

## III.

NOTICES OF (1) THE CAMP AT MONTGOLDRUM AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES IN KINCARDINESHIRE; (2) A STONE CIRCLE CALLED THE HARESTONES IN PEEBLESSHIRE; (3) A CAIRN AND STANDING STONES AT OLD LISTON, AND OTHER STANDING STONES IN MIDLOTHIAN AND FIFE; (4) SOME HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED CUP- AND RING-MARKED STONES; AND (5) RECENT DISCOVERIES OF URNS. BY FRED. R. COLES, ASSISTANT-KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

(1) THE CAMP AT MONTGOLDRUM AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES IN KINCARDINESHIRE.

(1) *The Camp, Montgoldrum*.—Early in the summer of 1900 information was sent to the Society by the late Mr Hercules Linton, of Bervie, regarding the somewhat strange remains on this site. It was thought desirable that a careful examination and drawings should be made; and with the intention of carrying this out, I was directed to visit Bervie and make a report on the structure called "The Camp." This I did in June; and the following description covers the account of this site and one very close to it, as well as one or two other relics in the vicinity.

"The Camp" is situated on the crown of a broomy hill a quarter of a mile due east of Montgoldrum farm, which is 4 miles N.W. of Bervie. The hill is about 400 feet above sea-level. The nature of the site may be seen in the ground-plan (fig. 1): a curvilinear hollow rimmed by a completely stony rampart, which, from crest to crest, measures 40 feet in diameter; certainly not an area sufficiently spacious for a camp. The rampart varies in height, but it averages about 2 feet 10 inches. Outside of its slope are several massive stones, seemingly earthfast, but the circumference is very incomplete in this respect. Rather farther outside, on the south, lie seven fragments (most of them showing the jumper-holes of the blasting) of a huge block of diorite, which was probably 9 or 10 feet long and 4 feet in height.

When first examining this site, the impression left was that it was merely a plundered cairn.<sup>1</sup> Writing now with more knowledge of the

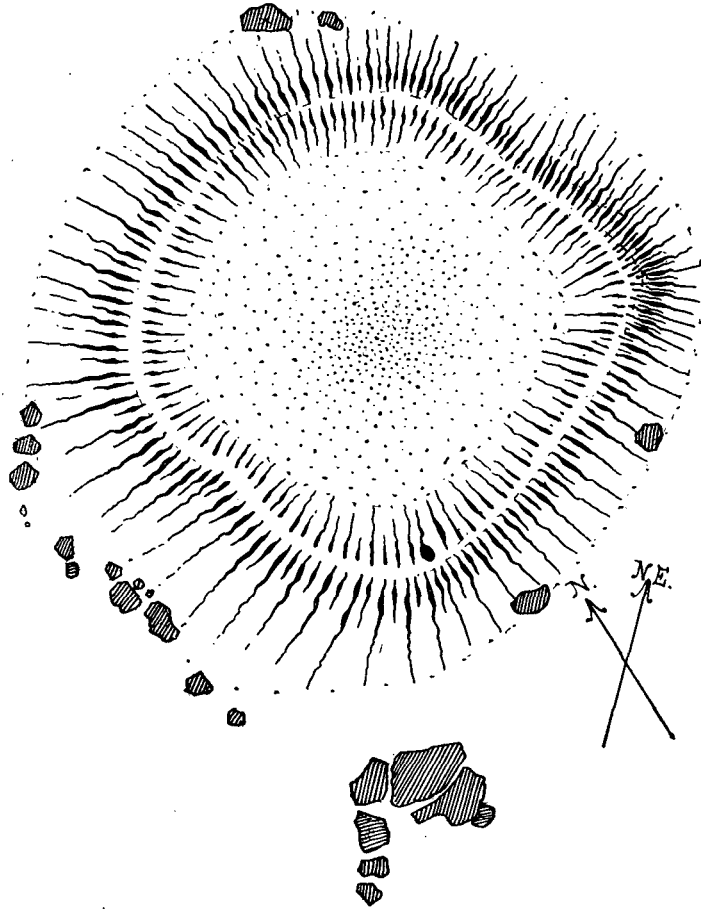


Fig. 1. "The Camp," Montgoldrum.

varieties of Stone Circles in these parts of Scotland, I incline to agree

<sup>1</sup> See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiv. p. 107.

with what Mr Linton suggested, namely, that the structure was originally a Stone Circle. This is borne out by the following facts. In Aberdeenshire we find, at Whitehill, Monymusk, just such a rampart of stones concentric with the outer standing stones (here absent); and from its

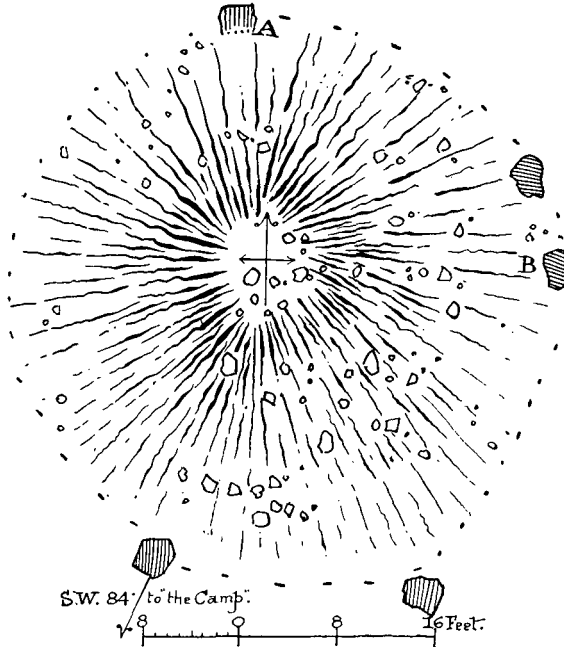


Fig. 2. Cairn at Montgoldrum.

position on the S.W. arc the great diorite block, now ruined, might well have been the Recumbent Stone.

The compass-mark on my ground-plan shows the N.E. as well as the north. If we follow a line in the former direction for 84 feet from the north arc of "The Camp," we reach a large earthfast stone (fig. 2), which, with four others very similar in size, are disposed at the base of

a low cairn. Its centre is about 2 feet 6 inches above the base of the slope, and the diameter is 50 feet. The mound displays no appearance of having been dug into or even slightly disturbed. Of the five basal stones, A is 15 and B 20 inches in height.

*The Moray Stone.*—About a mile to the N.E., on the Leys of Allardyce, stands the great block of diorite which passes under this name (see fig. 3). It is set with its longest edge due east and west, and here it measures 4 feet 3 inches, the opposite side 3 feet 4 inches, and the



Fig. 3. The Moray Stone.

ends 2 feet 6 inches and 1 foot  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches respectively. Its height is 4 feet 10 inches on the north side. Many small stones are embedded around its base, but two, both of gneiss or porphyry, are much larger, and stand a foot or so above ground. There is a Government Survey mark cut into the north face of the stone. There are traces of an old track running across the fields here, which is said to have come from near Stonehaven to Arbuthnot.

*Recumbent Stone at Millplough.*—The sole remnant of a circle, at the date of the Ordnance Survey consisting of two stones, which are shown

on the maps. It is a ponderous oblong mass of 'puddingstone,' similar to that of the cliffs at Bervie Bay, no great distance to the east, its summit-length being 11 feet 5 inches, at the middle 10 feet 5 inches, and at the base 9 feet 3 inches. I show a ground-plan and view of it

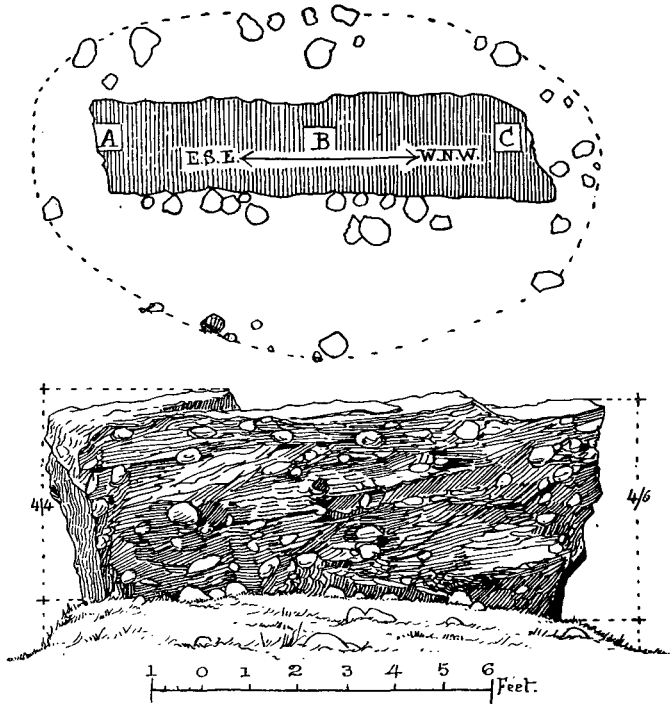


Fig. 4. Recumbent Stone, Millplough.

(fig. 4). The little mound of stones, so typical of the setting of recumbent stones, still clearly exists, sharply rounded off by the plough. The breadth varies from 2 feet 2 inches to 1 foot 5 inches, and the height, though only about 4 feet 6 inches to the mound, is at the rounded

angle (at C, ground-plan) as much as 5 feet 7 inches. The weight of this stone may therefore be computed to be somewhat over six tons.

*Stone Circle near Cotbank of Barras.*—On the Ordnance map there is here shown on Barclay Hill, in a wood, the plan of a Circle of

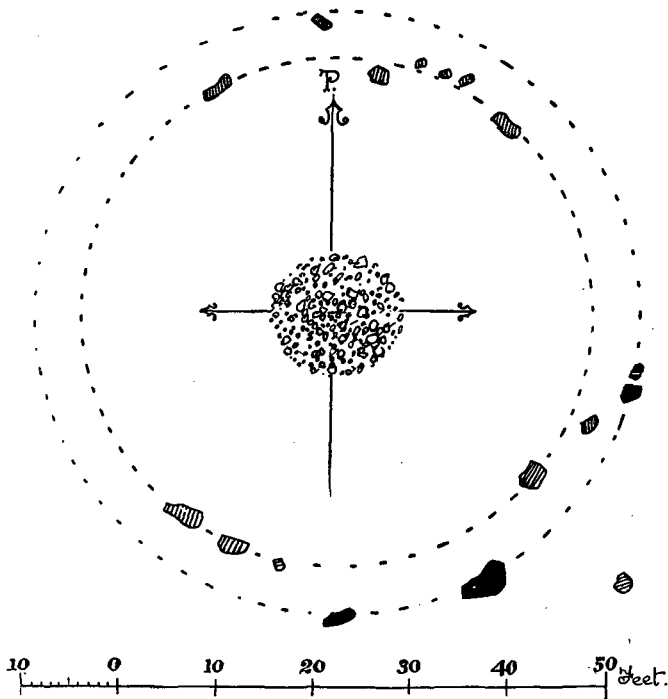


Fig. 5. Remains of Stone Circle at Cotbank of Barras.

several stones, with a central monolith. During my visit to Bervie I attempted to find the Circle, but owing to the great density of vegetation I did not succeed. Afterwards, being put into communication with Mr William Duthie, schoolmaster in Barras, it was my good fortune to be indebted to him for a very careful and thorough plan of

the site, and from his measurements and notes I am able to show the annexed plan (fig. 5), reduced to the scale of 20 feet to 1 inch, in keeping with the Stone Circles I have elsewhere investigated.

In the centre is a low, irregularly circular heap of small stones, but no monolith, as shown on the map. At a radius of 26 feet there remain several smallish earthfast stones, while, 5 feet distant beyond these, are two stones, one nearly 5 feet long, both on the south arc, a third, broken, on the east arc, and a fourth at or near to the north point of the Circle. None of these stones, however, is pillar-like; the large S.E. one is probably a prostrate pillar. Outside these again stand two more stones, about 10 feet beyond the second radius.

(2) NOTICE OF A STONE CIRCLE CALLED THE HARESTANES,  
PEEBLESSHIRE.

This group of Standing Stones is situated in the parish of Kirkurd, within the S.W. angle of the road at the Old Toll, which is some 200 yards west of the manse of Kirkurd. The Old Toll and its adjoining garden are drawn on the 25-inch scale Ordnance map of Peeblesshire, and the site described as "Remains of Druids' Temple (supposed)," but no marks indicating the stones are printed. The spot is about 850 feet above sea-level, on the fairly flat top of a slope rising from the north and west. Chambers<sup>1</sup> writes of it as "a hamlet called Harestanes, which has derived its name from certain Standing Stones of unknown antiquity." Some correspondence, Dr Anderson informed me, took place about four years ago between the Rev. T. W. Miller and the Society with reference to the preservation of the stones, in the possible event of the line of piping for the Talla Water scheme being taken through them. Subsequently, in communication with Mr W. Melrose, I was led to understand that these stones formed really a circle of massive monoliths, of which, if his memory of thirty years could be trusted, several stood fully 5 feet overground. A letter to Dr C. B. Gunn elicited, through him, a note and a sketch of the stones

<sup>1</sup> *History of Peeblesshire*, page 456.

by Mr Miller. The latter, however, having no clue by which to judge the size of the stones, I determined to visit the spot at once, and accordingly did so on 30th April 1900, when I obtained notes and measurements enough to work out the ground-plan annexed (fig. 6). The first feature noticed on reaching the garden where the stones stand was that the level of the ground within them is slightly higher than that on the outside, especially on the south arc. At present there are

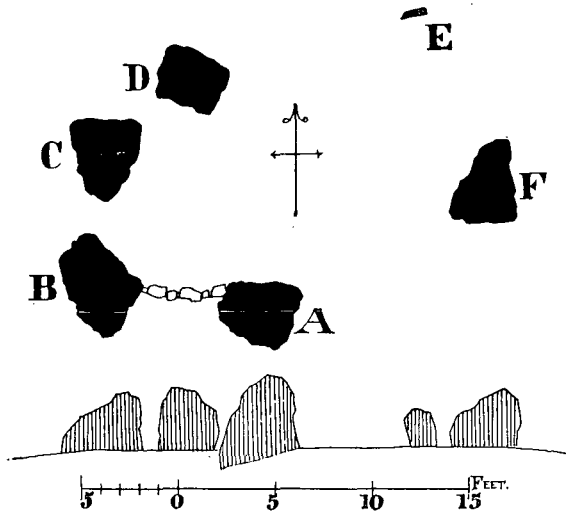


Fig. 6. Stone Circle, called Harestanes, at Kirkurd.

but six stones; five are huge, massive, natural blocks of a rough and gritty pale-reddish volcanic trap; the sixth (E on ground-plan) is a thin slab (to the right in the view from the east, fig. 7) of a more sandstone-like composition, and is set up in the manner of a modern headstone. It is only 1 foot 10 inches in height. The tallest of the others (A on plan) stands with its inner edge fully facing the north. It measures 4 feet 7 inches in height on the outer face and is rudely conical. Between it and B is a ridge of low-set stones, none of them so firm as not to be pretty easily joggled by a push. This stone, B, is



very uneven, but flattish on the top, which is 3 feet high. The next stone, C, is very similar in character. (It is not shown in the section, as it is entirely concealed by B.) The north stone, D, is a very square-



Fig. 7. Harestanes Circle; view from the east.

sided straightly set-up block 3 feet 3 inches in height. The stone on the east, F, is a very massive one, 3 feet in height. It looks out of position, and indeed, if it were canted over westwards by even only one breadth, we should have an almost exact circle of 15 feet in diameter. I append also a view from the west (fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Harestanes Circle; view from the west.

(3) NOTICE OF A CAIRN AND STANDING STONES AT OLD LISTON, AND OTHER STANDING STONES IN MIDLOTHIAN AND FIFE.

*Cairn and Standing Stones at Old Liston.*—In his “Notes on a large Sepulchral Cairn at Collessie,”<sup>1</sup> Dr Anderson refers to Dr Daniel Wilson’s brief notice of the opening of this Cairn at Old Liston in

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings*, xii. p. 449.

1830, and thereafter to some more extended description by Dr John Alexander Smith.<sup>1</sup> Whether the Cairn was thoroughly excavated or not does not appear, but the only relics found were a bronze dagger-blade, a heap of animal charcoal, and small fragments of bones. Having in May 1899 made a survey of the whole site, I am able to present the following notice and ground-plans.

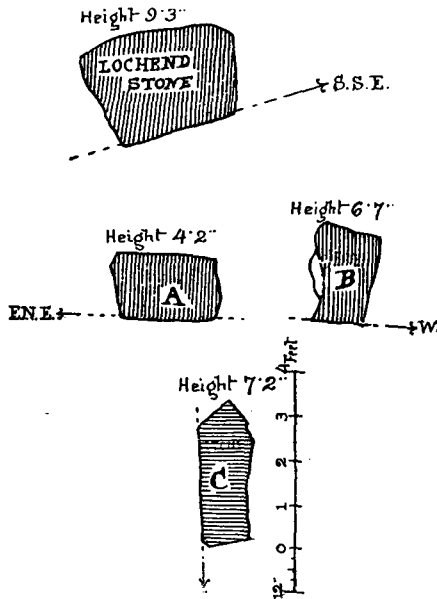


Fig. 9. Ground-plans of Standing Stones, Old Liston.

The Heelie Hill, as this Cairn is locally called, can easily be reached by taking the first turn to the left after quitting the train at Ratho station on its north side. As one walks westwards, the first object to arrest the eye of the antiquary is a great monolith, over 9 feet in height, in a field close to Lochend farm. This I call Lochend Stone, and its ground-plan is shown on fig. 9, with the direction of its flattest

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 151.

side at the base. The other three separate ground-plans are those of the three Standing Stones near the Cairn, named A, B and C on the ground-plan of the Cairn (fig. 10). To these also are appended their heights, and the compass-direction of one side at the base, to scale.

The general ground-plan gives the Cairn and three Stones on a necessarily small scale, one hundred feet to an inch. On examining it, the first thing to strike one is the apparent chance-work of the setting

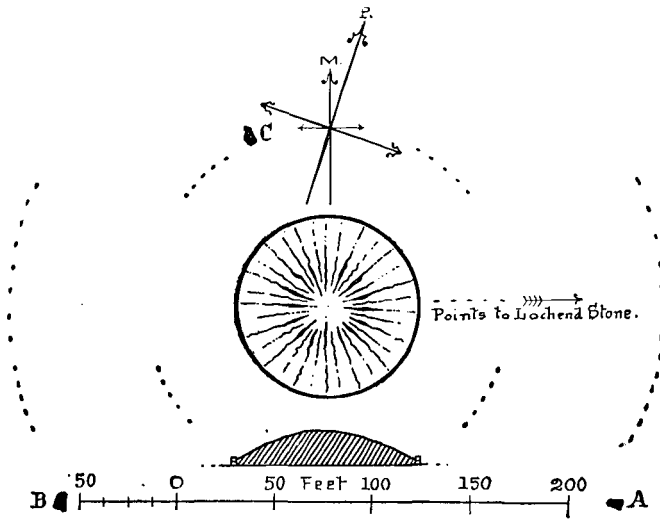


Fig. 10. The Cairn called Heelie Hill, Old Liston.

of the Standing Stones; for it is clear that the stones A, B and C are not set up on the circumference of a circle concentric with the base of the Cairn, because C is set on an imaginary circle whose radius is equal to the diameter of the Cairn, and A and B are set on one whose radius is twice that diameter. In other words, if the Cairn ever was completely surrounded by a circular setting of Standing Stones<sup>1</sup> concentric

<sup>1</sup> The compiler of the *Old Statistical Account* (1794) writes of "a circular mound of earth, surrounded with large unpolished stones at a considerable distance from each other" (vol. 10, p. 69).

with itself, this setting must have been double; that is, on the assumption that these three Stones are remnants of the original setting, left in their original positions. It is certainly also remarkable that the stone C is almost precisely to the N.E. of B and to the N.W. of A, and that the base of this triangle, the space between A and B, is precisely 318 feet, thrice the diameter of the mound.

The Cairn, grass-grown all over, is about 15 feet in its central height, and 96 feet in diameter within the encircling low wall. It is a little irregular and rough in certain parts of its summit, but certainly betrays no evidence of anything like an exhaustive excavation.

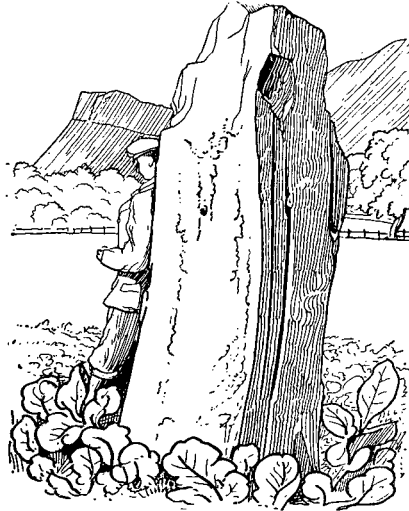


Fig. 11. Standing Stone, Liberton Glebe.

*Standing Stone on Liberton Glebe.*—In the *Old Statistical Account* this Stone is briefly noticed. On the Ordnance map it is shown, but named in plain lettering only, at a point 66 yards S.W. of the Dalkeith Road, a little to the N. and E. of Kingston Grange Mains, on a site about 200 feet above sea-level.

It is a rather shapely block of sandstone, very grey in parts, with quartz crystals, and more or less deeply seamed with vertical grooves on its east and west faces. It is extremely similar to the Auchencorth Standing Stone, both in composition and appearance. At the ground, its longest side, which trends 5 degrees E. of N. by compass, measures 2 feet 1 inch, the opposite side 1 foot 10 inches, the north side 1 foot 8 inches, and the south 1 foot 10 inches: these measures, including a corner  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, give a girth of eight feet. The top of the stone girths 4 feet 8 inches. The eastern side has, besides the long grooves worn by weather, one large ear-like cavity, also naturally formed. The height of the Stone is 6 feet  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

The drawing (fig. 11) was made from the S.E. angle.

*Standing Stones on Gala Braes, Bathgate.*—I examined this site in August 1902. It is about a mile to the east of Bathgate, and occupies the summit of a ridge extending some 300 feet westwards of the by-road that branches off due N. near the farm of Clinkingstane. The ridge is about 850 feet above sea-level. On reaching it, I found but one Standing Stone,—a rough whinstone boulder, split very unevenly, and jagged on the south side, very smooth on the two shorter sides, and girthing at the base 10 feet 5 inches. The longest edge trends W.N.W. and E.S.E. It stands 5 feet 3 inches high and occupies the highest spot on the ridge. (See fig. 12.)

Proceeding westwards along the ridge, I came, at a considerably lower level, to another flattish spot, the crown of a sand-hillock, its sides sloping off rather steeply in all directions. Towards the S.W., and some 60 or 70 feet away, at the foot of the slope, lay two pieces of whinstone, very columnar in form, and evidently recently split. After measuring these two carefully, so as to be sure that their fractured ends corresponded, I found that when complete this Stone would have measured 4 feet  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and its thicker end would have girthed between 8 and 9 feet. The two fragments lay 27 feet apart. The larger and more cylindrically-shaped of the two lay just as if it had been heaved up and rolled over the crest of the sandy hillock above

mentioned; and it would have been almost justifiable to point to the centre of that hillock-summit as the original position of the Stone merely by the present position of the latter in regard to the hillock. While debating these matters and putting up my note-book, I noticed a man crossing the field a few yards away. On intercepting him, I asked if he remembered when there were two stones on the ridge? He replied, they were both there a twelvemonth ago. Then I pointed to the fallen fragments and said, These were one Stone? He replied, Yes, they were; the Stone having been, in a mischievous mood, pitched over the

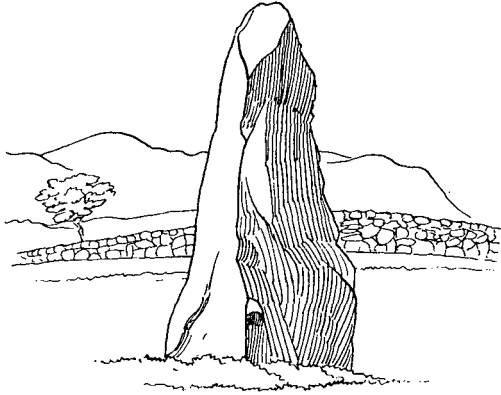


Fig. 12. Standing Stone, Gala Braes.

brow. This man was the farmer of Gala Braes. He took me to the spot where the Stone had stood, explaining that, owing to much trampling by sheep and cattle, the earth round the base of the Stone had become loosened so as to render the Stone itself insecure, and that thus it had fallen an easy prey to the wanton hands of some lads, whom, if he could find out, he would prosecute. Asked if any digging had ever been made at either of these stones, Mr Carlaw replied that many years ago an old Bathgate worthy known as "The Apostle" persuaded his (Carlaw's) father to dig at the base of the upper Standing Stone (the one at present erect), and they found human bones. The farm of

Gala Braes has been in the tenancy of a Carlaw for upwards of a century.

We then measured from the site of the fallen Stone to the centre of the erect Stone, and found the distance to be 228 feet 7 inches. What precise archæological relationship, therefore, these two Stones bore to each other, is not a point upon which the present brief investigation can throw any light.

Assuming, however, that the bones found at the upper Stone were human, and taking cognisance of the fact that throughout Scotland there are many knowes, hills, hillocks and laws which are distinguished by the epithet Gallow or Gala, and that in or at many of these human remains and interments (some of them prehistoric) have been discovered, we may place this site on the Gala Braes of Bathgate in the same general group.

Pending completer study of the geographical distribution of these epithets in Scotland, I am in a position to state that in the six lowland counties of Lanark, Peebles, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Haddington, and Edinburgh, the epithets occur attached to mounds, whether natural or artificial, over fifty times. The resultant question—What do the epithets Gallows, Gallow, and Gala actually mean?—is one which cannot be fully answered until the examination of the Survey maps has been carried to a much greater extent.

But that the epithets are applied in many instances to tumuli and cairns, and to mounds, not so called, but containing burials of various epochs, are facts disclosed by even such a partial examination as up to the present date I have been able to make.

*The Kel, or Caiy, Stane at Comiston.*—The site of this tall monolith is in Colinton parish, on the estate of Comiston, in the corner of a field a quarter of a mile east of the loaning which leads from the main road between Fairmilehead and Hunters Tryst to Swanston farm. A very few yards east of the stone is a large square space enclosed by a strip of plantation on all sides. To the east again, and exactly a quarter of a mile distant from the Kel Stane, there is marked on the O.M.

the site of a supposed Roman Camp; and a furlong or so to the S.W. of this, the sites of two Cairns. On the same map, the ground lying to the south of the main road and adjacent to these sites is named Caiy-side; while at Fairmilehead, just at the point where the Edinburgh and Colinton roads meet, a straight piece of old road trends almost due south to Lothian Burn, and this on the map is named Roman Road.

The Kel Stane has been figured already by Simpson,<sup>1</sup> for whose monograph on the Archaic Sculpturings a drawing was supplied by Col. Forbes-Leslie. This lithograph view, however, scarcely shows the cup-marks with sufficient accuracy; and on noting this, I made careful measurements of the Stone and examined any peculiar features it possessed.



Fig. 13. The Kel Stone at Comiston.

The Kel Stane (fig. 13) is set upon the level and broad summit of the ground here, which is a very gently rising eminence. Its longer axis is set practically due north; for I found by compass that it pointed 10 points to the E. of N., and the variation for Edinburgh being at present 18' brings the edge of the stone within 8 points of due north. The east and west sides, taken at the ground, measure respectively 4 feet 1 inch and 4 feet 5 inches in breadth, the north edge 1 foot, and the south edge 1 foot 3 inches. It is of very roughly granulated sandstone. Its greatest height is 9 feet 7 inches, and its

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings*, vol. vi., Appendix, pl. xvii.



greatest girth, which occurs at the height of about five feet, is 12 feet 9 inches. Its weight may therefore be computed at considerably over a couple of tons.

The most distinct cup-marks—on its east face—are six in number, of equal size and depth, and arranged in a very slightly curving slope (fig. 14), the highest, near the south edge of the stone, being 1 foot 6 inches above the ground. Just to the right of the deep fissure, and near the north

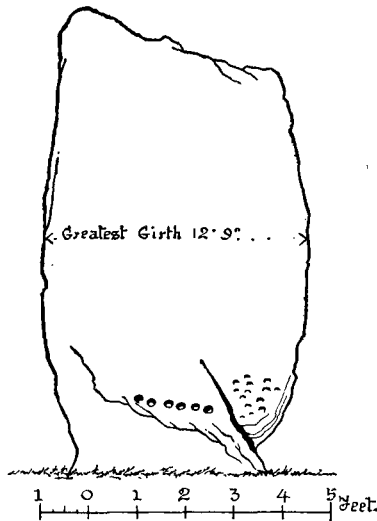


Fig. 14. Cup-marks on the Kel Stone.

edge of the stone, are several more very much worn-out cups, clustered pretty closely together. I do not think these have hitherto been noticed.

With regard to the sites of the Cairns above noticed, we have in a brief paragraph by the Rev. T. White,<sup>1</sup> the following notice:—

“In the neighbourhood of this [*i.e.* Morton Hall], but further south-west, on the grounds of Comiston, were found, in forming the public road, under large heaps of stones, various sepulchral stone enclosures, in

<sup>1</sup> Account of the parish of Liberton in *Arch. Scot.*, vol. i. p. 308.

which were deposited urns with dead men's ashes, and divers warlike weapons." And again, when speaking of the levelling of a part of the ground close to the old (so-called Roman) road, by Sir John Clerk of Pennycuik, the same writer adds, there "were discovered several stone coffins with human bones."

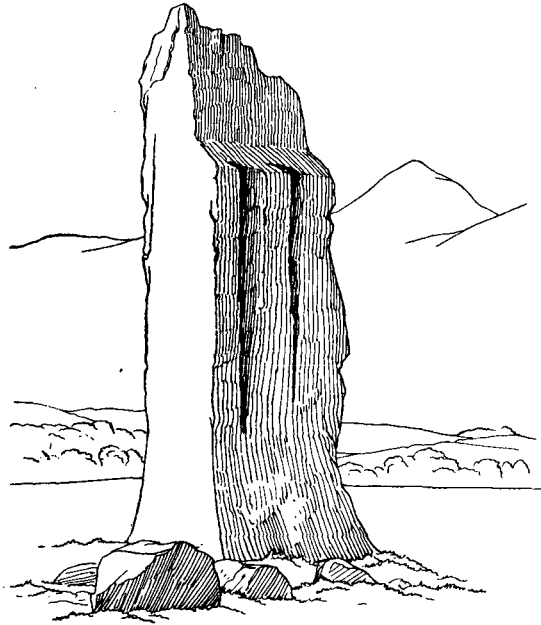


Fig. 15. Gowk Stane, Auchencorth.

*The Gowkstone, Auchencorth, Penicuik.*—This monolith stands on the highest point of a nearly level plateau which swells up conspicuously out of the pasture-lands 700 yards to the east of the farm-house of Auchencorth. It is a tall block of micaceous sandstone, grey and weathered. Its greatest height is 6 feet 4 inches. Its base is set with its longer side trending N.N.E. and S.S.W., and its girth on the ground is nearly 9 feet. On its narrower S.E. face (fig. 15) are two long and

deep grooves, worn back into the shelf-like part near the top. The uppermost portion of this side is smooth and bears an inscription in modern Roman capitals, which is, to a large extent, illegible, but seems to read :—

. . . . . RK . . . .  
 TI . . . . DUM . . . .  
 . . X . . . BOUNTI .

The three lines of lettering are placed between two horizontal beadings, which are absent at the ends, through the edges of the stone being fractured. The letters are cut fairly deep and with care; they are about 1½ inches in height, and the whole inscription occupies a panel measuring 18 by 9 inches.

I was led to the discovery of this Stone purely through my interest in the philology of its nomenclature. Having ascertained that in Aberdeenshire there are no fewer than seventeen farm-lands in which the affix *corth* occurs, and that on at any rate eleven of these there still remained a Standing Stone marking the site as the Field of the Pillar (*Achadh-na-Choirthe*),<sup>1</sup> I applied to the tenant of this farm in Penicuik for information. There being no stone shown on even the 25-inch scale O.M., it was the more gratifying to learn from his reply that there was this Gowkstone to corroborate my theory.

It may be of interest to put on record here the following list, though incomplete, of place-names in which the epithet Gowk occurs.

In Lanarkshire, there are Gowk-hill and Gowk-thrapple in Cambusnethan; Gowk-stone, a monolith at Laigh Overmuir in Loudon; and Gowk-knowe, near Corra Linn. In Renfrewshire, Gowk-house is the name of a farm in Kil-macolm parish. Gowk-stone is the name attached to a house in ruins in Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire; in Whittinghame, Haddingtonshire, a little stream flows through the Gowk-cleuch.

<sup>1</sup> In the Buchan district alone there are fourteen different houses distinguished by the name Cortiecrum in its varieties of north, south, east, west, and Croft of Cortiecrum.

There is a hill, 600 feet above sea-level, in Abdie, Fifeshire, called Gowk Hill. While in South Aberdeenshire, in Dyce, near and to the N.E. of Caskieben, there is a Gowk Stone; in the extreme west of Gartly, on Candy Knowes, there is a Gowk Stone, and another in Logie-Coldstone; a Gowk-stile in Birse; a Gowkswell—the name attached to a croft—near Tillymorgan, in Culsalmond; the Gowk Stone at Oyne, previously noted in my Second Report on Stone Circles; and in Methlick there is a Gowk Stone one mile N.W. of the village, and another at Balquhindachy. In Banffshire, parish of Grange, a croft bears the name of Gowk Stone; near Macduff there is the Law of Goukstones, a Goukstone on the Bowie Burn in Grange, a Gowktree Wood in Bellie; and in Botriphnie, a Gowkshill.

In an interesting list of named stones<sup>1</sup> of Northumberland, Professor G. A. Lebour, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, notes a Gowk Stone at a point where three parishes meet in that county.

*The Standing Stones of Lundin, Fifeshire.*—The site of these megaliths is in a field 300 yards N.N.E. of the railway station at Lundin Links, on the N. of the main road going east and west. They are now but three in number, but at about the date of 1790 a fourth lay broken near them. The *N.S.A.* states that “ancient sepulchres are found near them”; and though referred to by the few writers who have noticed them at all as if they were an original group of three Stones, it becomes pretty clear, upon a careful survey and measurements, that these three Stones are really the remaining members of a Stone Circle. In the ground-plan appended (fig. 16) the three Stones are shown in black, on the circumference of a circle whose diameter is 54 feet. All the Stones are huge masses of coarse red sandstone. The Stone at the S.E. is the largest; on its inner face, it widens from a base of 5 feet 3 inches to a width of 6 feet 5 inches at a height of 6 feet 7 inches, that is, about the middle of the Stone; for its full height, measured by tape over its flat summit, is 13 feet 8 inches. The inner side is smooth and regular and nearly vertical, but much weathered towards the west edge into

<sup>1</sup> *Berwickshire N.H. Club*, vol. for 1879-81, p. 531.

innumerable shallow oval hollows (see the view, figs. 17 and 17A). The south Stone, B, leans considerably towards the south, and near the top is very much attenuated. The height was estimated at about 15 feet; it is certainly considerably taller than Stone A, but by how much precisely I had no means of ascertaining.

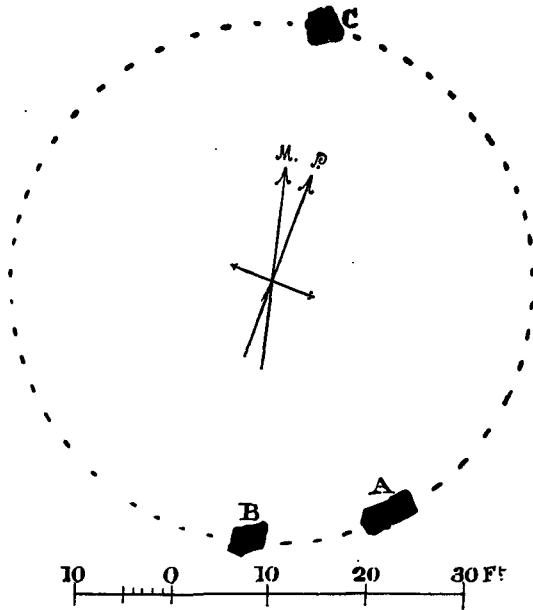


Fig. 16. Standing Stones of Lundin; Ground-plan.

The Stone at the northern arc (C, on the plan), being quite sharp-pointed (fig. 18), its height also was only estimated by marking a known height on its smoothest face and judging the rest. I put it 16 feet 8 inches or thereabouts. None of these heights can be over-judged, I think, because older observers state them as 18 feet or more. Each monolith stands upon a little mound of packed stones, which rises some 18 inches above the level of the field.

Gordon<sup>1</sup> writes of "a number of very large stones, some of them above 20 feet in height, beneath which, my ingenious and honoured Patron, Baron Clark, having employed men to dig, several coffins were

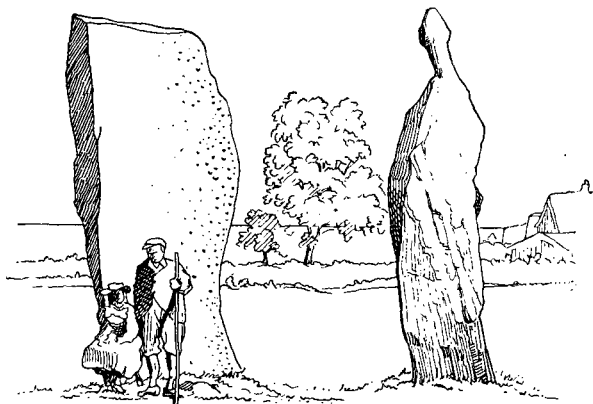


Fig. 17. The two south Stones, Lundin.

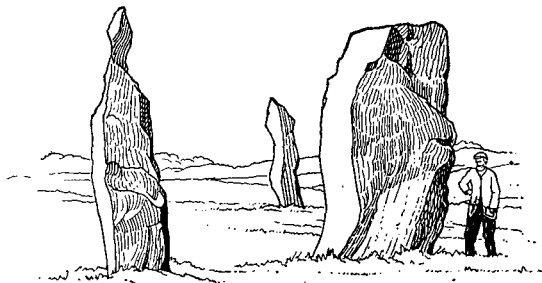


Fig. 17A. Standing Stones of Lundin ; view from the south.

found, containing bones of men ; and in one was found a round button of stone of a very curious shape, which I had the honour to see in his

<sup>1</sup> *Itiner. Septen.*, p. 158.

collection." Faujas de St Fond, who travelled in Scotland previously to 1748, when he published his book, gives a view of these Stones with the misleading title, "Ancient Monuments upon the Shore between Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn." The heights of the stones are correctly displayed, but not so their relative distances from each other. All of them, also, are drawn with too jagged an outline, the S.E. Stone<sup>1</sup> especially being much too slender as well. The S.W. Stone was at that date, apparently, quite as tapering and pointed as it is at present. Sibbald<sup>2</sup> speaks of three

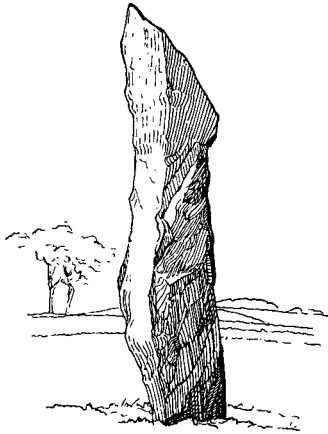


Fig. 18. The North Stone, Lundin.

stones in the form of a triangle, and gives a drawing in which, though their height is fairly well shown, their relation to each other errs in their being placed much too close together.

At the time when the account<sup>3</sup> of Largo Parish was prepared for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Accounts—that is, about 1792—the stump of a fourth stone remained; but its position is not noticed with any degree of accuracy.

<sup>1</sup> See *Travels in Scotland*, by F. de St Fond, vol. ii. p. 217.

<sup>2</sup> *Hist. of Fife and Kinross*, p. 329.

<sup>3</sup> See *Pre-Historic Annals*, Wilson, vol. i. p. 131.

## (4) NOTES ON SOME HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED CUP- AND RING- MARKED STONES.

(a) *On the Farm of Black Top, near Cults, Aberdeenshire.*—More than ten years ago, Dr A. T. Arthur, of Blair Devenick, Cults, discovered here several sets of cup-marks and cup- and ring-marks on separate blocks of granitic stone lying near the edge of an old roadside leading into the Wood of the Gairn. Rubbings made at that date were sent to

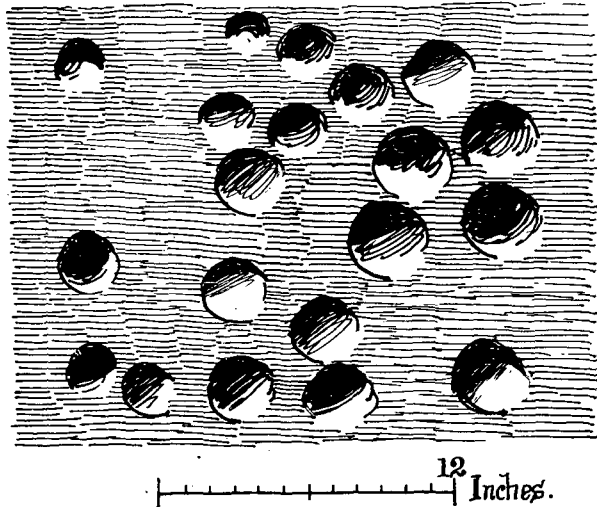


Fig. 19. Near the Wood of the Gairn, Cults.

Dr Anderson, and on my second expedition to Aberdeenshire to investigate the Stone Circles, I took the opportunity of meeting Dr Arthur, and visiting, with him, the several localities near Cults which are interesting not only for their cup- and ring-marked sites, but for remains of various kinds, some curious stony mounds and ridges in the Wood of the Gairn being specially inviting subjects for exploration. One rubbing made in 1890 by Dr Arthur I here reproduce on the same scale as the other cup-mark drawings (fig. 19). It contains a group of twenty-one



large plain cups, eleven of these being clustered together with contiguous edges. They are all included within a space measuring 22 inches by 18. But the actual block of gneiss or porphyry on which they were picked out measured about 42 inches by 27, and was about 30 inches in

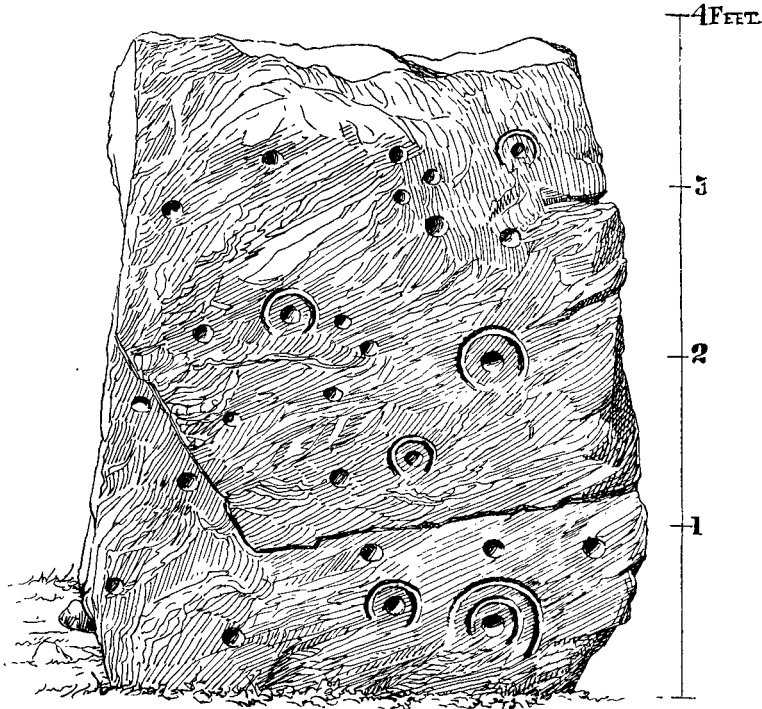


Fig. 20. At Black Top, near the Wood of the Gairn, Cults.

thickness. Unfortunately it has become the prey of the spoiler, and only one small angle with a fragment of a ring remains to prove its existence.

My next illustration (fig. 20) shows the marks on an upright and very massive block of porphyry, still standing close to the site of the other stone. It is set vertically, with its sculptured side nearly due east; and its dimensions are, height 3 feet 10 inches, breadth near the ground

3 feet 3 inches, and thickness about 2 feet 9 inches. What arrests the eye at once is the incompleteness of the rings. Whether this is due merely to weathering or is of design<sup>1</sup> I do not venture to determine, as, from the gritty nature of the stone and its liability to split off easily, more careful examination in different lights would be needful than was possible on the day of our visit.

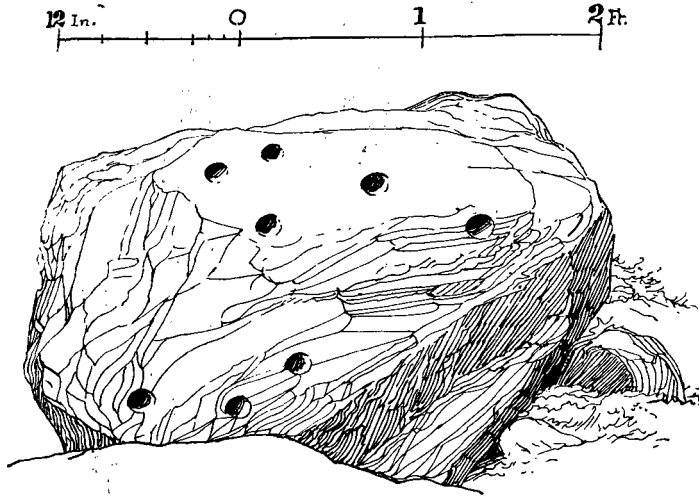


Fig. 21. At the Wood of the Gairn, Cults.

During our inspection on the same day, 13th September 1900, of many loose blocks of stone lying about in a piece of moorland east of the Wood of the Gairn, it was Dr Arthur's good fortune to find the block next figured here (fig. 21), with eight beautifully distinct plain cups incised on its surface. It also is a mass of porphyritic stone, and lies half prostrate upon other smaller pieces, its lower portion partially concealed by a ponderous block, too heavy to move out of the way.

<sup>1</sup> In some of the cup- and ring-markings recorded for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, abruptly terminated semicircles and arcs of circles are found. See *Proceedings*, vol. xxix. p. 79, fig. 19A, and a note of another on the previous page.

(b) *On Cairnharrow, Kirkmabreck, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.*—This fine group was discovered in June 1899 by Mr Dougan, the shepherd at Cauldside. The rock lies about 1 mile to the east of the whinstone block on Cambret Moor, of which I supplied an illustration recently ;<sup>1</sup> and notice of the discovery was sent to me by Mr Adam Birrell, Carsluith, who kindly enclosed a water-colour drawing of the sculpturing

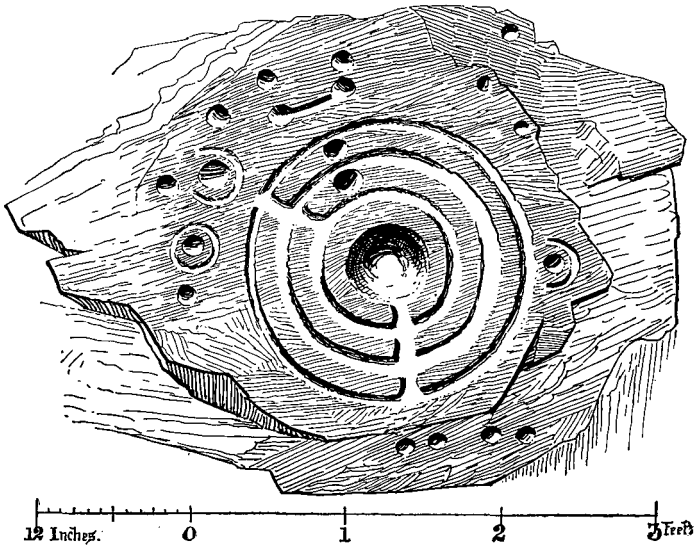


Fig. 22. *On Cairnharrow, Kirkmabreck.*

(fig. 22). The level surface of this soft-natured rock measures 4 feet by 2 feet, and is about 2 feet above the surrounding ground. One of the two radial grooves cuts into the edge of the central cup, which is 6 inches in diameter ; the other groove crosses only the two outer rings. All these large central rings and grooves are particularly distinct, but the smaller groups on the west (left hand in the illustration) are not so plainly marked. The longer groove runs north and south. On the

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiii. p. 369.

surface slightly N.W. of the large ring are two cups, joined by a straight groove; and there are twelve plain and smaller cups disposed about the rest of the rock-surface, almost in a circumference.

(c) *At North Balfern, near Kirkinner, Wigtownshire.*—The history attaching to the discovery of the fine groups of rock-sculpturings at this remote western locality is of special interest. During the summer of 1901 Dr Anderson gave me a letter which enclosed a sketch of cup- and ring-marks at Balfern. This letter is here reproduced because of its containing actual testimony as to this the earliest recorded rock-sculptured site<sup>1</sup> in Britain, and a local explanation of the concentric rings, which is probably, in this connection, unique :—

12 Dick Place, Grange, Edinburgh,  
17th January 1887.

JOSEPH ANDERSON, Esq., LL.D.

SIR,—Not knowing exactly to whom to address the enclosed paper, I have sent it to you, in case it may be of any interest at some of the meetings of the Society of Antiquaries.

I may mention that in a field near the place referred to there are two or three ring-markings, and I heard of a slab of stone (said to be very perfect) in a plantation about half a mile further, but had not time to make any exploration.

If any of the members of the Society are in Wigtownshire, it might be worth while making further enquiry.—I am, yours truly,

CHARLES S. INGLIS.

In the paper mentioned, which also contains the sketch of the markings, Mr Inglis writes :—

Rough sketch of markings on the face of a rock near N. Balfern gate, Kirkinner, Wigtownshire. The figures are twenty-one in all, facing east and south-east, occupying about 4 yards in length by about 2 feet in breadth. The circles vary from 2 to 9 inches in diameter. Col. Forbes-Leslie is therefore mis-

<sup>1</sup> A slab, which is said to have covered an urn of food-vessel type, was found, covered with cup- and ring-marks, at Coilsfield in Ayrshire, and drawn by desire of Col. Hugh Montgomery of Skelmorly, in 1785. In 1822 the Royal Society presented the drawing to the Society of Antiquaries.

Another stone—about which great doubt exists—was found at Annan's Treat in Yarrow, and a drawing of it was presented to the Society by Sir Walter Scott in 1828.

But the group of cup- and ring-marks under notice, at Balfern, is the first noted on rock, I believe, in Britain.

taken in saying in his book, *The Early Races of Scotland*, that there are no examples of ring-carvings on stones in Galloway. My attention was first called to these ring-markings about fifty years since (which, I suppose, was before any attention had been called to them), during conversation with a quarryman who had observed them. His idea about them was that prevailing among the people generally, namely, that the rings were made by adders curling themselves in circles on the stone surface, the rock being comparatively soft, giving way and leaving the mark where they had been sleeping! After a slight examination of the place where the bare rock showed itself with four or five rings, I got a spade and turned back the earth for some distance along the natural surface of the rock, and found the markings as sketched below. Lately, being in Wigtownshire, I visited the place with the view of making a better sketch, but found it planted with trees and so much overgrown with brushwood that, for want of time, I could not clear it off to get to the surface of the rock.

CHARLES S. INGLIS.

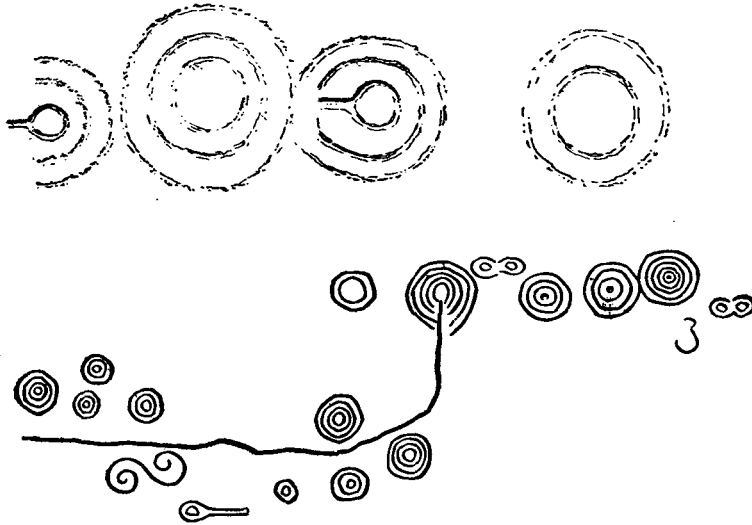


Fig. 23. At North Balfern, Wigtownshire.

It is clear from this account that so early as 1837 this private record of cup- and ring-marks noticed in Wigtownshire was made.

The sketch made by Mr Inglis is not drawn to scale (fig. 23), and contains features of some difficulty in respect of its fitness for reproduction; and as I also wished to ascertain the exact locality of this

sculpturing as well as any other sites on the same farm, I applied by letter to Mr T. Maclelland, formerly tenant of N. Balfern, enclosing him a tracing of a square half-mile of his land, and asking him to mark with red ink any rocks he knew to contain sculpturings. In a few days my tracing was returned with the desired information added. In communication also with Mr Roderick Innes, editor of *The Galloway Gazette*, I further found that another group of markings had (as I fancied) already been figured in that newspaper in an article on cup-and-ring-marks by Sir H. E. Maxwell, under date 6th November 1886. From a tracing kindly made for me by direction of Mr Innes, I here

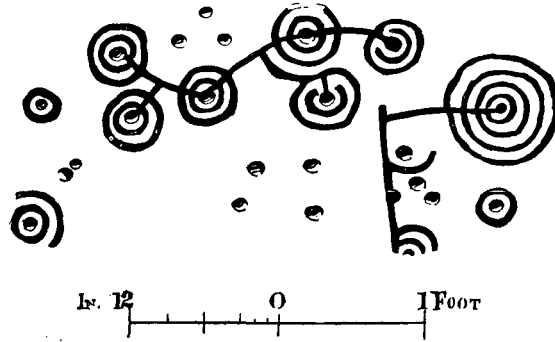


Fig. 24. On a rock at Drumtrodden, Wigtownshire.

reproduce this remarkable group of sculpturings (fig. 24). They occupy a space of rock at Drumtrodden, in Mochrum, measuring 3 feet 8 inches long by 1 foot 9 inches wide. The largest ring measures 9 inches in diameter, the smallest 3 inches, and there are twenty-four cups, thirteen of which are unaccompanied by rings. The grooves are both curved and straight. In two of the groups it will be noticed that the inner ring is only penannular, the ends not touching the groove radiating from the central cup.

(d) *Hill of Ruthven, Perthshire*.—The cup-and-ring-marked stone here was first brought to my notice by Mr David Smith in the summer of

1900. He then reported that the stone appeared to be one of a large number forming a rough circle in a plantation on the west of this farm. On reaching the house, I was fortunate in meeting Mr Douglas the tenant, who at once conducted me to the westmost field and showed me the stone.

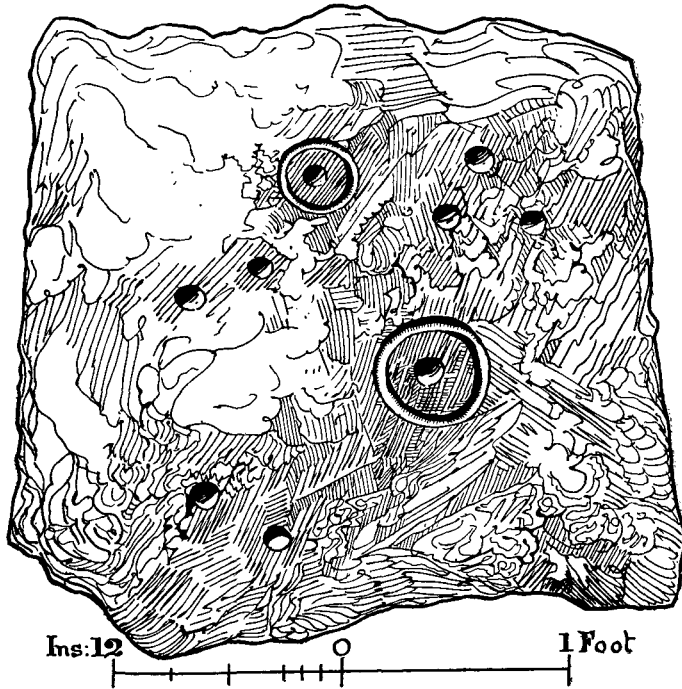


Fig. 25. At Hill of Ruthven, Perthshire.

It is a squarish and not very thick block of 'bastard whinstone,' uneven, weathered, and moss-grown. It measures 2 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 8 inches. As far as examination in the gloom of the clump of trees allowed, I believe I am correct in recording (fig. 25) the seven single cups and the two surrounded by rings as all the definitely artificial marks now visible on this stone. The stone at present lies

prone upon the curved alignment of many stones which have been set on edge, enclosing an area roughly oval, and measuring in round numbers about 210 feet nearly east and west by 90 or 100 feet north and south. Many of these stones are ponderous oblong masses, 5 feet and more in length, and rising above ground  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Others are thin slab-like pieces, lying in confusion at various parts, sometimes almost on the circumference, elsewhere well within it. Towards the very centre of the whole enclosure, the distinct but low remains of walls may be traced amid the profusion of long grasses; and this feature confirms the conjecture suggested by the outer alignment of great stones,

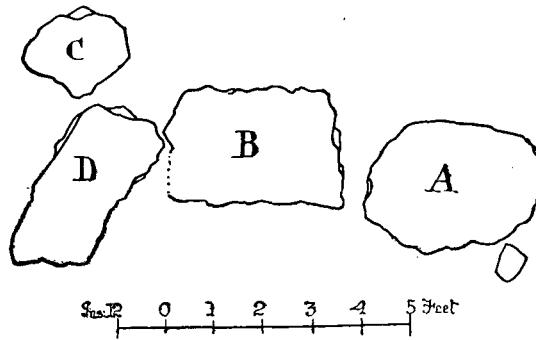


Fig. 26. At West Lamberkine, Perthshire; Ground-plan of the Stones.

that the site was once occupied by a small house and garden. Such structures may be seen in many an old woodland and on the flattish summits of low hills. A curious example of the latter variety still remains on ground called Lenny Hill, near Cramond Bridge.

(e) *West Lamberkine*.—The site of the Stones next to be described is at a point 333 yards east of the farm-steadings, where two hedges meet at right angles. Four stones, as shown in the ground-plan (fig. 26), lie close together. They appear to be all of bastard whinstone. The middle stone, B, has its longer axis E.S.E. and W.N.W. It is only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. The stones D and C are each 6 inches thick.



No marks are to be seen on any of these. But on A is the very distinct sculpturing shown in the illustration (fig. 27), unfortunately not complete, owing to the flaking off of large strips of the weathered lower portion of the slab.

There is a strong suggestion of a cist-cover in the shape and size of this stone, which the close proximity of the two other squarer and

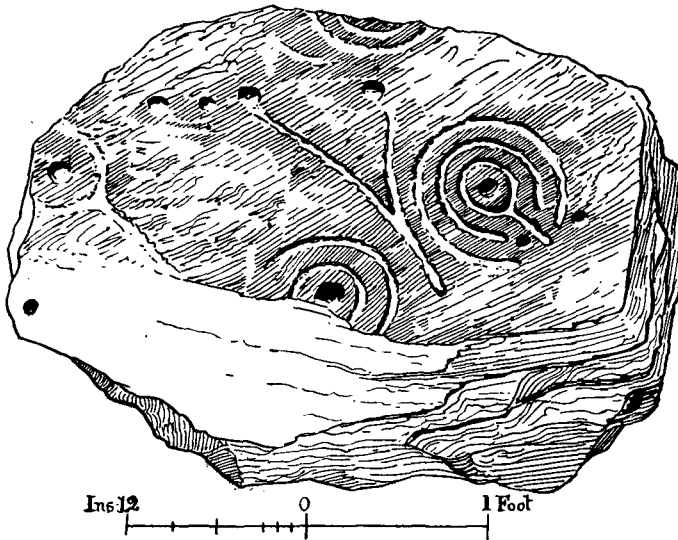


Fig. 27. West Lamberkine ; Stone A.

thinner stones helps to enforce. Though these stones have been known to the tenant for over thirty years, this is, I believe, the first record made of their position and features.

(f) *On a Boulder near the Stone Circle at New Craig, Daviot, Aberdeenshire.*—The existence of these marks has been already noticed in brief<sup>1</sup> in my account of the Stone Circle at New Craig. The

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, xxxvi. p. 524.

boulder of whinstone (fig. 28) on which the cups are to be seen occupies a position 102 feet E.N.E. of the centre of the Stone Circle; it lies N. 40' W. and S. 40' E., measures in extreme length 9 feet 2

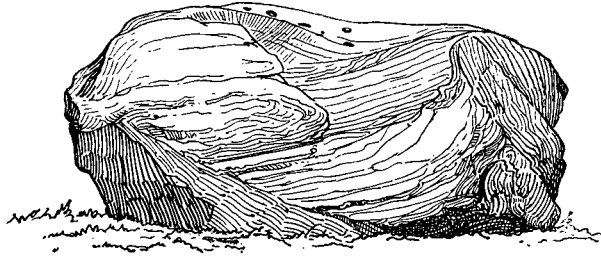


Fig. 28. Boulder at New Craig, Daviot, Aberdeenshire.

inches, in greatest breadth 4 feet, and is above ground in the central (the highest) portion 4 feet 2 inches. Nearer its northern end is a broad saucer-like cavity (fig. 29), and on the edge of this are five of the seven cup-marks, all slightly over 2 inches wide and about 1 inch in depth.

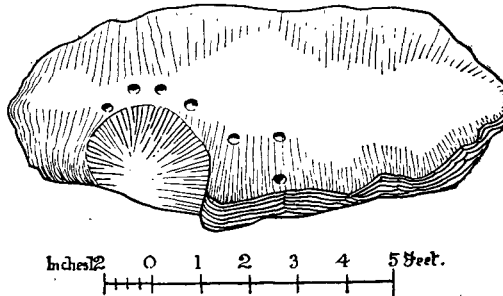


Fig. 29. Top of Boulder at New Craig, showing Cup-marks.

I here put on record the various other sites of cup-marks or cup- and ring-marks, which I have noticed on stones in Stone Circles in Aberdeenshire: (*a*) on the base of the East Pillar in the Circle at Balquhain,

near Inveramsay; (*b*) on the summit of the Recumbent Stone at Loanend, near Inch; (*c*) on a Stone known to have been a member of the Circle at Drumfours, in Cushnie; (*d*) on a similar Monolith at Balhaggardy, in Garioch; (*e*) on the Ringing Stone, Johnstone, Leslie; (*f*) a group of semicircles on the north face of the Recumbent Stone in the Circle at Arnhill, near Rothiemay station; (*g*) on the west face of the West Pillar of the Circle at Nether Corskie, near Watertown of Echt; and (*h*) on the summit and the northern face of the Recumbent Stone in the Circle at Rothiemay home-farm. This Stone and its cup-

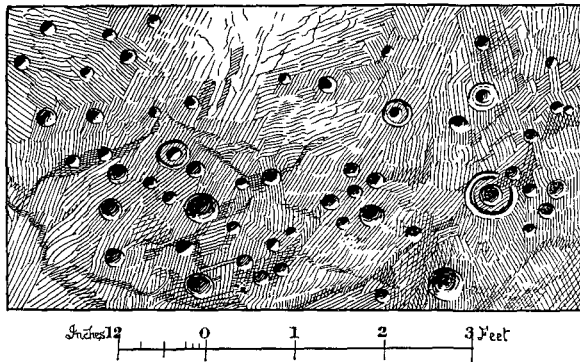


Fig. 30. Cup- and Ring-marked portion of Recumbent Stone at Rothiemay.

marks were described by me at the date of my survey<sup>1</sup> of the Circle, and, as I then thought, with accuracy. Subsequently, in consulting Simpson's *Archaic Sculpturings*, I found this Recumbent Stone figured there. As there were at once observable several serious discrepancies between this illustration and my own, I put myself in communication with Mr James Geddes, schoolmaster at Rothiemay, who most obligingly made a series of rubbings, which, when placed together, covered a space of 6 feet by 3 feet 6 inches; and from these I made a carefully measured drawing to scale, here reproduced in fig. 30. Sixty plain cups, varying

*Vide supra*, p. 136.

in diameter from 5 inches to rather less than 2 inches, and four cups each surrounded by a ring, are here shown. The entire absence of straight grooves is noteworthy.

Mr Geddes also drew my attention to a large boulder of 'bastard granite' lying near Avochie, over a mile S.W. of the Rothiemay Circle. The upper surface is covered with cup-marks.

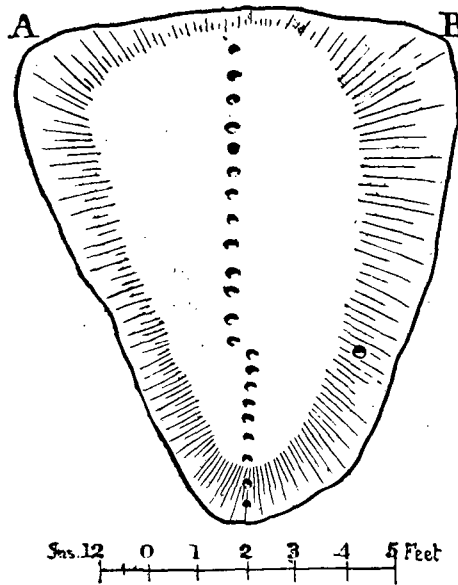


Fig. 31. Top of the Witches' Stone on Tormain Hill, Ratho.

*The Witches' Stone, near Tormain Hill, Ratho.*—Although this huge boulder and its cup-marks have been more than once figured and described, I found, on a close examination of the broad surface of the Stone, that none of the illustrations showed the cup-marks in their exact relation to each other, nor in their true relation to the contour of the Stone. The drawing shown above (fig. 31) was made after a careful measurement by triangulation of the Stone; and it is claimed to be the

first that shows that the cups, two and twenty in number, are not disposed in one continuous line, but that thirteen follow each other from the high south edge of the stone for a distance of exactly 6 feet, and nine others lie a few inches to the west, occupying a space 3 feet long of the over-curving edge of the north end.

It is further shown that, at a point 2 feet 3 inches west of the ninth cup-mark, there is another one<sup>1</sup> quite as large as the largest in the rows near the middle of the Stone. The south edge (A B) has slipped a little down from its original height, the boulder being frost-split horizontally; its height there above ground is 8 feet. The northern and narrower end is about 2 feet above ground, and does not touch the ground, as it rests upon its lower portion, beyond which it projects a few inches.

The cup-marks run due north.

A very remarkable double row of cup-marks is figured and described by Mr W. Gun, F.G.S.<sup>2</sup> They occur on solid sandstone rock, glaciated, near Fowberry Mains, in Northumberland. One line has 46 cups, all one inch wide, the other has 62 cups of the same size. The two lines are connected at the top by 3 cups, and 3 other similar cups connect them lower down, at the twelfth cup from the bottom. On the right hand line outside of the 36th cup, and six inches from it, is a cup enclosed by a ring; on the left-hand line, opposite the 24th cup, and six inches from it, is a similar cup enclosed by a ring. At the base are two small cups in extension of the line forming the base.

The space of rock occupied by the cups measures 7 feet 2 inches by 9½ inches in greatest breadth.

On two vertical sides of a rock, carved also on its upper sloping surface, at Old Bewick, there are rows of cups, horizontal, 15 in one line and 13 in the other. This also is figured by Simpson.

*In King's Park, Stirling.*—Mr D. B. Morris, in 1901, reported the discovery, on an ice-smoothed surface of dolerite, “of a cup-shaped hollow, outside the rim of which is a well-marked hollowed ring, beyond

<sup>1</sup> This was noticed by Simpson. See *Proceedings*, x. 144.

<sup>2</sup> *Berwickshire Nat. Hist. Club*, vol. for 1885-86, p. ii. p. 402.

which is another faintly-marked concentric circular groove. The cup-mark measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, the inner rim of the first circle 4 inches, and the outer rim 6 inches in diameter. The outer circle if completed would be 9 inches in diameter. The depth of the central hollow is half an inch, and of the inner groove fully a quarter of an inch. The edges are worn."

(5) NOTICES OF RECENT DISCOVERIES OF URNS.

(1) *At Cuning Hill, Inverurie.*—In January 1903 I happened to see in *Scottish Notes and Queries* the statement that an urn had been found on



Fig. 32. View of the Cuning Hill, Inverurie. (From a photograph by Mr James Ritchie, Corr. Mem., S. A. Scot.)

the mound called the Cuning Hill (fig. 32), and at once wrote to Mr James S. Robertson, of Inverurie, for further particulars. On the 5th of February I received the following reply:—

"I have received your letter of 27th ult., and have pleasure in giving you the particulars of the find of the urn. It was my own son, aged 12, who picked up the pieces, and I carefully examined the spot on Cuning Hill, and succeeded in getting one or two more pieces. The charred wood is quite plentiful.

“Cuning Hill is a small mound, about 80 yards in circumference at the base and about 20 feet high. The urn was found on the top, and as near the centre of the mound as may be. . . . I dug several feet down, and came upon clean sand and stones and a layer of clay and sand alternately.”

With the letter came a box containing specimens of the sand and of the charred wood, and several fragments of an urn of the drinking-cup type. Knowing the extreme unlikelihood of such an urn being found without any cist, I again wrote to Mr Robertson, begging him to search carefully about the spot where the urn was found, in view of ascertaining whether any slabs suggestive of a cist might not still remain.

His reply, dated 17th February, was to the effect that “there is no trace of a cist, but one fragment of stone lying at the foot of the hillock was thought by Mr Ritchie, of the schoolhouse, Port Elphinstone, to have a resemblance to a cist stone. It is possible that the stones may have been removed without discovering the urn ; the only other alternative is that no cist existed.”

Whatever were the original facts regarding the depositing of this urn, the vessel itself is sufficiently remarkable to be worthy of description. Were the fragments pieced together, we should have a drinking-cup urn about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height,  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches across the mouth, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the base. The lip, which is thin and rounded, has no lines of decoration ; and the whole decoration of the outside consists of a series of closely-placed parallel, or nearly parallel, lines impressed horizontally, beginning at a point three-quarters of an inch below the rim, and ending at about one inch and a half above the base.

There are extremely few urns in the Museum<sup>1</sup> bearing this distinctive pattern of decoration ; and the only other Scottish specimen apparently identical is the urn—also a drinking-cup—found in 1883 at Tents Muir, near Leuchars, Fifeshire. It is figured<sup>2</sup> and described by Dr Anderson

<sup>1</sup> A drinking-cup urn from Aberdeenshire, formerly in the Rae Collection, with a fine smooth surface ; a food-vessel from a cist at Quirinish, Mull, having about thirty parallel lines done with a pointed tool so as to resemble, on casual observation, the impression of a cord ; and a food-vessel from Cairn Curr, Alford, a very squat and inelegant small urn, with what seems a spiral line, done with a coarse fibre.

<sup>2</sup> *Proceedings*, xvi. 384.

as having ornamentation "of impressions like those of a twisted cord of two strands wound spirally round the vessel from bottom to brim." It is noteworthy also that this Leuchars urn was found "in a hollow between the sand-hills," without any reference being made to a cist. In the fragmentary condition of the urn from Cuning Hill, it is unsafe to state whether the ornamentation runs in parallel lines or is really one continuous spiral.

(2) *At Kinsteary, Nairnshire.*—In the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* of 20th March 1902 there appeared an account of the discovery of prehistoric remains in a gravel bank (or kame) in Kinsteary Park, parish of Auldearn, Nairnshire. The following is the substance of the account:—A cist was first found, 4 feet in length, 2 in breadth, and about 18 inches in depth, with a pear-shaped sandstone slab for a covering. The line of the grave was east and west. A skeleton lay in it, the face looking towards the west, the principal bones on a gravel bottom; they were quite dry, but considerably decayed. Though search was made, no other relics were found.

In the same gravel bank, a few yards distant, a beautifully ornamented cinerary urn was discovered some years ago, and it is now in possession of Lady Gordon Cathcart, the proprietrix of the Kinsteary estate, at Cluny Castle.