

III.

REPORT ON STONE CIRCLES SURVEYED IN PERTHSHIRE (ABERFELDY DISTRICT); WITH MEASURED PLANS AND DRAWINGS (OBTAINED UNDER THE GUNNING FELLOWSHIP). BY FRED R. COLES, ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

The megalithic sites surveyed during the August of 1909 are scattered over a district of unusually wide extent and mountainous character, of which the interesting little town of Aberfeldy may be called the centre, though not strictly so in the topographical sense, but rather as a most convenient headquarters. Portions of the district near Aberfeldy were previously visited, and descriptions of the sites therein have appeared in the two Reports preceding this one. But in a district so richly megalithic as some parts of this are, it is well-nigh impossible in a single month to overtake all the sites, partly because the personal knowledge of local residents comes in as an important factor in enlarging the list of sites prepared by consulting the records on the Ordnance Maps.

In a general way, the district now to be reported on may be described as extending from Kinloch-Rannoch, fourteen miles nearly N.W. of Aberfeldy, to Airlich in Strathbraan, about six miles W. of Dunkeld, and from Farragon Moor N. of Aberfeldy, to Kinnell, near Killin, at the southern extremity of Loch Tay. Within these imaginary limits are included the mountains of Schiehallion (3547), Carn Mairg (3419) in the Pass of Lyon, Farragon Hill (2559), and Ben Lawers (3984), besides numerous lofty moorlands and woodlands of no inconsiderable altitude on both shores of Loch Tay. But it is only in certain of the much less elevated localities that the megaliths are found. As, more-

over, they occur here in groups clearly separated from one another, it will be most convenient to deal with the sites of each group.

I. KINLOCH-RANNOCH GROUP.

No. 1. Seomar na Stainge.—This is the name given on the Ordnance Map to a site indicated by a circular dotted line; and its resemblance in that respect to the symbol used in other Perthshire districts for a low circular rampart (described in the Report for 1908) induced me to think that that uncommon variety of "circle" might be found to extend to this distant westerly locality. On reaching the site, after some difficulty, as there are no conspicuous Standing Stones, we found it to be a flat-topped, circular mound, entirely and unbrokenly surrounded by a deep, broad, well-defined trench. This discovery amply justifies the meaning previously given to me by Mr W. J. Watson¹ for the name *Seomar na Stainge*, Chamber of the Stank, Moat, or Ditch.

The central mound, not high enough to be the roof of a true chambered Cairn, is about 40 feet in diameter, and appears to be composed of small stones and earth; the moat, about 16 feet wide and 5 feet deep, is also stony. The whole site is thickly grass-grown. As this curious and novel structure does not possess any erect stones, no plan of it is shown; but this, probably the first, record of its existence as an archæological remain may be of use in the future. *Seomar na Stainge* occupies a position about 660 feet above sea-level in an extensive clover-field close to the heather on the haugh of the river Tummel, 300 yards S.W. of it, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile E.S.E. of the hotel at Kinloch-Rannoch. We shall, later on, be able to compare another circular structure almost identical with this.

No. 2. Clach na Boile.—The massive monolith so named on the O.M. (fig. 1) stands about one-third of a mile S.W. of *Seomar na Stainge*, close to the public road, on its north near Dalchosnie. Like nearly all the Stones erected throughout the district, it is composed of the gritty schistose rock, dark gray in colour, and to some extent

¹ Now Rector of the High School, Edinburgh.

quartzitic. Its base is a broad oblong, measuring N.E. side 2 feet 11 inches, S.W. side 2 feet 3 inches, N.W. side 3 feet 1 inch, and S.E. side 3 feet 3 inches, making in all a girth of 11 feet 6 inches. Towards the top the sides taper gradually so that the head of the stone girths 9 feet 2 inches. The greatest height is 4 feet. A diagonal line running

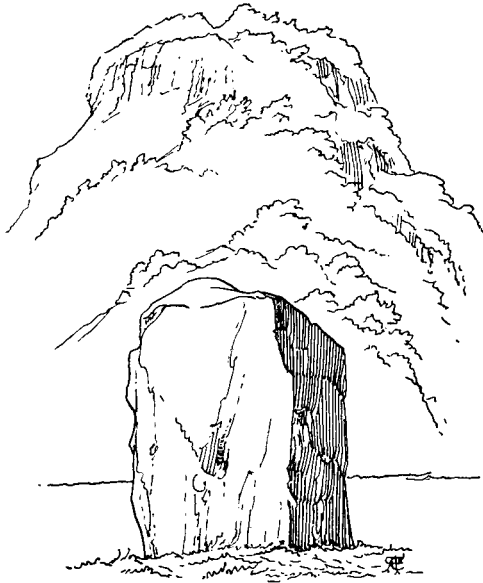


Fig. 1. Clach na Boile, Kinloch-Rannoch ; View from the South.

due north across the top points to the little gap in the grand wooded cliff which is the lower and precipitous portion of the noble mass of *Beinn A'Chuallaich* on the distant side of the Tummel. Mr Watson interprets the name *Clach na Boile* as Stone of Delirium, comparing it with *Làirig Bhreislich* (which is between Glen Lyon and Glen Lochy), Pass of Delirium. There should be a legend annexed ; but this I was unable to corroborate from local information.

II. FORTINGAL GROUP.

No. 3. *Standing Stone, Fortingal Churchyard.*—This Stone has a remarkable, if not an unique, history. I am informed by Rev. W. Campbell, minister of the parish, that in 1903, when some alterations were being made in that portion of the burying-ground belonging to the late Sir Donald Currie of Garth, the workmen came upon this Stone lying at a depth of 8 feet, at a point not many feet distant from the stem of the famous Yew-tree. Noticing the cup-marks on the Stone, the work-

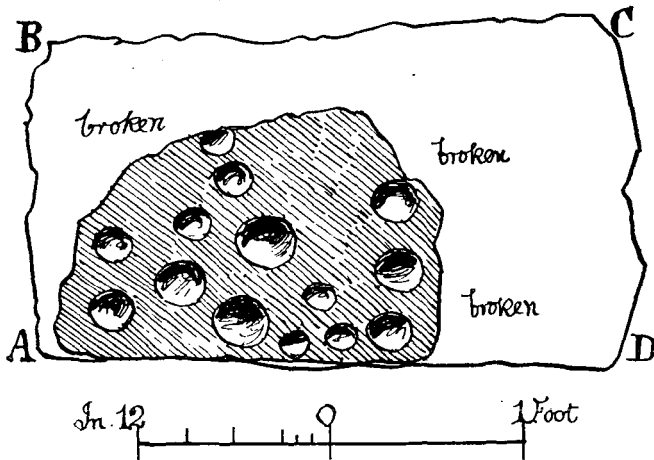


Fig. 2. Cup-marked Stone, Fortingal Churchyard.

men raised it and set it up erect on the site it now occupies, close to the western wall of the Garth burial-ground—about 25 feet from the spot where it was unearthed.

In the plan annexed (fig. 2) the oblong bounded by the letters A B C D shows the dimensions of the base, and the small cup-marked surface, evidently much broken, and 2 feet 10 inches above ground, shows all that now remains of the work of the pre-historic artificer.

There are no rings or grooves, and the cups, except for clearness and neatness of finish, do not present any special features. If, however,

these cup-marked stones, upon whose purpose and symbolism we possess even yet no certain knowledge, were actually used by the followers of some remote pagan cult, then the discovery of this specimen, under the shade of the ancient Yew-tree, and at a depth in the ground which suggests intentional burial, may lend colour to the theory of a continuity of the survival of superstitions connected with it from Bronze Age times.

No. 4. Dalreoch Standing Stone and Cairn.—In the wide, flat haughs between the river Lyon and Fortingal village there are clear remains of a squarish earthwork (so named on the O.M.). It has steep escarpments and a deepish moat. This place in local parlance passes for the “prætorium” of a great “Roman camp,” which is believed to spread itself out to a vast extent on the west.¹ Near that extremity there is a circular, flat-topped Cairn wholly engirt by a trench of the same plan and general appearance as *Seomar na Stainge* above described—with this important addition, that on the centre of the Cairn there once stood a tall and a massive monolith, which was many years ago (probably *circa* 1778) undermined in the vain hope of discovering treasure, and now lies

¹ No evidence has ever been brought under my notice in favour of the hypothesis that this site was a Roman camp; and the fact of the so-called “prætorium” being small, deeply moated, and situated to the extreme east of the “camp,” rather enforces scepticism on the subject. In the *Old Statistical Account*, vol. ii. p. 456, the Rev. Duncan M’Ara says, “The late Lord Breadalbane employed some labourers to dig for antiquities; all they got was three urns.” Chalmers (*Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 174 *n.*), in addition to the three “urns,” mentions also a copper vessel, with a beak, handle, and three feet, evidently one of those mediæval brass ewers which at that date were thought to be Roman. Mr Campbell has referred me to a book by the late Rev. Samuel Fergusson, parish minister in 1860; in this occurs the following passage:—“Within a circular enclosure marked by a rude obelisk, several Roman remains have been found; one, a Roman standard, within the shaft of which is a five-fluted spear, now preserved in Troup House.” The “standard,” however, may be identified with the “walking-staff” figured by Pennant (*Tour in Scotland*, vol. i. p. 103), which he saw at the house of Col. Campbell of Glen Lyon, and which is described as “of iron cased in leather, 5 feet long; at the top a neat pair of extended wings like a *caduceus*, but on being shaken, a poignard, 2 feet 9 inches long, darted out.” As shown by the engraving, it is a “swin-feather” or musket-rest of seventeenth century, with a concealed pike in the head of the staff.

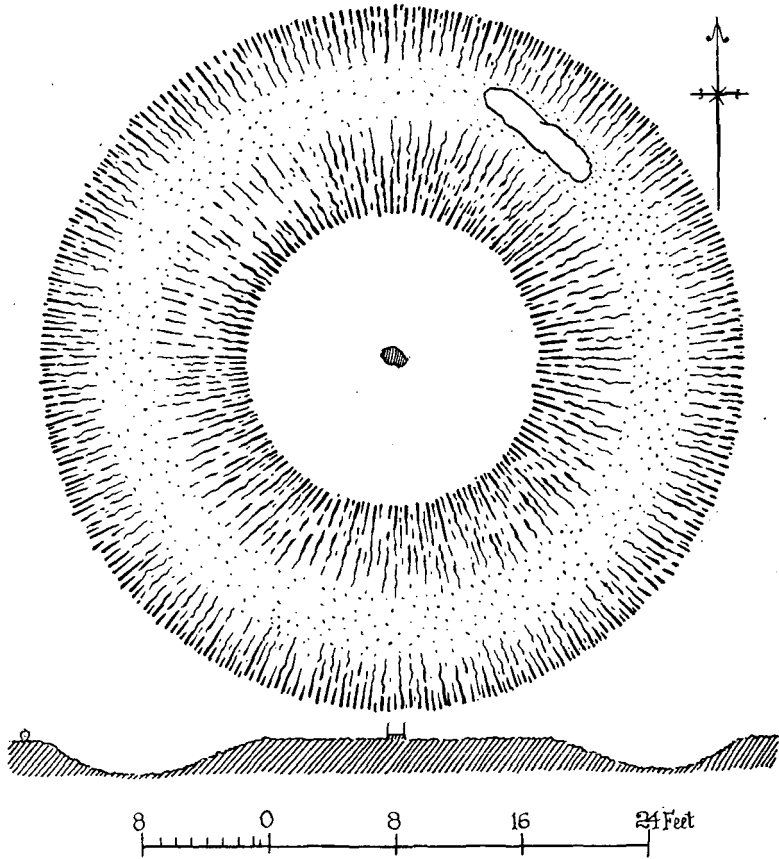


Fig. 3. Cairn with Monolith at Dalreoch, Fortingal ; Ground-plan and section.

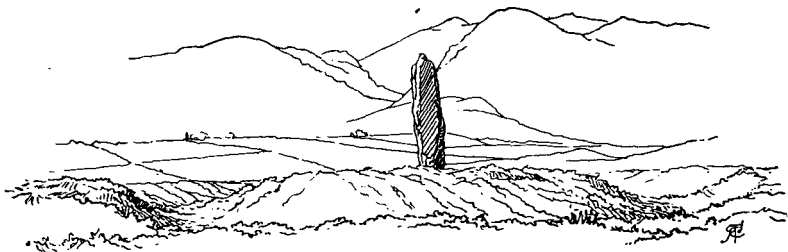


Fig. 4. View of Cairn at Dalreoch, Fortingal, with the Monolith in its original position.

prostrate in the trench to the east of the Cairn. The Stone is cup-marked.

I have ventured, with the assistance of Rev. W. Campbell, to restore this structure to its original condition in the accompanying plan and drawing (figs. 3 and 4), and in the next illustration (fig. 5) the cup-marks are shown to scale on the Stone as it now lies. The Cairn, measured across its flat top, is 18 feet wide; the trench, measured from its upper edge to the edge of the Cairn, is 13 feet 9 inches wide, and its depth may be averaged at about 2 feet 4 inches.¹

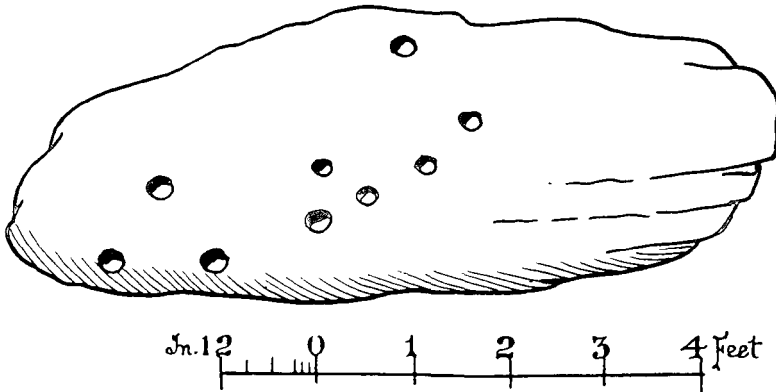


Fig. 5. The Monolith as it now lies, showing Cup-marks.

No. 5. *Standing Stone, Dalreoch*.—Not many score yards in a south-westerly direction from the last site there stands this monolith. It is not marked on the O.M.² In ground-plan it is a roughly rhombus-shaped block of quartzose schist, deeply riven vertically. Its basal

¹ In the *Proceedings*, vol. xviii. p. 376, Mr Stewart gives the measurements as "about 30 feet in diameter, surrounded by a fosse 9 feet broad," with an outer mound or enclosure encircling it. He conducted a partial excavation, the result of which was that he found a cairn of smallish stones about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, in which two small flagstones were unearthed, and under them "a few fragments of bones very much decayed"; these were human bones, and the interment was between the centre of the mound and its southern edge.

² Neither is the above described Cairn with its trench and Standing Stone marked on the O.M.

girth is 11 feet 5 inches. Its longest side runs E.S.E. and W.N.W., and its greatest height, which is at the N.E. angle, is 6 feet 2 inches. Appended is a view (fig. 6) taken from the S.S.E., showing the steep contours of the great hills forming the entrance to the Pass of Lyon, as a background.

No. 6. St Moloch's Stone.—This is a large perched boulder, near the

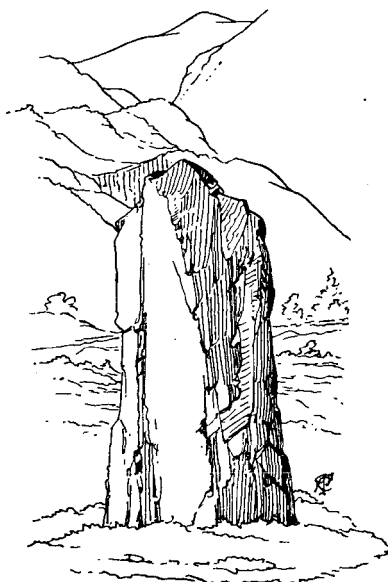


Fig. 6. Standing Stone near Dalreoch, Fortingal.

west end of the row of cottages at Fortingal, on the west of the hotel. Tradition says that the joughs were attached to it, and it is also said to be cup-marked.

No. 7. Remains of Circle at Cromraor.—Of this there is a brief and somewhat vague notice by Mr Charles Stewart,¹ who says: "Mr Haggart

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xviii. p. 377. Most of the other Stones in the immediate vicinity are also here noticed.

remarked to me that from the name of a place in Fortingal called *Cromraor* (*raor* meaning haugh) there would be a circle found there. Mr Haggart accordingly visited the locality, and found a circle as he

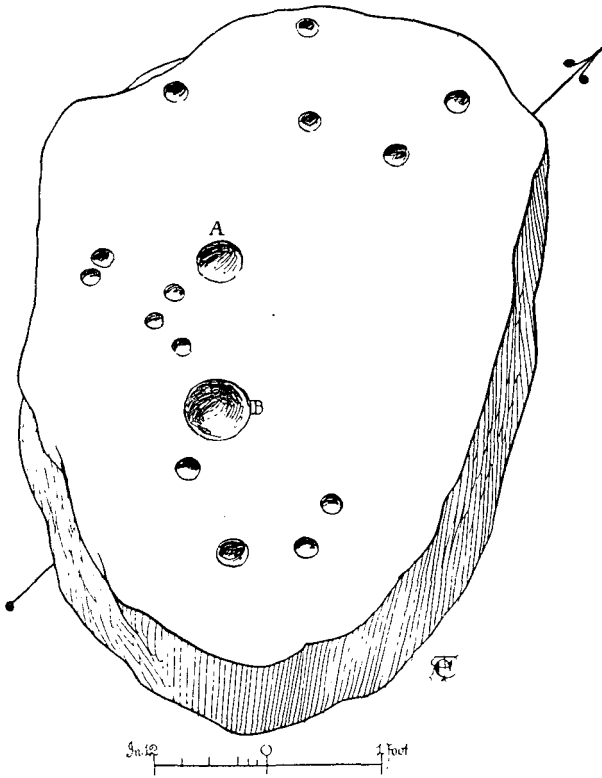


Fig. 7. Cup-marked Stone at Cromraor, near Fearnan.

had anticipated," etc. In an upland locality so, comparatively speaking, full of stones and boulders, it is an extremely difficult task to find any one particular Stone, and therefore to be certain that the site described is the site found.

On inquiring at a cottage in Fearnan, a very old man, who was our interlocutor, declared he knew nothing of any conspicuous Standing Stones arranged in a Circle at Cromraor. He did refer to a Stone with a basin-like artificial depression in it—the *Clach na Cruich*, on the farm of Borland at Fearnan. This is the well-known Stone of the Measles. It has already been described and figured by Rev. Hugh Macmillan.¹

To the east of the road, however, some 400 yards N.E. of the roadside cottage at *Clach na Tuirc*, there is, rather high up on the slope of the green fields, a prominent boulder. It occupies a position almost in the centre of a rocky knoll here, the lower edges of which are studded with several great boulders and one or two outcrops of rock. It is just possible that these, lying as they do in a singularly circular line around the cup-marked Stone, were taken to be the members of a true Stone Circle. To my mind they appeared to be natural objects. At any rate, the site is an interesting one, and the marks on the central boulder are very well shaped and distinct.

The upper surface, which measures 5 feet 9 inches by 4 feet 4 inches, has a decided downward slope towards the east. At the N.W. end it is fully 3 feet 7 inches above the ground. The cup-marks are arranged as shown in the illustration (fig. 7): five form a straggling group at the upper end, none of them remarkably large or deep; towards the middle of the boulder are eight, which may be taken as a group, two of which are exceptionally large and smoothly cut, A being $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $1\frac{1}{2}$ deep, and B 7 inches wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep; at the lower end there are three separate cups of the ordinary size, thus completing a total of sixteen cups.²

III. LOCH TAYSIDE GROUP.

No. 8. *Stone Circle at Machuinn, Lawers*.—Passing along the west shore of Loch Tay, we have on the right hand, travelling south, the

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xviii. 370.

² Near Cromraor, close to the cottage at *Clach na Tuirc*, stands the large boulder bearing that name, the Boar Stone. Its highest point is about six feet above the road, and bears one very distinct cup-mark.

great, broad, grassy slopes of the lower portions of Ben Lawers; and, at about three and a half miles from Stron Fearnan pier, on a sloping field west of the road very shortly before it crosses Lawers Burn, the Stones of this Circle arrest the eye. The site is shown on the O.M. between the 700- and the 800-foot contour-lines, and it is about three hundred yards east from Machuinn.

The six massive stones originally constituting this Circle now occupy the positions shown in the plan (fig. 8), extending over a space of about 22 feet by 19 feet, and rather nearer the west end than in the middle of a long, oval, strongly-defined artificial-looking mound which measures about 45 by 36 feet. The edges, as well as the interior, of the mound are so densely overgrown with a vigorous growth of bracken and small bushes as to preclude a thorough investigation. The diameter of the Circle, measured through the centres of the Standing stones, is 19 feet 6 inches.

The dimensions of the Stones are :—

Stone A,	4 feet 10 inches	high,	vertical ;	basal girth	12 feet 5 inches.
„ B,	4 „ 0 „	nearly „ ;	„	12 „ 3 „	
„ C,	3 „ 7 „	high, „ ;	„	8 „ 6 „	
„ D,	5 „ 7 „	long by three feet	broad ;	fallen.	
„ E,	4 „ 5 „	high, vertical ;	basal girth	10 feet 0 inches.	
„ F,	6 „ 5 „	long by 4 feet 10 inches	broad ;	fallen,	1 foot thick.

Between A and B and B and C are small earth-fast Stones, about ten inches high, and close to D is an oblong slab too small to have formed one of the Standing Stones; it may have been moved from a more central spot between D and E. Between E and F there lies part of what appears to be a somewhat large Stone, nearly flush with the ground, flat, and with its inner edge running into the grass. The position of Stone F suggests that, when erect, its narrow end was embedded and its broad end stood up perhaps to the height of 4 feet 6 inches or thereby; if so, it would be well in keeping with the

others. I think, also, that Stone D was originally based close to where the oblong flat stone beside it now lies. Allowing about 2 feet for

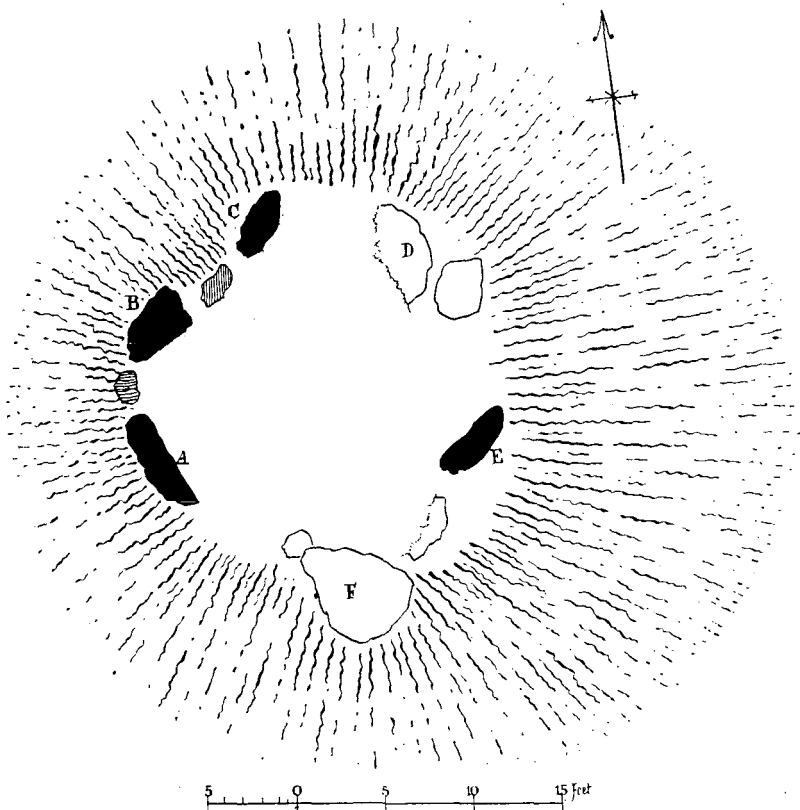


Fig. 8. Stone Circle at Machuinn, Lawers ; Plan.

depth in founding, its top would have been about parallel with that of Stone C, its nearest companion. The mound upon which these Stones are set has its longer axis almost exactly due east and west ; the centres of Stones E and A have the same bearing, and the centres of F and C

are precisely due north and south. The height of the mound above the surrounding field is difficult to obtain on account of the overgrown

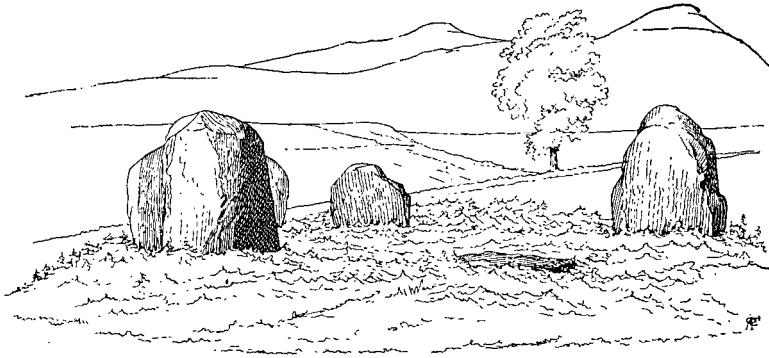


Fig. 9. View of Stone Circle at Machuinn, Lawers, from the South.

condition of the interior, which is, moreover, very full of small and uneven stones, giving the surface a very rough appearance, suggestive of

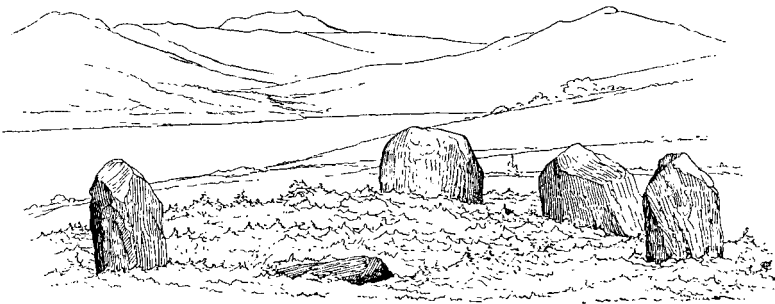


Fig. 10. View of Stone Circle at Machuinn, Lawers, from the North.

some attempts at excavation. I estimated the height to be about 3 feet. That it is definite and clear may be seen from the two illustrations given in figs. 9 and 10. In the former, taken at a point

a few yards to the south, are shown the two picturesque hill-summits so conspicuous on the way up to Ben Lawers, East Meall Odhar, and Meall Graidhe. In the latter, a view from the north, Loch Tay in its southern reach forms the middle distance, and the great hills clustering about Glen Lednock fill in the background.

IV. KILLIN GROUP.

No. 9. Stone Circle at Kinnell, near Killin.—This estate, famous, among other things, for its unrivalled vine, possesses a particularly good specimen of the megalithic craft of the pre-historic times in this fine Circle of six Stones.¹ Close to a high wall bounding the southern extremity of the policies, in a broad level field called Kinnell Park, and at a height above sea-level of 400 feet, this monument still remains nearly as it was erected thousands of years ago, one Stone only having partly succumbed either to the elements or to some misguided attempt at excavation near its base. The surrounding scenery is highly impressive; towards the west are the fine rugged steeps of rock interspersed with green slopes of Stronachlachar; to the south, the river Dochart with Ben More and other mountains filling in the distance; on the east, woodlands, and above them heathery hills; while near the northern arc there are Ben Lawers and the superbly picturesque summit of Craig Cailleach. Were it not for the present growth and proximity of many fine trees, more of the hills on Loch Tayside might be included in this noble panorama. To the satisfaction, also, of both antiquary and surveyor, the level smoothness of the greensward has been left around the Circle.

Taking the Stones in the usual order (fig. 11), I here give their dimensions and characteristics:—Stone A, 6 feet 3 inches high, springs from an oblong base which girths 11 feet 4 inches, to a rough irregular top; Stone B leans forward towards the centre of the Circle, and measures along its sloping back 6 feet 9 inches, the present height from

¹ In the *Proceedings*, vol. xviii. p. 374, in a paper by Rev. Hugh Macmillan, D.D., the number is given as "some seven or eight tall massive stones," with a few faint cup-marks on one. These marks we did not detect.

the ground to its upper edge being 4 feet. It is of smooth garnetiferous schist, and free from the deep fissures and rifts so common in these Stones. Stone C, a very rectangular but narrow block of schist, has a

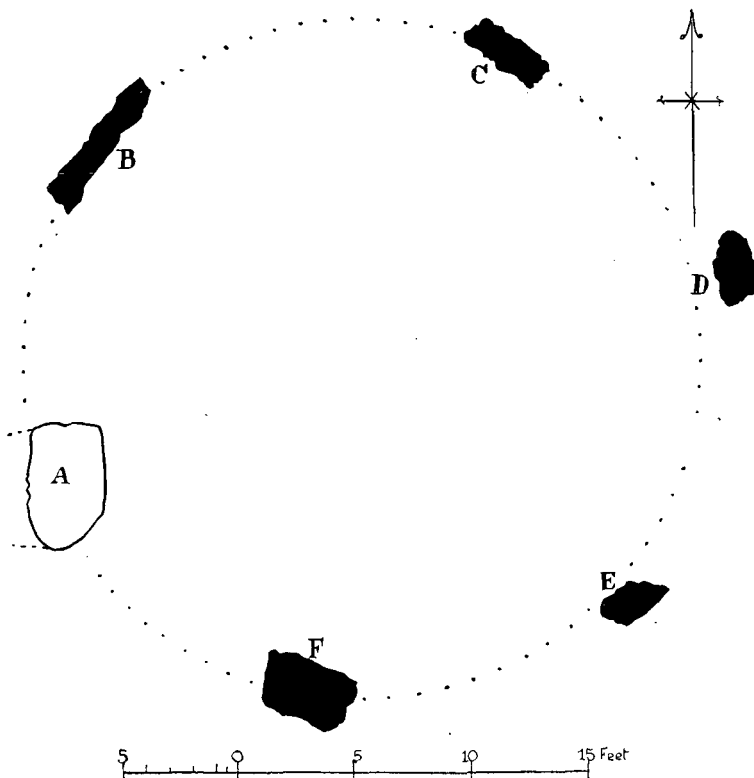


Fig. 11. Ground-plan of Stone Circle at Kinnell, Killin.

girth at the base of 9 feet, but tapers up from both ends to a pyramidal summit, 5 feet 4 inches above ground. Its inner face is over 6 feet in breadth. Stone D, 4 feet 6 inches high, is a broad, flat-topped, very massive block, measuring 9 feet 5 inches round the base, but near the

middle of its height 11 feet 2 inches. Stone E, the shortest of the group, is only 4 feet high, has a rough, uneven top, and a basal girth of 8 feet 11 inches. Stone F, the tallest, measures 6 feet 4 inches in height, but in girth only 7 feet 3 inches. It is very rough, vertically fissured in many places, and full of white quartz veins.

Neat, well-defined, and comparatively small as this Circle is, it is to be noticed that the positions of the Stones do not conform to perfect regularity as points on the circumference. On working out the plan, the measurements prove that a diameter of 29 feet exactly bisects three of the erect Stones, B, C, and F, but leaves the other two untouched. The interspaces of the settings are not all quite equal, a space of 14 feet 8 inches dividing the centres respectively of F and A, A and B, F and E, and E and D; but between D and C it is 13 feet 8 inches, and between C and B 18 feet 5 inches. Yet, the Stones stand proportionally near enough to each other to give one a satisfying impression that these six megaliths represent the group in its completeness, and that there were no smaller blocks between any two of them. The space enclosed by these stones is quite smooth and level, bearing no indication of having at any time been disturbed. The two accompanying views (figs. 12, 13) are from the S.E. and the S.W.

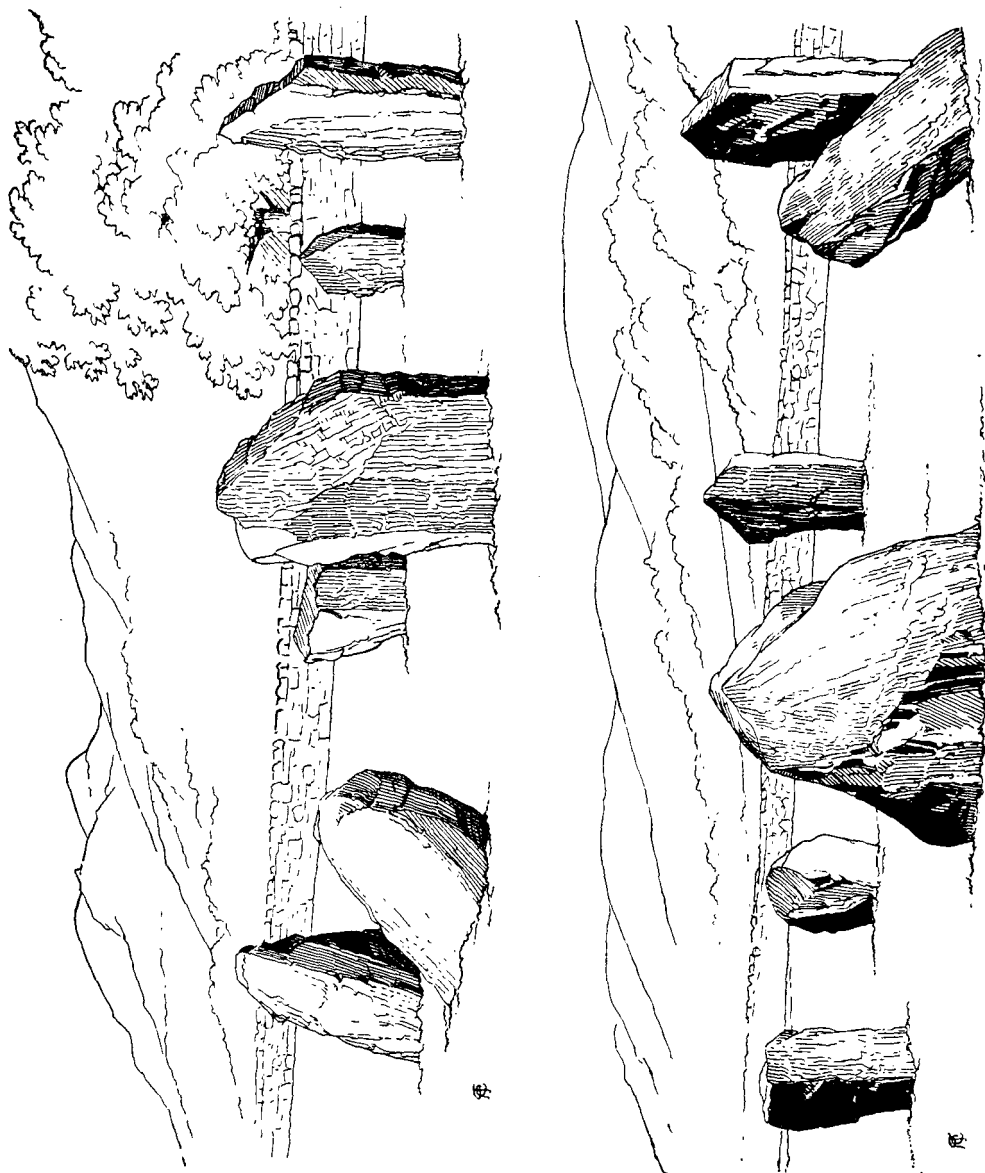
The distance from the site No. 8, at Machuinn, is by road about ten miles to this Circle at Kinnell; and there are no other groups of Standing Stones known to local lore or recorded on the O. M. in any part of this district bordering on Loch Tay, till we reach the

V. KENMORE GROUP.

No. 10. *Stone Circle at Greenland.*—This site has already been recorded and planned by Rev. J. B. Mackenzie,¹ who has been instrumental in having it located and named in the last edition of the Ordnance Survey Maps.² It is in a fir plantation about one mile south-east of

¹ In *Proceedings*, vol. xliii. p. 13.

² It was first brought under Mr Mackenzie's notice by Mr Dugald M'Ewen of Acharn Schoolhouse.



Figs. 12 and 13. Views of the Stone Circle at Kinnell, Killin, from South-east and South-west.

the Falls of Acharn. The stream forming these strikingly beautiful falls has its source on Creagan na Beinne (2909), which hill is four miles due south of Acharn Point on Loch Tay, distant from Kenmore village one mile and a half. Near this part of the Acharn Burn, above the Falls,

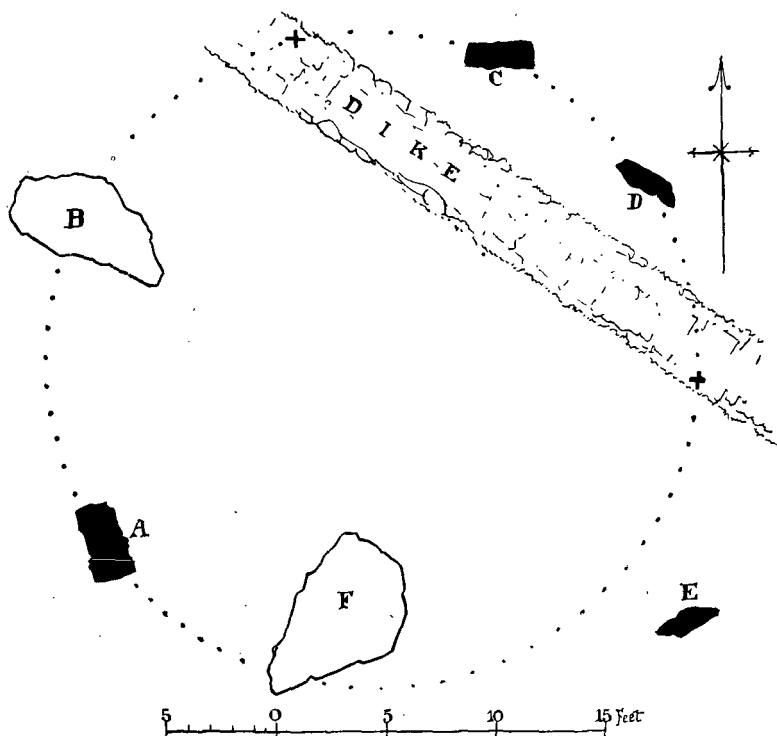


Fig. 14. Ground-plan of Stone Circle at Greenland.

there are three plantations; the Circle is at the east end of the middle one, three-quarters of a mile due east of the Burn, and close to Allt Mhucaidh, a small stream flowing to Remony House. The height above sea-level is about 1240 feet, the highest site to be recorded in the present report.

In a little clearing amid these woods on Craggan Odhar, but disfigured by a dike which separates some of the Stones from the others, stands this Greenland Circle¹ of which the ground-plan is given in fig. 14. The Stones are six in number, of which four are erect, and they all appear to be of the quartzitic schist. Some disturbance has occurred, and it seems probable that there were at least two more Stones originally, one between B and C at the spot marked with a cross, and the other similarly marked midway between D and E. There is, however, no vestige of any Standing Stone in the sides of the dike itself.

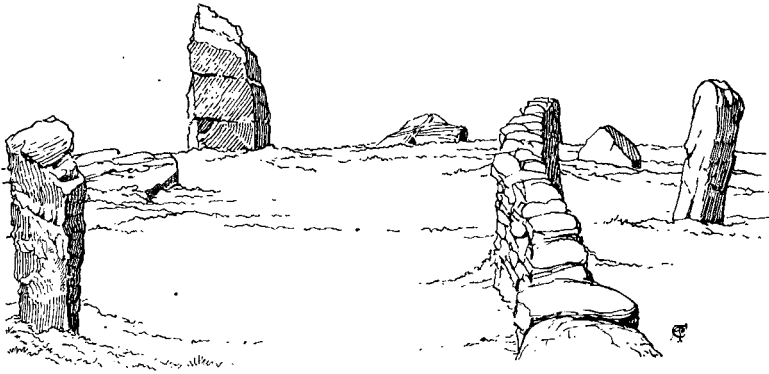


Fig. 15. View of the Stone Circle at Greenland, Kenmore, from the South-east.

On the south-west is Stone A, the tallest, with pointed top, 5 feet 7 inches in height, oblong in contour, and measuring at the base 9 feet 5 inches. Having several deep horizontal fissures, this Stone (see the view, fig. 15) bears an odd resemblance to masonry. The next Stone, B, lies prostrate, measuring 7 feet 9 inches by 4 feet, and about 1 foot in thickness above ground. The little oblong Stone, C, on the other side of the dike, stands only 1 foot 10 inches above ground, and probably is a mere fragment—the stump of a much larger block. At D the Stone

¹ I was informed by an old resident in Acharn who guided us to the Circle, that the former name of the place was Auchlaicha, which I take to mean Field of the Stones.

is 4 feet 3 inches in height, and is a very narrow slab-like piece; Stone E, which has a decided lean over towards the interior of the Circle, is 4 feet 2 inches high, and is in basal girth 6 feet 6 inches. Like the others, it is angular and thinnish in proportion to its breadth. Stone F measures 8 feet 2 inches by 5 feet 2 inches, and its position, with the narrow end resting almost on the circumference, suggests, as in other cases, the probability that it was this narrow end which was buried when the Stone was erected. These blocks were most likely

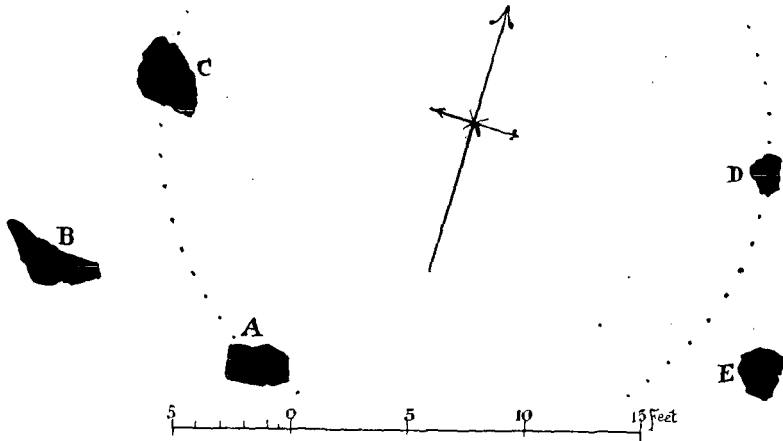


Fig. 16. Ground-plan of Stone Circle near Comrie Bridge, Taymouth Castle.

brought from the low clifty ledges near, for, as the name Craggan Odhar implies, the place was, before being planted, conspicuous for its Grey Craggs.

No. 11. Stone Circle in the Policies of Taymouth Castle.—There are remains of two groups of megaliths within these beautiful and magnificently timbered grounds. One of them is marked on the O. M., and will be presently described; but this group, on the north of the Castle, is not marked, and seems not to be generally known.¹ The site

¹ Rev. J. B. Mackenzie has a passing note of it. See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiv. p. 328.

is close to the river Tay, on its north bank, and the public road to Comrie Bridge¹ passes within a few score yards on the north.

It is exactly 1 mile and 1 furlong due south of Comrie Castle on the Lyon, and the site is near the 350-foot level.

The five Stones here standing, and shown in the ground-plan (fig. 16), bear a strong resemblance in arrangement, in number, and in size to the little group in Glassel Wood, Banchory, investigated several years ago.² None of them is large, or tall, the highest being Stone A, 3 feet 3 inches above ground; D is 3 feet, B 2 feet 10 inches, C 2 feet 3 inches, while E is flat and only a few inches in thickness. Their basal girths, in the same order, are respectively 7 feet 6 inches, 6 feet, 9 feet

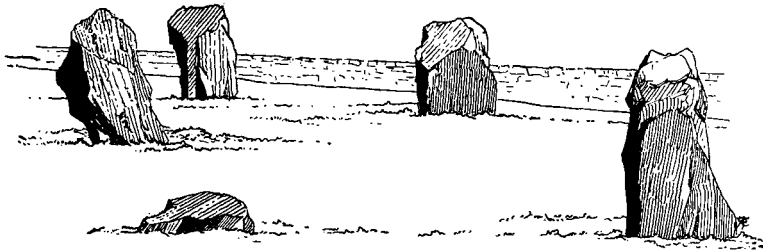


Fig. 17. View of Stone Circle near Comrie Bridge, from the East.

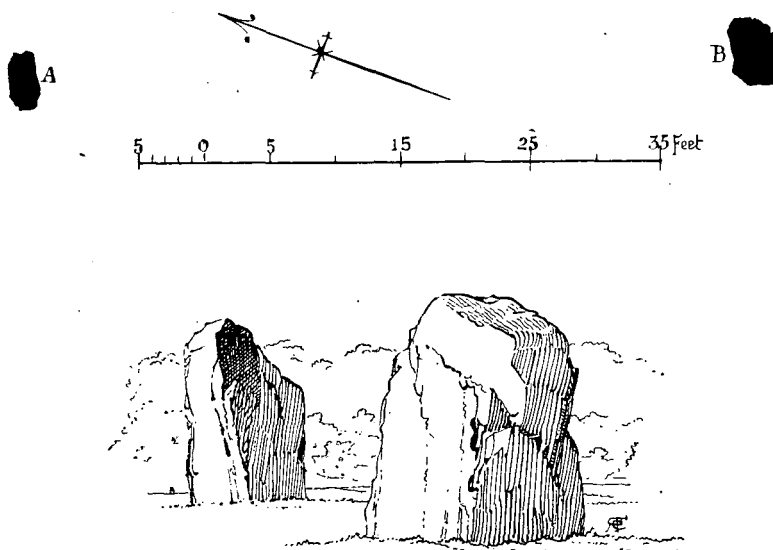
2 inches, 8 feet 11 inches, and 6 feet. Three Stones, A, C, D, rest upon the circumference of a true circle whose diameter is 26 feet; but though B does occupy a symmetrical position on a circle of 31 feet in diameter concentric with the first, the south-east Stone E does not fall in with that arrangement. In the absence of all information regarding the former conditions, especially on the point whether there were other Stones which completed a circle 26 feet wide, we must, I think, in the meantime, be content to place this little group of small Standing Stones,

¹ This Comrie Bridge, crossing the Lyon near its junction with the Tay, should not be confounded with the Comrie Road a long distance to the south of the locality with which we are dealing.

² See Report on Stone Circles in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxiv. p. 168, and vol. xxxix. p. 203.

with the other one at Glassel, in a class by themselves. In the illustration (fig. 17) there is shown a view from the east. The background is, in reality, the wooded lower part of Drummond Hill; but there seemed no special reason for introducing this feature.¹

No. 12. *Remains of Circle near Newhall.*—These are within Taymouth



Figs. 18 and 19. Ground-plan and View of remains of Stone Circle at Newhall.

Castle policies, and stand close to the main east gate. They are marked and named on the O. M. at a height above sea-level of about 494 feet. The Stone A (see plan, fig. 18) stands at a distance of 54 feet to the N.N.W. of B—a somewhat greater diameter than is common among the

¹ We were informed that close to Comrie Bridge "there are great stones." On investigation, we found that, technically speaking, these are not stones set up artificially, but simply four huge boulders, happening to so lie as at a certain distance to appear surprisingly like the members of a Circle. There are no other grouped stones in this locality.

Perthshire Circles.¹ These Stones are almost equal in height—A 4 feet 9 inches, B 4 feet 7 inches—and they are both rugged blocks of a rough species of diorite. A measures round the base 10 feet 8 inches, and B 14 feet. In the view (fig. 19) they are shown as seen from the southwest. No local information regarding the condition of this site in the past was obtainable.

No. 13. Stone Circle at Croft Morag.—Though there be many other circles in the large district now under notice, this remarkable group of megaliths has become, as it were, crystallised into supreme significance far beyond them all. This has come about through several causes; first, perhaps, because the public road between Aberfeldy and Kenmore passes so close to the Stones that the most unobservant pedestrian or rider—always excepting the begoggled motorist—cannot but see the green mound bristling with great grey Stones; secondly, because the drivers of the coaches plying on this road jog along a trifle more deliberately past the mound, and the magical words, “Yon’s the Druid Stones!” cause all eyes to turn for one brief moment to the left, so that a flashing impression is doubtless cast on the mental retina of many a tourist usually heedless of archæology amid the beauties of Strath Tay; and lastly, and most reasonably, is the popularity of Croft Morag Circle well established, because it constitutes assuredly the most complete group of Standing Stones of its peculiar type in all Scotland, so far as records of Circles have as yet been examined.² A few of the Stones are prostrate; but there seems a pleasing lack of signs of wanton dislocation or interference with the great majority.

Croft Morag has already been planned and briefly described by Mr Alex. Hutcheson.³ This was done in 1889, and I shall later on draw attention to some points of difference between his plan and my own.

¹ Compare, however, the remains at Balhomais, further down the Strath, figured in *Proceedings*, vol. xlii. p. 128.

² Of great Circles of the Recumbent Stone type, the grand specimen, of course, at Auchforthies, Fetternear, Inverurie, still holds the palm for completeness. See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. p. 225.

³ *Proceedings*, vol. xxiii. p. 356.

The site, about 408 feet above sea-level, is within 40 yards of the Kenmore road from Aberfeldy, at a point almost opposite the fourth milestone from that town, the cart-road up to Croft Morag cottages passing on its east, and the ground to the south and west in parts rising so as to contribute, with the more abrupt high-ground on the north, to bestow upon this Circle a feeling of seclusion. What were the actual conditions ages before the woods were planted, it is hard to say; possibly there was then an extensive prospect across the Tay and Lyon confluence into the opposite hills of Dull. But it is at present impossible to be certain of the topographical features, as in no direction is the woodland thin enough to allow of observations. At the outset it may be stated that most of these Stones appear to be composed of the quartzose schist of the district, and also that most of them are remarkably rounded in contour. Perhaps the great sloping block, D, which has been polished by the sliding of generations of children, may be of a more dioritic variety of mineral; it seems greyer, closer in texture, and harder than the majority.

(1) As will be seen from the plan (fig. 20), the structural portion of Croft Morag consists, first, of a roughly circular, earthen mound (lettered in small type *a . . . t*), some 3 feet high, which is marked off by several Stones of a more or less slab-like character, set irregularly upon a circumference of, approximately, 185 feet. This outermost setting, or *revêtement*, of Stones is visible now only at certain fragments of the arcs; viz., it is well-defined on the S.W. at *a*, where a long Stone, 6 feet 5 inches by 2 feet, lies flat, and bears numerous cup-marks (hereafter to be fully noticed); on the S. arc there are five small Stones (*b, c, d, e, f*) all earthfast and flattish; on the S.E. are three similar Stones (*g, h, i*); on the E. arc, four (*j, k, l, m*); on the N. arc, very slightly to the west, one very large Stone (*n n*) flush with the ground at the edge of the bank, and a good deal overgrown with grass, measuring 8 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 3 inches; farther to the N.W. are five Stones more (*o, p, q, r, s*), the last three having only very small portions visible; and, still farther round, is the last of what I consider to be these

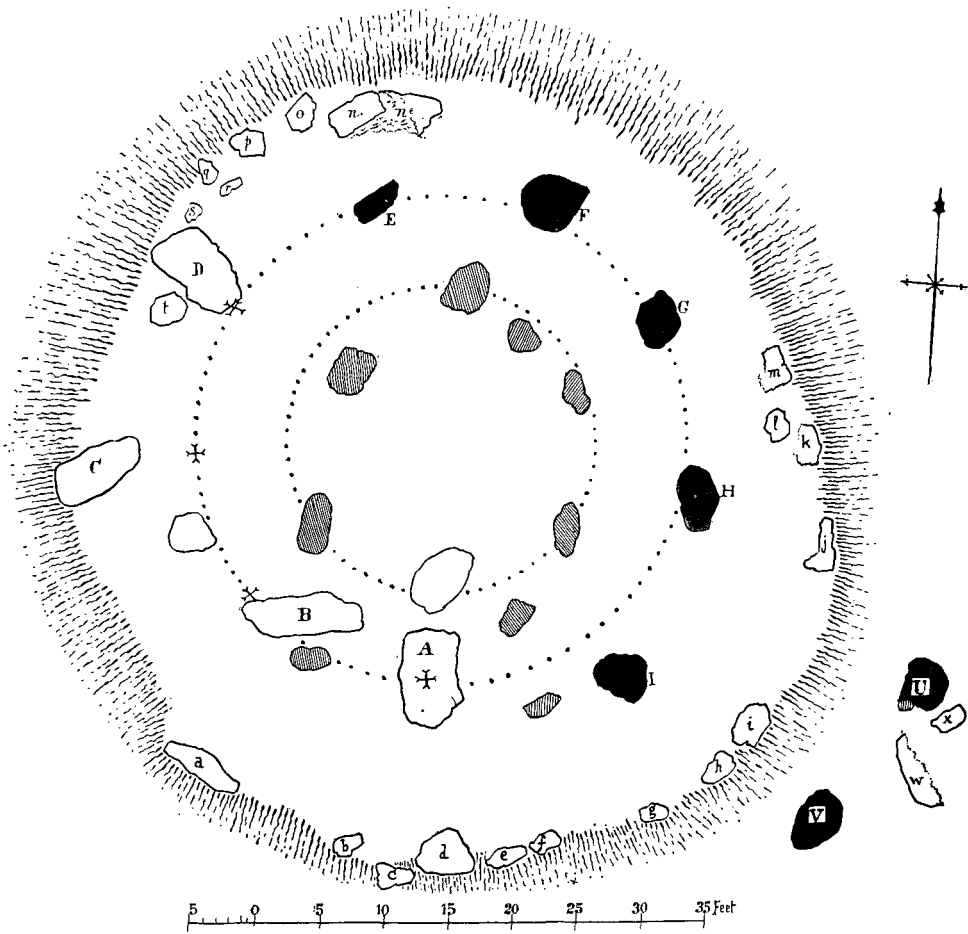


Fig. 20. Ground-plan of Stone Circle at Croft Morag, near Kenmore.

ridge-slabs (*t*), close under the edge of the great fallen sloping Stone D. Thus the total number of measurable and separate Stones now resting on the outermost ring is twenty.

(2) The Stones of the intermediate ring constitute the imposing feature of the Circle. They are thirteen in total number in the present condition of the Circle, but they probably numbered eighteen when the Circle was complete. Nine of them are the tallest in the whole group; four of these are prostrate on the W. arc. By striking a radius from the common centre of the Circle through the centres of these great Stones which are erect, to the outermost circumference, the following measures are obtained:—from centre of E, the N.N.W. Stone, to the ridge 14 feet 6 inches; from F, N.N.E. Stone, to the ridge 13 feet 4 inches; from G to ridge 14 feet 4 inches; from H to ridge 13 feet 4 inches; and from I, the S.E. Stone, only 10 feet 6 inches. The four fallen blocks, lying as shown, A, B, C, D, no doubt stood on this intermediate ring, the diameter of which, measured from centre to centre, is 38 feet. Now, it must be observed that between A and B and A and I there are Stones (shaded in the plan); these two are erect, the one near B measuring 3 feet in length, 2 feet in breadth, and 3 feet 4 inches in height; it is quite vertical, and is undoubtedly *in situ*. The other small erect Stone midway between A and I has much the same size and features. Between B and C there is shown in outline another of these small stones “in line” with the great pillars which remain on the E. arc; and it is quite clear that if this remarkable and novel feature of alternating each tall Stone with a very small but vertical block was originally carried out all round this intermediate ring, there would have been eighteen Stones in all. Without the most arduous and careful excavation in these interspaces, however, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prove that these small blocks did once stand on the eastern semicircle.

As illustrating the general size of the great Stones, when fully exposed to view, the dimensions of the four fallen blocks are here given:—A, 7 feet 7 inches by 4 feet 10 inches, and fully 2 feet thick; B, 9 feet 2 inches by 3 feet 9 inches (on the upper face), and 2 feet 9 inches thick; C, 8 feet by 4 feet, and 3 feet 6 inches thick; D, 7 feet by 4 feet 6 inches, and 3 feet thick at its vertical outer edge.

The five upright Stones of the intermediate ring measure as follows :— I, the S.E. Stone, 5 feet 6 inches in height, and in girth 11 feet; H, the East Stone, 5 feet 8 inches in height, pyramidal in contour, and in girth 11 feet 4 inches; G, the N.E. Stone, 5 feet 3 inches in height and 11 feet in girth; the next Stone, F, 5 feet 7½ inches in height and 13 feet 6 inches in girth; and Stone E, nearest to the north on the W. arc, stands 6 feet 3 inches in height and measures round the base 9 feet 3 inches.

(3) The Stones forming the inner ring, which is a broad oval in form, are eight in number, quite erect, with one exception; the fallen one (shown in outline) is due south of one set at the north point, and the distance between these two is 23 feet 8 inches. If, however, the distance between the N. Stone and the E. one at the S.S.E. be taken, this diameter is 26 feet, as against one of 21 feet taken between the N.W. and S.E. Stones. Measured from the centre of the fallen Stone a space of 10 feet 3 inches divides that from the centre of the erect Stone on the east, and an equal space divides it from the centre of the Stone on the west. Between the N. Stone and that on its south-west an equal space of 11 feet 3 inches exists as between that Stone and its S.E. Stone; but between these last two there is a third almost exactly midway.

The fallen Stone measures 5 feet 10 inches by 3 feet 9 inches; the N.W. Stone is 4 feet 6 inches in height, the S.W. Stone 3 feet 6 inches, the N. Stone 3 feet 4 inches, the N.E. one 2 feet 6 inches, and the Stone between it and the fallen block 3 feet 4 inches in height.

(4) In addition to the feature above noticed, of tall Stones alternating with much smaller ones, Croft Morag possesses another noticeable arrangement, in the presence of two great massive monoliths (U and V on the plan), standing like the remains of a portal, nearly eight feet outside of the boundary ridge on the S.E. Neither of these Stones is now absolutely vertical, Stone U leaning considerably out towards the S.E., and V having a very slight lean inwards to the circle. The former



Fig. 21. View of Croft Morag Circle, from the South.

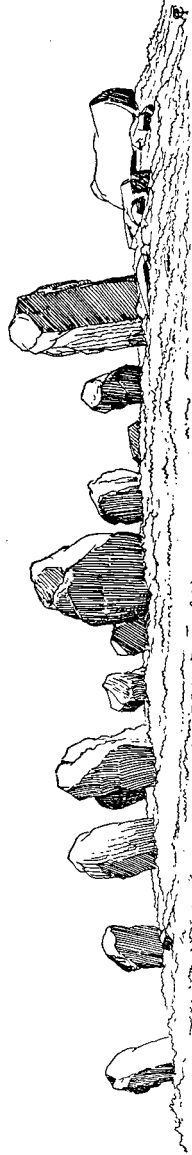


Fig. 22. View of Croft Morag Circle, from the North.

is 6 feet 2 inches in vertical height, with a basal girth of nearly 12 feet, which is probably an under-estimate, for there are two large fragments (w and x) which appear to have been severed from this stone, the edges of which nearest the fragments are rough and sharp. The latter (V) stands 6 feet 4 inches in height and girths 11 feet 8 inches.

Single outstanding¹ monoliths we have previously noticed at Balquhain and Druidstone in Aberdeenshire; but this is the first site on which two imposing stones, fully as high and as massive as those composing the Circle itself, have been observed grouped together outside the circumference.

Croft Morag is not, as a group, well adapted for reproduction in either a sketch or a photograph, there being no conveniently near spot higher than the Stones from which a good view into this triple-concentric structure can be obtained. The two views appended, however, show the circle—fig. 21 from the south, fig. 22 from the north—as faithfully as possible under difficult circumstances, but with entire omission of the trees which surround it, especially on the north.

(5) Besides its complexity of arrangement and the great number of measurable Stones, forty-two in all, this circle is emphasised by the existence of a cup-marked Stone set in a portion of its structure which is novel to our investigations; for, although during our surveys we have now recorded many examples of cup-marked Stones in Circles, not one has ever been found on a stone set flat and almost flush with the ground on the outermost ring, as the Stone a here is set on the S.W. arc. In the little plan (fig. 23) of the surface of this Stone the cup-marks are shown carefully drawn to scale. There are nineteen cups in all, only two of which differ much in diameter and depth from the rest, and there does not appear to be anything in their design to suggest a meaning or lend a clue to their symbolism.

In regard to the differences between the record made in 1889 by Mr Alex. Hutcheson and the present one there is this to be said regarding the cup-marked Stone; in Mr Hutcheson's plan (of the Circle) this Stone

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. pp. 231, 238.

is shown considerably wider than it now is ; I suppose the growth of grass accounts for that ; and this is probably the reason why in 1889 more cup-marks and some ring-marks were visible (as noted by Mr Hutcheson) which are not now seen.

Again, at the earlier date, many more Stones were measurable than at present, the total number shown on Mr Hutcheson's plan being fifty-six. As most of these, however, belong to the outermost boundary ridge, the *status* of the Circle itself is not thereby affected. Further, the inner ring of small erect Stones looks on the older plan more nearly circular than on mine, or than it now does in reality ; this may point to there having been some disturbance in the interval of twenty years. A slight difference,

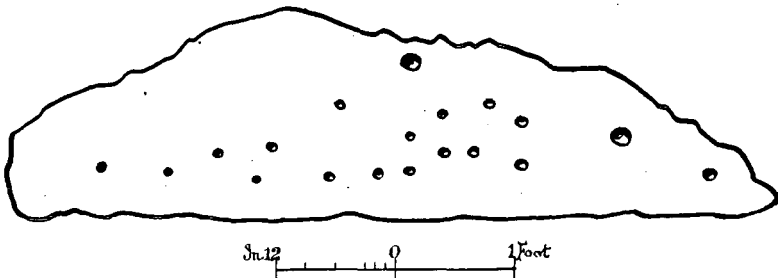


Fig. 23. Cup-marked Stone in the Circle at Croft Morag.

also, is observable between the heights of the great Stones of the two series of measurements ; and I think this may be explained satisfactorily by my measurements (which are rather the higher of the two) having been taken always down to the base of the little grassy ridge encircling each stone, which gives the most accurate height from the general level of the mound upon which the Circle is set.

Regarding the local names in the immediate vicinity of the Circle, Croft Morag, Mary's Croft, points, of course, to a dedication to the Virgin ; but all traces of any chapel formerly existing here are now lost. Close to the present houses at Croft Morag is a place called Styx, which appears to be the modern abbreviated form of the Gaelic word *Stuicnean*.

This, Mr Dugald M'Ewen affirms, meant ground full of overturned forest-trees ; and it is therefore probable that in the remote past all the land surrounding the Stone Circle was a deep forest, and perhaps because of its seclusion, this site was selected as the most fitting for the erection of the principal Circle of the district.

VI. ABERFELDY GROUP.

No. 14. *Stone Circle at Coilleaichur*.—This site is a discovery ; not only is it unrecorded on the O.M., but extremely few of the local residents appear to know of it.¹ With other sites, it is here included in what we may call the Aberfeldy Group, as all that are now to be immediately recorded lie within a radius of two miles around Aberfeldy.

The Circle is on the edge of the broad stretch of moorland that bounds the north and west of Craig Formal, about two miles up the Urlar Burn, going by the famous Birks of Aberfeldy and Moness ; and the Stones occupy a green space amid the heather half a mile east of the burn. The height above sea-level is about 950 feet. With the help of a field-glass the Stones can be seen from the shepherd's cottage at Torr.

A great deal of disturbance and removal of Stones must have taken place here ; for, on the outer circumference of 160 feet, only nine, and on the inner circumference of 108 feet, only twenty, remain ; but at what date such spoliation took place is not discoverable ; there was no visible evidence on the site itself of moved Stones, nor was there any dike near enough to render it likely that its building was the ultimate destination of any of the Stones.

In the outer ring, which is defined by a ridge carrying the Stones, a little to the west of south, is a small, squarish, well-set block about 1 foot high ; the next is also *in situ*, and the third almost so, while the fourth is a broadish, firmly-set block nearly 5 feet by 3 feet. A little north of west is a largeish Stone with its top leaning outwards, about

¹ We were informed of its existence by Mrs Menzies, wife of the shepherd on Urlar, whose little daughter swiftly and obligingly guided us to the Stones—assistance here gratefully acknowledged, as without guidance, the Stones, which are not conspicuous, might have been unnoticed amidst the heather.

16 inches high. The whole of the N. arc is totally devoid of Stones ; but on the E. there are four, the upper one of which is the largest in the Circle, measuring in length 6 feet, in breadth 2 feet 6 inches, and in

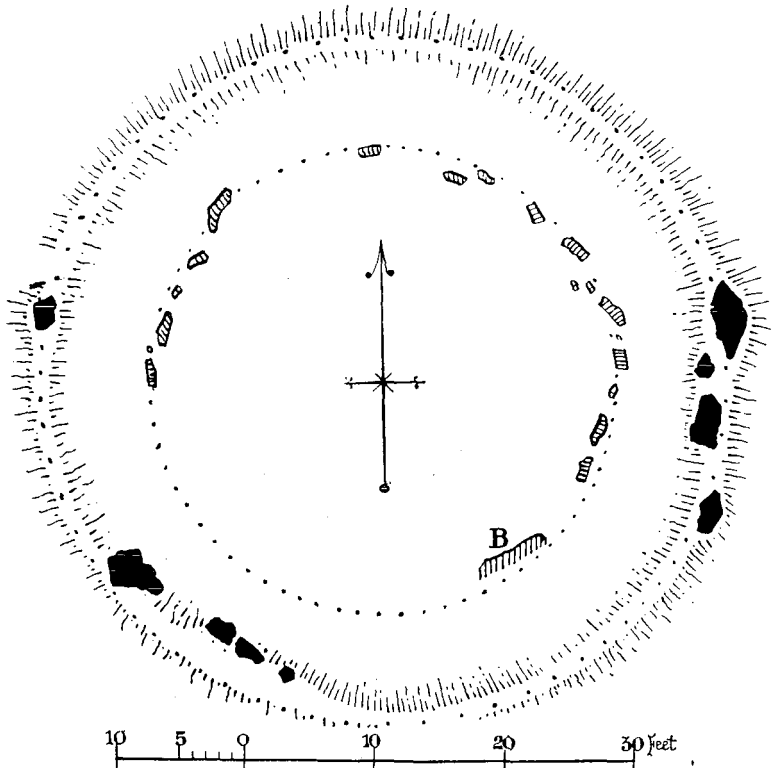


Fig. 24. Stone Circle at Coilleaichur, Ular ; Ground-plan.

thickness 1 foot 9 inches. Two others are also good-sized, and none of these is precisely vertical.

In the inner ring the Stones are all—but one—slab-like and thin, set up on edge, and rising above ground to heights varying from 10 to about 20 inches. The one exception is at B on the S.E. arc. This

Stone, measuring 5 feet 8 inches across its inner face, runs back deeply into the ground, which has been much burrowed into below. It presents the appearance of being, probably, only the upper edge of a very large mass, the rest of it extending below the grass and heather.

Coilleaichur Circle is so situated as to command an extensive prospect of the beautiful and varied hill-country on the north of the Tay, Farragon Hill, the Glen Tilt ranges, Ben-y-Ghloe and Ben-y-Vrackie being conspicuous. These may be seen forming the background to the view appended (fig. 25).¹

No. 15. *Remains of Circle at Tegar-muchd.*—This site, although beyond the distance limit laid down for the sites of the Aberfeldy Group, comes in here appropriately, as it completes the group of Upper Strath Tay Circles noticed three years ago.²

At that date, when visiting the site

¹ On this same moorland, and about a quarter of a mile to the north, on a grassy slope crowded with boulders innumerable, outcrops of rock, old foundations, and a few ancient tracks, there is one smooth mass of stone bearing a remarkable set of cups and rings; and on a partly artificial hillock, in a field west of the farmhouse at Urlar (not far from this Circle), there is an exposed flat surface of rock containing a series of the finest cup-marks that I have seen. Of these I hope to give figures and descriptions elsewhere.

² See *Proceedings*, vol. xlii. p. 125.

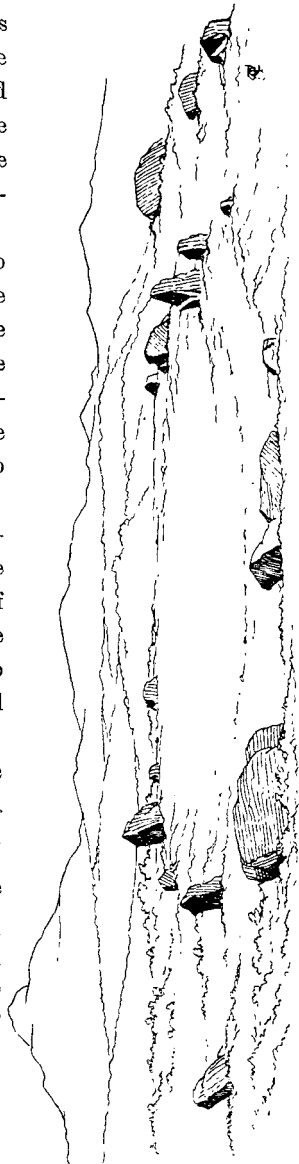


Fig. 25. View of Stone Circle at Coilleaichur, Urlar, near Aberfeldy.

in Dull, which I then presumed to be on the farm of Carse, the top of a great Stone was visible much over the growing corn, and because of this impediment the Stone was not examined. This year, in communication with Mr John Stewart, jun., tenant in Tegarmuchd (who obligingly gave me much information), it transpires that the little Circle described in 1908, as well as this one under review and remains of at least one other, are all on Tegarmuchd land,¹ and August being our month of investigations we postponed the attempt to reach this Stone to the very last day of our sojourn at Aberfeldy. On reaching the road near the site it was observed at once that corn was yet growing around the Stone. Proceeding, therefore, to Tegarmuchd farm-house, we interviewed the tenant, Mr Stewart, who most obligingly made no objections to our trespassing far enough into the standing crop as to measure and make observations at the Stone, which, Mr Stewart told us, was only one of several, some of which lie buried in the ground but within reach of the ploughshare.

The position of the one visible monolith is 400 yards S. of the little circle formerly described, full in the midst of the great, broad, alluvial lands of the Tay, to the east of Drummond Hill. The stone, a huge block of quartzose schist, stands 6 feet 3 inches above ground; its base (see plan, fig. 26) measures in girth 11 feet, and at the "shoulder" the measurement is 3 or 4 inches more. It is set with one remarkably straight and smooth edge due north and south. Measuring from its south face it was found that, at a point 32 feet 6 inches in a south-easterly direction, we struck the centre of a little oblong-oval cleared space (B), upon which grass was growing. Next, moving from B south-westwards, we came upon an enormous block of schist, measuring 11 feet 2 inches by 5 feet 10 inches, of an oval contour, and lying so absolutely horizontal that the compass-needle came to rest on it with perfect regularity. This Stone, the thickness

¹ Incidents of this nature only emphasise the remarks made in the introductory paragraph to this Report, that local information so often enlarges the list of sites noted on the maps.

of which was of course matter of conjecture, strongly suggested the possibility of its being the cover-stone of a cist, and therefore possibly

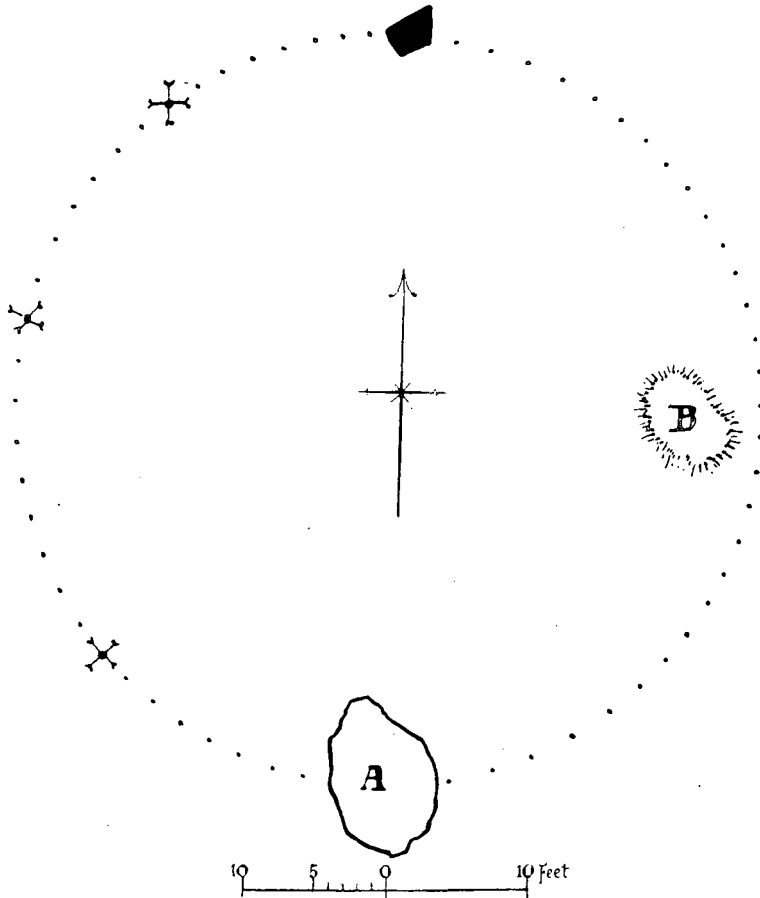


Fig. 26. Remains of Circle at Tegarmuchd, Strathtay ; Ground-plan.

of the central burial within the Circle. Measurements were taken, and in a rough ground-plan which I submitted to Mr Stewart, I asked if

the positions of the other Stones touched by the plough could be filled in. Within a day or two after writing, a reply came from Mr Stewart, to the effect that, at B on the plan, "there is a big Stone something like A, well covered with soil but not to such an extent that there can be tillage. The Stones encountered by the plough all lie to the



Fig. 27. Remaining Monolith of the Circle at Tegarmuchd.

west of the great flat Stone (A) somewhere at the places marked by the two small crosses on your plan. So, with A as centre, that gives you half a circle already. It would be complete if Stones could be traced on the south side. That, however, we have been unable to do. As regards the south or missing half of the circle, only three things are possible: (1) No Stones were ever there; (2) if there, they are so far down that they are never touched, or (3) were removed at some time

unknown. The last alternative is not very likely. Such Stones were very seldom removed."¹

However, on plotting out the measurements of these megalithic remains at Tegarmuchd it became clearly evident that the cist-cover hypothesis must be abandoned (see plan, fig. 26), and that the great block, A, is just one of the fallen Stones of the Circle, and not its central point. Its relation in respect of distance to the other Stone at B seems quite decisive. On the supposition that there are three other Stones below ground on the west arc, this Circle may have originally consisted of eight or nine Stones. A view (fig. 27) of the monolith is here given, showing it as seen from the prostrate Stone A, with the hill above Balmore filling in the distance.²

No. 16. Standing Stone, Farragon Moor.—The picturesque summit, rugged and abrupt, of Farragon Hill (2559) is precisely due north three miles and a quarter of the little hamlet of Weem, which clusters amid rocks, bushes, and steep rugged pathways, under the great wooded Rock of Weem. After climbing this, the steepest portion of the ascent to Farragon Moor, the rushing sound of the Boltachan Burn keeps one company for some distance beyond, and, at the distance of about a mile from the road at Weem, the wide horizon-line of the moor to the north is broken, on a flattish space, by this Standing Stone. Among the many peat-cart-roads and other tracks here crossing the moor, one very narrow footpath diverges rather eastwards from the main track and leads straight up to the Stone which occupies the position (A) shown on the plan (fig. 28) in relation to a small squarish Stone on the N.E. and a large flat surface of rock on the N.W. The site is nearly 1200 feet above sea-level.

The Standing Stone is set with its longer axis almost precisely E.

¹ Mr Stewart mentions that in the same field as the little Circle described in 1908, other half-buried stones are touched by the plough, and one of these, finding it cup-marked, he had lifted and placed near the cross-fence.

² In a second communication Mr Stewart is good enough to describe, with praiseworthy attention to details of locality, two other Standing Stones at Tullicro and Balhomais, an account of which will be hereafter drawn up.

and W. It is a pyramidal block of schist, veined with thin vertical lines of white quartz, stands 3 feet 9 inches in height at the apex, where there is one small but distinct cup-mark, and measures in basal girth about 8 feet 9 inches. On the south face, near the west angle, and 2 feet $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches below the apex, there is a single cup; on the west face there are the six others as shown in the illustration (fig. 29), five of which are placed, not in a perfectly straight line, but in a gently curved line. This arrangement bears a curious resemblance to the row of cups near the base of the great Standing Stone at Comiston, near Edinburgh—known as the Kel, or Caiy Stone.¹ The cups on Farragon Moor

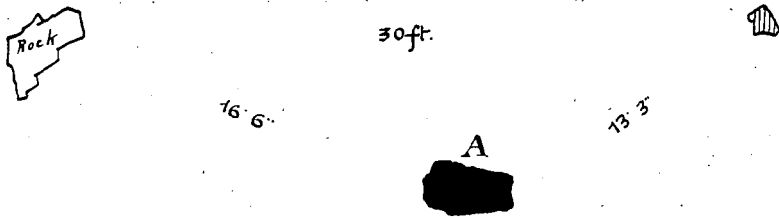


Fig. 28. Standing Stone, Farragon Moor; Ground-plan.

Stone measure $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, and are not very deep; doubtless, storms and rain have helped to obliterate the sharpness of their edges.²

No. 17. *Remains of Circle at Carntullich.*—Topographically, this was a specially interesting site, although now there remains but one Stone to mark the spot. The name Carntulach is the original Gaelic form of the name of the parish, corrupted, in recent times, into Grantully, and even Grandtully—witness the spelling in railway time-tables, etc. The

¹ Figured and described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii. p. 209.

² Two other Standing Stones, also cup-marked, are known to Rev. John Maclean; one is near the farm of Glassie to the east of Farragon, and the other is on the moor above Camiserny Burn, about a mile N.E. of the church at Dull. The Farragon Moor Stone and its cup-marks were first observed, many years ago, by Mr T. G. Irvine, at Aberfeldy.

site was in reality a vast and more or less natural mound of sand and gravel, several score yards in length and also of considerable breadth. At the western extremity, which was the higher, there stood a Circle of Stones of which only the one now under notice remains. It is readily seen from the road, looking to the south, some 800 yards N.E. of

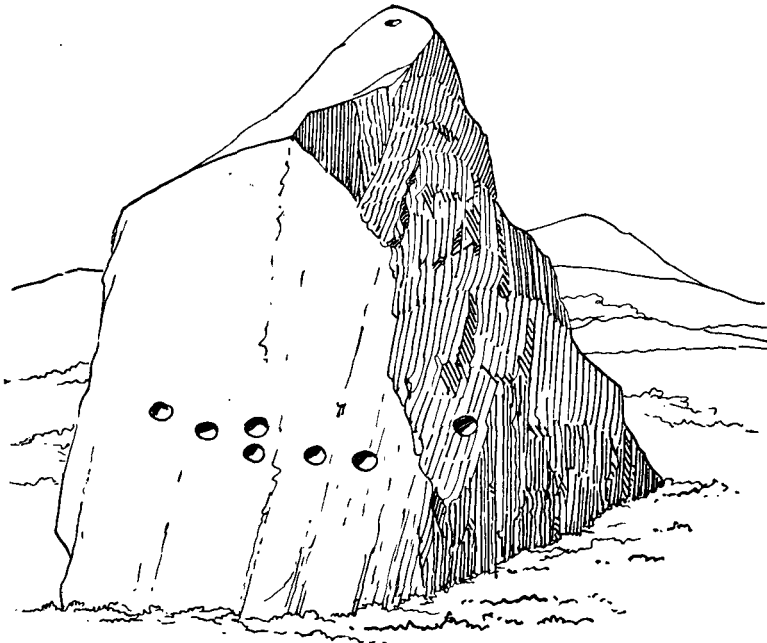


Fig. 29. Cup-marked Standing Stone on Farragon Moor, from South-west.

Duireskin, and along with it an edging of the upper part of the Cairn is visible, enclosed by a dike. The illustration (fig. 30) is a view from the west.

This comparatively small Stone is an oblong block of schist, 3 feet 7 inches in height and just over 3 feet in girth. Its longer axis runs N.W. and S.E. I am informed by Mr Maclean that when the mound was broken into for gravel, many graves were exposed, all being built of

smallish boulders; but no record seems to have been kept of the details connected with this discovery.

Fraser, in *The Red Book of Grantully*, has the following note: "On the farm of Kiltulloch, or Cairntulloch, there is a circle of rude stones called Druidical stones, and sometimes also sanctuaries as affording places of shelter for man and beasts."

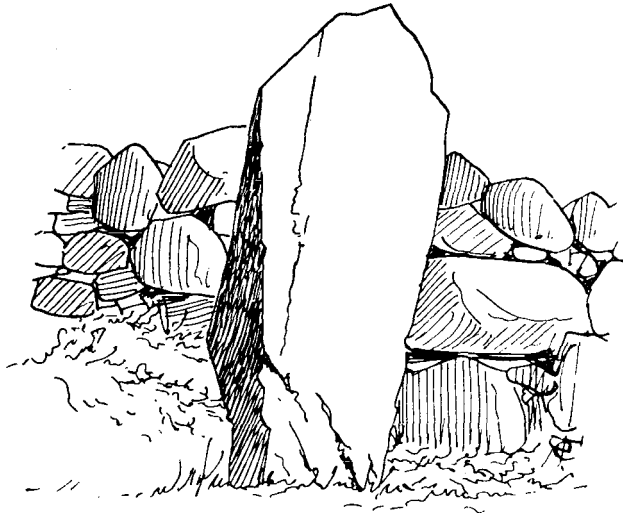


Fig. 30. Remains of Circle at Carntullich.

VII. STRATHBRAAN GROUP.

No. 18. Remains of Circle at Little Fandowie.—Strathbraan trends east and west, and is eight miles south of Aberfeldy. The site now to be noticed is distant one mile and a half down the Strath from the cross-roads at Kinloch, one of which goes south-west to Amulree, and the other east to Dunkeld.¹ The farm is on the south of the Braan. About a

¹ During the drive over the bleak moorland near Loch na Craig we observed the remains of a good-sized Cairn at Scotstown, on the west of the road a few score yards within the moor. It appeared not to have been much molested.

quarter of a mile west of the steadings a very large and prominent rowan-tree (R on the plan, fig. 31) grows, on the north of the farm-road, almost touching a Standing Stone, which is said to be the last remnant *in situ* of a Circle, the other Stones of which were long ago removed to form the rectangular foundations shown in the plan. This place, according to local tradition, was a chapel, and until lately went by the

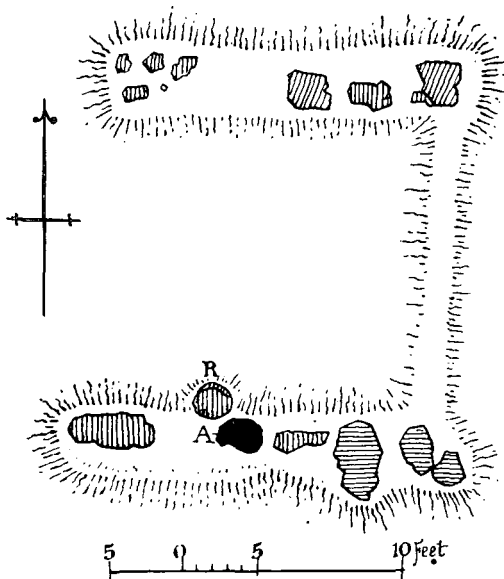


Fig. 31. Remains of Circle at Little Fandowie, Strathbraan.

name of *Clachan Aoradh*, Stones of Worship.¹ Probably this attribution is not incorrect. The Stones, even as now grouped, might well be the foundation of a small building—perhaps a chapel; the sides are due east and west, and the over-all dimensions otherwise, 36 by 24 feet (on the assumption that they represent the whole), not unsuitable.

¹ Information received in letters from the late Sir A. Muir Mackenzie of Delvine, whose sudden and untimely decease frustrated the completion of much more regarding the Standing Stones of the Strathbraan and adjacent districts.

The Standing Stone A on the plan is only 3 feet 8 inches in vertical height, and in girth about 9 feet. Two of the other now prostrate Stones measure over 5 feet in length, and six others are fairly massive blocks. The ridge going northwards at the east end is not at all so

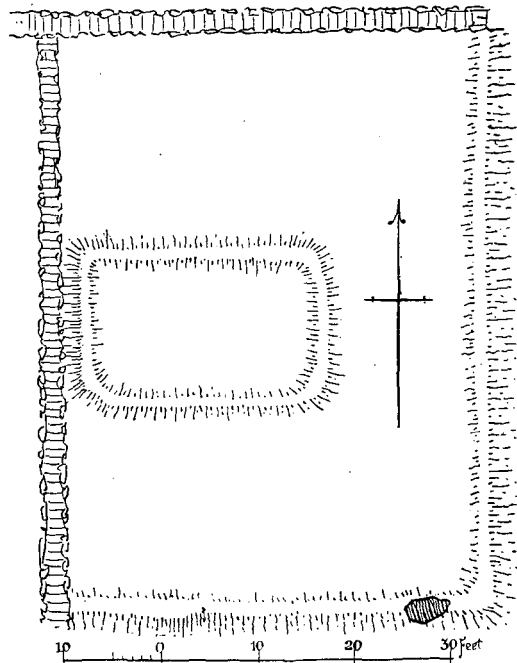


Fig. 32. Plan of Remains at Little Fandowie, Strathbraan.

clearly defined as that upon which the north and the south alignments of Stones are embedded.

No. 19. Remains of Circle, cup-marked, at Little Fandowie.— Tradition has it that this also was once part of a Circle of Standing Stones. Its present position is a lonely one, in a field strewn with boulders on the north-east of the steadings. There is here a grassy and stony ridge, which has all the appearance of being the remains of a

wall (see plan, fig. 32); other alignments of great Stones exist in the same field, pointing to former buildings and enclosures of various sizes. This grassy ridge is now partly built over by a dike on the north and west sides; but the east and south still remain. The Stone, shown shaded on the plan, is about 36 feet east of the dike, and the ridge, extending farther east for 32 feet more, turns northwards at right angles for a length of 63 feet. Within this ridge, at 30 feet from the north-east

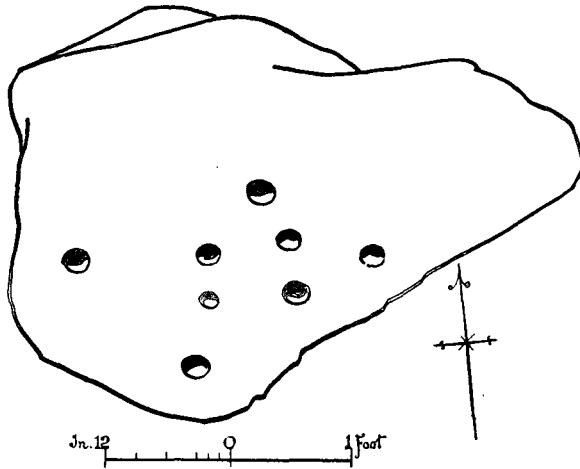


Fig. 33. Cup-marked Stone at Little Fandowie, Strathbraan.

angle where dike and ridge meet, is an inner, better-defined, oblong space also enclosed by a grass-grown ridge of old walling. What was the nature of the building thus indicated, there are no means at present of ascertaining; but local tradition once more calls it a church.

The monolith bearing the cup-marks (fig. 33), now apparently prostrate, is a pear-shaped block of schistose rock, fully 4 feet long by 3 feet broad, and about 16 inches in thickness near the south edge. The cup-marks, eight in number, are well-formed and clear, three of them being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and the others about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

No. 20. Stone Circle on Airlich at Meikle Fandowie.—This site is

marked as Standing Stones on the O.M., at an altitude of 900 feet, on the north-western slope of this conspicuous grey-green grassy hill, which stands back south of the river Braan at a point about midway between Dunkeld and Amulree.¹ The summit of Airlich rises very gradually for

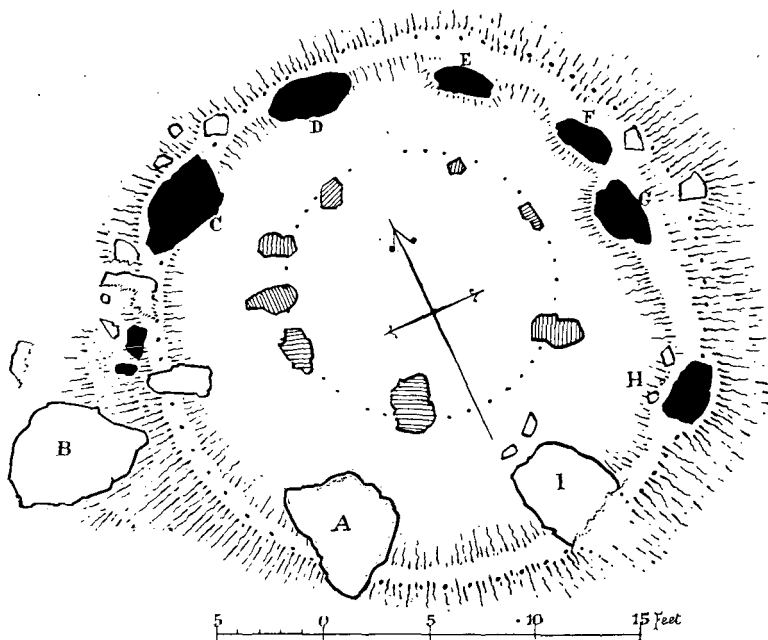


Fig. 34. Stone Circle at Airlich, Meikle Fandowie, Strathbraan ; Ground-plan.

126 feet higher ; but the site, although so lofty and surrounded by fairly open country, does not appear to command views of other sites.

The Circle is doubly concentric (fig. 34), having on its outer ring nine Stones in all, six of which are still erect. The inner ring is composed of eight obvious and measurable Stones, all smallish ; but there were

¹ It was intended to include it in the Report for 1907 ; but after two ineffectual attempts to reach the site, owing to stress of weather, the investigation had then to be postponed. Mr Macintosh Gow has a sketch of the Airlich Stones in the *Proceedings*, vol. xix. p. 42, and also notes upon other Stones in Strathbraan.

probably others when the Circle was complete. In some general characteristics this circle resembles the one above described at Cailleaichur. The prostrate blocks all lie on the south and west; Stone A, entirely prone, measures 6 feet by 4 feet 8 inches and is 16 inches in thickness. The narrow south end covers pretty exactly the spot where it must have rested when upright; Stone B, 7 feet by 5 feet, has fallen a couple of feet away from the bank on which the Stones stand. It is 2 feet 7 inches in measurable thickness. Out of the seven blocks, all rather small, clustering so thickly between B and C, two (shown black in the plan) seem to be quite earth-fast; they stand 1 foot 10 inches and 1 foot 6 inches in height, and they are vertically set; but they are so very much less in size than the other Stones of the outer ring that I do not include them in the enumeration, because it seems possible that these are the remnants of a disturbed grave or cist, of which the larger flat Stones on the north and east may have also formed portions. Burials have been found between the great Standing Stones in Circles, *e.g.* at Old Rayne, Aberdeenshire.¹

The largest of the group, Stone C, stands 2 feet 5 inches above ground, and girths at the base 11 feet. The north Stone, D, is 3 feet 6 inches in height, and 8 feet 8 inches in girth—the smoothest-sided Stone in the Circle; Stone E, smaller but of the same height, 3 feet 6 inches, is more curved; F stands 2 feet 4 inches in height; G has an inward slope and is 2 feet 5 inches in height; H is 2 feet 7 inches. The next great half-fallen block (I) is incompletely buried, its visible portion measuring 4 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 9 inches, and its inner edge just over 1 foot in thickness.

The diameter of this outer ring is 26 feet; and two of its Stones, D and I, are set north and south, and two others, B and G, west and east of each other.

In the inner ring, which is not quite concentric with the outer, none of the eight small Stones rises much above 8 to 10 inches above the ground; its diameter is 12 feet 6 inches. If the three closely adjacent

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvi. p. 530.



Figs. 35 and 36. Views of Airlish Circle from West and East.

Stones on the north-west arc be taken as a gauge, this inner ring probably contained fourteen or fifteen Stones marking off the ground devoted to the central principal interment.

In the two views subjoined, fig. 35 shows the Circle as seen from the west, with the gentle slope of Airlich receding behind, and fig. 36 from the east, which commands a fine prospect into the upper part of Strathbraan, with Meall Dearg and Craig Hulich in the distance.

It may be permissible here, when summarising the results of the present survey, to allude to an idea prevalent not only in Perthshire but in many other districts, which is to the effect that Stone Circles in general consist of groups of stones in which the number 9, or some multiple thereof, predominates. Admittedly, there are several Circles which are composed of six, nine, or twelve Stones. Moreover, there are a few specimens which, although in reality consisting of either more or less than nine, are yet known in their respective districts as "the Nine Stanes." On the other hand, many Circles occur in all the various parts of Scotland, including the adjacent islands, in which neither the number 9 nor any of its multiples occurs. In order to show how extremely varied the numbers of Stones in Circles truly are, there is here appended a list giving the results obtained on this head alone during the surveys which have been made for several years, and obtained also from the surveys conducted by other investigators.¹

Where the number in any one given Circle is stated quite definitely, it is to be taken as representing the number of Stones contained in the outer ring of the Circle, or computed on the principle of equal interspaces; and in other instances where a doubt is expressed, the number quoted is that which appears to be most probable on the assumption that the Stones were set with equal interspaces. The Recumbent Stone is included in the computation of the Stones in Circles distinguished by that feature, with three exceptions, viz. Auchquhorthies (Kincausie), Garrol Wood, and Rothiemay.

¹ This tabulation is concerned for the present only with the sites of Circles located in districts to the north of the river Forth.

KINCARDINE—ABERDEER SITES.

Locality.	Number of Stones.	Remarks.
Auchquorthies, Kincausie	13	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Cairnwell	11	No Recumbent Stone.
Craighead	4	" "
Cairnfauld	10	" "
Garrol Wood	11	Recumbent Stone Circle called <i>The Nine Stanes</i> .
Esslie (the greater)	10 or 11	Recumbent Stone Circle.
" (the less)	9	" "
Glassef	5	No Recumbent Stone.
Tomnagorn	12	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Midmar-Kirk	10	" "
Seanhinny	12	" "
Tyrebagger, Dyce	12	" "
Standing Stones of Echt	8	No Recumbent Stone.
Binghill, near Murtle	probably 8	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Balgorkar, Castle Fraser	11	" "
Whitehill, Monymusk	13	" "
Greystones, Alford	probably 8	No Recumbent Stone.
Cothiemuir Wood, Castle Forbes	12	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Fularton, Kintore	probably 7	No Recumbent Stone.
Broomend of Crichtie	6	With seventh in centre.
Auchforthies, Fetternear	12	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Balquhain	probably 12	" "
Druids-town, Inch	probably 11	" "
Hatton of Ardoyne	13	" "
Drumfours, Cushnie	5	No Recumbent Stone.
Howemill, Tough	4	No Recumbent Stone.
North Strone, Alford	17	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Hill of Fiddes	10 or 12	" "
Shelden of Bourtie	probably 10	No Recumbent Stone.
Loanhead, Daviot	11	Recumbent Stone Circle.
South Ythsie, Tarves	6	No Recumbent Stone.
Sheithen, Tarves	probably 10	" "
Candle Hill, Old Rayne	11	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Candle Hill, Inch	8	" "
Ardlair, Kennethmont	probably 9	" "
Corrstone Wood	probably 11	" "
Upper Ord, Rhynie	9	No Recumbent Stone.
Stonyfield, Drumblade	probably 12	" "
Logie Newton; East Circle	17	" "
" " Middle Circle	11 or 12	" "
" " West Circle	9 or 10	" "
Rappla Wood, Burrel dales	probably 6	" "
Corrydown, Auchterless	probably 11	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Mains of Hatton, Auchterless	probably 12	" "

Locality.	Number of Stones.	Remarks.
Backhill of Drachlaw ; East	6	No Recumbent Stone.
" " " " West	6	Recorded on O. M.
Raich, Forgue "	15 or 16	No Recumbent Stone.
Yonder Bognie	probably 13	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Rothiemy, Home Farm	12	" "
Whitehill Wood, Forglen	probably 7	No Recumbent Stone.
Aikey Brae, Deer	10	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Louden Wood, Deer	10	" "
Auchmachar	9	Complete up to 1850. Re- cumbent Stone Circle.
White Cow Wood	probably 36	Cairn-circle. No Re- cumbent Stone.
Upper Auchnagorth	10	No Recumbent Stone.
Netherton of Logie, Crimond	11	Recumbent Stone Circle.
Berry Brae, Lonmay	10	" "
Image Wood, Aboyne	6	No Recumbent Stone.
Tomnaverie, Tarland	11	Recumbent Stone Circle.
BANFF, ELGIN AND MORAY SITES.		
North Burreldales, Alvah	4	No Recumbent Stone.
Thorax, Marnoch	6	" "
Gaul Cross, Leys, Fordyce	6	Recorded by Dr Cramond. No Recumbent Stone.
Innes Mill, Urquhart	11	Recumbent Stone doubt- ful; called <i>The Nine Stanes</i> and <i>The Devil's Stanes</i> .
Doone of Dalmore, Avonside	10	No Recumbent Stone.
Lagmore (Lower), Ballindalloch	possibly 14	" "
Lagmore (Upper)	probably 9	" "
Marionburgh, Ballindalloch	probably 11	" "
Templestone, Rafford	4	" "
STRATHNAIRN SITES.		
Tordarroch	9	No Recumbent Stone.
Gask	probably 10	" "
Balnaran (West)	probably 12	" "
" (Middle)	probably 9	" "
" (East)	probably 11	" "
Small Circle, Clava	14	Small Stones, close set.
Little Urchany, Cawdor	probably 10	" "
Auldearn	probably 10	" "
Leys, Inverness	10 or 11	No Recumbent Stone.
Torbreck	9	" "
Kinchyle of Dores	8	" "
Stonyfield, Raigmore	about 40	Small Stones, close set.
Newton of Petty	12	No Recumbent Stone.

PERTHSHIRE SITES.

Locality.	Number of Stones.	Remarks.
Edintian, Blair Athole	4	No Recumbent Stone.
Fonab Moor, Pitlochry	4	
Faskally Cottages	9	North Stone, eccentric.
Tigh-na Ruaigh, Ballinluig	6	South Stone, eccentric.
Fortingal (Upper)	probably 4	
Tegarmuchd (Upper)	4	
" (Lower)	probably 8	
Balhomais	probably 8	
Lundin, Grantully	perhaps 7?	
Blelock (Pitsundry)	probably 9	With tenth in centre.
Murthly Asylum Grounds	8	
Machuinn, Lawers	6	
Kinnell, Killin	6	
Greenland, Kenmore	6 or 8	
Cóilleaichur	28 or 30	Smallish Stones close set.
Comrie Bridge Road	perhaps 8	
Airlich, Strathbraan	9	
Croft Morag	18	
Monzie Castle	perhaps 16	Smallish, close set.
Moncrieffe Park	8	
Balnabroch	9	John Stuart, <i>Proc.</i> vi.
FORFARSHIRE.		
Bervie	9	Jervise, <i>Proc.</i> ii.
INVERNESS.		
Scaniport	10	Triple-concentric.
ROSS.		
Carn Quenan	8	
THE ISLAND SITES.		
Broigar, Orkney	60	
Small Circle, Stennis	
Callernish, Lewis	12	With thirteenth in centre.

The above list contains the names of 105 Stone Circles in an approximately complete condition, and may be taken as fairly representative of their distribution as at present known. When tabulating the results, we ascertain the following facts: that eight circles are composed of four stones, three of five, twelve of six, three of seven, eleven of eight, thirteen of nine, seventeen of ten, fourteen of eleven, twelve of twelve, four of thirteen, two of fourteen, two of sixteen, two of seventeen, and one only (Croft Moraig) of eighteen; of the rest, with the exception of the great Broigar Circle in Stennis, which has sixty stones, it is not so simple a matter to affirm the numbers, because the type of the Circle containing over twenty Stones differs widely from a true Circle of free-standing monoliths. I append these few, however, to complete this classification, viz. Coilleaichur, near Aberfeldy, twenty-eight or thirty Stones, Stoneyfield, Raigmore, forty, and White Cow Wood, in Deer, thirty-six Stones. It thus appears that Circles with ten Stones predominate, and Circles with eleven Stones rank next in number. But it is quite true that Circles having Stones in multiples of three do predominate, this total being thirty-nine.

Examining the tabulation from another point of view, namely, to ascertain if in any special district certain numbers prevail, the result is as follows: the majority of Circles with ten Stones belong to Aberdeenshire, only two being found near Inverness, three in the Nairn Valley, and one on the Avon; Circles with eleven Stones are also much more largely represented in Aberdeen and Kincardine, only three being found farther north; Circles with nine Stones are more evenly distributed between Aberdeen, Banff, Inverness, Perth, and Forfar. The twelve-stoned type is almost confined to Aberdeenshire; Callernish and Balnuaran (Nairn Valley) being the exceptions. Circles with thirteen Stones are exclusively found in Aberdeenshire. Eight-Stone Circles occur in Aberdeen, Perth, Ross, and Inverness. The rarity of the Circle having seven Stones is well marked; out of the three known examples two are in Aberdeenshire and one in Perthshire. Of the twelve sites having each six stones, eight are in Aberdeenshire and the

remainder in Perthshire. If my computation be correct regarding the strange groups which seem to be composed of five Stones, the Kincardine, Aberdeen, and Perth districts can each claim one. Four-stoned Circles prevail in Perthshire, but examples are known in Aberdeen, and one in Elgin.

To the present state of imperfect knowledge regarding Stone Circles, even in Scotland, where more thorough and systematic investigation has been carried on than elsewhere, a few facts important on the general aspect of the subject may again be insisted on. The first is, that no evidence through excavation or otherwise is yet forthcoming which points to their purpose and use, earlier than or more recent than the Bronze Period. Another point is, that so far as it is provable by evidence, the free-standing Stones of the Circles were erected contemporaneously with the interments contained within the area marked off by the Stones; and a third point is, that there has been no evidence yet adduced to favour the theory (one among many) that these rough-sided, frequently amorphous, blocks were ever so disposed in relation to each other, to the centres of the Circles, or to outlying monoliths, as to have any bearing on astronomical speculations. Lastly, with reference to the problem suggested by the numbers of the Stones in individual Circles, the tabulation above shown proves that the builders of these Bronze Age burial-places paid no special regard to any of the numbers subsequently designated "sacred." And on this point we may as well be reminded of a curious passage in Aristotle¹ to the following effect: "Among the Iberians, a warlike race, they erect round the tomb pillars [*lit.* obelisks] in number as many as the foes the dead man has slain."

¹ *Politics*, iv. 6. This reference was kindly given me by Mr W. J. Watson.