

## VI.

NOTICE OF A CUP-MARKED STONE RECENTLY FOUND AT GALLOWHILL, PARISH OF CARGILL. By REV. GEORGE C. BAXTER, F.S.A. Scot.

It gives me pleasure to be able to exhibit to the members a cup-

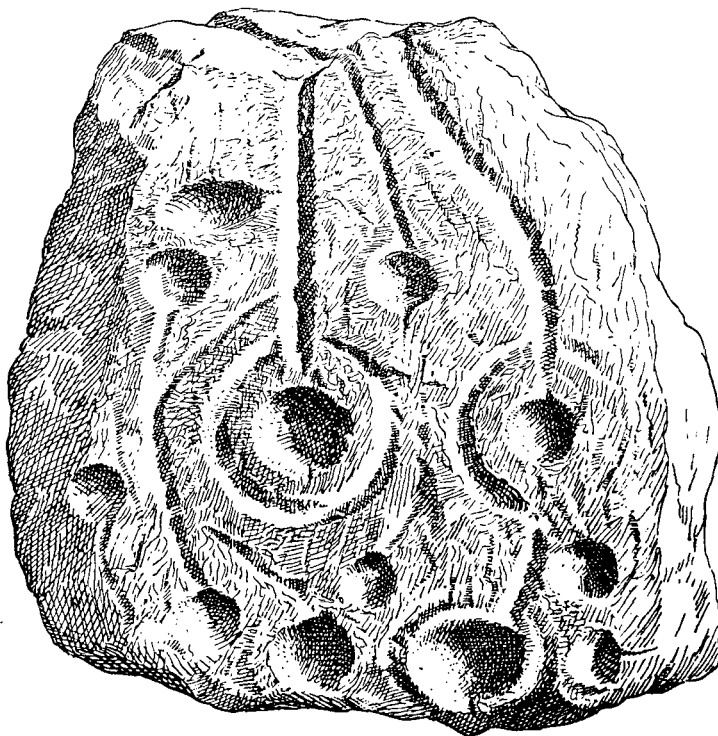


Fig. 1. Cup-marked Stone, from Gallowhill, Cargill, Perthshire. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ .)

marked stone recently found at Gallowhill, parish of Cargill. This locality is already noted for the number of these ancient monuments

that have been discovered in it. Sir Jas. Y. Simpson, in his *Archaic Sculpturings*, figured two of the Cargill stones. Since then, several others have found a record and description in the *Proceedings* of the Society; and this, the latest 'find,' appears to be not the least interesting of those that have claimed attention from this quarter. The stone unfortunately seems only a fragment, rudely square in shape, measuring about 1 foot 1 inch in depth and about 1 foot 2 inches in breadth. It looks not unlike the topmost part of a Standing Stone, the larger under portion of which, it is to be feared, has perished. The main features of the fragment now shown (fig. 1) are these:—(1) a large well-marked cup near the centre, with two distinct circles round it, and a well-marked channel running towards the top of the stone, if not partly over the top, and cutting the surrounding circles of the cup in its course; (2) another cup, not so large, to the right of the first, with one circle round it, from which proceeds also a channel running towards the top of the stone, but not with so straight a course as the other, rather bulging out to the right at first, and then bending to the left, as if to meet the first channel at the top; (3) in the space between these two channels is a cup, smaller than either of the former two, with a very distinct channel running likewise to the top of the stone; (4) below the central cup, in a line that lies along the bottom edge of the stone, is a series of four cups of varying size, the two middle cups larger than the two end ones, the largest of all enclosed in a well-formed circle, through which a channel runs upward from the lip of the cup to cup No. 2, through which it appears to continue as channel No. 2 already mentioned; (5) of the four cups at the bottom of the stone, the cup at each end of the line has also a channel, that of the left end cup running upwards on the stone, and that at the right end, a very short one, running towards the right; (6) above this cup lies yet another cup with a channel, also running to the right; and a little way to the left of this cup, in the space between the large central cup of the stone and the two middle cups of the group of four, is still another cup, but without any peculiarity attaching to it; (7) two more cups, standing in the space to the left of channel No. 1, the upper of which is oval (a rare peculiarity) and has a channel attaching it to channel No. 1, and the lower of

which looks connected with the channel of the left-hand cup of the group of four. This completes the description of the more conspicuous features of the stone as it exists. In looking at them, one feels a profound curiosity to know what the continuation of these figurations may have been on the part of the stone now unfortunately lost, for so crowded a series of sculpturings on the narrow top-part suggests strongly that the lower, broader, and principal portion of the stone was not left unoccupied. Is it possible that the stone now found can be part of the famous and long-lost 'Mune-stane' of Cargill? The tradition about it is, that it had on it figurations of the Sun, Moon, and Seven Stars. It is easily conceivable that, whatever the nature of the symbols, the popular idea might attribute that significance to them. This stone stood in a field still known as the Moon-stone Butts, not far from the spot on the public road where this fragment was found. The local belief is that it was buried in that field, though it is easily conceivable, and indeed more credible, that it was only 'slyped' (slipped) to the roadside to be broken up in due time for road metal. In this ancient memorial Sir James Y. Simpson was profoundly interested, and I am locally informed that he had actually made arrangements for having the Moon-stone Butts trenched with a view to its recovery, having obtained the sanction of the proprietor and tenant to the operations, when Death, alas! too soon, as it appears to us, called him away. It would be interesting indeed if the fragment now shown could be proved a part of that famous stone. In any case, it seems a relic sufficiently remarkable to deserve notice. It is surely only right to add, that the merit of the present discovery is due to Mrs Drummond Black, Gallowhill. She it was who, while the stonebreaker was at work, noticed the configurations on the fragment, and, with a curiosity and wit that do her credit, interposed to stay the hand of the destroyer and to secure this valuable relic.