

## IV.

LIST OF THE ANTIQUITIES OF GLENLUCE, WIGTOWNSHIRE, WITH  
DESCRIPTIVE NOTES. BY REV. GEORGE WILSON, CORR. MEM.  
S.A. Scot.

In former papers I have given detailed reports on Lake Dwellings, Urns, objects of Stone and Bronze, Sculptured Stones, etc., chiefly in the parish of Old Luce. I now give a report on the antiquities of the original parish of Glenluce, now divided into the parishes of Old Luce and New Luce. It measures above  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles from north to south by  $4\frac{1}{4}$  to 11 miles from east to west, containing a larger area than any of the still undivided parishes in the shire. It is bounded on the north by Ayrshire, on the east by the parishes of Kirkeowan and Mochrum, on the south by Mochrum and the Bay of Luce, and on the west by the Bay of Luce and the parishes of Stoneykirk and Inch. On the east it is drained by the Water of Tarff, which parts it from Kirkeowan, and in the central part by the Water of Luce and its affluents on the left bank, of which the chief are the Cross Water of Luce and the Lady Burn. The part of Inch parish draining into the Water of Luce on its right bank is not included, although it naturally belongs to the Glen, and contains interesting antiquities. The Piltanton Water from the west joins the Luce between tide marks at the north-east part of Luce Bay.

In this paper no claim is made of scientific accuracy, for I have had neither leisure nor funds to make any excavations. My object is to furnish a guide, and to attract attention to a field well worthy of cultivation by expert archaeologists.

The materials have gathered in my note-books for many years, chiefly between 1868 and 1882. My enumeration proceeds from north to south, and the following classification is adopted:—

I. Old Castles and Manor Houses, sites or remains. II. Ecclesiastical Remains or Sites, including Sculptured Stones and Holy Wells. III. Mote Hills. IV. Forts of various kinds. V. Hut Circles, single or in villages. VI. Horse-Shoe Mounds. VII. Lake Dwellings. VIII. Standing-Stones. IX. Cairns.

I. CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES, Sites or Remains of.—I give a general reference to Mr M'Kerlie's well-known work on "Lands and their Owners in Galloway."

(1) *Balnieil*, Manor House of the Rosses.—The site, of which no trace is visible, is on the left bank of the Cross Water of Luce, near the old ford, in what is now a field of the glebe.

(2) *Carsecreugh Castle*, near the village of Glenluce, built by the first Lord Stair, has been much used as a quarry. In a map of the Earl of Stair's property in Old Luce, by Joseph Gillone, dated 1783, there are brown sepia drawings of Carsecreugh and Sunniness Castles, showing much more extensive ruins than now remain.

(3) *Auchenmalg Manor House*, a property of the Adairs, is a two-storied ruin, of which the side wall and gables are held together by the wall of the chimneys built in the angles.

(4) *Gillespie Castle*.—On the right bank of the Gillespie Burn are the ruins of a small manor house built with clay mortar. Near it is a small flat inclosure called the *Corragh*.

(5) *Castle Wearrie*, on the north side of Craignarget Fell, 300 feet above sea. The name is now given to a roofless farm-house; but near it a piece of rough pavement seems to mark an older site.

(6) Going back to the village of Glenluce, the older part of *Balkail* House is a good specimen of an old-fashioned house of a laird.

(7) *Castle Sunonness* stands on a height not far from the rocky shore. Some of the oldest houses in Glenluce village have been quarried from it. On the right of the Water of Luce there is a dry stone ruin on Airiehemming, called

(8) the *Old Halls of Craig*, south of the Craig Burn. There are several rooms on the ground floor, the walls of which are several feet high. It seems to have been L-shaped, with some out-buildings. I have heard no traditions connected with it.

(9) *Park Hay*, or *Castle of Park*, stands near the Luce, on a site commanding wide views. The older part is roofed, but no longer habitable. It is L-shaped, but a plan possessed by Admiral Sir John Dalrymple Hay, Bart., of Park Place, shows that it was meant to be larger.<sup>1</sup>

(10) *Dunragit*—The south-west angle of the present mansion-house is the old two-story castle, with walls 5 feet thick. In the forties some old people still called it *Little Dunragit*.

(11) *Old Halls of Dunragit* is the name of the farm on which *Meikle Dunragit* stood. There are only slight traces of its foundations.

<sup>1</sup> Described in Macgibbon and Ross, *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, vol. iii. p. 315.

## II. ECCLESIASTICAL REMAINS OR SITES, including Sculptured Stones and Holy Wells.—

(1) *Hill Mabreedia*, above New Luce village, on the right bank of the Cross Water.—Sir Herbert Maxwell of Monreith, in his *Topography of Galloway*, *sub voce*, takes it to mean “the Church of St Bride,” and refers to a small stream on High Glenorne, called “Breedie Burn.” I have heard it called *Burn Breedie*, which looks like a translation of a Celtic name. At the foot of Hill Mabreedia there is a scattered mass of stone which may be a ruined building rather than a cairn.

(2) *Glenluce Abbey*.—A description of this interesting ruin, with plans and engravings, is given in the “Collections of the Ayr and Galloway Archæological Association,” vol. v. pp. 123–188.

(3) In the *Parish Church* of Old Luce, at the east end, there is an old doorway with a semicircular arch, unfortunately now concealed by a small to-fall roof for a store.

(4) *Balcarry Chapel*.—I recollect the walls in the “Chapel Fey” on the left bank of the Barlockhart Burn still two or three feet high. Four old plane trees still mark the site of the old burying-ground. I gave the Museum two amber beads found there, and knew a man who once had a rosary found in a hole in the wall.

(5) *Kilfillan Chapel*.—The men of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey were sent back to search in the Jerusalem Fey of Kilfillan till they found the site of the chapel. There had been a village there, and on digging up remains of a *slate* roof the surveyors fixed on that spot as the chapel site. It is marked by a solitary white thorn tree on the right side of Barnsallie Burn. On both the old and new O.S. maps it is called “Kirkchrist Chapel.” But I shall show that there are two Holy Wells, a fact which seems to indicate that there were two chapels also, one on Kilfillan and another at Kirkchrist. A former tenant of Kilfillan farm told me that in clearing away ruins of the ancient village in the Jerusalem Fey the workmen refused to uproot the white thorn trees, and it was with much difficulty he got a man to undertake such an *unlucky* task.

(6) *Kirkchrist Chapel*.—No traces of it remain; but its site is marked in the 6-inch O.S. map a little north of the Milton Burn.

(7) *St John's Chapel*, at Knock of Luce, is now quite erased. The late tenant, Mr Wilson, told me that he removed three distinct paved floors, one above the other. This indicates long occupation. No sculptured stone has been observed.

(8) *Gillespie*.—The exact site of Pont's “Kilespick,” the Bishop's Church, is unknown. Not far from the old Manor House there is a large irregular cairn, with stone cists, lying north and south. It is called “the old churchyard.” At Craignarget, near the sea-shore, there is the site of an ancient village where two sculptured stones have been found.

### B. SCULPTURED STONES.—

(1) *The Standing-Stones of Laggangarn*.—I have given a description of this ruined circle, with a drawing of two sculptured stones still *in situ*, in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 56. I show a drawing of a fourth stone, the only example I have seen of a simple cross, one line crossing another.

(2) *Glenluce Abbey*.—When some repairs were being made a few years ago

there was found, above the Chapter House, the upper part of a cross which had been broken across and used in a newer part of the building. It is an ice polished grey Silurian sandstone, with an incised cross in outline and two holes cut through. It has not been described before, and I now show a rubbing of it.

(3) *Glenluce Churchyard*.—A stone of the same material as No. 2 was presented to the Museum by the Local Authorities in 1880, and is figured in the Catalogue, p. 263, No. 45. It bears an equal armed cross, and the pattern of interlaced work is characteristic of the south-west of Scotland.

(4) *Glenluce Gaol*.—Glenluce village was a Burgh of Barony, and in the upper story of the old gaol, which used to be entered by an outside stair, I often saw a sculptured slab built in on edge over the fireplace. It was much defaced; but near the right hand end it bore the figure of a stag running, with the tail turning into a leafy branch. At that time I knew nothing of the zoomorphic ornamentation of our sculptured stones; but my recollection of it is distinct. When this building was being altered for the County Police I was from home, and found that this slab had been broken up by the masons. It has not been mentioned before.

(5) *Cassendeoch*, a dark grey Silurian sandstone, imperfect, measuring  $34 \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, with rude sculpturing on front and back. It is No. 50, p. 262, in the Museum Catalogue, presented by the Local Authority. I show a beautiful drawing of one side of it by my friend, John Thomson, Esq., M.D., of 14 Coates Crescent.

(6) *Mull of Sunonness*, the upper part of an incised cross of early type,  $24 \times 16$  inches, No. 16 in the Museum Catalogue.

(7) *Craignarget, Gillespie*,  $42 \times 17$  inches, an incised cross, with sun and moon in relief above it, the fylfot, crosslets, and dots in triplets, fours, and a five.

It was presented to the Museum by Mrs Young M'Dowall of Gillespie in 1881. See, for a description and figure, *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xv. p. 250.

(8) *Craignarget*.—Another sculptured slab was got at the same site of an ancient village near where No. 7 was found. A mason told me that he looked with much curiosity at the slab with strange carving on it. It was broken up and used in making gutters in a new byre at Gillespie.

C. HOLY WELLS.—(For details on this subject, see the "Collection of the Ayr and Wigtonshire Archaeological Association," vol. iii. pp. 91–98, in an article by the late Rev. Daniel Conway, S.J.)

(1) The *Lady Well*, near the parish church of New Luce.—It is commonly called the Lincraig Well, and is so named in the 6-inch O.S. map.

(2) *St Katherine's Well*, at Glenluce Abbey.—It is curious to find this name, instead of a Lady Well, at a white cistercian abbey.

(3) The *Lady Well*, at Glenluce.—I had not ascertained this site in time for Mr Conway's article. It is about a mile east from Old Luce parish church, close to the old military road. It was formerly above the road; but was carried in a drain to the stone fence on the lower side, where it is left open, and thence carried in a drain to the *Lady Burn*, to which it gives its name.

(4) *St Fillan's Well* is in a marsh opposite the Jerusalem Fey of Kilfillan. It is marked in the O.S. 6-inch map as "Chapel Well" in black-letter. The marsh is between the Barnsallie and Milton burns. It is called simply "the Holy Well," but is said to have been connected with Kilfillan Chapel.

(5) *The Lady Well, near Kirkchrist*, beside the old road from Glenluce to Portwilliam.—In the 6-inch O.S. map it is called “the Claughan Well,” a name I have never heard used. In the new 25-inch O.S. map there is added “or the Lady Well.” See my remarks on the *Capendoch* sculptured stone.

(6) *Kilhern Well, New Luce*.—The early Christian missionaries consecrated to some saint sites which had been considered holy in pagan times, and the name Kilhern may suggest that of some Celtic saint, but I have heard no tradition of its having been so regarded. Sir Herbert Maxwell, in his *Topography of Galloway*, *sub voce*, suggests the meaning, “hill back of the cairn”—that is the large ruined cairn, called from the megalithic graves opened in it about a century ago, “*the Caves of Kilhern*.” He does not refer to the “*Spa Well*,” not far from the cairn. It is still visited. I saw some children at it with pails to carry home water. It is still customary to throw small objects into the well—a superstitious relic of ancient worship. A good way off, to the south-west, there is a long row of heavy stepping-stones across a peat moss. The stones had been quite grown over by the moss, which has since been cut away for peats, one part in the middle being still covered. Sir Herbert favoured me with an extract from his note-book :—“Large roots of oak trees *in situ* are in the little moss, a hill adjacent in Dundarrochie = ‘the hill of oaks.’ This small moss and its stepping-stones is one of the most inexplicable things I ever saw, it would have been so very easy to go round it.” I think the stepping-stones led to the holy well. There are the foundations of three hut circles a little further west, opening to the east. There are many cairns in the neighbourhood. The Spa Well is at the base of a long, low piece of rock, beyond which, to the south-west, there is a sinuous mound of stones, about 800 yards long, terminating at the north-east end in two rings. Sir Herbert thinks it contains more graves. Mr Lupton, schoolmaster at New Luce, who has carefully examined these remains, thinks it is a rampart for defence. I exhibit two plans presented to me by Mr Lupton.

### III. MOTE HILLS.—

(1) *Glenluce* mote hill is now almost obliterated by the plough. On the top of a little hill to the west of the village on a knoll one sees a depression. The mote seems to have had a hollow on the top.

(2) *Drouchdool* mote is near the Piltanton water, on the east of the road from Dunragit railway station to Genoch bridge. It is circular and a good deal destroyed.

The *Horse Hill* on Mid Torrs is seldom spoken of as a mote hill. It is easily distinguished from the surrounding sand hills by its dark colour, as it is little blown by the wind. The base is nearly circular, the top is flat, measuring about 70 × 37 feet, sloping a little to the south.

### IV. FORTS AND RINGS.—

These are numerous and not easily classified. Some of the forts are irregular to suit the site. Some are of stone, others of stone and turf, or of earth. The rings are circular or oval, and of these the smaller may be large hut circles.

I shall take, 1st, the *Irregular Forts*; 2nd, the regularly built. Then the *Rings* which are either *closed* or *open*, according as they have or have not an entrance

gap. The entrance gap is on the south-east, with one exception, when it is on the south-west. Some of the rings have a hut circle inside or close to the outside. Two or three of the open rings may have been folds for cattle or sheep when on knolls; but those on peat, or where always wet, would be unsuitable for folds. Probably the rings may have been strengthened by pointed stakes of wood.

One ring of small gravel stones is a cemetery, from which the Museum received the remains of two urns, a bronze knife-dagger, and whetstone, and I have formerly called your attention to the fact that sometimes the mound forming a ring with an entrance gap has contained urns.

#### I. (a) FORTS, IRREGULAR.—

(1) *The Bannan of Garvilland*, New Luce.—This is a fortified hill, of considerable height, very rocky, and on the north-west precipitous. I show a fine plan made for me in 1880 by my friend Robert Miller, Esq., Edinburgh, and also a tracing from the 25-inch O.S. map. It measures about 440 feet from north-east to south-west and 225 feet across, with a steep entrance gap at each end. That at the north-east is about 20 feet long and 10 feet wide, and defended by rock ledges, continued on the right by a stone breastwork 20 feet long. The south-west entrance is double, being defended by an outer wall about 340 feet long, with a gap overlapping at the left, about 25 feet, and about 15 feet wide. Upon, or inside of, this outer wall are traces of fourteen hut circles, one of which is a hollow on a large pile of stones opposite to the inner entrance. There are about thirty-nine hut circles in all, from 5 to 12 feet in diameter inside. It has been a fortified village. There is no appearance of a water-supply inside the walls.

(2) *Cruive Fell*.—The name is derived from the cruives or weir once carried across the Luce, above Galdenoch Mill. On the north-east part of the summit of the Fell are the ruins of what seems to be a double fort of stone, much damaged by sheep rees having been built between the forts.

(3) *Drumcarnochan*, Old Luce.—In the 25-inch O.S. map this name is given, by a mistake, as Drumcarnochan. It is not now used. I have given a description and plan, in a paper on lake dwellings, in the "Ayr and Wigton Collections," vol. iii. pp. 53-58. It is a heavy breastwork of stone thrown across the isthmus of a peninsula of hard ground, in the flow moss of Barlae, and defends some rings and cairns. The largest ring is the only one I have seen with the entrance gap at the south-west instead of the south-east.

(4) *The Knock*, Old Luce.—This fort crowns the highest hill in Old Luce, 575 feet above the sea. It is entered in the 25-inch O.S. map; but, as usual, does not show the entrance gaps. There is an outer defence at the west end on a lower shelving slope. There is an entrance gap of about 10 feet at each end, that at the south-west seeming to have had heavy defences. But the whole fort has been sorely dilapidated to build a dry stone wall along the south side of the Fell. There are traces of six or seven hut circles along the line of fortification, and outside, on a small flat space on the steep north side of the hill, there is a half circle of about 20 feet in diameter. Down the western slope there is a cluster of small cairns, and a cluster of green hut circles. This is another fortified village. It commands a wide view all round, especially of the machars. It may have been built by the makers of the extensive lake dwellings in the loch of Machermore, less than 2 miles off to the west.

(5) *Crow's Neith*, Old Luce.—I take this name from Gillone's map. In the 6-inch O.S. map it is called a cairn; but the fishermen call it "the broken castle." It is a little way south from the pier at Stairhaven, which is commonly called the Crow's Nest, which seems to be a corruption of Gillone's old name. He calls the little harbour Port Milton. A farm to the east is called Crows, pronounced *Crowze*. The ruined foundations are about 80 × 30 feet, on a low irregular rock, close to the sea, just above high-water mark, and connected by a narrow neck of rock with the steep and lofty bank above. About a hundred years ago the stones were a good deal disturbed by a smuggler who had a still among them, getting a supply of clear water from a spring overflowing from the top of the bank.

(6) *Garliachan*, on Low Sunonness, Old Luce.—In 1872 I discovered this fort on the cliff at the north of a little natural harbour. It is not in the 6-inch O.S. map. On the south and west it is defended by the sea-cliffs. On the south a wall has been carried along the edge of the cliff for above 80 feet. Then it is continued by a green mound round the east end, and then westward to the cliffs. At the north-east there is an entrance gap, but the farmer told me it was cut by his father, to give access to an east road leading down to the sea-beach. The original entrance is a gap left at the cliff on the west. The line of fortification is about 260 feet over all. A patch of small stones has been used for hiding smuggled goods. The farmer gave me *Garliachan* as the name of the field beside the fort. The late Rev. Thomas Maclauchlan, D.D., Edinburgh, told me it means "the fort of Hector." I think there is a tradition of a chief of that name.

#### (b) REGULAR FORTS.—

(7 and 8) *Airichemming*, Old Luce.—On the right of the Water of Luce, on Airichemming, not far to the south-east of the old Halls of Craig, in a cultivated field, there is a pair of oval buildings. They have been regularly built, with a cup-shaped floor at each end. That to the west is in good preservation to a height of nearly 5 feet, the dry stone building being very close, with a great deal of bottom or slope at the west end. Behind each there is a quadrangular inclosure covered with scattered stones.

#### II. (a) CLOSED RINGS.—

(1) "*The Ring*," Miltonaise, New Luce.—This is the name of an old farm. The "site" is entered in Sheet VII. of the 6-inch O.S. map, near the head of the Ring Burn, north-west of the standing-stones of Laggangarn. Unfortunately this part of New Luce is not in the 25-inch survey. I have not seen the remains of the ring, which was a large one (see M'Kerlie, vol. ii.). On Miltonaise there are several rings.

The man who, at my request, was sent back to add them to the survey reported that "he could not measure them exactly," and did nothing.

(2) *Craigbirnoch*, New Luce.—Close to the right margin of the Cross Water of Luce there is a ring of water-worn stones on a low peat moss. It is about 200 feet in diameter.

(3) *Camrie Fell*, New Luce.—On the western part of the Fell, on the farm of Gleniron Scoral, where a part of New Luce juts into Old Luce, not very far from

the Abbey, there is a cluster of five green rings. They lie in a sloping hollow sheltered from the north and east, with a splendid view to the south and south-west, and an abundant spring, which required a six-inch drain pipe to drain it off. To the west and north of the rings there is what I supposed to be a ditch with the earth thrown up to the side next them for a defence, and which I traced along the moor for 2300 feet. When I spoke of it to Dr Christison he said it was probably an old road, and no man has so much experience and knowledge of forts. I had got a tracing from the Survey Office, but it contained only the exact part I had marked, and in seeing the whole sheet I found that, after a blank of several hundred feet, the road was continued with some windings for above 900 feet down the Fell, till it ended at the old site of Camrie farm-steading. This experience I mention as a warning to others. Ring No. 1, about 150 feet from the old road, is only  $12 \times 9$  feet, and is probably a hut circle. Numbers 2 and 3 are joined together. The smaller one is a segment of a circle measuring  $20 \times 12$  feet, with no opening into the larger, which is  $55 \times 45$  feet, and flattened on the south-east, where there is an entrance gap with a small mound a few feet in front. No. 4 is 15 feet in diameter, and No. 5 is  $20 \times 15$  feet. The largest, the double ring, belongs to the class of *open* rings, and the whole five might be regarded as forming an unfenced village.

(4) *Clashern*, New Luce.—This name is not in Sir Herbert Maxwell's work. It is between Kilhern and Larig Fell on Garvilland, at the south-west point where the Fell runs into the flow moss. Beside an old peat road there are three oval rings and eight small cairns. The first ring, lying north and south, measures  $40 \times 36$  feet; the next, lying east and west,  $36 \times 22$ ; and the third, lying north and south,  $24 \times 15$ , with a quadrangular annex  $12 \times 9$  at the north side. This addition may be more recent.

(4a) *Barnsallzie Moor*, Old Luce.—See page 182, No. 15.

(5) *Larig Fell*, Garvilland, New Luce.—On the other side of the point from Clashern there is a ring 39 feet in diameter over all, and 28 feet inside. I shall have to return to this site further on, among the Hut Circles.

(6) *Carsecreugh Fell*, Old Luce.—On the summit there is a 200-foot ring which I have not seen.

(7) *Stairhaven*, Old Luce, formerly called Port Milton.—There is a ring about the 25-foot contour line on an ancient raised beach. It may only have been a large hut circle, but it is well placed for a shelter. It is rather concealed by whin bushes.

(8) *Mull of Sunonness*.—On the summit there is a ring about 200 feet in diameter.

(9) *Corbie Craigs*, New Luce.—A circular fort entered in the 25-inch O.S. map, on Sheet VI. 12, north-west of Corbie Craigs, on the right side of the Cross Water of Luce, about 60 feet in diameter. I have not seen it.

(10) *Airiehemming*, Old Luce.—On the right of the Water of Luce, on a rough hill-top, there are the stony foundations of a 200-foot ring.

(11) *Dunragit Moor*, Old Luce.—There is a ring on the west part of the moor not far from the boundary of Inch parish.

(12) *Barraigle*, Old Luce.—In a wood on Glenwhan there is an earthen ring. It is oval,  $39 \times 27$  feet, in deep heather, on peat, with a 15-foot circle a few yards to the east of it. Not entered in the New Survey.

(13) *Glenhinnie*, Old Luce.—On Dunragit Moor, farther over, there is an old



farm site, with four rings. One, of 45 feet, has part cut off by a field wall, and a few yards off there are traces of two smaller rings, one in a hollow, the other on a knoll, while a fourth had been in a bog, south of the old home-  
stead.

(14) *The Round Doonan of Dunragit*, Old Luce.—Commonly called the *Roon Doonan*. It is south of Dunragit, beside the carriage-drive, on a wooded knoll. It may come between the closed and open rings, for it has no fence, but is simply a level space, about 15 feet broad, made by scarping the hill-top.

At the close of this list of forts and rings I add three place-names. *Knock-doon* is a sand hill near High Torrs farm-house to the left of the High Road. It is much blown away, and the sand is killing a straggling coppice of stunted oak, the only one now on the sand hills. In the blown hollow I found many worked flints and a small broken urn. At the ford, where the Piltanton Water reaches the sea at high-water mark, on the natural track along the sands to the Rhins and the Mullhead, and therefore a place worthy of defence, there must have been two forts. One is represented by the name *Corrylinn*, which represents Pont's *Kereluing*, or "ship fort." An old lady in the village of Glenluce told me she had heard her mother use the old name. The other name, *Corry-bathie*, corrupted into Cuttybattie, seems to mean "boat fort." After the closed rings, I give some account of the open ones.

(b) OPEN RINGS.—

(1) *The Bught Fell*, Garvilland, New Luce.—I shall give a fuller description of the remains here, under the heading of "Hut Circles." Here I note a double ring, like a figure 8, the two rings uniting where they meet, but with no opening between. The upper ring is 10 × 5 feet in diameter, the lower has a diameter of 17 feet over all and 15 feet inside, with an entrance gap at the south-east.

(2 and 3) *Garvilland*, New Luce.—West of the farm-house there is another figure 8 double ring, like that on the Bught Fell, only larger. It lies north-east and south-west. The upper ring is 18 × 17 feet outside and about 10 feet inside, the larger is 40 feet over all and 28 inside, with south-east entrance gap.

(3) Farther west lies another ring, 45 × 42 feet over all and 27 feet inside.

(4) *Camrie Fell*.—One of the rings already referred to has an entrance gap on the south-east side, with a heap of earth in front.

(5) *The Carlinwark*, Craigmarget Fell, Old Luce.—This appears to have been a large stone ring. The site is a level space on the slope down to the Gillespie Burn, a little farther up than the old Manor House. The ruins of four old cottages are on the area; but there are traces of a fort, especially at the entrance at the south-east, where the two ends of the ring overlap, that on the left being on higher ground, and the foundation of that on the right being 6 feet thick, with an ordinary wall above. The following numbers are on the right of the Luce:—

(6) *Craig Fell*, Old Luce.—On the eastern slope of the Fell, south of Glensellie Burn, and above the Girvan railway, there is a ring, 57 feet over all and 45 feet inside, with an entrance gap at the south-east. Inside the ring, toward the left and near a face of rock utilised as part of the ring, there is a hut circle, 7 feet 6 inches in diameter inside. A little higher up there is a cairn with an old thorn tree on the top, and 90 yards farther up, in a narrow cleft at the foot

of a cliff about 20 feet high, there is a curved row of nine earth-fast stones, inclosing a space  $19 \times 10$  feet.

(7) *Craig Moor*, Old Luce.—Behind the Fell, to the south-west, there is another ring, on the moor, about 30 feet in diameter inside, the ring being a mound 7 feet 6 inches to 9 feet broad, with a 5-foot gap at the south-east and a small circle just inside at the left hand.

#### V. HUT CIRCLES.—

These are numerous, and I daresay there are many which I have missed among the rough heather, or have never been near. They are of several types. Some are circular hollows, where, on sloping ground, the earth on the upper side has been turned over to the under side to form a floor for a hut. This is the type of which Dr Christison has reported so many on the great fort on the Eildons, in his Rhind Lectures. Others are merely floors of stone, either flat stones laid in a rude circle or cobble stones paved in a bed of clay laid on a sandy surface. Very often, where a hut has been solitary, there is only a ring of single stones laid, either touching or a little apart. Then there are hut circles which stand more conspicuously on the surface. Some of these are green rings of turf or turf and stone. Others are of drystone building, which often look like small ruined cairns, hollow in the middle, but prove, on examination, to have been carefully built about 3 feet high. They have had no doorway. Apparently the inhabitant stepped over the wall and sheltered himself under some sort of light roof. The first I ever examined was only 5 feet in diameter inside.

In no case have I gone all round a hut circle both inside and outside clearing away the loose stones; but have only taken a cross-section so as to show the built faces of the wall and the exact diameter. In some cases the circles are given on the authority of the new Ordnance Survey maps, not on my own examination.

(a) HUTS DUG OUT ON SLOPING GROUND.—These I have found only on two sites.

(1) *Balmurrie Moor*, New Luce.—South-west from a closed ring with two huts, and beside huts of other sorts, there is a hut of this kind, about 9 feet in diameter.

(2) *Loch Robin*, Old Luce.—On the west of this small loch, at the side of a natural rocky mound, there is a dug out hut of  $12 \times 8$  feet, the earth being thrown out to the east toward the loch.

(b) STONE FLOORS.—There are no traces of any ring built round them, and they are made either by laying flat stones in a rude circle, or by running cobble stones into a layer of clay where the surface consists of sand. Of the flagged floors there are two at the village at *Lavig Fell*, Garvilland, New Luce, just where the hill meets the moor, which are partly overgrown by the peat, one of them 6 and the other 8 feet in diameter. There is a single floor of flags at the base of a small rock near *Bafins Fey*, on High Gleniron, New Luce. There are several of the floors paved in a bed of clay on the sand hills.

The most interesting is a village, the site of which has been divided by a deep cutting for the Portpatrick Railway at the west of the wood at Castle of Park.

Since 1880 the sand has blown a great deal. Where there was a hill about 18 feet high, a quadrangular floor, paved by stones in clay, was exposed, where a small copper coin of James IV. was found. These facts led me astray into the supposition that some small circular floors a little to the south had been stools for little stacks of corn. But they were hut circles of an earlier date, for, besides hammer-stones and whet-stones, I got from them a broken arrow-head and some bits of worked flint, two pins of bronze brooches, and an unfinished bead of cannel-coal. The small floors were soon destroyed by the action of the wind. There are other clusters of 22, and 9, and two of 6. There are a great many cairns on the moor, at the south of which are the extensive crannogs in Machermore Loch.

*Loch Robin.*—O.S. Sheet XIX. 11. This lochan lies between Craigenveoch Fell and Knock Fell. On the west side of it are three hut circles, and further to the south-west is a cluster of eighteen. On the brink of a natural rocky mound I have noted a hollow 12 × 8 feet diameter, the excavated earth being thrown up on the east side to form a hut: At the south there is a mound of stone and turf about 4 feet high, 12 feet thick, and 35 feet long, narrowing where it leads northward. It is a continuation of a natural rocky mound, and where it begins there is a hollow space 9 × 6 feet.

(c) STONE RINGS.—

(1) *Balmurrie, New Luce.*—West of Cairn-na-Gath, below a bit of rock, there is a segment of a circle, 12 × 9 feet, further down a small cairn, and then a small circle.

About 200 yards south of Cairn-na-Gath, touching a low, broken cliff, is a stone and turf ring, 33 × 30 feet in diameter, with no entrance gap, with a 9-foot ring inside at the north-west, and another of the same size just outside at the north-east, touching the cliff. On the west is a stone foundation 16 feet square, from which traces of a wall go out, and then curve to the south. About 300 yards south-west from the ring, beside a low rock, is a 9-foot circle, a little to the south is another of the same diameter. About 150 yards south of the ring with two huts is one of 7 feet in diameter, beside five small cairns. These are huts of different kinds, perhaps of different ages.

(2) *Kilhern.*—A little to the west of the stepping-stones, already described, in connection with Kilhern Spa Well, there are three hut circles, with very distinct entrances facing to the east.

(3) *Fauldinchie.*—Farther down the left side of the Cross Water there is a cluster of ten huts, like ruined cairns, in a rough rocky hollow, which were pointed out to me by Mr Lupton.

(4) *Craigfolly* lies further south-west, and has five small circles in a slightly curved row.

(5) *The Glebe of New Luce.*—In front of the manse there are traces of five or six oval huts. The corn or grass shows a darker green where the foundations were.

The longest axis was about 13 feet. When the field is ploughed the sites are marked by the stones having been burnt.

Retracing our way to the Spa Well of Kilhern, and going further towards the Larig Fell, on Garvilland, we reach a site not named in Sir Herbert Maxwell's Topography of Galloway, called Clashern.

(6) *Clashern, New Luce*.—Before one reaches the point where Larig Fell, on Garvilland, runs out into the peat bog, west of an old peat road, there are three very distinct green circles and eight small cairns. The rings are oval, the middle one lies north and south, the others east and west. That to the west measures  $24 \times 15$  feet over all, and  $12 \times 7$  feet inside; the middle one  $36 \times 32$  feet over all, and  $21 \times 18$  feet inside; the third oval is  $36 \times 30$ . Against its south side there is an annex, which is  $12 \times 9$  feet, with no entrance into the ring. It is perhaps more modern, for there is the foundation of a large quadrangular building not far off to the south-west, straight west from the first oval, across a slight hollow, built against a low rock facing the south. It is angular, 10 feet square outside, with an inner part, against the rock, projecting 2 feet 6 inches further. There is a similar inclosure further south on Garvilland. They look inclosures for a single ewe and lamb; but the late tenant, Mr M'Ilwraith, born in 1800, and a shepherd always, had never seen or heard of any like them, so they must be pretty old. The O.S. map also shows some rings further up on the side of the Fell.

(7) *Larig Fell, Garvilland, New Luce*.—Another village site is found near Clashern, just at the other side of the point of Larig Fell, between the first rock and the edge of the flow moss, below the 550 contour line. A ruined wall runs westward, curves to the south beyond a turf and stone ring 15 feet south and 12 feet west of it, nearly 40 feet over all and 28 feet inside, runs westward again, and turns suddenly to the south, ending in a half circle of 5 feet. On the upper side of the wall, towards its east end, about 36 feet up the hill, there is a half circle open towards it,  $21 \times 10$  feet 6 inches, 5 feet broad, and 3 feet high. Below the east end of the wall are three small cairns, the lowest on a point of firm ground projecting into the flow, west of which, beyond a small rock, are two paved circular floors, partly overgrown by the flow moss.

(8) *The Bught Fell, Garvilland, New Luce*.—It lies across the flow moss south of Larig Fell, and west of the Bennan Fort. The ruins of this ancient village are confused by those of a comparatively modern farm. The Fell is 670 feet high, and about the 600-foot contour the older ruins lie, on, or higher up than, the foundations of an old wall. On one part of the wall there is a cup-shaped floor. There are eleven rings and fifty-five small cairns. One ring is green,  $30 \times 26$  feet in diameter, another  $42 \times 15$  feet lying north and south. Two rings are double, one is 64 feet in diameter, with rounded angles, inclosing another of 34 feet, which is 18 feet from the north and 12 feet from the south of the inclosing one. Six feet to the south-east is the figure-of-8 double ring already described.

(9) *The Braid Hill, High Dergcaols, Old Luce*.

(10) *Drumearnochán, Barlae, Old Luce*.—I have described these two villages, with plans, in the "Archæological Collections of Ayr and Wigton," vol. iii. pp. 56-58.

(11) *Dernain Fell, Old Luce*.—In the New Survey a cluster of eight small hut circles is entered, of which there is no entry in my note-book.

(12) *Craigenevoch Fell, Old Luce*.—On the New Survey Sheet XIX. 11 there are no fewer than sixty-two hut circles entered. I think many of these are cairns with ruined cists. I am sure of a group of fifteen on a step-like level on the north-west point of the Fell. They looked like small ruined cairns, but something led me to think there had not been graves in them, and I began to throw the stones out of the hollow of one of them, when I found it had been a

hut circle only 5 feet in diameter inside, the wall being 2 feet thick. I examined all the rest. One seemed to have been double, or two in contact.

(13) *Loch Robin*, Old Luce.—In Sheet XIX. 11 of the New Survey, on the west of the small loch, there are three hut circles, and further to the south-west there is a group of eighteen.

(14) *Knock of Luce*, Old Luce.—Besides those in the fort already described there is a cluster of hut circles standing distinctly on the slope of the Fell to the north-west.

(15) *Barnsallie Moor*.—I have already referred to a large number of hut circles marked on the New Survey Map XVII. 11. I have doubts as to most of them, and feel sure that those on the west side of the moor are ruined cairns which had contained graves.

(16) *Wood of Dervaird*.—There are two or three outline rings of small huts on the moor south-west from the homestead.

(17) *Park Hay*.—The only group of hut circles west of the Luce is at the west of the Wood of Park. The site is divided by a deep cutting of the Portpatrick and Dumfries Railway. Since 1880 the sand has blown a great deal. A quadrangular paved floor was uncovered and a small copper coin was found. But the site had been occupied ages before, for, besides shaped flints and hammer-stones, I got for the Museum an unfinished bead of cannel-coal and two pins of bronze brooches. The small circular floors were soon destroyed by the action of the wind.

(18) *Drumpail*, New Luce.—I have omitted to enter in its proper order a hut circle, with hollow floor, about 15 feet in diameter, on the moor of Drumpail Farm, south of the homestead.

#### VI. HORSE-SHOE MOUNDS.—

(1 and 2) *Barnsallie Moor*.—On the north-west of the moor, south of an old road, and east of an old drystone wall, are two earthen mounds of a horse-shoe form, largest at the middle of the curve and sloping gradually to the level at the points, the opening facing north-west. They are about 90 feet apart, that to the south being largest. The extremes of the incurved points are 14 feet apart, the entrance is 7 feet wide, along the level space inside is 14 feet, and over the mound is 22 feet, being 36 feet in all. The height is about 4 feet. The smaller mound is 28 feet over. I call attention to these peculiar mounds which do not seem to have been observed elsewhere, and may easily escape observation.

#### VII. LAKE DWELLINGS.—

None have been observed in New Luce. In Old Luce there are several.

(1) *Barhapple Loch* on Dalskilpin.—In the "Ayr and Wigton Collections," vol. iii. pp. 52-58, I have described, with plan, the crannog, etc. I show a drawing of part of a wooden bowl and a sample of charred grain found on the crannog.

(2) *Machermore Loch*.—In the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. ix. pp. 368-376, I have described the crannogs, etc., of this loch, with a small plan. In 1873 the level of the water was very low, so that I was able to make further discoveries and measurements, which are shown in a tracing from the 25-inch Survey Sheet XIX. 15. To the north of Tree Island Crannog I found eight circles, from

18 down to 12 feet in diameter, each marked out by a single layer of stones on the peat bottom, touching each other, two having the stones rather scattered. One had two short beams of wood beside it. The crannog No. 10 is about 18 feet in diameter. North-west of Whitefield Crannog, and pointing toward crannog No. 12, is a layer of angular stones 27 feet long and 5 feet wide. The diameter of the ring of stones on Donnan's Island Crannog is 40 feet. Owing to frequent change of level the wood-work along the southern shore of the loch can no longer be distinguished from the peat in which it lies.

(3) *Barnsallie Loch*.—The large stakes mentioned in the article on Machermore Loch have been removed. They were pointed. At the west side a labourer found a long beam with square mortice holes at regular intervals of one foot. At the south-east a deep drain, cut in 1887 through a low circular knoll, showed a depth of stones and clay, and about three feet lying above several feet of peat, so that the mound appears to be artificial. It might be worth digging. A new line of wall is carried across it.

(4) *Barlockhart Loch*.—For a description of the crannog and the platform with two circular stone floors, see my paper in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 737.

(5) *Airiewiggle Loch*.—See the same paper.

(6) *Loch Robbin*.—In the 25-inch O.S. map, Sheet XIX. 11, there is marked the site of a crannog. In my note-book lent to the Survey it is entered as 'doubtful,' and I repeat the expression of doubt, although I now think it likely there has been one.

#### VIII. STANDING-STONES.—

##### 1. CIRCLES OF STANDING-STONES.—

(1) *Laggangarn*, New Luce.—See under Sculptured Stones.

(2) *Steeps Park*, High Gillespie, Old Luce.—This has never, as far as I know, been recorded until now. In 1877 there still stood two large granite boulders out in a field. John Scott, a labourer who had lived in Gillespie nearly seventy years, told me that when a little boy he had often played on the stones, and that there were nine or ten of them in a circle. About the year 1817 all but two of the stones were broken up for building, and the two last were removed to the field wall, out of the way of the plough, by Mr M'Cracken, in ignorance of their history. Scott died about a year after he told me these facts. The late Mr M'Culloch of Whitefield and another farmer, to whom I spoke of this circle, said they had heard their fathers speak of it, but had not heard it mentioned for quite thirty years, and had quite forgotten about it. Thus, narrowly, had all memory of them been lost. The site was near an old road which ran across Culquharen. Some large cairns are not very far off.

##### 2. STANDING-STONES, in smaller numbers or single.—

(1) *Craig Fell*, Old Luce.—See description under Fort No. 6 of Nine Stones.

(2) *Gillespie*, Old Luce.—In the New Survey Sheet XXIV. 3, there is a pair of upright stones marked north-west from the homestead. I once saw them, but stupidly neglected to make a note of them. They are not water-worn boulders.

(3) *The Officer's Stone*, Gillespie.—A boulder resting near the edge of the

25-foot contour line. The name, like that of the next stone, is connected with a tradition of a battle fought by invaders from the sea.

(4) *The Kemp's Stone*, Gillespie.—A very large block on the boulder-strewn beach of Longforth Bay.

(5) *Mull of Sunonness*, Old Luce.—On the level platform of the 50-foot contour there is an earthfast stone standing on end. It is of grey Silurian sandstone, height 6 feet 6 inches, girth at two and a half feet from the ground 13 feet 6 inches, sloping on the south face for 5 feet to the top. The irregular hole on the south face is natural. I have heard no tradition connected with it.

(6) *Balmurrie*, New Luce.—South-east from the homestead there is a large stone beside a cairn, but I have heard no tradition about it.

#### IX. CAIRNS.—

The cairns are still very numerous, although a great many have been entirely dilapidated since the fields began to be inclosed by drystone dykes. It is significant that the districts longest under thorough cultivation are almost stripped of cairns and other antiquities, and those still remaining are chiefly found on the moors and bogs. A very large number still remain, more or less ruined, some of them with cists, and many are still entire. Most of them are circular, several are elliptical, a few are long, one is horned, and Cairn-na-Gath is quite unique. I once hoped to give a census of them, but have failed. A few of the more remarkable I shall describe:—

(1) *The Ring Cairn*, *Miltonaise*, New Luce.—I know of only three cairns on this large farm. In a letter of 6th April 1898, Mr Lupton gives me this note: "The Ring Cairn is seven hundred yards north-west from Miltonaise, fifty yards east from railway. Cairn about fourteen feet in diameter, four standing-stones 3 x 2 feet, and old cist."

(2) *Cairn-na-Gath*, Balmurrie Fell, New Luce.—The final letter is silent. I have never heard of a cairn like this. I show a plan made of it by the late William Galloway, Esq., in 1885. I also sent three surveyors, employed by Sir Pitt Rivers, who made a survey and drawing. On the opposite side of the Cross Water of Luce there is a ruined cairn called Cairn Kennagh. It is interesting to find that the same two names are found associated in the parish of Urquhart, Elginshire, and again in Caithness. Your highly esteemed correspondent, the Rev. James Morrison, Free Church, Urquhart, wrote me, in 1885, that most of the numerous cairns in the parish of Urquhart "have been swept away by agricultural improvements, and for building purposes, there being no rock or quarry." He says there is no cairn at all resembling Cairn-na-Gath,—nothing but the name seems to remain. Of the cairns in Caithness I know only the names, as given by Dr Anderson in *Scotland in Pagan Times—Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 248, and *Proceedings*, vol. vii. p. 490 and vol. ix. p. 292.

(3) *The Caves of Kilhern*.—My friend Mr Lupton has given me a detailed plan, elevation, and photogram of this ruined cairn. The so-called caves are eight megalithic cists, with from two up to eleven stones remaining, and only one with a single cover stone. I suppose the dilapidation has gone on since the inclosure of the district by stone walls. I have seen a large flagstone, about 7 feet long, on a kitchen floor in New Luce village. So far as I know, the latest dilapidation is due to Sir Herbert Maxwell, who uncovered two of the graves, the only

result being the discovery of a layer of black unctuous earth on the bottom. The remains of three lie east and west, and of two nearly north and south. At the west end there are four stones, three of them lying across the cairn and one to the right. All are roughly triangular, two of them having sides of about 4 feet. Seven feet to the east there is a single block, about 3 feet long and broad, at the open end of a cist of five stones, like a capital A. The side stones are about 4 feet long by 1 foot 6 inches broad. At the upper end lies a block nearly 3 feet long by 2 feet broad, and at the other end at each side a stone about  $3 \times 2$  feet. Less than 2 feet to the left side is a quadrangular block like that at the opening. Four feet further east is the central stone of those which lie north and south across the cairn. It measures  $3 \times 2$  feet 6 inches. Nearly 2 feet to the north is a block about 2 feet 6 inches long and broad. The stone to the south is about 3 feet long and 2 feet broad. The third grave, near the north side of the cairn, shows four stones lying in a sort of curve, open to the west.