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NOTES ON THE REMAINS OF A CRANNOG IN LOCH VENNACHAR.

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This picturesque Highland loch, of about ten miles in extent, and distant a mile from Callander Hydro, had its waters raised as a compensation reservoir by the Corporation of Glasgow in their Loch Katrine scheme about fifty years ago, to supplement the water supply of the River Forth abstracted from its sources in the upper reaches and impounded by the Corporation. A dam across the exit of that branch of the Teith, a tributary of the Forth, issuing from it, of some fifteen to twenty feet in height, with sluices regulating the outflow, was erected by that body.

At the foot of the loch, about one hundred and fifty yards from its north bank, is visible what seems to the casual eye a large boulder stone projecting, at the water's normal height, a few feet above the surface. The apparent stone is in reality a small modern cairn of stones raised on an islet on the occasion of its submergement, when the water was dammed up and a very considerable extent of the surrounding shores, and land with trees and surface buildings on these, were submerged.

On an unusually dry summer two years ago the contracted waters of the loch left a wide extent not only of the submerged shore, but apparently a considerable part of the lake's original bed, dry, revealing many interesting features of the composition of its bottom. Amongst others, this islet showed, some eight or ten feet above water, an artificial collection of stones. On visiting it by boat I found the stones loose and irregular, showing no design, an oblong heap of about forty feet in length; but any form of a building without cement would necessarily be obliterated by the waves, from the island's exposed condition to the whole swell power of its ten miles of water unsheltered from the westward winds. The islet is quite apparently partly if not wholly artificial, has a depth of water on its outer and upper (west and south) sides of some twelve feet, while its other side, that next the land, is only two or three feet. No gangway of stepping-stones connects it with the mainland, only fifty yards distant; but at its lower end the water was very shallow, and almost dry, at my visit, right across.

Embedded partly in the loose stones on the west or windward side of the island were a few pieces of waterlogged planks, of which the

five sketches are the principal, bearing signs of artificial work (fig. 1); and others may be concealed by the disarranged stones. There were on the windward side also traces on several of the larger stones there of what appeared fire, but the island was bare of everything else, although from

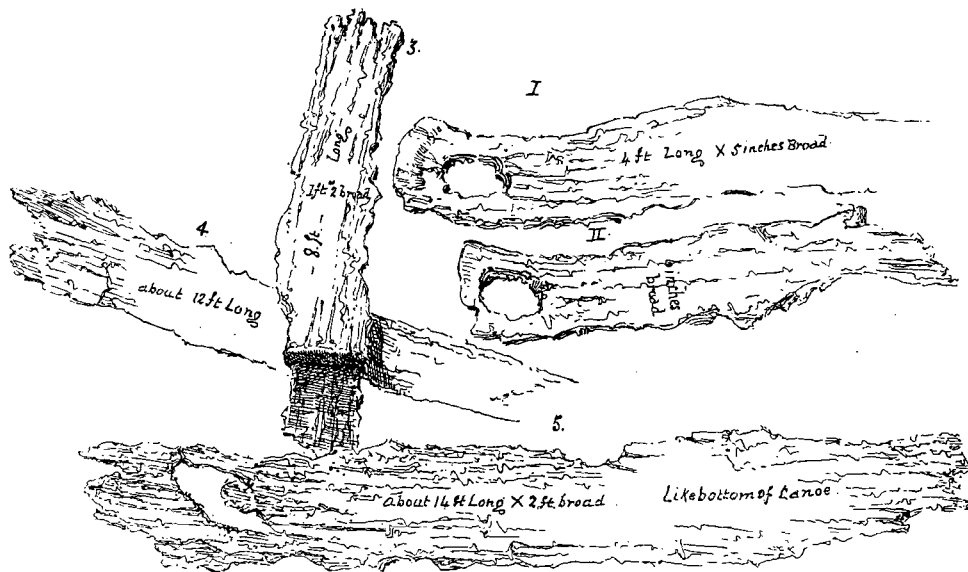


Fig. 1. Relics of shaped wood from the crannog.

- No. 1. Piece of squared wood, with mortised hole through the end.
 No. 2. Do. do. do. do.
 No. 3. Piece of shaped wood, with mortised hole in the end.
 No. 4. Piece of shaped wood.
 No. 5. Piece of shaped wood—probably part of the bottom of a canoe.

the stumps and trunks of trees and saplings there was evidence of a former vegetation, and one tree-trunk had a diameter seemingly of two to three feet, and all were still under water. No. 3 has a cut right across, as if to fit it to a mortised square hole. No. 5 seemed to me the bottom of a canoe. Nos. 1 and 2 have mortised holes. As the waters are unlikely again to contract so low, opportunity may not again occur, but perhaps the sketches may serve to establish the fact of the existence of a crannog on the spot.