

## 6. BURIALS NEAR BLACKNESS CASTLE.

In digging a ditch on the crest of the ridge at the extremity of which stands Blackness Castle, two burials came to light. Some of the contents thrown out were rescued by the Castle's guardian and eventually sent to the National Museum. One grave contained cremated remains, the other unburnt bones. From the custodian's report it seems that the latter were accompanied by a bowl-shaped Food Vessel (type A). The human remains were sent to Professor Alexander Low who reports as follows:—

No. 1.—*Inhumation Burial.*

*Skull Bones.*—Base of skull represented by the sphenoid and basioccipital and showing basilar suture quite ossified; a further piece of occipital joined with pieces of right and left parietals with lambdoidal and parietal sutures united; in addition seven more pieces of parietals; frontal bone showing parts of orbital margins with frontal sinuses exposed; right and left temporal bones with petrous portions fairly complete and showing suture between it and occipital still open. From the condition of the sutures one would judge that the skull bones belonged to an adult individual, say, over fifty years of age and under sixty. The left half of the lower jaw is almost complete and in the tooth sockets there are the two incisors, the canine, the two premolars and the first and second molars; there is also a piece of right half of lower jaw showing the canine, two premolars; and the second molar tooth.

In addition there are also present the right and left petrous bones and two incisor teeth. The enamel of all the teeth is much ground down, probably due to the gritty nature of the food. The presence of two pairs of petrous bones is evidence of two adult individuals, so that it is not possible to say to which individual the various bones belong.

The vertebral column is represented by three cervical vertebræ, one of which is the atlas or first cervical; three thoracic and the bodies of four lumbar vertebræ and the laminae of four lumbar vertebræ; seven fragments of ribs; an almost complete left clavicle; a piece of the left scapula with the articular cavity; the separate head of a left humerus and about two-thirds of the shaft of the left humerus.

No. 2—*Cremation Burial.*

In this cremation interment we are again faced by the fact that there must have been two individuals, for there are five very thin pieces of a young skull and a temporary second molar tooth indicating a child of between two to six years of age. Of the adult skull there are present seven pieces of covering bones of skull and the articular surface of condyle of right lower jaw. There are also fragments of the bodies of three vertebræ; two fragments of ulna; two pieces shaft of femur; an almost complete left patella; two pieces shaft of tibia, and the distal end of the metatarsal of the big toe.

In addition there are many small fragments which cannot be identified. The weight of the cremated bone is approximately ten ounces.

ALEXANDER LOW.