

## III.

## A SURVEY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF SKIPNESS.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

1. This paper came to be written in the following way. Before the war the Ordnance Survey Department applied to local authorities for information regarding any ancient monuments in their districts that were not already marked on the Ordnance maps, and I undertook lightly to "make a list of" the things in this neighbourhood that deserved mention. (The list that I contemplated then would probably have contained one fort, one cup-marked and one standing stone, with possibly two ruined cists.) The thought of a list, however, set me looking about a little, and then all kinds of unexplained objects began at once to thrust themselves into notice; so that it soon became clear that even the small district round Skipness contained enough antiquities of one sort or another—though mostly a humble sort—to justify a full and systematic examination of them. I then formed the plan of exploring the district, which I already knew well, in great detail, so as to be able to make such an exhaustive list of its antiquities as would allow arguments from numbers and distribution, and also from negative evidence. This intention, of course, turned out to be hopelessly optimistic, and experience has persuaded me that one could never guarantee the exhaustiveness of any inventory of this sort that was made under such conditions of ground as exist in the West Highlands. For whereas in country like the Lothians, for instance, all small remains of earthwork and stone have been destroyed long ago in the course of agriculture and improvements to land, so that only the solid, large, and obvious things are left, in Argyll one has to pick out lumps of stone and turf ruins, generally overgrown with bracken and heather, from hillsides that are themselves a mass of heather, bracken, and grey boulders. Consequently I cannot guarantee that nothing has been missed; but though this inventory may not be complete, it is quite long enough to show how many hard questions may arise on a few square miles of ground which at first seem barren.

2. A few words are now necessary as to the method of the paper. Each monument has a serial number, the series running from north to south; but in the descriptive text the monuments of each kind are classed together under headings, and those under each heading are treated

according to their natural grouping in valleys or other localities. A map is attached (figs. 1 and 2), on which everything is marked by its serial number. This map is taken from the 1-inch Ordnance map (sheets 20, 28, and 29), and is only intended to give approximately accurate information for the elucidation of the paper. In order to find anything on the ground, use should be made of the 6-inch Ordnance map, 2nd edition, 1900 (sheets 192 SW., 202, 212 NE. and SE., 213, 224 NE., 225 NW.). The map-references in the text are for this edition, and have been given in sufficient detail for this purpose.

3. I have tried to err on the side of including too much rather than too little, so as to miss no chance of suggesting a fruitful comparison or providing a warning to the unwary—for example, by describing a structure that looks archaic enough, but turns out in the end to be nothing but a late survival of a primitive type. Also, for the sake of possible sidelights, I have occasionally inserted notes of local tradition or such other subsidiary matter as appeared to be relevant.

For the sake of completeness I have not confined myself to noting only new discoveries, but have mentioned also things that were known of before, with references to the works describing them.

Before describing the antiquities of this part of Kintyre it will be well to give a general account of the district itself. The position and outline of the peninsula can be grasped in one glance at a map of Scotland. It consists of a single ridge lying between two troughs filled by the sea, with a water-parting between east and west running along its whole length. The hills that form it are for the most part between 1000 and 1300 feet high. The north-east end of the peninsula consists of a steep and sudden slope falling to a coast-line that is nearly straight, so that it shows, as it were, a section of Kintyre as cut by the glacier of Loch Fyne.

The area in which these investigations were made is the east part of the north end of the peninsula. It is thus bounded on the east by Loch Fyne and Kilbrannan Sound, and on the landward side by a line drawn from the head of East Loch Tarbert to the top of Cruach an tSorchain, following the main water-parting from there as far as the top of Fuar Larach, and from there running eastwards to Cnoc Reamhar, and the sea at Eascairt Point. (This explanation may be followed on the map on which the monuments are marked.) These boundaries enclose about thirty square miles of country, and this I will describe in greater detail.

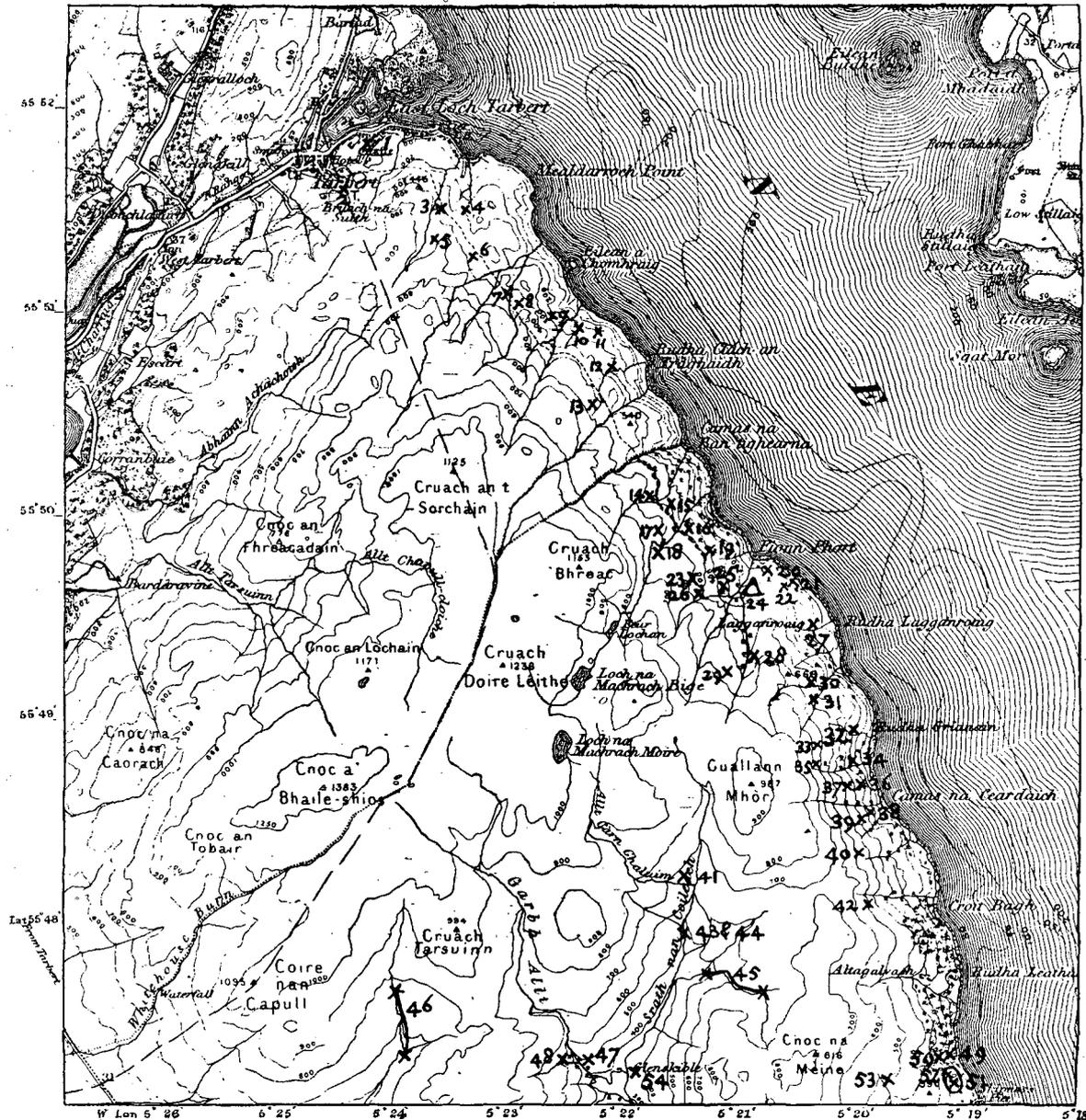
The sea face from East Loch Tarbert to Skipness pier consists of a very steep slope covered with scrub-wood and much broken up by ravines and precipitous rocks; small crofts have, however, been cultivated upon it here and there. About Skipness Point and Bay there is flatter ground, which supports a village and permits some arable farming; inland the

Figs. 1 and 2.

## A MAP OF THE DISTRICT.

[Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Board of Agriculture and H.M. Stationery Office.]

Position and serial numbers of Monuments thus - - - - - x16.  
 Large areas or groups of Monuments thus - - - - - x—x, ⊗, or Δ.



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ground rises for about four miles in a succession of hills, which are cut through by the basin of a fair-sized fork-headed burn. Farther towards the west there is another considerable burn that runs out below Claonaig; the valley of this burn makes a marked break across the peninsula, and there is some good farming land in it. Its tributary, the Larachmor burn, forms another basin that was inhabited until recent times. South-west of Claonaig the coast is rather steep and woody, but there is a considerable amount of workable land.

The hills in all this area are heathery, and support only black-faced sheep; but in the old days black cattle were kept on them. Above the 1000-foot contour the ground is very rocky and inhospitable. The lower hillsides are covered with a layer of boulder clay, through which the larger burns have cut deep valleys. There is no good harbour in this coast between Tarbert and Carradale, though there are bays and beaches here and there which lend themselves to fishing and other seafaring on a small scale.

#### INVENTORY.

The headings under which the monuments have been classified are as follows:—

- (A) Mediæval Buildings.<sup>1</sup>
- (B) Hill Forts.
- (C) Turf Huts.
- (D) Burial Places.
- (E) Stones.
- (F) Miscellaneous.

#### (A) MEDIÆVAL BUILDINGS.

No. 1. *Tarbert Castle*.—This castle is described by Messrs M'Gibbon and Ross in *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1887), vol. i. pp. 136-142.

*Skipness Castle*.—This castle is described by Messrs M'Gibbon and Ross, *op. cit.*, vol. iii. pp. 63-72. The account given there might be amplified in many ways, but a full description and discussion would develop into a complete paper by itself, and cannot be attempted here.

*Kilbrannan Chapel*.—A description of this chapel and its carved stones, with drawings, is to be found in *Archæological Sketches in Scotland (Kintyre)*, by Captain T. P. White, R.E. (Edinburgh, 1873), pp. 180-186. It is also described by M'Gibbon and Ross under "*Skipness Castle*" (*q.v.*).

*Note*.—For the history of these three buildings and of the district in

<sup>1</sup> This title is given without prejudice to the question of the date of some of the turf huts.

general, reference should be made to the Bannatyne Club's publication, *Origines Parochiales Scotiæ* (Edinburgh, 1854), vol. ii., part i., pp. 27-36.

(B) HILL FORTS.

No. 73. *Dùn Breac*.—A description of this fort, with the results of a partial excavation, has been published in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. xlix. p. 50.

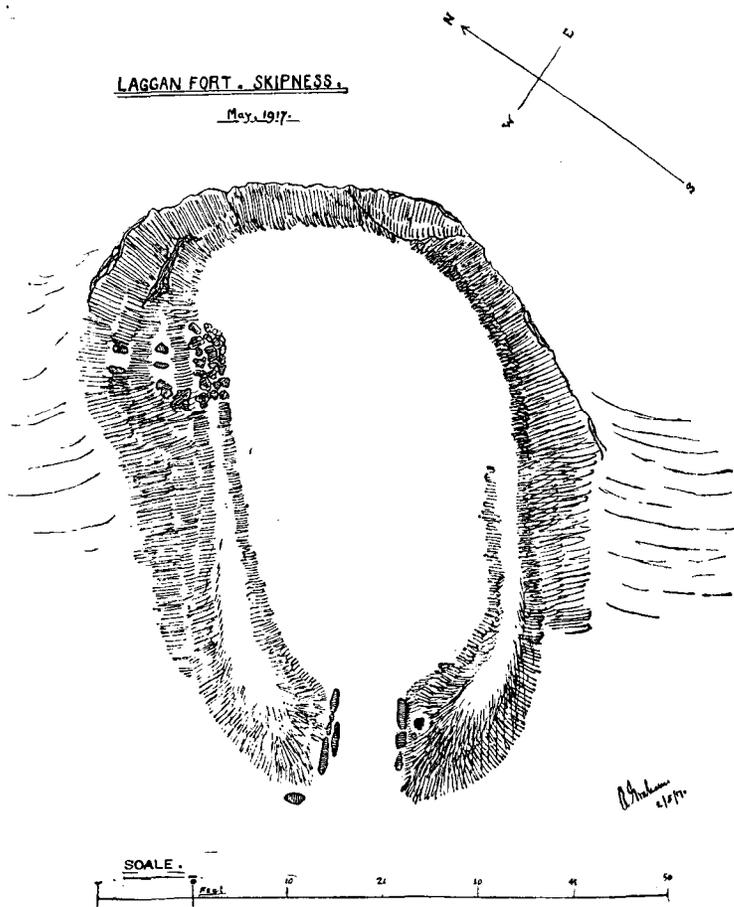


Fig. 3. Fort, Sliabh nan Dearg. (No. 63.)

No. 63. *Laggan Fort*.—This small fort (fig. 3) lies on the lower slopes of Sliabh nan Dearg, at spot-level 285. The site is formed by a rock which crops up in the side of a small glen so as to form an abrupt bluff towards the north and east, but connected with the main hillside on the

south-west at the general level. The top of the knoll has been flattened and the north side has been built up with a certain amount of masonry to make the slope steeper. The wall has been built round the edge of the resulting flat area, forming an oval enclosure the longer axis of which lies approximately north-east and south-west. The thickness of the wall is not easy to determine, as in the greater part of the circuit it is level with the surface of the interior, and only the outer face can be made out. It is covered with turf all round, and no part of it rises so much as a foot above the interior surface. But as far as one can judge, it was 5 feet or 6 feet thick except at the entrance, where it swelled to 12 feet. This entrance is 6 feet broad at its inner end and 7 feet 4 inches at the outside: it is flanked with upright slabs of stone, the size and position of which can be seen on the plan. The direction in which it points is roughly south-west. In addition to this entrance there seems to have been a smaller one on the north side, as there are two pairs of upright slabs standing one above the other on that part of the mound which appears to have been built up, or at least faced with masonry, and where there is a kind of small terrace. The space between the slabs is 2 feet in each case, and they evidently marked a path up the side of the knoll. Unfortunately the wall at this point is quite levelled, and so no traces of any entrance corresponding with this path can be seen. Something might appear on excavation.

The defensive character of this ruin is apparent both from the choice of site, which is bounded by steep slopes on the three sides, and also from the fact that the walls are doubled in thickness (and therefore were probably increased in height) on the side that is not so defended by nature.

I believe that this is the smallest prehistoric fortification of this type that has been recorded.

#### (C) TURF HUTS.

*Preliminary Note.*—Before passing to this section of the paper I must make a short explanation. I have found the district to be full of the remains of very small buildings of turf, or turf and stone, sometimes standing singly but more often in groups. They are always in a very dilapidated state; I do not know of a single case in which the wall stands more than 2 feet high. They are of various shapes and sizes; round, oval, square, oblong, oblong with rounded corners, or irregular; they may also be single, or subdivided into two or three rooms; while others, again, consist of two adjacent circles not communicating with one another. The doorways are always very narrow, and are often flanked by slabs of stone; and they are sometimes placed in the corner of rectangular huts.

The most singular feature of the whole series is their small size, the largest only measuring 18 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches internally, while some of the smallest circles are as little as 4 feet in diameter. Their general appearance is very primitive indeed, but local tradition says that some at least of them were in use as shielings within the memory of the last generation. More material will be available for a discussion of their probable origin and age after the several examples have been described.

No. 57.—This group of hut-circles lies on a bluff that projects into Glen Skibble from the east, and forms a loop in the burn about 900 yards below Glenskibble House. The huts are thirty-three in number, and appear as rings of turf wall standing about a foot high, and are generally founded on a low mound. Some are built together in twos or threes, but there are no inside doorways leading from one to the other in these cases. Most of the huts are circular or oblong, with inside diameters varying from 4 feet to 12 feet. The walls are 2 feet or 3 feet thick. The entrances are narrow (2 feet to 3 feet), and are often flanked with slabs of stone on edge. They do not appear to point in any single and uniform direction. The plan shows that they are placed haphazard, though half of them are on the lip of the scaurs.

This colony of huts is said to have been used up till recent times as an "airidh," or shieling. In summer the cattle grazed on the hill, and women were sent to live in the huts for the purposes of cheese-making. The larger huts were inhabited, and the smaller ones were used for storing the cheeses.

No. 55.—On the left side of Glen Skibble, about 70 yards south of point 469, there is a large group of very much dilapidated huts. They are built close together and hard against the turf dyke that bounds an old croft, in such a way as to suggest that they were the buildings belonging to the croft. There is another single one on the edge of the glen 100 yards north-west of point 402, which should probably be classed with them.

No. 59.—This group of huts is situated on both banks of the unnamed right tributary of the Skipness river that joins it between the "r" and the "i" of "river," the upper part of the group extending as far as the next tributary towards the south. The best of the huts are at about point 322. The huts are mostly round, resembling those in No. 57; one is a long rectangle divided into three square rooms, and another, also rectangular, is divided into a large and small room, like a modern cottage with a byre. Pieces of iron-slag have been found within the area of this group. The account of the excavation of one of the huts is appended.

*Note on Excavation.*

The hut chosen for excavation is of an irregular oblong shape, and measures 6 feet 6 inches by 5 feet 6 inches internally. The entrance, which faces approximately WNW., is 1 foot 6 inches broad, and is flanked on one side by a flat stone set on edge. The wall, or rather the ridge formed by the ruin of the wall, is about 2 feet high in its south part, but barely shows itself on the north, except in the lump through which the trench was dug. It is about 4 feet broad.

The excavation showed that the wall was built entirely of turf, and that it was founded on a natural ridge of rock on the south side, and on a kind of causeway of flat stones (2 feet 4 inches broad) on the north side. The old floor extended right up to this causeway and rock ridge, so that the original internal breadth must have been 7 feet before the falling walls encroached inwards upon the floor space. The trench was dug straight across the middle of the interior area, and disclosed the following strata. About 5 inches below the surface of the ground there was a layer of reddish-grey clay 6 inches thick, which may or may not have been a floor. It was full of small spots of an iron deposit, and grew darker towards the bottom. Below it was a layer 1 inch to 3 inches thick of hard black earth and fibrous material—probably the remains of peat. This rested directly on the surface of the rock that lies under the site. In this black stratum were a great many lumps of iron-slag and raw ore, also a good deal of charred wood and some pieces of broken bone that were too small to identify. There were no pot-sherds or manufactured articles. All over the upper side of this lowest stratum there lay a thick crust of ferruginous deposit about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick, that seemed to have been laid down on the floor like stalagmite, fitting itself round any projecting lumps. Near the walls it was particularly solid, and comparatively large pieces could be lifted away intact.

No. 58.—This is a group of twelve huts that resemble those of No. 59 closely. It lies on the right bank of a small burn that joins the Skipness river just above the loop mentioned under No. 57, about 230 yards above the junction.

No. 48.—One small round hut just above the trees on the left bank of the unnamed burn that joins Garbh Allt 450 yards WNW. of Glenskibble House.

No. 47.—A rounded rectangular hut (9 feet by 6 feet) and a small circle, close together, on the left side of Garbh Allt, 80 yards south-west of spot-level 478.

No. 45.—The colony of huts placed under this number extends, in groups, from above the gorge at the final "n" in "Eas a Chromain" to

the junction of its long right tributary, mainly on the right bank. There are also indications of others along the lower stretch of this tributary. They show the usual diversities of shape, size, and state of repair; two having been partly undermined and washed away by the burn. On the whole, little stone is used in their construction. "At about the "h" of "Chromain" there is a large pool under a waterfall; this pool has been dammed up at some time, and there is a hut, partly dug out, on the bank close by. The water does not seem to have been led into the building in any way, but it is worth while to notice the existence here of water-works of some kind, as other examples will be quoted later (*cf.* No. 53). One hut is built on the usual plan of a small circle inside a larger one; they are not concentric, and the walls coalesce on one side.

No. 45A.—These four huts lie along some 60 yards of the right bank of the long right tributary of Eas a Chromain, in the stretch immediately above the angle of the burn that occurs 80 yards north-east of point 536. They are much dilapidated.

No. 43.—This settlement of nineteen huts lies at the junction of the unnamed burn 400 yards south of Allt Carn Chaluim, with Gleann Baile na hUamha. It consists of three groups. The first group lies on a knoll in the angle below the junction of the burns, and contains two rectangular huts (one subdivided), one oblong hut of irregular shape, and three circles with a diameter of 6 feet. One of the rectangular huts measures 9 feet by 6 feet. There is also a small circle, 4 feet in diameter, 50 yards away on the edge of the burn. There is a path, marked with upright stones, leading down the side of the knoll to a crossing-place in the smaller burn. The second group is on the opposite side of the main burn. It consists of two rectangular huts (10 feet by 8 feet and 12 feet by 6 feet respectively), with doorways marked by upright stones, and two small circles and one larger one of the usual type. The third group lies 100 yards away to the SSE., higher up the slope. It consists of one small rectangle like those of the other groups, two squares with sides 7 feet long, one very small irregular oblong built against the face of a boulder, and two large ovals. One of these ovals (*fig. 4*) is remarkable, as the wall is 4 feet thick for the greater part of the circuit, but swells to 9 feet on the left side of the doorway. This thickening does not interrupt the curve of the outside of the wall, but covers part of the floor-space, as is shown on the plan. This may be the result of a large part of the ruined wall having fallen in one heap, but it is not unlike a type of hut that has been noted in Sutherland by the Ancient Monuments Commission, in which there is an earth-house underneath a thickening of the wall at one side of the door. But it is considerably smaller than the examples from Sutherland.

A remarkable feature of this colony is the association of the cup-

marked stone described under No. 44 with the first group mentioned above. It is embedded in the east face of the hillock, just below one of the circular huts. The stone is described under its own heading (*q.v.*), but it is necessary to consider here what light it throws on the huts, if indeed

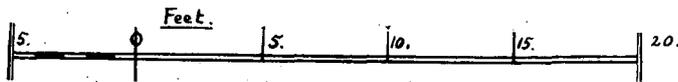
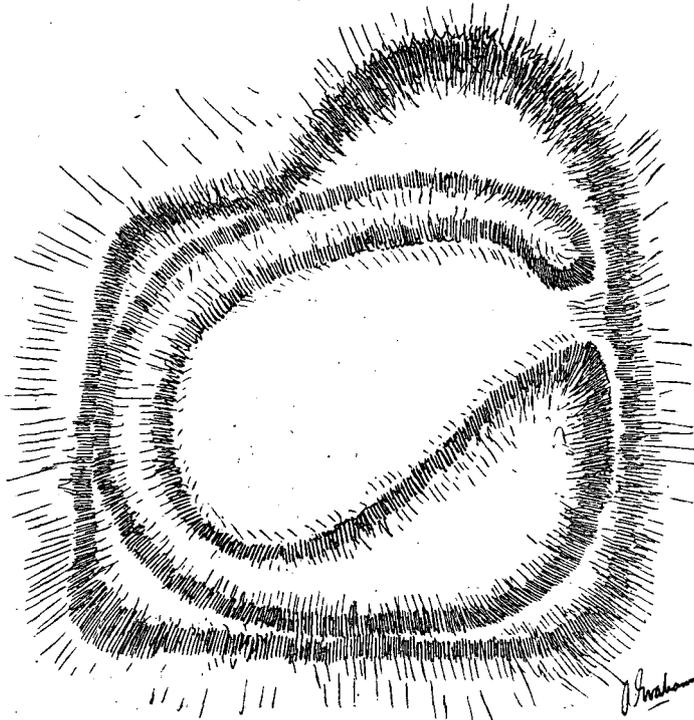


Fig. 4. Hut-circle with thickened wall, Gleann Baile na hUamha. (No. 43.)

it is not equally in need of illumination itself. The following alternatives are possible:—

- (a) That there is no connection between the stone and the huts.
- (b) That the round huts of the group (if not also the rectangular ones which contain a good percentage of stone) are of great antiquity.
- (c) That people continued to make cup-markings on stones down to the comparatively recent times when airidh were in use.

Of these alternatives, (a) is hard to believe; (b) is not impossible in view of discoveries elsewhere, and is perhaps supported by the contrast of the two types of hut in the same group; (c) is belied by the badly-weathered condition of the cups, and is contrary to one's preconceived ideas. However, preconceived ideas on such obscure subjects may be misleading, and I believe that superstitions exist in some places concerning large stones standing near houses. On the whole, I am inclined to favour (b).

No. 41.—There is another group, consisting of at least twelve round huts, mostly small, between the bottom of Allt Carn Chaluum and the building (a fank) that is marked about 200 yards to the north of it.

*Note.*—This group and No. 43 are no doubt what are referred to in the name Gleann Baile na hUamha, as otherwise there are no "caves" in this glen.

No. 3.—This group is close to the right bank of the unnamed burn which flows into the sea 370 yards south-east of Tarbert pier, at the point where it is crossed by the Tarbert-Skipness path. It consists of a round hut 6 feet in diameter, on a rocky knoll; a small enclosure, formed by a turf wall built as an irregular bow against a face of rock; and an oval hut 8 feet by 5 feet, which differs from the majority in that the outline of the wall—which has faded away almost altogether—is marked by five flat stones fixed upright on their edges.

No. 5.—This hut lies above the right bank of the burn mentioned under the last number, at a point 400 yards higher on its course. The position is a commanding one, which gives wide observation to north and east; it is very like the site of No. 17. The hut is round and has a diameter of 8 feet.

No. 6.—This hut is on a rocky hillock that lies in the flat between No. 5 and Cnoc Breac, and can be easily seen from the Tarbert-Skipness path. It is round, diameter 6 feet. There are the remains of two others, hardly noticeable, a few yards to the west.

No. 7.—This oblong building was a house of the larger size, as one reckons turf houses, but the foundations were too much faded for accurate measurement. It lies on the left bank of the right fork of the burn that runs out north of Eilean a Chomraig, between the path and spot-level 384.

No. 8.—These very faint traces of a group of huts lie 100 yards east of the point where the path crosses the burn, as under the last number.

No. 11.—The traces of this group of small round huts were too faint to measure. They lie on a knoll that forms part of the north end of Creag na Cairte (height 150 feet), and are associated with a large "platform."

There are another large hut and small platform 30 feet below them. (For the rest of this ground see under "Platforms.")

No. 12.—This is a single round hut on the left bank of the short unnamed burn that runs out immediately south of Rudha Clach an Traghaidh, and at a height of 300 feet.

No. 13.—Near the head of the burn mentioned under the last number (height 530 feet) there is an interesting group. A triangular hollow has been dug out of the left bank of the burn (length 12 yards, base 7 yards): the length lies parallel to the burn, and a ditch drains from the apex, which is downhill, into it. Beside this hollow are the stone foundations of a house, 13 feet by 8 feet; a little higher up there is another, also of stone, 11 feet by 5 feet, and a round turf hut. On the right bank there are two adjoining circles, of 5 feet 6 inches diameter. The small size of these buildings is noteworthy, as they are of stone.

No. 14.—This group consists of one longish rectangular hut and two circular ones. They lie on the left bank of the unnamed burn next to the north of Eas Mor (height 470 feet). Another hut (circular, diameter 6 feet) lies 30 yards to the north; it is peculiar in that it is built on a "platform."

No. 15.—This group of at least six huts, oblong and round, but much faded, stretches down the bluff on the right side of the burn mentioned under the last number, from the same level.

No. 16.—This is an oblong hollow indicating the site of a vanished turf house; it lies 50 yards from the right bank of Eas Mor, at about the "o" of "Mor." It is associated with a "platform."

No. 18.—This group lies in the loop of Allt Airidh nan Cuilean, at spot-level 511. There are the remains of a rectangular turf cottage and a small round hut on the right bank, and of a large oblong hut on a mound on the left bank.

No. 17.—There are faint traces of two small round huts on the hill-top 150 yards to the NNE. of No. 18. This would be an ideal site for a look-out post, and most unsuitable for any other kind of building, whether for the use of men or animals.

No. 19.—This is a round hut (diameter 8 feet) lying beside the path at a point 400 yards south-east of No. 16. There are traces of a "platform" near it.

No. 25.—There is a roughly circular hut, built against two boulders, 100 yards ESE. of Seanlaggan House.

No. 26.—This group is on the left bank of the left fork of the burn that runs out at Fionn Port (height 480 feet). It contains one oblong hut, 10 feet by 6 feet, one large square, and four circles.

No. 28.—This is a group of four huts of the "cottage" type, *i.e.* rect-

angular, subdivided inside, and of dimensions up to 15 feet by 8 feet. They stand on the easternmost of the burns that run down to Fionn Port, at a height of about 600 feet above the sea. One is close to the burn, and the others are close together 50 yards up the hillside.

No. 29.—There are very faint traces of a number of huts on the left bank of a small tributary that is marked as joining the right branch of the Fionn Port burn on its left. The tributary is much longer than one would suppose from the indication on the map, and the huts are fully 250 yards from the junction, at a height of 680 feet.

No. 24.—This is an oval area, 9 feet by 5 feet, enclosed by lumps of stone and a short length of turf walling. It is very like No. 3, and was probably a hut. It lies about 130 yards ESE. of spot-level 174, and is close to a platform (No. 24A).

*N.B.*—It is almost impossible to describe the positions of things in this region adequately owing to a lack of detail in the map.

No. 20.—This house stands on the bluff to the east of Fionn Port, about 150 yards to the south of spot-level 11. Though it seems to be built of turf only—so far as one can judge from the foundations—it is 27 feet long and 10 feet broad. But this length includes the breadth of the partitions, as it is divided into three interior rooms and an annexe.

No. 22.—This is a round hut, diameter 7 feet. It can be found most easily from the conspicuous stone No. 21 (*q.v.*), which is about 60 feet below it.

No. 27.—This group contains two huts and one house. The foundations of the latter are principally of stone, and it is 21 feet long, but it possesses primitive characteristics in the breadth, which is only 8 feet, and the doorways, which are 18 inches broad and are flanked with stone slabs in the style of the turf huts. Of the huts in the group, one, much faded, is a double circle, and the other is a square hut standing inside a rectangular enclosure, also of turf, measuring 21 feet by 30 feet. The site is 170 yards north-west of Lagganroaig House.

No. 31.—On the left bank of Allt Gamhna, at the bend by the second "1" of "Allt," there is a round hut (diameter 5 feet 6 inches) on and forming the top of a small mound. A square room (side 8 feet) is built against it on the east side, but there is no passage between, and the square room lies 4 feet lower at the bottom of the mound.

No. 33.—This hut is about 300 yards north of No. 35, by the left side of an unmarked burn. It is round (diameter 8 feet).

No. 35.—This is a group of small circular huts, standing on a knoll on the left side of the unnamed burn that runs down to Camas na Ceardaich, at a height of about 680 feet above sea-level. (*Note.*—In this group two of the huts are well marked, while the remainder can only just be made

out, and a similar difference appears in most of the groups. If this is due to a difference in age, the astonishing number of the huts would be partly explained, as all would not necessarily have been occupied at the same time.)

*N.B.*—In describing the huts under the following numbers the four burns that are shown on the map between Allt Coire Laraich and Allt Gamhna are distinguished by the letters A, C, D, and E, taken in order from south to north. Another, to be called B, is not shown, but runs out close to the mouth of C.

No. 32.—This group of huts lies on the left bank of E burn, just above the path. The lowest of them consists of a rectangular room, 8 feet by 6 feet, dug into the side of a small knoll, the remainder of which provides it with a wall fully 8 feet thick on its eastern or downhill side. The inner face of the wall so formed is revetted with rough stonework, and stands 3 feet above the floor. The other walls are of turf with some stones, and do not stand so high. The entrance is 2 feet 6 inches broad. There is an annexe on the upper side, but it is much too faded for measurement. There are two other rectangular huts above this one, measuring 8 feet by 5 feet, and 8 feet by 6 feet respectively. The entrances of all these huts face north. At a higher level again there is an enclosure, 26 feet by 11 feet 6 inches; the material is turf mixed with stones, and there is an entrance 2 feet broad in each long side. There is a partition 6 feet from the eastern end, and the ground at that end has been brought up to a level artificially; but, apart from these two features, it is more like an enclosure than the foundations of a house. This group may be connected with the industry of the "platforms."

No. 38.—This hut lies on the right bank of the C burn, at a height of about 80 feet. It is an oblong house, 20 feet by 12 feet; the wall contains a good deal of stone, is about 3 feet thick, and stands 2 feet high in parts. This house is part of a group of platforms, No. 38A (*q.v.*).

No. 39.—This hut is on the left of B burn, just below the path, height 190 feet. It is round, diameter 6 feet.

No. 40.—This group is on the left side of Allt Coire Laraich, 100 yards west of spot-level 400. It consists of two small circles and an oblong cottage (10 feet by 6 feet), with a partition.

No. 42.—At the head of the south branch of Allt Airidh Fhuair, left bank, there are the remains of a rectangular hut built against a turf dyke.

No. 68.—At the top of Cnoc Moine Raibeirt there are traces of an oval hut (9 feet by 6 feet) and a circle 5 feet in diameter. (See under "Bloomerries.")

No. 60.—These huts are on the slopes of Sliabh nan Dearg, 120 yards

south-west of B.M. 510·4. The less ruined of them stands on a knoll that seems to be artificial; the entrance faces south-west, and is flanked on one side by the usual stone slab. The other has been cut through by an old track, long disused, that leads to a peat-hag on the top of the hill. This fact points to a respectable antiquity for this hut, as it must have been ruined before the road was made.

No. 62.—In the angle of the turf dykes 250 yards north-west of point 168 there is a dilapidated group of small turf buildings; but in their present condition they cannot be distinguished from one another or measured.

No. 69.—One round hut, 5 feet in diameter, just north of the wall-junction south of point 123 (Port a Chruidh).

No. 89.—This hut stands on a small knoll on the right bank of the unnamed burn that runs close to the east side of Claonaig Inn. This burn rises much higher up the hill than the map indicates; the hut is at a point about 30 yards above the turf dyke that is represented as crossing the valley exactly at the burn's source. The hut appears to be of pure turf, measures 9 feet by 7 feet, and has traces of a partition.

No. 90.—This is a group of three stone huts situated close to No. 89. They had been mined in such a way that their largest stones presented the appearance of cist-graves, for which they were at first mistaken.

No. 78.—This small and much faded hut lies on the right bank of the unnamed right tributary of the Claonaig Water that joins it at "Ford," about 150 yards above the junction.

No. 96.—There are the remains of a rectangular building, 18 feet by 10 feet, in the corner between Allt an Cille and the turf dyke that lies above the "site of burial-ground." It is larger than a hut, and perhaps was not a roofed building at all; but it is worth mentioning on account of its proximity to the alleged burial-ground (No. 95).

No. 88.—This is a round hut 8 feet in diameter. It lies on the right side of a small trickle of water at a point 150 yards WSW. of the ruined house (unnamed) that is itself 300 yards west of the "g" of "Claonaig Water." I had heard that there was a bloomery near this spot, and a rabbit-scraps in the wall of the hut disclosed a quantity of charcoal, but I could find no slag.

No. 87.—About 250 yards north-west of the last (No. 88) there is a circular hut 8 feet in diameter, with an annexé.

No. 81.—This hut, oval in shape and extremely faded, lies 50 yards east of the angle of the turf dyke that runs from Auchavae to Allt nan Capull, at a point 300 yards north of the former.

No. 61.—This mound, which is shown to be the remains of a hut by the arrangement of the stones on the top of it, is on the left bank of Allt an tSocaich, about 650 yards due east of point 609. There seems to have

been a turf wall forming a small enclosure round the mound on the side away from the burn.

No. 46.—This group, which is really a considerable village, lies on both banks of Abhainn Leum nam Meann above and below its junction with Allt Ruadh. The locality is a hanging valley of triangular shape enclosed and overhung by Coire nan Capull, Cruach Tarsuinn, and Hill 849; it is nearly level and rather mossy, while the hillsides rise above and fall away from it in comparatively steep steps. The huts that are still recognisable are about forty-eight in number, and others have no doubt existed in the past which have now faded into indistinguishable mounds. The site is a full half-mile long, the lowest hut being 250 yards below the junction of the burns, and the highest one 650 yards above it. The village is not altogether continuous, but consists of irregular groups or clusters, with gaps and single huts between them. The huts themselves are similar, in general, to those that have been described in connection with other sites; in the following points, however, individual characteristics may be found. (a) The majority appear to be built either entirely of stone or with an unusually great proportion of stone in the walls for strengthening purposes. (b) The oblong plan is much commoner than the round. (c) Very small circles, such as are found in Glen Skibble, are absent. (d) Double huts are rare, and there is only one example with three rooms. Except for these points, the dimensions, shapes, and appearance are normal: the doorways, in particular, conform to the usual type, being very narrow and usually flanked with upright slabs.

About the origin and date of this village no more is known than about any of the other similar settlements. The solid stonework of some of the huts gives an impression of modernity which may be quite mistaken, as turf huts do exist alongside of the stone ones, and some of them are far gone in decay. A point worthy of notice is the fact that in two cases at least the burn has undermined and carried away its bank at places where huts stood upon it, so that part of the wall has been involved in the subsidence. On the face of it, this fact suggests a considerable passage of time; on the other hand, these hill burns are liable to violent spates, and the soft clay soil of the place would not resist erosion to any great extent. It is, therefore, probably not necessary to allot more than a century or two for the operation of this process.

As far as excavation goes, it was possible to lay bare a section of the ground under one of the huts that had partly subsided and examine the strata that appeared in it. At a depth of about 2 feet below the present level of the ground outside the hut there was a layer of flat stones more or less fitted together, as if to form a roughly paved floor; charcoal and

black earth were packed in between them. Above these stones was a layer of discoloured greyish soil 8 inches thick, in which there was some charcoal in small fragments. On this stratum lay a thick layer of iron pan; above which was a further 5 inches of earth which was only noticeably discoloured at the extreme top, and which was again covered with a layer of iron pan, but not such a thick one as before. There was a very little charcoal in this upper stratum, in the discoloured portion. No bones or relics appeared, but only a very small piece of the floor-stratum was cleared.

One more point remains to be noted in connection with this village, and that is its connection with an existing place-name. The word "tarsuinn" (across, athwart) appears at first to be rather unmeaning as applied to the hill already mentioned; it is not "across" a pass or frequented route, and is not, in fact, a hill that enters into ordinary people's calculations at all. However, to an inhabitant of this village Cruach Tarsuinn must have been a very familiar thing indeed, and the sight of it stretching across and closing the head of the valley would very naturally suggest the epithet "tarsuinn" to anyone coming up the valley to the village. This origin for the name may therefore be compared with those suggested elsewhere in this paper for "Gleann Baile na hUamha" and "Camas na Ceardaich."

No. 80.—This hut is on a bluff that stands out of the north bank of Loch Crinne about 150 yards from the east end.

No. 79.—This group consists of two oblong huts (17 feet by 7 feet 6 inches and 18 feet by 8 feet) and faint traces of a small square or circle. It stands on a knoll 80 yards north of Garveorine houses, between the burn and the old road. It is worth noticing in this connection that the land of "Garworle," "Garforling," or "Garwoling" is mentioned in deeds of the years 1495, 1511, and 1549 (*cf.* reference above to *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*). None of the existing stone buildings is likely to be as old as four hundred years, and it is possible that the farmhouse of the Middle Ages may have been something like these huts which stood so close to the modern site.

No. 91.—This group lies on both sides of a right tributary of the Larachmor burn that flows in midway between spot-levels 309 and 328. (The tributary is marked on the revised map of 1898, but not on the original survey of 1867.) It consists of five two-roomed huts and four single ones of medium size and rounded-rectangular plan. These huts are in fair preservation and are largely of stone. One has two doorways almost opposite one another, in the longer sides. There are also faint traces of three other huts, which have almost disappeared—probably because they were made of turf without stone.

A small piece of smelted iron was found in a rabbit-scraping in the side of a mound that lies beside one of these huts.

No. 93.—The exact number of huts in this group cannot be made out, nor their dimensions, as most of them have faded away; but there remain three small circles, and eleven mounds which must originally have had a number of larger huts on them. They stand on both sides of the Larachmor burn, about 150 yards below the point where the parish boundary leaves it and strikes across the hill towards Loch Crinne.

No. 99.—This group consists of three huts: one of them a small rounded rectangle, and the other two faded to the barest traces. The site is at point 468, on the right bank of the right tributary of the Larachmor burn that flows in at point 381.

No. 92.—This group contains two oval huts (10 feet by 5 feet), and an oblong and a circular hut standing end to end. The latter measure 11 feet by 8 feet and 4 feet in diameter respectively. They stand on the south-west side of a small burn (not marked on the map) that runs parallel to and not far from the parish boundary fence which crosses the hill from the Larachmor burn to Loch Crinne. The huts are about 600 yards up the hill from the burn.

No. 97.—About 600 yards south of the last group there is a square hut with rounded corners (side 10 feet) and a circle (diameter 5 feet 6 inches) standing on a shoulder above the upper of two stone houses that are marked, without names, in a blank area WNW. of point 423 on the Larachmor burn. This square hut appears to have had much more stone in its walls than is usual; and it is noticeable that at the same time the breadth is greater than in the case of other huts that are built of turf only. Probably the broader and heavier roof was made possible by the stronger and more solid wall: in purely stone houses, again, the breadth is usually between 12 feet and 15 feet, irrespective of the length of the house.

No. 104.—This is a group of five small round huts standing on the right bank of the Larachmor burn about 1000 yards north-east of No. 112 and between spot-levels 510 and 475. There are also three larger huts on the left bank 100 yards to 150 yards downstream.

No. 107.—This group lies at point 519 on the Larachmor burn, at the junction of a short unnamed right tributary. On the two banks of the tributary itself there are a double house, 17 feet by 7 feet, with a thick partition; a large oval (13 feet by 6 feet) possessing the usual narrow entrance (18 inches) flanked with slabs; and a small faded circle. The burn has undermined and carried away part of both the latter. In the angle of the main burn (left bank) there are a large circle (8 feet in diameter), a small one, and traces of other building. There is also a

rectangular hollow or dugout, excavated into a bank beside an old stone and turf dyke, which forms one of its sides; the other side and end are revetted with stonework. This dugout is 11 feet long, 7 feet broad, and 3 feet 6 inches deep from the ground level—or 5 feet from the top of the dyke. A few yards lower on the right bank are a small circle and a larger and much faded oval, which has been cut into by the burn. In the section that has been exposed in this way there is a black stratum 10 inches below the level of the ground: this seems to have been a hard beaten floor of small stones and sand. I found no relics.

No. 112.—This group of five huts, round and oval, stands on a small piece of higher ground that rises out of the moss that lies to the west of the Larachmor burn in the stretch above spot-level 531. They are about 200 yards north-west of spot-level 545, and the rising ground is easy to identify.

No. 118.—These huts lie on both banks of an unmarked right tributary of the Larachmor burn that joins it at point 554. They are eleven in number, large on the whole, mostly oval in shape, and possessing the usual features. One or two are very much faded, while others are in unusually good preservation, which fact probably points to a long occupation of the site. The doorways point in any direction between south-east and south-west, and one hut has two doorways opposite to one another. In one of the better-preserved ones the method of construction can be seen clearly: stone slabs have been set up on end in an irregular double row, and the space between them filled in with turf and smaller stones. One, an oblong house, 12 feet long, on the left bank of the main burn, has been half washed away. As the burn now runs in a channel 2 feet 3 inches deep, the edge of which is from 5 feet to 8 feet distant from the mark of the washing-away, it is possible that this house may be of considerable age. (There are no signs of recent spates having taken this course.)

No. 119.—A single oblong house (12 feet by 5 feet) stands on the left bank of the Larachmor burn at a point about 280 yards above spot-level 554, where another unmarked tributary joins it on the right bank.

No. 105.—A few yards from the road, in the angle between it and the turf dyke that forms the north boundary of Coille Rudha Dhuibh, there are two round huts associated with a platform. There is also a semicircular enclosure of turf built against the dyke that runs beside the road.

No. 109.—A large round hut a few yards east of the road at B.M. 118.8.

No. 101.—This is a group of eight huts, which lie under a low cliff a short distance from the right bank of Allt a Bhuic, just opposite spot-level 346. The walls of all except one contain a large proportion

of stone. The exception, which contains very little stone, is the largest of the group, and measures 17 feet by 12 feet as far as can be made out in spite of its dilapidated state. Three of these huts are built as "lean-to's" against the cliff.

No. 100.—This group lies on both banks of Allt a Bhuic, 170 yards above the one last described. It consists of three huts at least, while there are faint traces of a number more on the knoll close by. They are single huts of medium size, with a good deal of stone in the walls.

No. 102.—This is a round hut, principally of stone, 50 yards from the left bank of Allt Cruach Chaoruinn at a point about 230 yards above its junction with Allt a Bhuic.

No. 111.—This group contains two small round huts, which show as mounds about 2 feet high. Their position is hard to define, as there are few conspicuous features on the ground and none are marked on the map. They stand on a bluff about 150 yards north-east of point 490; a guide to them is to be found in a peat-road which leads up from the moss at the head of Allt Domhain and swings over this bluff within a few yards of them.

No. 108.—At a point 230 yards north-west of the group described last the peat-road can be picked up again as it rises over a brow towards the top of a small unmarked tributary of Allt a Bhuic, which it crosses some 100 yards farther on. From this point may be found:—(a) the remains of a hut measuring 8 feet by 5 feet, with traces of other buildings round about it (55 yards to the north-east); and (b) an oval mound, 10 feet by 14 feet over all, which is evidently the remains of another (58 yards to the NNW.).

No. 117.—Two round huts, 4 feet and 6 feet in diameter respectively, stand on a brow that rises from the west side of the hollow at the head of Allt Domhain, and near its lower end. This point is close to the point at which the source of the burn is shown on the map.

No. 115.—Close to the left bank of the Oragaig burn, 115 yards below point 486, there is a rectangular mound measuring 16 feet by 7 feet over all, which is suggestive of a double hut, though it may be natural.

No. 120.—On the left bank of the Oragaig burn, just below its junction with its main (unnamed) tributary, there is a semicircular enclosure built against the steep cliff that forms the side of the glen, and faint traces of a large round hut. The stone and turf walls that intersect on this small strath point to the past existence of some human settlement.

No. 122.—This hut is on the east face of Cnoc Dubh nan Coileach, about 100 yards east of the "h" of "Dubh," and 30 yards below a con-

spicuous rock face on the crest of the hill. It is round (diameter 8 feet), and is much faded.

*Conclusion.*

Having set forth the available facts, it is now necessary to see whether anything can be deduced from them. (Reference will have to be made occasionally to facts that will be found below under "Miscellaneous.")

i. Considerations that would lead us to ascribe an early date to some, at least, of the huts are as follows :—

(a) Small size and primitive appearance, which are self-evident.

(b) The gulf that is fixed, technologically speaking, between the huts and the older stone houses of the district. The smallest stone house that I have measured is 20 feet by 12 feet internally; and large ones, increasing in length rather than in breadth, run up to 75 feet by 14 feet 8 inches and 89 feet by 20 feet.

On the other hand, a hut measuring 18 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches is very large; diameters of 5 feet to 6 feet are the average for round huts, and breadths of not more than 7 feet are the rule for rectangular ones. This difference is probably due to the wall of turf, or turf mixed with stone, being unable to support such a broad and heavy roof as the bonded masonry wall of a dry-stone house—though whether this difference in material was a matter of choice, or depended on a difference in technical skill, of course remains doubtful. A good example of the two types in contrast is provided by No. 27.

(c) The faded condition of many of the huts.

(d) The fact that some huts in groups 45 and 46 (*q.v.*) have been undermined by burns, and one in No. 60 has been cut through by an old peat-road.

(e) The association of a cup-marked stone with group No. 43—though this may be evidence of the stone being late as much as of the huts being early. (*V. supra* under No. 43.)

ii. Considerations that suggest a late date are as follows :—

(a) The fact that none of the huts is found anywhere near a prehistoric burying-place.

(b) The local tradition (which is for once clear and unhesitating), that the huts were used within the last hundred years as shielings. This tradition is supported by the position of many of the groups, at a certain height up the hills and near the summer pasture-grounds.

(c) Association with "platforms" (*q.v.* under "Miscellaneous"), which, as will be shown below, are to be connected with the iron-working industries of the middle eighteenth century.

(d) Association with what are presumed to be the remains of whisky-stills—the illicit distilling industry having flourished during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

(e) The apparent advance in style from the use of turf alone to that of turf mixed with a large proportion of stone, in spite of the gulf that still remains between the types of hut and drystone house. (But it may be said that this is an argument for the early date of the primitive types as much as for the late date of the better-built specimens.)

iii. Finally, the association of certain of the huts with bloomeries and other traces of iron-smelting should throw light on their history in proportion to our knowledge of that industry in early times, though personally I am unable to make the interpretation. Instances of such association are—

(a) Deposit of slag in excavated hut in group No. 59 (*q.v.*). I found a deposit of iron-slag similar to this at Dùn a Choin Dhuibh on West Loch Tarbert, inside a circle of stonework 5 feet in diameter that lies just inside the wall of the lowest enclosure. (I excavated this circle believing it to be the foundation of a hut, but the masses of slag showed that it must have been a furnace.)

(b) Casual finds of slag in another part of group 59, near No. 38, and at No. 91.

(c) Occurrence of huts at bloomeries Nos. 110 and 116.

If it is held that the slag at Dùn a Choin Dhuibh is contemporary with the fort itself, and if the general view is that bloomeries too are early, the facts might be taken to support an early date for the huts in addition to those given under i. (above).

The effect of this jumble of contradictions on my own mind is a belief that some of the huts may be early, even prehistoric, though many of them are probably the remains of shielings belonging to the last two or three hundred years. As, however, it must be supposed that the builders of any late huts must have been familiar with dry-stone masonry, their adherence to a primitive type may have been due to the continued occupation of an ancient site, or even to the actual use of ancient buildings; for these might have retained something of their original shape after the original fabric had entirely disappeared in repeated patchings and rebuildings. (Cf. *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxxviii. pp. 173-180.)

(D) BURIAL PLACES.

No. 75.—This is a mound containing cist-graves (fig. 5); it lies on the north-east side of the road between Bruiland and Glenrisdell, and is marked on the Ordnance map as “Stone circle, remains of.” The mound is built of large stones and earth, and is approximately circular, being 53 feet long and 50 feet broad. On the north and east sides it hardly rises

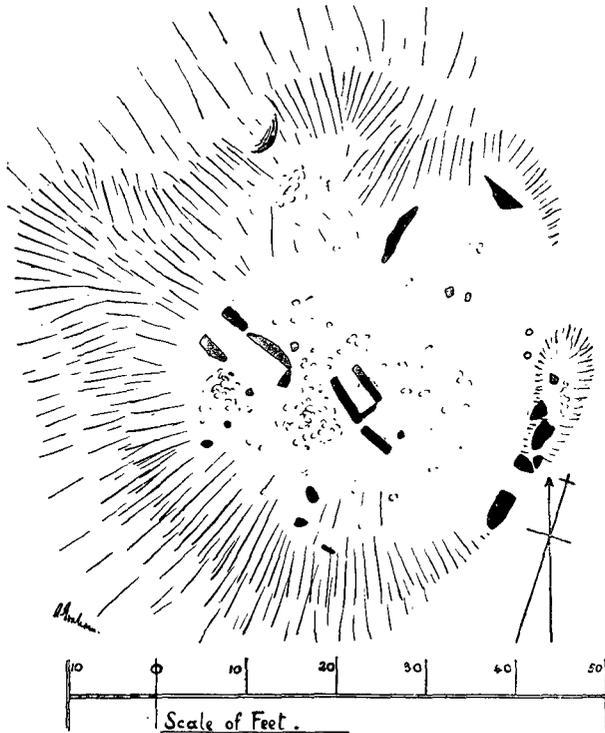


Fig. 5. Burial Mound, Glenrisdell. (No. 75.)

above the ground level, but on the south and west, in which directions the hillside drops away, it has sloping sides rising to a general level at a height of 3 feet or 4 feet. It may have been enclosed originally by a ring of large stones, as an upright block stands at the edge on the north side, and a line of smaller blocks piled together stretches for 23 feet along the east side. There are also odd blocks at other points round the edge. The remains of two cist-graves appear on the surface. One (A) is in the north part of the south-west quarter of the mound; it is 8 feet long and 2 feet 8 inches broad, and is formed by two slabs on each side and one at the

end. But the inner slab on the south side has apparently fallen outwards and been overgrown with turf. The slabs are of various heights up to 3 feet. This grave lies approximately east and west, with the open end towards the west. The other grave (B) lies just south of the centre of the mound, with its open end about 5 feet from the end-slab of (A), and pointing approximately north-west. This grave is 4 feet 6 inches long and 1 foot 10 inches wide; as it was full of rubbish, the depth could not be measured. It is formed by one slab on each side and a cross-slab at the end. The top of another slab shows above the turf abutting on the outer side of this cross-slab in such a way as to suggest that it formed the side of a second cist of the same grave. But the earth was at a higher level here, and there was no more of it to be seen. The axis of this slab is inclined at a considerable angle to that of the existing cist. There is also a large slab standing on its longer edge in the north-west quarter of the mound; it is like the largest side-slab of (A), and is probably the last remaining piece of the structure of a third grave.

(*N.B.*—The compass-bearings given above are only approximately correct.)

No. 90.—This is a group of two, or perhaps three, graves lying 30 yards south-east of the unnamed burn that runs past the east end of Claonaig Inn, at a point about 50 yards above the turf dyke that is marked on the map as crossing the valley exactly at the burn's source. (In reality the burn rises much higher up the hill.) The first grave is a low circular mound of large stones and turf, 20 feet in diameter, with a large cavity in the middle made by grave-robbers. The cist has been destroyed, but a large slab of stone is lying in the cavity and another on the ground outside, which probably formed the sides of it. The stones that form the cairn are large angular blocks, and one can see in the exposed interior that they have been built together with care, and not simply piled up. The second grave is a few yards to the north-east of the first. It is also a low mound of large stones and turf, measuring 14 feet in diameter and standing 3 feet high in the middle. Except for a few stones that have fallen or been thrown off the mound, there are no signs of its having been tampered with. There is a third mound between the second and the burn which may be no more than a turf-covered rock, though such stone as shows itself looks very much like building of the same kind as in the other two cases. (*Note.*—Excavations made while going through the press prove these "graves" to be disturbed huts.)

No. 74.—This is a cairn of stones 350 yards south of the summit of Cnoc an tSuidhe, near spot-level 513. It is 15 feet long and 11 feet broad at the broadest part, this being 5 feet from the east end. In this broadest part a hole, about 2 feet 6 inches wide, has been picked at some time or

other, and partly filled up again with stones thrown in haphazard. But the original building was quite different from this filling, as it has been done carefully with larger stones below and smaller stones and pebbles above, all well compacted together. Two stones in the sides of the hole lean inwards, as if they had once been upright and had formed the sides of a cist; and if this were the case, the existence of the hole would be explained by the rifling of the grave. The height of the original work is 3 feet, measured on the lower side of the cairn.

Local tradition accounts for this cairn by three irreconcilable stories, which are all belied by its prehistoric appearance. These stories say:— (1) This was the place where St Columba preached to the people of Skipness. This is supported by the name of the hill (Cnoc an tSuidhe), which would be a very natural name for a place where people sat to listen to preaching. (2) The cairn was put up by the last of the Macdonalds when they were driven out by the Campbells, on the last point on the road from which Skipness was visible. The cairn certainly does stand by the side of the old road from Skipness to Clachan, and this is exactly the last point from which the chapel—not the castle or the village—can be seen. This fact was probably enough to suggest the story. (3) It was put up to mark the place where a postwoman was once lost in the snow. But the dimensions and general appearance of the cairn make it difficult to believe that it had such a recent origin as this.

No. 76.—This is a mound containing a rifled cist; it lies about 300 yards south of No. 74, and about 80 yards east of the Glenbuie march fence. The mound is roughly 30 feet long by 25 feet 6 inches broad over all; it stands 3 feet high, but was probably higher before the middle was taken out to expose the cist. As far as can be seen from the exposed part of the interior, the mound is built of large blocks and slabs of stone, and the outside is covered with turf. The cist is just north of the centre; it is 3 feet long and 2 feet broad at the east end, but towards the west end the side-slabs converge to within a few inches of each other. (But this is probably due to their partial collapse rather than to any design.) The cist is formed of four slabs, and there is a fifth fixed flat against the outside of the eastern end-slab. The bottom of the cist is of earth with some thin pieces of split stone mixed in it, and it is at about the general level of the ground.

No. 71.—At a point 120 yards ENE. of the “n” of “Crow Glen” (on sheet No. CCXIII. NW.) there are the remains of a ruined cist-grave. Fifteen years ago it consisted of two side-slabs and an end-slab; but now there is only one side-slab left, and some smaller packing stones. The cist is built into the face of a slope, but not very deeply; and it must have been covered with a mound or cairn of stones. There are two large

blocks of stone close by which may have formed part of the structure. The remaining slab is 2 feet 6 inches high and 5 feet long.

No. 83.—A tumulus (An Dùnan) is marked on the map in the bottom of the wood at the west end of Skipness village. This mound has been excavated, and has been found to be nothing more than a natural bluff. The stratification of the clays and gravel continues undisturbed to the top.

No. 95.—A Christian burial-ground is marked on the Ordnance map 400 yards north-west of Creggan farm. There are no gravestones to be seen on the surface, nor any signs of burials. It is said that there was another small cemetery somewhere on the shore below Oragaig.

*General Note on the Cist-Graves.*

I propose to make another small digression in order to point out that all the prehistoric burying-places lie close to the old road—now a hill-track—that led from Skipness to Clachan, and so to the outer world. First there is (No. 71) a cist, not far from the village; then near the top of the first pass there are (Nos. 74 and 76) a cist in a tumulus and an apparently rifled cairn. Farther on, where the track reaches the valley, there is (No. 75) a mound containing at least two and perhaps more cists. So far we have four burials of apparently Bronze Age date in three miles; and a little farther on, in the field near the ford, the 6-inch map marks "Stone javelin found here." Beyond this point, I do not know of any more traces for a few miles, but in the Ballnakill valley, by which the road came down to Clachan, there are again tumuli marked on the 6-inch map.

(For references to suggestions on this point, *cf.* Déchelette, *Manuel d'Archéologie Préhistorique*, pt. i. p. 131.)

(E) STONES.

No. 54.—This is a cup-marked boulder (fig. 6), lying apparently in its natural position with the surface and one side exposed. It is to the south-east of the junction of the burns at Glenskibble, being 180 yards from point 402 and 200 yards from point 469; but it is most easily located on the ground from two parallel turf dykes that run up from the glen for a short distance past this point. It is 30 yards to the south of these, 80 yards below their end. The cups are fifty-six in number, if all the faintest traces are reckoned in; at least forty-one are still perfectly clear, though those on the part of the rock that has been exposed to the air are weathering away. The greatest length of the decorated area is 5 feet 9 inches and the greatest breadth 3 feet 7 inches; the cups are

arranged on no particular plan (see sketch), but some are in groups of three and some seem to run in lines, though they are not very straight ones. The largest cup (diameter  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches) is a single one, and has a channel 1 inch long leading into its side; there is also a very small deep

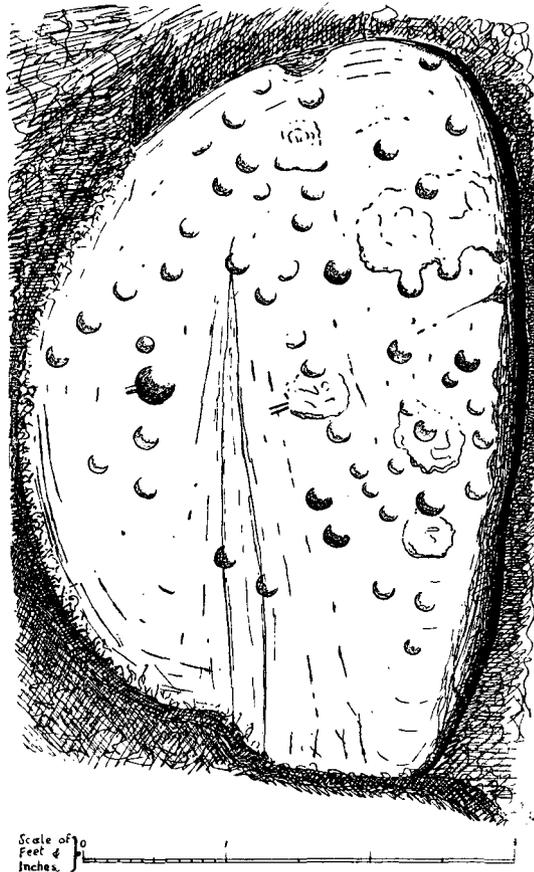


Fig. 6. Cup-marked Stone in Glenskibble. (No. 54.)

cup close beside it. Two other cups seem to have been joined by a channel, but the weathering has gone too far for it to be made out with certainty; there is also a short groove in one place that is not connected with any cups. Where the weathering is worst a piece of the surface seems to have split off, which may have spoilt some cups; in two other places splitting seems to have taken place between the units of groups of three. The cups vary in size, the diameters of most of them being from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

No. 66.—This is a large flat slab of rock marked with circular cups (fig. 7). It lies 60 yards north-east of Eas Faolain, at a point 320 yards above the bridge of the pier road. The slab is prone, and there are no signs of its having ever stood upright or formed part of a dolmen. The disposition of the cups can be seen from the sketch; the group of



Fig. 7. Cup-marked Rock, NE. of Eas Faolain. (No. 66.)

three cups arranged as a trefoil is worth notice, as the centre of the trefoil also carries a small cup. The diameters of the cups are from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

No. 44.—This stone is in the middle of the colony of huts described under No. 43 (*q.v.*). It is a flattish boulder fixed in the east side of the hillock on which the huts stand, conforming to the slope. The surface measures 3 feet in length (on a line drawn through the cups) and 2 feet 8 inches in breadth. The cups are nine in number, and are close together on the highest part of the stone; their position suggesting that it was in its present position when they were put on. They are very shallow

and faint, and have evidently been exposed to the weather for a long time, as the surface of the stone inside them is as rough as that of the unworked parts. Their average diameter is about 2 inches, though one is larger. The significance of the association of this stone with the huts is discussed under No. 43.

No. 106.—This is a flattish boulder of irregular shape (the surface measuring 7 feet each way), which bears most singular markings. It lies 150 yards SSW. of the point where the fence and turf dyke that form the north boundary of Coille Rudha Dhuibh meet the road (mid-way between points 161 and 140). The markings consist of:—

(a) Grooves of more or less semicircular section, the dispositions and design of which are very difficult to describe in words. The broadest of these, which is very sharp and clean, is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, and an intricate one in the lower right-hand corner as you face the stone is 2 inches broad at its broadest point and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch deep.

(b) Small pits. Among the grooves in the lower right-hand corner there is a small round pit 1 inch across and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep; I think that it has been deeper and broader, but that a part of its side has split away. Another pit, of trefoil outline and with very sharp edges, is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch across and 1 inch deep.

(c) Shallower channels and scrapings.

(d) Scratches, up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in breadth, which run in all directions, are of various lengths, and are sometimes straight and sometimes twisted.

The stone when found was half covered with turf, and the markings that had been covered were much sharper than the others.

These markings are very puzzling. The smaller scrapings and channels classed under (c) and (d) above cannot conceivably be caused by ice, in view of their lack of parallelism, the twistings of some of them, and the way in which some of the straight ones appear to meet one another as if to form crosses or angles. And I know of no natural agency—whether ice, water, or chemical action—that could have produced such grooves as those placed under (a), while the two small pits are obviously the work of man. The only thing which the broader grooves resemble at all are the marks made by the polishing of stone implements, that are found on hard rocks in some places. This suggestion, however, does not provide any probable explanation for the smaller grooves and scratches; and the trefoil-shaped pit looks as if it had been made by some small instrument like a chisel, and finished with a wooden drill.

*Note.*—This locality happens to be one that was held to be much

haunted by fairies, though nothing is said about any such stone as this being used for any magical purpose.

No. 84.—About 50 yards east of the lower corner of the Chapel Wood, and near the edge of the cliffs, there is a slab of stone standing on its side. It is slightly inclined from the vertical. The height is 3 feet, the breadth at the base 5 feet 9 inches, and the thickness at the base 1 foot 9 inches. There are several large stones lying within a few yards of this slab; one of them, at the least, was probably erect at one time, as there seem to be packing stones underneath it. There are also obscure traces of turf walling round about. A small thumb-scraper of brown flint was found near this place.

No. 65.—This is a standing-stone 32 yards NNE. of No. 66; height 2 feet 11 inches, breadth 3 feet 6 inches, thickness 1 foot 5 inches. It is roughly conical, with one flat side.

No. 64.—This is a standing-stone 150 yards north-west of No. 66; height 2 feet 8 inches, breadth 3 feet, thickness 3 feet 4 inches. This stone is flat on the south-west side and has a rounded top; it has fallen over considerably from the vertical position. There are two smaller stones, lying in the ground, 11 feet 6 inches and 23 feet respectively from it, and so placed that the three are as nearly as possible in a straight line.

No. 70.—This stone is on the lower slopes of Cnoc Moine Raibeirt, 20 yards above the angle of the turf dyke which will be found on the map 120 yards north-west of the "M" in "Monybachach Wood." Height 2 feet 7 inches, breadth 4 feet 6 inches, thickness 2 feet 5 inches; but the stone is so irregularly shaped and stands on so steep a slope that these measurements do not convey much information. It is clearly one of the ice-borne boulders which are common on these hills, which has been levered up into a vertical position on its downhill end.

No. 72.—This stone is 130 yards from the last (No. 70), on a true bearing of 215°. It is a slab on end, leaning over at an angle of 45°; height (if upright) 3 feet 4 inches, breadth 3 feet 6 inches, thickness 1 foot 1 inch. The upper end has been rounded, either by nature or art.

No. 52.—This is a boulder standing on end, the top is naturally pointed and one face flat and of triangular shape. Height 3 feet 9 inches, breadth at base 3 feet 8 inches, thickness at base 2 feet 3 inches. It stands in a small rushy hollow on Cnoc na Sgratha, within 100 yards of point 237, and towards the north.

No. 30.—This stone (fig. 8) stands on the north side of the north (unnamed) branch of Allt Gamhna, 250 yards above the junction. It stands on a very steep slope, so that the height is considerably less on the upper side than on the lower. The height is 8 feet on the upper and 13 feet on the lower face, to the highest point; this highest point is not in the

middle, and the top falls from it to a shoulder about 3 feet lower towards the north end. The breadth is 14 feet, and the thickness 9 feet at the height of the ground on the upper side. The stone is founded, on the downhill side, on a large boulder that has apparently been placed there for the purpose, and the base is well packed round about with blocks of various sizes. There are also a number of large blocks lying near by.



Fig. 8. Standing Stone, Allt Gamhna. (No. 30.)

(The burn beside which this stone stands is the march between Skipness and Stonefield estates.)

No. 98.—This stone is an upright slab, 4 feet 2 inches high, 5 feet 9 inches long, and 3 feet thick. It stands in the valley that stretches down the side of Cruach nam Fíadh to the Larachmor burn, and is about 330 yards north-west of spot-level 455 (on the burn).

No. 113.—The position of this stone is difficult to give accurately because of the lack of prominent features either on the map or on the ground. It stands on the west side of the upper part of the moss at the head of the Oragaig burn, roughly speaking 150 yards south of point 609.

It is easy to find, however, as it is a conspicuous object to anyone in the moss or on the hill-tops round about. The stone is part of a short ridge of rock that crops out of the ground at this point; faults having divided the ridge into three parts—the cracks being at right angles to the longer axis—this block, the central portion, has been tipped forward through an angle of 90°, so that its original upper surface now forms its eastern face. That this is what has happened is made clear by comparing the planes of the quartz strata in the standing block with those in the remainder of the ridge, as those in the former are vertical and those in the latter horizontal. The contour of the eastern face of the upright portion, also, corresponds with that of the top of the ridge. The height at the highest point (close to the north end) is 5 feet; height at south end 3 feet 4 inches; length along ground 8 feet 10 inches; greatest length 9 feet 6 inches; thickness 3 feet 9 inches. (These measurements refer to the west face.)

No. 121.—These stones are on a knoll on the east face of Cnoc Dubh nan Coileach, about 200 yards east of the "h" of "Dubh." They seem undoubtedly to have been placed there artificially, as the top of a small knoll is not a likely place for ice-borne boulders to settle down of their own accord, and one of them at least is not bedded into the soil but lies on the rock of the knoll, which is here exposed. They are shapeless angular lumps; the largest, which is roughly of triangular section, measures 3 feet 4 inches in height, 3 feet 10 inches along the longest side, and 3 feet 8 inches through. There are no signs of any other stones having completed a circle, for which there would scarcely be room on the knoll.

No. 21.—This slab of stone stands on a rocky knoll about 50 feet above the sea level at a point north-west of Rudha nan Caorach and near the "s" of "Tides." (It can be seen easily from the path above.) Its height is 4 feet, breadth at ground level 4 feet, thickness 10 inches. The original thickness was 16 inches, but a slice 6 inches thick has split off the south-east face, and still lies as it fell. This slab is not beside any path, but it may have been intended to mark a gully that runs up past the knoll at an easier gradient than that of the hillside in general.

No. 23.—This is a large, shapeless fragment of rock, 6 feet 6 inches high, 8 feet long, and 5 feet thick. It stands on a saddle which, with the craggy hill-top to which it is joined, separates the Seanlaggan valley from the trough of Eas Mor. (The height above sea-level is about 590 feet.) A flat surface of rock shows through the grass on the top of this saddle, and the stone rests on this surface with an unnatural nicety that suggests the work of man. Moreover, there is no crag or cliff near by from which it could have rolled into its position. (There

is another large boulder about 40 yards to the west, but its foundations are covered by the turf, and no suggestions as to its origin can be made.) An old track rises from Seanlaggan to this saddle, and must have passed close to these stones; but its actual course at the place is hidden by the turf, which has not been able to accumulate to the same extent on the steep slope below.

No. 2.—This large upright slab of stone is certainly intended to mark the line of the track beside which it stands. It therefore interprets other upright slabs which are found here and there, and which need only be kept in mind for cautionary purposes. There is another large stone, a shapeless block, some 200 yards to the east along this track, which is clearly of the same character; by its position—it lies on a flat rock—it recalls No. 23, and provides the explanation that was required for it.

No. 4.—About 130 yards south of Mealldarroch ruined houses there are three stones standing in a straight line, that lies approximately east and west. Their flat faces are at right angles to this line, and in that they differ from the slabs that stand beside hill-tracks. Moreover, there are no traces of any road near them. They are of the same size and appearance as No. 64; the centre stone is 15 yards from the western and the eastern one 12 yards from the centre. The eastern stone leans backwards (uphill) against two large boulders.

#### (F) MISCELLANEOUS.

Under this heading I propose to describe a certain number of things some of which are primitive rather than ancient, and others of which are not monuments at all. My excuse for so doing is that they are interesting in themselves, and that the company in which they appear is already very mixed.

##### *Platforms.*

There are first of all a number of structures which I have called "platforms." These platforms are small levelled areas built on the slopes of hills, in the same way as teeing greens are sometimes built on a hilly golf-course, the earth being dug away on the upper side and made into an artificial bank on the lower. They are generally oval, and about 20 feet in length. Details of their positions, dimensions, etc., are given in the notes which follow: as a summary it may be said that they occur in groups (often associated with huts) on steep slopes overlooking the sea, and at heights of less than 250 feet; that charred wood is generally to be found under the turf that covers them, while there is little iron-slag, if any; and that they have been built up to a level on purpose and do not result from the accumulation of any soil or waste

products. One may therefore surmise that they were hearths used by charcoal-burners, who cut the scrub-woods that grow on these slopes, made the charcoal on the spot, and sent it away by sea to foundries or the outer world in general. This theory is supported by the fact that iron was smelted to a large extent in Argyll and other parts of the west coast during the second half of the eighteenth century; the *Statistical Account* (vol. v. p. 298, footnote; Inveraray) says that the Duke of Argyll gave to the Argyll Furnace Company rights over the woods on his lands in several parishes, and mentions among the necessary processes, "cutting, peeling, and making charcoal." (Other references to this industry in the *Statistical Account* are vol. vi. p. 176, and vol. x. p. 268.) The present state of the woods also agrees with this conjecture; for though the general stock of trees has not altogether recovered itself in the neighbourhood of these platforms, yet the individual trees are of full age, and some large birch and hazel trees are growing actually out of certain of them, so that it seems probable that they have not been used for a hundred years or thereabouts. The distinction between platforms and bloomeries will be discussed in the treatment of the latter.

No. 50.—This platform is 21 feet long and 18 feet broad in the middle. It lies 50 yards south-west of the "T" of "Tobair a Ghail." There is charred wood mixed with the soil on it, but apparently no iron, although a bloomery is reported to have been seen here some years ago.

No. 49.—This one is like the last, but in better preservation. It lies below it at a height of 180 feet, on the left side of the same burn.

No. 38A.—This group of three platforms lies between B burn and C burn (see under Huts, Nos. 32 to 39), at a height of about 110 feet. They are of the usual type. A bloomery exists somewhere in this neighbourhood, but investigation with a trowel in the platforms only produced charcoal. Another platform that belongs to this group lies on the left bank of C burn.

Other platforms can be found in this bay as follows:—(i.) 200 yards north of the last, height 160 feet (No. 37); (ii.) below (i.), height 90 feet (No. 36); (iii.) on the left bank of D burn, just above the path, height 170 feet (No. 34). *N.B.*—The name of this bay, "Camas na Ceardaich," is no doubt connected with the industry of the platforms; though I do not know whether the word can apply to charcoal-burning, or whether it implies the existence of a forge or smithy of some kind, with which the bloomery would agree better.

No. 24A.—This is less a group of platforms than a piece of ground on which several have been found and a number of others probably still remain to be found. The following are known, scattered about the valley above Fionn Port, on the right side of the burn:—(i.) About the "4" of

spot-level 174; (ii.) 50 yards uphill from (i.), and nearer the ravine; (iii.) 100 yards uphill from the last (ii.); (iv.) a very large one, 8 yards by 7 yards: associated with it is Hut No. 24 (*q.v.* for position).

Charred wood again appeared on these platforms, but no slag.

The remainder of this coast, between Fionn Port and Tarbert, is so thickly covered with platforms that it is not worth while to give separate accounts of the various groups. The positions of some are given under the descriptions of the huts which are associated with them (Nos. 11, 14, 16, 19). The last examples towards the north are No. 9, a group of four lying immediately to the north of the Allt Beithe burn, between the 200-foot and 150-foot contours, and No. 10, a group of three in the gully immediately south-east of this burn, at a height of about 200 feet. From the point mentioned under No. 11 (Creag na Cairte) it was possible to make out the traces of a great number on the hillside below, but the slope was so steep that it did not appear worth while to carry out an exhaustive search in view of the fact that these platforms only vary in size and not in type. I have accordingly neglected the ground between Creag na Cairte and Camas na Ban-Tighearna. But it may be taken for granted that all these slopes are covered fairly thickly with platforms; and it is noticeable that they occur quite commonly where the slopes are particularly steep.

*N.B.*—The platforms and huts associated with them all occur at or below the 250-foot contour, and appear to have depended on the sea rather than on the land; whereas the other huts on this sea face are found near the courses of paths and passes that are the natural lines for traffic and communication by land.

No. 51.—Under this number is placed an area of ground containing a large number of platforms. The area is bounded on the north by the burn of Tobair a Ghail, on the west by the 300-foot contour (approximately), on the south by a turf dyke that runs down to the sea at a point 250 yards north of Skipness pier, and on the east by the cliffs. The platforms are scattered here and there within these boundaries; and as they are similar to those already described, there is nothing to be gained by discussing them in detail. There are also traces of drainage works in the area, *i.e.* ditches and pools filled up with grass and moss, which seem to have had some connection with the work that went on here. (There are traces of similar ditches or water-courses at No. 114.) This area is known to have been under scrub-wood until about 1850, but nothing is said about any charcoal-burning having taken place when it was cleared. It is therefore probable that these platforms date back to a time when a previous crop of trees was cut from the same ground; especially as the charcoal industry was in full swing a hundred years earlier.

No. 114.—Another area in which there are several platforms may be described as lying on both banks of Allt a Bhuic, between the road and the top of the cliffs, and extending as far south as the “e” of “Coille.” They are most numerous in the angle between the ravine and the cliffs. There is also one outside the south-west corner of the small field that is enclosed by the woods at this point, and another just west of the road-bridge (B.M. 178·8). They are of the same type as those that have been described already, and there are traces of ditches near some of them. A bloomery also comes into this area (*q.v.*, No. 116).

No. 105A.—A single large platform; for position *cf.* No. 105 (Huts).

#### *Bloomeries.*

Another class of monument of which several examples exist is that of the bloomeries. I know of seven examples in the area, and believe that at least three, and probably many more, exist which have not been found. The known examples are in various states of preservation, the best one consisting of a mound of slag associated with the remains of a hut and a platform, and the worst being merely a stratum of slag under the turf. They are located as follows:—

No. 77.—On the lip of the ravine that forms the left bank of Allt a Chreamha, at a point just east of the “t” of “Allt” (as written on sheet No. CCXIII. SW.). This is nothing more than a bed of slag which crops out where the soil has been disturbed by the traffic on a path.

No. 86.—This is a mound of slag measuring some 10 feet across, standing on the hillside 80 yards above the ruins of a house that is marked on the map, but is not named, its position being 470 yards nearly due north of Gortaneorn. There is much loose slag lying round about the mound.

No. 94.—On the right bank of Allt Criche, 50 yards below the point where it leaves the enclosure that is marked as a coniferous wood. In this case the mound is so low that it is barely noticeable on the surface; the slag, however, appears as a stratum under the soil in the sides of a large rut, made by the dragging of fallen timber. The length of the patch that appears in this way is 15 feet; the breadth could not be made out.

No. 56.—This is a large mound of slag 3 feet high and 15 feet broad over all, with some charcoal appearing in its composition. Beside it are a lower mound (turfed over, but probably also consisting of slag), and a circle of stones set in the earth, measuring 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, and having gaps towards the SSW. and SSE. It lies on the right bank of a small trickle of water not shown on the map, at a point about 300 yards west of the top of Hill 609.

No. 67.—This is a mound of slag similar to No. 86, standing about 100 yards north-west of point 311.

No. 110.—This site is on the left bank of a small burn (not marked) which runs straight down to the sea from B.M. 118'8, at a point a short distance above the cliffs. The remains consist of a mound of slag, and an oval of stonework that might mark the foundations of a hut.

No. 116.—This is the most interesting bloomery in the area, as the remains include a platform and a hut, as well as the mound of slag. They stand about 80 yards north-east of the "e" of "Coille Rudha Dhuibh" (as marked on sheet No. CCXXV. NW.), on the left bank of a small unmarked burn. The place can be found easily, as it is in the middle of an open ride that runs straight through the woods a short distance above the cliffs.

In addition to the above examples a reliable observer reports that he has seen mounds in the vicinity of No. 36, where there are a number of huts and platforms, and at the spot where platform No. 50 is marked; but both these seem to have been overgrown of late years. Another site which I have been unable to identify is that reported in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxi. (1886-87), p. 96; the wording of the description is vague, and the only site that seems to answer to it at all is that of No. 68 (*q.v.*), on Cnoc Moine Raibeirt. But no slag is to be seen there to-day, nor any mound that is noticeably distinct from the ordinary irregularities of a hill-top.

Casual finds of slag, as distinct from regular bloomeries, have been made in various places, and have been noted in other parts of the paper (*cf.* Nos. 38, 59, and 91). Of these the deposit in the floor of the hut at No. 59 is the most important. The possible site of yet another bloomery or deposit of slag has been noted under No. 88.

The account of these bloomeries will have been sufficient to bring out the distinction between them and the platforms, in spite of the association of the two in Nos. 50 and 116; as in the great majority of cases there is no mound, and charcoal alone appears when the turf is raised. The suggestion already made, that platforms are to be connected primarily with the process of preparing charcoal, may therefore be allowed to stand as a working hypothesis.

As to the date of any of the bloomeries I have found no clue; though the discovery of slag at Dùn a Choin Dhuibh, alluded to above under No. 59, suggests that iron was being worked in this district at an early date. (A small piece of slag was also found in the excavation of No. 73, Dùn Breac, which is presumably of the same age, more or less, as Dùn a Choin Dhuibh.) There seems to be no memory of any iron-working preserved in local tradition.

1919 Proceedings

### Whisky Stills.

Another industry that has left some tangible traces in the district is that of making whisky. This industry was carried on in an entirely illicit manner, and its votaries enjoyed an enormous prestige. In consequence of this a considerable body of tradition has come down, and it is moreover of such a nature as to make the subject more suitable for treatment by an epic poet than by an archæologist. In addition to this, the remains of the stills are few and very difficult to find. I therefore do not propose to discuss the whole subject in full, but will simply note the positions of a few sites that are probably the remains of them.

No. 53.—This site is on the left bank of Allt an Uinsinn, just below the point where it leaves a large moss—the map indicates that the burn rises

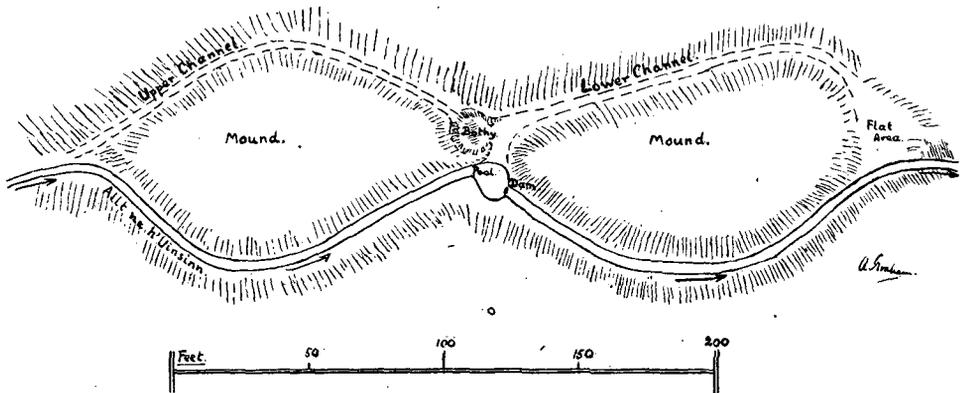


Fig. 9. Whisky Still, Allt an Uinsinn. (No. 53.)

here, but this is wrong. The remains (fig. 9) consist of a channel, now dry, leading out of the burn, running round a mass of earth some 25 yards long by 10 yards broad, and into a dug-out chamber that has been hollowed into the lower end of the mass. As the chamber is close to the edge of the burn, the mass of earth round which the channel runs is left as a kind of island. From the chamber another dry channel leads round another larger island, and, after bending sharply towards the burn, gives on to a small level space close to the bank. The whole system is about 100 yards long. (The general outline can be seen by the diagram, fig. 9.) The chamber or bothy is 14 feet long and 12 feet broad, and is 4 feet deep at the upper end; the floor has been raised by earth and some large stones that have fallen in from the sides, and originally, when the floor was flat, this depth must have been greater. There is a doorway at the lower end that is almost on a level with the edge of the burn, and is besides quite close to it, as the bothy is only divided from the burn on its south-west

side by 3 feet of turf. The burn has been dammed so as to form an artificial pool just outside the entrance of the bothy. Without attempting to explain exactly how this place was used, one can suggest that the upper channel was a lade for bringing water in moderate volume or at particular times into the half-underground bothy, in which some process or other was carried on; that a deep bath of water was required for this process, which was supplied by the artificial pool; and that the lower channel was intended to provide a sufficient fall to carry off to a lower level the water brought down by the upper one. Speaking without experience, the hypothesis of a whisky still would appear to fit in with these conditions; as a shelter or hut would be necessary to protect the fire from rain, and for storage, and a deep pool for the worm to be laid in for condensation. (The use of the channels, certainly, is not altogether plain.) A certain number of other instances have been noted of huts built close to burns and associated with ditches or traces of waterworks. (*Cf.* Nos. 13 and 45.)

Other examples exist, but are not of sufficient interest to be allotted numbers. One, similar to No. 53, is to be found in Gleann Airidh Mhicheil, at the second "n" of "Gleann," and is worth comparing with it.

The remains consist of (i.) a square depression hollowed out of the south side of the glen, 6 feet across inside, and lined with stonework. The floor is nearly level with the water in the burn. (ii.) On the edge of the glen, which is here about 15 feet deep, and immediately above the depression, there are faint traces of a small round hut. (iii.) On the north side, a short distance downstream from (i.), there is an artificial ledge built about 6 feet above the water; it is triangular in shape, being 12 feet long and 4 feet broad at the downstream end. It is built up underneath with two or three courses to bring it to a level. Another possible example consists of some drystone walling in the bed of the burn to the north-east of Laggan houses, under the second "6" of B.M. 267·6. It runs alongside the burn for a few yards, forming an embankment in the steep side of the ravine, and then turns at right angles, goes down to the edge of the water, and seems to have formed a dam, as there is a little stonework on the opposite bank at this point. (The suggestion that this may have been a still is supported by the fact that the people who used to live in Laggan were famous as distillers of whisky.)

Another site, similar to the last, is in Allt a Chreamha, at about the first "h" of "Chreamha."

#### *Turf Enclosures.*

There are the remains of other rectangular structures of turf, unconnected with the groups of circles, which are much larger than the

rectangular huts and might be compared with the drystone houses; but the comparison is upset by their greater breadth in proportion to their length, which seems to indicate that they were never roofed. One which stands on the right side of Gleann Airidh Mhicheil, by its junction with its tributary, is 24 feet long, 19 feet 6 inches broad at one end and 15 feet 6 inches at the other; another, built against the turf dyke immediately below B.M. 384.2 (Sliabh nan Dearg), is about the same size; and a third, which stands to the east of the right-hand branch of the unnamed burn that runs down to Fionn Port, at about 700 feet above the sea, is 23 feet by 21 feet. This one, again, is just above a turf dyke. The size and position of these structures therefore make it more probable that they were enclosures for cattle than habitations, and they should not be confused with the rectangular huts with which this note is concerned. They also differ from the huts in being isolated buildings, and not members of groups as the others are.

Other examples (circular) of these enclosures can be seen at the following points:—(i.) 150 yards SSW. of Strone, under a knoll; (ii.) on the left bank of the Larachmor burn opposite point 510 (this one is built of large stones, walls 3 feet to 4 feet thick, diameter 22 feet); (iii.) 500 yards north-west of (ii.).

#### *Small Objects.*

As regards casual finds of small objects, the district has so far produced practically nothing, whether of flint, metal, bone, or pottery. (This may, of course, be due in part to lack of systematic searching.) One class of object, however, deserves to be mentioned, as enough examples exist to form some kind of a series, and it is the rough stone mortar. These mortars are often to be found by the doors of old and abandoned cottages, and are therefore probably of no very great antiquity; but they are interesting nevertheless as being a primitive type of instrument continuing in use alongside of rotary querns and water-mills. (The lower portion of a rotary quern has also survived at Skipness Castle.) Without having looked with any particular care for these mortars, I know of at least seven, and others could certainly be found among the ruins of old houses. The rudest of these seven has been made by sinking a hollow in the top of a rock that happened to crop out near the site of a house; another is an undressed block of stone with a hollow sunk in it; and in the remainder the outsides have been dressed with varying degrees of care towards the normal urn-like shape. The hollows in two of the most carefully finished specimens are 9 inches and 8 inches in depth respectively; the first is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at the top, and the second, which is not quite circular, measures 10 inches by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

LIST OF MONUMENTS.

No.	Short description.	No.	Short description.	No.	Short description.
1.	Tarbert Castle.	42.	Hut.	[83.	Natural mound.]
2.	Stone slab.	43.	Huts (group).	84.	Standing-stone.
3.	Huts (group).	44.	Cup-marked stone.	85.	Kilbrannan Chapel.
4.	Stone slabs.	45.	Huts (group).	86.	Bloomery.
5.	Hut.	46.	" "	87.	Huts (group).
6.	"	47.	Hut.	88.	Hut.
7.	"	48.	"	89.	"
8.	Huts (group).	49.	Platform.	90.	Huts (group).
9.	Platforms.	50.	"	91.	" "
10.	"	51.	" (area).	92.	" "
11.	Huts (group).	52.	Standing-stone.	93.	" "
12.	Hut.	53.	Distillery.	94.	Bloomery.
13.	Huts and ? distillery.	54.	Cup-marked stone.	95.	Burial ground.
14.	" (group).	55.	Huts (group).	96.	Hut.
15.	" "	56.	Bloomery.	97.	"
16.	Hut.	57.	Huts (group).	98.	Standing-stone.
17.	Huts.	58.	" "	99.	Huts (group).
18.	" (group).	59.	" "	100.	" "
19.	Hut.	60.	" "	101.	" "
20.	"	61.	Hut.	102.	Hut.
21.	Standing-stone.	62.	Huts (group).	[103.	Cancelled.]
22.	Hut.	63.	Fort.	104.	Huts (group).
23.	Stone block.	64.	Standing-stone.	105.	" "
24.	Hut and platform.	65.	" "	106.	Grooved stone.
25.	Hut.	66.	Cup-marked stone.	107.	Huts (group).
26.	Huts (group).	67.	Bloomery.	108.	" "
27.	" "	68.	Huts. <sup>1</sup>	109.	"
28.	" "	69.	"	110.	Bloomery.
29.	" "	70.	Standing-stone.	111.	Huts (group).
30.	Standing-stone.	71.	Ruined cist-grave.	112.	" "
31.	Hut.	72.	Standing-stone.	113.	Standing-stone.
32.	Huts (group).	73.	Dùn Breac.	114.	Platforms (area).
33.	Hut.	74.	Cairn (grave).	115.	Huts (group).
34.	"	75.	Cist-graves.	116.	Bloomery.
35.	Huts (group).	76.	Cist-grave.	117.	Huts (group).
36.	Platform.	77.	Bloomery.	118.	" "
37.	"	78.	Hut.	119.	" "
38.	Hut.	79.	Huts (group).	120.	" "
39.	"	80.	Hut.	121.	Standing-stones.
40.	Huts (group).	81.	"	122.	Huts (group).
41.	" "	82.	Skipness Castle.		

<sup>1</sup> This number is out of place on the map.

TABLE SHOWING SERIAL NUMBERS OF MONUMENTS BY TYPES.

Heading.	Type.	Serial Numbers.
A . . .	Castles . . . . .	1, 82.
A . . .	Chapel . . . . .	85.
B . . .	Forts . . . . .	63, 73.
C . . .	Huts (groups or single examples).	3, 5 to 8, 11 to 20, 22, 24 to 29, 31 to 35, 38 to 43, 45 to 48, 55, 57 to 62, 68, 69, 78 to 81, 87 to 93, 96, 97, 99 to 102, 104, 105, 107 to 109, 111, 112, 115, 117 to 120, 122.
D . . .	Prehistoric burials . . . . .	71, 74, 75, 76.
D . . .	Christian graveyards . . . . .	85, 95. ? Unknown location on shore below Oragaig.
E . . .	Cup-marked stones . . . . .	44, 54, 66, 106.
E . . .	Standing-stones (slabs or blocks).	2, 4, 21, 23, 30, 52, 64, 65, 70, 72, 84, 98, 113, 121.
F . . .	Platforms . . . . .	9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 19, 24 (A), 34, 36, 37, 38 (A), 49 to 51, 105 (A), 114.
F . . .	Bloomeries . . . . .	56, 67, 77, 86, ?88, 94, 110, 116. Also three examples not located.
F . . .	Other localities where slag has been found.	59, 73, 91.
F . . .	Whisky stills (presumed).	13, 45, 53. Also three not numbered.