

## II.

NOTE ON A STONE CIRCLE AT MELGUM LODGE, NEAR TARLAND,  
ABERDEENSHIRE. BY W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON, M.A., D.LITT.,  
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The mansion-house of Melgum Lodge stands on the south-east slope of the Gallows Hill, about a mile to the west of the village of Tarland (6-inch O.S. Map, Aberdeenshire, Sheet 70). It is enclosed in an extensive wood, a good deal of which, however, has been cut down in recent years. At the south-east corner of this woodland area, but in a portion from which the trees have now been stripped, stand the remains of a small and hitherto undescribed stone circle. The site is now a piece of rough boulder-strewn moor, with a few birches and shrubs, at a height of some 600 feet above sea-level; it has a gentle southward slope, and commands a wide view to the south and east over the fertile Howe of Cromar, a district extremely rich in vestiges of prehistoric occupation. Between two and three furlongs distant to the south-east is Waulkmill, with the solitary standing stone of a former circle, described by Mr F. R. Coles in *Proceedings*, vol. xxxix. pp. 213-4; and near it the gravel pit in which was found the remarkable early Iron Age sepulchral deposit described *ibid.*, and also by Mr J. Graham Callander in vol. xlix. pp. 203-6.

The circle is now in a much overgrown condition. Some of its stones have probably disappeared, and of those that remain two have clearly been disturbed. These are the east stone, which has apparently been swung round from its true axis preparatory to its removal, and the smaller of the two stones on the south side, which seems to have undergone similar treatment. The dimensions and character of the circle are fully displayed in the accompanying plan (fig. 1). It had clearly never been an example of outstanding importance. None of the stones are of any size; they vary from 1 foot 4 inches to 3 feet 4 inches in height above the present ground-level, the east stone being the highest. So far

as can be ascertained beneath their thick covering of moss and lichen, the material of the stones is the local greyish granite.

A yard or two to the south of the circle are one or two other erect

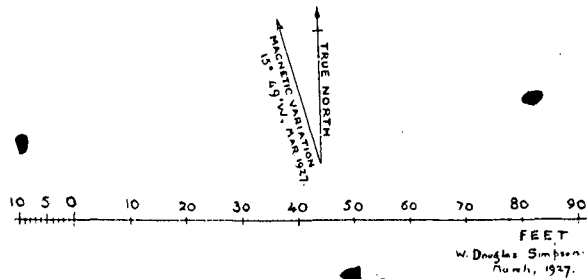


Fig. 1.—Remains of Stone Circle at Melgum Lodge, Aberdeenshire.

stones of similar size, which exhibit the appearance of perhaps having formed part of another such circle; but the ground has been much disturbed, and there is not enough evidence to warrant a certain opinion one way or the other. The O.S. map marks this as a second circle, and shows a third one a little to the west; but of this I could see no traces.