

## II.

SOME UNRECORDED RELICS IN THE PARISHES OF CARGILL, SCONE,  
AND ST MARTINS. By REV. GEORGE C. BAXTER, F.S.A. Scot.

I am desirous of directing attention to one or two objects of interest, connected with my own neighbourhood, that seem worthy of notice, but no notice of which, so far as I am aware, has ever been recorded. The first is a heap of stones on a rocky eminence in Campsie Wood. At first sight the agglomeration might not appear more than natural, but more prolonged examination produces the conviction that the congeries is the ruins of a definitely artificial structure. It seems, in fact, the remains of a fallen dolmen. The top-stone—a mass of whinstone, measuring 7 feet 4 inches in length and 2 feet 2 inches in breadth, weighing perhaps 7 tons—lies with its southern and narrower end touching the ground, while its heavier end still rests, in a tilted way, upon the two more northern stones of those that had originally formed the pillars of the erection. The pillars would appear to have been five or six in number, and are all clearly discernible, lying prone, close to the positions they had occupied when standing. The only point of difficulty is to say, with regard to some of these stones, whether they were originally supporting pillars or members of the circle that appears to have surrounded the central erection, to which I shall allude again later. Of the three stones towards the south the centre one looks as if it had fallen inward, and lies in a manner below the body of the top-stone; the other two fell or slid outward as the top-stone swayed away from them. The two more northern supports lie parallel, as they had been dragged down by the mass above moving in a southerly direction; and a notable circumstance is the fact that a small stone that had probably served to steady the top-stone, as it rested on the uprights, has caught between these two pillars as they fell, and remains jammed there to the present day. In the lapse of time the rainfall and exposure have corroded this stone and reduced its size, but it has left the mark of its original dimensions in the shape of a groove made by it on one of

the stones that hold it; and if only the annual decay of this stone could be measured, it would afford a probable and proximate date to the fall of the dolmen. The stones forming the pillars are, as usual, rude unshapen masses, from 3 to 4 feet high and from 2 to 3 feet broad. They are either whinstone or a very coarse and hard sandstone. Below the heap, as a whole, the rock looks rudely squared at both ends, suggesting the idea of a flooring to the chamber. The structure occupies a site on a rocky knoll, part of a basaltic dyke running eastward from the linn of Campsie. The spot is a conspicuous one, and before the planting of the wood upon it, would afford a beautiful prospect of the wide valley of Strathmore below and the Granipian Hills beyond. The whole knoll is deserving indeed of attention. The structure just described occupies the southern slope, and had apparently stood north and south, facing east; but somewhat higher, the top of the knoll is flattened, and bears the appearance of having been artificially levelled. The rude stones of a circle round the dolmen are still, to a large extent, in place, while indications of a second and third circle at wider distances are not wanting. In short, there are present all the usual accompaniments of a perfect dolmen of the free-standing kind—a structure that is all the more interesting in this neighbourhood that it forms the only example of its kind that is known to exist or to have existed in the district. Perhaps it might not be unworthy the attention of members of the Society if any of them should happen to be in the locality.

This accumulation of stones was first observed by me on the 23rd April 1890. I have frequently visited it since, both alone and in company with competent observers, amongst others with Mr A. Hutcheson, a Fellow of this Society—the general result of all these visits being to deepen the conviction that the remains are really the ruins of an ancient fallen dolmen.

## II.

Another object, deserving at least to be recorded, is a cup-marked stone, one of a circle of the usual kind, in a field on the farm of Colin, parish of Scone, about a mile to the west of Cambusmichael farm. The circle is not a large one. It measures about 9 feet across, and consists

of ten or twelve stones—none of them very large and some of them very small. One or two of these stones, to judge from their present position, seem to have occupied the centre of the circle. The site is the westward slope of a rising ground, overlooking the valley of Strathmore in the direction of Strathord. The stone specially calling for notice lies in the eastern circumference of the circle. It measures about 5 feet in length, 4 feet in breadth at its broadest part, and has a greatest thickness of about 20 inches. It is meanwhile prone, though probably it had originally been erect. The upper surface is that on which the cup-marks occur, and of these no fewer than thirty-nine are distinctly visible. They vary in size from 2 inches in diameter, with 1 inch in depth, to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter and the same in depth. The cups are scattered over the surface of the stone, and, as usual, afford no signs of formal arrangement. The neighbouring stone of the series on the right (*i.e.*, to the north)—a large cubic block of whinstone, still standing—has also a few cup-hollows upon it, six or seven on its northern aspect, and one very well marked and specially noticeable on its broad flat top. One or two doubtful channels appear (not in connection with the cups) on the northern face of the stone, but there are neither channels nor circles visible on the stone first mentioned. These stones were first seen by me 2nd March 1891.

About one mile south-east from this circle stands another, complete, in the heart of a wood, with regard to which it is, perhaps, deserving of *being remarked that one stone in it is a block of conglomerate distinctly squared*. There is no cup-marked stone.

### III.

Still another cup-stone, hitherto unnoticed and unrecorded, lies on an eminence above the den of St Martins, opposite the keeper's house at the Kennels, to the east. Six considerable stones, all prone, and apparently the remains of a circle, occupy the top of the eminence; three others lie somewhat removed, two of them about 10 paces south from the southern circumference of the circle, and one 19 paces west from the more western stone of these two. Ten paces south from the more eastern stone, again, lies by itself the cup-marked stone. It is not large.

It measures, roughly, 3 feet in length, 2 feet in breadth, and is about 1 foot high as it lies. It has a narrow plane surface at top and a south-looking face gradually sloping, upon which it is that the cups are situated. They are ten in number, eight of them forming in their arrangement a kind of arch, with two cups lying within the arch. A channel unites two of the cups, but it seems only a natural crack. Two other cups in the arch are distinctly joined. The largest cup may be 2 inches across, and the others 1 or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. About 50 yards from this eminence are the remains of another circle of standing stones. The above was first observed 18th March 1892.

## IV.

A third cup-marked stone that should not be overlooked was discovered by Mr Fergusson, teacher, Newbigging, and myself in March 1890. It lies in a little woody den running down to the Tay below the farm of Balhormie, Cargill. It is a huge block, prone on the edge of a considerable precipice. Its upper surface is that on which the cups appear, and they exist to the number of twenty-two. None are large, but all are distinct. They are of the kind which Mr Jolly has mentioned as peculiar depressions which the point of the middle finger would fill. They seem to form themselves into two definite groups, each containing an almost equal number of cups. There are no circles or channels to be traced on the stone. Another very large block lies near, and not improbably a circle may once have existed on the spot.

## V.

I also show a small celt that was picked up some time ago in a field in the parish of Cargill. It is beautifully polished, and has flattened sides. It measures about 3 inches in length, and about 2 inches in breadth at its broadest end. The cutting edge is considerably chipped through use. It possesses the somewhat rare peculiarity, as I think, of being *perforated*. I am not quite sure of the kind of stone of which it consists. It has a greenish colour, and resembles felstone.

[This celt has now been presented to the Museum by the author.]