

NOTES ON SOME ANTIQUITIES IN ENZIE, BANFFSHIRE.

By THOMAS WALLACE, F.S.A. Scot.

At Christmas 1897, when on a visit to the Enzie, Banffshire, I had an opportunity of examining a very interesting stone cup, found by Mr James Newlands on his farm at White Stripe. It was found during the operation of "taking in" a piece of moorland. The stone from which the cup is formed is sandstone, measures 8 inches by 10 inches, and has its edges rounded by the ordinary process of denudation. It is broad at one end, and narrows to a point or nose at the opposite end. It is hollowed in the middle to form a cup, measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep, and has some resemblance to a stone crucie without a notch for the wick. There is nothing to distinguish this cup from others that have been found elsewhere, except that the under side of the stone, which is flat, has five deep grooves, as shown in fig. 1, evidently produced by its edges being used for sharpening some implement. The marks are not modern, as the stone was trenched up from under a growth

of heather and furze that had never been disturbed till Mr Newlands drove the plough through it.

Flint arrow-heads are often found on this farm. On it also stood, some years ago, two complete stone circles ("Druidical circles"); but only a few stones of one of them remain, the rest of the stones having been taken to aid in building a farm-steading. The other circle was entirely removed by the farmer, and the stones used to protect a ford. Some

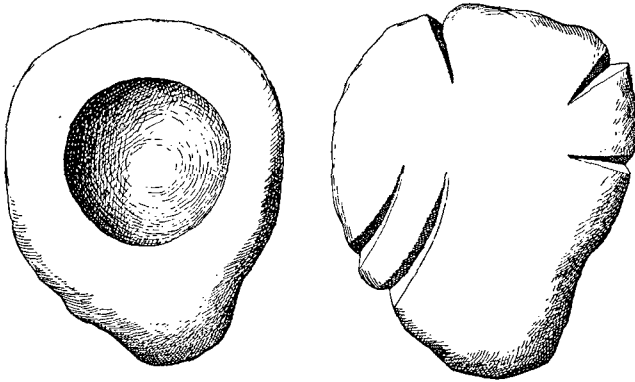


Fig. 1. Stone Cup found at White Stripe, Enzie; upper and under sides. ($\frac{1}{3}$.)

bones were seen when the site of the latter circle was ploughed, but no examination of them was made.

In the kitchen at White Stripe, I was surprised to find an example of the "Past in the Present" still in Banffshire. On the mantelpiece was a bundle of "fir candles," which are in constant use.

In this district of the Enzie, many interesting antiquarian finds have been made from time to time.

In 1896 a beautiful bronze axe was found on the farm of Hill Park, and is now in the possession of Mr George Thomson, Mains of Gollachy, a keen archæologist, who possesses a very fine private collection of antiquities, found chiefly in the district. The axe, which is wedge-shaped, measures $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches at the broader end. The narrower end measures $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches. It weighs $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

In the same field, with the axe, was found a beautiful barbed arrow-head of black flint. It measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 1 inch. One side is convex, and is finely chipped; while the other side is left plain, just as it was struck from the core. Mr Thomson has furnished me with correct drawings of this axe and arrow-head.

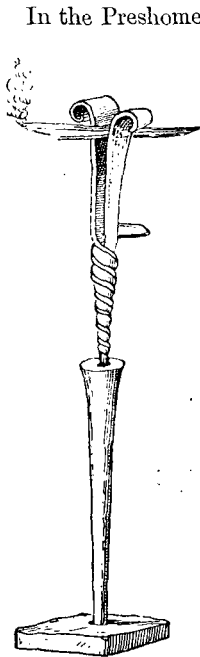


Fig. 2. Peerman from Enzie. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

In the Preshome Collection (Canon Kyles) there are a bronze socketed axe and a spear of bronze from the same district. Mr Thomson has just informed me that he has found in the same district, only last week, on the moor in the neighbourhood of Enzie railway station, a stone cup or small mortar in freestone. It is 2 feet 8 inches round the bilge, is 8 inches deep outside—the cup is 5 inches in diameter by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. It has a flange, but is considerably chipped round the mouth. I think it must have come from some chapel. Mr Birnie, Speymouth, got one of much the same kind in a field on the Glebe at Speymouth. There was a famous old chapel-well there at one time, and with the well of Courie, there was a chapel.

In the farm-house of Hill Park I found a very primitive form of "peerman," shown in fig. 2. It is made of two pieces of iron, 4 inches long. The split for holding the fir is 2 inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad, and curved outwards at the top. The other ends are moulded together and twisted to a point, which is inserted in a plain hazel stick, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, which was inserted into a block of wood. At the bottom of the split for holding the "fir," there is a small flat projection, which was used for "sniting the candle."

In the neighbourhood of Tomintoul there is a well, and beside it a stone with the following inscription:—

"A.D. 1754, Five Companies of the 33rd Regiment, under the Right Honourable Charles Hay, Colonel, made the Road from here to Spey."