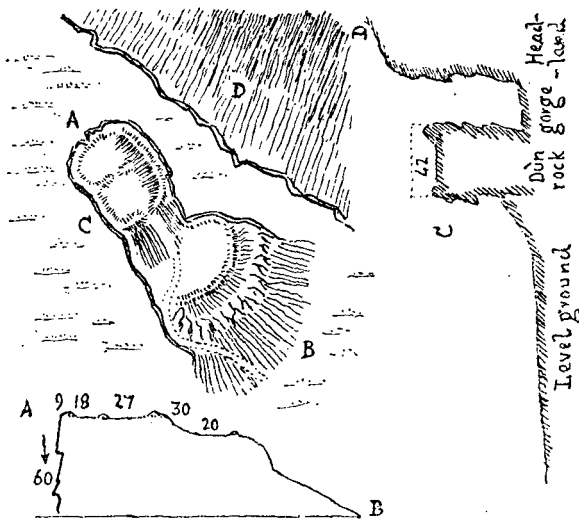


Fig. 27. Dùn Mucaig.

of 8 feet landwards, evidently to give protection from the commanding headland. A partition has apparently divided the interior into two. At the far end there is a gap in the wall as if to give a lookout northwards.

4. *Fort, on Cnoc an Tigh Mòr* (fig. 28), about a quarter of a mile north-east of Barr Mòr (329 feet), the highest point in the southern part of the island. The site, 600 yards east of the sea and perhaps 100 feet above it, is an oval and apparently artificially levelled space 140 by 90

feet in extent, with very steep slopes 50 feet high on the flanks, and about 20 at the west end, but easily approached at the east end along a gently sloping narrow platform 250 feet long. The defences are almost gone, except on the south, where a 5-foot wall, now covered with earth and turf, seems to serve as the revêtement of a natural bank, made to serve as the

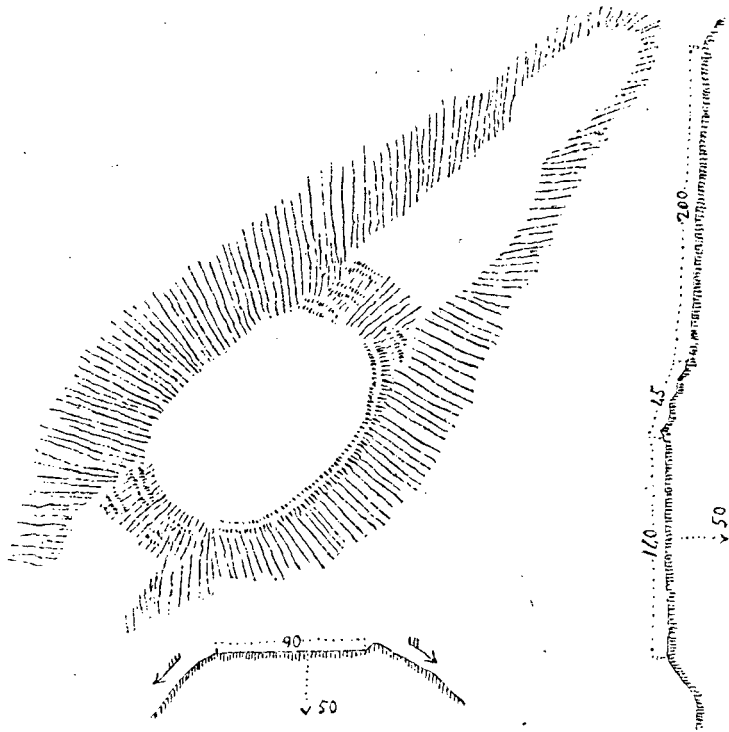


Fig. 28. Fort, Cnoc an Tigh Mòr.

rampart, at the top of the steep slope. Faint traces of three concentric curved ramparts at the east end, and of two at the west, can be made out. At the far end of the narrow platform to the east, where it descends sharply 30 feet to the lower ground, there are doubtful traces of a mound, so that possibly this platform was originally included in the fort.

b. Luing.—*Dünedin*, about a mile south of Cuan Ferry, and 100 yards from the sea, is a slight rocky projection from the higher ground on the foreshore, but there is no trace of a fort on it.

5. *North Fort* (fig. 29, and Plate V. 1), about one-third of a mile south-west of *Dünedin*, on an eminence steep and rugged to the south and west, more accessible on the east, and falling gently northwards to a short ridge, which finally sinks to the plain close to Cuan Sound. The fort consists of a citadel and outworks, the former being oval and

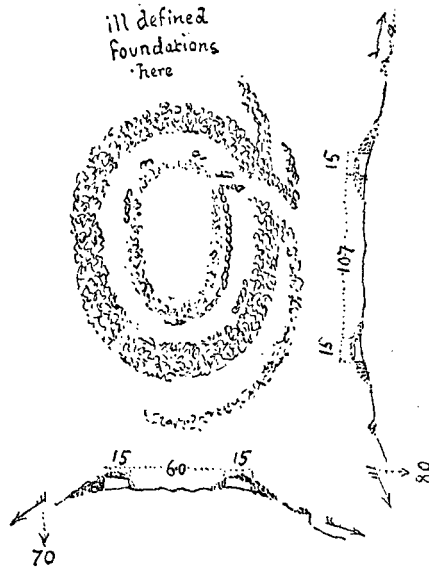


Fig. 29. North Fort, Luing.

measuring internally 107 by 60 feet. The wall (left blank between the outer and inner heaps of débris in this, as well as in the next plan) is much concealed by débris. Inside, a portion, 70 feet long and from 2 to 6 feet high, has been cleared, and opposite this, on the outside, the original surface for about 20 feet in length and $4\frac{1}{2}$ in height has also been cleared, but probably in both cases not down to the base.

The style of the masonry varies in different parts of the structure.

Outside we find the irregular combination of shapes and sizes shown in Plate XXI. 3. In the exposed 70 feet of the inside there are three different kinds of masonry (Plate XXI. 4), one consisting of smallish stones not exceeding 18 by 10 inches bisected by a longitudinal layer of slates 6 to 12 inches thick. In one-half of this portion of wall the slates are flush with the wall, but in the northern half the wall above is retired 8 or 10 inches so as to leave a ledge or scarcement. Northwards the slate-layer abruptly ends, and for a few yards the wall consists of irregular, ill-fitted blocks of some size. Then follow a few yards of blocks varying much in size and form, but so beautifully fitted as hardly to leave a crevice. Both on the outer and inner wall surfaces the crevices have evidently been filled up with small stones, although they have mostly dropped out. I have been thus particular in describing the masonry, as three, if not four, distinct types are disclosed, and this shows the risk of generalising as to the masonry of a fort from exposure of merely a part of it. In the core of the wall the stones are not built with so much care as at the surfaces.

The width of the wall at a probable height of 8 to 10 feet is 12 feet, but as there is a considerable batter outside, and a slight one inside, the width at the base must be about 15 feet. This also is the width of the wall at the ruined entrance, the most of the stones at the base of which are still in position, indicating that the doorway was 15 feet deep and 6 wide. Springing from the ruins on the north side of the entrance, and curving southwards in front of it, so as to leave a narrow passage between itself and the fort, is a mass of débris with some building left, 40 feet in length, evidently designed for the protection of the entrance. Remains of two walls curve northwards from this débris, and there are traces of another running southwards from the opposite side of the entrance. These are continued so as to form outworks at the north and south ends of the main fort, but at their commencement they also serve to cover the approach to the doorway.

The grass-covered interior is rough from buried débris, but Dr Macnaughton and two friends who visited the fort in 1882 believed they could trace three, if not four, circular foundations in the interior. Dr Macnaughton also remarked, with regard to the rectangular form of

many of the stones in the wall, that this was the natural form of blocks detached from the neighbouring rocks.

6. *South Fort* (fig. 30, and Plate V. 2), like its neighbour, has no specific name. It is situated a quarter of a mile north of Lochan Iliter, on the highest point of the island, 279 feet above the sea, upon a narrow ridge with steep flanks, which runs northward from Lochan Iliter to Cuan Sound. The site is cut off from the ridge on the south by an

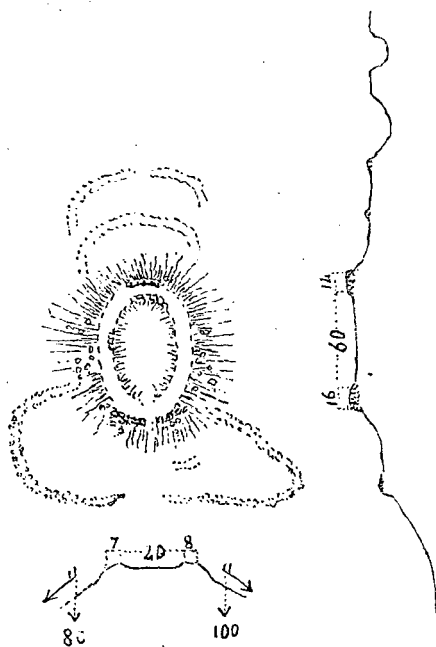


Fig. 30. South Fort, Luing.

abrupt descent of 30 feet, broken by rocks, and on the north by two apparently natural cuts or trenches, 8 yards wide and 6 or 8 feet deep. The flanks slope directly and steeply to the valleys on either side about 80 feet below. The remains are mostly buried beneath a thick grassy covering. The defences comprise a massive central fort, with lighter outworks pushed out along the ridge to north and south.

The central work appears to be a regular oval, measuring 66 by 40 feet internally and 96 by 55 over all. The width of the wall varies from 7 and 8 feet at the sides to 14 and 16 at the ends, but as these measurements are 8 or 10 feet from the bottom, and as the outer face has a *considerable batter*, the width at the buried base must be greater. The single entrance, at the south end, is destroyed; portions of the outer surface of the wall on either side of it, however, are well preserved. The eastern portion (Plate XXI. 1) measures 19 feet in length and from 2 to $8\frac{1}{2}$ in height, and is built of tolerably rectangular blocks, generally 3 to 4 feet long and a foot high, apparently in courses, each stone usually resting on two below. The wall has a strong batter, and being near the south-east angle is curved (Plate XXI. 2). Through a gap near the foot I could measure a space, 15 inches within the wall, 2 feet broad, 1 high, and at least 7 feet in length, undoubtedly structural. The western portion of wall is 17 feet long and 8 feet high at most. The inner surface of the wall is mostly hidden by débris, only a foot in height being visible here and there. The enclosing wall of the southern outwork has been 6 feet wide at the base, but the only built portion remaining is on the west side of the entrance where the end of the wall is curved so as to contract the entrance inwardly. This wall has been drawn on the edge of steep slopes and rocks to assist the defence.

The northern outwork encloses a narrower and smaller space. The wall is quite ruinous and forms a pretty regular curve. It is strengthened by little cliffs and rocks, and is separated from the ridge beyond by the two natural trenches already mentioned. This enclosure has been divided by an inner concentric wall into two spaces.

Dr Stewart in an article published in the *Inverness Courier* has expressed the opinion that these forts are brochs, but their great size compared with that of all well-established brochs, and their long-oval form, in the absence of any proof of chambers, galleries, or stairs, scarcely entitles them to that distinction, and they seem to me rather to resemble some of the Irish stone forts.

7. *Dùn Ablauch*.—A conspicuous solitary knoll, in an extensive marshy flat half a mile wide, running about a mile north from Blackmill Bay. It is about 25 feet high, precipitous all round, except on



1.



2.

CAISTEAL NAN CON, TORSAY. 1. From N. 2. From N.-E.

the south, where the ascent is steep. The perfectly level top is pentagonal, measuring about 100 by 60 feet in the greatest length and breadth. An insignificant parapet, grassy, but with concealed stones, only a foot or two high and 3 to 5 feet wide, runs all round the edge.

Dùn a Ghail, on Eilean Dubh Mòr (174), a mile north-west of Lunga. A mere name on the 6-inch Ordnance map. I did not visit it.

Caisteal nan Con, Torsay (Plate XV.).—This is marked a “fort” on the Ordnance map, but it is built with mortar. It is, however, both in site and plan so singular that I give a short description of it, with two views, one from the land, the other from the sea. The site is upon a dyke of igneous rock, measuring about 80 feet by 24, perpendicular on all sides, varying in height from 8 or 10 feet near the middle to 20 at the landward end and 30 towards the sea. The dyke stands quite alone on a beautiful, smooth, grass slope at the north-east end of the island, and touches high-water mark at its east end. The remains of the castle consist of a wall of carefully built stone and lime, springing on all sides from the very edge of the precipices, varying in height from a few feet to 2 or 3 yards, overgrown in many parts with green turf. The interior consists of an upper and lower level. The former measures only 9 by 9 feet, enclosed by walls varying from 6 to 12 feet in thickness, and even making allowance for the present width of wall being partly due to turf-covered débris, the interior could never have measured much more. A slope about 25 feet in length runs, at first between two projecting walls, to the lower space, which is 18 feet long and enclosed by a less massive wall than the upper space. From the outside the wall appears to take the form of towers at the entrance to the upper space, and at the seaward end of the lower chamber, but on examination this cannot be made out, and I believe the wall has been a simple *enceinte*. There is no trace of window or port-hole, but perhaps the remains are too low for them. Entrance is effected by scrambling up a broken rock surface at the middle, where the figure is introduced in the view. This building has a very primitive look, and may perhaps be a transition from the “fort” to the mediæval castle.

c. GARVELOCH ISLES.—8. *Dùn Chonnel* (figs. 31, 32).—The remote Garveloch (Garbh Eilach) Isles are of peculiar interest, because St Columba established on Elachanaomh, the southern of the three larger

members of the group, the monastery of Hiinba, substantial remains of which still exist. But it is not so well known that the northern isle is



Fig. 31. Dùn Chonnell.

occupied by an almost impregnable fortress called *Dùn Chonnell*. This island is about a third of a mile in length, and less than a sixth in width, and consists of three distinct rocky, precipitous heights, on the central and largest of which, rising 202 feet above the sea, is the fort. For the following description and view (fig. 32) I am indebted to Dr Allan Macnaughton of Taynuilt, who has visited *Dùn Chonnell* more than once. The north-west and south-east

flanks of the rock are so precipitous that they cannot be climbed directly from the bottom, and any slight chance of gaining the top by slanting along these sides, with great difficulty and risk, and only from the north-east end, is effectually checked by walls

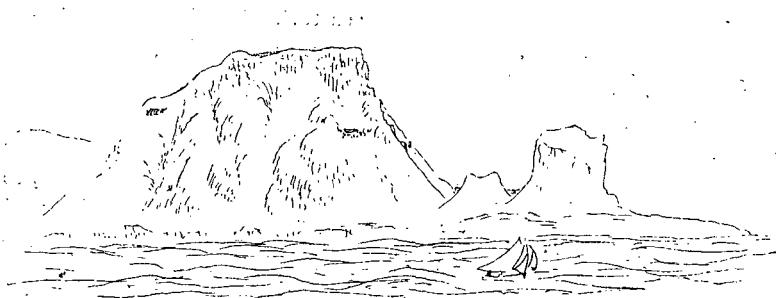


Fig. 32. Dùn Chonnell.

which form artificial precipices. The difficult ascent from the south-west end has been barred in the same manner. Even at the north-east end, where is the entrance, access can only be effected by scrambling up a steep slope, traversed about half way up by a retaining wall about 14 feet high, through which there is a passage 4 feet 7 inches wide. The summit is tolerably level, and on the 6-inch Ordnance map measures 600 by 350 feet, but is probably not so much. All round

the edge of the precipices are the remains of a wall which has been 4 feet thick. Under it a tunnel, resembling a drain, about 20 feet long, 3 wide, and 2 high, roofed with slabs, and choked with rubbish, passes from the inside, opening through the wall on the south-east face. A well is marked in the inside on the Ordnance map, but there are two depressions, 4 feet deep, and about the same width, choked with rubbish, either or both of which may have been wells. There are also remains of several oblong buildings with rounded corners, of dry masonry, resembling some of the buildings on Elachanaomh.

On the top of the northern rock, which is much smaller than the middle one, and not half as high, there are also remains of a triangular fort, measuring 38 feet from the apex to the base, which is 50 feet long. The wall follows the contour of the precipice-edge.

Connecting the bases of the two rocks is a well-built wall, 60 feet long and 9 feet high, cutting off access to both forts from the west. The entrance is between the wall and the north rock. At the foot of this rock are some more oblong buildings, one of which measures 35 by 21 feet, the ruined grass-covered wall having been apparently 4 feet thick.

The only landing-places are mere indentations in the rock, impracticable in rough weather, and often difficult even in fine weather, from the heavy swell that is apt to prevail.

G. FORTS OF LOCH MELFORT.

Dùn Dubhaich, near the centre of the watershed between Loch Feochan, the Sound of Seil, and Loch Melfort, 3 miles north of the latter, and about 800 feet above the sea. I did not visit it, but I was assured by two shepherds, familiar with the spot, that there were no remains of any kind on it.

Dùn Critagain (895), about half way between the Sound of Seil and Loch Melfort, and half a mile from the latter. No remains, according to the shepherds of the hill.

1. *Dùn Fadaidh* (fig. 33, and Plate XII. 1), Loch Melfort, occupies a conspicuous site about half a mile north-west of the entrance to Loch Melfort. The site is distinguished afar off, from the west, by its flat top, seen against the sky, about 250 feet above the sea (Plate XII. 1).

The fort consists of a mainwork on this flat top, and three outworks on little platforms, at successively lower levels, on a ridge stretching to the south-east. The site is strong from the steepness and height of the declivities on three sides, particularly on the north, where besides being upwards of 100 feet in height the slope ends at the top in a mural precipice 10 to 15 feet high, from the edge of which springs the wall.

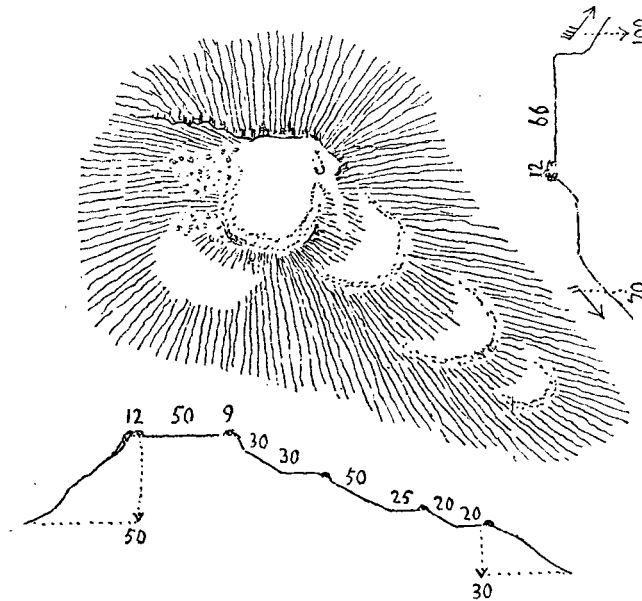


Fig. 33. Dún Fadaidh.

Even the weakest side, towards the sea westwards, has an abrupt ascent of 50 feet from a plateau below.

The somewhat oval interior measures about 66 by 50 feet. The grassy enclosing mound is much covered towards the west with stony débris; and at the south-west angle the base of the original wall, well built and regularly rounded, is visible. The inner margin can also be made out here, proving that the wall had been 12 feet thick at or near

the base. At the more defensible sides, however, the wall has been less massive; and the walls of the outworks, altogether gone in some parts, have been of still slighter proportions, although a few remaining large stones on the green mounds indicate that the materials have been substantial. There is an entrance at the north-east corner, originally accessible perhaps only through the outworks; although a zig-zag path, of which faint traces remain, up the south slope, may have reached it by skirting under the east wall. In front of the entrance is, as it were, a little landing-place on the edge of a precipice. A break in the north-west corner possibly indicates another original entrance, but more probably is only a dilapidation.

2. *Dùn Beg, Ardanstour* (fig. 34), on a rough rocky mound, $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles west of Kilmelford Church, 400 yards north of the loch, and about 200

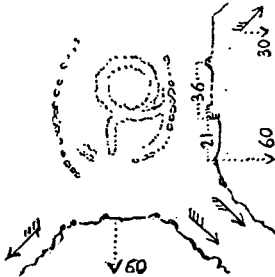


Fig. 34. Dùn Beg, Ardanstour.

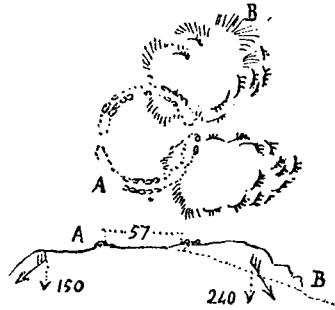


Fig. 35. Fort, Loch Pearsan.

feet above it. The site to the south is almost inaccessible from the masses of débris intermingled with rocks and covered with thick, thorny brushwood. The rather complicated plan, as far as I could make it out, is shown in fig. 34. It seems to have consisted of a central, circular work, with a wall close to it on each side at the edge of the slopes, curving round to the south so as to enclose a lower space. Another wall farther south, curving from the west, is lost in the dense brushwood and débris. A curiously curved foundation intersects the lower space. The level top to the north is not fully occupied. Probably outworks once existed there, but have entirely disappeared.

3. *Fort, Loch Pearsan* (fig. 35), two-thirds of a mile north-by-east of Kilmelford Church, on an eminence rising about 200 feet above the loch on its west side. Nothing remains but a few stones of the foundation, sufficient, however, to show that the form was nearly circular, and that the wall was of the unusually small breadth of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet. Two broad, rocky promontories, running down the slopes a short distance towards the loch, flank the entrance, one of which is level with and the other slightly higher than the fort.

There is a small artificial island of stones, with a harbour for a boat, at the south end of Loch Pearsan, said to have been constructed by a freebooter named Macpherson, whence the name of the loch.

4. *Fort*, opposite the one at Ardanstour, on the south side of the loch, close to the burial-ground of the Campbells of Glenmore. It is on a steep knoll about 40 feet high. The flat top, 60 feet in diameter, is enclosed with a low, narrow mound, and there is a traverse close in rear of the entrance.

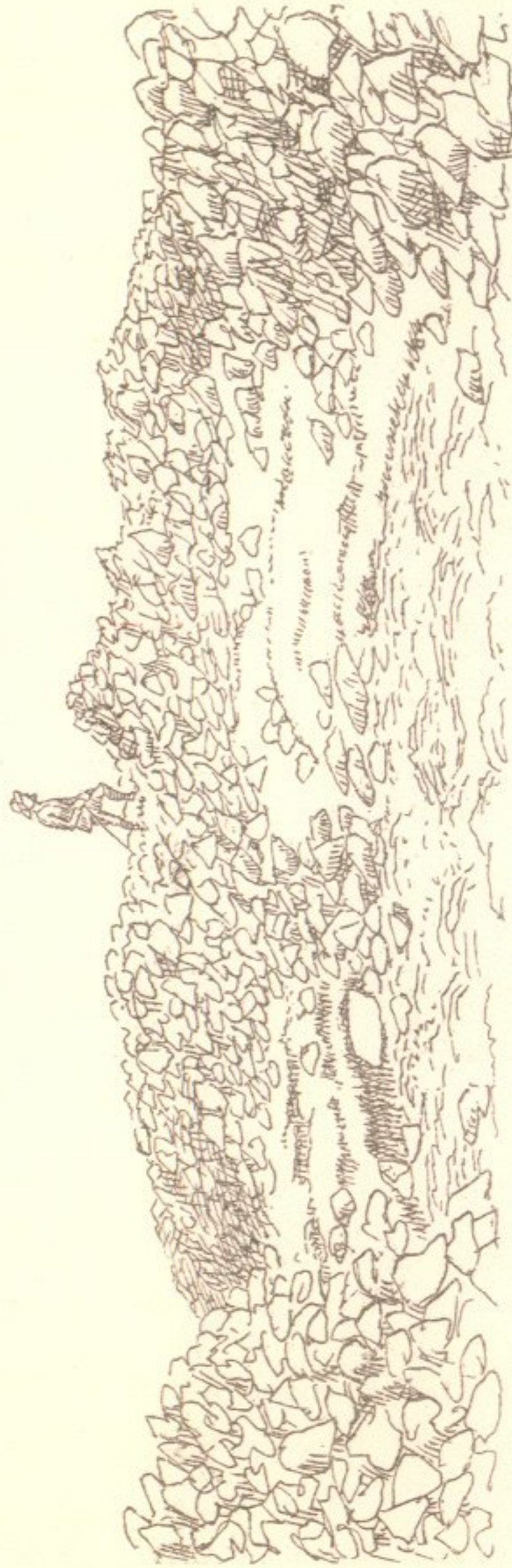
H. FORTS OF LOCHAWE.

1. *Fort on Barr a Chaistalein*.—The site is a smooth, steep, green eminence, 300 feet above the sea, and fully 100 above Dalmally Railway Station, which it closely overlooks from the south-east. The summit is flat, and the fort situated at its west end does not occupy nearly the whole of it. The rampart has been built of substantial blocks, many of which still lie about; and carefully fitted dry masonry, 2 or 3 feet high, is visible in several places. The shape is a regular oval of 100 by 60 feet, outside measurement.

2. *Dùn Athaich*, 544 feet above the sea. The McIntyre monument stands in the middle of what appears to have been a circular fort 47 feet in diameter over all, of which only a low mound and a few stones remain.

3. *Fort (site of)*, Teatle Water, two-thirds of a mile south-west of *Dùn Athaich*, on the north side of the stream, on a rather extensive eminence. No trace of the fort remains, unless a low, curved mound enclosing a marsh represents it, but the site is marked on the Ordnance map.

4. *Fort on Tom a Chaisteil* (fig. 36, and Plate XVI. 1), 350 yards



1. FORT ON TEATLE WATER. 2. SUIDHE CHENNAIDH.

south-south-east of the last, on the highest knoll of several on the top of a ridge, on the south of the Teatle, about 100 feet above it and 400 above the sea. A much shaken fragment of wall (Plate XVI. 1) 20 feet long, 3 high, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ thick, the top of which is level with the interior, remains on the west of the circular *enceinte*.

5. *Dùn na Cuaiche*, a quarter of a mile north-east of North Port Sonachan, rising 250 feet above the loch. A circular enclosure, about 50 feet in diameter, of buried stones remains round the top, but of such slight proportions as to throw doubt on its having been a fort.

Dùn Bhugan, 750 yards north-west of North Port Sonachan. A very

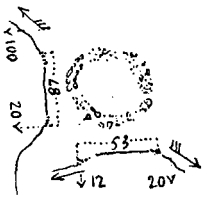


Fig. 36. Fort, Teatle Water.

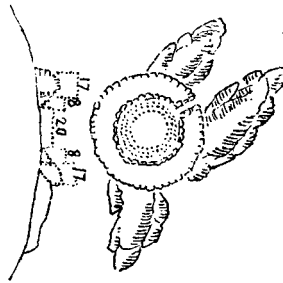


Fig. 37. Suidhe Chennaidh.

rough rocky knoll, about 50 feet high and 150 above the loch, difficult to climb, even on the easiest sides, on account of little rock-faces and big stones concealed by rank vegetation and black thorn. The top is level, but there is no reliable evidence of a fort.

An Dùn, a steep, flat-topped, green elevation, about 50 feet high and 600 above the sea, in a retired situation, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Kilchrenan Church, and about as far from Lochawe. No sign of a fort on it.

6. *Fort, Suidhe Chennaidh* (fig. 37, and Plate XVI. 2).—One mile north-north-west of Kilchrenan Church, on a steep height, precipitous to the north-east, and about 600 feet above the sea, stands this interesting circular stone fort, of which the wall probably remains entire for a height of from 2 or 3 to 6 or 8 feet all round, although now almost buried under its own débris, which rises in one part to 11 feet

above the outside, and stretches 30 feet in a solid mass down the slope. Appearing through the débris in partial clearings, the facings of the wall are visible at intervals, so that the dimensions of the fort over all can be made out to be 70 by 65 feet, the wall being 17 feet thick, with casings outside (Plate XXII. 1) and inside, and coarse building between. Possibly the form may have been strictly circular, the slight difference in the diameters being due to the wall giving. The wall is partially founded on three tongues of smooth rock (fig. 37), 5 or 6 feet high, which radiate from it outwards. The ruined entrance is on the east side. On entering I was at once struck by the appearance of two or three ledges like stairs, or the seats of an amphitheatre, running round the interior against the wall (Plate XVI. 2). Although much broken, or concealed by débris, and irregular, the amphitheatrical appearance on the whole was unmistakable, and Mr Charles Macdonald, gamekeeper on the estate of Mrs Cameron Campbell, who came up afterwards, confirmed my impression, adding that when he was a boy the "seats" were much more distinct, of stone,—not covered with grass as now,—and that the resemblance to the seats of a circus was so marked, that when he first entered one, he exclaimed "this is Suidhe Chennaidh!" He said there were only two rows, but I thought three could be made out. They extend 8 feet into the interior, which is thus reduced to a diameter of about 20 feet, and pass round even under the entrance, the floor of which appears to be on a level with the upper "seat." As far as I am aware, no similar construction has been met with in Scotland. Mr Macdonald informed me that in his father's day this tower was between 20 and 30 feet high, of dry masonry, the doorway being perfect, with iron hinges. He never heard his father speak of windows, chambers, galleries, or stairs in it. It was cast down to build a long, remarkably well-constructed, high, but apparently useless wall at the foot of the hill. Rabbit hunting promises ere long to reduce this interesting tower to a mere heap of stones.

7. *Fort, Barr Mòr* (fig. 38), near the mouth and on the north side of the Kames River, Port an Innis Shearaich. The name seems too imposing for a trifling mound not above 30 feet high. "Mòr" is more applicable to the strong fort itself, which is apparently a regular oval,

82 by 56 feet internally, with a wall varying from 10 to 16 feet in thickness. From the remains, in best preservation at the south end, and not more than a foot or two in height, the wall has apparently been carefully built of good-sized stones. The site being thickly planted makes investigation difficult. Between it and the stream to the south-east, and close by, is a small prostrated stone circle, half buried in vegetation. Two of the stones are bulky, but not above 5 feet long; the others are much smaller.

Dùn Corrach, a summit rising very abruptly from the loch to a height of 835 feet above it, 3 miles south of Dalavaich Church, and near the old burying-ground of Kilmaha. No trace of a fort on it.

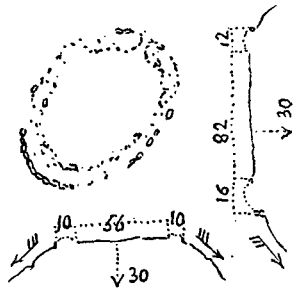


Fig. 38. Fort, Barr Mòr, Lochawe.



Fig. 39. Dùn Toiseach.

8. *Dùn Toiseach* (fig. 39), a quarter of a mile north-east of the pier at Ford, on a steep rocky knoll, about 150 feet high, except to the north, where a depression of 30 feet separates it from another height. Towards the loch the interior rises suddenly, 8 or 10 feet, to a flat rock, over which the wall runs, but without coming to the edge, perhaps to preserve its circular form. The remaining base of the wall has been dug into in some places and entirely ruined in others, but a good deal of interior rude masonry is visible. In one or two places the well-built outer casing remains, and there can be little doubt this was a round fort, measuring 55 by 50 feet internally, with a wall certainly 15 feet thick in some places. A traverse inside faces the entrance, which is well placed towards the south, where the rocky slope facing the loch

begins. There is a fine standing-stone in the flat close below, near Torran House.

Dùn Dubh, a fine, conspicuous, precipitous hill, 988 feet above the sea, three-quarters of a mile north-west of Ford Inn, but with no remains of a fort.

9. *Dùn Chonallaich* (fig. 40, and Plates XVII., XVIII., XIX.).— This interesting and unusually well-preserved fort stands on the narrow summit of a remarkably precipitous hill, 846 feet above the sea, one mile west of Ford Inn. The finest view of it is from the high road to the west, above which it towers, by a series of precipices, to a height

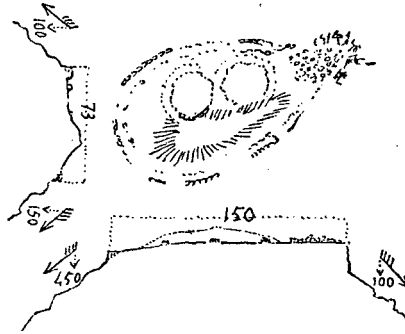


Fig. 40. Dùn Chonallaich.

of 450 feet. I was unable to take this view, but Plate XVII. gives an idea of the hill as seen from the east. The ascent to the entrance is by the hollow facing the spectator. Here, about 100 feet below the top, a well-built wall, 6 feet wide, and still several feet high (shown in the view in the hollow, against the sky), has been drawn across to bar further progress. Plate XVIII. gives a view from this hollow, after passing the wall, looking up to the ruined entrance, which is above the mass of débris lying in the ascent, and close to the figures on the top of the wall. Plate XIX. is a view of the north side, taken from a small marshy flat 100 feet below.

The Plates XVIII. and XIX. show the greater part of the remaining wall, which still runs nearly completely round the somewhat pear-shaped



DUN CHONALLAICH, from the East.



DUN CHONALLAICH, from the S.-W.



DUN CHONALLAIGH, North Face.

enceinte, and varies from 2 to 8 or 9 feet in height outside. This, however, only brings it, as a rule, to the level of the interior, proving that, as is common in Lorne forts, the outside of the wall is built down the slope. On the right (Plate XIX.) is shown a portion of the wall, 30 feet long and 3 or 4 in height, of which the outer casing is in perfect preservation. It is constructed of flat stones, pretty uniform in size, not exceeding a foot to 18 inches in length, so carefully fitted that a brick-and-mortar wall could hardly present a smoother surface or follow the curve of the site more regularly. It seems a fair inference that the ruder character of the wall-face elsewhere may be due to the falling away of the outer casing. I was unable to draw this wall-face from a near point, as it rises from the edge of a cliff, but I give from memory some idea of its character (Plate XXII. 2). In the interior a narrow grassy and rocky ridge runs along the south side, close to the wall and rising 10 or 12 feet above it. On the north side of the ridge are the remains of two round towers or houses (fig. 40) with walls 6 feet wide, touching each other, one about 24, the other about 20 feet in diameter inside. The latter is partly dug out of the ridge, and the consequent retaining wall still stands 2 or 3 feet high. A mass of ruin, 32 feet across, lying on the flat top of a precipitous nose, which completes the fort to the east, perhaps represents another similar structure. These buildings must have formed an inner defence if the entrance were forced.

I. FORTS AT NORTH END OF CRAIGNISH PARISH.

1. *Dùnan Garbh-Shròine* (fig. 41).—Over a mile south-east of Asknish, the southern point of Loch Melfort and the south limit of ancient Lorne (Skene's *Celtic Scotland*, vol. i. p. 229), on a steep stony hillock, about 100 feet above the sea and close to it. It is crowned with a precipice at the top towards the sea. The fort occupies the northern and highest part of the little ridge, and the interior is irregular, rising on the north-west to a mound with smooth rocks 8 or 9 feet high. The very unusual plan, in straight lines, may be due to the shape of the site. The southerly wall is straight, 70 feet long, $10\frac{1}{2}$ wide, and well preserved for from 3 to 5 feet in height, quite free from débris. The easterly wall is also straight for the most part, and is probably well preserved at the base,

but is much encumbered with débris. It seems to have been 8 feet wide. Above the precipice on the east, and at the north end, the wall has been slighter. The entrance at the north-east is defended by a re-entering curved wall, with a straight wall in rear, both in ruins, and

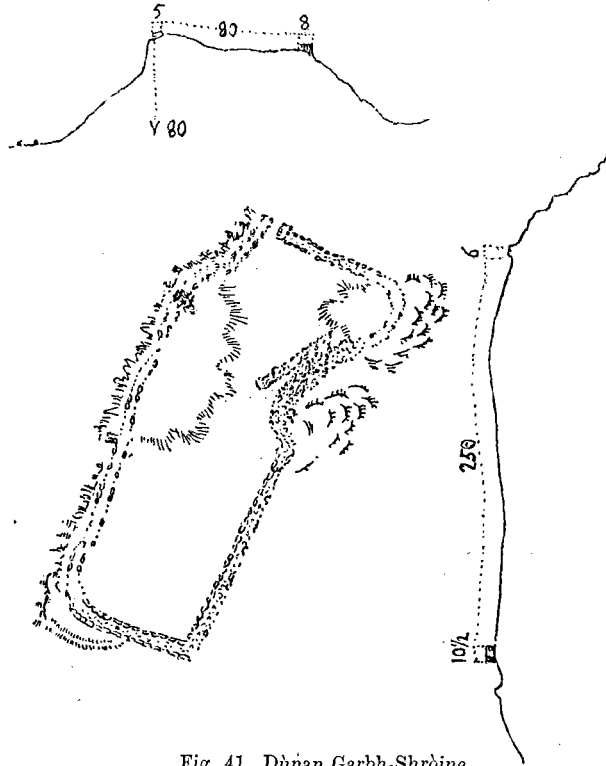


Fig. 41. Dúnán Garbh-Shròine.

by a fortified rocky bluff on the north side. The south-west angle is covered in front by an additional rampart. In size the fort considerably exceeds the majority of Argyleshire forts, the interior being about 250 feet long and 80 feet wide.

2. *Fort at Barravulin*, one mile and a half south-east of the last, on a conspicuous green eminence, about 300 feet above the sea, close



FORT, MULLACH DUBH, CRAIGNISH.

to the highway. The level summit is 60 feet in diameter, with a precipice 30 feet high towards the west, and steep, smooth, green slopes on the other sides. Nothing remains of the fort except some stones.

3. *Fort* (fig. 42, and Plate XX.), a mile and a quarter west of the last, and concealed from it by Mullach Dubh (502). The steep rocky site springs to a height of about 80 feet from a pretty level strip of ground elevated 100 feet above the sea, which is only about 250 yards off. The wall is unusually well preserved. It is well built of large and small stones, and still stands from 5 to 6 or 7 feet high of masonry in some places outside, with several feet of rubbish on the top. But as the base of the wall is 9 feet below the interior, the rubbish rises only about a foot above the interior. The interior is rough with stones, but was so overgrown with nettles that I could not investigate it. The form of the



Fig. 42. Fort, Mullach Dubh.

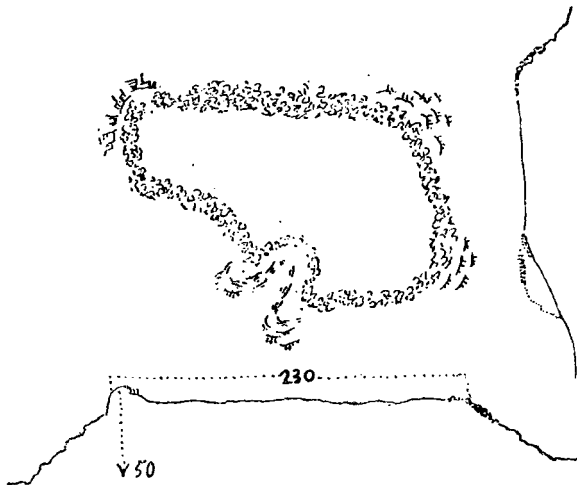


Fig. 43. Fort, Eilean an Dùin.

fort seems to be regular and slightly oval, 37 by 32 feet internally, and the wall is from 12 to 13 feet in thickness.

4. *Fort, on Eilean an Dùin* (fig. 43), one of a group of small islands between Shuna and the mainland, and only a few hundred yards off the latter, opposite the fort (No. 3) at the foot of Mullach Dubh. The island rises at the north end to a steep, rocky, flat-topped hillock of a somewhat pentagonal form 76 feet above the sea, about 230 by 110 feet in extent, enclosed by the ruins of a wall, which has apparently been cast down the slopes, on which an immense quantity of débris rests. Here and there at the base outside a very little building of rude type composed of large and small stones remains. The wall has been 9 feet wide. The entrance is by a re-entering angle between two projecting rocky buttresses, giving good flanking defence.

II. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

Number.—The district comprised in my survey (Plate XXIII.) stretches along the entire length of the coasts of the Linnhe Loch and Firth of Lorne, a distance from north to south of 50 miles, with the contained islands and tributary lochs. I have prolonged it a mile and a half beyond Asknish, the south boundary of ancient Lorne, in order to record the measurements, &c., of four forts,—belonging to the district of Craignish,—which I was able to include in my investigations. Eastwards it extends on the mainland to the north-east borders of Argyleshire and to the shores of Lochawe. It thus comprehends, besides other districts, nearly the whole of the ancient province of Lorne, which in the early Celtic period passed to the west of the Linnhe Loch, a remembrance of which seems to linger in the name of a hill “the Table of Lorne,” situated in Morven, at the junction of the Sound of Mull with the Linnhe Loch.

In this extensive tract the number of dùns marked on the 6-inch Ordnance map, supposing that I have missed none, is sixty-five; and I have been informed of another which is not in the map. On thirty-eight of these I have personally verified the existence of forts, and Dr Macnaughton has verified another for me. Three others are now the sites of mediæval castles. Of the remaining twenty-four I visited eighteen, but could find no trace of a fort on any of them, and from reliable information I believe the same is true of two others. Four remain of

which I know no more than that they appear on the map as mere names. Thus, of sixty-six *dùns* only thirty-nine are proved to be the sites of *forts*. In addition, however, there are twenty *forts* unknown by any name locally, unless by a vague title such as "Caisteal." This brings the total number of ascertained *forts*, by whatever name they may be entered on the map, and whether with or without local recognition, to fifty-nine.

Distribution.—The irregularity in the distribution of the *forts* is very remarkable, vast tracts being entirely destitute of them, while they are closely aggregated in others. Thus from the sketch map (Plate XXIII.) it will be seen that there is not a single known *fort* on the shores of Lochiel and down the whole west coast of the Linnhe Loch and Firth of Lorne, a stretch of 70 miles of coast. In Nether Lochaber there are only three. In the corner of Argyleshire east of the Linnhe Loch and north of Loch Creran, both inclusive, there is neither *fort* nor *dùn*. On the other hand, in the comparatively limited region which comprehends the islands and lochs on the east side of the Firth of Lorne, south of and including Lismore and Loch Etive, with the mainland as far east as Lochawe, there are no less than fifty-six *forts*.

This peculiarity in the distribution of the *forts* may be partially accounted for by the nature of the country. Thus the barren and inhospitable east coasts of Ardgour, Morven, and Mull must in all times, as at present, have supported but a scanty population, while the islands of Lismore, Seil, Luìng, &c., and the pleasant shores of Loch Etive, offered greater attractions to settlers. The charge of barrenness, however, cannot be brought against the shores of Lochiel and parts of Lochaber, Loch Leven, Appin, and Loch Creran, where some of the most comfortable crofts in the Highlands are now to be found, and apparently the cause of the absence of *forts* in these localities must be due to contemporary political conditions.

Another obvious fact in the distribution of the *forts* is that, excluding the eleven which cluster round two fresh-water lochs, Awe and Nell, by far the greater number are either actually on or very near the sea. Of the remaining forty-eight, thirty-three are either actually on the shore or within a quarter of a mile of it, ten are within half a mile, one within

a mile, and only four are beyond a mile from the sea. The most evident reason for this is that in former times, as now, the most habitable, often the only habitable, parts of the country lay near or on the sea. Still, it is somewhat remarkable that so few forts seem to have been erected in the interior, whether for permanent occupation, or as strengths to which the inhabitants could retire when hard pressed from the sea.

As to elevation above the sea, *Dùndbhairdghall* alone reaches 1000 feet, a height which it even surpasses by 127 feet. *Dùn Chonallaich*, at the south end of Lochawe, follows next at an elevation of 845 feet. *Losgann Lornach* and five more lie between 500 and 600 feet. Few of the others approach this, and the majority are not more than 200 feet above sea-level, while several are so low as to be uncomfortably exposed to the spray or even to the waves of the ocean.

Names.—A careful study of the names of the dùns might be expected to yield some help in endeavouring to penetrate the mystery which clouds their history and origin.

In districts where the Saxon has displaced the Celt it is no wonder if the Gaelic names have either disappeared or become so corrupted as to be scarcely recognisable, but in Argyleshire, where there has been no material change of race or language since the faintest dawn of Scottish history, there seems no reason why names, if bestowed by the early Scottish settlers or their descendants, should either disappear or be much corrupted. The difficulties of Gaelic etymology, however, are so formidable that none but a Celtic scholar can hope to attack them successfully, and I must be content with pointing out an obstacle, not obvious at first sight, which stands in the way even of the most competent observer, and with giving a few evident enough conclusions of a general kind. The obstacle referred to is the difficulty of ascertaining what are the real names of the dùns. The only generally available authority is the Ordnance map. But, as is too well known, the golden opportunity of accomplishing a systematic archæological survey along with the general survey of the country was thrown away, and although the officers employed appear to have taken considerable pains to ascertain the local names, yet from their ignorance of the language they were obliged to trust to informants, who, perhaps, were not always competent for the

task they undertook. At all events, in the present inquiry, I have found serious reason to doubt the accuracy of not a few of the names assigned to the dùns in their maps, of which I give the following examples:—*Aorain*, the Ordnance name for a dùn in the Island of Seil, might be supposed to mean *the dùn of Worship*, but Dr Allan Macnaughton, who practised for some years on the island, assures me that the spelling is misleading, and that the name is pronounced as *Urrain* would be in English. Again, and also in Seil, we have *Dùn Mucaig* in the Ordnance map, but Dr Macnaughton informs me its invariable name among the natives is *Dùn Muicinnis*; Muicinnis, “the island of pigs,” being an ancient name for Ireland, still in use in Seil. *Dùndbhairdghall*, the Ordnance name for the vitrified fort in Glen Nevis, is repudiated on the spot, and as pronounced by Dr Macnaughton’s father, long resident in the Glen, and by others in the vicinity, it should be something like *Dùndeardail*. *Dùn Chonallaich* of the Ordnance map, at the south end of Lochawe, I was assured by the nearest inhabitant, should be *Dùn Chonaglas*. Lastly, the Ordnance names, *The Law* and *Dùn Mòr*, for the fort at Bonawe are not acknowledged on the spot. These instances are, I think, sufficient to prove that the names of dùns as given in the Ordnance map must be tested by inquiry on the spot before they can be accepted as correct; but an inquiry of this kind over a large, thinly peopled region would be no easy task. I think also that it is not sufficient to consult the “learned man” of a district, but that the pronunciation of each name, as given by natives on the spot, should be ascertained.

Notwithstanding these apparent inaccuracies, I have judged it advisable to retain for the most part the names as given in the Ordnance map, because it is the only generally accessible authority for them.

Passing to the more obvious conclusions to be drawn from a consideration of the names, the following may be noticed:—

1. Of what may be called the *generic* Celtic names for a fort—Dùn, Dinas, Caer, Rath, and Lis or Lios, only the first occurs, unless *Lismore* be a solitary example of the last. It seems more probable, however, that *Lis* means *garden* here, as the island is noted for its rich pasture, and there are no remains of a large fort upon it. It is possible, indeed,

that there may have been a large one upon either of the sites now occupied by Achadun Castle or Castle Coeffin; or the island may have been called "the great fort" because of the *large number* of small ones on it, as the remains of seven exist to this day.

2. Have all duns originally had forts upon them? This is a difficult question to answer. We have seen that in our district remains are found upon only thirty-eight of the sixty-five duns. The sites of a number more are certainly well adapted for forts, and it is possible that all trace of pre-existing ones may have disappeared from them. It is also true that the name is not applied to any hill of so great a height as to be uninhabitable, the loftiest in the district, "An Dùnan," or "the Table of Lorne," which is about 1500 feet above the sea, being several hundred feet lower than the prehistoric town Tre' R' Ceiri in North Wales. On the other hand, it is improbable that every vestige of remains should have disappeared in so many instances; and, as several of the duns on which no remains are found, unlike those on which forts exist, are remotely situated in uninhabited country where it is unlikely that forts should ever have been placed, or if built that they should have left no trace, it seems likely that the name was applied both to hills with forts and to such as never were fortified, although possibly only when they seemed from their form to be well adapted for the purpose.

3. *Dùn* is also applied to forts which are on level ground, as in the instance of *Dùnbeg*, at the head of Dunstaffnage Bay.

4. A considerable number of forts are nameless, having even lost—if they ever had it—the generic name dùn. A few of these are known to the natives under the vague designation of *Caisteal*; but I have verified in several instances the entire absence of name, even when the remains are well known to the natives on the spot. This deficiency may perhaps be accepted as a proof of great antiquity in regard to objects which originally must have been of such pre-eminent importance, especially when we consider, as Dr Macnaughton puts it, "that the most insignificant stream, or it may be a flat piece of ground no bigger than a table, has its name in these Highlands of ours."

5. Seven forts retain the *generic* name only, in the forms of *An Dùn*, *An Dùnan*, *Dùnans*, or *Sean Dùn*.

6. About thirty of the dùns have *specific* names, but here etymological difficulties begin, and I shall only point out that these specific names may be divided into two classes :—(a) Those which are merely descriptive of size, form, or of the kind of site, such as *Mòr*, *Beg*, *Chrùban* (crab-like), *Creagach* (craggy), *Bhlàran* (of the plain), &c. Above half of the specific names probably belong to this category. (b) Those which have reference to man's occupancy; this second class being divisible into those which represent proper names, including *Dùn Mhic Rhanowil*, *Dùn M'Sniochan*, *Dùn Chonnel*, *Dùn Neil*, and probably *Dùn Chathach* and *Dùn Ormidale*, besides the "Fort" *Suidhe Chennaiddh*; and those which have a more indefinite connection with man, such as *Dùn Toiseach* (of the chief), *Dùn Muicinnis* (of Ireland), *Dùn Ablauch* (of the sorrowful one?), and perhaps *Dùn Fadaidh* (of kindling).

The first class—descriptive of form or site—is perhaps of little importance in regard to the origin of the names. It is even probable that they may have been bestowed for convenience long after the forts had fallen to decay. Greater interest attaches to the second class, and particularly to two of the proper names, as we shall show under the next head.

Historical or Legendary References.—In only two instances do we know of any historical or legendary notice of the dùns under review, and this is surely a proof of their great antiquity. The connection of *Dùn M'Sniochan* with the Sons of Uisnach and one of "The Three Sorrowful Stories of Erin" has been well established by the late Dr Angus Smith (*Loch Elive and the Sons of Uisnach*, 1879). And the following notice of *Dùn Chonnel* is given by Dr Skene (*Celtic Scotland*, iii. 127):—"Connal Cearnach, another of these heroes of the Cruithne of Ulster, has left his traces in the same part of the country, for Dean Munro, in his description of the Western Isles in 1549, tells us of *Dùn Chonuill*, one of the group of the Garveloch Isles which lie off the coast of Lorne, 'Dunchonill ane iyle so namit from Conal Kernache, ane strength which is als meikle as to say in Englische, ane round castle.'"

Structure and Form.—In order to understand the structure of the prehistoric forts, the first step is to reduce them by classification to some kind of order. Unfortunately, it is impossible to do this in a thoroughly

satisfactory way, partly from their extreme condition of dilapidation, partly from our imperfect acquaintance with what does remain of them. For it must be remembered that our knowledge of them is a mere surface knowledge, eked out by slight natural or artificial breaks in their mounds; but that almost nothing has been done by systematic excavation to ascertain their true structure. I think, however, that if sufficient explorations were made it would be found that the Scottish forts might be divisible into four great classes:—(1) Works of earth. (2) Works of commingled earth and stone. (3) Works of unbuilt stone. (4) Works of dry masonry. Of the first two classes there is probably no example in the district under review. The nature of the country, and particularly of the rocky sites chosen for the forts, prohibited the use of earthworks, and even to a great degree of trenches; the only well-marked examples of the latter being at *Dùn Dige* in Glen Nevis, and *Dun Mòr*, Bonawe, both situated in the alluvial flats of valleys, and after all both perhaps of mediæval date. The existence in Scotland of the third class, in which the rampart consists merely of stones loosely heaped up, has, I think, been conclusively proved by Mr Macdonald's sections of the *Tap o' Noth* already referred to (p. 373). Probably *Dùndeardail* is of the same kind, although sections alone can prove it. *Dùn M'Sniochan* may also possibly be of this class, although the facts are confused by the evidences of secondary building. It is remarkable that all of these are vitrified forts.

But it is to the fourth class that undoubtedly nearly all the forts with which we are concerned belong. This class may be subdivided into (*a*) forts of a regular figure; (*b*) forts whose figure follows the contour of the site; (*c*) forts only partially defended by art. But although we may establish these subdivisions, it is not always easy to determine to which of them individual forts should be assigned. The remains of some are too fragmentary, and in others the plan is obscured by the mode in which the ramparts have fallen to ruin or been tampered with.

(*a*) The forts of the first subdivision affect the circular or oval form. My measurements did not bring out any of them to be strictly circular. This might arise from difficulty in making out their precise limits, where the dilapidation is excessive, or from "giving" of the walls in better preserved examples, but I am inclined to believe that strict accuracy

was not aimed at in the original plans. Regarding as circular all cases in which the difference between the two axes does not exceed one-tenth, nine forts may be pretty confidently assigned to this class, none of them exceeding 60 feet in diameter internally. The best preserved of them are the *Broch of Tirefour* (Plate V. 3) and *Suidhe Chenmaidh* (fig. 37). Three or four others, in which the difference between the two axes is not above an eighth, may be considered as intermediate between the circular and oval forms. But of a decidedly oval type we have well-marked examples in the two *Forts of Luìng* (figs. 29, 30), and in *Barr Mòr* (fig. 38) and *Barr a Chaistalein*, on Lochawe. About ten much dilapidated examples may also with some confidence be attributed to the same class. The largest of these apparently regular ovals does not much exceed 100 feet in length internally.

(b) In this subdivision the form is determined by the contour of the site, and may be curvilinear as in *Dundeardail*, which is pear-shaped (fig. 1), and *Dùnchonallaich*, which is irregularly oval (fig. 40); or rectilinear, as in *Dùnan Garbh Shràine* (fig. 41), and the fort on *Eilean an Dùin* (fig. 43).

(c) In this subdivision there is no defence along precipice edges, while assailable sides are strengthened by art. In *Dùn Fheurain* the defence consists in a mere strengthening of the entrance, the whole of the rest of the *enceinte* being precipitous. At *Dùnan Creagach* (Connel Ferry) a very slight mound is all that appears at the gorge. But at *Losgann Lornach* (fig. 23), *Dùn Chrùban* (fig. 7), and *Dùn Creagach*, a strong wall has been drawn across the assailable side. In all these cases, no doubt, there must have been some fence at the precipice edge, if only to keep the inhabitants from falling over and to protect them from wind, but it must have been of a slight kind, as no vestige remains. The exceptional nature of the wall at *Dùn Ormidale* is noticed in the detailed description (p. 388).

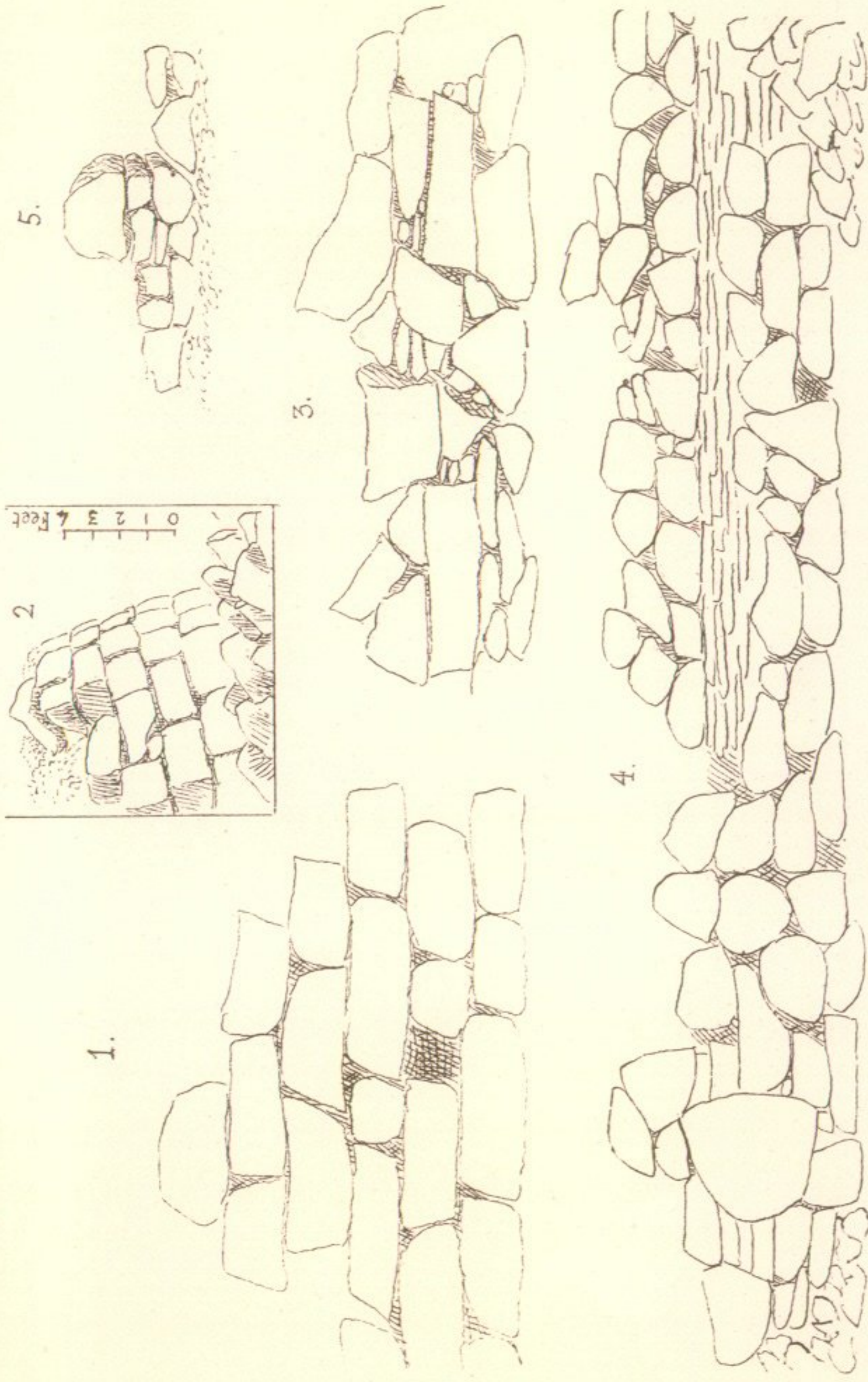
Masonry.—The most perfect existing walls consist of outer and inner casings carefully constructed, with ruder building between. In some instances where the existing surface is rude, it may be because the original casing has fallen away or been removed. Indeed it is evidently so at *Dùnchonallaich*, where the smooth outer casing remains in some parts;

and the inner rude masonry is exposed by the fall of the casing in others.

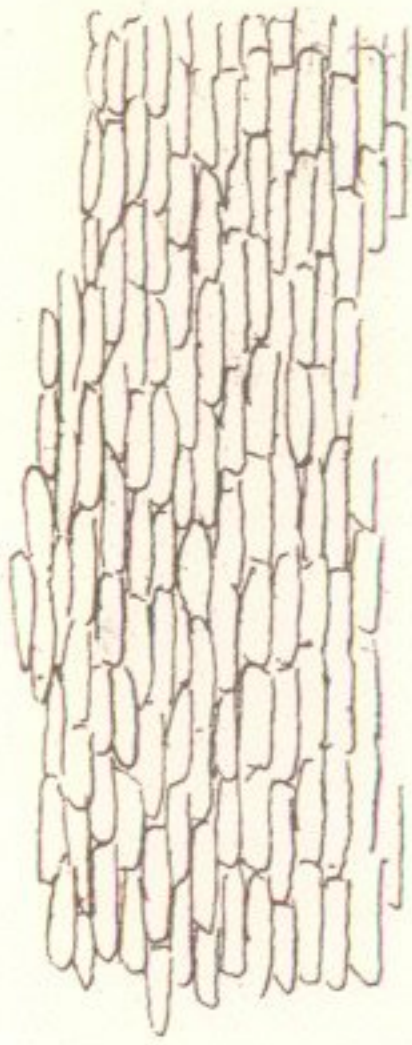
Varieties of masonry are shown in Plates XXI, XXII., where we see that some walls are constructed of stones of very various size, others of stones of nearly uniform size, but always carefully fitted, the crevices being filled with small stones. In the *South Fort of Luinig* (Plate XXI. 1, 2) the stones are so well selected as to appear to be set in courses. The differences in the kind of masonry evidently depend in a great measure on the materials the builder had at hand, and the natural cleavage of the stones. Exceptional building is met with at *Dùn Chrìoban* (Plate VII.), where the wall is constructed of large stones below and of small brick-like stones above. At *Dùn Chathach* (Plate IX. 1) the rampart seems to have been constructed of a single row of large, rounded, smooth boulders outside, backed and surmounted by a mound of stone and earth.

Sometimes the outside and inside of the wall are nearly on the same level, but frequently the outside stands several feet, even as much as 8 or 9, below the inside, thus gaining space for the interior and strengthening the defence by springing from a steeper slope than if it had stood entirely on the top.

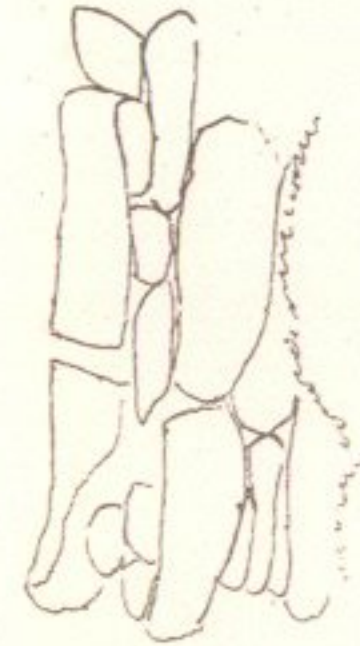
Dimensions of the Walls.—The thickness of the wall is sometimes uniform all round, but much more frequently it varies with the natural strength of the position which it is intended to defend. Hence, in oval forts the wall at the ends is generally much thicker than at the flanks, because as the sites are usually on little eminences upon ridges, they are most assailable at the ends from the ridge. I believe that in some cases the wall ceases at the flanks, which are strengthened merely by increasing the steepness of the slope at the top by banking it up with stones, but this requires proof by making sections. The thickness of the walls can rarely be made out with precision, but undoubtedly as at the *Broch of Tirefour*, at *Suidhe Chennaidh*, and the *North Fort of Luinig* it is as much as from 15 to 17 feet at the base, diminishing by a gentle "batter" upwards. A width of 10 or 12 feet at the base is commonly met with, but in a few instances in which the natural defence is very strong, such as *Dùn Ablaich*, and above all *Dùn Chonnell*, the wall has apparently been only 3 or 4 feet thick. The original height we have



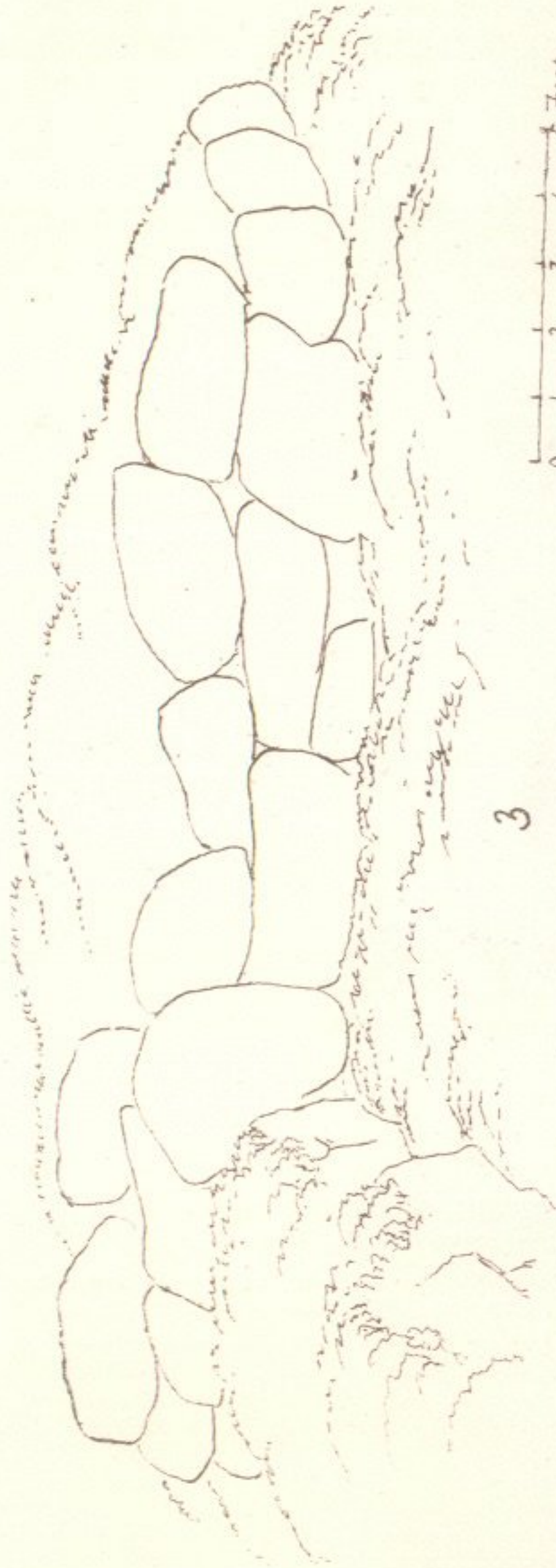
MASONRY, Some Forts.
LORNE.



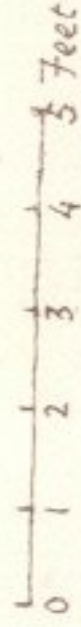
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MASONRY, Some Forts.

LORNE.

no means of knowing, but it is natural to suppose that walls 10 to 17 feet thick at the base must have been intended to rise to a considerable height, and this is borne out by the large quantity of tumbled débris remaining in instances where the existing walls are still 8 or 10 feet high. Whether chambers may exist in the walls can only be ascertained by clearing away débris. The cavity in the wall of the *South Fort of Luìng* (p. 406) is inexplicable without further investigation.

Outworks.—Thirty-seven of fifty-five forts, of which the ground plan can be made out, are simply enclosed by a single mound or wall, but they may have had outworks which have disappeared. Eighteen have outworks, usually at the end of long-shaped forts, where little *plateaux*, at a slightly lower level than the mainwork, favoured their construction. At *Dùn Fadaidh* (fig. 33) there are three such outworks at successively lower levels, one below the other. In a few instances these outworks extend round the flanks as in the *North Fort of Luìng* (fig. 29) and *Dùn Mhuirageal* (fig. 14). At *Dùn Mhic Rhonuìl* (fig. 22) and *Eilean Mòr* (fig. 9) we find outworks thrown out on the level plains at the foot of rock fortalices. Of detached works the only instance is the triangular fort on the smaller rock of *Dùn Chonnell* (fig. 32).

Entrances.—The great majority of the forts, even of the larger ones, have had only one entrance; where a second exists it is possible that it may have been made, subsequent to the disuse of the forts, for convenience in plundering the stones. Special care has generally been taken to guard the entrance, although in a good many instances no evidence of this remains. At *Dùn Mucaig* (Plate XIII.) the access is difficult and dangerous by nature, as it skirts the edge of a precipice; at *Dùn Fadaidh* (fig. 33) the approach after skirting under the wall of the fort ends on a little landing at the edge of a precipice; and at *Dùn Chrìuban* the entrance, in place of being in the middle of the wall, is at one end, close to a precipice. Not unfrequently outworks have to be carried before the entrance can be attacked, or they contribute more directly to the defence when their walls are prolonged close in front of the entrance as in the *North Fort of Luìng* (fig. 29). At *Cnoc an Tigh Mòr* (fig. 28), as far as can be made out from the faint traces remaining, the entrances at the ends have been covered by two or three

concentric, curved ramparts. At *Losgann Lornach* (fig. 23), *Dùnan Garbh-Shròine* (fig. 41), and *Eilean an Dùin* (fig. 43), the advantage of flanking defence has been gained, as the entrances are between natural bluffs, or through natural cuts in the hill; and the same advantage has apparently been specially aimed at in *Dùn Ormidale*, where the entrance is in a re-entering curve of the wall, and at the *North Fort of Luìng*, where it passes obliquely through the outer walls (fig. 29). At *An Dùn*, Lismore (fig. 6), *Dùn Toiseach* (fig. 39), and one or two others, a traverse drawn across the entrance, *inside*, is evidently designed for its defence. The very difficult ascent to the entrance of *Dùn Chonnel* is barred by a high retaining wall half way up.

Interior.—In a few instances the interior may have been levelled artificially, although the sites were probably, in general, chosen because they were naturally pretty level on the top, a kind of eminence not uncommon in Lorne. But in a considerable number of cases the interior has been left in all its original roughness and irregularity.

Interior Building.—In a large number of the forts there is no trace of internal building. Others are quite rough under foot, with half or wholly concealed débris, which only in a few instances can be reduced to any kind of form or order. The interior of the *North and South Forts of Luìng*, of the forts near *Mulach Dubh*, and on the *Eilean an Dùin*, of *Dùnach*, and of *Gallanach* "Castle," are in this confused, rough state. On *Dùn Mhic Rhonuil* there is a round mound suggestive of a ruined house; on *Dùn Chonaglas* there are the distinct remains of two round buildings, described at p. 417; on *Dùn Chonnel* the walls of several oblong buildings with rounded corners still stand several feet in height, p. 409; and on *Dùn M'Sniochan* rectangular foundations were dug out by Dr Angus Smith. Lastly, within *Suidhe Chennaidh* we have the remarkable "amphitheatrical" structure described at p. 414.

Size.—Of fifty-four measurable forts sixteen are less than 50 feet in greatest length inside. Four of them have outworks in addition. Twenty-four are between 50 and 100 feet in length, seven having outworks. Eight are between 100 and 200 feet in length, three having outworks. Four are between 200 and 300 feet in length, but they are comparatively narrow. At *Dùn Ormidale* a nearly straight wall alone

remains, probably of an outwork, but it is of the extraordinary length of nearly 500 feet. The measurements of *Dùn Chonnel* have not been ascertained, but it is probably one of the largest, if not the largest, of the whole. In general the outworks do not add very greatly to the dimensions of the forts proper here given. In one or two instances the contained space may be doubled, but in most, not one-half is added to the space of the mainwork.

Water Supply.—In Lorne, as in Great Britain and Ireland generally, evidence of springs or wells within the forts is extremely rare. At *Dùn Chonnel* a well is marked on the Ordnance map, and Dr Macnaughton describes it as having all the appearance of a well, although choked with rubbish. In *Dùn Bachloch* and *Gallanach* “*Castle*” I thought there were some surface indications of wells, but I saw none elsewhere. Excavations might reveal them in some cases, but from the perfectly smooth and natural appearance of the surface in others, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that wells within the forts were not considered essential requisites. But besides this deficiency *within* the forts, the nearest supply *without* often lies at a most inconvenient distance for daily requirements, and quite beyond protection from the forts in case of siege. It seems, therefore, essential that the occupants must have had some means of storing a supply, and we may conjecture that they may have used earthenware vessels or skins for the purpose; although, if the former had been used, it might have been expected that some remains of them should exist even on the surface, and I have never seen a vestige of pottery lying about the ruins.

Comparison with the Forts of South Scotland.—If we compare the Lorne forts with those of Tweeddale, for example, considerable differences will be found. In the first place there is the difference in constructive material, works of earth being almost unknown in the former and quite common in the latter. As a consequence of this, the trench is scarcely met with in Lorne, and the Tweeddale system of defence by concentric “rings” or ramparts does not occur at all. Too much, perhaps, should not be made of these differences, as the kind of materials at hand, and the nature of the ground, must largely influence the style of fortification. Thus the smooth, gently rounded eminences of Tweed-

dale lend themselves to regular circular plans and to the system of concentric "rings," just as the rough precipitous Highland knolls favour irregular plans, and fortification by means of a single stone enclosure. Another remarkable distinction is found in size. Forty of our fifty-four measurable forts are under 100 feet in their greatest internal length, sixteen of them being under 50 feet, whereas among the sixty-three measurable Tweeddale forts there is not one under 100 feet. Again, there are but seven Lorne forts which exceed 200 feet in their greatest internal length, whereas thirty-one Tweeddale ones do so. The largest of the former probably does not exceed 400 feet, while among the latter five exceed 500 feet, the dimensions of the largest being about 750 by 600 feet. Nor do these internal measurements of length represent the whole superiority of the Lowland forts in point of size, as they are generally broader than the Highland ones, and with their concentric "rings" they cover a much larger extent of ground than do the single *enceintes* of the Highland forts. Unfortunately, the complete dilapidation of the Tweeddale stone forts prevents a comparison with those of Lorne, but apparently the small, regular, round or oval stone forts of the latter are entirely unrepresented among the former.

In conclusion, I trust that this investigation will be found to add substantially to our knowledge of an obscure and too long neglected branch of archæology. But no really satisfactory progress can be made until surface observations have been supplemented by excavations. These are required not only to ascertain the true structure of walls or ramparts, buried under masses of *débris* or overgrown with turf, but to determine whether evidence in the shape of utensils, weapons, &c., may not be gathered from beneath the ruins to connect them with particular races of men or epochs of history. It is strange and somewhat of a reproach to Scottish archæologists that, while so much in this direction has been done for cairns, brochs, and other structures, objects of so much importance as the forts and *dùns*, many of them of moderate and well-defined proportions, permitting of easy investigation, should still be entirely neglected.

SKETCH MAP
OF
LORNE, &c.

NETHER
of
LOCHABER

ARDGOUR

MORVEN

MULL

