

II.

NOTICES OF STANDING STONES, CISTS, AND HITHERTO UNRECORDED CUP- AND RING-MARKS IN VARIOUS LOCALITIES. BY F. R. COLES, ASSISTANT-KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

No. 1. Standing Stones at North Glassmount, Kinghorn. — This site, which was visited in June 1903 in company with Mr W. C. Dymond, is nearly a quarter of a mile south-west from the residence of the Rev. W. Jardine Dobie, at North Glassmount. The

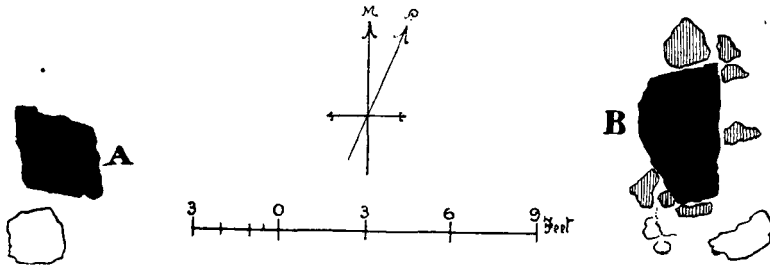


Fig. 1. Standing Stones, North Glassmount; ground-plan.

Stones stand on the flattish summit of a gently rising old pasture; and the ground immediately surrounding their bases is slightly suggestive of an artificially-made higher level. This difference in level, however, is so faintly discernible that no demarcation of the nature of a circumference can be observed, and at a few yards' distance from the Stones the summit (if artificial) merges imperceptibly into the natural incline of the ground. The height above sea-level is over 500 feet.

A space 19 feet 2 inches in width separates the two Stones, this measurement being taken at about the middle of each Stone vertically, and from the north angle of Stone A to a point on the inner face of B exactly east by compass, from the point on A. Both Stones are vertical, this uprightness having been ensured by a packing of small stones, several of which are still *in situ* at the base of the East Stone.

Several others lie in proximity to the Stones, evidently loosened out of their original positions by the feet of cattle.

The West Stone (A on ground-plan, fig. 1) is a well-set-up, rather smooth-sided block of a very quartziferous rock; indeed the greater portion of it seems to be white quartz. It rests upon a rhomboidal base which girths 10 feet 8 inches. The outer side is almost truly vertical, and a line extended parallel with this side points 23° west of polar north. Its height above the general level of the ground in the area is 6 feet 2 inches; and its greatest girth (see the view, fig. 2) is 12 feet

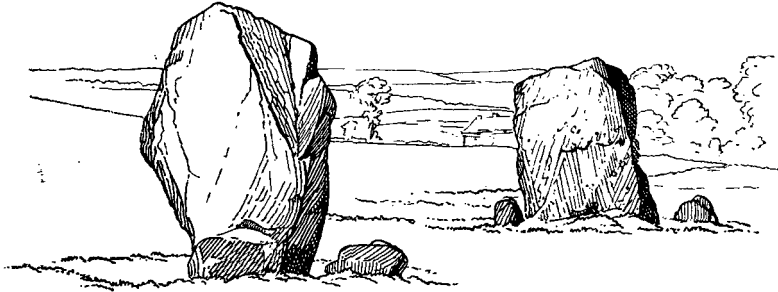


Fig. 2. Standing Stones, North Glassmount.

8 inches. Close beside it, to the south, lies a heavy block of the same quartzitic stone, about 2 feet 6 inches square and 1 foot 4 inches above ground.

The East Stone has also its smoothest and most vertical side facing the outside. Its basal girth is 12 feet 8 inches, and at 21 inches up, where it seems broader, the girth is only wider by 1 inch. In height this Stone is 5 feet 7 inches. We had considerable doubt as to its mineralogical character, its rough and reddish exterior at first suggesting a sandstone; but on afterwards seeing blocks *in situ* near the Stonyhall Hill exactly resembling it, but indubitably much-weathered whinstone, I am convinced this Standing Stone is of the same material. Several sharply defined small circular hollows can be observed on all its

surfaces: but these we at once attributed to the working out of small nodules of quartz by weathering.

As regards the relative positions of the Stones, and the possibility of their being the remnants of a Circle, one would expect that the broader and straighter side of the East Stone would be placed facing towards the centre, which arrangement would have been more in keeping with that which usually obtains in, at any rate, the greater Stone Circles.

Next, the Stones seem individually too tall and massive to have been members of a Circle whose diameter was less than 20 feet. Lastly, we could hear of no tradition of a Circle here.

Suggestions towards an excavation were made to Mr Dobie; but, so far as I know, none has yet been made.

The occurrence of Standing Stones in couples is probably somewhat rare in Scotland, and evidence is yet lacking to explain their purpose. In Thrumster, Caithness, Dr Joseph Anderson many years ago examined the ground between and around the bases of two great monoliths; but there were no relics disclosed. The same negative result was obtained at the Giant's Grave, at Lochend, Ollaberry, explored by Dr Robert Munro and Mr R. C. Haldane, the proprietor. Further investigation is therefore much needed in the case of this fresh megalithic problem.

No. 2. Standing Stones of Orwell.—These two Stones had for a considerable time interested me, by name, and through my having become the possessor of a fine photograph of the group, before I was enabled, through the courteous invitation of Dr Mungle of Kinross, to visit the site in August 1904. Many interesting sites were visited during a long day's driving, on that occasion, to some of which I shall refer later, but to me the most important was the site whereon stand these two fine monoliths. Close to the road running past Orwell farm on the north, they must for many years have attracted popular notice. They stand on a very gently rising ground, the space between them and for some distance to the south being somewhat higher than the surrounding field. In ground-plan they are related as shown in Fig. 3. The East

Stone is the higher, standing 9 feet 8 inches clear of the ground, smooth-sided and hexagonal. At the base its girth is 9 feet 9 inches, swelling up at the 5-foot level into 10 feet 8 inches. The West Stone, very rugged and angular, is 7 feet 5 inches in height, girths at the base 11 feet 1 inch, and at about 3 feet upwards, 10 feet 5 inches, its broadest side facing the East Stone. Both are of whinstone. The shortest distance between the two Stones is in a line nearly north-west, and measures 46 feet 10 inches.

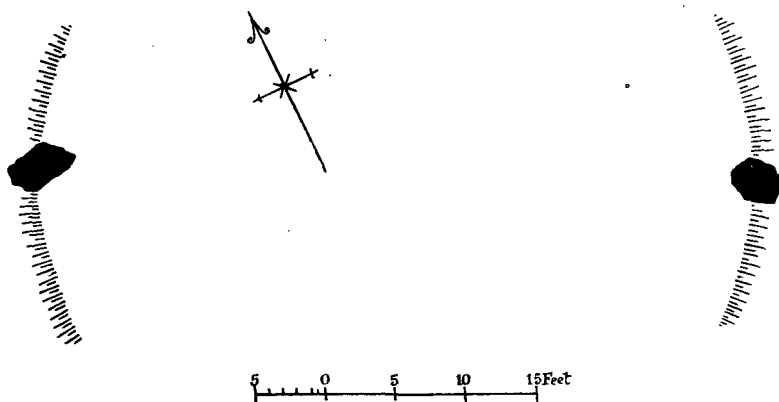


Fig. 3. Standing Stones of Orwell, Kinross-shire ; ground-plan.

Mr R. Kilgour, one of the oldest residents of Kinross, showed me a fine partially flattened oval pebble of dark reddish quartzite, measuring 5 inches by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches, which he found in the ground between these two Stones. The abrasion at each end clearly shows that this pebble has been used as a pounder.

In a book¹ which to some extent deals with local antiquities, occurs the following passage with reference to these two Standing Stones :—

“In the same field stone coffins have occasionally been turned up by the plough ; and, about the beginning of the nineteenth century, the

¹ *Glenfary*, by J. W. Jack, M.A.

ground was in many places dug up by the neighbouring proprietor, when quantities of bones much decomposed and mixed with charcoal were discovered."

The view (fig. 4) shows the Stones as seen from the south-west.

No. 3. Easter Urquhart, Kinross-shire.—In Strathmiglo there are even yet fairly abundant remains of prehistoric times. Cairns, unmistakably burial cairns, and mounds of varying dimensions and condition are still to be seen at several places; and through the kind hospitality of Dr Mungle of Kinross I am able to record some of these.

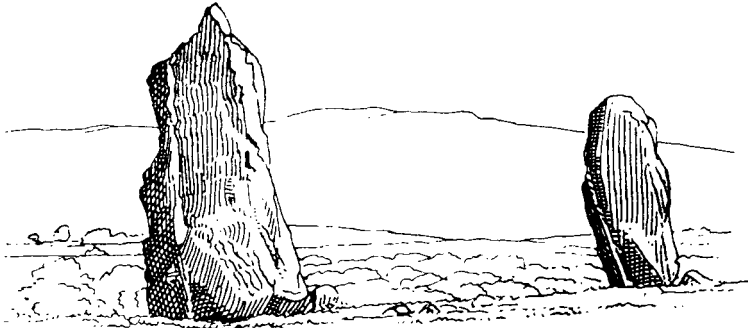


Fig. 4. Standing Stones of Orwell.

At Easter Urquhart, some yards north of the road, is a conspicuous but nameless mound, overshadowed by a roundel of tall trees growing around its base. It measures about 52 feet in diameter and is 8 feet in height. On its southern slope are two great Stones, both prostrate. The smaller, to the west, is a thick, flat block, 3 feet in diameter, and it is stated to have been moved from the top of the mound, where it covered some human bones. It bears a close resemblance to the cover of a cist.

Close beside it, on the east, lies a long whinstone block, 7 feet 5 inches in length, 15 inches thick, and 14 broad. It formerly stood outside of the mound towards the south. Portions of the mound have been burrowed into by rabbits, and the stony interior is thus exposed.

No. 4. Easter Nether Urquhart Standing Stone.—The farm-steadings

here are distant from the mound just noticed half a mile, and in the second field to the east there stands a not very shapely block of whinstone, measuring in height 5 feet 5 inches, in greatest girth 9 feet 5 inches, and round the base 8 feet 9 inches.

The Stone stands with its shorter side set due north and south. No tradition exists of a group of Standing Stones here ; but on the 6-inch sheet of the O.M., quite near this Stone, the site of a cairn is marked, to the north.

No. 5. Small Stone Circle in Arran.—This site was examined in May 1901, when I visited Brodick, at the request of the Council, to make drawings of the remarkable series of cup- and ring-marked rocks on Stronach Ridge, Brodick Bay.

A brief notice of the Circle or group of Stones will be found in the *Proceedings*.¹ The site is close to the road between Lamlash and Brodick, 2 miles south of the latter, and on the east of the road, partly concealed among the heather, and just on the crest of the moor. There are at present four Stones here (see the ground-plan, fig. 5).

Two of them are conspicuously larger than the others, and, if equal interspacing be admitted, the Circle when complete must probably have contained seven Stones. Two small and loose pieces of stone lie within their circumference. Stone A stands 4 feet in height ; B, 2 feet 4 inches ; C, 3 feet ; and D, 3 feet 6 inches. They are all rough granite boulders such as the moor is full of in this vicinity.² The diameter of the Circle is 21 feet 3 inches.

¹ Vol. iv. pp. 505, 513.

² It may be mentioned that the friends who assisted me in measuring this Circle were as keen as possible on the theories started by Mr F. L. Lewis as to the relationship between the Circle sites and any prominent hills. The opportunity of testing this was too good to lose ; and I therefore noted that, at a point south by compass, 64 feet distant from the centre of stone D, there stood a huge rough block of quartzitic conglomerate. If this same line were continued (also by compass) northwards, we found it struck the summit of Goat Fell. Again, a line bisecting the centres of stones D and C strikes direct to Ben Nuish, a very fine peak about 6 miles distant. But surely the fact that these measurements and observations were *by compass* and not by the true north, ought to invalidate them from any sort of confirmation of the theories suggested.

In my observations of this site I am corroborated by those made long ago by Dr James Bryce.¹ During the course of his valuable and interesting excavations conducted among the larger Stone Circles of the

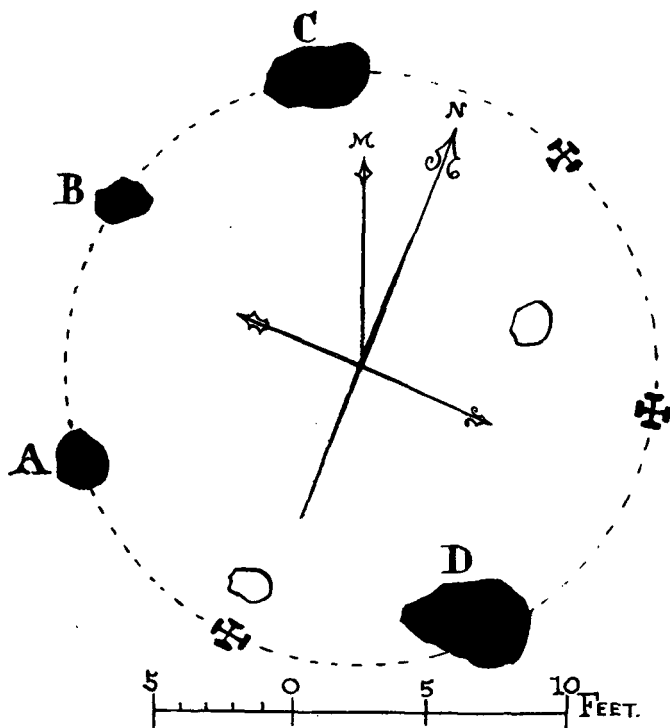


Fig. 5. Stone Circle near Lamlash, Arran ; ground-plan.

west side of Arran, Dr Bryce also examined this small and inconspicuous Circle on the extreme east of the island ; and the following is his account of discoveries made in it :—

“Excavating at the centre, we found a small cist at less than a foot in depth, and lying about north-east. It was covered by a small lid, and

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. iv. pp. 505, 513.

the dimensions were 2 feet 2 inches in length, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, and 11 inches in width. Inside, there were several bone fragments and black earth. A flint implement was found in the stony soil above, and three other flint fragments; but nothing of this kind in the cist itself. This was of a much ruder structure than any we had before seen. It

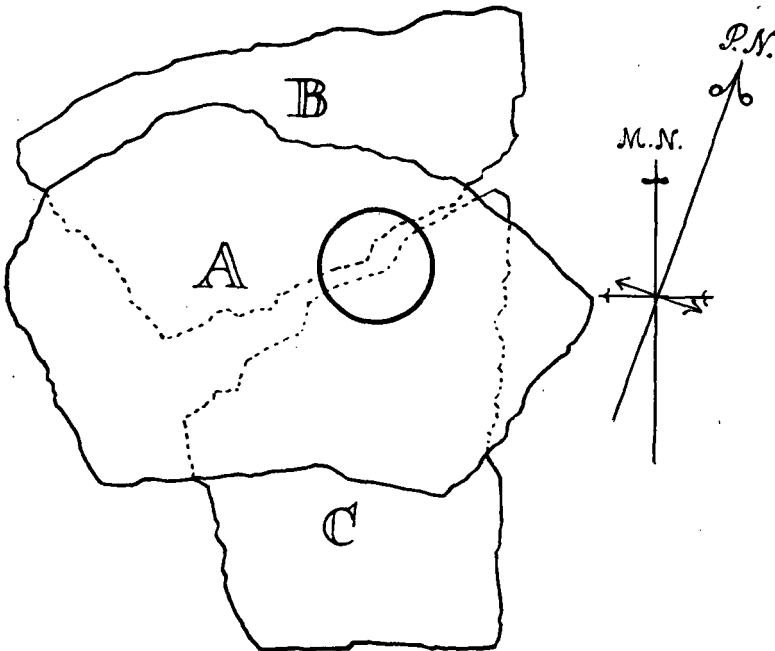


Fig. 6. The Auld Wives' Lifts; ground-plan.

was cut out of the solid sandstone rock, but with little care or exactness; the sides, however, were nearly perpendicular. No other cist was found, nor remains of any kind, though a trial was made at several points round the centre. A deep opening was also made at both sides of the upright Stone (*i.e.* the block standing 64 feet to the south), but nothing was met with worthy of being recorded."

This Circle probably had originally seven Stones, the other three being at the points indicated by crosses on the plan.

No. 6. *The Auld Wives' Lifts*.—Much has been written¹ in support of various theories concerning this remarkable group of naturally poised and enormous blocks of sandstone. They occupy the centre of a large, rudely circular, natural hollow near the middle of the wide and rocky Craigmaddie Muir, and in ground-plan they lie as shown in fig. 6.



Fig. 7. The Auld Wives' Lifts ; from the west.

The top Stone, A, measures 22 feet by 11 ; the north Stone, B, 20 feet by 8 ; and the south block, C, 14 feet by 10. The top Stone projects greatly over the western edges of the two blocks beneath it (shown by dotted lines in the plan). In appearance the group (see fig. 7) is really impressive, and one scarcely wonders at the strange legends that have arisen around this huge agglomeration of megaliths. There is a fairly

¹ See *Trans. Glasgow Arch. Soc.*, vol. i. (1857-1867), pp. 4, 234, 227 ; and *The Scenery of Scotland* (Geikie), ed. 1887, p. 375.

clear, though narrow, passage between the two lower Stones. The greatest vertical height is at the extreme W.S.W. point of the top Stone, which is 12 feet 10 inches above the ground. Near its east end on its south side the height is 11 feet 5 inches. The greater part of its upper surface is nearly flat, with a very slight incline towards the south-east. In thickness this Stone varies between 7 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches.

Thus far these great masses of grit present features attributable entirely to natural causes; but on the nearly flat top of the highest Stone there occurs the one special feature which brings the group within the scope of an archæological notice. This is an incised ring (see fig. 6). It appears to have been first noticed by Mr A. D. Robertson,¹ who thus describes it in 1867: "A Circle of 36 inches in diameter, the circumference of which is an incised line measuring about 5 feet from the east end, 2 from the north side, 10 from the west end, and 5 from the south side of the platform." Mr Robertson claims these Stones as "a Druidical altar," and goes on to state that, in spite of many disfiguring modern initials being roughly cut here, "the ancient sanctifying emblem, which has been carefully engraved, is yet clearly traceable, and bears every appearance of having been executed at some very remote period."

Since the date of Mr Robertson's notice, several observers have examined and seen the incised ring; and, though we may nowadays smile at the notion of such masses of stone having any connection with Druidical rites, I am able to confirm the accuracy of his measurements, and put on record here the true dimensions and position of this evidently ancient piece of incised work.²

¹ The writer of the article in the *Trans. Glas. Arch. Society* referred to, *supra*.

² The Auld Wives' Lifts belong, in the megalithic folk-lore, to the section which comprises legends of women, or witches, or carlines, who transport through the air masses of stone, great or small, and here and there drop them; thus forming cairns, groups of standing stones, or single groups of enormous blocks, like the *pierres levées* at Poitiers and other French localities. This remarkable group on Craigmaddie Muir has also associations with another phase of superstition; for Mr Robertson observes that it is "still necessary for all strangers visiting this enchanted place for

No. 7. Dungoyach Stone Circle.—On the Ordnance Map, 6-inch scale, Sheet XXVII., of Stirlingshire, at a point slightly over a quarter of a mile south-west of Duntreath Castle, and on the south bank of the Blane Water, there is shown a group of five Standing Stones. The site is about 250 feet above sea-level, and occupies the most level portion of a long plateau closed in on the north-west with most romantic abruptness by the lofty, rocky, tree-clad heights of Dungoyach, and, beyond the Blane Water, by the more distant, but still imposing, twin-fronts of Dungoyne. Still farther away, but near enough to emphasise the sense of seclusion, the beautiful green slopes of another range of hills the first time, to creep through it, if they wish to avert the calamity of dying childless.” He notes the old spelling was Craig-madden, and translates madden as = *moidhean*, entreaty, supplication : The rock of prayer. There is a very incorrect brief notice of these Stones in Wilson’s *Prehist. Annals of Scot.*, vol. i. p. 93.

In *The Scenery of Scotland* (Geikie) occurs the following interesting passage :—

“Giant’s Stone, Giant’s Grave, Auld Wives’ Lift, Witches’ Stepping Stones, Warlocks’ Burdens, Hell Stanes, and similar epithets are common all over the Lowland counties. . . . In wandering over the south of Scotland, I have met with some curious traditions and beliefs of this kind. The following was told me on the spot by an intelligent native of the village of Carnwath. Before farming operations were there carried to the extent to which they have now arrived, large boulders, now mostly removed, were scattered so abundantly over the mossy tract, between the river Clyde and the Yelping Craig, about 2 miles to the east, that one place was known familiarly as “Hell Stanes Gate” (road), and another as “Hell Stanes Loan.”

The traditional story runs that the Stones were brought by supernatural agency from the Yelping Craigs. Michael Scott and the Devil, it appears, had entered into a compact with a band of witches to dam back the Clyde. It was one of the conditions of such agreements that the name of the Supreme Being should never on any account be mentioned. All went well for a while, some of the stronger spirits having brought their burden of boulders to within a few yards of the river, when one of the younger members of the company, staggering under the weight of a huge block of greenstone, exclaimed : “O Lord ! but I’m tired.” Instantly every boulder tumbled to the ground, nor could witch, warlock, or Devil move a single stone one yard farther. And there the block lay for many a long century, until the rapacious farmers quarried them away for dykes and road metal.

Another explanation, of a somewhat different kind, was given by a stone-mason among the Garrick Hills, who, on being asked how he imagined that the hundreds of granite boulders in that district came to lie where they do, took a little time to reply, and at last gravely remarked that he “fancied when the Almighty flang the ward out, He maun hae putten thae stanes upon her to keep her steady.”

close in the prospect on the west. In the extreme distance in the north-east, the mountains on the borderland of Perth and Dumbartonshire may be seen.

On the map above referred to, the Stones are shown as a group of five, four of which stood in a line 54 feet long and N.N.E. and S.S.W. The fifth stood or lay about 40 feet to the north-west. At some period between the date of the survey and that of my visit in July 1903, con-

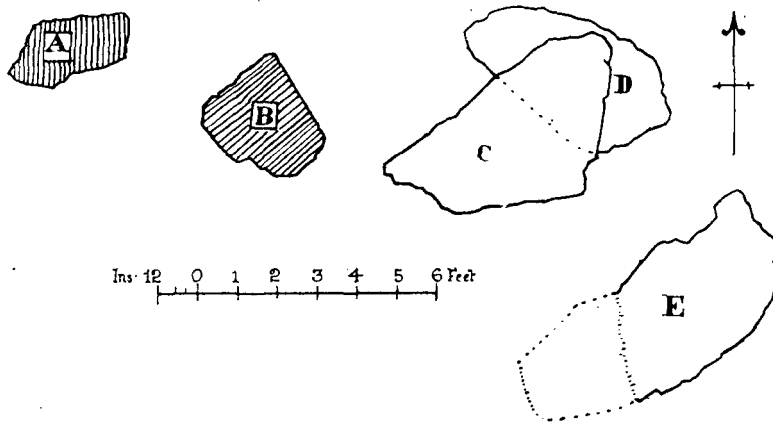


Fig. 8. Stone Circle at Dungoyach; ground-plan.

siderable disturbance must have taken place; for the five Stones now occupy the positions shown in the annexed ground-plan (fig. 8).

The Stone marked A is a rather rough mass of granulated quartzite. It has a very distinct lean towards the north. Measured vertically on that side, it now stands 2 feet 9 inches above ground; the length of its slope is 3 feet 5 inches, its top measures 2 feet 6 by 1 foot 2, and its basal girth is 8 feet 5 inches. The Stone B—the only one of the group now truly erect—is of a coarse, blue-grey whinstone veined with white quartz. Its widest side faces the north-east, and the whole surface of this side is smooth and vertical, and forms with its north-west face almost a right angle.

The height of this Stone is 5 feet 3 inches. It has a jagged and pointed top, and its basal girth is 9 feet 5½ inches. The next Stone, C, lies partly on the ground and partly on Stone D. Its greatest length

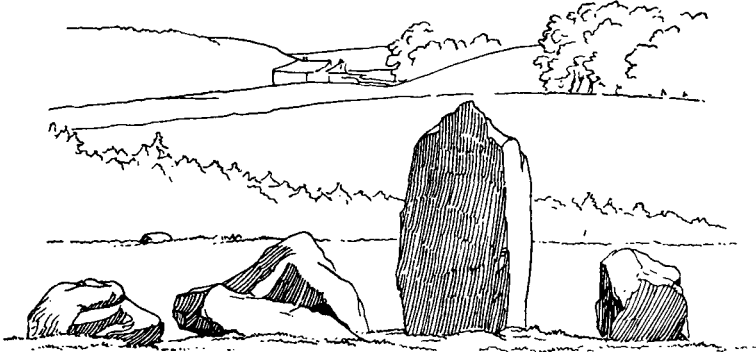


Fig. 9. Dungoyach Circle ; from the north.

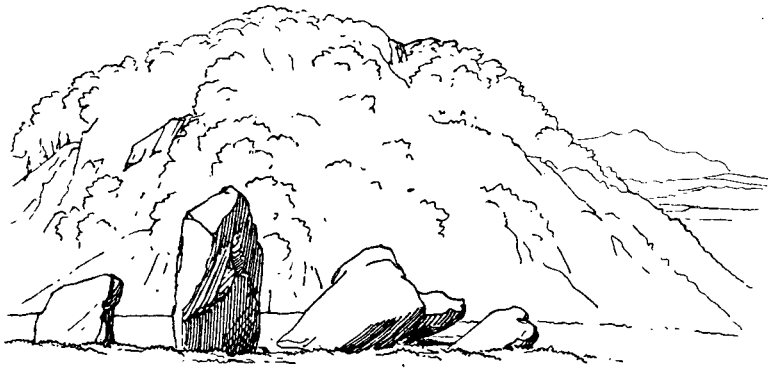


Fig. 10. Dungoyach ; from the south.

is 7 feet 10 inches, breadth 3 feet 9, and its thickness at the north end 2 feet 3 inches, where, at the same point, it is 3 feet 4 inches above the ground. It is of the same kind of stone as B.

The fourth Stone, D, is a soft, reddish sandstone, roughly oval in

contour, and of a pretty uniform thickness of 1 foot 3 inches. It measures 5 feet 6 inches by about 3 feet, and is quite flat on the ground. Rabbits have burrowed below it.

The last Stone, E, is also prostrate; what remains visible of its surface measures nearly 6 feet by 3 feet 2 inches; but a portion about 2 feet 6 inches long runs into the ground. At the north-east angle it measures 1 foot 8 inches in thickness. It is of the same kind of stone as are B and C.

Two views, from north and from south, are appended (figs. 9, 10).

II. NOTICES OF THE DISCOVERY OF CISTS.

No. 1. Balbridie, Durris, Kincardineshire.—Information of this very interesting discovery was first made to me during the September of 1904 by Mr A. Macdonald of Crossroads Schoolhouse in Durris, and his account was a little later supplemented by notes and photographs taken by Mr James Smith of Pinewood, near Crathes. Two of the Urns also, presently to be described, I saw at Durris House, where they are preserved by the owner, H. R. Baird, Esq.

The account given by Mr Smith is as follows:—

“At Balbridie, on the estate of Durris, on Saturday afternoon of May 13, 1893, while some labourers were preparing the land for turnips, the tines of a grubber caught on a flat stone a few inches below the surface of the ground, and laid bare an ancient tomb or cist. It was built of four large flagstones, and covered completely with a fifth, and was nearly filled up with fine sand, which, on being removed, an Urn and a number of human bones were discovered, including part of a skull and internal ear, twelve loose teeth, half an upper and an almost complete lower jaw with fourteen teeth in a first-class state of preservation. There was also a humerus in good condition.

“The skull and head-bones, including jaw-bones, were found in the middle of the east end, the humerus about a third down the south side, and the Urn in the north-east corner.

“The Urn was composed of rough red clay, and had ten annular parallel marks round it, with angular and other markings between each pair. It was 6 inches high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide across the mouth, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the bottom, 15 inches round the neck, and 17 inches round the widest part; it was broken on the edge, and was full of sand (fig. 12, Urn on the left). There was also a quantity of charred wood or other organic remains found amongst the sand.

“On making further search, two more cists were unearthed, one of



Fig. 11. Second Cist found at Balbridie, Durriss.

them being made up of five, instead of four, flagstones (fig. 11), the west end having two forming an angle. The distance from the apex of the angle to the east end of the grave was 58 inches. The slabs at each side were 42 inches long, and the cist was 24 inches wide at the bottom, and 17 at the base of the angle. It was 24 inches deep, and contained fragments of two Urns, one at the apex of the angle and the other at the south-east corner. It also contained several small fragments of bones and a quantity of charred organic matter.

“The third cist was an oblong tomb $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and 2 feet deep, and quite adjacent to the tomb with the angular end.

Being on the edge of a steep incline when I first saw it, the south-most Stone had fallen away. It contained one Urn, the one which is cracked (fig. 12, Urn on the right), and several small fragments of bones and charred organic matter."

To this lucid account it is not necessary to add anything, except to record that Mr Smith, on my calling to see him about the finds, presented all the broken pieces of one of the Urns found in the second cist to the Museum, and I brought them away on my return to Edinburgh.



Fig. 12.

Urn from Cist No. 1, Balbridie.

Urn from Cist No. 3, Balbridie.

All the Urns are of the Drinking-cup variety.

No. 2. Cist at Burnside of Whitefield, near Aberchirder.—The first information of this discovery was made to me in September 1905 by Rev. J. A. MacCulloch,¹ during our stay at Aberchirder, which we made the centre of our expeditions in surveying the Stone Circles of North Banffshire.

The discovery occurred during the ploughing of a field, which includes a well-defined portion of a rising ground, some 200 yards to the east of the farm, and in the last week of March 1905.

Some bones, presumably human, were reported to have been found,

¹ Author of *The Misty Isle of Skye*.

and to one of them, some substance, that looked like human hair, was apparently attached. In addition there was a small Urn. All such movable relics, I was told, had been sent up to Forglen House, and left in possession of the proprietor, Sir George W. Abercromby. After putting myself into communication with him, and arranging a day for seeing the relics, I went to the Burnside of Whitefield farm, and found that, thanks to the care exercised by Mr Simpson, the tenant, not only was there a passage cut for us through the yet standing corn, but the Cist and its cover were left just as they were the day after the discovery in March.

I then made careful measurements, and the annexed ground-plan (fig. 13) is the result. The only "liberty taken" is, that the cover stone, which actually lay beside the Cist, is shown in the drawing as if covering it.

This Whitefield Cist presents some notable features: first, it is remarkably small; its entire inside dimensions being only 2 feet 2 inches along the edge of the slab B, 1 foot 10 inches along the slab A, along C 1 foot 6 inches, and D 1 foot 3 inches—or, averaging the dimensions, the Cist measures 2 feet by 1 foot 4 inches. Against this we must put the depth, which at the base of slab B was 2 feet 2 inches.

The covering Stone (KK), as well as all the other slabs, are of the common blue whinstone. The covering Stone measures 3 feet 5 inches by 3 feet and half an inch, and is from 3 to 5 inches in thickness. Both its upper and under surfaces are roughish and irregular, and had no artificial markings. In addition to the somewhat irregular shape of the Cist, there is considerable want of precision in the setting of the side and end slabs. The largest, A, measures 3 feet 2 inches in length, 5 inches in breadth, and overtops the end Stone, C, by only about 2 inches. The North Stone, B, is only half the thickness of A, nearly as long, and overtops the end Stone, D, by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; this discrepancy having been adjusted by placing the two small oblong blocks E and F flat on the upper edge of D. When examining this arrangement, and removing the earth lying upon Stones E and F, the size and position of

the former recalled a somewhat similar arrangement noticed in the double Cist discovered at Succoth Place.¹ The ground therefore was carefully searched just beyond the outer edge of E, but without the discovery of any further structural features. This end-slab D measures

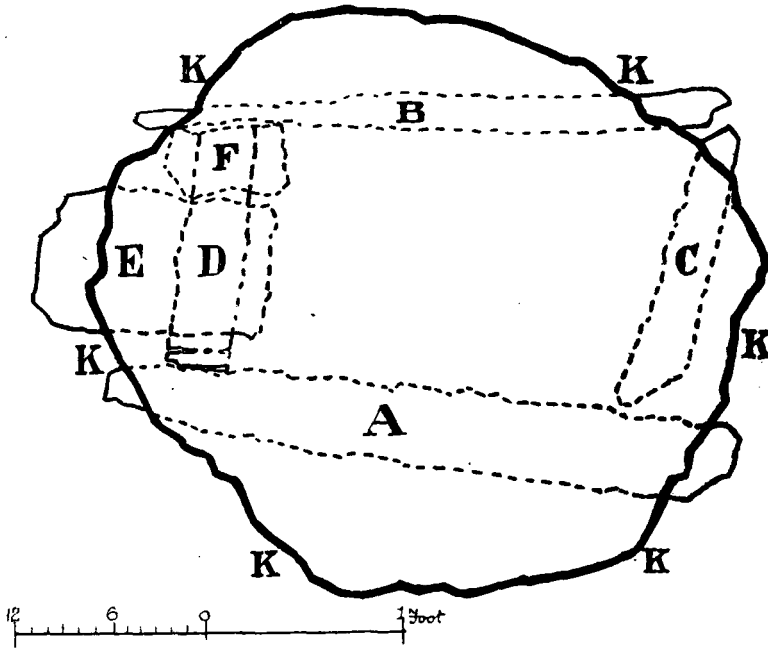


Fig. 13. Ground-plan of Cist at Burnside of Whitefield, Banffshire.

only 13 inches in vertical depth; it would seem thus to be a fair inference that the builders of the Cist, not having at hand any more slabs sufficiently large to fill the whole width and the whole depth at this end, placed the flat oblong blocks E and F and wedged up the angle (below D) with the best material that lay to their hands. The three

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvi. p. 670.

slabs A, B, and D are set vertically; but C had a very decided outward slope, something like an angle of 60° .

From the nature of the distinct, mound-like appearance of the ground above which this Cist was discovered, it is quite probable that further discoveries may be made here:

The Urn found (fig. 14), and now in the possession of Sir George Abercromby,¹ at Forglen, is of the Drinking-cup type, but of a variety which is distinctly rare in Scotland, as the subjoined measurements show :



Fig. 14. Urn found in Cist at Burnside of Whitefield.

height, $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches; extreme diameter of mouth, $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches; of the bulge, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; and of the base, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This remarkable width across the rim, as compared with vertical height, occurs in only two other drinking cups in the Museum, viz., the examples from Kincardine Castle, Strathearn (EG 6 in the Catalogue), and from Tillyochie, Kinross-shire (EG 7).

The decoration consists of two broad zones of horizontal lines intermingled with chevrons, cross-hatching, and diamond-shaped figures, all done with a pointed implement in closely arranged dots, the upper zone

¹ The Urn was, through the courtesy of Captain Douglas Abercromby, sent to us on loan for proper examination and measurements.

being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad and the lower $1\frac{9}{16}$ inches. In the other specimens quoted above, the decorative scheme, either in style or technique, does not resemble that of this Whitefield Urn. In the list furnished by Hon. John Abercromby, two Beakers are figured which seem to tally closely with this Urn. They are Nos. 152 and 160 in his illustrations,¹ and are both in Elgin Museum. One was found near Huntly, and the other at Acres in Knockando, Elginshire.

With the Urn in this unusually small Cist, human bones were found; but the only typical fragment preserved was a small unburnt portion of a skull, so much less in size and thickness as to lead to the inference that the interment here was that of a very youthful person.

No. 3. Cist at Auchlin, New Aberdour.—In *The Aberdeen Evening Express* of 29th March 1905 there is the following notice:—²

“Some months ago, while gravel was being removed from a rising ground on the farm of Auchlin, near New Aberdour, a flat stone set on its edge was removed, and an opening was discovered extending over 3 feet long, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and of rather less width, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface. The place lies north and south.

“The structure was very little damaged. It is built of stones. It is not so wide at the top as at the bottom, and the sides are a little contracted, so that a single stone covers the top, and it has proved a very sufficient roof. The floor of the place was quite smooth when first seen, just as if no mould had been disturbed above or beneath since the place had been made.

“There was no Urn. The contents were a small heap of bones near one corner. The skull was in different pieces. The joints of the neck were very distinct, also a rib or two. All of them were of a yellowish colour while other pieces of bones, including sections of the jaw, with some double teeth and many small bits of bone, were of a whitish colour, as if they had been subjected to fire. Some dark particles were also to be seen, apparently cinders of some kind. I can give no information of

¹ *Proceedings*, xxxviii.

² Supplied to *The Banffshire Journal* by Mr George Fowlie.

how long the field has been in cultivation, but the locality where the Cist was found is higher than the surrounding ground, and I expect there had been a much greater depth of soil above the place originally; and one would conjecture there had been a wide pit made for the building, as the gravel in the vicinity of the Cist is not so firm as at a little distance off.

“There have never been arrow-heads found near the place, but a stone axe was found on the field some years ago, also some other relics of the Stone Period found on the farm.

“The contents of the Cist have been removed, to be preserved in Aberdeen University Museum, and the place where they were found has been improved by Mr Keith, factor for Brucklay, and it is to be protected by fencing.”

No. 4. Cist at Blackhills, Fyvie.—In *The People's Journal* of Saturday 1st July 1905, it is stated that: “A stone coffin, containing a human skeleton, was excavated at Blackhills, Fyvie, the other day. In a corner of the coffin was a jar in which there was some dark-coloured dust.”

No. 4A. Hill of Mountblairy, Alva.—The following notice is quoted from *The Aberdeen Free Press* of 21st June 1904:—

“While Mr M'Robert, Hill of Mountblairy, assisted by Mr John Findlater, was preparing the ground for turnips on Friday, the latter uncovered with the plough what he took to be a rabbit's nest. Inserting his hand, he was astonished to find it filled with bones instead of fur. Both now examined the spot more carefully, and Mr M'Robert at once decided that they had come on a cinerary urn. He proceeded to unearth it with the greatest care, but notwithstanding all their efforts, it was slightly broken. It is made of clay, and below has the form of a pot about a foot in diameter, tapering to a point at the top, the total height being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Nothing to show a bottom or even a slab to rest upon could be found. It was simply inserted in the earth, with the calcined bones lying within on the ground. Amongst these is one half of a bivalve shell, with nothing else in the way of jewellery or ornament. The find is being carefully kept by Mr M'Robert, who is

very obliging in exhibiting it. It was found on a slightly rising knoll almost on the boundary between Alvah and Forglen, on the estate of Mountblairy, and it is noteworthy that this is the second discovery by Mr M'Robert, the first being also on the estate of Mountblairy, though many years ago, and at a considerable distance from the present, namely, on the farm of Newton."

Quite recently I wrote to the finder asking for further details. Mr M'Robert, however, could only state that, owing to exposure, the Urn had completely fallen to pieces; that it was $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness, and that the hollow of the neck measured about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth.

No. 5. Sundayswells Hill, near Torphins.—This site is on the Learney estate, the property of Col. F. Innes, and the bulk of the information here recorded is derived from letters sent to me by Mr James Ritchie, Corresponding Member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, of Port Elphinstone School, who learnt the facts from Lieut.-Col. Francis Innes.

The hill, called by the strange-sounding name of Sundayswells, rises to the altitude of 820 feet; at a point about 700 feet high, and midway between Sundayswells farmhouse and Gownieburn, and almost half a mile nearly due west of the remains of a Stone Circle¹ there, there is a burial Cairn which had been long ago partially opened up. In its exposed central space were, however, several large blocks of stone set circularly, and presumably the portions of a species of chamber, and at this spot the Drinking-cup Urn, illustrated in fig. 15, was found.

On the side of the hill to the north-west of the Cairn, another Cist was found. In it were bones and "portions of a larger Urn which are also at Learney."

Mr Ritchie, in sending me notes of this Cairn, was inclined to group it with the low cairns found within Stone Circles. His photographs, and the dimensions he quotes of the central space of about 9 feet wide by 3 feet deep, certainly resemble the features disclosed in my account of the central cairn-surrounded hollow in the Circle at Whitehill, Monymusk.²

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiv. p. 171.

² *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. p. 206.

The Drinking Cup measures $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, $5\frac{2}{3}$ inches across the mouth, $5\frac{1}{3}$ inches at the bulge, and $3\frac{1}{3}$ inches at the base. It is made of a fine brown clay, and is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness. The decoration is specially interesting, as it consists of one long spiral line made by pressure of a cord covering the whole exterior surface. This style of decoration has now been found upon three other of our Drinking Cups from the following localities:—(a) from Aberdeenshire (Rae Collection), (b) Tents Muir, near Leuchars, (c) Cuning Hill, Inverurie; and upon two food-vessels, those, namely, from Quirinish in Mull, and Cairn Curr,

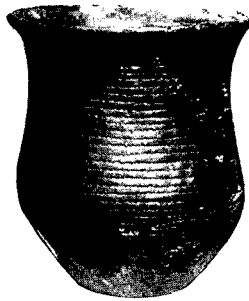


Fig. 15. Urn found in a Cairn on Sundayswells Hill.

Alford. The continuous spiral also occurs in a varietal form on one of the Beakers described (*supra*, p. 283) by Mr J. G. Callander.

No. 6. North Merchiston Cemetery.—On Thursday, 25th August 1904, I was informed by Mr Alan Reid, F.S.A. Scot., that a Cist had been found in the cemetery at North Merchiston. I went out in the afternoon and learned the following particulars from Mr Moffat, which will be more intelligible by a reference to the annexed ground-plan of the site (fig. 16).

Early on the previous day, a grave was being prepared (No. 153 on the plan), and at about nine o'clock the workmen reported to Mr Moffat that they had had to remove some large slabs amongst which they found broken pottery. Mr Moffat, whose acquaintance with the sudden dis-

covery of cists was not slight, went at once to the spot, and, securing all the removable fragments of what he recognised as an urn, directed the men to remove also the various broken portions of the slabs to an out-house. He then communicated the discovery to Mr Alan Reid.

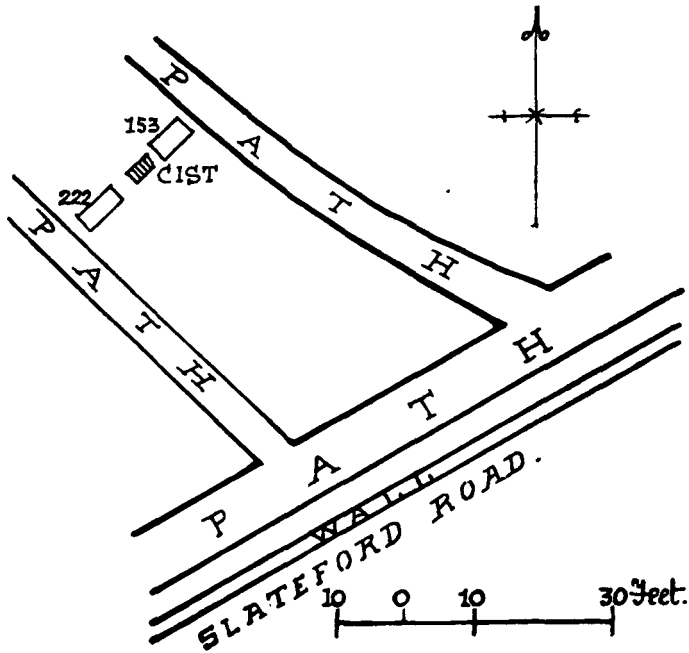


Fig. 16. Site of the Cist discovery in North Merchiston Cemetery.

The site (fig. 16) is almost the highest piece of ground now inclosed between the cemetery walls, and is at the altitude of 204 feet above sea-level. The Cist was discovered between the two graves Nos. 153 and 222, as recorded in the cemetery plan-book, and at the distance of 70 feet north-west of the wall bounding the Slateford Road. At the time of my visit, only the flooring slab was completely *in situ*. It was a large slab, very thin in proportion to its size, and was cracked across its

breadth. It measured 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, and its longer axis lay north-east and south-west. Seven similarly thin slabs of clay-stone completed the Cist, which was 2 feet in depth, to the flooring slab; but the sides and ends were set to a depth of 6 inches below into the soil. The covering-slab, which I saw in fragments, was also of clay-stone,

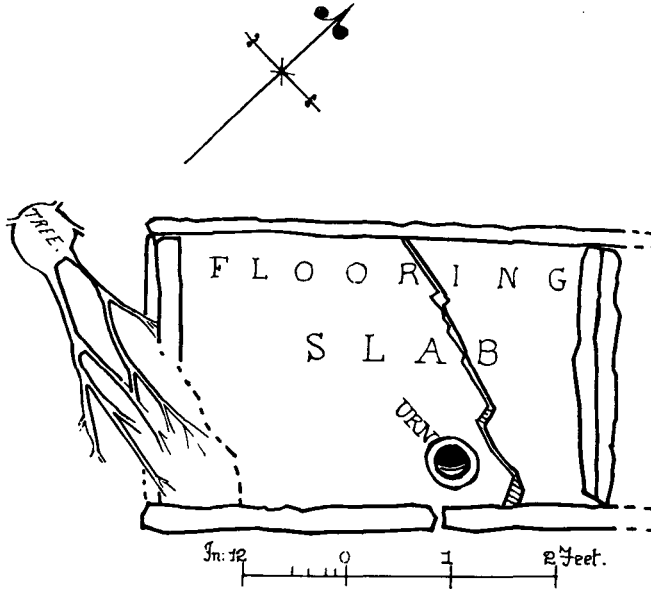


Fig. 17. Plan of the North Merchiston Cist.

only 1 inch in thickness; and its upper surface was within 4 inches of the grass. This part of the cemetery, however, had been levelled some time ago.

The seven slabs composing the Cist were arranged as shown in the plan (fig. 17), the ends of the Cist being strengthened by there being two slabs set close together. Notwithstanding this, the double-slabs at the south-west end were in part forced inwards and broken in pieces by the roots of the tree planted there. The complete length of the long

side slab on the north-west, and of one of the two forming the south-east side was not obtainable, on account of the newly made grave there.

The position of the Urn was pointed out to me by one of the workmen, and it is correctly recorded in the plan. It was covered by a thin piece of the same laminated clay-stone; but it was broken in the lifting. Otherwise, the Cist was described as being nearly filled with soil which had silted in.¹

There are enough fragments of the Urn to show the following features :

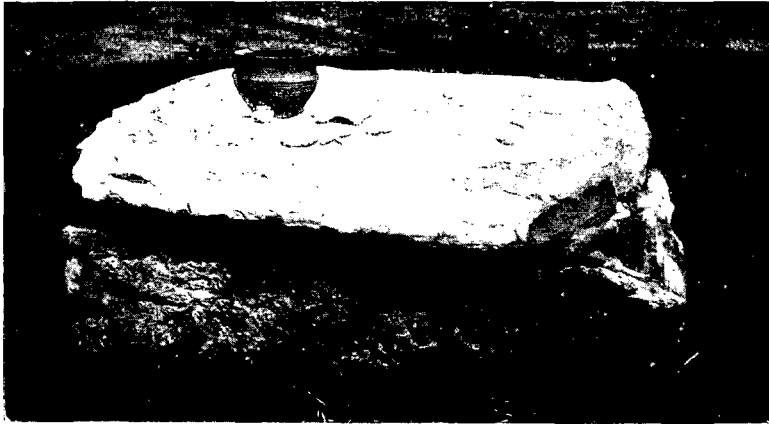


Fig. 18. Cist at Cowdenhill.

that it was a food-vessel of rather coarse reddish clay, probably 6 inches in height when complete, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide across the mouth, and 3 across the base. The lip, which, as usual, slopes down inwards, is $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick, and bears three irregularly horizontal lines of closely touched pressed marks. Lines of the same character cover the space $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches deep between the lip and the shoulder, the lower part being quite plain. The inner side of the Urn is patched with dark-brown spots.

No. 7. Cist and Urn at Cowdenhill, Grangepens, near Bo'ness,

¹ These notes were made with the help of Mr Alan Reid, F.S.A. Scot., and Mr J. E. Simpkins, Second Attendant in the Museum.

Linlithgowshire.—This discovery was made on the 28th September 1905. In the course of correspondence with Mr H. M. Cadell of Grange, I received photographs of the Cist and Urn, and a few notes upon the discovery, which are to the following effect:—the site was a sand-bed of the 25-foot beach, about 10 feet above high-tide level; and, says Mr Cadell, “after careful examination, it is clear that the sea did not reach the coffin.” The bones were mostly fragmentary, and there was nothing but the Urn, besides the soil that filled the interior. The Cist (fig. 18)

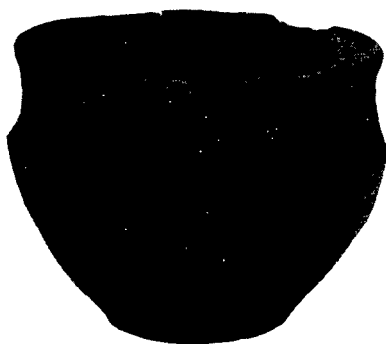


Fig. 19. Urn found in Cist at Cowdenhill.

was 40 inches long inside, about 21 inches wide, and 18 inches deep, covered by a heavy slab of freestone with no tool-marks on it. The sides and ends of the Cist were also of freestone slabs. The Cist lay with its long axis E. 30' N.

Mr Cadell compares this Cist with its Urn to another containing a similar Urn found on the Grange estate in 1896, and in the keeping of Sir William Turner, at the Anatomical Museum.

The Urn (fig. 19) is of the food-vessel variety, standing 5 inches in height and measuring across the mouth $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and is richly ornamented in the usual style.

III. NOTICES OF CUP- AND RING-MARKS.

No. 1. *Avochie, Rothiemay*.—The site of the cup- and ring-marked boulder here is on the north slope of the Hill of Avochie, at a point 586 yards S.W. of the site of a Stone Circle on Kimmony, and slightly over a quarter of a mile N.N.E. of Midplough.

It was alluded to in my last account of the cup-marked Recumbent Stone in the Circle on Rothiemay home-farm.¹ This whinstone boulder measures 11 feet by 9 feet; at its northern extremity it is 2 feet 5 inches above the ground, and at the southern 2 feet and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch. The highest portion of the Stone is at a point near C on the plan (fig. 20), marked by an eight-rayed star; and from this point the surface, which is here and there broken by shallow fissures and groove-like marks entirely due to natural causes, slopes off at varying angles. This I have endeavoured to show in a conventional manner by placing arrows to indicate the slope: the shorter the arrow the steeper the slope. The portion above A is fairly flat and smooth; near D is a broadish flat edge also, and at some time or other the lowest part on the left seems to have been broken; whether it bore sculpturings or not, no one knows. The surface appears to have sustained a considerable amount of weathering, as Mr Geddes informs me most of the markings are not very distinct. The clearest are the ringed cups below D on the plan.

The total number of cups is eighty-three, of which five are distinctly oval in contour. They are arranged in four groups: A, in the north-west corner, containing twenty-seven simple circular cups and two oval cups, eight circular cups with rings, and one ringed oval; at B are two simple cups; at C, twenty-seven simple circular cups and two oval, also two circular ringed cups; at group D there are four simple circular cups and one oval cup, five very finely ringed circular cups, and one smallish oval with its ring. Nowhere on the Stone is there a sign of any straight groove

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii, p. 228. For all the facts recorded in the present notice of this Stone I am much indebted to Mr J. Geddes, of the Schoolhouse, Rothiemay.

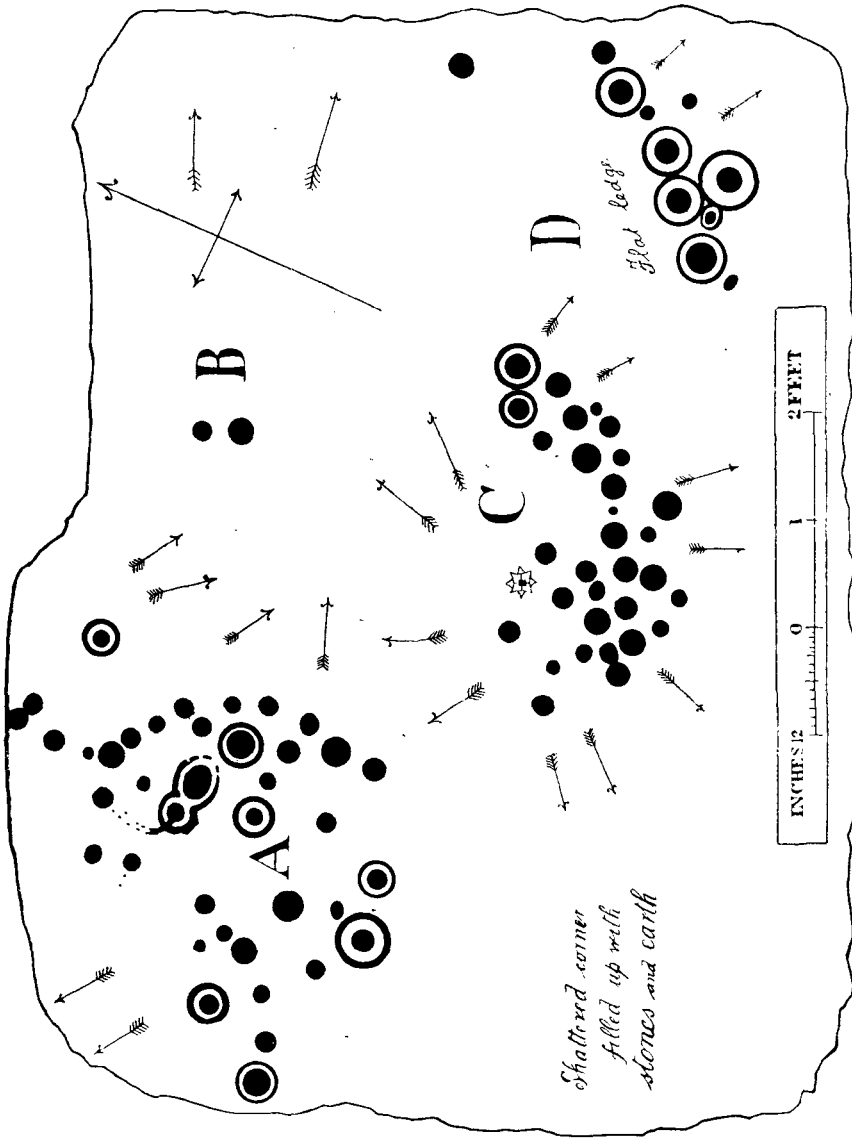


Fig. 20. Cup- and Ring-marked Boulder at Arochie, Rothiemay.

either connecting the cups or passing out of any of them. The cups vary in size from $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Fifteen of them measure 3 inches in diameter, thirteen measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and thirteen measure 2 inches; eleven of them are $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, seven are $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide; and the two extreme diameters of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches are represented each by only one cup. The largest of the rings measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and the smallest 4 inches.

In group A the largest oval and its ring are connected with a small cup and its ring; and in group D the smallest ringed oval is appended to the largest ring on the Stone.

I believe I am right in stating that the discovery and first notice (in the district) of this interesting boulder is due to the observation of Mr Smith, formerly station-master at Rothiemay.

No. 2. In Fordyce Kirkyard.—The fact of there being a table-stone here, the upper surface of which is covered with cup-marks, was first brought to my notice by Dr W. Cramond of Cullen in 1903, who sent photographs of the Stone. As this is probably the first instance reported of a cup-marked tombstone in Scotland, we shall await with interest a description, with an illustration of these cup-marks, from the pen of Mr J. G. Callander, who has promised to examine the marks.

No. 3. Hilton, Glass, Aberdeenshire.—This group, as well as the next, was first noticed many years ago by Mr James M'William, farmer at Chapel Hill, in the parish of Glass. It was, however, only in 1903 that, in a letter describing the Stone Circle at Huntly,¹ Mr M'William referred to some cup- and ring-marked Stones located near his farm. Both the Stones had, in the meantime, been acquired by the proprietor, J. W. Grant, Esq., of Beldorney; and, on my writing to him for particulars, Mr Grant supplemented verbal information by presenting to the Museum a cast of the larger Stone. From this and a rubbing the annexed illustrations (figs. 22 and 23) were made. The larger one represents a portion of the flattish upper surface of a diorite boulder of which the cup-marked part measures 2 feet 1 inch by 1 foot 8 inches.

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvi. p. 568.

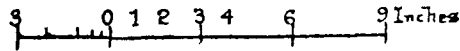
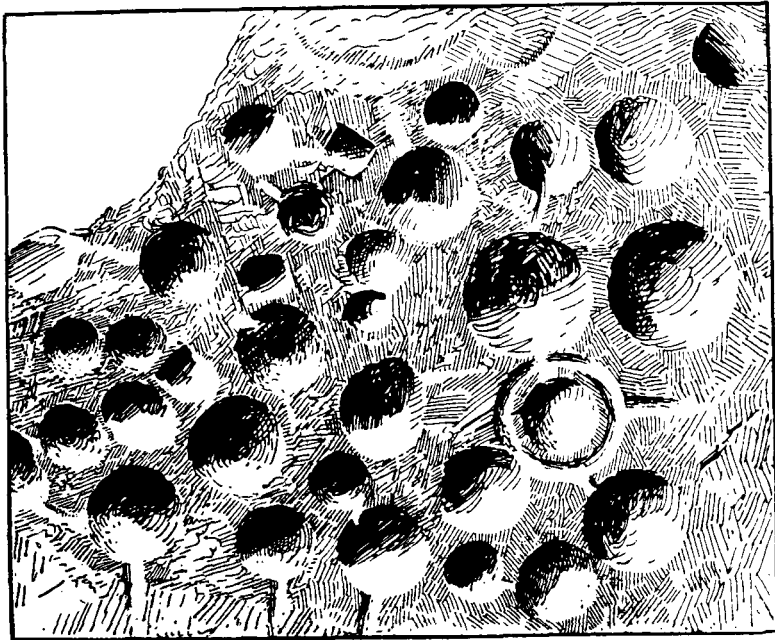


Fig. 21. Cup-marked Boulder at Hilton, Glass, Aberdeenshire.

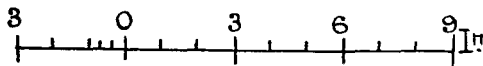
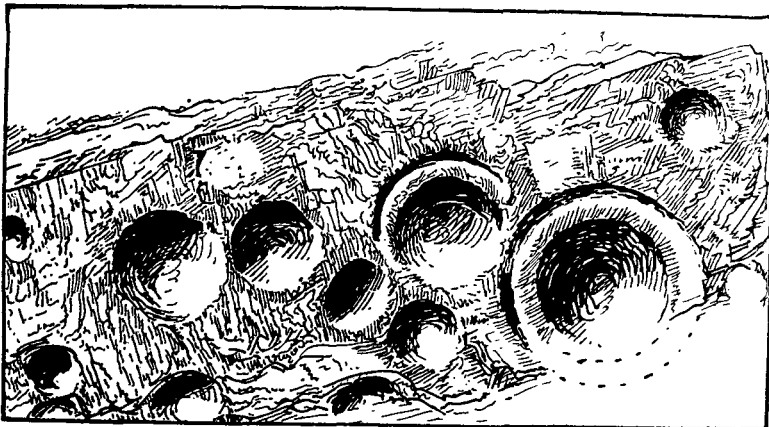


Fig. 22. Cups and Rings on Boulder at Hilton, Glass, Aberdeenshire.

It contains twenty-nine cups, one, near the centre, quite an oval; and, in addition, a small but very distinct oblong "cup." One of the middle-sized cups has a distinct ring and two grooves, and, in the majority of the others, short vague grooves are also traceable. The largest cups are $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 2 inches deep, the smallest $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep.

The other drawing shows a fragment only of a block of diorite, also from the neighbourhood of Hilton (fig. 25). Eleven cups can be traced on it, two of them being surrounded with rings. One cup is remarkably small and the largest is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

No. 4. Bluebell Wood, Langside.—The first notice of the Stone incised with the design shown below was due to Mr W. A. Donnelly, who contributed a description and a sketch to *The Glasgow Evening Times* of 25th June 1902. Later, Mr Ludovic Mann, at my request, sent me certain notes he had taken of the cup- and ring-marks. But prior to this, the Stone itself had, on the instigation of Mr Donnelly, I think, been removed from its site in the wood, and placed near one of the entrances to the new Kelvinside Museum. There I saw it and made measurements in July 1903.

The Bluebell Wood lies in a curving line to the west and south of Langside House, and the cup-marked Stone was at a point in the southern extremity of the wood, above and north of the river Cart.

It is interesting to be able also to record that the longer axis of the Stone lay almost precisely north and south, and the opposite axis east and west.¹

The Stone is of a hard, whitish sandstone, a good deal weathered and rounded at the edges. It measures 4 feet 9 inches in length and 3 feet 2 inches in breadth, and varies in thickness from 2 feet 6 inches to 1 foot 7 inches. The striation of the Stone has helped to efface the cuttings, which, though perfectly clear and measurable, are shallow in proportion

¹ Though the fact that the Stone has for long been used as a seat must prevent us from laying much stress upon the position of the marks, there is no evidence to show that it was moved into its recent site.

to their width. And this feature I have endeavoured to portray in the accompanying illustration (fig. 24). Beginning at the north end of the Stone, there is one cup placed just where the outermost ring of that group touches the edge of the Stone. The ring has a groove leading towards but not into a central cup, and four other cups are placed on the two outermost rings, there being four rings in this group. The middle

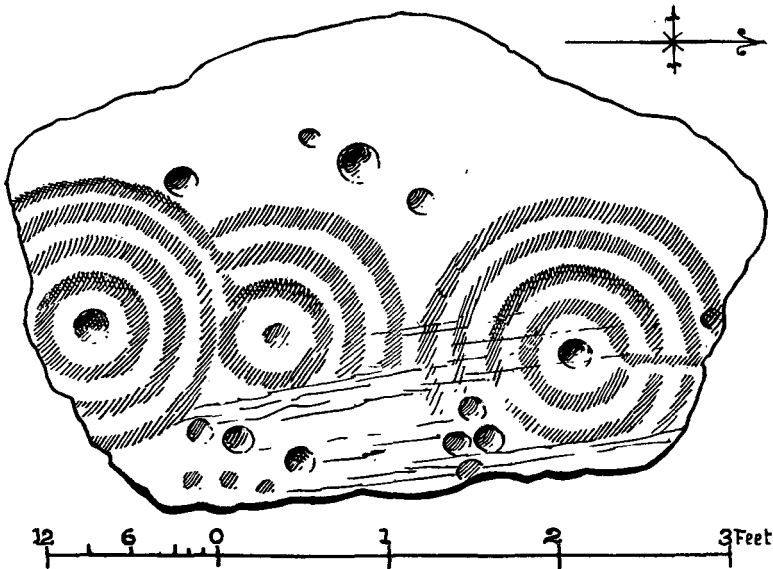


Fig. 23. Cup- and Ring-marked Stone found in Bluebell Wood, Langside.

group consists of a central cup and three rings, flanked on the west by a row of three cups (one of which is the largest of all), and on the east by a double row of six cups three of which are almost obliterated. This middle group is imperfectly concentric, two of its arcs running into the fourth ring of the group on the south, which has a fine deeply picked central cup. All the better-preserved rings are very nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width of cutting.

The diameters of the outermost rings in each group are—of the north

group 1 foot 9 inches, of the middle group 1 foot 5 inches, and of the south group 1 foot 7 inches. The cups vary in diameter from 3 inches to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Considering the extremely easily weathered nature of this Stone, and

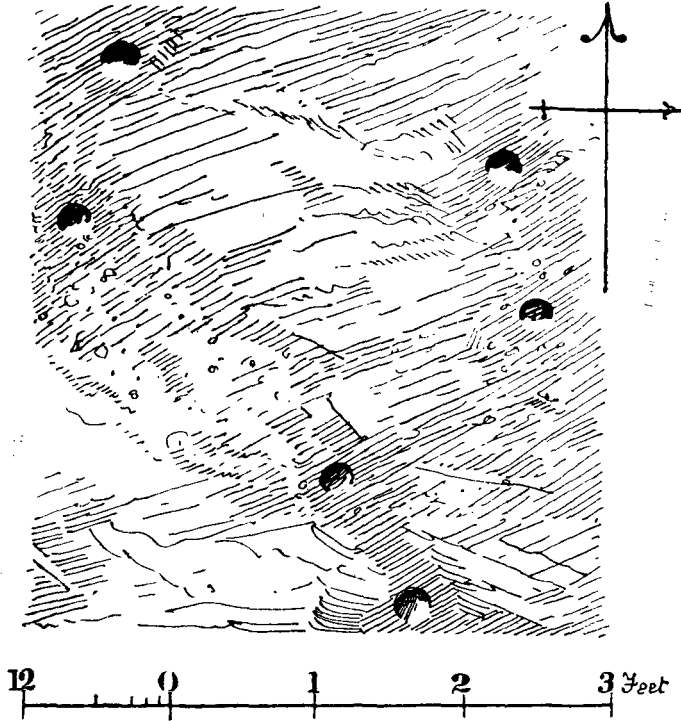


Fig. 24. Cup-marked Rock on Craigmaddie Muir.

the fact that its sculptured surface has already suffered much ill-usage, its present position, near the entrance of the Art Galleries, entirely unprotected by a railing and exposed to all sorts of abuse by casual passers-by as well as the weather, is not a fit and proper place for a Stone of such interest.

No. 5. *Craigmaddie Muir, Strathblane*.—On the day of my visit, in the company of Mr Callander and Mr Mann, to examine the great Stones called *The Auld Wives' Lifts*, we observed numerous flat surfaces of the sandstone cropping out among the heather. At a point some 300 yards nearly due south of *The Auld Wives' Lifts*, I found the group of six

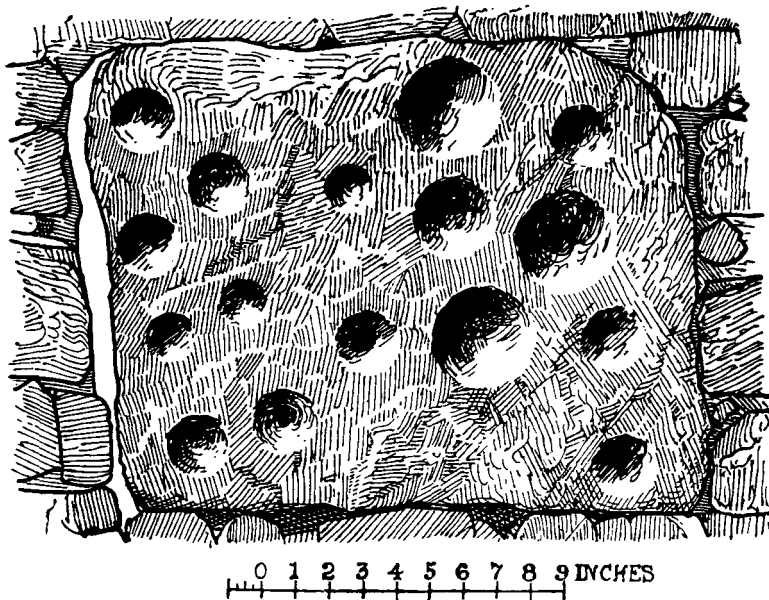


Fig. 25. Cup-marked Stone at Arngask, near Glenfarg.

small but distinct cup-marks shown in fig. 25. We carefully measured them, and the drawing shows a disposition of cups in pairs equidistant, forming a group which is, I think, quite unlike any other hitherto noticed.¹ The cups in each group are 13 inches apart, measured between their centres. Three of them, also, are 39 inches apart, measured in the same way. They are all $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and not over $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in depth.

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvi. p. 218, for a group somewhat similar.

No. 6. Arngask, Glenfarg, Perthshire.—The small Stone bearing the very clear and well-made cups shown in the next illustration (fig. 26) was brought to my notice by Dr Mungle of Kinross during the summer of 1905. How long before that it may have been known, I cannot state; but it was some time ago built into the east wall of the churchyard, not many feet to the south of the gate.

The Stone is an oblong block of blue whin, measuring 18 by $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It contains sixteen plain cups which vary in diameter from 3 inches to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and are all deep and neatly executed.

No. 7. Kirkmuir, Kirkdale, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—In a former paper¹ I put on record, through the readily afforded help of Mr Adam Birrell of the Creetown Salmon Fishings, a fine group of cup- and ring-marks found on Cambret Moor, Kirkmabreck. In July 1903 a notice occurred in *The Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*, of which I give the following abridgment:—

Another interesting group of cup- and ring-markings has been discovered on Kirkmuir, near Kirkdale. Mr Robert Wilson, Cairnholy, made the discovery this spring. They are situated in a field midway between Cairnholy² and Kirkdale old churchyard. The plough was the first to unearth them, as they were just six inches below the surface; and on further investigation were found to consist of fourteen finely cut cups round two of which are the usual ring-marks.

The writer then goes on to note the various localities in the Kirkmabreck district where cup-marked stones or rocks are to be seen. These are at Ringdow, near Mossyard, at Lagganmullen, at Cauldside (on Cairnharrow), at Cambret,³ on Glenquicken Muir, at Bardristane, and at Cardoness.

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii. p. 219, and xxxiii. p. 369.

² Cairnholy and its adjacent lands are specially interesting. See *Proceedings*, vol. xxiii. p. 151, and *The Reliquary*, vol. iii., No. 14, p. 8.

³ This Cambret sculpturing, which consists of a fine group of seven concentric rings enclosing a central cup, may quite possibly be the stone described so long ago by Rev. Andrew Symson as the "stone that hath on it that draught commonly called the walls of Troy" (see *Proceedings*, xxxiii. p. 369).

No. 8. *Monreith, Mochrum, Wigtownshire*.—In a recently published brochure¹ from the versatile pen of Mr Andrew Lang, there occurs the following brief notice :—

“I have seen the archaic patterns of concentric circles and fish spines (or whatever we call the medial line with slanting side lines) neatly designed in white on the flagstones in front of cottage doors in Galloway. The cottagers dwelt near the rocks with similar patterns on the estate of Monreith.”

Under the impression that the rocks at Monreith with concentric rings, etc., had never been recorded, I at once, on reading the above passage, wrote to Sir Herbert Maxwell. His reply was to the following effect :—

“There are several (four)² cup- and ring-marked rocks on this estate, most of which I caused the Ordnance surveyors to mark on their latest maps. One rock, a glaciated surface of Lower Silurian, within a mile of this house, bears a very extensive group. The road-surveyor began quarrying for road-metal there some years ago, and brought me word of the sculptures, which he found upon stripping the turf. I stopped the destruction, and had the rock scheduled as an ancient monument. The remainder of the turf has never been removed, so I do not know how far the carvings extend. There are three large monoliths in the next field, 9 and 10 feet high. The place is called Drumtrodden = *Druimtrodain*, “The ridge of strife.”

This discovery, and the prompt action taken by Sir Herbert Maxwell towards the preservation of the sculptured rock, occurred so long ago as 1883. Three years later an account of some of these sculptured surfaces appeared in *The Galloway Gazette*, accompanied by (so far as I recollect) only one illustration. This was described and reproduced³ in my last notice of Cup- and Ring-marks.

In another letter Sir Herbert Maxwell names four other farm-lands as having rock-sculptures. These are: Barwinnock, Balcraig, Knock, and Blairbuy. Of none of these have we as yet any record whatsoever.

¹ *The Clyde Mystery*, p. 93.

² *Five*, in reality, as will be seen later on.

³ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii. p. 222.