

IV.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MORAYTOWN, DALCROSS, INVERNESS-SHIRE. BY THOMAS WALLACE, F.S.A. Scor.

1. On the farm of Moraytown, in the parish of Dalcross, Inverness-shire, on the 19th June 1899, a stone cist was discovered during agricultural operations. It measured 4 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 2 inches, and consisted of four large slabs of sandstone peculiar to the district. One of the side slabs had fallen outwards, causing the covering slab, which was of unusual size, to fall into the grave.

It contained a skeleton very much decomposed, but sufficient remained to show the position of the body, which lay doubled up with the head to the north. Portions of the skull and of the thigh and leg bones were distinguishable. Although a careful search was made, no implements or ornaments were found.

2. On the 21st of June 1899, a little to the east, a second cist was found of similar structure. In this case the skeleton was remarkably well preserved, and lay doubled up with the head to the east. The skull was well formed and of the Brachycephalic type, with teeth well preserved. Three small flat jet beads, but no implements, were found. The skull was preserved.

In grave No. 1 the body lay on the right side, while in No. 2 it lay on the left.

3. On the same evening, 21st June, a little to the east of grave No. 2, a circular pit, built with water-worn stones, was discovered. It was in shape like an inverted bee-hive, and not quite circular, as the diameter varied from 30 to 34 inches. From the floor of this chamber an arched passage built of the same kind of stones extended 8 feet to the west and ended in a chamber $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The height of the arched passage at the east end was 17 inches, and at the west 26 inches; and about 18 inches wide.

In the circular chamber were found shells of the oyster, mussel, and

cockle, with bones of some large bird, and of a small animal, possibly the rabbit, along with several jaws of some carnivorous animal, perhaps the wolf.

Much credit is due to Mr Macdonald for the great care he took to have the remains thoroughly examined.

Mr Macdonald possesses an iron axe of peculiar shape (fig. 1), found on

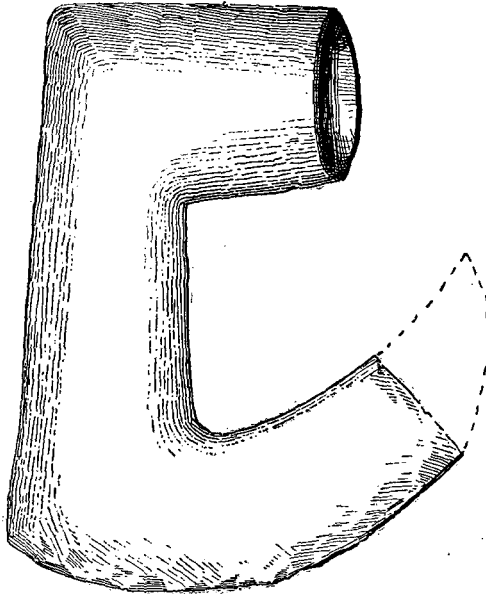


Fig. 1. Iron Axe of peculiar shape found at Moraytown.

the same farm in 1876 ; and a stone axe (fig. 2), 7 by $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, said to have been found at Culbin Sands ; although there can be little doubt of its having come from the West Indies, as it is evidently of the special form peculiar to the Caribbean area. He also possesses a steel implement found at Alves in 1885, at the place where Cumberland rested on his way to Culloden. The iron axe cannot be very old, but the peculiar

hook shape of the cutting part makes it interesting. The edge, of course, is on the side away from the handle. It could not well be

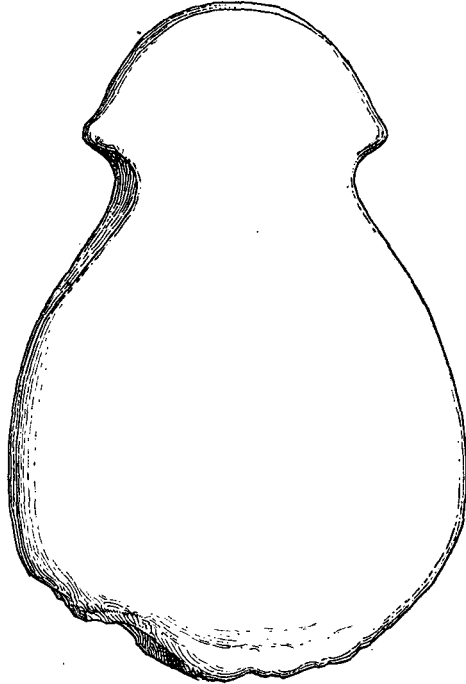


Fig. 2. Stone Axe said to have been found on Culbin Sands, but probably Caribbean.

used as a hook. The steel implement may have been the point of a lance, or the top of a pole to which a standard had been fixed.