

IV.

NOTICE OF THE EXCAVATION OF A SEPULCHRAL TUMULUS CALLED THE LAW, IN THE PARISH OF URQUHART, ELGINSHIRE. BY GALLOWAY MACKINTOSH.

In September 1885 I excavated the tumulus or barrow, in the parish of Urquhart, known as The Law, and near which the remarkable hoard of gold torcs was found in 1857. It was found to contain a central cist with an uncremated interment, accompanied by a drinking-cup urn and several short curved pieces of worked bone pierced at one end for suspension as pendants.

The mound, which was chiefly composed of sand, was circular, measuring 62 feet in diameter from north to south, and 60 feet from east to west, the total height from the summit of the mound to the bottom of the cist being about 12 feet. Round the cist, which was constructed of great flat stones in the usual way, there was a wall of

boulders from 3 to 4 feet in thickness, and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, forming a circle of about 6 feet interior diameter. Outside this wall, and about 2 feet apart from it, was another circle of stones, which, on the west side, was made up of boulders like the inner one, but the stones were smaller, and on the east side the circle was represented by stone slabs placed flat on the original soil or sand.

The urn which was found in the cist is of the tall thin-lipped variety, to which the name of drinking-cup has been given. It was about 7 inches in height and highly ornamented with bands of rectilinear ornament of parallel or zigzag lines encircling it from top to bottom. The small bone ornaments, of which five altogether were found, resembled in shape the incisors of a large dog or wolf, and were pierced at the ends with small holes as if to be strung for a necklace. The skeleton was in the usual contracted position, and from the size of the bones must have been that of a person of rather more than the average height.