

## FORTS, CAMPS, AND MOTES OF THE UPPER WARD OF LANARKSHIRE.

By DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D., SECRETARY. (PLATES VI.-XV.)

In a paper read to this Society in 1886, I described from personal observation the existing remains of prehistoric forts in Peeblesshire. During the summer and autumn of 1889, I was enabled to extend my investigations westwards, so as to include the upper ward, or hilly portion, of the neighbouring county of Lanark.

My measurements lack the advantage, and the check upon error, which the aid of an assistant would have afforded. They were generally made by the rough process of pacing, but in several cases, when tested with the tape, they were found to be sufficiently exact to give a good general idea of the size of the objects. In a few instances, when greater accuracy seemed desirable, all the measurements were made with the tape. I have also checked my observations by consulting the Ordnance Maps, the Archæological part of the first volume of *The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire*, written by the late Mr George Vere Irving of Newton, and the Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland.

The Ordnance Maps are not so helpful as might be expected. The 6-inch Map, indeed, is invaluable for pointing out the position of the forts; but the plans on the 25-inch Map, the only one in which the scale is large enough to give sufficient detail, have unfortunately been laid down with very varying degrees of accuracy and completeness. In several instances, indeed, in which the remains are quite substantial, only the site is marked, or the existence of the fort is entirely ignored. The lack of system in the Archæological Work of the Survey is further

illustrated by the Clydesdale remains being invariably called "camps," while those of the adjoining Tweeddale are as invariably called "forts."

The account by Mr Vere Irving, mainly intended to prove the connection of the "camps" and forts with supposed Roman roads, shows the unconscious bias of mind which writing "for a purpose" almost inevitably entails in matters of description. Rude plans of eleven forts, supposed by him to be Roman, are given, which, as well as the measurements of other forts in the text, in most instances differ considerably from the relative plans in the O.M. and from my own. Here it may be remarked that in measuring old remains of the kind exactitude is hardly attainable, from the difficulty of fixing the precise limits of decayed mounds, apt to merge indefinitely into the surrounding ground. Other sources of difference in the results obtained, particularly in measurements of extreme dimensions, are that one observer may include some exterior mound or trench which another omits, or one may reckon the interior of a fort from crest to crest of the inner circumvallation, while another may reckon from the foot of the inner slope. Perhaps it would be an advantage if the interior of forts were measured by common consent from crest to crest, as these offer tolerably fixed points.

The information in the Statistical Accounts is in general either very defective or extremely vague, but every now and then one is agreeably surprised to meet with an accurate and valuable description.

*Explanation of the Plans, &c.*

In drawing out the plans, I have followed mainly the rules observed in my paper on the Peeblesshire forts.

1. The forts are placed as if the north were at the top of the page.
2. The scale for the *plans* is 120 feet to the inch, which was originally selected as the largest possible for showing the forts on a uniform scale in the pages of our *Proceedings*.
3. *Sections*, when complete, are also on the 120 feet scale, but when the ramparts only are shown, are on the scale of 60 feet to the inch. The sections are not quite accurate to scale, particularly as to heights, but the accompanying figures give the approximate results.

4. The height of the ramparts given is their greatest height at the side through which the section passes.

5. Trenches are dotted when it is necessary to distinguish them from ramparts.

6. The nature of the site is indicated by arrows, the steepness of slopes being represented by feathering from 0 to 4, the former representing a very gentle slope, the latter one so steep as to be climbed with difficulty.

7. The approximate height above the nearest level ground is given in figures beside an arrow pointing perpendicularly downwards.

8. All measurements are in feet.

9. As the forts have no names, I have indicated them, for the sake of convenience, by the name of some neighbouring hill, house, or other object.

10. The map (Plate XV.) gives all the well-authenticated forts known to me, including a few of which little or no trace remains. They are numbered from 1 to 54, the figures being placed as nearly as possible over the localities, and corresponding with the figures attached to the forts in the text. On the map, the figures referring to motes are enclosed in a circle, and those referring to rectilinear forts in a rectangle.

11. Abbreviations. O.M. Ordnance Map.

O.S.A. Old Statistical Account of Scotland.

N.S.A. New Statistical Account of Scotland.

The present inquiry includes all fortifications, whether of earth or dry-stone, which, although no precise date can be assigned to them, are commonly considered to have at least preceded the feudal castles of stone and mortar. They admit of division into three distinct classes,—Motes, Rectilinear Camps or Forts, and Curvilinear Forts.

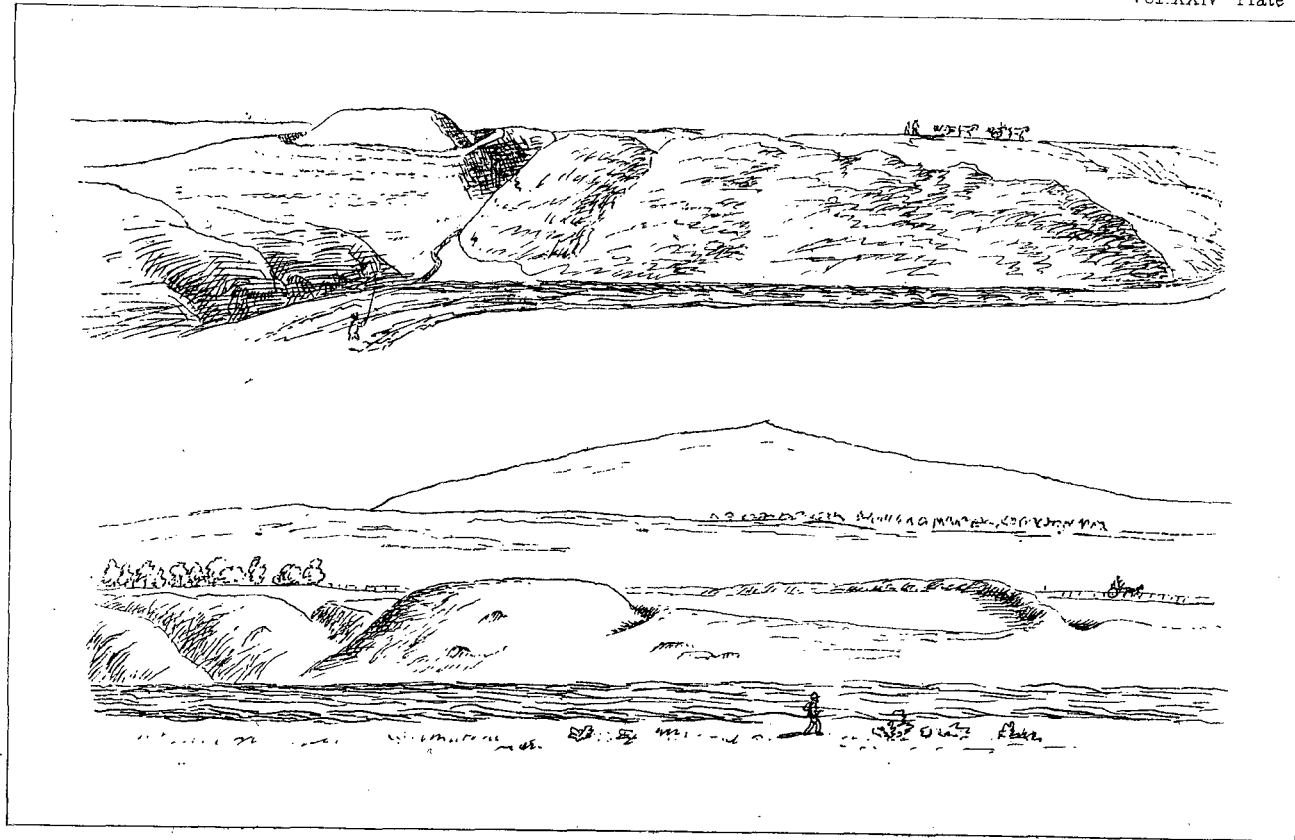
## I. MOTES.

As motes have been but recently systematically studied in England, and have been only incidentally taken notice of in Scotland, I shall make a few general observations on the subject before describing the Lanarkshire examples.

It has been well established, particularly by Mr George T. Clark, F.S.A. (*Mediæval Military Architecture in England*, 1884), that the fortress of the Saxons, at least as early as the ninth century, as described

by Mr Clark, was a "mound," "motte," or "burh"; the "mota of our records," consisting of a truncated earthen cone, circumscribed by a ditch, usually connected with a base-court of a circular, oval, or horse-shoe form, enclosed by a bank and ditch. The mound was placed either in the centre of the court, or at one end, or formed a part of the enceinte. On the level top were wooden buildings protected by a palisade, by which the outer bank was likewise strengthened. The number of these fortresses was very great, and a considerable proportion still remain nearly perfect, excepting, of course, the wooden structures; while many more can be traced, in greater or less detail, in spite of subsequent occupation by the Normans, who, in many instances, availed themselves of the advantages which the raised mounds offered as strong defensible sites for their stone castles. The remains of innumerable motes of precisely the same kind exist in France. De Caumont (*Abécédaire d'Archéologie*, 1869) regards them as *the* fortresses of France in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and thinks it probable that they may have been in use several centuries earlier.

In the Old and New Statistical Accounts there are numerous notices of motes, particularly in the south-western counties of Scotland, but so little attention have they attracted from archæologists, that the word occurs only twice in the Index to our *Proceedings*, and in reference merely to brief incidental notices of two examples. In Muir's *Ecclesiological Notes*, some of the best preserved motes in the south-western counties are described as unfortified, flat-topped, earthen mounds, with level terraces cut in successive stages round the slopes. But this is at variance with the description of the same objects in the Statistical Accounts, which represent them as simple mounds, usually fortified by a trench, no terraces being mentioned; while the drawings by Grose of the mote of Urr show both terraces, trenches, and ramparts. Evidently a systematic investigation is much needed to clear up these discrepancies. It is noteworthy that in none of these descriptions is there any mention of a base-court,—so characteristic a dependency of English motes. Nevertheless, in Lanarkshire there is undoubtedly a base-court at the Abington mote (p. 285), and in Dumfriesshire at the Moffat mote. Terraced motes do not appear to be confined to South Scotland. I am informed by Mr



NOTES ON THE CLYDE BETWEEN ABINGTON AND ROBERTON

Clark that there is one at Beaufort, near Inverness, and by Mr Richard Ferguson that there is another between Ambleside and Hardknott in Cumberland. As to the origin of the term "mote" in Scotland, although it may be sometimes applied merely as a modern term of convenience, yet from the frequency of its occurrence on the map, even when all trace of the original mote has long disappeared, and from the application of the word to existing examples by the native peasantry, there can be no doubt that it is often a survival from ancient times, as in the instance of the Farm of *Mote* described on next page. The term also occurs in historical documents, as in the license (1430) for building Borthwick Castle, which conveys the right "construendi castrum in illo loco qui vulgariter dicitur *le Mot* de Lochorwort"; and in a grant of Dumfries *Moit*, dated 1521.

1. *Abington* (Plate VI., lower figure).—A mile north of the village on the left bank of the Clyde. This fortification apparently has no local name, and in the O.M. it is marked "Camp," but it is well described as a mote in the N.S.A., and Mr Vere Irving clearly points out its resemblance, on a small scale, to the recognised great motes of England. The fortifications include a base-court, with a mound only slightly higher than it in the south-east corner; the whole resting to the east upon the river. The general elevation of the base-court is about 30 feet above the stream, the descent to which is steep. The mound or citadel is raised about 6 feet higher, and is cut off from the base-court by a trench not more than 5 feet in depth below the level of the court; on the east side the mound is defended by the river, and on the south by a tiny ravine, through which is drained a marsh, which covers the west or landward side of the base-court. The latter is enclosed by a single rampart, apparently of earth, and only 5 feet high at most, which, commencing at the edge of the river bank on the north, curves round to join the south end of the citadel-trench at the ravine. In front of this rampart to the north there are faint traces of a trench, and to the west the marsh is slightly hollowed, as if it too were originally a much wider trench. The interior of the somewhat horse-shoe-shaped outer court measures on the O.M. about 240 by 180 feet. The flat top of the inner mound I made to be about 70 feet from north to south, and 35 from east to west.

Mr Irving mentions the remains of another mote within the grounds of Abington House, which perhaps is the one "a little higher up the river," referred to in the N.S.A.

2. *Roberton* (Plate VI., upper figure).—A mile and a half north of the last, on the same side of the river, and a mile south of Roberton village. The Clyde here makes a sharp, almost rectangular, bend eastward, the ground within the bend on the right bank being a low haugh. The left bank is high, steep, and rocky, and at the apex of the angle formed by the bend stands a farm called *Mote* (*Moit* in Pont's "Survey," before 1630), a name which is justified by the conspicuous, though small mound, surrounded by a trench, close to the house on the south. The mound has now a horse-shoe form, the centre having been dug out from the north. If there ever was a base-court, it would naturally occupy the space now covered with farm buildings. In the view the farm buildings, &c., have been omitted. They stand on the rough bank to the right of the mote-mound.

3. *Covington* (fig. 1).—In the sequestered and somewhat bleak *cul de sac* of the Clyde, opposite Carstairs, an unusual number of objects interesting to the antiquary are concealed by an oasis of old trees, as if for protection from the destructive gaze of the modern "improver." The village itself, with its few and scattered but neat and well-thatched cottages and flowery gardens, half buried among trees, has an Old-World look. The church, although a mere barn in shape, retains in its south wall three deeply splayed Gothic windows with fine tracery, and in the north wall a built-up round-headed doorway with a fine carved shield of the Lindsays, dated 1659, inserted in the modern masonry beneath the arch outside. The ancient tower of the family, cruelly maltreated as it has been, is the best preserved feudal castle in the northern reach of the Clyde; its well-proportioned, circular, and domed pigeon-house (H in the plan, fig. 1) is still nearly perfect; lastly, what concerns us most, the castle seems to have been built on or near the site of a *mote*. It is so recorded on the O.M., and the number and arrangement of the existing trenches seem incompatible with a Scottish castle of inferior size, although it is difficult now to separate the old from the less old. Their present condition is shown in the plan and sections (fig. 1).

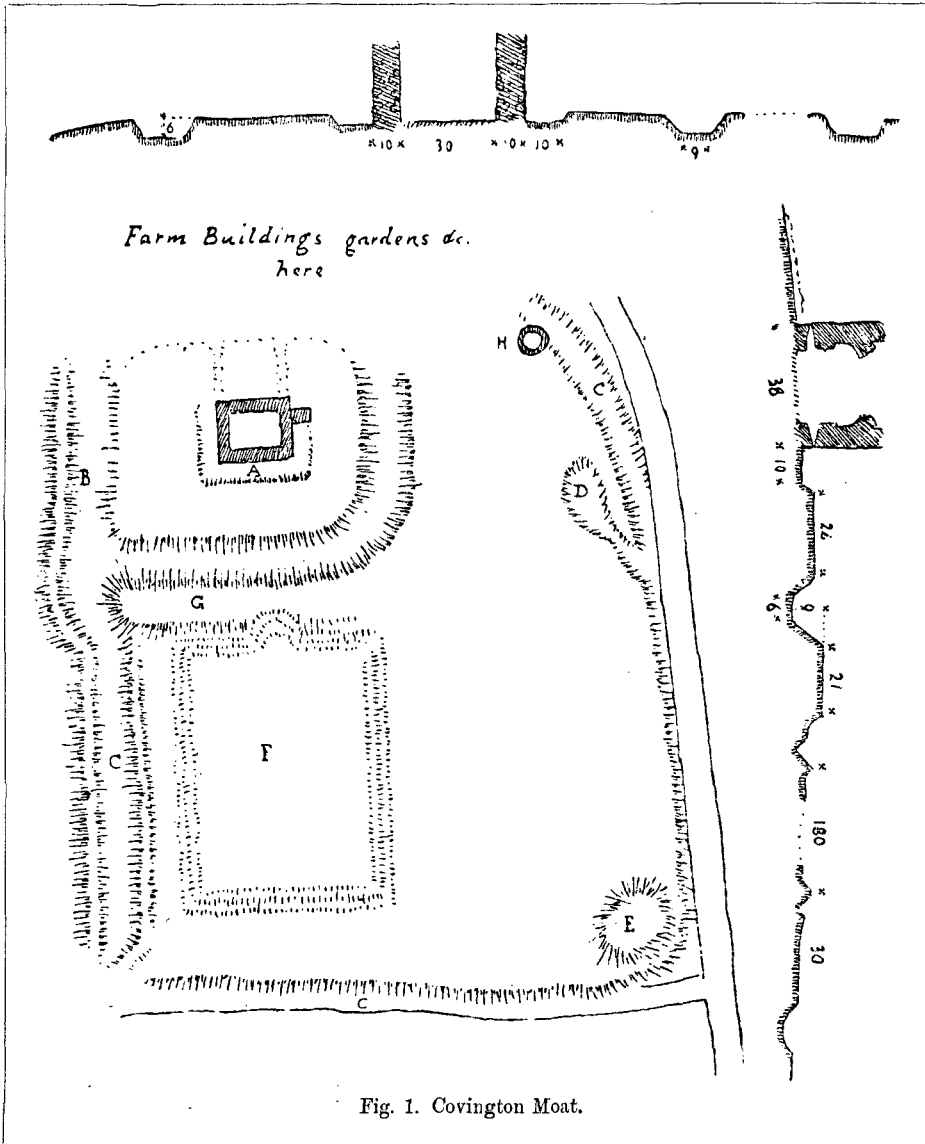


Fig. 1. Covington Moat.



(A) is a trench only 8 or 10 feet wide and 2 or 3 feet deep, touching the castle wall on three sides, but absent on the north, where is the entrance. (B) is a second trench, from 5 to 7 feet deep, and flat bottomed, with obscure traces of side walls, enclosing a quadrangle 150 feet square, somewhat towards the east side of which stands the castle. The erection of farm buildings has nearly obliterated the north side of this trench. (CCC) is a third trench prolonged southwards from the south-west corner of the last, turning to the east, then to the north, and lost at the farm buildings. It is perfect on the west side, but half shaved away by the high road on the east, and nearly wholly so by a side road on the south. It incloses a large space, rectilinear on the whole, but rounded at the angles, measuring about 450 by 350 feet, of which the castle, with its double ditch, occupies the north-west corner. On the east side this trench has a sort of pendicle (D), like a gall-bladder with its duct. At the south-east corner of the enclosure there is a small low mound (E). The rectangular enclosure (F) has no doubt been the garden. (G) is a terrace raised a few feet higher than the garden on one side and the outer court of the castle on the other. Perhaps this may be a remnant of the mound of the supposed mote. The trenches are quite dry, and an old inhabitant told me that there was no stream or spring at the present day from which they could be filled. The rectilinear form of the trenches is against the mote theory, although Mr Clark mentions rare instances of the kind in England.

4. *Biggar*.—Close to the Biggar Burn, a little north-west of the church; called in the O.S.A. a tumulus, and in the N.S.A. described as a large moat, 120 paces round the base, 54 at the top, and 36 feet high. It is a large artificial-looking mound, represented on the O.M. as a rectangle measuring 100 by 60 feet on the top, and referred to in *The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire*, i. p. 361, as “the Moat-knowe.” Vere Irving does not call it a mote, but describes it as “an artificial mound about 30 feet high with a flat top, of a rectangular form, measuring 91 feet by 50.” The ground around it has been much altered by building and road making, so that exterior defences may have disappeared.

5. *Carnwath*.—The O.M. marks a mote here, and represents it

as a circular mound, about 50 feet in diameter on the top. But Mr Vere Irving describes it as a remarkable *cairn* or *mote* at the west end of the village, somewhat elliptical in form, of considerable height, and surrounded by a deep ditch. He says there is a hollow on the top, and ascribes a sepulchral character to the structure. The writer in the O.S.A. says this hollow has been the entrance to a rude turnpike kind of stair, leading to the bottom, but filled with stones and rubbish; and besides the ditch, mentions a large mound surrounding the whole. The N.S.A. also notices the surrounding ditch and mound; but of the hollow remarks, "*it is said* it was the entrance to a rude stair." The Ordnance Map gives neither ditch nor outer mound. It is called a tumulus or moat in the O.S.A., and a cairn or moat in the N.S.A.

*Lanark.*—A supposed Roman camp on the Castlehill here is described by Vere Irving as an elevated mound, partly natural and partly artificial, surrounded by a ditch. He compares it to the Castle of Bramber, in Sussex, which is a mote.

In the parish of Lesmahagow, about a mile and a half south-east of Dillar Law, a house is marked *Moat* on the O.M., and near it there is apparently a farm house marked *Moatyett*.

Among other mounds, which possibly have been motes, may be noted a small simple one at *Wolfe Clyde* (Culter Station), still existing, and said in the O.S.A. to have been "in sight of two others at a considerable distance:" also one at *Bomflat* or *Bomphlet* in Culter Parish, mentioned in the N.S.A.

*Couthallan.*—On the O.M., at the ruined castle of this name, about a mile north-west of Carnwath, an oval space of 470 by 200 feet is represented as being enclosed by three concentric mounds (?) marked "moats site of." It seems to me that these are much more likely to be remains of an oval fort, but I have not visited the spot.

## II.—RECTILINEAR FORTS OR CAMPS.

In this and the subsequent class, I shall describe the forts before making general remarks on them.

7. "*Roman Camp, Clydesburn Farm.*"—Beginning from the south this is the first fortification in the county. It is about 3 miles east of

Elvanfoot and 5 from the watershed which separates the waters of the Clyde from those of the Annan, and is about 1000 feet above the sea. According to Mr Vere Irving, it was only discovered in 1858. On the 6-inch O.M. it is laid down as a regular rectangle of 1500 by 970 feet, traceable all round, but most distinct on the north side. Such is its present state, the better preservation of the north face being due to its being on uncultivated ground. The site is on the whole level, and in some places marshy, although mostly under cultivation. It is traversed by two burns, one cutting off the south-east angle, which stands 20 feet above the rest of the interior, the other, entering at the middle of the north face, and emerging at the south-west angle. The half of the north vallum, to the west of the latter burn, stands on the foot of the slope of Harleburn Head (1792), on ground from 10 to 20 feet higher than the interior, but is commanded by the gradually steepening slope of the hill; the other half of the same vallum, to the east of the burn, is on level ground, but is also closely commanded from the hill. The vallum is nowhere more than a foot or two in height, and from 12 to 15 in width. The quantity of stones half buried under its turf, and the size and adaptability of some of them for building, suggest that the original structure must have been of dry masonry, the materials for which lay close at hand, as the whole hillside is thickly strewn with large stones to a degree quite exceptional in south Scottish hills. In front of the mound is a trifling trench only 6 or 8 feet wide and one foot deep.

An old roadway, skirting the hillside from the east, approaches the north side as if to enter the camp along with the burn, but stopping short, merges on a little plateau,—shored up by means of stones embedded in earth,—which closely overlooks the camp, the road itself near this point being supported by a 6-foot retaining wall, constructed of large blocks. Between it and the vallum is an enormous mass of loose stones, like the wreck of a huge cairn, beside several nondescript mounds; and 100 yards west of the burn, close in front of the vallum, eight or ten prostrate stones of no great sizes, save one which is 7 feet long, lie in a semicircle, and may be the remains of a large stone circle. There are several irregular mounds hereabouts also.

Altogether these remains deserve a more minute investigation than I could make in a storm of wind and rain.

8. *Castle Hill Plantation, Culter*.—The site is 805 feet above the sea, on a gentle eminence near Culter Railway Station, a quarter of a mile east of the Clyde, and about 150 feet above it. I failed to find any trace of a fort here, but Mr Vere Irving describes it as “a rhomboid of 190 by 164 feet in diameter, defended by a single entrenchment,” and it is so represented on the O.M.

9. *Huntly Hill*.—The site of a camp is marked here on the O.M. by a dotted line enclosing a nearly rectangular space, but with a slight curve on the western side, measuring 900 feet in length, and in breadth 480 at its narrowest, and 540 at its widest part. It is one mile south of Cleghorn Camp, two miles east of Lanark, and one west of the Clyde, on cultivated undulating ground, only about 50 feet above the river. I could find no trace of mounds, and was assured by an aged native that there had been none in his day, but being ignorant at the time of its precise position I did not examine the whole site. Probably it has entirely disappeared under frequent ploughing, as it was barely discernible at the time of the survey. The farm people, however, knew that a “Roman Camp” had been there. This is probably “the small exploratory camp of the Romans, on the opposite side of the Mouse from Cleghorn, and in Lanark Moor,” of the O.S.A.

10. *Cleghorn Camp*.—This well-known “Roman Camp,” one and a half miles due west of Carstairs village, is represented by General Roy as a rhomboid, of which, however, the long sides are slightly and parallelly curved, measuring about 1800 by 1340 feet on his plan, but called 1800 by 1260 in his text. The vallum is given as entire from the slightly rounded north angle for 1450 feet southwards and 700 eastwards; also from the east angle for 550 feet southward; and from the south angle for 500 feet westward. The 25 O.M., on the other hand, gives it as a regular rhomboid of only 1700 by 1000 feet, with straight sides, marked by a dotted line only, except at the north angle where the vallum is represented as running 350 feet southward and 680 feet eastward. Roy gives two entrances on the north-west, and one on the north-east, each covered by a small, straight, detached

traverse in front. These traverses are not to be found in the O.M., and I did not observe them on the spot, but I did not search particularly for them. The greater part of the site is represented by Roy as cultivated, but the northern quarter as moorland, and so it still remains, though covered with a plantation, and recently much cut up by deep drains.

The ground is boggy and peaty, and very rough with heather and blaeberry. The vallum seems to remain much as represented in the O.M., but I did not examine the cultivated part of the site. It is about 15 feet wide, and nowhere more than about 4 feet higher than the trifling, 3 or 4 feet wide, shallow, trench in front of it. The vallum is a pure earthwork, as shown in several sections through it.

The O.S.A. mentions a small post or redoubt near the south-west angle of the camp that seems either to have joined it or been connected with it by a line.

11. *Battle Dykes, Carstairs*.—Roy's plan shows a rectangle of 570 by 540 feet inside, with a vallum and trench, each about 30 feet wide, on three sides, but with a mere trace of fortification on the south. The over-all dimensions of the completed work would be 700 by 650 feet, without reckoning a space included by a line 20 feet beyond the counterscarp, possibly a narrow glacis, but which, in the absence of a sectional view, is unintelligible.

Strangely enough the O.M. not only reduces the interior size to 460 by 440 feet, but represents the vallum as complete on the south side, where it is nearly entirely wanting in Roy's plan. Moreover, on the O.M., the vallum is deficient on the north and two-thirds of the west sides, and there is no trench.

The N.S.A. states that it measures 6 square acres. "Though considerably injured by the plough and spade, the walls of circumvallation are still easily traced. The pretorium is visible, and the causeway to and from the camp, running in a direct line, can be traced for many miles."

Mr Vere Irving says:—"The progress of modern improvement has, in a great measure, destroyed its ramparts. A small portion is, however, preserved on the side of the avenue at the back of the modern mansion-house"—a position which does not correspond with that given in the maps, so that he may be referring to a different work.

This exhausts the number of undoubted rectilinear forts or camps, but we may take up here two insignificant works of doubtful character.

12. "*Roman Camp*" at *Sheriffcleuch*.—Ten miles west of Abington, up the Duneaton water. This is called a "Roman Camp" on the O.M., and represented, perhaps symbolically, by a very small rectangle. I could not reduce to any definite form the insignificant mounds remaining.

13. *Fort on Harthill*.—A faintly marked oval of only 80 by 60 feet on the O.M., with a "font" 120 feet east of it. Mr Vere Irving describes it as "a rectangular fortification of 150 by 87 feet, whereof the west corner has been cut off by a marsh. Its single rampart is slight and faintly marked. Near this is a curious font of very rude construction." I failed to find any trace of fort or font, but a more unlikely or more difficult place to find either, on such a dreary extent of bog, far from human habitation, could hardly be imagined.

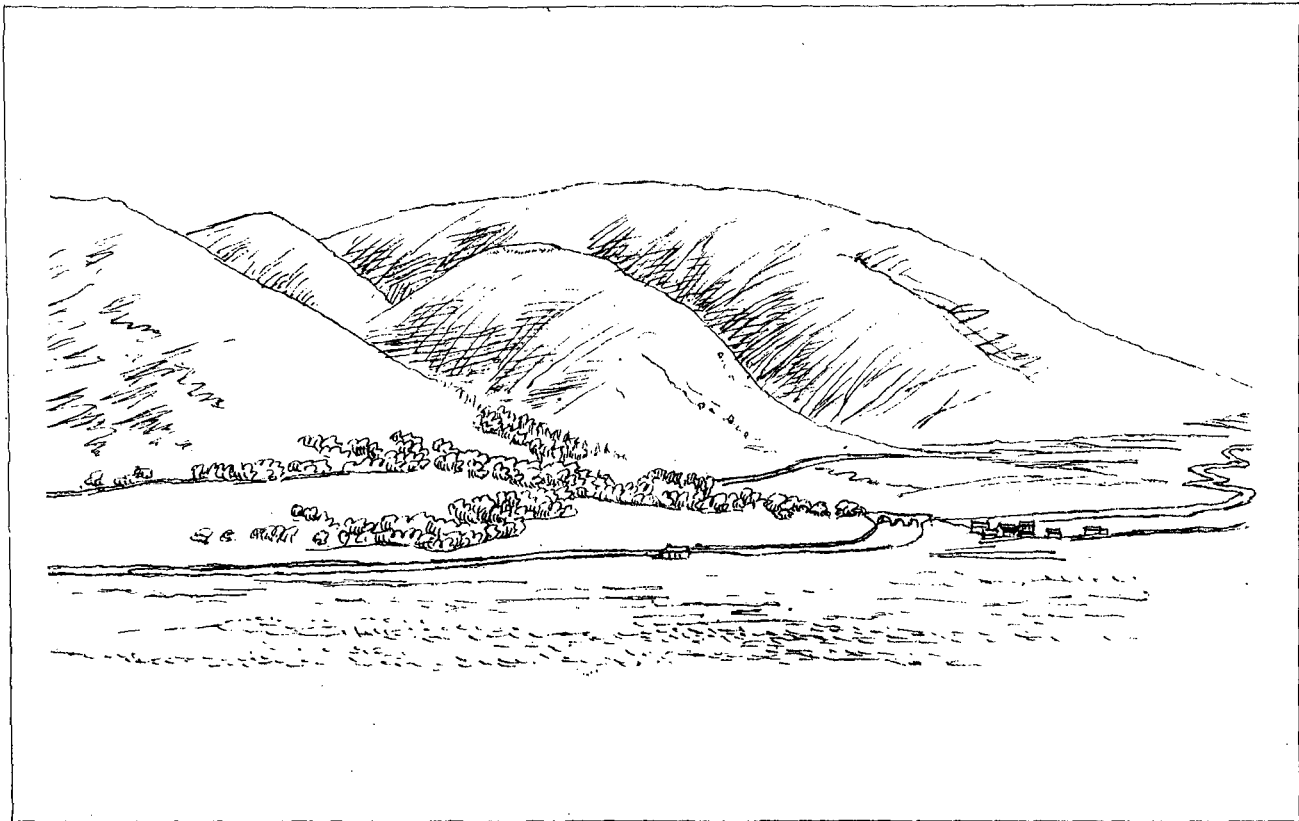
*General Remarks on the Rectilinear Camps and Forts.*

Although the rectilinear works may conveniently be treated separately from the curvilinear ones, it does not necessarily follow that they are constructed by different races. It was, indeed, long the general belief that all rectilinear works might safely be ascribed to the Romans. But that the Celts, or some other primitive race, might lay claim at least to some of them, is clearly proved by the occurrence of no small number of rectilinear forts in Ireland, where the Romans never set foot (*Archæol. Jour.*, 1867, vol. xxiv. p. 139, "On Roovesmore Fort," by Col. Lane Fox). It becomes a question then, whether rectilinear works by a primitive race can be distinguished from those of a more advanced race. I believe that, besides minor differences, the main distinction is to be found in the irregularity of the quasi-straight lines in the former, compared with the strict straightness of the lines in the latter. The first, in fact, have been laid down roughly by the eye, and the second accurately by the measuring line. Thus the ruled accuracy of the lines in the "Roman Camps" at Cleghorn and Clydesburn at once strikes the eye accustomed to the irregularity of the lines, whether straight or curved, of the "British Forts." Unfortunately this test cannot

be applied to the works at Castle Hill of Culter and Sheriffleuch, believed to have been rectilinear in plan, as they have almost entirely disappeared.

But the question still remains, are these regular rectilinear works necessarily Roman? I fear that the earlier archæologists may have been too ready to accept them as such, and I may point out some difficulties which have occurred to me in the present inquiry. First, as to the larger temporary "Camps," believed to mark the northward march of Agricola's army. General Roy, our best authority, only knew of one such in the Upper Ward, at Cleghorn, and looked in vain for others about Elvanfoot and Biggar to supply links in the supposed chain. In 1858, however, the Clydesburn "Camp," near Elvanfoot, was discovered, which was so far in favour of the Roman theory. But there still remains the difficulty that the two camps differ in size and in the materials of construction, Cleghorn measuring 1700 by 1000 feet according to the O.M., 1800 by 1340 according to Roy's map, and being of earth; while Clydesburn measures 1450 by 900 feet, and is, as I believe, of stone. It is well also to remember the warning given by De Caumont, who, referring to a contemporary account of Philip Augustus' camp at the siege of Tours, proceeds as follows:—"Ainsi l'armée de Philippe-Auguste campait, comme les légions Romaines en s'entourant de fossés dont le *vallum* était couronné de palissades en bois. Nous en concluons que certains campements du Mogen-âge peuvent offrir une grande ressemblance avec les camps Romains, et qu'ils ont dû parfois être confondus avec ces derniers" (*Abécédaire d'Archéologie*, p. 559).

Passing to Roy's class of smaller and stronger permanent stations, or forts, I may point out the great difference between Ardoch, with its numerous small mounds and trenches, multiplied one behind the other, and such simple works as Fortingall or Battledykes, with their single massive rampart and wide ditch: square redoubts in fact, which it is surely not extravagant to suppose, may have been of comparatively recent origin. It is true we know little or nothing about mediæval earth-works in Scotland, but we do know that field-works of some kind were thrown up, under the name of sconces, on the battlefields in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Britain, and that a redoubt called



DISTANT VIEW OF BODSBERRY HILL AND FORT



Cromwell's Fort still exists at Eyemouth. It may be said that Battle dykes must be Roman because it is on a Roman road. But here, again, we may ask, what is the proof that this road is Roman? I fear that if not only its claims, but those of the numerous other alleged Roman roads in Scotland were carefully sifted, they might be found to be of the vaguest and most unreliable character.

Before passing from this subject, I may point out in a tabular form the great discrepancies between the measurements of Cleghorn Camp and Battledykes as given by Roy and the Ordnance Survey.

	Roy's Map.	Roy's Text.	Ordnance Map.
	Feet.	Feet.	Feet.
Cleghorn, . . . .	1800 by 1320	1800 by 1260	1700 by 1000
Battledykes ( <i>interior</i> ), .	570 ,, 540	...	460 ,, 440

In the case of Battledykes the discrepancy is the more remarkable, as it is a comparatively small object, and is represented in both plans as perfectly well defined. When it is remembered that important arguments in favour of a Roman origin are based on the capacity of camps to contain certain numbers of men, these discrepancies assume a very serious character. On the whole, it seems to me that the study of Roman camps, stations, and roads in Scotland requires to be recommenced *de novo*, with, alas! greatly diminished materials since the days when it was first taken up.

## II. CURVILINEAR FORTS.

*District A. The left bank of the Clyde and its tributary Glens, as far north as the pass by Biggar from Clydesdale to Tweeddale.*

On the highest feeders of the Clyde there are no forts marked on the O.M., excepting the rectangular one at Clydesburn already described. But soon after the united waters begin to flow in one stream southwards the first curvilinear fort occurs.

14. *Bodsberry* (fig. 2 and Plate VII).—The isolated hill of Bodsberry (Boadsberry, in the N.S.A.) rises very steeply from the direction of the

Clyde, which is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile to the west, to a height of nearly 450 feet above the river, and 1312 above the sea. A deep and steep ravine cuts

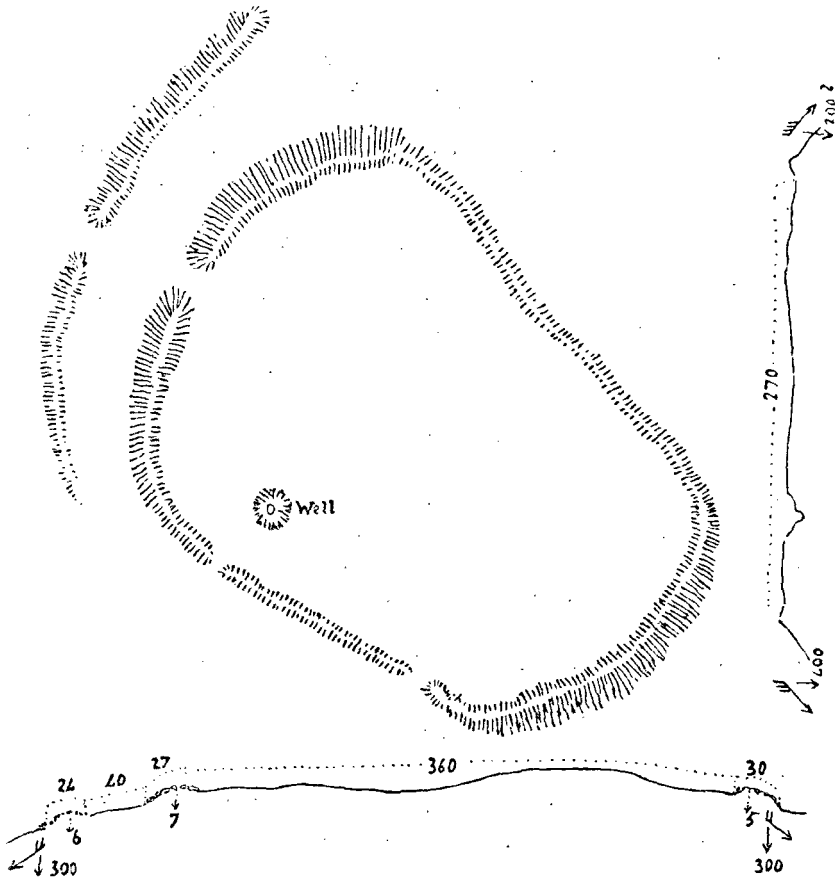


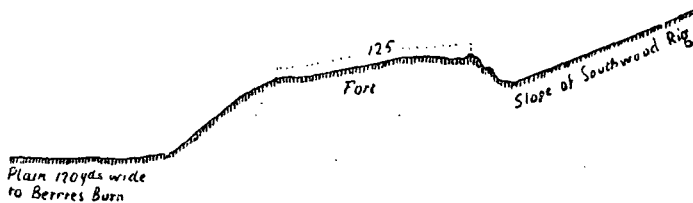
Fig. 2. Bodsberry.

it off from Lady Cairn Hill (1716) to the north-east; and at the narrower north-west and south-east ends the ascents are also steep. The fort occupies the whole available somewhat irregular top, and consists of a

single rampart, rounded at the ends but tolerably straight at the sides, to suit the conformation of the ground. At the comparatively inaccessible sides the rampart is of trifling dimensions, whereas at the more accessible ends it is broad and very stony. At the north-west end, 40 feet down the slope, is an advanced rampart, which, beginning at the edge of the north-east ravine, is straight at first and then curves round to be lost on the south-west face. Mr Irving, by some strange error, makes this fort half its proper size. He calls it a Roman castellum, for which I can see no sufficient reason, and makes a Roman road pass through it, of which I could see no evidence. The singular basin-like well which he discovered (*Upper Ward of Lanarkshire*, p. 9) has been filled up. In the view, Plate VII., the fort is seen as a faint circle on the top of the conical hill above Newton House Woods.

About  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles down the Clyde from Bodsberry, and on the same side of the river, we come to a group of three forts, within the space of a mile, near the village of Crawford, on the skirts of Southwood Rig (1556), each of them about 100 feet above the river, and 950 above the sea.

15. *East Crawford*.—Three-eighths of a mile north-west of the ruined Crawford Castle, on a conspicuous solitary knoll, cut off from the uniform slope of Southwood Rig by a trench-like natural cut, and projecting into the plain of the Clyde. "An irregular oval of 349 by 120



Section of Eastern Fort, near Crawford.

feet, fortified by a single rampart, which, on the side next the river, is very indistinct" (G.V.I.). As Mr Irving's figures agree closely with the dimensions on the O.M., I did not measure this fort. In addition to the rampart, which is quite distinct at the two ends and on the side

towards the hill, as a green smooth mound, but of which I could see no trace towards the river, there runs on the side towards the hill, at a varying level of 5 to 10 feet below the rampart, a narrow ledge or terrace about 5 feet wide, which, with some kind of parapet now gone, no doubt formed a second line of defence on this the weakest side.

16. *Mid Crawford* (fig. 3).—The site is about half a mile westward of Crawford Castle ruins, and is similar to the last, only it is more

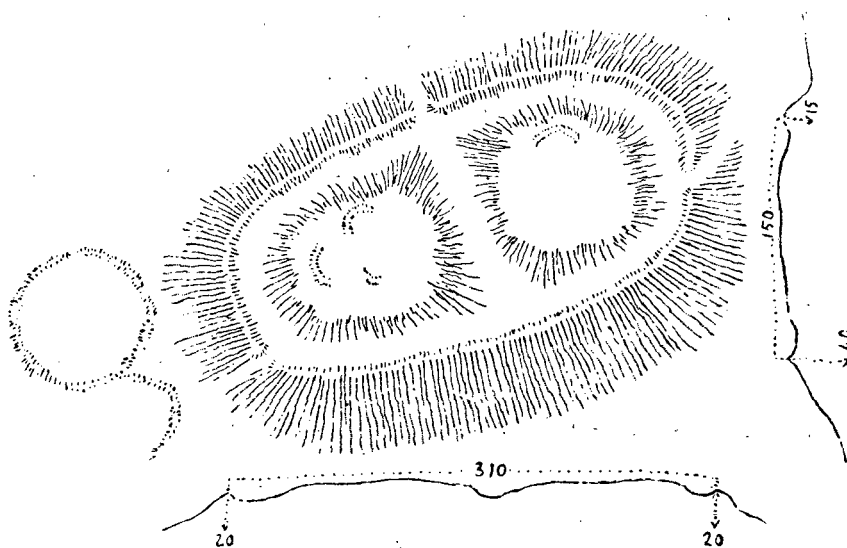


Fig. 3. Mid-Crawford.

detached from the hill. The single rampart, slight on the high south side, is substantial elsewhere, and appears to be of earth, although a few large and small stones are visible in breaks. The interior rises several feet higher than the rampart into two eminences of about equal size, and flat on the top, but leaving a space or roadway all round between them and the rampart. There is no evidence of these eminences having been fortified round the edges, as might be expected, but there are faint traces of circular foundations on them. Outside the fort, at the foot of

the west end, there are remains of two circular foundations, one of them 90 feet in diameter.

17. *West Crawford* (fig. 4).—700 yards west-south-west of the last. The site is peculiar. A little ravine or furrow in the west slope of Southwood Rig, bifurcates about 150 feet from the bottom, and thus isolates a small projecting knoll, with an oval flat top of 144 by 66 feet. Mr Vere Irving says of this fort: "Being commanded by higher ground in the immediate vicinity, it is ill adapted for a military post, and seems

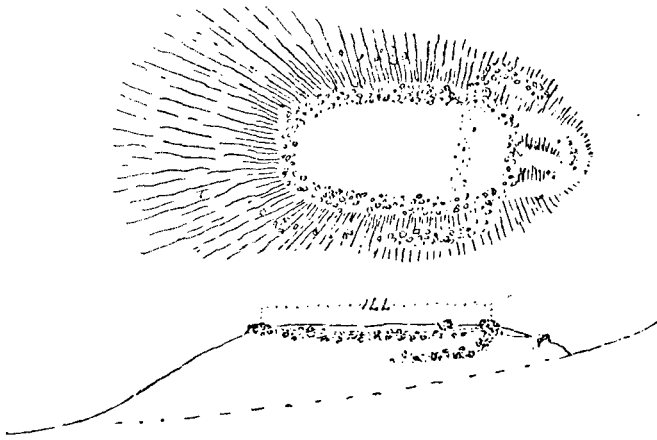


Fig. 4. West Crawford.

rather to belong to the enclosures of the sepulchral class; this idea is further confirmed by the existence of a cairn of stones in its interior, beneath which two stone cists were found. In one of these was a capitally preserved urn, with a bracelet and two spear heads of bronze (figured pp. 36, 39)." Notwithstanding this sepulchral "find" and the close command from the hill (which is frequent in prehistoric forts), the remains strongly suggest an oval stone fort of dry masonry, a portion of which still continues visible on the north side. The remains of a transverse wall in the interior and of additional defences down the slopes are shown in the Plan. I could see no trace of a cairn.

18. *Campswater* (fig. 5 and Plate VII.).—Situated in a very remote

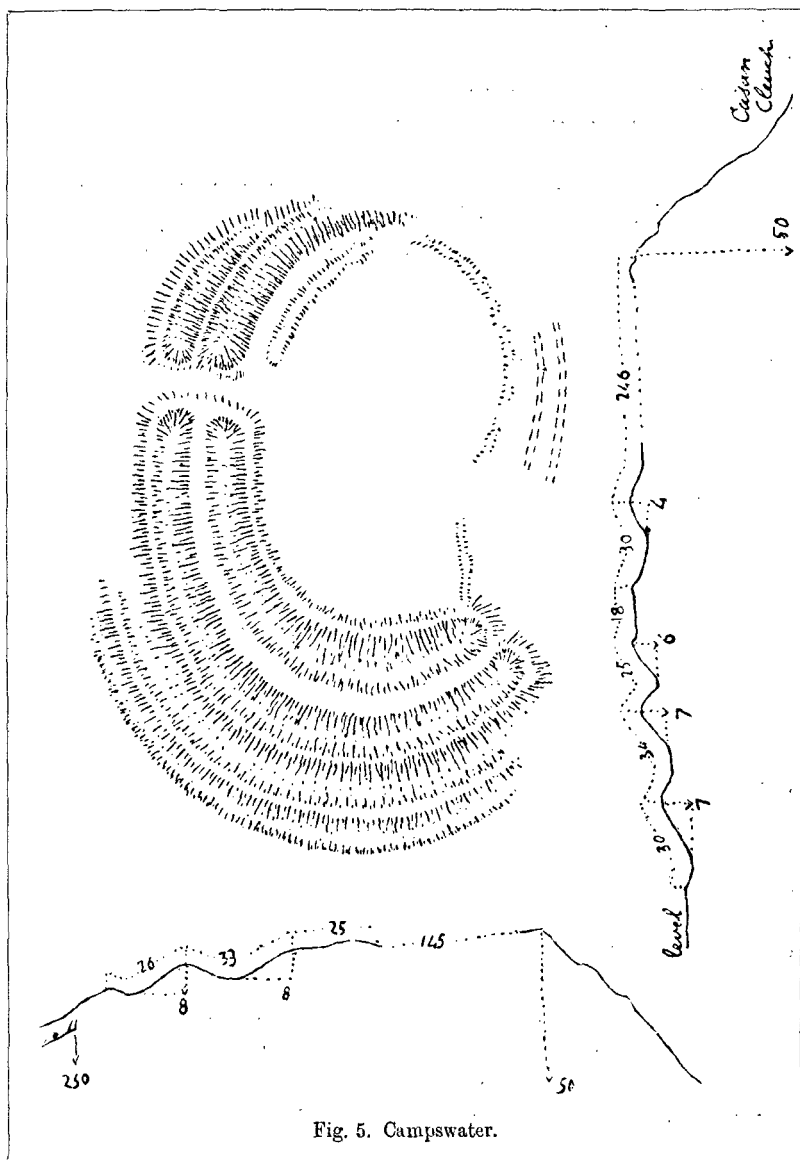


Fig. 5. Campswater.

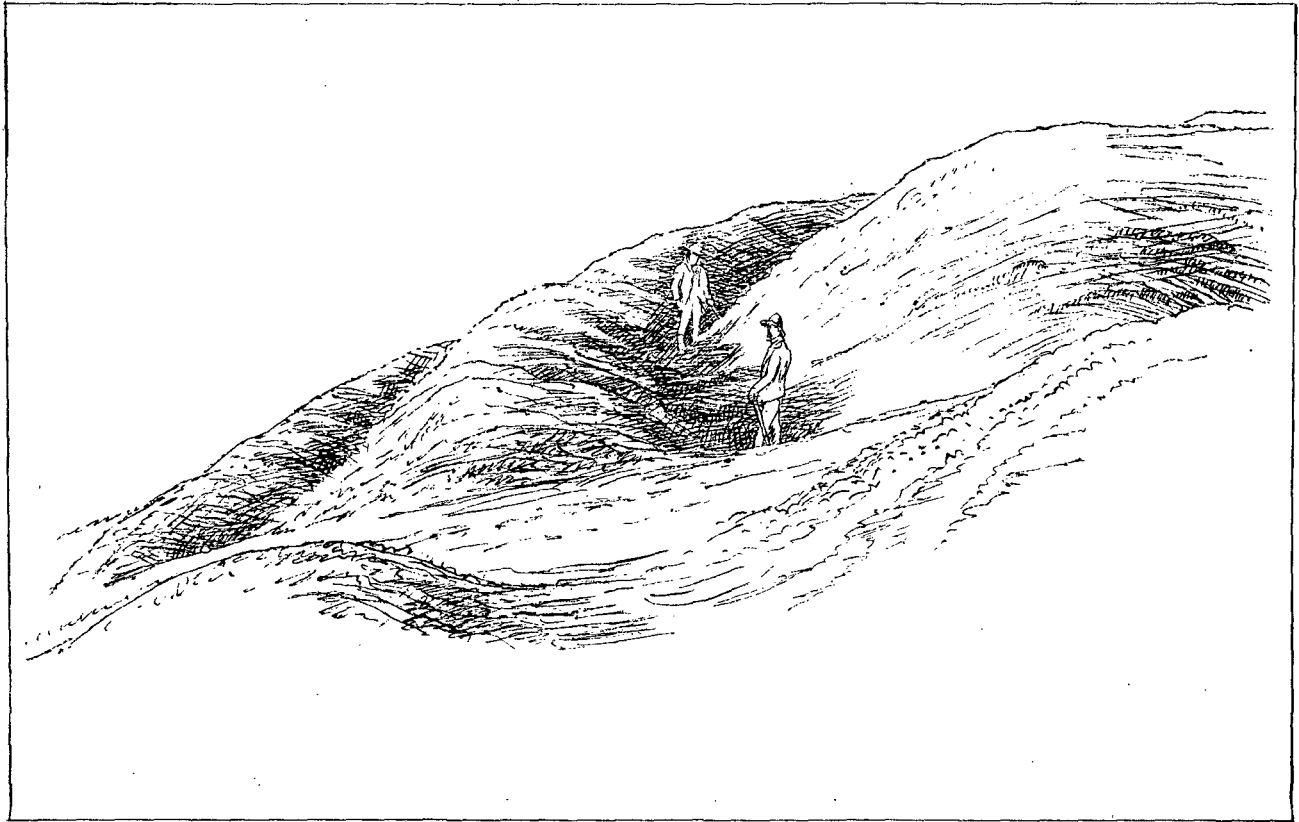
spot among the hills, near the eastern boundary of the county, upon Grains burn, a northern tributary of the Campswater,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles above its junction with the Clyde. The site is on the east side of the burn, nearly 300 feet above it, 1250 above the sea, and 600 yards from the junction with the Campswater. Although not isolated, the position is strong, being protected on the north flank by Casan Cleuch, a precipitous ravine, 50 feet deep; in rear by an equally deep transverse cut in the hill, which separates it from the continuation of the slope upwards to a summit (1612) of Fairburn Rig (1779); and in front by the gentle but long slope to the burn. At the south end it is weaker, as a small triangular plateau, but little lower than the fort, is not included in the works. The mode in which the ancient builders varied their fortifications according to the nature of the site is well illustrated in this case. The comparatively weak south end is fortified by four concentric ramparts and trenches. These ramparts vary in construction. The outer and inner ones are ordinary, wide, rounded mounds; but the second, reckoning from the outside, is narrow, steep, and sharp-crested, while the third has a flat or slightly hollowed top, 18 feet wide in the middle, but getting narrower towards the ends, affording ample space for a large body of defenders. Viewed from the triangular plateau outside, all four ramparts can be seen, the one rising behind the other. Following the lines northwards to the west face, the outer rampart and trench and second trench are lost, but the other three ramparts and two trenches remain to protect the south side of the entrance. On its north side a new system begins, consisting first of an outer rampart, which runs only halfway to Casan Cleuch; secondly, of a rampart and trench, gradually lost on the Cleuch; and inside of all, a trench with a high scarp, which, however, instead of a parapet, carries, a little withdrawn from the edge, a stony mound, apparently the foundation of a substantial wall. For a short distance at the extreme north end there has apparently been nothing but a slight wall at the edge of the precipitous descent to the Casan Burn. Turning round southwards to the rear of the fort, we find another system. In the northern half of this side the slope is too steep to admit of entrenchments, and instead of them two 4-foot wide terraces have been cut, one below the other, which,

when furnished with some kind of parapet, would constitute, along with the wall at the edge above, a triple line of defence. A re-entering curve in the ground, with an easy slope, follows, where probably there was another entrance, but all trace of fortification here, excepting the top mound, is lost; the second and third ramparts of the south system, however, curve round, so that their ends completely flank the re-entering approach to the top. The west entrance (Plate VIII.) is well preserved; the ends of the ramparts flanking it are not opposite each other. Instead of this, the ramparts of one side are opposite the trenches of the other, and, owing to the conformation of the ground, the bottom of the trenches on the south side are above the present level of the entrance, while those on the north are below it. I think there are traces of circular foundations in the interior, but only one semicircle—on the north side of the entrance—is quite indubitable. In breaks in the ramparts a few large and small stones are visible, but no building.

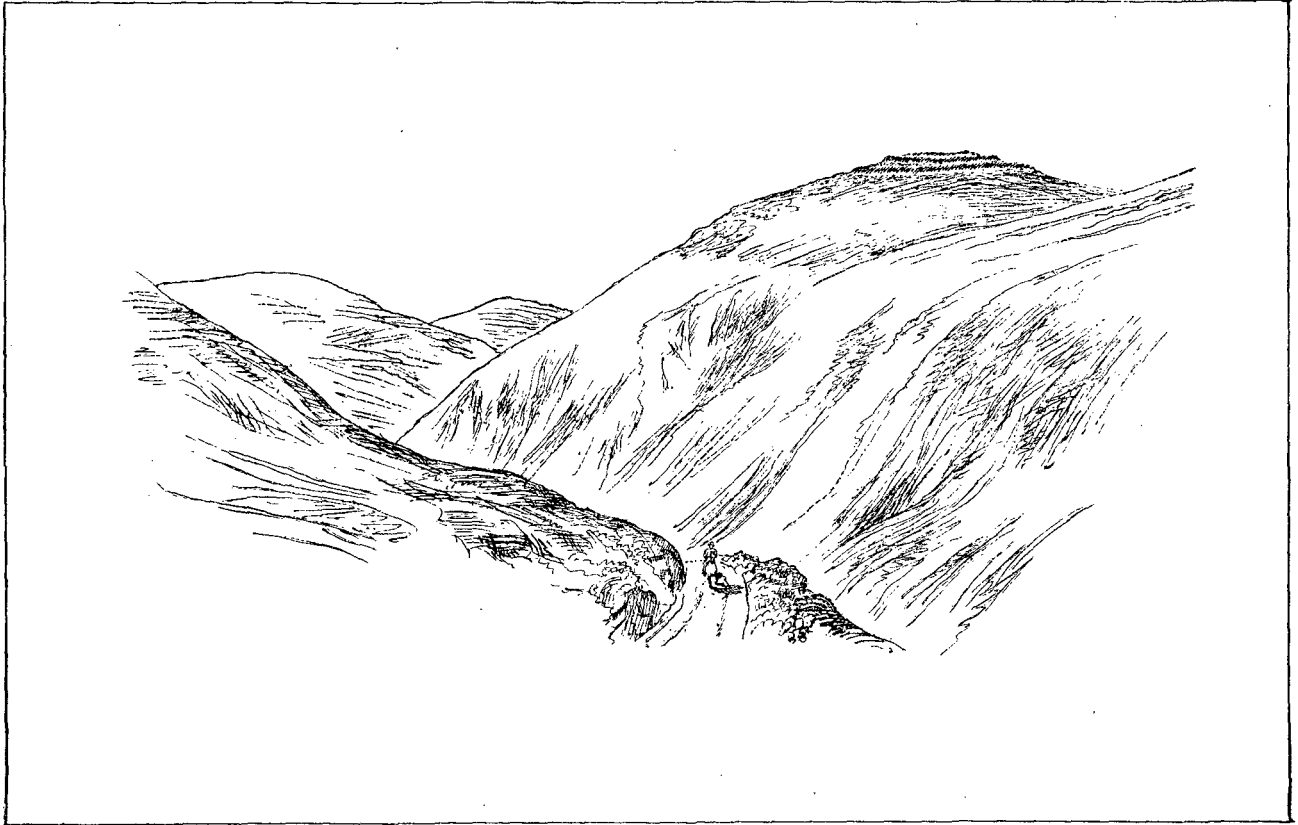
Returning to the Clyde, and proceeding only a mile and a quarter north of the three Crawford forts, on the same side of the river, we encounter another group of three, within the space of a mile.

19. *Arbory* (fig. 6 and Plate IX.).—The fort on the summit of this steep conical hill, 1406 feet above the sea, looks down upon the Clyde, half a mile westward, from a height of 600 feet. The slopes on three sides are long and steep, but to the east a gentler descent of only 80 to 100 feet connects the site with the rise to the top of Tewsgill Hill (1867). The triple circumvallation is well seen from the road over the pass to Campswater (Plate IX.). The interior is level and nearly circular, measuring from 130 to 135 feet in diameter, and contains low nondescript mounds. It is enclosed by a zone of tumbled stones, 25 to 35 feet wide, and 3 or 4 feet high in the middle, with no visible remains of building. The ground falls gently from this "ring," and at a distance from it varying from 18 to 40 feet comes the second "ring," consisting of a slight parapet at the top of a scarp, which, with a low counterscarp, forms a trench, the bottom of which is from 6 to 9 feet below the top of the parapet. A second interspace, varying from 18 to 50 feet in width, follows, which, where narrowest, on the south and west, assumes the form of an elevated platform with trifling parapets to front and rear,





ENTRANCE TO CAMPSWATER FORT



ARBORY HILL AND FORT

but elsewhere merely slopes gently to the outer "ring." This closely resembles the middle one; but in sweeping round from north to east, it diverges outwards so as to end at the north side of the entrance,

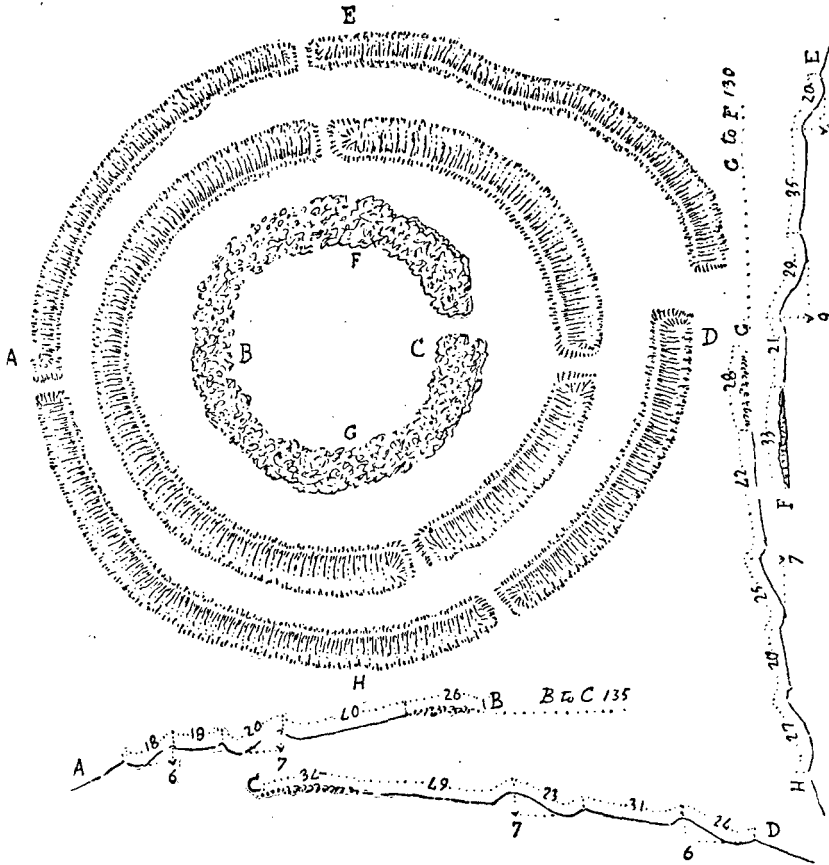


Fig. 6. Arbury.

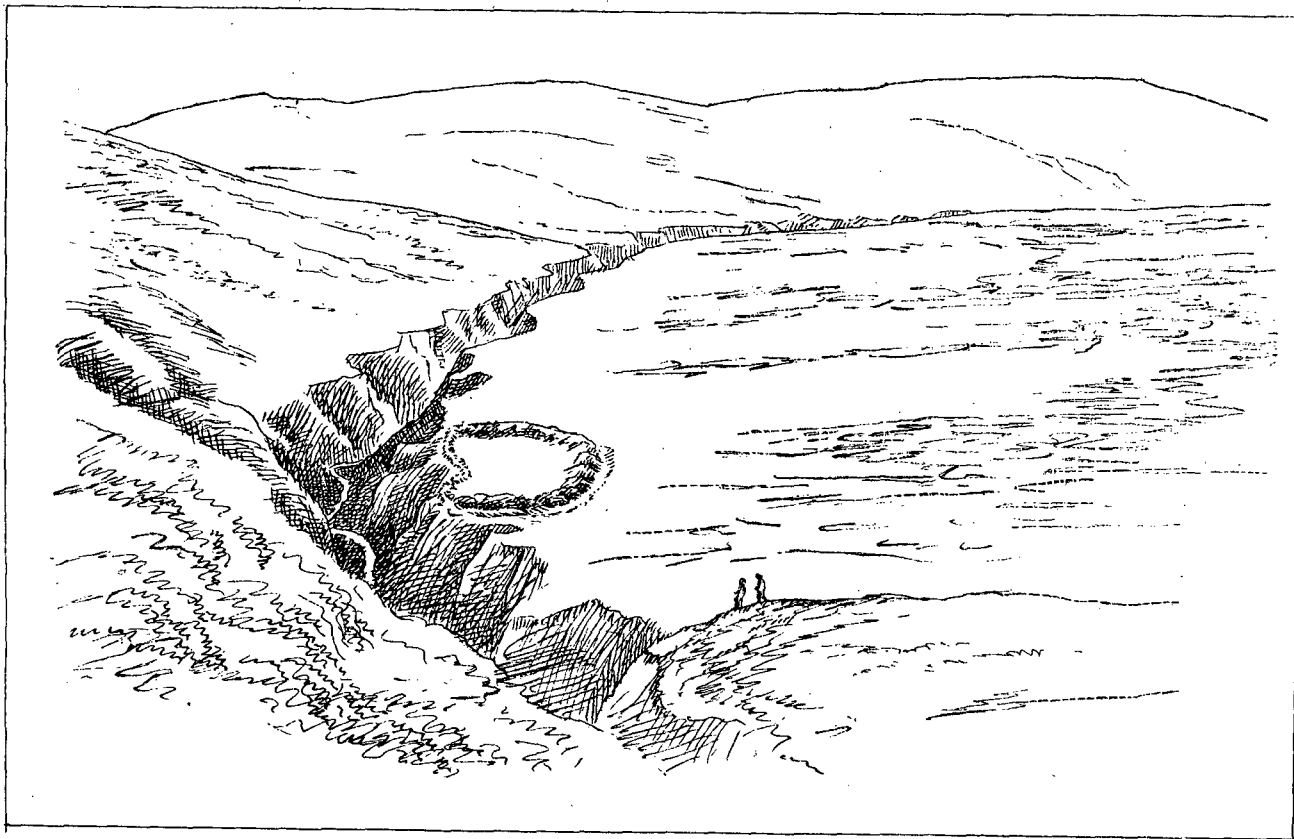
fully 20 feet in advance of the end of the same ring on the south side of the entrance. Three other entrances pierce the outer rings only, and are probably ancient, because the openings through the two

rings, as in the case of the main entrance, are not opposite each other. As to the structure of the rings there can be little doubt that the inner one has been a thick stone wall, of which the large stones have been plundered and the inferior ones alone remain. The outer rings have apparently been of earth, perhaps faced, but certainly strengthened in some way with stones, as both the scarps and counterscarps have bulky stones, some of them 3 feet long, lying on or half embedded in them, and partly set in rows.

20. *S. Coldchapel*.—The site is slightly raised above a nearly level field at the foot of Arbory Hill, 400 yards south of Coldchapel Burn, 150 east of the Clyde, and only about 30 feet above it. The single rampart was in excellent preservation about forty years ago, according to Mr Irving, and is so represented on the O.M., but is now totally destroyed. A peasant on the spot told me that an enormous quantity of stones had been carted from the rampart, but that none were found in the interior. A low mound still marks the ground plan, which is undoubtedly a circle, 180 feet in diameter over all, as the O.M. makes it, although Mr Irving unaccountably calls it rectangular.

21. *N. Coldchapel* (fig. 7, the small inserted view).—Half a mile north of the last, 300 yards east of the Clyde, 50 feet above it, and 850 above the sea, on the slope of Priestgill Rig (1361), where it becomes quite easy towards the river. It consists simply of a rampart, nearly circular in form, which has been much knocked about for the sake of plundering the stones concealed under the green mound. I found by tape the dimensions of the fort to be 306 by 287 feet over all, and 246 by 220 inside. From faint markings on the ground I think the interior has been filled with hut circles, and this probably saved the fort from sharing the fate of the last, as I was told it was found "ow'r hard to ploo'."

22. *Shiel Burn* (fig. 8 and Plate X.), 1000 feet above the sea, lies 2 miles north-east of the last, among the hills, on the Shiel Burn,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile above its junction with Wandel Burn, and a mile and a quarter from the Clyde. Its situation at the north end of an extensive, high-level, gently sloping moor, and on the edge of the steep ravine of Shiel Burn, is shown in Plate X. It is an oval, of which one of the long sides has been, as it were, cut off by the ravine. Here the defence has been



SHIELBURN FORT

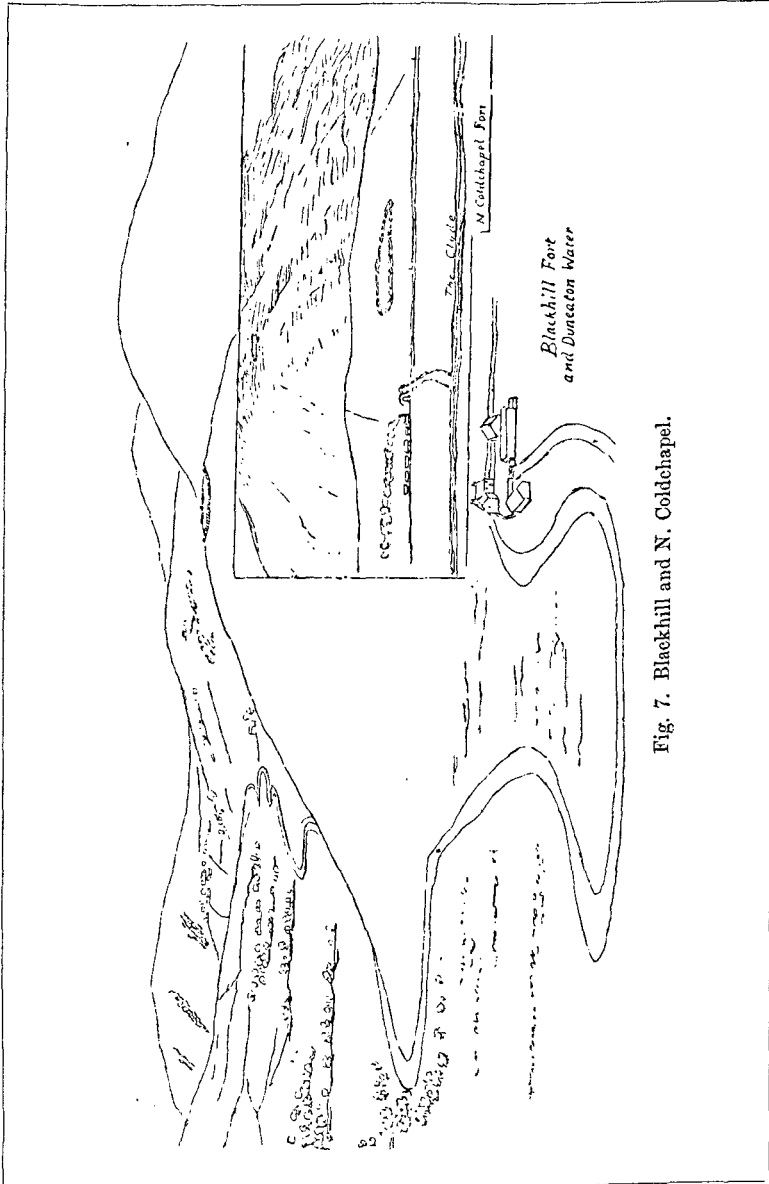


Fig. 7. Blackhill and N. Coldchapel.

merely a slight wall or rampart running irregularly along the edge. Towards the moor there is a massive, rude, earthen mound, with a 10 to 20 feet wide, now shallow, trench in front, and a marsh beyond. The

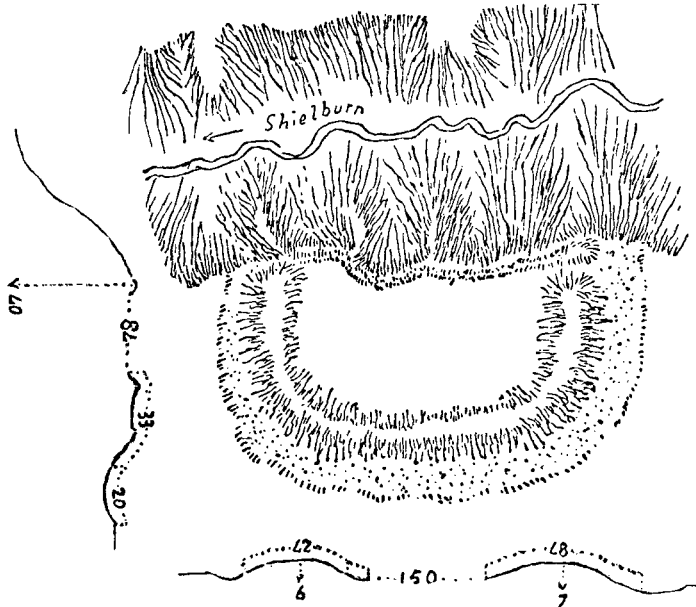


Fig. 8. Shielburn.

enclosed space measures about 150 by 80 feet. The entrance is from the east, close to the ravine.

23. *Devonshaw* (fig. 9).—One mile north-west of the last, 1000 feet above the sea, and 300 above the Clyde, which is 300 yards distant. The form is a broad oval, of about 200 by 160 feet inside. The defences are obscured by dilapidation, but the inner line seems to have consisted of a considerable rampart of earth and stones to the east and south, where the natural strength is least, and of a less substantial wall, of which sockets for stones of some size remain, on the other sides. At a lower

level of from 8 to 15 feet an outer line seems to have been formed, consisting of a natural trench to the east, which southward passes into a space 40 feet wide, defended by a low mound, again becomes a natural trench on the west, and passes on the north into a narrow terrace cut in

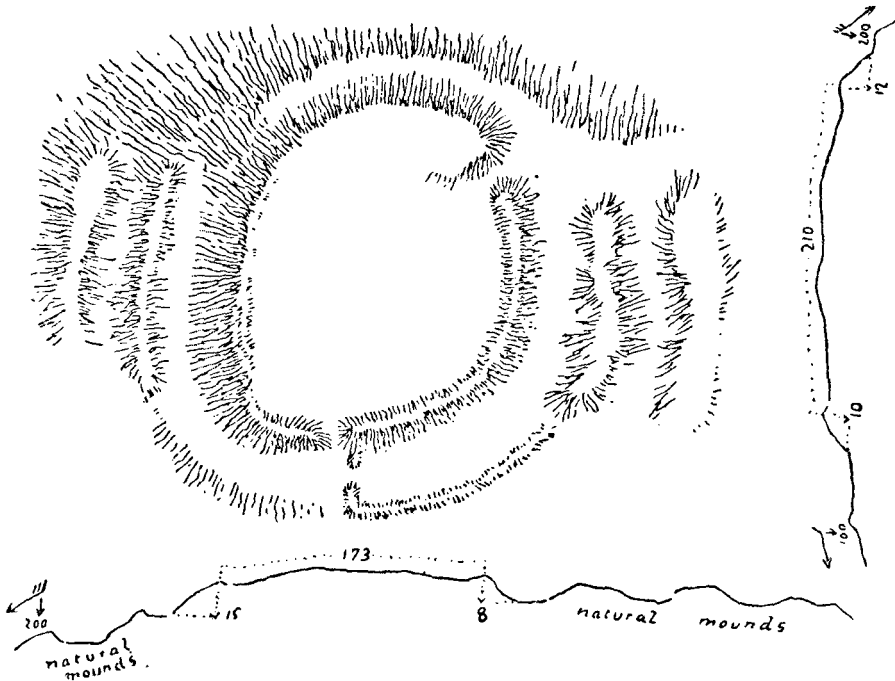


Fig. 9. Devonshaw.

the steep slope. The surface of the interior is irregular, rising higher than the enciente, and besides natural rock there seem to be remains of mounds, and perhaps of hut circles in it. There are two entrances, one from the south, the other from the north-east.



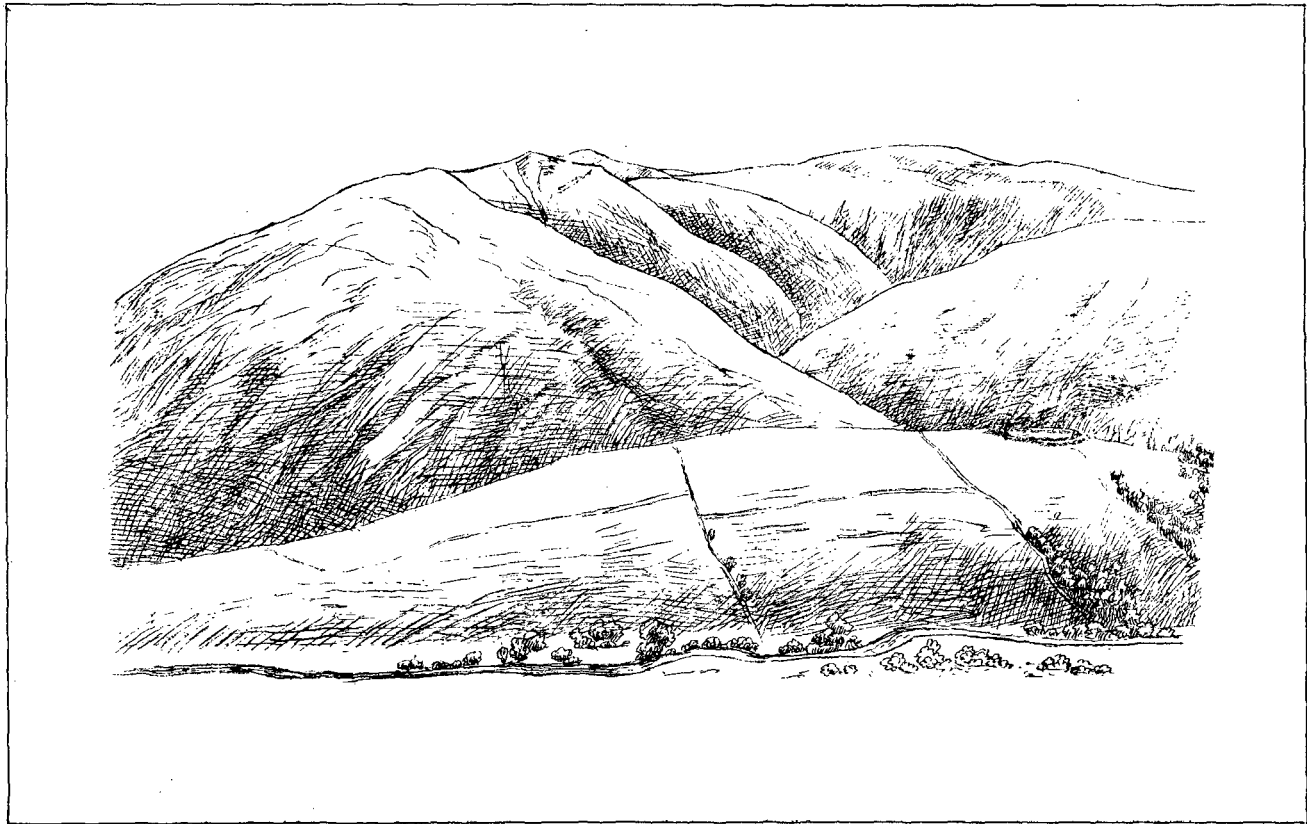
Between Devonshaw and Lamington, the N.S.A. places two forts—one at Hartside, “oblong, 90 by 60 feet, having a rampart on all sides; on the north, west, and south it is protected by a rather steep brink, and on the east by a deep ditch.” The other, on the top of Starthope Hill (1399 feet), is described as a ring of earth and stones about 60 feet in diameter. Another is mentioned at Braehead, a site which I cannot identify. None of these are in the O.M.

24. *Whitehill* (fig. 10).—From Devonshaw we have to proceed five miles down the Clyde before encountering the next fort. It lies quite apart from the high hills, on the gentle southward slope of a low ridge



Fig. 10. Whitehill, Lamington.

called Whitehill, and is very conspicuous from a distance of several miles to the west, although, when examined, it proves to be ill preserved and difficult to make out in detail. The plan shows, however, that it has been a large work of unusual form, consisting apparently of three ovals, somewhat compressed by being joined together in line, but each separately defensible, with double mounds in some parts, and additional ramparts thrown out at the east end. The total dimensions are about 550 by 110 feet, according both to the O.M. and my own measurements.



NISBET FORT AND GLEN

The N.S.A. describes this as "three camps quite adjoining one another, all of considerable dimensions, the largest 210 feet long and 120 broad, with a ditch 15 feet wide." The site is 800 feet above the sea, 100 above the Clyde, and half a mile south of a bend of that river. The resemblance of this fort in ground plan and site to a French mote,

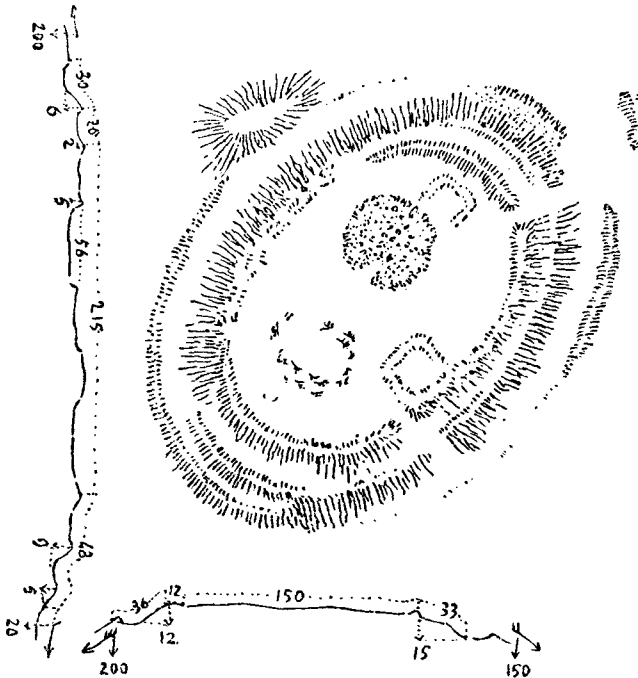


Fig. 11. Nisbet.

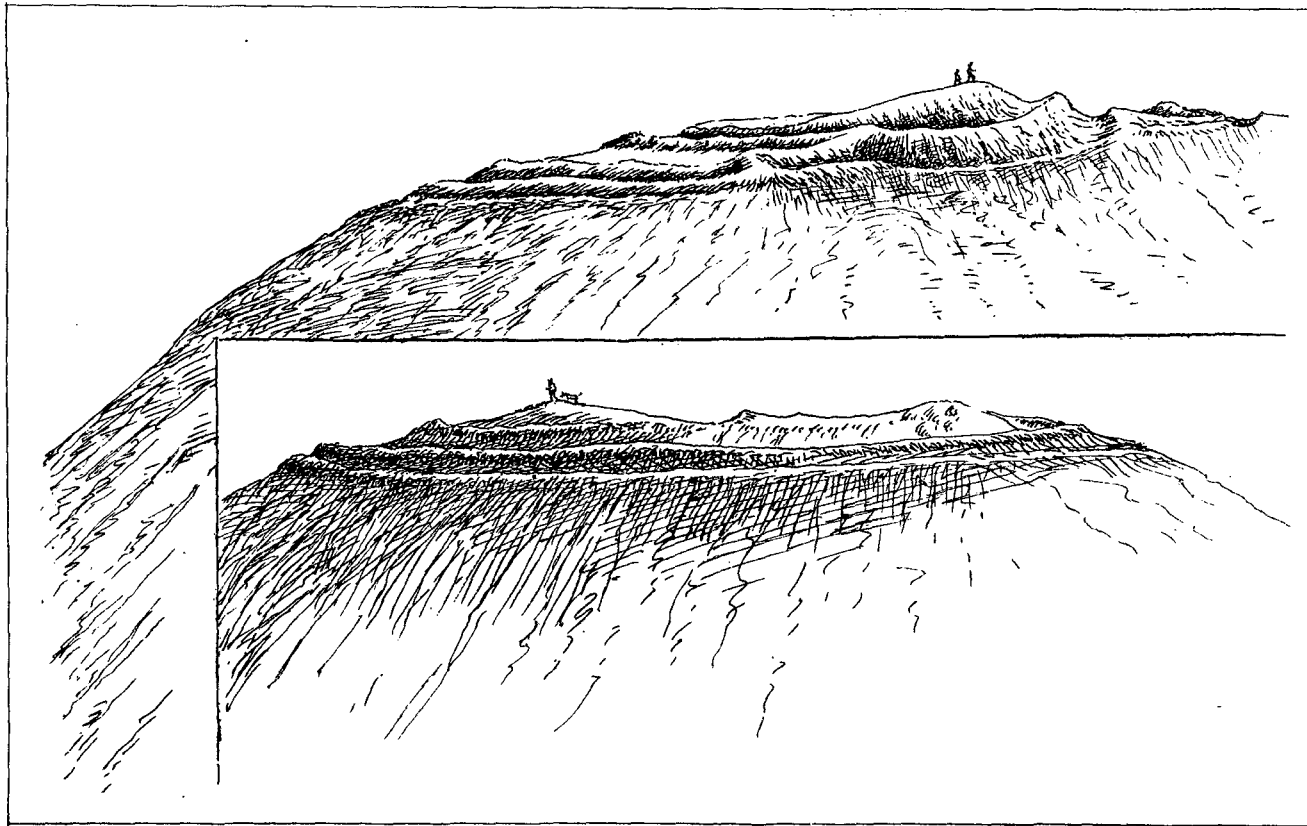
the Chateau d'Aulnay, figured in De Caumont's *Abécédaire d'Archéologie*, p. 398, although probably accidental, is certainly most remarkable.

We next encounter a remarkable group of six forts, within a radius of little more than half a mile, on Culter Water.

25. *Nisbet* (fig. 11 and Plate VI).—Fully 1000 feet above the sea, on the top of the terminal spur of a ridge, three miles long, descending

northward from the summit of Culter Fell. The site is easily accessible up this spur from Nisbet Farm on the north, and is only cut off from the ascent of the ridge southward by a slight dip, but the descents of about 250 feet to the Culter Water on the west, and 150 feet to Nisbet Burn on the east, are steep. The view eastwards up Nisbet Glen to the sources of the burn, with the steep slopes interlacing at the foot, and entirely covered with heather, is one of the finest of the kind in South Scotland. In shape the fort is an oval of about 210 by 150 feet inside. The poor remains of three concentric ramparts can be easily enough made out on the north and east, and more particularly on the south, but if there ever was a middle one on the west, it is entirely gone. The space between the inner and middle ramparts seems to have been a platform and not a trench, and on the long sides the defences assume something of the terraced type. Touching the outer line, but not included by it, there is a curious isolated mound. Inside, at the north end, there is a sharply-defined circular depression, 56 feet in diameter, the flat bottom of which is strewn with small stones, like the base of a destroyed cairn, and towards the south end there is a low round rocky mound. There are also remains of two rectangular structures. There are three entrances, but it is difficult to say which or how many are original. This fort was measured by tape.

26. *Cow Castle* (fig. 12, and Plate XII., upper figure), on the south-east side of a little trough-like valley which opens on Nisbet Burn at its junction with Culter Water, and which, skirting the northern buttresses of the Culter Fell range, affords an easy pass to Kilbucho and Tweeddale. The site is at the south-west end of an isolated ridge, a quarter of a mile long on the summit, 1040 feet above the sea, about 300 feet above the valley, and entirely cut off by a steep dip of 100 feet from Blackhill, the first of a series of eminences ending southward in Culter Fell. The defences are fairly preserved and are complex in plan, comprising a central work, with additions pushed out to north and south. The interior is an oval of about 150 by 102 feet, and rises abruptly on the south-east into a mound—partly natural, probably, but very stony—15 feet high to the inside and 8 to the outside. This completely conceals the interior, which otherwise would be much overlooked from the



COWCASTLE AND SNAIP FORT

slope of Blackhill. In describing the defences, it will be convenient in the meantime to leave out the north-west side. On the other three sides the inner rampart is surrounded by a second, which has a trench in front to north and south, but on the west is nearly continuous with the steep slope of the hill, although a narrow path probably indicates that the

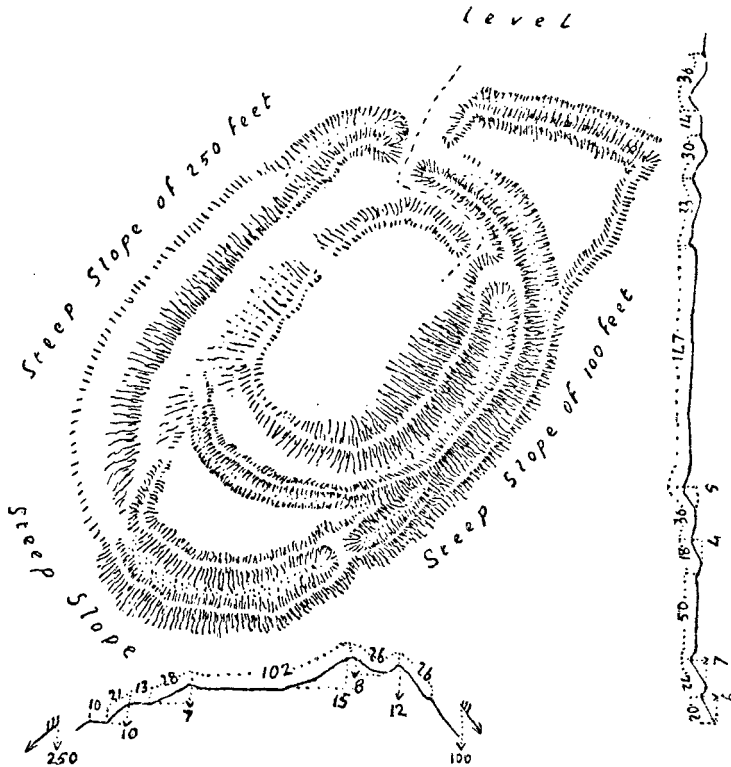


Fig. 12. Cow Castle.

second line was carried round here also as a stockade. The southern outwork is a crescentic space, 50 feet wide in the middle, fortified, at the very edge of the south-west end of the site, by a double

rampart and intervening trench. The northern outwork, of similar size, is somewhat triangular, and is defended towards the level continuation of the ridge by a rampart and trench, but on the edge of the steep slope to the south-east merely by a trifling mound, perhaps the remains of a wall. The connection of the outer lines of defence on the north-west face with the rest cannot be precisely made out, but they are represented by two broad, straight terraces cut on the face of the slope to the valley. The entrance is at the north corner, where it is flanked on the west by a sharp bend of the terraces, which here become a double rampart with intervening trench, and on the east by the northern outwork. The passage seems then to turn sharply to the left between the inner and second rampart, and finally, turning sharply to the right, and flanked by a high mound which connects the two ramparts, pierces the inner one. Its course is marked on the plan by a dotted line. This fort was measured by tape.

At the north-east end of the ridge is a detached oval work of 108 by 70 feet inside. The single rampart is well preserved at the north and south ends. Perhaps there has been a terraced defence 10 feet lower on the north, but the plough has destroyed any additional defence that may have been on the other sides.

27. *Langloch* (fig. 13).—Looking across the gorge, 100 feet deep, from Cow Castle to Blackhill, the double lines of a fort are plainly visible, as if engraved on the face of the hill, at about the same level as Cow Castle; but on approaching, the site is found to be a little mound detached from the hill by a slight dip of 20 feet. The work is an oval, of about 100 by 70 feet inside, encompassed by two lines of defence, the outer 10 to 15 feet below the inner one and diverging considerably from it at the two ends. The ramparts are much destroyed, particularly at the north end; but where better preserved there is much stone about them, and this has probably been a stone fort. A third rampart has been inserted between the other two at the north and south ends only. In the hollow between the two forts there is a "hut-circle;" on the way to the neighbouring Nisbet fort, on the west side of Nisbet Burn, there is another; and about a mile east of Cow Castle in the pass to Kilbucho there is a third.

28. *Lower Snaip*.—Low down on the slope of Snaip Hill, 900 feet

above the sea and 100 above Culter Water, a quarter of a mile south-west from Snaip Farmhouse. Described by Mr Irving as being "defended by a single rampart of irregular form measuring 153 and 128 feet at its two widest points." The O.M. makes it an irregular hexagon, measuring



Fig. 13. Langloch.

about 175 by 170 feet, and gives a mere outline without details. It has been so knocked about that I could make out nothing definite about it.

29. *Upper Snaip* (fig. 14, and Plate XII., lower figure).—On the top of Snaip Hill, 1187 feet above the sea, 400 above Culter Water. The position is very strong at the north-east end, from its height above Culter Water, and on the north-west face, because the ground falls steeply for 300 feet to a ravine separating Snaip Hill from a lower height, crowned by Culter Park fort. But to the south-west there is only a dip of 30 or 40 feet to the continuation of the ridge, and on the south-east side it is separated from a somewhat lower part of the summit merely by a narrow, probably natural, trench. The defences are much



decayed, but consist of an inner somewhat dumb-bell-shaped enceinte, probably originally a wall; going round from 10 to 15 feet below



Fig. 14. Upper Snaip.

it is a terrace, partially provided with a parapet, but lost on the rocky north-east point, and also where the hill is steep at the south corner.

There are distinct remains of a third rampart at the two ends, and though a connecting-line can hardly be traced on the north-west side on the spot, it is distinctly marked on the hillside, as seen from Culter Park fort. On the south-east side there is no third line of defence, but its place is partially supplied by the trench already mentioned. A great part of the interior is occupied by two rocky mounds, a few feet high. A low curved artificial mound runs across the southern one, from side to side of the inner enceinte.

30. *Culter Park* (fig. 15).—About 1000 feet above the sea, on the

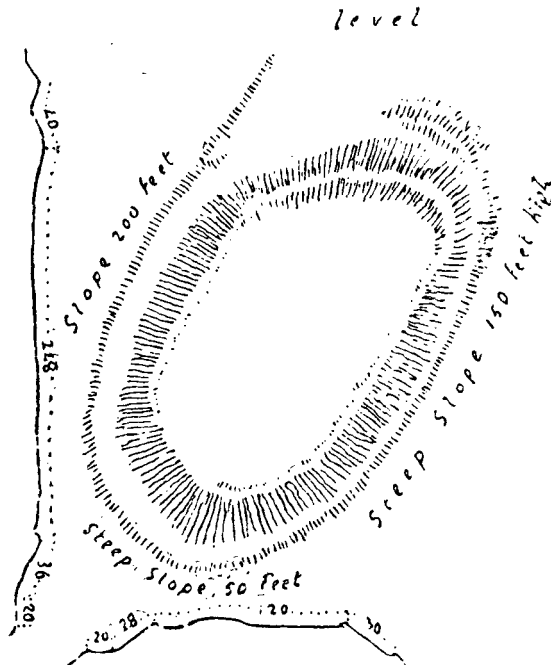


Fig. 15. Culter Park.

top of a hill which faces Snaip Hill (1187) from the opposite side of the ravine already mentioned, and 150 to 200 feet above the bottom of the ravine. The two forts are about 400 yards apart. The interior is level,

and is an irregular oval of about 220 by 120 feet, enclosed by substantial mounds at the two ends, passing into trifling ones at the sides. It occupies only about half of the level top, at its south end. A twenty-foot wide terrace, 10 to 12 feet down the hill, runs round the west and south sides, becoming a mere narrow ledge on the very steep east side, and passing into a trench, with rampart beyond, on the north towards the unoccupied end of the hill-top.

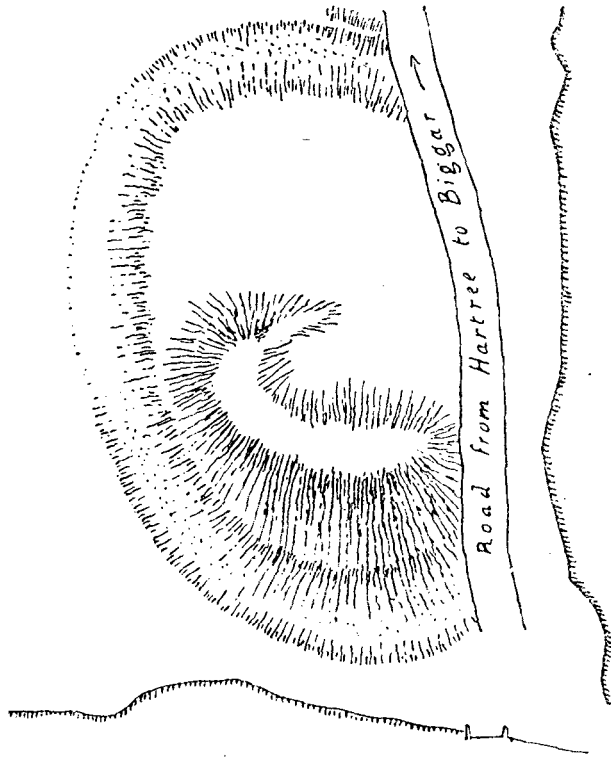


Fig. 16. Hartree.

31. *Hartree* (fig. 16).—Quite in the low ground of the broad easy pass or strath from Clydesdale to Tweeddale, 657 feet above the sea, on

the west side of the road from Hartree to Biggar, and a few hundred yards south-west of the ruins of Boghall Castle. From its situation in the plain it has been long subject to the plough, and the rampart is almost obliterated except its scarp, which, with the wide trench in front and the fragment of an outer rampart at the north end, are still quite distinct. It is an oval, the east side of which has been shaved off by the road, and is situated in a nearly level field, with scarcely any natural advantage whatever. The southern half of the interior, however, rises 6 feet above the rest, and nearly 20 above the trench to the south, where the ground falls somewhat. This elevated mass seems too large to be artificial, yet it may be so, and in that case the work should perhaps be regarded as a mote rather than a fort.

*B. Forts on the left bank of the Clyde and its tributaries, as far north as the westward bend of the river at Carstairs.*

In the very upper part of Lanarkshire there is a remarkable absence of forts on the west of the Clyde. To balance ten on the east side, lying in the space of 8 miles from Bodsberry Hill to Devonshaw Hill, there are but three in the much more extensive mountainous region to the west, and while all but two of the former look down upon the Clyde, the latter are quite remote from it in the valley of Duneaton Water. Moreover, two of the three, of trifling size, were probably rectilinear, and have been included by me in the rectilinear class (A), p. 293.

32. *Blackhill* (figs. 7 and 17).—On the top of a smoothly-rounded spur, 1100 feet above the sea, of Blackhill (1260), which stands within a semi-circular bend of Duneaton Water, 300 feet below. In two directions the ground falls from the fort at once to the stream, but to the south-east the works are somewhat withdrawn from the edge, and on the opposite side the site is connected with Blackhill by a wide, nearly level neck. The view from the fort is striking, as the height on which it stands appears to be the centre of a circle of higher hills, through which the stream forces its way in a narrow semicircular gorge. The prospect is hence much circumscribed, although the projection of the site into the

bend affords a view westward up Duneaton Water and a peep of the distant Clydesdale north-eastward. The fort is a circle of about 245 feet diameter over all, the defences consisting of two "rings." The outer one is of earth and stones, and has a slight trench in front towards the two easy sides. The inner one, not concentric—as it is close to the outer one on the south-west, but leaves a considerable interspace on the north-east,—has been in all probability a strong stone wall. It now

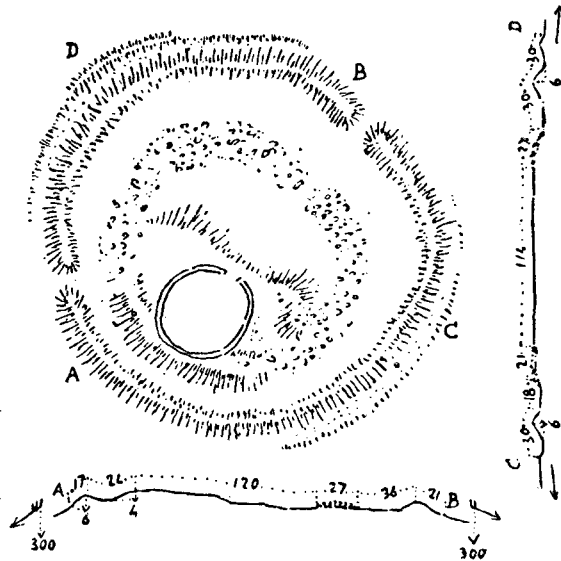


Fig. 17. Blackhill.

forms a zone, 25 to 35 feet wide, of smallish stones, partly overgrown with grass. A "ree," or circular sheep-pen, shown in the plan, accounts for a number of the larger stones, but a few still larger, three feet in length, also lie about. One of these, apparently *in situ* at the inner entrance, admirably adapted from its smooth regular form for a casing stone, is perhaps an evidence, and the only visible one, of building. The only entrance is from the north-east and passes straight through both "rings."

There are faint traces of traverses on each side of the passage in the interspace, and more distinct remains of another on the south. There is a good deal of shapeless, overgrown, stony débris within the inner "ring."

The other two forts up Duneaton Water have been already noticed at p. 293.

33. *Newton* (figs. 18 and 19).— We have to proceed 5 miles northward before encountering the next fort. It is 3 miles west of the Clyde, projected from the south into the wide valley of the Garf on the summit (1048) of a spur of Dungalvel (1675). Its position is shown in the wood at A, fig. 18. The approach is easy along the neck from the south, and in the other directions the ground slopes gently to the valley, and to the stream, 200 feet below. The two massive ramparts of this slightly oval fort are tolerably well preserved, except where the plough has shaved away the outer one on the flanks. They are apparently of earth and stones; the inner one, particularly towards the north-east, is flat-topped, and the outer one becomes a wide terrace to the south. There are two entrances, and in the interior two massive curved mounds which touch each other. The O.M.

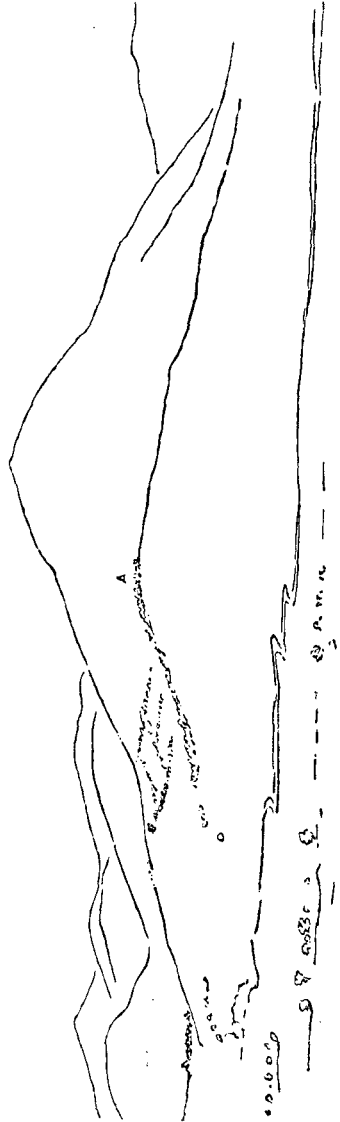


Fig. 18. Dungalvel and Newton Fort (at A.)

most unaccountably gives only one rampart. Mr Irving rightly describes the two.

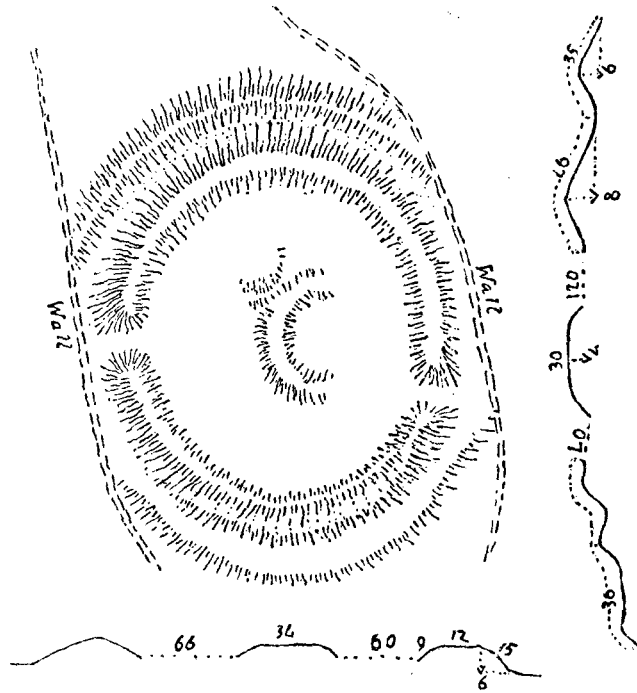


Fig. 19. Newton.

34. *Whiteside Hill*.—Strictly speaking, this fort belongs to the Douglasdale watershed, as it is at the head of Ponfeigh Burn, but as it is also close to the head of Garf Water, and commands a fine view down it, and as there is no other fort connected with the Douglas waters, we may conveniently notice it here. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west-north-west of Newton fort, on an eminence 1139 feet above the sea, commanding an extensive view. Nothing remains but a faint mound-circle about 50 feet in diameter, and half a dozen large stones, but Mr Irving

describes it as having been a stone fort from which the stones were removed to build a march dyke.

Opposite the Garf the close valley of the Clyde opens up considerably, and becomes more distinctively a dale; hence the remaining forts to the north are divisible into hill and dale forts. The former again may be subdivided into two groups, one occupying the north-east skirts of Tinto, the other situated on Pettinain Hill.

35. *St John's Kirk* (fig. 20).—At St John's Kirk a little glen containing the Kirk Burn penetrates Tinto; a few hundred yards above its

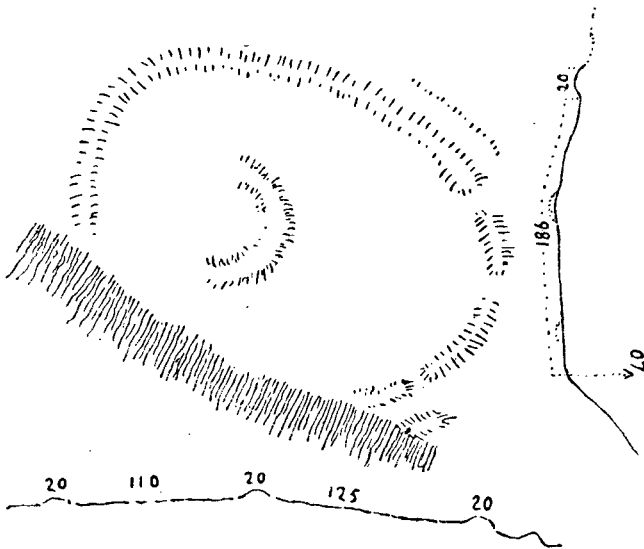


Fig. 20. St John's Kirk.

opening in the dale it is joined by a "hope" from the left, which runs parallel with the hillside for a mile, thus leaving a ridge 200 to 300 feet high between itself and the dale. On the south-east end of this ridge, close to St John's Kirk House, there is, I believe, a much-decayed fort, although no notice is taken of it either by the O.M. or by Mr Irving. The form is oval, and the defences consist of an



inner mound, part of which only remains, enclosing a level space at the west end, and an outer one down the slopes to the north and east, but level with the inner one and close to it on the west, and not traceable at the edge of a steep slope which descends to the hope on the south. There are three breaks in the outer mound at its lowest or east end; probably the one nearest the ravine is the original entrance, and in front of it, on the ravine side, an additional mound has been thrown up. The

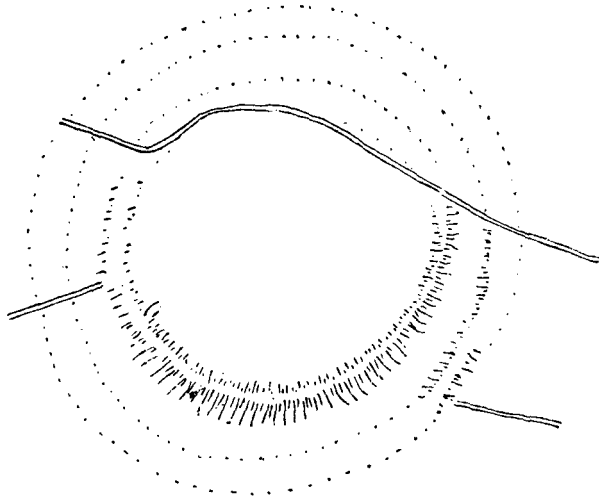
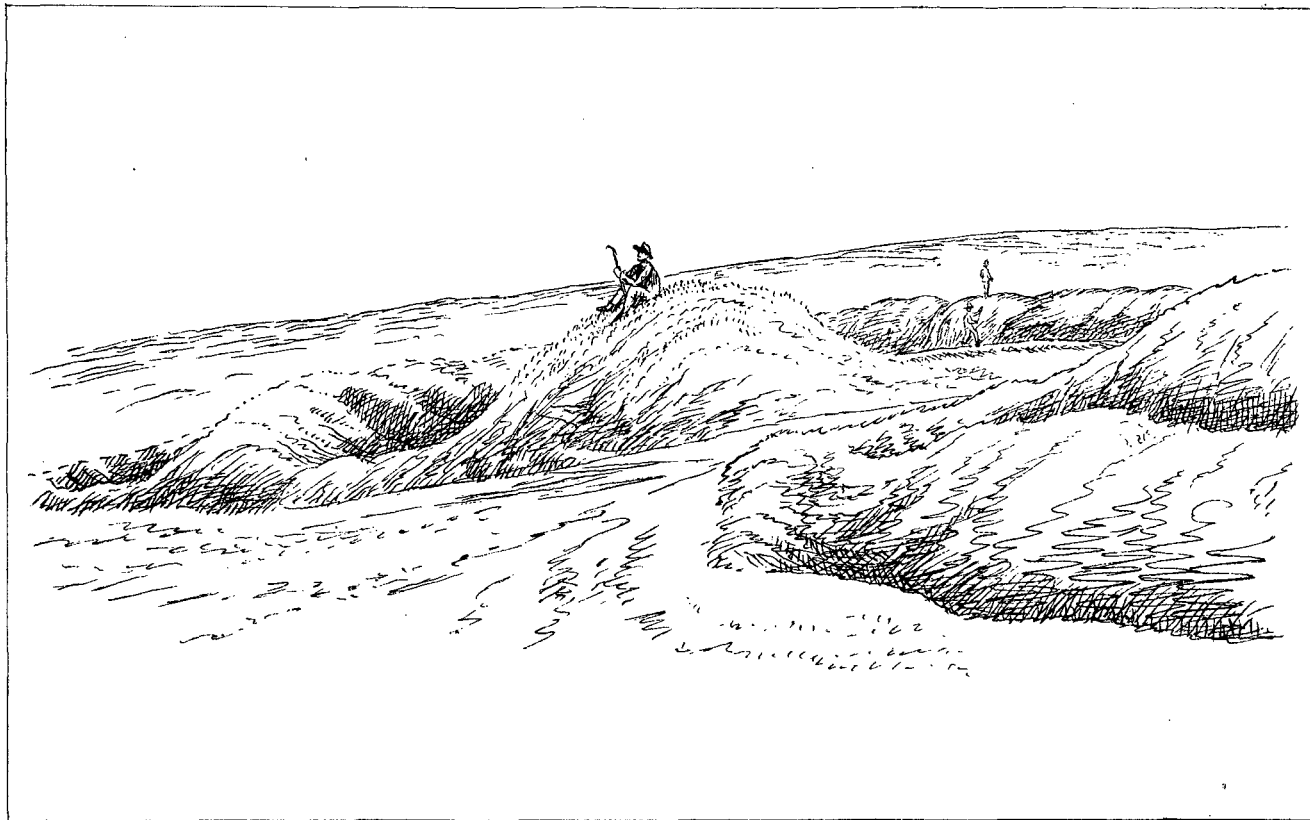


Fig. 21. Kirkhope.

mounds are about 20 feet wide and 3 or 4 high. There may be a doubt whether this is not a quarry, as it is so marked on the O.M., but I do not think that the débris of a quarry could assume the regular oval form of these mounds. I think there is also pretty distinct evidence of a trench in front of the outer mound at the east corner.

36. *Kirkhope* (fig. 21).—Continuing along the ridge for only 150 yards we encounter another fort, easily accessible on two sides from the ridge, but strengthened on the other two by long slopes to the hope and dale. It is circular and has been defended by two concentric ramparts, of which the outer is merely traceable on the ploughed slopes,



EAST ENTRANCE TO FALLBURN FORT

while the inner, well preserved only on the south-east and south-west, owes its partial safety to having been enclosed in a plantation.

*Druid's Circle.*—Three-quarters of a mile further along the ridge, and 1083 feet above the sea, a double circle, with this title, is drawn on the O.M., the diameter of the outer circle being 270 feet, and of the inner one 210 feet. Mr Irving says of it:—"The top of a small protuberance is occupied by a Druidical or megalithic circle, consisting of two irregular rows of stones, of the ordinary rock of the country, rough as they came from the quarry, and of no great size." The O.S.A. describes it as "a circle, surrounded with large stones, erected on end, close to one another. At the distance of 10 yards there is another wall, nearly resembling the former. In this place a large mound of earth is erected. Probably it was a Sheriff's Court, as the adjacent farm is called Sheriff Flats." I could find no trace of these circles unless some holes in the ground may indicate where some of the stones stood.

37. *Fallburn* (fig. 22 and Plate XIII.).—The ridge of which we have been speaking merges in a shoulder of Tinto a short distance beyond the "Druid's Circle," about half a mile west of which lies the next fort, 900 feet above the sea, at the foot of the northern declivity of Tinto, where it suddenly eases into a gentle slope leading to the marshy plain below. The interior of the fort is dry and grassy, but outside, the ground is rough with heather and marshy. The form is circular, and the enceinte consists of two ramparts and two trenches. This is one of the best preserved forts in Lanarkshire, and the ramparts are unusually high and massive, particularly to the south, where the position is weakened by the descent of the slope upon it. The ramparts are also enlarged at the two entrances, and a little square foundation, enclosing a space big enough to hold a few men on the top of the inner rampart on the north side of the west entrance, together with three traverses in the trench below, forming three little pits, may have been intended to strengthen the defence of the entrance; at least, it is difficult to assign any other use for them (see also p. 344). At its outer end the east entrance opens up as if to give a better flanking defence (Plate XIII. In this view the rise of Tinto in the background is omitted). In the interior there is a unique

irregular circular grassy mound, close to the inner rampart. It is only 6 or 7 feet wide, and about a foot high, and has no opening. Although this fort is of the earthen type, a good many stones show in breaks in the ramparts, and some large ones lie upon them.

The O.S.A. mentions another circular camp in Covington Parish, at Castledykes, "which has two subterraneous passages leading from the east gate." I cannot find this name in the O.M.

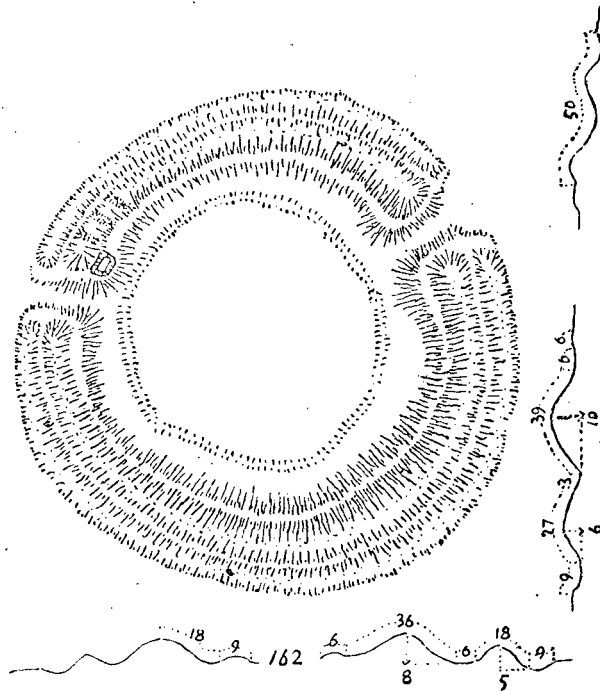
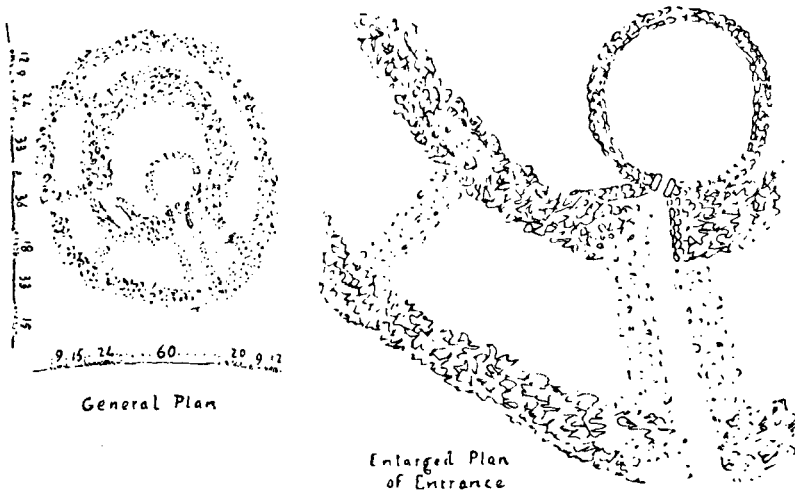


Fig. 22. Fallburn.

The next group is a remarkable one on an extensive eminence, crowned by a semicircular ridge, which on the O.M. has no general name, but a lower summit of which is marked Swaites Hill. In the Old Statistical Account (1794), however, it is said that the western and

highest part is called Westraw Hill, and the bend eastward and southward, Pettinain Hill. The whole eminence is the last of the Upper Ward Hills on the left bank of the Clyde, and from a height of 500 feet commands a fine view of the westward bend of the river and of a great extent of the low country beyond it. The hill (Map, fig. 25) may be likened to a huge ravelin, of which the long gentle slopes of upwards of a mile towards the river form the glacis; the semicircular crest of the hill, two miles long, the rampart; an elevated marshy plateau, sheltered and half enclosed by the crest, the interior; and the steep descent of 200 feet from the plateau to the Mill Burn, which separates it from Carmichael Hill, the rear or gorge. On this singularly-formed hill are four forts, three on the crest, one on the plateau.



Figs. 23 and 24. Cairngryfe.

38. *Cairngryfe* (figs. 23 and 24).—On the summit of the Westraw division of the hill (1141), which is also its highest part (A on Map). The top of the hill is flat, so that no immediate advantage is gained from the elevated site. There can be hardly any doubt that this was a stone fort of dry masonry, consisting of an inner and outer wall, the

former approximately circular, enclosing a space from 70 to 80 feet in diameter, the latter encircling the inner one at a distance of from 15 to 20 feet for three-fourths of the way, but diverging from it on nearing the entrance, so as to leave a fore-court about 40 feet wide there. I have given the probable original measurements, but as the walls are almost wholly cast down, the *débris* encroaches on the interspaces and somewhat narrows them. In the outer zone not a trace of building is to be seen, but in the inner one a portion of what seems to be a grass-grown wall about 12 feet thick can be made out amidst the mass of ruin on the south-west side; and at the entrance, where the wall apparently was thicker, there is a wall-surface about 15 feet long and 3 high, which is perhaps the original east side of the entrance. At its inner end are the remains of a doorway, only 2 feet wide, well built of large stones 3 feet in length, which gives access to a circular enclosure 36 feet in diameter. This doorway is set at a sharp angle to the passage through the wall. The partially ruinous wall of the enclosure, 2 or 3 feet wide and in places 6 feet high, is well built of small stones of uniform size. This is probably a modern "Ree" or sheep-pen, although I do not know the object of the doorway being oblique with regard to the entrance. The structure of this part is shown in the enlarged plan (fig. 24). Something like the foundation of the west side of the entrance can also be traced, indicating that the passage may have been 3 feet wide at the inner end, expanding to 6 feet at the outer end, but excavation is required to settle this point. It continues 6 feet in width through the fore-court, where the remains of its side walls can be faintly traced, and also through the outer wall. The remains of four traverses cross the interspace between the walls of the fort at irregular intervals.

Walking round the crest of the hill, after a descent of about 150 feet, we rise about half that height to the first summit of the part of the crest pertaining to Pettinain Hill, about three quarters of a mile from Cairngryfe. Upon it are several mounds (B on Map), which it is difficult to make anything of. They are of trifling width, and one of them seems to be part of an enclosure, 36 feet in diameter. About half a mile further on is the next summit (1049), crowned with a good-sized grass-covered cairn, a little southward from which are remains (C on

Map), which might almost be taken for those of a small circular fort, 120 feet in diameter over all, but they probably mark the site of the "Hero's Cairn," described by Mr Irving as a large tumulus, in which, "when it was taken down, a large urn, surrounded by five smaller ones, was discovered, the whole being included in a stone cist." This is probably also the "Cairn (site of)" marked on the 25-inch O.M.

A short distance south-west of "Hero's Cairn," looking down from the edge of the crest upon the plateau, is a circular fort (D on Map), 170 feet in diameter inside. The stony circumvallation, scarcely recognisable in some parts, is quite substantial in others, although nowhere more than 3 feet high. The ground outside is marshy, but within is dry, hard, rough, and completely covered with heather. This fort is noticed by Mr Irving, but is not on the O.M. It is probably a detached work, appertaining to the great fort of Knowhead on the plateau.

39. *Knowhead* (F on Map).—We now come to the fourth and most important fort of the group, situated, not on the crest, but in the elevated and slightly hollowed plateau, which is half encircled by the crest. This plateau is, for the most part, a half-drained marsh which surrounds the fort, except where the rampart comes to the edge of the plateau, and descends a little way down the hollow, through which runs a little rill, passing Knowhead Farm, to join the Mill Burn. This rill takes its origin by two heads in marshy ground within the fort, the interior of which is higher elsewhere and tolerably dry. In the unusually precise and accurate description in the O.S.A., it is stated that "the camp includes several springs of excellent water," in connection no doubt with this rill. The single enclosing mound is an irregular oval, which I made to be about 1200 paces round, but as the surface is very rough the paces were probably short. Still, I do not think it can be much under 1000 yards, although Mr Irving's diameters of 900 by 690 feet make it somewhat less. The O.S.A. gives the area as about 6 acres. The mound, although it rarely exceeds 2, and never 3 or 4, feet in height, is of a tolerably uniform breadth, averaging 35 feet, and although thinly covered with moss and heather, consists of little else than stones, as shown in many breaks and several accidental sections. The stones are for the most part smallish, but every here and there

large blocks occur, and it seems no improbable hypothesis that we have here the remains of a massive wall, which has been cast down and spread out for the purpose of plundering the large stones. Indeed, how else can we account for a great zone of stones, 35 feet wide, and only 2 or 3 feet high? Probably the remains were in better preservation at the

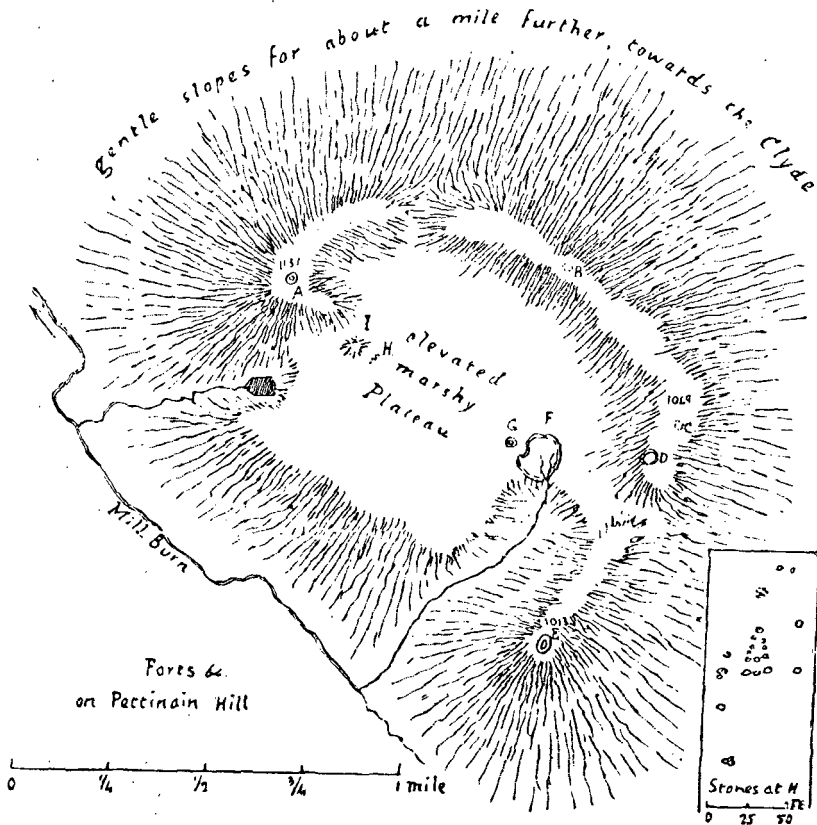


Fig. 25. Knowhead.

end of last century, as the O.S.A. says "the wall seems to have been very thick and high;" while, according to the N.S.A., in 1845, "the



traces of the camp, so well described in the O.S.A., are gradually disappearing."

On the north-west there is a singular re-entering curve in the oval, opposite to which, and about 35 yards outside the line of the oval, is a detached circular work (G on Map), 150 feet in diameter, with a single vallum, 15 feet wide and 2 to 4 in height. This detached work is planted entirely in marsh, which even occupies the inside of it. There is some appearance of a causeway connecting it with the main work and a fragment of mound halfway between. This outwork is also accurately described in the O.S.A., with the addition that "it has evidently been connected with the large camp by a passage through the moss."

Mr Irving describes the single entrenchment of Knowhead Fort as being "of a comparatively slight character," but this is contrary to the evidence of the Statistical Accounts, and to me it seems that the remains are not only considerable in themselves but indicate a work originally of unusual magnitude. He goes on to say: "From the dimensions, position, and general character of this fortification, there seems no room for doubt that it is the intermediate camp, which, from the well-known length of the daily march of a Roman legion, the western column of Agricola's army must have formed between that at Little Clyde, and their junction with the other division at Carstairs or more probably Cleghorn." But it is only about half the size of the Cleghorn Camp, and in structure and form there is nothing in common between it and what are commonly accepted as Roman "camps"; besides, for a mere temporary halting-place, why should the Romans have constructed a formidable stone fort in this secluded spot? I can see no reason for separating this work from the class of native forts, and ascribing it to the Romans, but undoubtedly in some respects it is peculiar and worthy of further investigation. The O.M. merely marks "Camp (site of)" at this spot.

40. *Chesters* (fig. 26 and E on Map).—At the extreme south-east end of the crest, and 1013 feet above the sea, is the fourth fort, commanding a fine view up Clydesdale and eastwards, facing Tinto to the south, and looking down upon Thankerton Moor from a height of above 300 feet. The slopes from it are long on three sides, but it is easily accessible along the ridge from the north. The O.M.

makes it circular; my measurements brought it out to be slightly oval, the internal diameters being 300 and 275 feet. It is enclosed by a double rampart with intervening trench. Although apparently of the earthen type, stone has also been used in its construction. Not a few

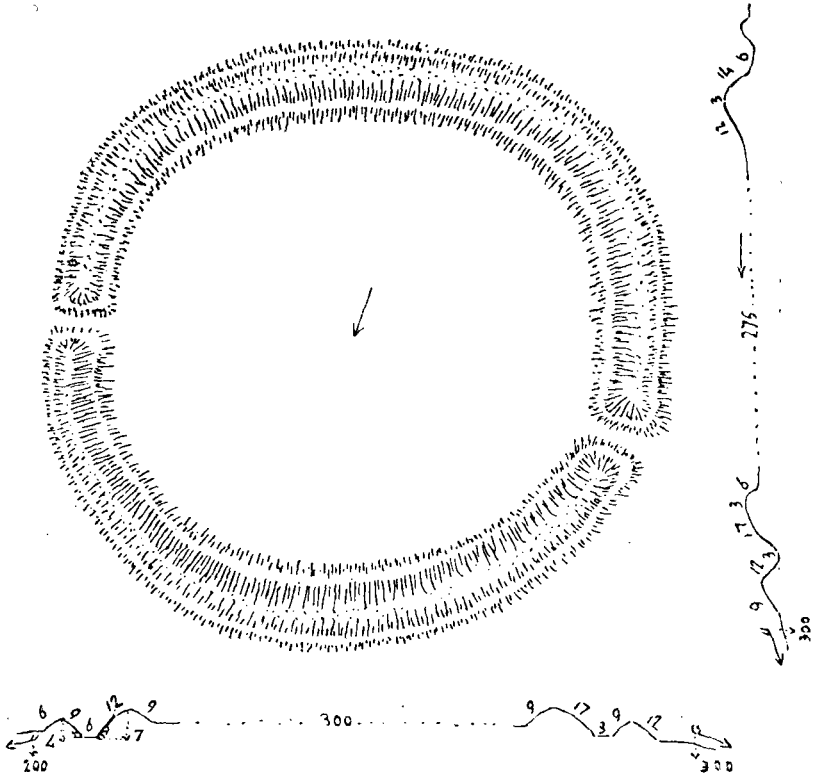


Fig. 26. Chesters, Pettinain Hill.

large stones, some as much as 4 feet in length, lie about the ramparts, but besides these loose stones, the scarp and counterscarp of the trench appear in several places, where breaks in the turf occur, to have been revêted with stone at the foot, the ramparts thus consisting of an upper

part of mixed earth and stones, and a lower part faced and made steeper with stone. Such, at least, seems a probable interpretation, but excavation is necessary to determine whether this construction, unique, so far as I know, may not after all be modern. There are two entrances, which pass through at a higher level than the trench, and are separated from it by a slight mound. Mr Irving gives the dimensions of this fort accurately, but most inexplicably describes it as being defended by a single rampart, although the two are equally distinct and are both uncommonly well preserved. He also mentions that it is called in Forrest's map "The Chester's outpost."

*Other Remains.*—Besides the "Hero's Cairn" and the mound-enclosures of doubtful nature already described, it seems probable that other pre-historic remains may exist on this interesting hill. At first sight one is continually deceived by the appearance, on the inner slope of the crest and on the harder ground of the plateau, of partial stone circles or other artificial forms, which on close investigation turn out to be accidental, due to the remarkable way in which boulders are sparsely scattered over the hill; but some of these may be artificial after all, and one remarkable group of stones seems undoubtedly to be so (H on Map). It is situated on a dry part of the plateau, near the rise to Cairngryfe. The singular triangular arrangement of the inner collection of stones, and fusiform figure of the outer set, is shown within the rectangle in the left-hand lower corner of the map. A little nearer the Cairngryfe rise there is a low hillock (I on Map) which has an artificially smooth look. Altogether, Pettinain Hill seemed to me to be unusually rich in possibilities and likely to reward systematic investigation.

41. *Westside.*—Passing to the group in the dale proper, this is the first fort met with coming from the south. The site is on Westside Farm, 2 miles east of Tinto Top, in a field about 70 feet above the Clyde, which is half a mile distant. The single rampart, although much flattened by frequent ploughing, is still quite distinct, and encloses an oval space of about 210 by 140 feet from crest to crest. It is cut off from the level field to the north by a trench 60 feet wide and 5 or 6 deep, measuring from the crest of the rampart. This trench probably merged originally in natural hollows, 15 to 20 feet deep, on the south and west.

42. *Castlehill, Symington*.—A quarter of a mile south-west of the village, on a gentle eminence, which, however, rises conspicuously above the minor inequalities of the dale, to a height of 150 feet above the Clyde, half a mile to the east. It consists of a single mound, enclosing, as I made out, an oval space of 190 by 150 feet, but which the O.M. and Mr Irving agree in making circular. The mound is about 20 feet wide, and rarely exceeds 3 to 4 in height. At the north end it is 5 feet above the *interior* and only 1 foot above the *outside*. In the interior there are some curved mounds of indefinite shape.

Mr Irving describes a camp in the holm on the left bank of the Clyde, opposite Wolfe Clyde, but "so much destroyed by the plough that it is impossible to fix either its form or its dimensions." It is not in the O.M.

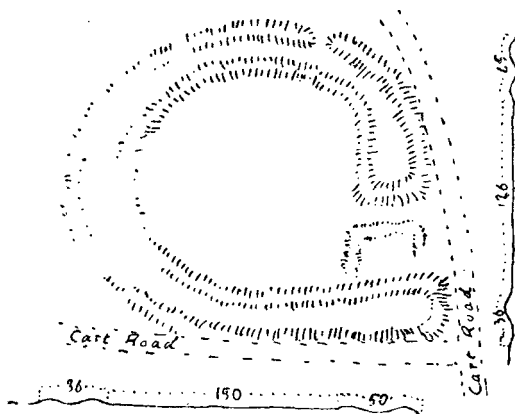


Fig. 27. Brownford.

43. *Brownford, Covington* (fig. 27), overlooks the formerly important ford over the Clyde to Liberton from a distance of 400 yards and a height of about 100 feet. It comes near the edge of a bank, which descends to the river-haugh. The form is peculiar, resembling the letter **C**, and it consists of a double rampart of low relief and no great width, with no distinct intervening trench. The throat of the **C** leaves a wide

entrance, contracted, however, from 50 to 9 feet by a rectangular work of trifling strength, which fills the space on the south side. On the north side the space between the ramparts expands, so as to give more room for the defence of the entrance. Little is left of this work but the ground plan. Cart tracks that shave two sides of it, as well as ploughing, may also have modified the original plan. But as it stands there is much that is unique about it.

There seems to have been another fort near this, halfway down the slope, which Mr Irving describes as having been so often ploughed "that its form can scarcely be traced; it appears, however, to have been a lop-sided oval of 143 and 120 feet diameter." It is not in the O.M., and after a careful search I could find no trace of it.

*C. Forts in the hilly country north of the Pass by Biggar Water from Clydesdale to Tweeddale.*

This district comprises a mass of comparatively low hills, of which the northern part may be considered as the final subsidence of the Pentland chain towards the south-west. The south-east corner, bounded by the Broughton Burn to the east, is in Peeblesshire, and its forts have already been described in my paper on the forts of that county. This corner is well defined from the much larger part of the district by the frontier of the two counties, which runs from Biggar north-east to Dolphinton along a range of heights, at the foot of which, on the Lanarkshire side, is the easy pass which contains the road between these two places.

44. *Bizzyberry*, No. 1.—Mr Irving speaks of "a camp" on the top of Bizzyberry Hill, consisting of "a single entrenchment of an oval form, 185 by 135 feet in diameter, with some faint and ill-defined traces of outworks." I had some difficulty in satisfying myself that the mound round the conspicuous top of this hill, 1192 feet above the sea and 400 feet above the low ground, was of a defensive character; but granting that it represents a fort, I should be inclined to add to it a much larger space on the haunch of the hill to the west, as I think a mound can be traced round its north and west sides. There is no fort marked here on the O.M.

45. *Bizzyberry*, No. 2 (fig. 28).—950 feet above the sea, 700 yards from the last, at the north-east end of the ridge, just before it drops 150 feet to the valley. The whole of this much-dilapidated fort is so rough with half-hidden stones and coarse heather and blaeberry that it is very difficult to interpret it, but it seems to have been of unusual strength.

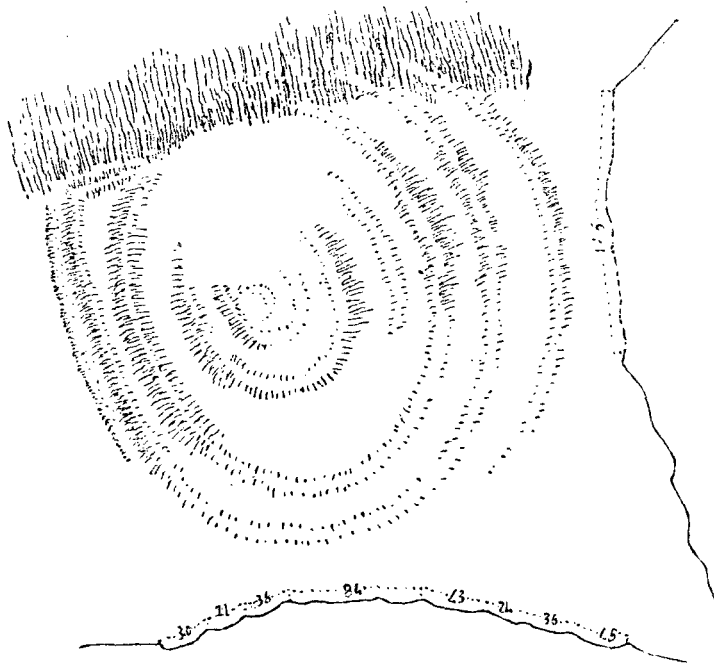


Fig. 28. Bizzyberry.

It is of the oval, approaching the circular, type, and consists of several concentric "rings," but it is not easy to trace them out, or even to determine their precise number. The O.M. gives two, with faint indications of another, but I think that there are certainly more, and that the following facts may be pretty clearly made out.

The limited site rises slightly from the gentle descent upon it of the

Bizzyberry ridge, and if we regard the "ring" which girdles the top as the rampart of the interior or citadel, then there are two others on the gentle descent to the ridge, there being no room for more; these can be traced round the south flank of the hill and on the descent to the plain at the east end, but are lost on the steep north flank. But besides these, on the east slope there is a concentric rampart between them and the citadel, and another outside, further down the slope. Neither of these, however, can be traced more than a quarter or a third of the way round. Thus there are three ramparts to the west and five to the east. But these are perhaps not all. I think that there is evidence of another substantial "ring" on the top, within the citadel, and within that again the remains of a circular "house."

The whole of the rings fade away and are lost towards the north, the inner ones upon the summit, the outer upon the steep slope. A trench separates the outer rampart from the ridge to the west. The ramparts are only a few feet high and are very stony under foot.

46. *Castlehill, Candybank* (fig. 29).—A little more than a mile north-east of the last, 993 feet above the sea, 200 above the Candy Burn, which runs 700 yards eastward, and opposite the almost obliterated fort, called Candyburn "Castle," on the other side of the stream. The ground slopes gently from the site except to the south and west. The fort is a regular oval, and appears to have belonged to what I have ventured to call the terraced type, having two terraces on the south and west, where the descent is steep, but only one on the north and east, where the slope is trifling. A slight parapet runs round the top of the inner scarp, but a few remaining stones probably indicate that a formidable wall had been the original defence. There is no vestige of a parapet at the edge of the terraces, which are smooth and level, and are from 20 to 30 feet wide. There are two entrances—one to the north-west, the other to the south-east. On the east side of the former a collection of stones perhaps indicates some additional defence, and on its west side commences a stony slope to the lower terrace, which ends near the south-east entrance. This entrance is prolonged into the interior by two foundations, having on the east the remains of one circular enclosure, and on the west, of three, touching each other, and one of them

45 feet in diameter. Outside, on the south-west slope, and close under the fort, there is another very regular circular mound about a foot high, enclosing a space about 100 feet in diameter. In the interior, close to the parapet on the south, seven large stones are arranged in the formal manner shown in the figure.

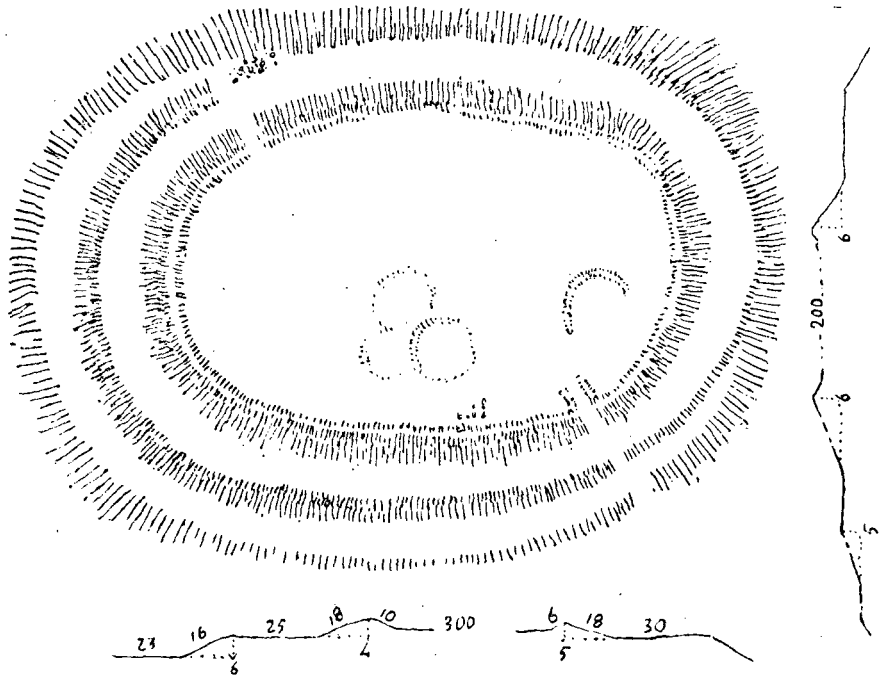


Fig. 29. Castlehill, Candybank.

*Ashhill, Meadowhead, Dolphinton.*—Proceeding 4 miles further to the north-east, we next come upon this site, on a very gentle slight eminence, in low ground, about 800 feet above the sea. Here about the half of an oval fort is marked on the O.M., but I could find no trace of it, neither has there been any within the long recollection of Mr Ord Mackenzie, the proprietor.



*Cairn.*—On one of the little summits of the wooded ridge which forms the boundary of the county, and about a mile south of the last, there is a cairn, covered with grass and heather, about 8 feet high and 50 in diameter. Recently a number of large stones, forming part of a circle at the foot, have been uncovered. The largest is 5 feet long, and another is not much less, but the rest are considerably smaller.

47. *Chesters* (Chesterlees on the O.M.).—900 feet above the sea; a quarter of a mile west-south-west of Dolphinton House; almost quarried away; two fragments of a mound composed of earth and small stones remain; has apparently been a long oval; the site has no great natural advantages.

48. *Kier.*—On a formidable position, half a mile north of Dolphinton House, 997 feet above the sea, with a good view of the neighbouring valleys. It is unfortunately impossible now to distinguish mounds which may be old from new ones, cast up in quarrying operations. On the 25-inch O.M. the "Camp (site of)" is confined to a space, 100 by 40 feet, on the very top of the hill, but my impression is that there has been a strong fort here, with two or perhaps three "rings." A little way down the slope to the south there is a small plateau or subordinate eminence, which, as Mr Mackenzie pointed out to me, has much the appearance of having been artificially levelled on the top and scarped on the sides. The description in the O.S.A. of a camp in this parish is more applicable to Kier than to the other Dolphinton forts, although the size seems too great for the site. It is said to be on the top of a hill near the middle of the parish, to enclose four acres, to have been apparently strongly fortified with a wall of earth and a broad deep trench cut out of the rock, also with some strong outwork, particularly on the corners where the hill was most easy of access.

49. *Cocklaw.*—Returning to Biggar, the next fort lies three miles due north of it, on Cocklaw, 1010 feet above the sea. This hill, although from the gentleness of its slopes it is not conspicuous, is nevertheless higher than the neighbouring eminences, and commands an extensive view all round.

Mr Irving describes this fort as "defended by a single circular rampart,"

and the O.M. represents three concentric rings of some kind close together. The remaining mounds are very insignificant, but seem to me to consist of an inner, nearly circular one, with fragments of a concentric outer one, 30 feet in front, to the south, but diverging from the inner one to the north, so as to enclose a crescentic space, 90 feet in greatest width. The interior is pretty level, but irregular with shapeless mounds; a slightly hollowed space, however, is kept clear all round between these and the rampart, as if the central part had been a mass of habitations, but a clear zone had been left next the rampart to allow room for its defence. I made the interior to be an oval of 300 by 270 feet, but the O.M. reduces it to a circle 225 feet in diameter, while Mr Irving still further reduces it to 200. The O.S.A. also makes it a circle of 200 feet diameter, enclosed by two concentric circles of earthen dykes or mounds, 15 feet apart; to this description the N.S.A. adds two ditches, one for each mound.

50. *Whitecastle*.—A little above two miles west-south-west of the last, 971 feet above the sea, and 300 above the dale of the Clyde, upon which it looks down, as it is near the western margin of the congeries of hills north of Biggar. Irving says: "It appears to have been an oval, 181 by 128 feet; although having been included in a plantation the line of its rampart cannot easily be traced." The wood is now thin, and the mound, although much destroyed, and altogether lost in parts, can be made out, I think, to have formed a circle 180 feet in diameter from crest to crest. There are also traces of a second "ring," 30 feet to the outside. This fort is not in the O.M.

51 *Craigie*.—A mile and a half west of the last, about 700 feet above the sea, and 100 above the Clyde, which flows 700 yards to the west of it, there stood a fine fort, thus described by Irving:—"It was perfectly circular, and was defended by two entrenchments of remarkable height, the diameter of the interior area being 248 feet. It had only one gate, which faced the east. Since these pages were written (*circa*, 1864) every vestige of this fortification has been swept away by agricultural improvements." The O.M. agrees with his description, but reduces the diameter to 230 feet. The O.S.A. describes it as having "a double wall of earth with a deep ditch between, and no stonework,

except in the middle, which seems to have been paved with freestone."

52. *Newbigging* (fig. 30).—One mile east of the village of that name, and two north-north-west of Cocklaw, No. 48. It is on the north side of the South Medwyn Water, 900 yards from it, 250 feet above it, 950 above the sea, and not quite at the top of the broad hill on which it stands, so that it has no view to the north and west, but an extensive one south and east. The form is irregularly circular for two-thirds of the enceinte, but on the north there is a slightly re-entering curve, and to the east a straight line 140 feet long. There is nothing in the nature of the ground at present to account for these peculiarities. The enceinte

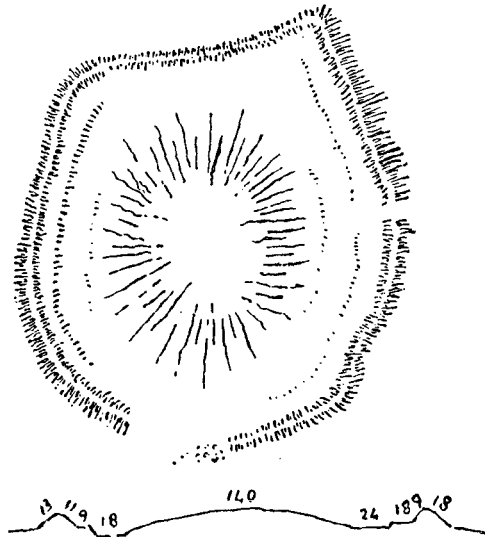


Fig. 30. Newbigging.

consists of a single rampart, apparently of earth and stones, much tampered with; a few large stones are scattered about. On the east side there is some appearance of a slightly raised platform, 18 feet wide, in rear of the rampart. On the west side, where the interior of the fort

is below the level of the exterior, there is a banquette about 9 feet wide. Possibly this is the result of a modern-looking slight excavation in its rear, but I do not think it is entirely due to that. Within this shallow excavation, and the slightly raised platform on the east side, with which it is continuous, the interior rises into a much flattened dome, a few feet in height, whether natural or artificial it is difficult to say. Irving speaks of "an outwork on the east of a slighter character, extending to a distance of 150 feet." I could find no trace of it, but all the ground close up to the enceinte has been ploughed.

*Diller Law ; Blackhill ; Draffan.*—Three forts in the parish of Lesmahagow, quite detached from those hitherto considered. Irving says of them: "On the top of Diller Hill (1017) there is a detached camp of no great size, and another at Blackhill (952), with its ditch much obliterated by a thriving plantation. A third occurs on the farm of Draffan (624). It is circular, with a diameter of 70 or 80 yards." They are ignored by the O.M. I have not visited the locality.

#### *General Remarks on the Curvilinear Forts.*

1. *Form and Classification.*—A glance at the plans and sections of these works suffices to show that there is a considerable variety in their design, and an examination of the remains themselves reveals some variety in the materials employed in their construction. To reduce these varieties to order, however, is difficult, because, on the one hand, the remains are in general too imperfect to afford the means of coming to safe conclusions, and on the other, our knowledge of even the best preserved examples does not go beneath the surface, and is therefore defective if not often misleading.

The general forms may be reduced to two types—the circular and the oval. Not that any one fort would be found, if accurately measured, to be strictly circular, but of thirty-one whose figure can be accurately made out, eleven approximate so closely to the circular form as to be easily distinguishable from the oval type. Any variations from these types are obviously due to exigencies of site. Wherever the site is tolerably level or uniform, as in a field, or on a gentle slope, or on a smooth,

regular, dome-shaped eminence, the form is a pretty regular oval or circle. But where the site is irregular, the form may be slightly distorted in order to take full advantage of the ground, as at Culter Park (fig. 15); or may be lop-sided, as at Shielburn (fig. 8), where one side rests on the edge of a ravine; or may be even approximately rectangular with rounded ends, as at Bodsberry (fig. 2). In a few instances, such as Newbigging (fig. 30), variations, not easily explained now, may have been due originally to the necessity of avoiding boggy ground before the days of drainage.

The variations from the normal circular and oval types being thus due to the nature of the site, no useful classification can be founded on them, any more than upon the number and arrangement of the lines of defence, which are also much regulated by the site and the varying natural strength of the ground. But by taking into consideration the ground plans, profiles, and materials of construction, so far as the latter are revealed in chance breaks or cuttings, the following classification may be adopted, which, if not truly scientific, may at least aid the mind in forming a clearer idea of the nature of these ancient fortifications.

*a. Stone Forts.*—Cairngryfe (p. 325) is the best example of a fort constructed entirely of stone. Although almost completely overthrown, the traces of building are quite sufficient to prove that the original structure was a strong little work of dry masonry. West Crawford (p. 299) is another example, with slight traces of building left. White-side (p. 320), from its history and size, is probably another, but nothing remains save a few stones. The great fort of Knowhead on Pettinain Hill (p. 327), with its two outlying fortlets, are also apparently entirely of stone, but, as far as surface-appearance goes, show no trace of building. Here we may notice that stone was no doubt used for parapets, &c., to a much larger extent than now appears, not only because we do find a few large stones left here and there in forts which at first sight seem entirely of earth, but because it is natural to suppose that, if stones were removed from these ancient structures for modern uses, in many cases not a trace of them would be left.

*b. Forts defended by a single Mound.*—Newbigging (p. 339), North

Coldchapel (p. 304), and five others are of this kind. But it must be remembered that originally they may not have been so simple, that other defences may have disappeared in the course of centuries; also that the materials of construction are uncertain, but evidently vary, some being much more stony than others.

*c. Forts defended by Mounds and Trenches.*—Hartree (p. 316) and Shielburn (p. 305) are examples with a single mound and trench; Kirkhope (p. 322), Fallburn (p. 323), and Chesters (p. 330) have two mounds and two trenches.

Not much can be said, in the absence of excavations, of the composition of the mounds. Judging from chance breaks in them, they may be either of earth, with merely a natural admixture of stones, or of earth and stones purposely mixed, or in some cases possibly entirely of stone, over which a covering of sod has gradually been formed. Probably few of them retain their original height, form, or steepness, but it seems certain that those of earth, or mixed earth and stones, were generally round-crested; in a few instances, however, they were sharp-crested, and in others they were flat-topped, forming broad platforms, on which the defenders could stand, protected by a parapet both in front and rear. At Campswater (fig. 5) there are examples of all three kinds. I saw nothing of the nature of a *banquette* in the rear of any of the mounds or ramparts, except at Newbigging (p. 339), where, however, it may be spurious, resulting partly from the nature of the ground, partly from modern changes; but I think there is fair evidence, both there, at North Coldchapel, and at Cocklaw, of a kind of roadway, in some places slightly raised, in others slightly hollowed, situated in rear of the inner rampart for ease of communication, and in the two latter cases probably also to leave a clear space between the rampart and buildings in the interior. As to the trenches, in their present state they are very shallow. I doubt if in any instance they are more than 2 or 3 feet below the original level of the ground, although of course they are several feet deeper, if the height of the rampart be added. There may, no doubt, have been a considerable filling up in the course of ages, but as the trenches are rarely more than 2 or 3 yards wide, it would seem that they could not have afforded nearly sufficient material for the mounds associated with

them, and that the material must have been mostly brought from elsewhere. Where concentric ramparts occupy a slope, there are often no true trenches, *i.e.*, the hollows between the ramparts are not below the level of the ground, but are merely produced by the mounds heaped up in front and rear. At Chesters (p. 330) there is some evidence of both scarp and counterscarp having been made steeper by a stone revêtement, and at Arbory (p. 304) they may have been faced with stone without being steepened, but this is little more than conjecture.

*d. Terraced Forts.*—In the detailed description, frequent instances are given of the use of terraces. They commonly occur on steep slopes, where it would be difficult or impossible to construct the usual ramparts and trenches. In such cases the terraces are only a few feet wide, and must have been defended either by slight walls or palisades. Possibly they were only foundations for walls, intended, not for actual defence, but merely to obstruct the ascent. In other instances, however, the terraces are on gentle slopes and are 20 feet or upwards in width. In a single instance (Candybank, fig. 29) terracing constitutes the main principle of defence.

*e. Complex Forms.*—In a number of the forts the stone wall, the mound, the trench, and the terrace are found in combination. Thus at Arbory (fig. 6) we have an inner “ring” of stone, with two nearly concentric outer “rings,” each consisting of a mound and trench; at Blackhill (fig. 17) an inner ring of stone, with an outer non-concentric ring, consisting of a mound furnished with a trench on two faces only; at Cowcastle (fig. 12) a very complex combination of mounds, terraces, and trenches; and at Campswater (fig. 5) of stone wall, mound, trench, and terrace. These are the best preserved and most pronounced examples, and it seems needless to quote others which are not so distinct and reliable.

2. *Minor Details.*—*a. Entrances.*—Sometimes there is only one entrance, as in the small forts at Cairngryfe (fig. 24), Shielburn (fig. 8), Langloch (fig. 13), in the larger N. Coldchapel, and perhaps even in the complex Cowcastle (fig. 12). In other cases there are two entrances, which either pass straight through the works, as at Fallburn (fig. 22),

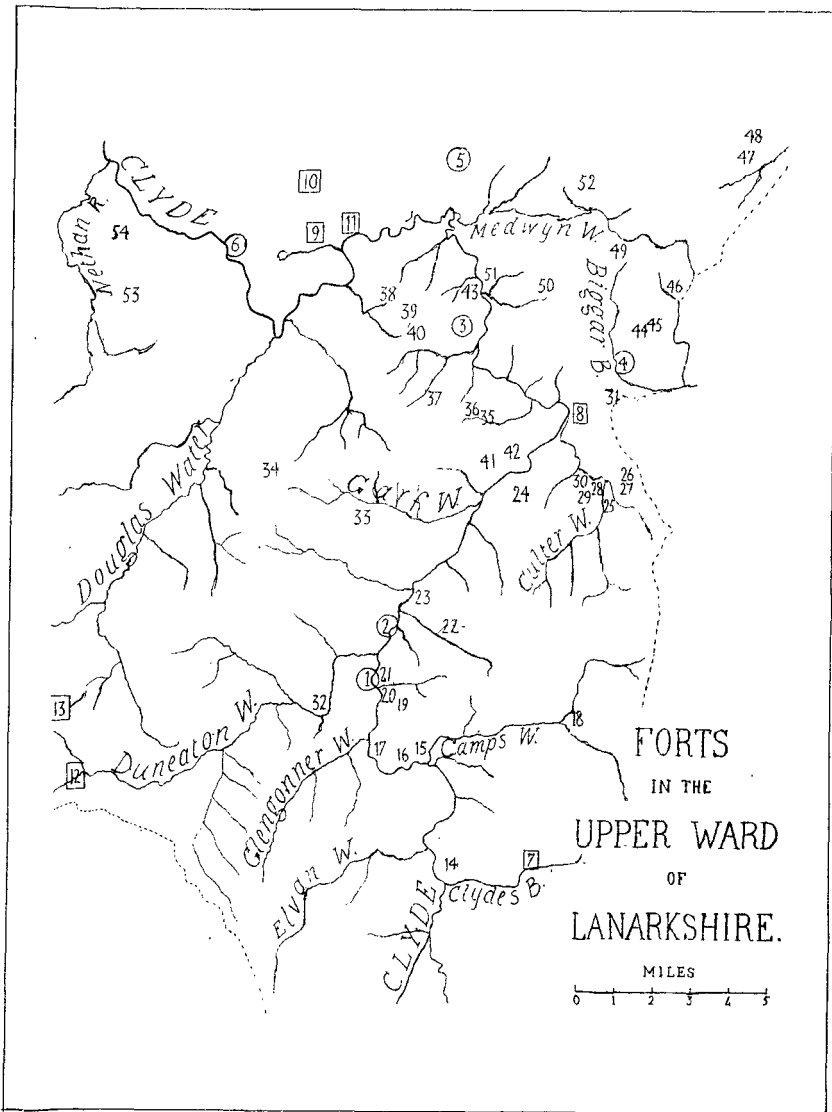
Newton (fig. 19), and Chesters (fig. 26), or in a zigzag manner, as at Arbory (fig. 6). Here also there appear to have been three entrances through the two outer lines, but only one to the central citadel.

Occasionally one side of the entrance is brought considerably in advance of the other. This is most marked at Arbory, but exists to a less degree at Campswater (fig. 5) and Fallburn (fig. 22), where the trenches on one side are opposite the mounds on the other. There is no evidence of that multiplication of defences about the entrances which is so marked a feature in the best-preserved Welsh forts, and to a lesser degree in some of the Peeblesshire ones. Almost the only evidence of a special strengthening, but of a different kind, is at Fallburn, where the mounds widen out at the entrance, and one of them appears to have had a small square structure on the top, besides three traverses at intervals of a few yards, forming three pits in the trench immediately in front. I was inclined at first to regard these as doubtfully ancient, having never seen another instance, but a precisely similar arrangement of four pits on one side of the entrance to a fort called "The Castles," on the farm of Latch, Newton Hall, East Lothian, is described and figured by William Waring Hay, F.S.A. (*Arch. Scot.*, iii. 302).

*b. Traverses.*—The general absence of traverses to check the rush of an enemy all round the enceinte, between the ramparts of the outer lines of defence, is remarkable. There are unmistakable remains of them, indeed, in the stone forts of Cairngryfe (fig. 24) and W. Crawford (fig. 4), and faint traces in the part-stone fort of Blackhill (fig. 17); but not, I think, in any of the others. Perhaps wooden defences of this kind were used.

*c. Interior Structures.*—The remains of "hut-circles" or other circular structures are not so numerous or well marked as in Peeblesshire. At the best they are but faint surface-markings, easily overlooked, and perhaps only visible in a favourable light. I noticed them in Mid Crawford, Castlehill (Symington), Castlehill (Candybank), Campswater. In other instances, as at Cocklaw, Arbory, Blackhill, North Coldchapel, Devonshaw, Bizzyberry No. 2, there is a general stony roughness, perceptible under the sod, or a visible, confused mass of low mounds, suggestive





of building. Newton and Hartree contain large massive curved mounds. The true nature of all these surface-markings might be ascertained by excavation. The circular base of what may have been a large cairn in Nisbet deserves special notice. In the interior of many of the forts, however, there is no trace of building, and the ground seems to retain its original irregular surface, sometimes with natural rock cropping out. I think few, if any, have been artificially levelled.

3. *Geographical Distribution.*—A glance at the map (Plate XV.) shows that while the forts are numerous in the Vale of the Clyde proper, and on the Culter Water, which lies between Clydesdale and Tweeddale, they are almost absent in the numerous tributary vales and glens on the south and west. This fact would be much more conspicuous if the map showed the whole instead of only about half of the hilly part of the Upper Ward; because in the omitted half there is not a single fort. But, confining attention to the glens shown in the map, there are no forts on the Elvan, Gonner, and Douglas waters; only one, besides two small ones of doubtful character, on or near Duneaton Water, and only two connected with Garf Water. As to the position of the forts with regard to each other, it will be found that while a certain number are isolated, others are grouped closely together. Thus on the east side of the Clyde, near Crawford and close to the river, there are three within a mile; and a mile further on, three others within a mile; on the Culter Water there are six within a semicircle having a radius of little above half a mile; and Pettinain Hill is occupied by at least four. Then, within a few hundred yards of each other, there are or were two at St John's Kirk, two at Brownford, and two on Bizzyberry Hill. On the other hand, some are solitary, and Campswater is exceptionally isolated among the hills,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  miles from any other fort.

4. *Elevation above the Sea.*—The highest site is that of Arbory (1406 feet), next follow in succession Bodsberry (1312), Blackhill (1260), Campswater (1250); then four between 1100 and 1200 feet, Bizzyberry No. 1, Snaip, Whiteside, Cairngryfe. Then come seven which only

slightly exceed 1000 feet—Newton, Cowcastle, Langloch, Nisbet, Diller Law, Chesters, and Cocklaw. Between 900 and 1000 feet are sixteen—East, Mid, and West Crawford, Shiel Burn, Devonshaw, Culter Park, St John's Kirk (No. 1 and 2), Pettinain, Knowhead, Bizzyberry No. 2, Castlehill (Candybank), Kier, Whitecastle, Newbigging, Blackhill (Lesmahagow). Of the remaining fourteen the lowest are Hartree, Brownford (No. 1 and 2), Craigie and Draffan, which are between 600 and 700 feet above the sea. From this analysis it appears, that, although a considerable number are higher than the present inhabited spots near them, nevertheless Arbory, the most elevated of them all, is no higher than the large village of Wanlockhead, the inhabitants of which Dr Beddoe found to be among the tallest and best developed of the Scottish people.

5. *Local Elevation.*—As in Peeblesshire, so also here, a number of the forts are situated on the last eminence of a range of heights before its final subsidence in the valley, or on a height projecting into the valley from the flank of a range. Arbory (Plate IX.) is a typical example, except that its height of 600 feet above the low ground is unusually great. Others are on the top of considerable heights, which stand out more independently, such as Bizzyberry, Cocklaw, and Cairngryfe. Others, such as East and Mid Crawford, are on small detached heights at the foot of ranges, or like North Coldchapel (fig. 7) and Fallburn (Plate XIII.), are on the gentle slopes in which terminate the steep descents of the ranges. Finally, there are or were at least eight, and possibly ten, which can in no sense be called hill forts, as their sites are completely detached from the hills, in the dale of the Clyde. One of these—Castlehill of Symington—is on the summit of a gently rising height, but several of the others, such as the existing Hartree, Westfield, and Brownford, together with the vanished Brownford No. 2 and Wolfclyde, had but little view and derived scarcely any strength from their position. It is unfortunate that the total destruction or serious decay of these dale-forts makes it very difficult to determine their true nature. The great width of the trenches of Hartree and Westfield, although it may partly result from frequent ploughing, appears to differentiate them from the

ordinary forts, and possibly they were motes; but there seems no reason to regard the other dale-forts as differing essentially from the hill-forts.

6. *Defensibility of the Forts.*—Even if we allow that the mounds were originally steeper and higher, and the trenches deeper than now, which no doubt was the case, yet the mere earth-works never could have been very formidable, and it can scarcely be doubted that they were crowned with stone walls or palisades, the disappearance of which is of course easily understood.

The general absence of traverses has already been noticed (p. 334), but the want of communication through the mounds, from one line of defence to another, is also remarkable. Lieut.-Colonel M'Hardy, R.E., has suggested that the outer lines were not intended to be defended hand to hand, but rather as obstacles to check the rush of an assault. He was led to this opinion very much by an inspection of the remains at Ardoch, where from their small size the numerous and somewhat cramped ramparts and trenches seem ill adapted for direct defence. Such also was my impression on visiting Ardoch, but in the ordinary curvilinear forts the concentric "rings" are much further apart, and allow of ample space for defence; sometimes indeed the top of a rampart, which is not the inner one, is enlarged into a broad platform or *place d'armes*. I think, therefore, that in their case each line was intended for direct defence, and that the garrison were probably able to retire from one "ring" to another through doors in the palisades or stone walls, which I suppose to have been necessary adjuncts to the defence.

It is possible that simple forts of a single enceinte were intended to protect cattle, &c., at night from thieves or wild animals, rather than to stand a siege. At the same time, this does not seem to have been the case at North Coldchapel—a fort with a single rampart, and in low ground,—as the confused mounds inside point to its having been a fortified village rather than a cattle shelter.

7. *Water Supply.*—A great objection to the defensibility of the forts, is the absence of water within them. This is a recognised defect,

not only of Scottish but of Welsh and Irish forts. In the Upper Ward, the large "Roman Camps" in the low ground are, indeed, well supplied. Clydesburn "Camp" has two streams flowing through it, and Cleghorn is in marshy ground where springs must exist. The large curvilinear fort of Knowhead, also in a marsh, contains the head-springs of a little burn; and within Bodsberry Mr Vere Irving discovered the singular basin-like well figured at p. 24 of *The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire*, vol. i. But with these exceptions, no traces of wells have been found, and in many cases the nearest water is at a most inconvenient distance for daily requirements, and quite beyond the control of the garrison. It is possible, indeed, that careful exploration might detect wells within the forts, as any which may have existed must have been in later times filled up to prevent accidents to sheep or cattle; at the same time, I did not observe in any of them hollows or surface-indications of a hidden well. Perhaps, as I have suggested in former papers, the natural distribution of water may have been different formerly from what it is now; and Mr A. P. Lewis has reminded me that General Pitt Rivers found in his excavations at Rushmore that the water level was higher there in Roman times than now. I have also suggested that water might have been stored in the forts in skins or pots.

8. *Names of the Forts.*—If we may trust the O.M., very few of the forts, or even of their sites, have local names. The term "Rings," so commonly used in Peeblesshire, seems hardly known in the Upper Ward. The only notice of it I have met with is in the O.S.A. of Culter, where it is stated that "four encampments are called Rings by the common people." *Cow Castle* and two *Chesters* are probably the only instances in which *forts* have special names. The first is obviously modern, and the appellation *Chesters*, although it may be ancient, is perhaps as likely to have been bestowed by the learned in modern times. Of *fort-sites* with names, three *Castlehills* need not detain us, but greater interest attaches to *Bodsberry*, *Arbory*, and *Bizziberry*, if my surmise be correct that *berry* and *bory* are corruptions of *burh*; and this seems likely enough in a district so Saxon as to contain notes, and where the principal

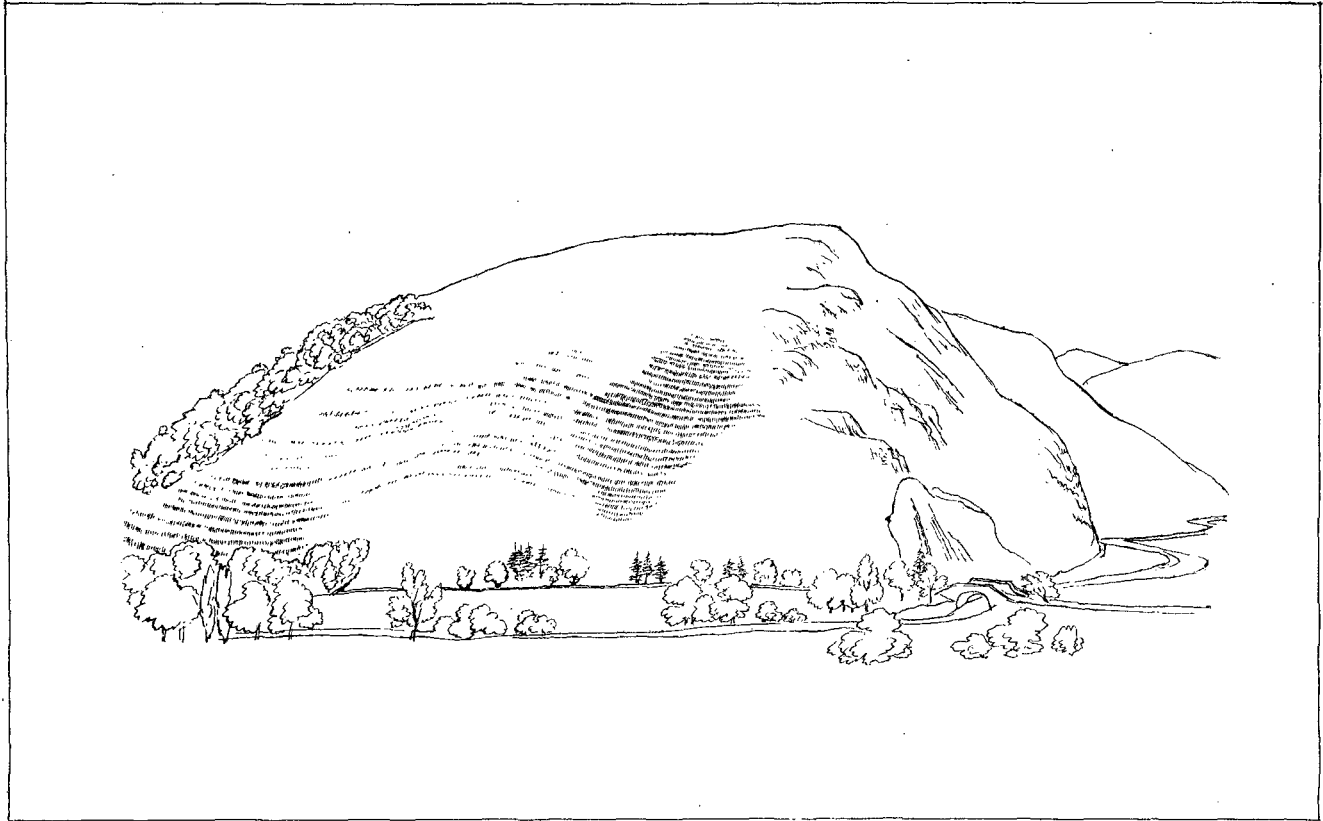
villages bear such names as Abington, Robertson, Lamington, Covington, Thankerton, Walston, Liberton, Dolphinton, &c. Of Celtic names connected with forts or their sites, *Kier*, the name of a hill with a fort on it at Dolphinton, appears to be the sole representative of *Caer*, and *Dun* does not occur at all. It is questionable if *Dun* occurs even in the sense of "a hill." It occurs indeed in the names of the following hills—Dun Law (2217 feet), Dun Grain Law (2186), Dun Law (1740), Dun Law (1669), Dungavel (1674), Dungavel (1502), Dun Moss (1500), and Dunside Rig (1308); but it seems probable that in nearly all these instances the prefix is really the Saxon colour-name, as it is associated with Saxon roots, and with hills almost all much above the elevation at which forts are found in Lanarkshire.

9. *Antiquity*.—Of the numerous and important class of circular and oval works commonly called British forts, it may be said that they must in all probability have preceded the motes—at least, if we allow that the latter represent the castles of the Saxons in the district,—because it is in the highest degree improbable that works of so primitive a character should have intervened between the motes of the Saxons and the feudal castles of stone and lime. But we can neither fix the date of their beginning nor of their end, although we can say this much, that if any system of fortification came between them and the motes, it must have been one which has not left a single trace of its existence.

10. *Political Condition and Mode of Life of the Builders*.—A study of the characteristics of these oval and circular works appears to throw some light, dim and uncertain though it be, on the mode of life of their inhabitants. We learn, for example, from the situation of the forts, that they were no mere hill-refuges of a timid people, in constant fear of attack from a race more powerful than themselves. A large proportion are not on hills at all, but either at the foot of the hills, or, quite removed from them, in the fields of the dales; and the proportion must originally have been still greater, as forts in such situations were much more liable to destruction from agriculture and other causes than when placed on the

hills. We know, indeed, of no less than five of these dale-forts in the Upper Ward that have entirely disappeared, some in our own day, and all within the present century. Again, those which are on hills, with very few exceptions, closely overlook the dale, and are not often at an inconvenient height above the present cultivated lands. On the whole, therefore, it would seem that the fort-builders occupied the low ground as effectively as their successors in the present day; and supposing that the forts were their habitual dwelling-places, there is no reason, as far as convenience of site is concerned, why the inhabitants should not have practised agricultural as well as pastoral pursuits. Indeed, there is some reason to believe that they did so, as the remarkable terraces on the hills of Peeblesshire, if not natural—and it seems impossible to believe that those at Romanno at least are so—appear to bear witness to a system of terrace-cultivation in remote times. In Lanarkshire I know of only a single example. Looking northwards one day, when the light happened to be favourable, from Snaip fort towards Culter Crags, half a mile off, I was surprised to observe that the steep grassy face was marked with parallel lines or terraces, of which I counted no less than twenty-eight, one above the other at tolerably regular intervals, occupying a space several hundred feet high, and about 300 yards in width, interrupted in the middle and lower part by a steep bluff (Plate XIV.). I had not time to walk to them, but from the steepness of the slope the most of them must be extremely narrow; perhaps, indeed, although visible from a distance they are scarcely traceable on the spot, like those at Torwood near Peebles (*Proc.*, 1886, p. 65). A difficulty in accepting those narrow terraces on steep slopes as evidences of cultivation is the rarity of their occurrence, although it must be remembered that in such situations they would be easily obliterated. One would also expect to meet with terraces more frequently on slopes less steeply inclined, if a system of terrace cultivation were in vogue. At the same time I am not aware that these remarkable objects have been claimed as natural by geologists.

At the bottom of the descent from Nisbet fort to the burn I noticed five or six terraces, which, instead of being horizontal, slanted up the steep side of the ravine, resembling a series of parallel steep roads. They



TERRACES ON CULTER CRAIGS FROM TOP OF SNAIP HILL



have a strangely artificial look, but I presume are more probably natural.

Again, some notion may be formed from the grouping of the forts of the relation of their inhabitants to each other. Here we encounter two difficulties. We cannot tell whether the forts were all occupied simultaneously, nor whether forts may not have existed in areas which now show no trace of them—both circumstances which seriously affect the significance of the present grouping. But it may at least be affirmed that there is no reason to suppose from their structure that the forts belonged to different periods, and that, on hill sites at all events, it is not likely that forts would entirely disappear without leaving any trace of their existence.

If we may accept the present as representative, on the whole, of the original grouping, it is sufficiently remarkable, as seen in the six forts near Crawford and Abington, the six on Culter Water, and the four on Pettinain Hill; and we may conjecture that the inhabitants of each group must have been on friendly terms with each other, if not also grouped for some special purpose. But further than this, the fact that the forts of the Upper Ward, which lie to the east of the Clyde, are continuous with those of Tweeddale, while there is almost an entire absence of them in the tributary valleys to the west, seems to point to the probability that the forts of Peeblesshire and of the Upper Ward belonged to one kingdom, of which Clydesdale proper formed the western boundary.

In concluding this review of the Forts of the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, it is to be regretted that the results should be in general so vague. In this respect the county is no worse off than the rest of Scotland. The only means of extending our information, and of building a better foundation for our deductions, is by excavation, so as to get below the mere surface of things. Efforts in this direction have been so few and desultory as to be useless, if not misleading. To be of real value to Science, they should be made by experts on a well-organised system; and they would be most hopeful if undertaken by a Society such as ours, or, at least, with its advice and guidance. Here enters the question of expense,

and scientific Societies, proverbially poor, can do but little without greater endowments than the trifling ones they at present possess for the special purpose of investigation of the kind. There can be little doubt that prehistoric archæology has more to hope for from excavation than any other source; but the ages pass, and with them pass away at our very doors the materials for investigation, without their true nature and meaning being understood. In no department has this neglect been so marked as in that of the prehistoric forts, and as the first step to reform is to know our wants, it is possible that this paper, and my former ones of a similar nature, may eventually prove of utility, not only by rousing attention to a deficiency, but by indicating the precise remains which may be expected to yield the best results to systematic excavation.