

III.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF INCISED CUP- AND RING-SCULPTURINGS AT BRAES OF BALLOCH NEAR TAYMOUTH CASTLE. (WITH PHOTOGRAPHS.) BY REV. J. B. MACKENZIE, KENMORE, F.S.A. SCOT.

[Lord Breadalbane having kindly sent intimation to Dr Anderson of the discovery of a cup- and ring-marked boulder-stone in the neighbourhood of Taymouth, Dr Anderson requested Rev. J. B. Mackenzie, Kenmore, a Fellow of the Society, and an expert photographer, to visit the stone and contribute a notice of it to the Society if it should be found to be of sufficient interest. The following paper is the result of Mr Mackenzie's visit to the stone, and the illustration is from a photograph taken by Mr Mackenzie.]

The stone which Dr Anderson has requested me to examine is a natural boulder, measuring about 4 feet in length and the same in breadth. It lies facing the north, on the slope of the hillside of the Braes of Balloch, a little more than 1000 feet above sea-level, and about a quarter of a mile to the east of the house at Tombuie. About one-half of it was covered with soil and heather, which I removed and replaced as before. This accounts for the carving on one portion being so much more distinct than on the other. Its precise situation is about 100 yards to the south of the fence which separates the arable land from that portion which was partly arable, but mostly moorland pasture, and is not far (only a few yards) from an old road from the arable land to the hill. It is a boulder of the stone which abounds in the vicinity—a coarse schist, very hard and durable—and presents a fairly level surface. The field in which it lies is full of hillocks, largely formed of boulders, although in many of them the rock is also visible.

About 100 yards to the south of the carved stone is a hillock where the rock appears, which originally must have presented an irregular face, some 6 or 7 feet high, and slightly curved. This has at one time been made into some kind of dwelling. There is a heap of stones and soil reaching fully half way up the rock, and at the top there are still in position a few large stones, with their ends projecting 6 or 8 inches beyond the rock. It may have been a dwelling of the beehive kind, but

there is too little remaining in position to enable one to give anything but a very rough guess—only a thorough clearing out of the rubbish would enable the character of the structure to be accurately ascertained.

I enclose a photograph of the boulder (fig. 1), showing its markings. The oblong marking at the side of the stone, of which I also send an enlarged photograph, is the only one which is different from those usually found in this association. It is apparently meant to represent something,



Fig 1. Boulder with cup- and ring-markings, on Braes of Balloch.

and not merely ornament. I have examined most of the other boulders in the vicinity, but none of them show anything artificial, except one on the hillock above noted, which has two notches cut in the edge of the stone, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and 4 inches apart.

The view from the place is most extensive: you look down on the Tay and Loch Tay, and see the entire sweep of the mountain range from Ferragan to Benmore. Although it is so high, the soil is excellent—better than in the valley; and there was at one time a considerable population cultivating the arable ground about 900 feet above sea-level.