IV.

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

The Council of the Society having resolved to continue the investigation of the Stone Circles of Scotland, and the selection of a new area being left to me, I suggested Perthshire as the next most useful field for survey. This choice was made mainly because the county is extremely rich in megalithic remains, which, although frequently referred to in the *Proceedings* and elsewhere, have not as yet received a systematic investigation at all commensurate with either their numbers or their importance. I considered that the methodical way would be to begin with the most easterly portion of Perthshire, that bordering with Forfar, in the northern more hilly portions. This method would have been adopted but for the impossibility of finding, late in summer, suitable quarters at or near so popular a resort as Blairgowrie—the best centre for the intended district. Pitlochry was therefore chosen, as the next best; and this locality, being so much farther west, obviously rendered it impracticable to visit the sites in Glenshee and Strath Isla.

This survey thus begins, not quite at the eastern border, but near Kirkmichael in Strath Ardle, and the sites examined will be taken as far as possible in a westerly direction from that point, and then in a southerly direction from Dunkeld.

The most northerly point included is at Blair Atholl, the most westerly Fortingal, and the most southerly a site in the parish of Auchtergaven, about 6 miles below Dunkeld.

Owing to the configuration of this hilly district, so conspicuously different from the gently undulating farm-lands of Aberdeenshire, it has been found convenient to take the sites in sequence in each of the several straths or glens where they exist. A few circle-groups are to be found

on lofty uplands and heathery moors considerably above the main streams; but the majority, in at any rate this section of the romantically-beautiful and richly-wooded county of Perth, are confined to the valleys watered respectively by the rivers Ardle, Garry, Tummel, Lyon, and Tay.

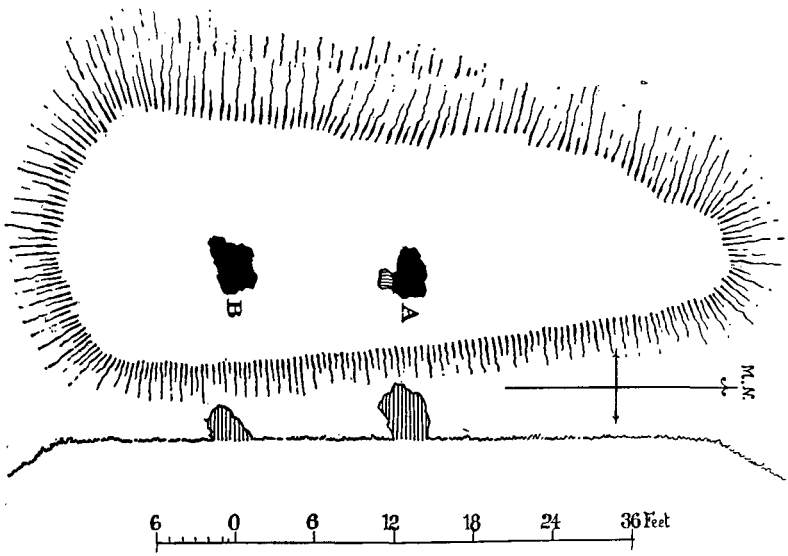


Fig. 1. Standing Stones at Balnabroich, Kirkmichael; Ground-plan.

As all the Circles here noticed belong to a much simpler, and, in most cases, to a much smaller type than those of the north-east of Scotland, the scale of the plans hitherto employed—20 feet to 1 inch—has been abandoned, and in the majority a new scale of 6 feet to 1 inch has been substituted.

Group A, Strath-ardle.

No. 1. *Standing Stones of Balnabroich.*—On this farm, 10¾ miles N.W. from Blairgowrie and 2¼ S. of Kirkmichael, there is, close to the loaning coming down from the main road, a gravelly mound, wholly

natural, measuring on its flattest surface about 50 feet north and south, and 18 feet from east to west. The remainder slopes away gradually towards the west, the portion near to its base being worked as a quarry.

The two Stones now standing here are shown on the Ordnance map,

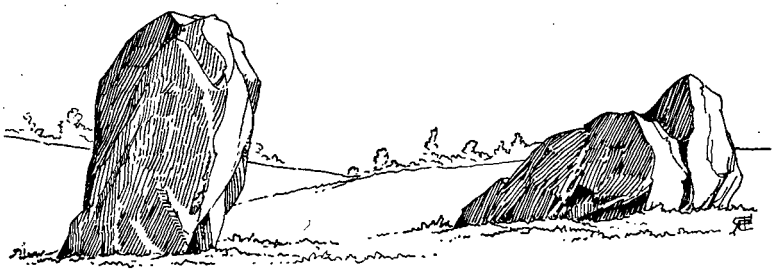


Fig. 2. Remains of Circle at Balnabroich, Strath-ardle; View from the N.W.

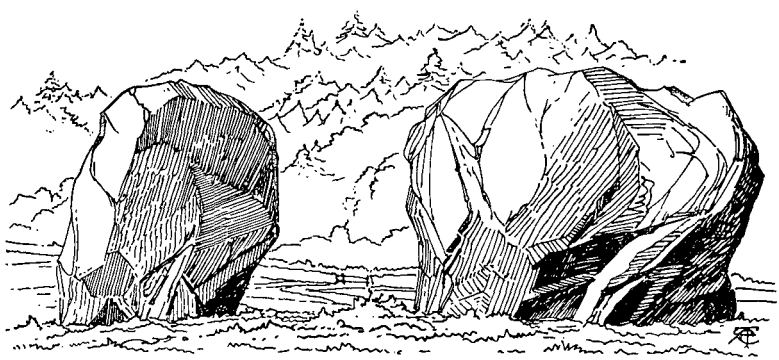


Fig. 3. Remains of Circle at Balnabroich, Strath-ardle; View from the S.W.

at a height above sea-level of about 650 feet (see fig. 1). Birches and broom-bushes grow about the mound, but do not interfere with the Stones. The Stone on the north is a rough mass of whinstone, 4 feet 2 inches in height, and with a basal girth of 10 feet 9 inches. Close in front of its easterly edge is a small, flat, apparently earth-fast block, nearly flush with the ground, its visible surface measuring about 20

inches square. This Stone, A, has a considerable lean inwards. It is distant from Stone B 10 feet 4 inches, and this great block has fallen outwards, so that its southern edge is now only 2 feet 6 inches in vertical height above ground. Like its companion, this is a huge unwieldy mass of rough channelled and fissured whinstone, with a basal girth of over 15 feet. The external characteristics of these two Stones are shown in the two drawings, fig. 2 (from the N.W.) and fig. 3 (from the S.W.). Balnabroich is said to mean "the farmtown of the brae."

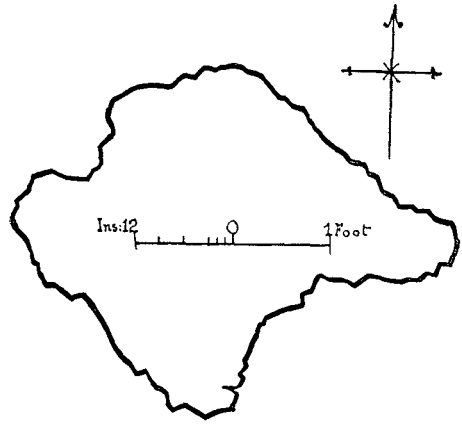


Fig. 4. Ground-plan of Standing Stone at Balnabroich.

No. 2. Standing Stone at Balnabroich.—At a point 176 yards almost due north of these two Stones is a tallish and unshapely monolith, standing but a few yards west of the main road. Its most noticeable feature is the extreme irregularity of its shape. If any proof were needed to show how uncritical were the people who raised such stones, how totally devoid of any regard for symmetry or neatness of contour in the monoliths they set up, surely the ground-plan (fig. 4) of this block of rent and riven quartz-veined whinstone, fissured and uncouth in all its parts, would supply it.

The contour here shown was measured by laying down an irregular

rhomboidal figure, and from each of its sides measuring by offsets to the depth of the curves which are so prominent on the north, the north-west, and the south-east sides. The ground-plan thus obtained shows that, taken between their prominent angles, the four sides measure almost exactly 3 feet each, and the main long axis of the Stone which lies due

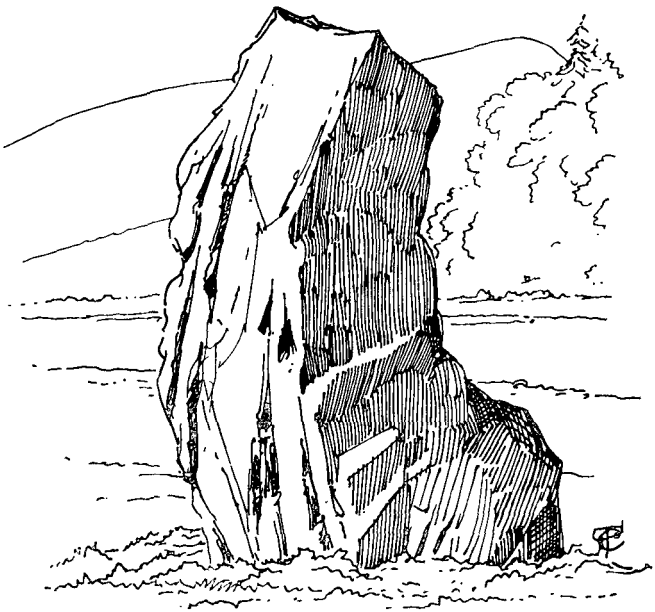


Fig. 5. View of the Standing Stone, Balnabroich.

east and west measures 4 feet 6 inches. The monolith stands 5 feet 8 inches above the ground, and has the appearance, as seen from the south, of the drawing shown in fig. 5. The three Stones noticed at Balnabroich, as above, appear to have been unconnected with circles, so far at least as it was possible to glean any information on their former conditions.

No. 3. *Giant's Grave, Enochdow.*—On the east side of the road, still going north-west, at a point a few yards over two miles from Aldchlappie

Hotel at Kirkmichael, is the lodge on the policies of Enochdow. Between the house and the road, here about 800 feet above sea-level, is a longish grassy mound conspicuously marked off at one end by a tall monolith, and at the other by a low rounded boulder (see figs. 6 and 7). Locally, this spot is known as the Giant's Grave.[1] The mound is set N.W. and S.E. It is about 20 inches in height, 19 feet in length, and

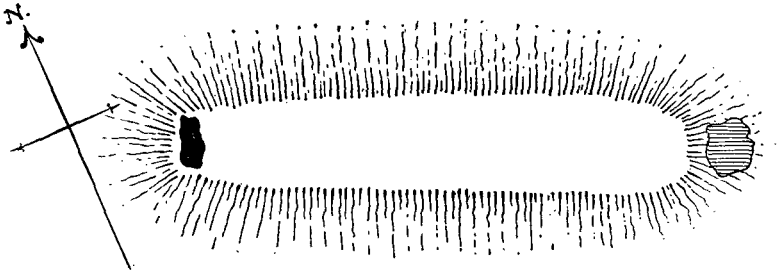


Fig. 6. The Giant's Grave, Enochdow, Strath-ardle; Ground-plan.

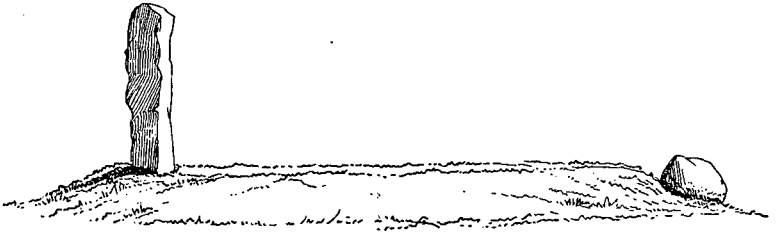


Fig. 7. The Giant's Grave, Enochdow.

2 feet 6 inches to over 3 feet in breadth. The monolith at its N.W. extremity is of gritty dull red sandstone roughened with quartz, standing 5 feet 4 inches in height, 16 inches in breadth, and about 6 in thickness. The rounded boulder at the S.E. is of whinstone, about 20 inches thick and nearly 2 feet broad.

No 4. *Standing Stone near Enochdow.*—The Ordnance map marks this Stone as having stood about 350 yards farther on, almost touching

[1] On the Ordnance map it is named Ardle's Grave.

the western edge of the road. Firs have, since the date of this Ordnance survey, been planted all along this strip of the land; but although the ground, now so densely covered, was thoroughly searched, no vestige of a monolith is now to be seen here. Nor, upon inquiries made, could we elicit any information regarding its existence or removal.

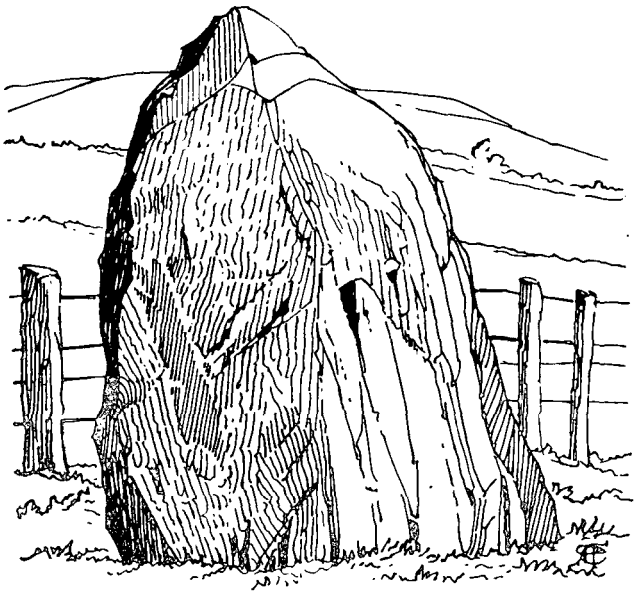


Fig. 8. Standing Stone at Stotherd's Croft; View from the West.

No. 5. *Standing Stone, Stotherd's Croft.*—Whether this be the remains of a Circle or not cannot now be affirmed; but the monolith is a fairly conspicuous one, hoary with age, and of considerable proportions. It stands on the grassy bank bounding the east side of the road, about a third of a mile from the edge of the fir-plantation last-named, and at about 820 feet above sea-level. A fence runs behind it bounding the fields on the Croft. It is a somewhat rounded, polygonal-shaped mass of the indurated, quartziferous, gritty sandstone so abundant in the

locality, and stands 5 feet, and 4 feet 9 inches at two prominent points above ground. (See fig. 8, view from the west.) The girth at the base is 11 feet 4 inches. One face is smooth and vertical, and measures 3 feet 3 inches in breadth. It trends nearly due north and south.

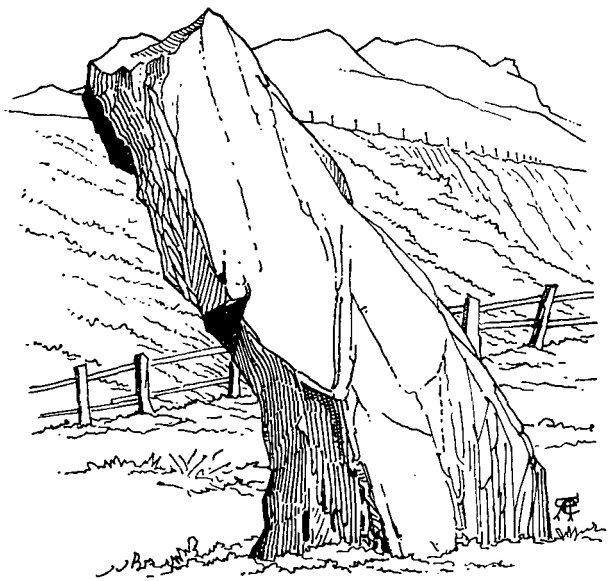


Fig. 9. Standing Stone, Cottertown; View from the South.

Group B, Glen Brerachan.

No. 6. *Standing Stone, Cottertown.*—From the wild rocky fastnesses between Ben Vuroch, Craig Clachanach, and Craig Spardon—all to the east of Ben Vrackie—there pours down Allt na Leacainn Moire, or the Stream of the Great Stony Slope, which, at a point in its winding and rapid course some 8¼ miles from Pitlochry, suddenly becomes slow and deep. A very few yards to the south of the road here at Cottertown, and between the road and the stream, there stands a huge monolith,

with such a decided leaning over towards the north as to almost make one uneasy when standing beside it. The ground here is about 870 feet above sea-level.

The Stone is at the base an oblong in shape, measuring 14 inches on its east end, 2 feet 7 inches along its south side, 17 inches at the west, and 3 feet 6 inches on its north side—a girth, therefore, of 8 feet 8 inches.

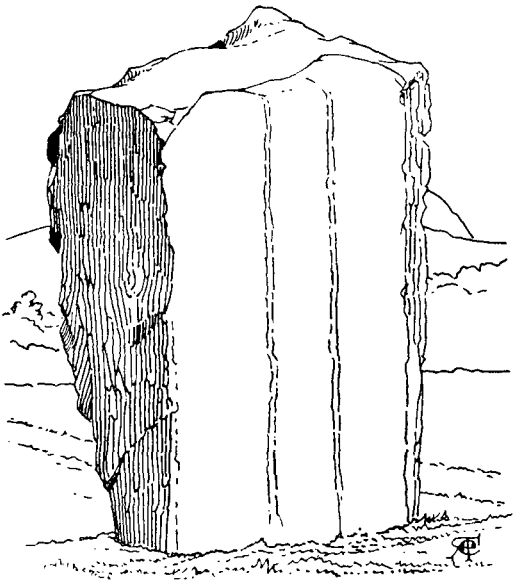


Fig. 10. "Clach na-h' Iobairt," near Tilt Hotel.

At the middle its dimensions are the same, but the top is rather less. At its N.E. apex the Stone is 7 feet 8 inches clear of the ground, and at the west edge 7 feet. In the illustration (fig. 9) I have shown the monolith from the south, with the craggy profile of Menachban in the background.[1]

[1] Near the schoolhouse at Cottertown there is a Witch's Stone, and close to Dalnacarn a small boulder, with a remarkable triple row of cup-marks, resting on a cairn-like mound. These I hope to record elsewhere.

GROUP C, STRATH-GARRY.

No. 7. *Clach na-h' Iobairt, Glen Tilt Hotel.*—The name is said to mean, Stone of Sacrifice. The monolith is a small one, only 3 feet 7 inches in height, 20 inches broad at the top and base, and from 8 to 10 inches in thickness. It stands amongst the sparsely planted fir trees behind the Tilt Hotel, and its south face—that shown in fig. 10—has been disfigured by a small target in white paint and numerous bullet-marks. Although the remarkable evenness of its sides and edges vividly suggests the use of tools, I think it will be found on close examination that this seemingly artificial appearance is simply natural, and that the two long vertical lines, so suggestive of the shaft of a cross, are in reality very slightly raised "ribs" of a harder quartz vein running through the gritty sandstone. The Stone is set with the longer axis N.N.E. and S.S.W. It is shown on the Ordnance map at a height of about 440 feet above sea-level.

No. 8. *Stones at Strathgroy*[1] *Farm.*—Nearly two miles E.S.E. of the last, and on much higher ground, are the steadings of Cnappaig and Strathgroy, on the east of the Garry. On a commanding eminence of the hilly ground here is a low conical mound called "Shian" or The Fairies' Hill. This I take to be the spot, noticed in 1792, by the compiler of the *Statistical Account of Struan Parish*, as "a sacrificing Cairn, 60 geometrical paces in circumference, having several large flags on the top, which probably constituted the altar, and hard by it two obelisks, seemingly a part of a circle or temple."

On investigation, we could see scarcely any vestiges of the "large flagstones" lying about, and the two Standing Stones are no longer there.

No. 9. *Claverhouse Stone, Urrard.*—This small monolith stands in a field due south of Urrard House about 740 feet, and 250 feet N.E. of the railway at Killiecrankie. It is a straight-sided block of schist

[1] In Gaelic, *Srath-gruaidh.* The writer mentioned below claims this word as meaning "Druid"!

longitudinally striated. At the S.S.W. angle it is 5 feet 3 inches high; at the N.N.E. 4 feet 5 inches; at the N.N.W. 4 feet 3 inches; and at the S.S.E. 4 feet 1 inch. The base is almost rectangular. The Stone has an overhang of $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches towards W.N.W. In the illustration, the south face is shown (fig. 11). No information as to former conditions on this site were obtainable; but the legend of this Stone

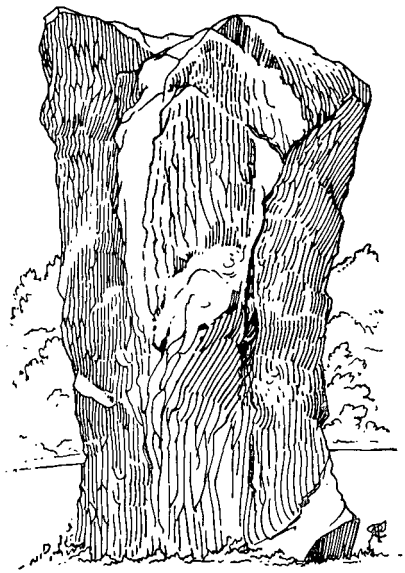


Fig. 11. "Claverhouse Stone," Urrard.

having been set up to mark the spot where Claverhouse fell is probably quite recent, because I have been informed by residents that old inhabitants point to a spot much further east and in what is now a wood behind Urrard as the scene of his fall.

Group D, Strath Tummel.

No. 10. *Na Carraigean, Edintian.*—Here, site, scenery, megalithic remains, and surroundings all combine to render the investigation of

this group memorable and specially interesting. The farm of Edintian[1] is set upon high uplands near Fincastle. It is distant about 3 miles from Blair Atholl in a S.W. direction. The Standing Stones are, however,

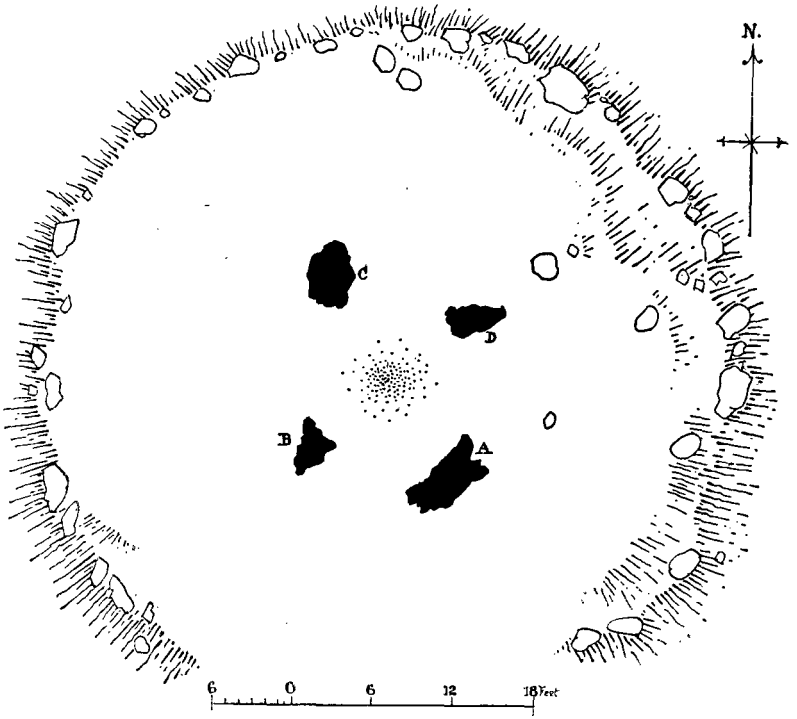


Fig. 12. "Na Carraigean," Edintian; general Ground-plan.

a good mile and a half further up on the moorland towards the west, and no great distance from a little peaty pool called Lochan na Leathainn. The level crest of the wide-rolling moorland here attains an altitude of nearly 1400 feet, and on the most conspicuous part the Stones are placed.

[1] The proper pronunciation, put phonetically, is as nearly as possible *Ed'n-chain*, the latter half being cognate with the word usually spelt "shian" and meaning "of the fairies."

In respect, therefore, of height above sea alone, this Circle is noticeable, there having been none observed in Aberdeenshire or Banff at this altitude. From the Circle no fewer than sixty separate and distinct hill-summits, peaks, knobs, knocks, *et hoc genus omne* can be readily seen, extending from Ben Vrackie on the east to the rugged heights of Farragon in the south (with the whole great mass of Ben Lawers beyond), Schiehallion, the wide-spreading Rannoch moorlands in the west, the Glen Tilt hills and Ben-y-ghloe ranges to the north and north-east, with innumerable smaller eminences intervening. Surely, if ever the pre-historic circle-builder (supposed to be a Star-and-Hill worshipper) sought for a noble panorama within which to rear some rude image of Stonehenge, this were the very spot! And yet, what he did erect are only four great unshapely, somewhat squat, and very rough boulders, in the centre of a slight mound, circular, and marked off from the wild moorland by a rim of small boulders (see fig. 12, general plan). The hill upon which the Stones stand is called *Meall nan Clachan.* The diameter of this rather irregular mound is 54 feet, and the boulders which limit its verge are inconspicuous in respect of size, and many are more than half concealed by the heather. The outer edges of the four Standing Stones are 17 feet within the verge of the mound, and their inner edges touch the circumference of a true circle 14 feet 6 inches in diameter (see fig. 13, enlarged plan). The centre of the Circle is quite hollow and the whole interior grassy and fairly smooth.

The Stone nearest the south (A) is a rough, jagged, and lumpy mass of quartziferous schist, 3 feet 4 inches in height. (It is the block to the left in fig. 15.)

Stone B, a block of whinstone, is vertical, with a flat top, a height of 3 feet 9 inches, and an outside width on the west of 3 feet 8 inches. Stone C is a rounded boulder of whinstone now fallen back beyond the circumference of the Circle. It is 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, 5 feet in length, and 3 feet 2 inches in breadth. The fourth Stone, D, is in the same relative position to the inner circumference as Stone C, and seems to have fallen outwards also. It is a rough boulder like the others.

Two views of this group are shown; in fig. 14 they are seen from the west, with the dominating peak of Ben Vrackie in the background, and in fig. 15 from the south-east.

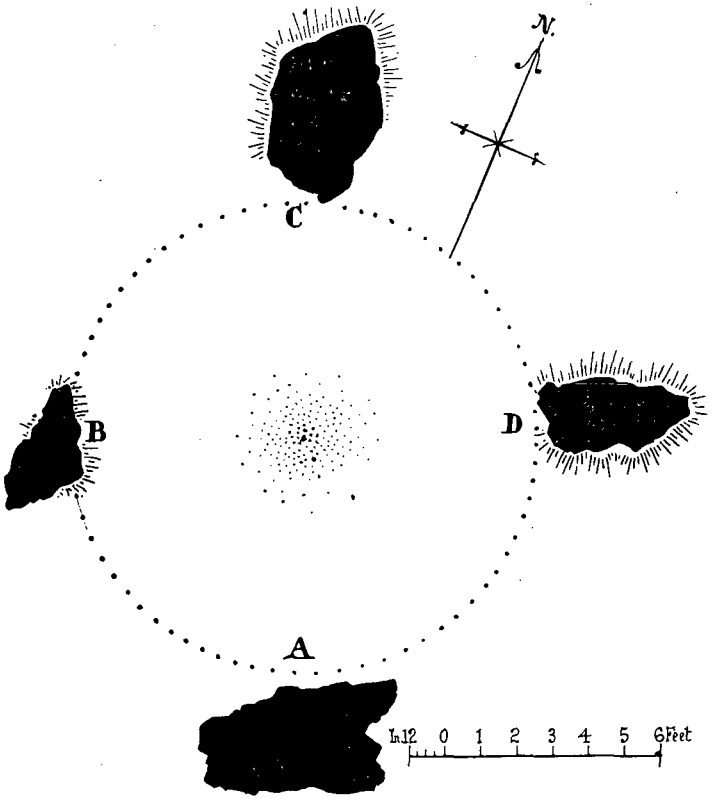


Fig. 13. "Na Carraigean," Edintian; Ground-plan.

No. 11. *Standing Stones near Fincastle.*—Of this site I received definite information only on the last day of our stay at Pitlochry. The account of its investigation must therefore be postponed.

No. 12. *Circle on Fonab Moor.*—This site resembles the last in its posi-

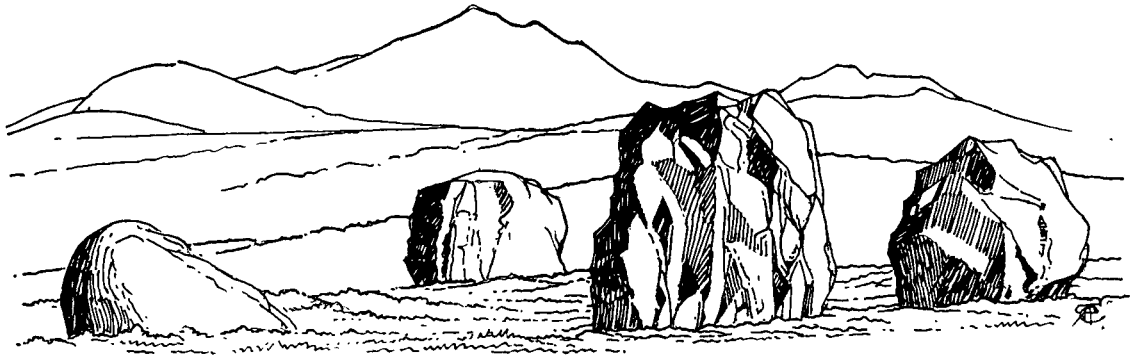


Fig. 14. "Na Carraigean," Circle at Edintian ; View from the West.

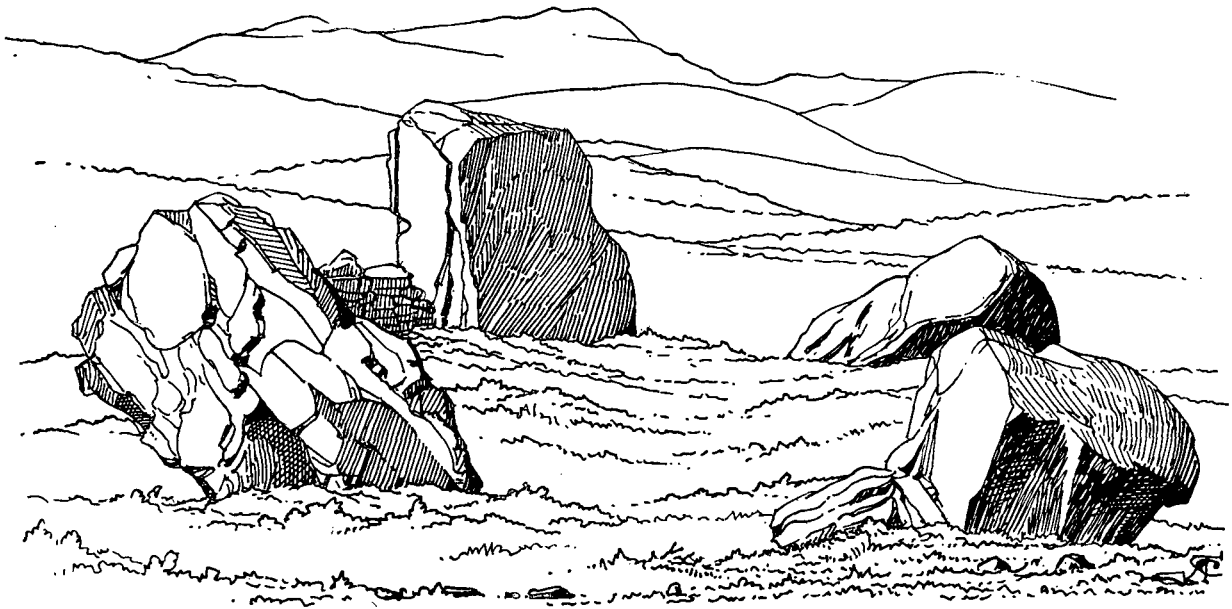


Fig. 15. "Na Carraigean," Circle at Edintian ; View from the East.

tion on the summit of a lofty and extensive moorland. It is distant from Pitlochry about 3 miles, near an old track which connects the ferry on the Tummel at Port-na-Craig with Grantully. The hill panorama, though not so extensive as that from the Edintian Circle, is very grand. In local parlance this group is known as the Four Stones. This must

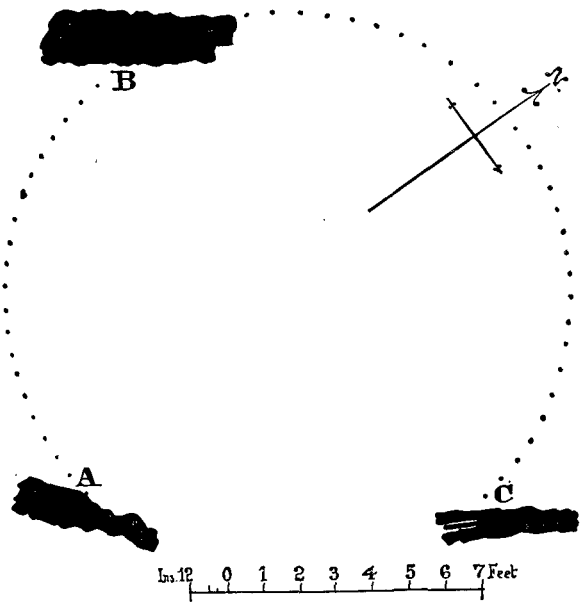


Fig. 16. Remains of Circle, Fonab Moor; Ground-plan.

be a fairly old name handed down through some generations; because, for at least fifty-seven years past, only three Standing Stones have remained *in situ*. In evidence of this, there is, in the first volume of Wilson's *Prehistoric Annals*, a wood-cut showing the same three Stones that are still there.[1]

These three Stones are arranged as shown in the plan (fig. 16), in a

[1] The drawing is a highly imaginative one, and gives a very exaggerated notion of the height of the Stones.

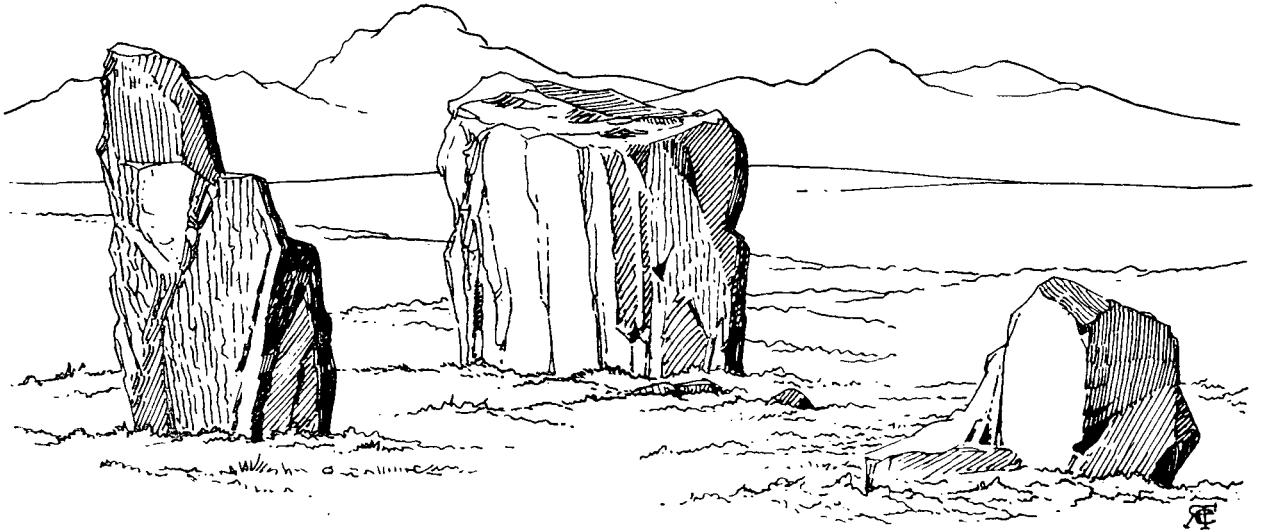


Fig. 17. Remains of Circle on Fonab Moor; View from the East.

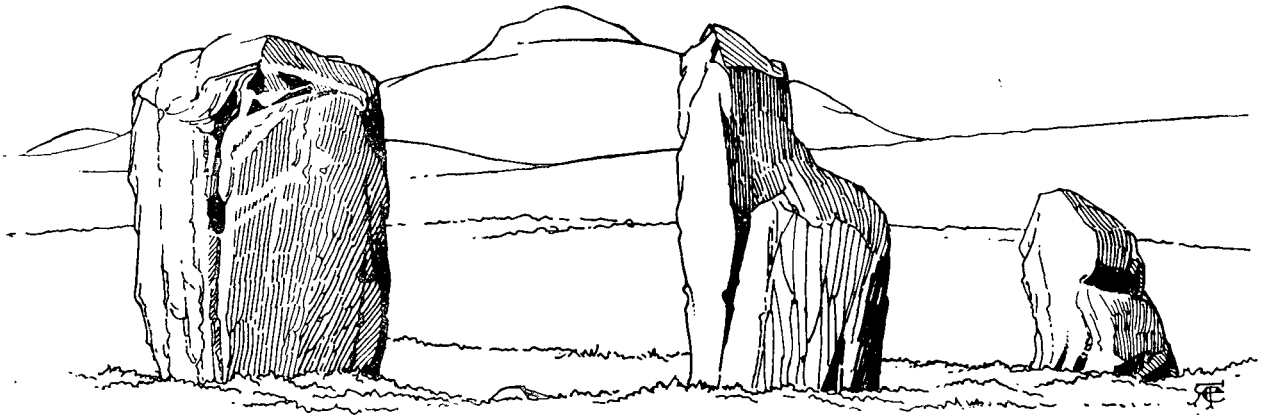


Fig. 18. Remains of Circle on Fonab Moor; View from the South.

group forming in its now imperfect condition a triangle which, measured from the centres of the Stones, has its S.E. side 11 feet 6 inches long; its S.W. side 12 feet 3 inches; and its north side 16 feet 3 inches. Fragments of the demolished fourth Stone lie about the ground; but there is no clear indication of its original position. The South Stone, A, is 3 feet 7 inches in breadth, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and from 12 to 4 inches in thickness. The West Stone, B, 6 feet in height, measures 5 feet at the back, and 4 feet 10 inches at the front, and is 18 inches in thickness. The East Stone, C, at its outer angle is 3 feet 3 inches above ground, and leans inward. All the blocks are of quartziferous gritty sandstone, the East Stone being particularly rough and fissured. A large fragment lying near it seems to be a portion of it.

The Stones are set upon a fairly true Circle with a diameter of 15 feet 4 inches. One feature quickly arrests notice: this is, that the broader faces of these Stones are not set even approximately upon and in line with the circumference, but nearly parallel with each other—an arrangement quite unlike the setting of Stones in the many other Circles hitherto surveyed. I append two views of the group, one (fig. 17) from the east, showing Farragon in the distance, and the other (fig. 18) from the south, for the purpose of emphasising the great difference in the heights of these three blocks. In the locality these Stones are called *Clachan-direach.*

No. 13. *Remains of Circle at Pitfourie, Baledmund.*—The one Stone now remaining here stands in a low-lying field almost exactly midway between the farmhouse at Pitfourie and the Church of Moulin. A stream flows past on its west; and the ground in all directions rises, most so on the N.W., where it culminates in the huge rocky mass of Craigower. The site is thus secluded and inconspicuous.

I was informed by the tenant, Mr Reid, whose ready permission to trespass through growing corn I here acknowledge, that many years ago, in his grandfather's time, "there were several more stones standing," all smaller than this monolith, and that, upon the orders given by Mrs Grant Ferguson of Baledmund, some of these were saved from total

demolition, and are supposed to be lying half buried in the field to this day.

This now solitary Stone (see view from the east, fig. 19), "Dane's Stone," as it is locally sometimes called, is a massive block of quartzitic whinstone, the lumps of quartz being of a pink hue, standing 7 feet 3 inches in greatest height, fairly regular and vertical in contour, with a

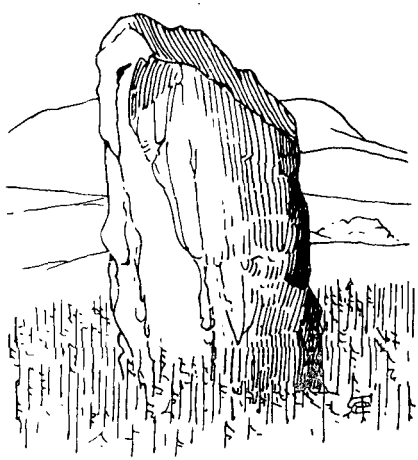


Fig. 19. Standing Stone at Pitfourie; View from the East.

sloping top, and a basal girth of over 10 feet; higher up the girth increases to 12 feet 6 inches. The south face, which is the smoothest, trends almost precisely east and west, and its axial diameter, obtained by working out the ground-plan, is within an inch of 3 feet, in the same direction.[1]

No. 14. *Circle at Faskally Cottages.*—In a narrow strip of ground, between the Highland Railway on the east and the great main road to the north on the west, is a garden, shielded from observation by a tall

[1] This Stone at Pitfourie has been noticed by J. C. Roger (*Summer Tour in Scottish Highlands*), who refers also to another on the adjoining estate of Balnakilly. Of this I could get no information, and it is not marked on the map.

hedge on the roadside, and in it there are yet standing *in situ* the seven Stones of this Circle. Never, surely, was the pre-historic past brought so closely into contact with the steam power and motor traffic of the twentieth century! In addition to these more or less disturbing conditions, we were told that, during the most recent Government Survey, the men of the theodolite arrived at the conclusion that this little Circle is really the centre of Scotland.[1]

The garden at this cottage, near the north end of Pitlochry, is on the Killiecrankie road, and distant from the point where Cluny Bridge road branches off from that about 330 yards, and at a height above sea-level of 370 feet. The Circle is indicated on the O.M. as a small dotted ring. Seven Stones remain, one of which, however, is so sunk in the ground as to be scarcely traceable (see the plan, fig. 20.) In the matter of shape they all differ from the rugged, boulder-like masses noticed in other localities of this district, in being thick, slab-like, straight-sided blocks of the quartziferous schist, with the exception of F, which is whinstone. The two broadest, A and D, stand almost due south and north, and all the blocks are arranged with their broader faces towards the centre.

Stone A is 6 feet 2 inches in girth, 3 feet 5 inches in height.
,, B buried, 1 foot 10 inches across inner edge.
,, C is 7 feet 5 inches in girth, 4 feet high, leaning inward.
,, D is 11 feet 2 inches in girth, 5 feet 4 inches high, very smooth-sided and flat-topped, and has been split into three pieces.
,, E is 5 feet 7 inches in girth, 1 foot 6 inches in height, probably broken, and is much rougher than the rest in outline.
,, F is 6 feet 1 inch in girth, 1 foot 3 inches in height, probably also broken.
,, G is 7 feet in girth and 2 feet 4 inches in height.

[1] Various spots have been so designated: a site at Struan, several miles to the N.W. of Faskally; also a house on the Killiecrankie road, being the most talked of, besides a house in the Fair City of Perth itself.

Six of the Stones are set upon the nearly true circumference of a

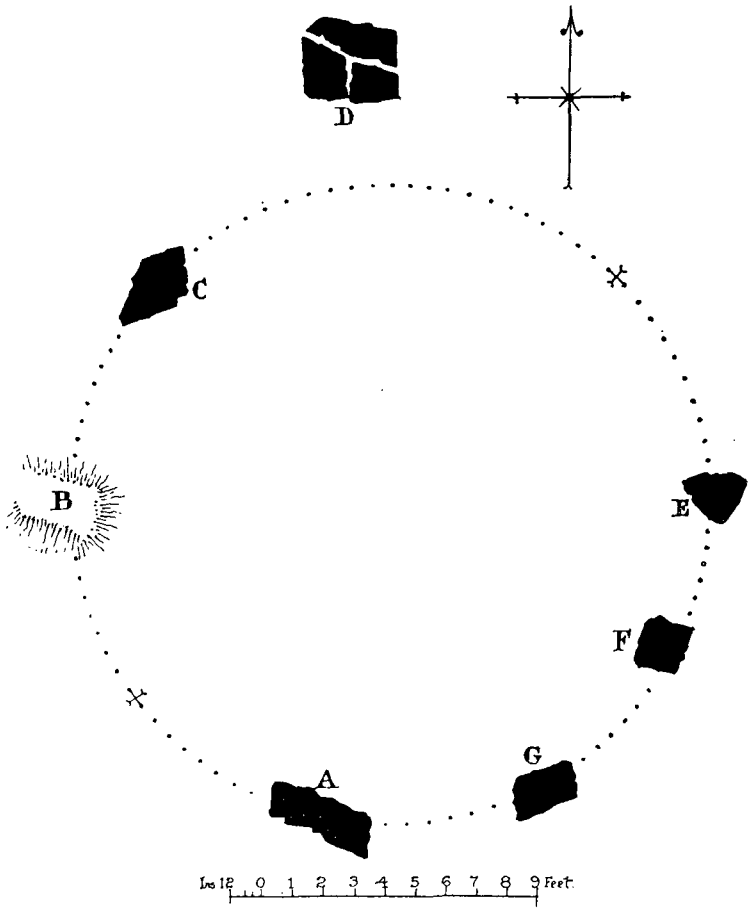


Fig. 20. Circle at Faskally Cottages; Ground-plan.

Circle 21 feet in diameter; but the North Stone is 4 feet outside it.

There were probably two others, on the N.E. and the S.W. respectively.

The following illustrations will give some idea of the two largest Stones on the north arc (fig. 21), and of the same two as seen from the north, with the three smaller blocks, E, F, G, on the south-east (fig. 22).

No. 15. *Circle at Tigh-na-ruaich.*—This site possesses several specially interesting points for consideration. First, as to the name; this is spelt

Fig. 21. Circle at Faskally Cottages; the two North Stones.

on the map, and in one or two books,[1] *Tyn-righ*, as if the last syllable was the Gaelic word for "king." But all the Gaelic-speaking persons in the locality pronounce the name *Tigh-na-ruaich*, and explain the epithet-syllable as "heather." The place is therefore, simply enough, "the house of the heather."

Next, in respect of position, this Circle, like the last and others to

[1] In, *e.g.*, Roger's *Summer Tour in Scottish Highlands*, and the volume of the *Kilkenny Arch. Soc. Journal* for 1854–55.

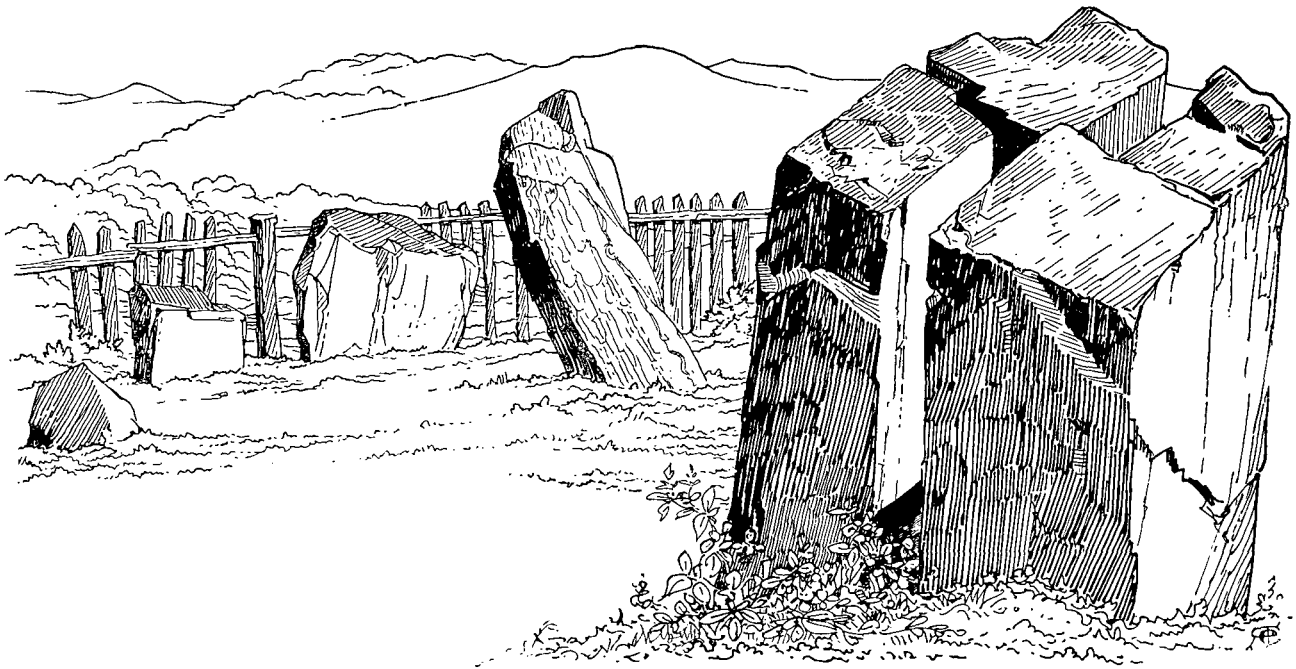


Fig. 22. Circle at Faskally Cottages; View from the N.E.

follow, occupies a lowly spot on the flat land lying parallel with, but not very much higher than the river Tummel, here not a great distance from its confluence with the Tay. Except across to the wooded slopes of Logierait hill, bordering the western bank of the river, there is no great prospect in any direction. Again, the condition of the site is pleasurable to the investigator, being absolutely free from obstructing obstacles, and the Stones seem all to have been left intact. Lastly, there is an authentic record of excavations here which were of considerable interest.

The Stones occupy a small piece of ground at the south end of the garden at Tigh-na-ruaich, situated on the main road about one mile north of Ballinluig junction on the Highland Railway. The interior is flat and grass-grown, and the Circle is made readily accessible to the public. The height above sea-level is 255 feet.

The six Stones here appear to be of whinstone. It is, however, extremely difficult to be certain of their mineralogical composition, as no recent fractures occur, and every stone is thickly clad with the usual saxicolous lichens. They also are all erect and vertically set, with the exception of the great slab on the south (F on the plan, fig. 23), which leans inwards. The heights and dimensions are as follow:—

Stone A, 2 feet 8 inches high, flattish, and 7 feet in girth.
„ B, 4 „ 1 inch „ top peaked, and 7 feet 5 inches in girth.
„ C, 4 feet 7 inches „ jagged and sloping, and 10 feet 6 inches in girth.
„ D, 3 feet 9 inches high, flattish, and 7 feet 1 inch in girth.
„ E, 3 „ 2 „ „ jagged and sloping, and 4 feet 7 inches in girth.
„ F, 6 feet 0 inches high (not vertical), and 17 feet 2 inches in girth.

This great block on the south seems to occupy a somewhat anomalous position, and, at first glance, rather recalls the Recumbent Stone of the typical Circles of the Northern Pictland. Both it and its nearest companion, A, stand a considerable distance outside of the true Circle

which bisects the four other Stones, and are much closer together than

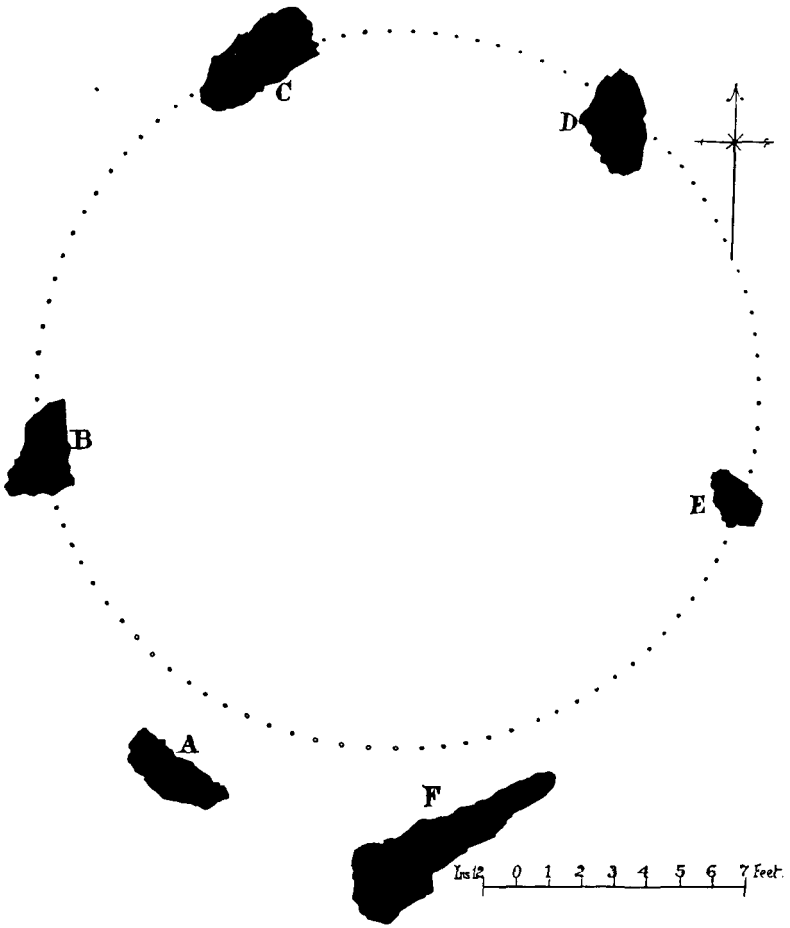


Fig. 23. Circle at Tigh-na-ruaich, Ballinluig; Ground-plan.

are those four. The diameter of the Circle is 22 feet; and it will be noticed that there is no Stone exactly on the north to confront Stone F.

Dr Joseph Anderson has included this Circle[1] in his account of many such burial-places of the Bronze Age, and has quoted from an early record of an excavation conducted within the area enclosed by these six Stones. That record appears in the *Kilkenny Arch. Soc. Journal* for 1854–55, and was written by several persons. As the account is interesting in many particulars, I shall utilise it pretty fully. At a general meeting of the above-named Society, held in the Tholsel Rooms, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, 2nd May 1855, Mr Hitchcock forwarded a communication, the gist of which is to the following effect:—That, in the *Perthshire Advertiser* of 12th April 1855, a remarkable discovery was reported, a small "Druidical" Circle being disclosed by the removal of masses of broom and bramble for the garden at Tynrich, and that during the trenching, "four huge urns, about 2 feet in height and a foot in diameter at the mouth, were exhumed, quite full of calcined bones." Unfortunately the whole were broken to pieces.

Subsequently, Mr Hitchcock wrote to the Rev. Dr Hannah, Warden of Trinity College, Glen Almond; and Dr Hannah, in replying, enclosed two letters, the first of which is as follows:—

DUNKELD, 14*th May* 1855.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to Mr Hitchcock's letter, I send to you the enclosed sketch and description of the Druidic Circle at Tynrich. The writer describes the present appearance exactly; and, as he was present at the digging up, I have thought it best to get him to describe the whole thing from first to last. I hope it may be satisfactory to Mr Hitchcock. I enclose all to you to forward to him.—Believe me, yours very faithfully,

J. MACMILLAN.

Rev. Dr HANNAH.

The descriptive letter enclosed to Dr Hannah was addressed to Rev. John MacMillan, and signed John M'Gregor. It runs as follows:—

TYNRICH, 12*th May* 1855.

REV. SIR,—In reply to your inquiries regarding the Druidical Circle at this place, I have now to inform you that the Stones are quite close to the turnpike road; they are six in number, and quite regularly placed. The figure they form is elliptical, its greatest diameter, due north and south, being about 27

[1] In *Scotland in Pagan Times: the Bronze Age*, p. 113.

feet, and the lesser diameter 22 feet. The height of the large Stone in the south is about 6½ feet from the surface; that of the others varies from 3½ to 5 feet. The Stones are the common hill-flags peculiar to the district, and they appear to have been placed with the narrowest or most pointed end downwards. Until recently, the Stones were not so conspicuous as they now are, the ground surrounding them having this spring been levelled, and otherwise made suitable for a garden or nursery. In the process of levelling, the workmen had occasion to dig or trench the earth in the inside of the Circle, in doing which they occasionally turned up wood-charcoal, or cinders, generally mixed with the remains of burnt bones; in some instances the bones appeared to have been placed in the ground enclosed in rude clay urns, fragments of which were found along with the bones. In one instance an urn was found whole, with the exception of a small hole made with the spade in the top of it when first touched. The sand was carefully removed from about it to the bottom, but when attempted to be raised, the material of which it was formed crumbled down to pieces. The outside of the vessels was of a clay colour, and appeared to be only sun-dried, while the inside was black, and as if exposed to the action of fire. The bones were almost of the whiteness of chalk. The soil in the place is a light sand, but inside the Circle the sand was of a dark brown colour, such as it would assume if saturated with blood. There were no stone coffins found. . . . There were one or two pieces of flat stones found in the Circle, but from the positions occupied by them, it did not seem as if they were intended to enclose or preserve the bones.

I think the above extracts from the *Kilkenny Journal* are valuable and interesting, not only because they have preserved a good record of observations made at a comparatively early date in archæology, but because they are evidence of the fact that accurate observers, who were open to the reception of facts concerning Stone Circles, did actually exist before our own day and generation.

A view of the Circle (fig. 24) as seen from the east is here given.

Group E, Glen Lyon.

No. 16. *The Upper Circle at Fortingal.*—The Stones remaining here are rather nearer the main road than those to be described as in the Lower Circle. There is no intention of conveying any esoteric meaning by the use of the terms upper and lower. The site is in a field on the south of the road, about 290 yards to the east of the avenue at Fortingal Manse, at a height of 404 feet above sea-level. It is about equally distant from the river Lyon on its west. The O.M. shows two groups of Stones, each having three, and a third group of two, the last being the

most southerly. When I visited the spot, corn was growing around the Stones, and the two on the south were not visible.

In the Upper Circle, or rather the group of three now representing it, three great smooth-sided, rounded, and water-worn boulders have been used, and are set upon the circumference of a circle, which bisects them, of 27 feet 8 inches in diameter (see the plan, fig. 25). The inference seems justifiable that a fourth, once in the N.W. angle, has been

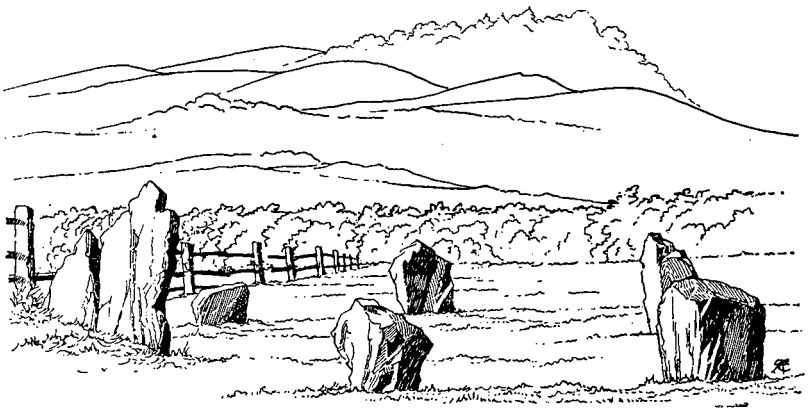


Fig. 24. Circle at Tigh-na-ruaich, near Ballinluig; View from the East.

removed.[1] Measured from their centres, A and B are 27 feet 6 inches apart, B and C 24 feet 6 inches, and C and A 17 feet 6 inches. In respect of size there is no great dissimilarity: A girthing 12 feet, B 13 feet, and C 13 feet. The North Stone is the tallest, but yet only 4 feet 4 inches in vertical height; C is 4 feet, and A 3 feet 10 inches.

No. 17. *The Lower Circle at Fortingal.*—In a direction nearly S.S.E. from the outer edge of Stone C in the Upper Circle, and at the distance

[1] In the composition of these Stones, which externally resemble the common "blue whinstone," there must be an unusual quantity of metallic substance; because, though repeatedly tried, the magnetic compass failed entirely to record true bearings. The bearings named, therefore, are only approximately correct.

of 145 feet, we touch the outer side of the most northerly Stone of this

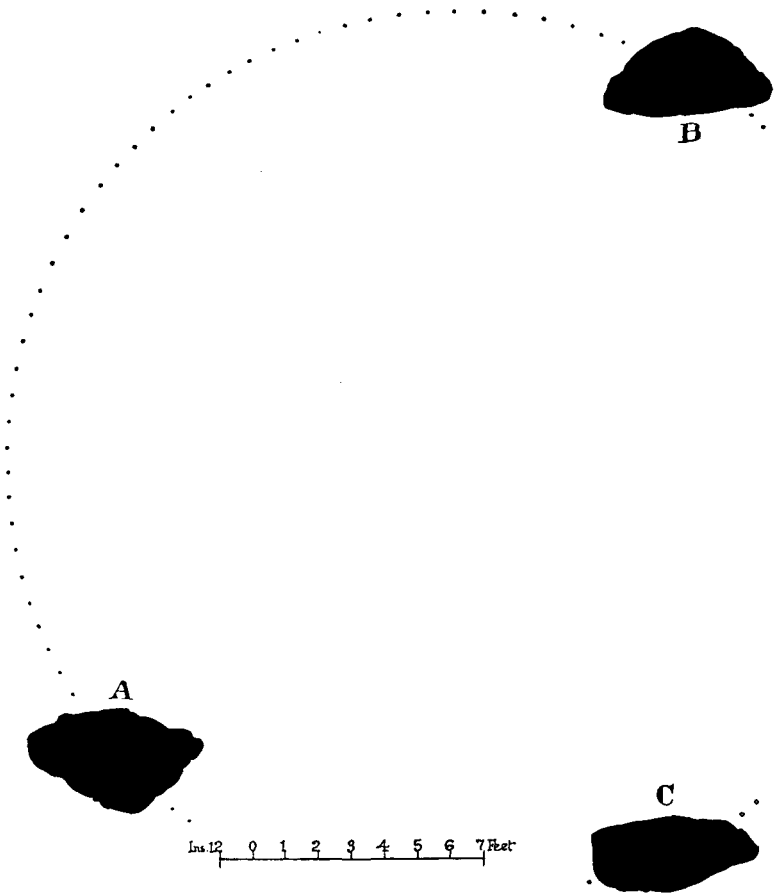


Fig. 25. Remains of Upper Circle at Fortingal ; Ground-plan.

next group (D in fig. 26). These Stones also are similar in character and form to the other three. The Stone D, about 4 feet high, has its

flattest and smoothest side facing towards E; while in F both the outer and the inner sides are smoothest and vertical. All of them are flat and smooth on the top, F being 4 feet 2 inches in height, and the central block E, the broadest and roundest of the three, only 3 feet 2 inches. From this arrangement, the opinion may be hazarded that the space of

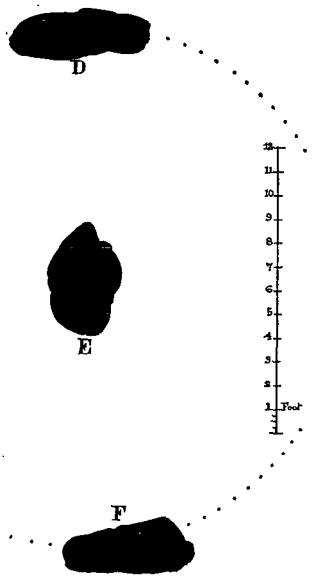


Fig. 26. Remains of the Lower Circle at Fortingal; Ground-plan.

10 feet 9 inches between the centres of E and F and of E and D, really represents the radius of a small circle, and that the huge block E, set as it obviously is so distinctly at a right angle to the others, is the central monolith. The Circle would thus have a diameter of 21 feet 6 inches, and we must suppose that the other Stones have been removed. Judging from the position of the hills, these three Stones stand nearly in a north and south line.[1]

[1] Compass untrustworthy for reasons above stated.

I append a view, taken from the east, of the Stones of the Lower Circle (fig. 27).

Group F, Strath-tay (Upper).

The sites to be described in this Report, which are included in that portion of the valley of the Tay lying between its confluence with the Lyon and with the Tummel, are nine in number, three of which are

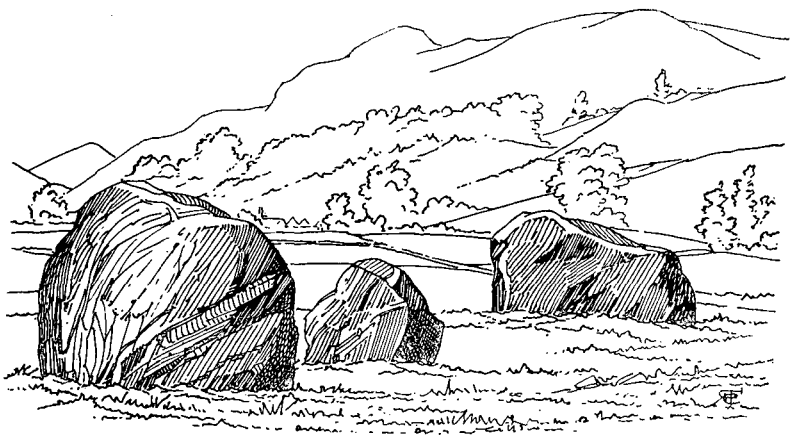


Fig. 27. Remains of the Lower Circle, Fortingal; View from the East.

situated on the northern bank of the river, and the remainder on the southern bank. Among those of the first sub-group is—

No. 18. *Remains of Circle at Carse, near Dull.*—These Stones stand in a field on the south of the road, within 50 yards of it, and about a furlong east of the road going up to the village of Dull. The ground is level, and for the most part cultivated; while the richly-diversified banks of the spacious Tay rise to picturesque heights of woodland and moor on both sides.

It seems clear that at this site there were originally four Stones, as in so many other Perthshire groups; but of the removal of one from the

S.W. angle (see fig. 28) I could glean no account, and the three standing blocks, as now seen, would appear to have been the only Stones known for generations past. The Stones are small, and the area of the ground enclosed is only 15 feet 6 inches in diameter. On the O.M. the site is marked as a group of three Stones at a point about 300 feet above sea-level. In the centre, however, there is a fourth block lying prostrate (D on the plan, fig. 28)—a long, narrow, and in part grass-covered slab, nearly 5 feet long, and 6 inches above ground, its

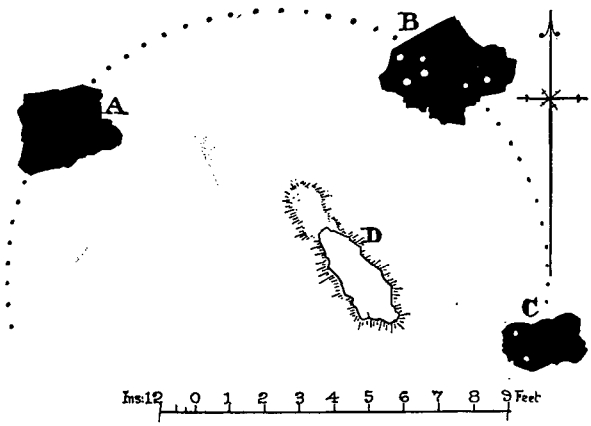


Fig. 28. Remains of Circle at Carse, near Dull ; Ground-plan.

clearest width being about 14 inches. Its position and form suggest the probability that this half-buried block may be the cover of a central grave.

The Stone on the north-west, A, is an irregularly four-sided block with a basal girth of 8 feet 7 inches and a vertical height of 2 feet 6 inches. It is pointed at the top. The North Stone, B, also very irregular in outline, stands 2 feet 4 inches high, has a girth of over 11 feet, and on its flat top several neat cup-marks may be seen, two larger ones measuring in diameter about 2½ inches and the others about 1½ inches. The South Stone, C, set like the rest very straight, is a squarish block of about 2 feet

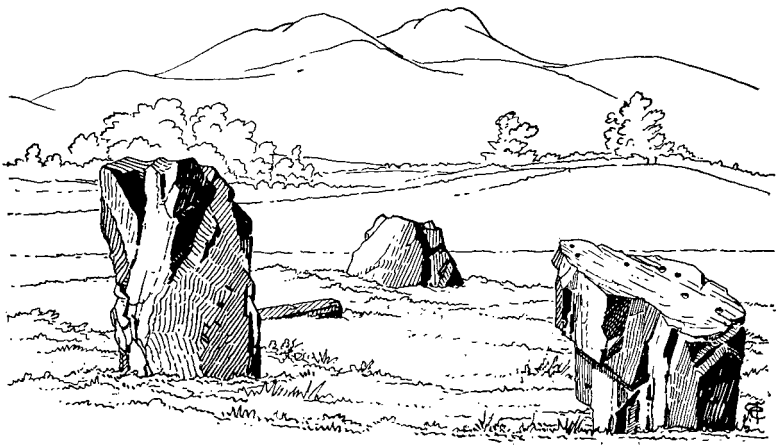


Fig. 29. Circle at Carse ; View from the East.

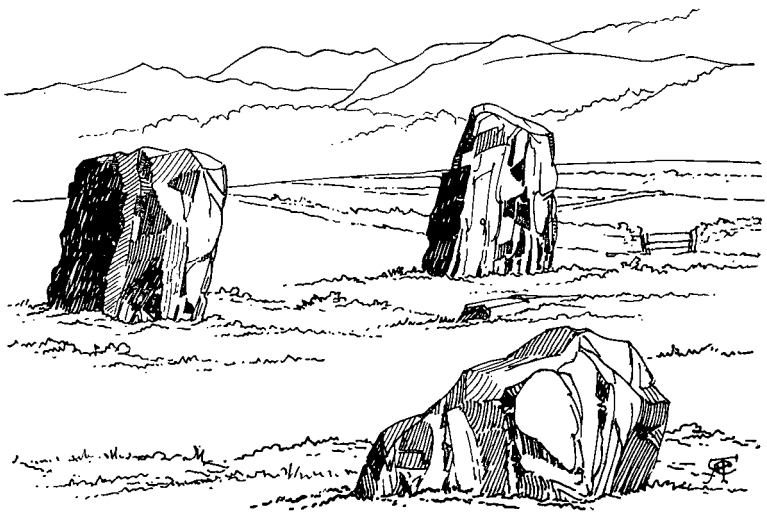


Fig. 30. Circle at Carse ; View from the West.

in width, and with a height of 2 feet 8 inches. Two very distinct cup-marks have been cut on its flattish top near the west edge of the Stone.[1] Two views of the remains here are shown in figs. 29 and 30.

No. 19. *Standing Stone at Carse.*—On the Ordnance map there are shown here three stones set in a triangle, distant from the three Stones above described about two furlongs slightly east of south. When I was at Carse, the uncut corn stood tall and thick in the field where these Stones are, and, without permission, no investigation of course could be carried out in such circumstances. The top of one big Stone only was visible. It is preferable, therefore, to simply record these facts, and to postpone the proper survey of this site to a more favourable opportunity. I may as well note that, in the same cornfield, there is shown on the O.M. a mound which is named Mote.

No. 20. *Remains of Circle at Balhomais.*—At a point one mile and a half east of Carse, close to the north edge of the main road, at Balhomais, there stands one great Stone; and on inspection, made a little difficult here by the stems of several great larches and the shade caused by them, we discovered two others of considerable magnitude.

These three blocks (see fig. 31) are evidently, as named on the O.M., the remains of a Circle; further, they are the remains of a Circle of very much greater diameter than that of any Circle noticed in the present survey. The site, 299 feet above sea-level, is interesting also, because, within what is presumably the circumference of the Circle, a very distinct and cairn-like mound exists in part, its eastern half demolished through being worked as a sand and gravel quarry, but the western portion being left intact but for the roots of the aforesaid larches. The two Stones exactly north and south of each other are both erect, the northern one 3 feet 5 inches high, that on the south 5 feet 6 inches; the former measuring 10 feet in girth, and the latter 13 feet 3 inches. Each has a fairly smooth, flat top, and the sides which face each other are the straightest and smoothest.

[1] These cup-marks are indicated by being left white in the ground-plans of the two Stones on which they occur.

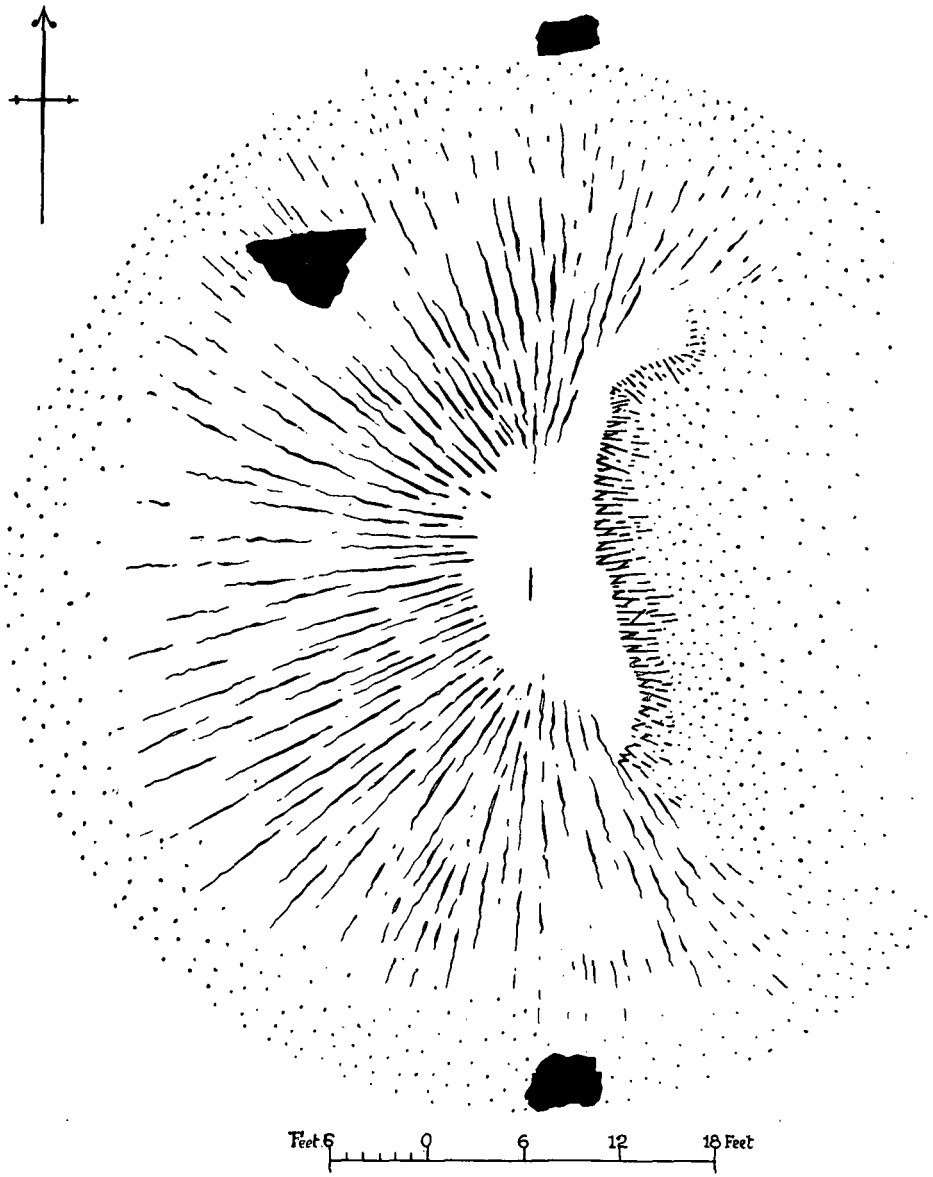


Fig. 31. Remains of Circle at Balhomais, near Aberfeldy ; Ground-plan.

The large triangularly-shaped Stone between these two seems to have fallen forwards from the circumference, and it is impossible to assert what was its original site. In its present position, the long inner edge, which is vertical, measures 2 feet in height; towards the west, the upper surface slopes downwards and runs into the ground, and is about 6 feet

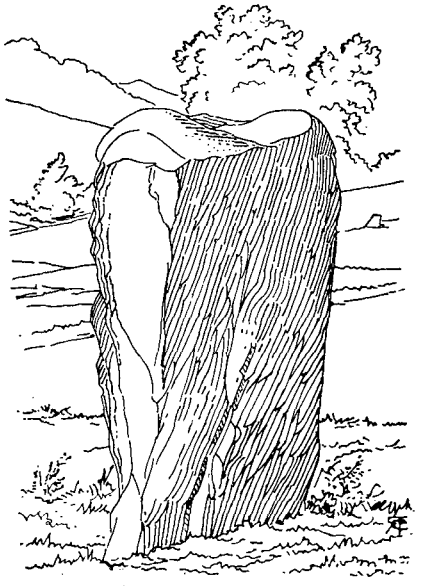


Fig. 32. Standing Stone near the Old Distillery, Grantully; View from the South.

in length. As the erect condition of the North and South Stones is definite, the inference is not unjustifiable that they represent the true diameter of the Circle, 66 feet.

No. 21. *Standing Stone, Grantully.*—In the picturesque strip of country here, less than a mile S.W. of Grantully Castle, there are many spots replete with interest to the student of antiquities. Cairns, mounds, cup-marked boulders, circles, and monoliths are linked in association with ancient market-days, fairs, and the sites of old churches and villages.

Through the midst of these relics of the long forgotten, as well as the scarcely abandoned past, the railway passes; and at a point within a few yards of it there stands the monolith next to be described. The site is within a furlong or two of the building formerly known as Grantully Distillery,[1] about two miles east of Aberfeldy Station. The Stone stands in a piece of cultivated ground between the farm-road to Lundin and the railway.

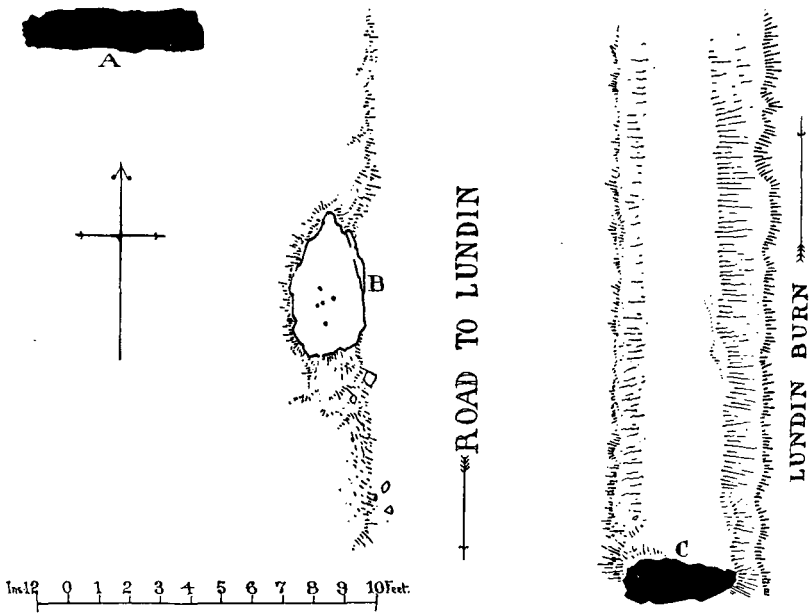


Fig. 33. Standing Stones and Slab with Cup-marks near Lundin; Ground-plan.

It is a partly rounded pillar of whinstone, 4 feet in greatest height, with a curiously regular hollow on its top (see fig. 32). Its longest axis lies due east and west; its southern side is the most rounded, and its northern the straightest. It is vertically set, and has a basal girth of about 12 feet. No one in the locality could give information as to the former conditions of the site.

[1] Now ruined, and part of it used as the house of a surfaceman on the railway.

No. 22. *Standing Stones and Cup-marked Slab at Lundin.*—At the point where the farm-road turns sharply to the south and begins to ascend towards Lundin and the now all but deserted hamlet of Tom-tayéwen, the eyes of the watchful antiquary are arrested by two great blocks of stone, one on either side the road, and between the two, on the very cart-rut edge itself and flush with the ground, lies a great flat slab bearing several distinct cup-marks. This group is, I think, of the nature of a discovery. The Ordnance map takes no notice of it, and although a few elderly persons in the immediate neighbourhood are aware of the Stones and the cup-marks, no record has hitherto been made of them, nor has any attempt at an explanation been offered.

The site is only a furlong distant from the Standing Stone just noticed, and also from the very interesting specimen of Stone Circle which follows. In the ground-plan (fig. 33) the three Stones are shown: A and C, the two great erect blocks; B the intermediate flat slab with the cup-marks. On comparing this plan with that of the remains of the Circle on Fonab Moor (No. 12), the similarity will be apparent, and the more strikingly because in each the Standing Stones are set, as it were, parallel with each other, and not with their broader faces in the line of the circumference of the (supposed) Circle. The Stone on the north-west, A, is 3 feet in height, 6 feet in breadth, and about 16 inches in thickness. Its angular contour is shown in the view from the S.E. (fig. 34). The S.E. block stands 2 feet 5 inches in height, is 3 feet 8 inches in breadth, and 16 inches thick; and the Stones stand so that a circle of 26 feet in diameter would bisect them. The flat stone does not occupy an accurately central position; but this does not nullify the supposition that, were the place properly examined and excavated, this slab would be found to be the cover of a cist. The cup-marks shown in black are from measurements made with care, and it is probable that below the turf, which closely covers the outer edges of the Stone, others may be found. Having no tools at hand, it was not, at the moment, practicable to put this to the proof.[1]

[1] In the *Proceedings*, vol. xviii. p. 115, the late Rev. Dr Hugh Macmillan refers in a general way to the great variety of objects of archæological interest contained in

No. 23. Circle at Lundin, Grantully.—The megaliths remaining here occupy a somewhat conspicuous site upon an artificial mound on the east bank of Lundin Burn, at a point only a few score yards to the south of the remains last described. The little stream washes the very base of the mound upon which the Stones stand (see fig. 35), and the mound, which is fully 5 feet high above the adjoining pasture, has now an irregular oval form, a good deal broken and uneven, as if at some

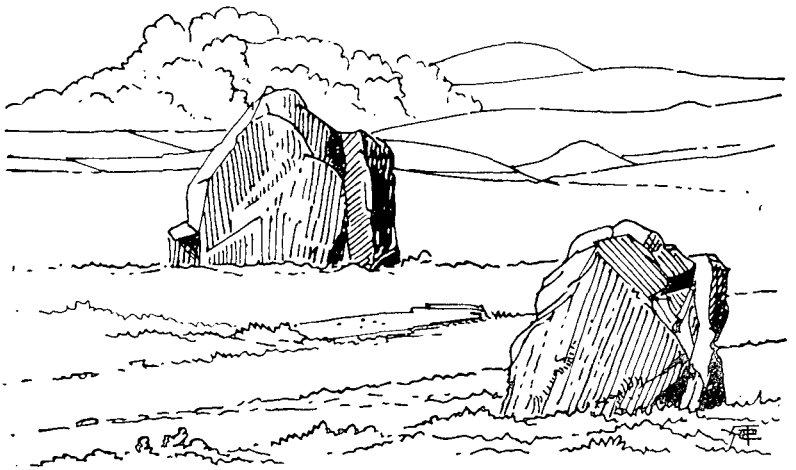


Fig. 34. Standing Stones near Lundin, Grantully ; View from the S. E.

long past date sundry useless excavations had been perpetrated, and probably also more than one of the Stones carried away.[1]

The five Stones now left present very dissimilar features in respect both of contour, bulk, and height. The tallest, A, stands upon the easterly verge of the grassy mound. Like the rest, this is a block of

this particular district. He does not make it quite clear whether he saw this cup-marked slab.

[1] That no disturbance has been made during recent years I was assured by Mrs Thompson at Lundin, whose helpful interest I here acknowledge. I note also that the local pronunciation of the farm-name Lundin is Loan-ten ; the first syllable not in the least resembling the accepted vowel-sound of Lun-din, in Fife.

the usual rough quartziferous schist, resembling in parts whinstone by the grey blue of its colour. At the base its girth is 13 feet 4 inches, and at 3 feet higher it measures 12 feet 5 inches. The smoothest face is set towards the Circle, and here it measures 7 feet 3 inches above ground. The block nearest to it, B, is a low squarish stone, flat, and apparently waterworn, girthing 9 feet 2 inches, and in height only 1 foot 7 inches.

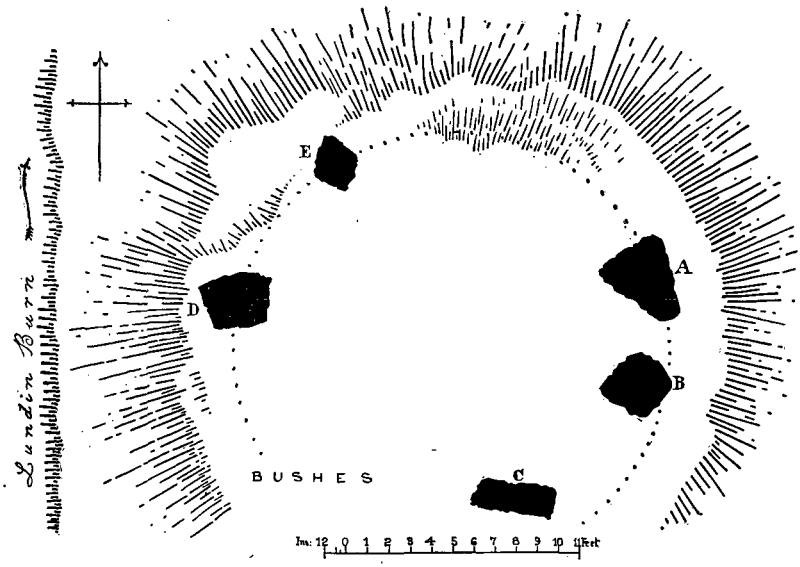


Fig. 35. Circle at Lundin, Grantully; Ground-plan.

The much larger Stone, C, partly obscured by wildrose bushes and broom, is a rough, fissured block, having two broad faces 3 feet 10 inches and 3 feet 7 inches broad respectively, and measuring across the ends 17 inches; its height is 5 feet 2 inches. The West Stone, set so exactly opposite the gap between A and B, is a five-sided block, 4 feet 3 inches in true vertical height, and with a girth of 10 feet 3 inches. It stands close to the margin of the Lundin Burn. The last stone, E, a rough and pointed block, is 3 feet 6 inches in height and 7 feet 2 inches in girth at the base.

When worked out into plan, it becomes evident that the three Stones, A, D, and E, are set upon the circumference of a nearly correct circle 20 feet 9 inches in diameter, and that this circumference barely touches the outside edge of the low stone B, and runs completely beyond C. The plan also shows that there are two wide gaps on the N.E. and the S.W., out of which possibly stones were removed. The vacant space on the N.E. assuredly contains no remnant of any stone; but the opposite space is so crowded with bushes as to preclude a thorough examination.

This striking group of megaliths, with two of the Stones so distinctly pointed—as shown in the view from the west (fig. 37)—commands, from that quarter, a distant profile of Ben Vrackie, a near woodland shutting out any sight of the Tay; but from the east (fig. 36) the whole magnificent mountain-mass of Ben Lawers, with the intervening lower hills near Glen Lyon, fills up the skyey distance in a manner not easily banished from memory. Seen thus against the afternoon light, the Stones themselves are mere masses of black, without detail or character, and my sketch endeavours so to depict them.[1]

From Lundin, a straggling path leads up to Tom-tayéwen,[2] now a cluster of ruined, half-thatchless, weed-grown cottages, and thence to the old Church of Pitcairn, near to which, on a prominent hillock, there rests—

No. 24. *The Jury Stone.*—The Stone bearing this strange name now consists of three huge irregularly fractured fragments of whinstone, which, measured across, give in north and south length 12 feet 10 inches, east and west 6 feet, and are, at the highest point, about 3 feet 4 inches in height. If the fractured edges were in contact, however, the actual length and breadth would be 11 feet 4 inches by 5 feet 6 inches. The gaps between these masses of heavy stone, ill-supported

[1] In the same field, some 300 yards to the east of the Circle, there lies a curiously water-worn Stone, locally called *The Priest's Bath.* This I shall describe and figure elsewhere. Dr H. Macmillan has noticed it.

[2] Local pronunciation, Tohm-tay-yówan, with a vigorous stress on the penultimate syllable, the *ow* as in *cow.*

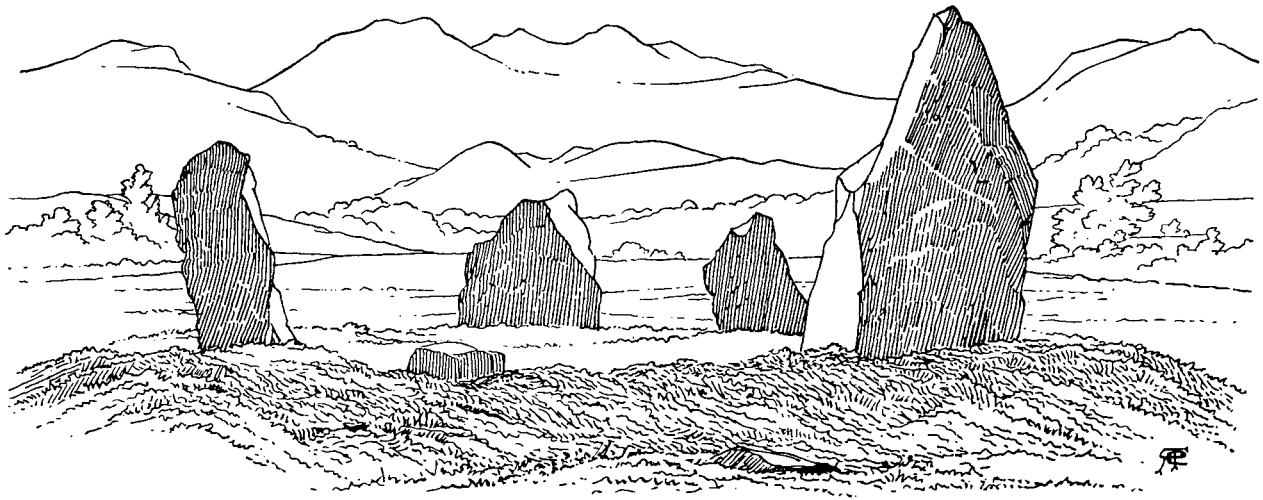


Fig. 36. Circle at Lundin, Grantully ; View from the East.

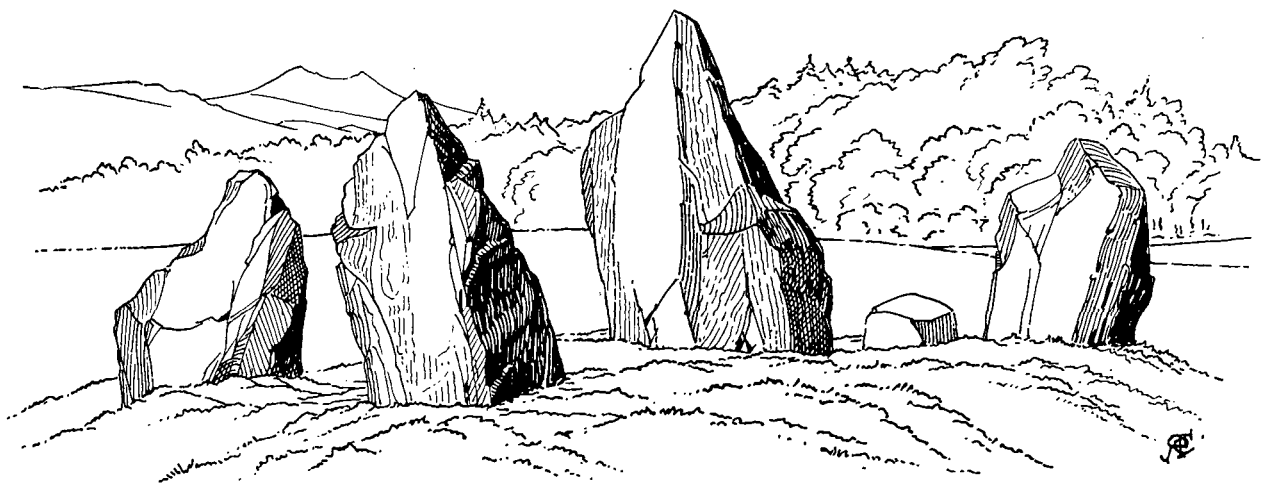


Fig. 37. Circle at Lundin, Grantully ; View from the West.

below, are, I was told, yearly widening, and before long may part asunder, when all recollection of the markets formerly held here will naturally glide out of memory, even of the proverbial oldest inhabitant, and a new tradition arise, possibly, to account for the name.

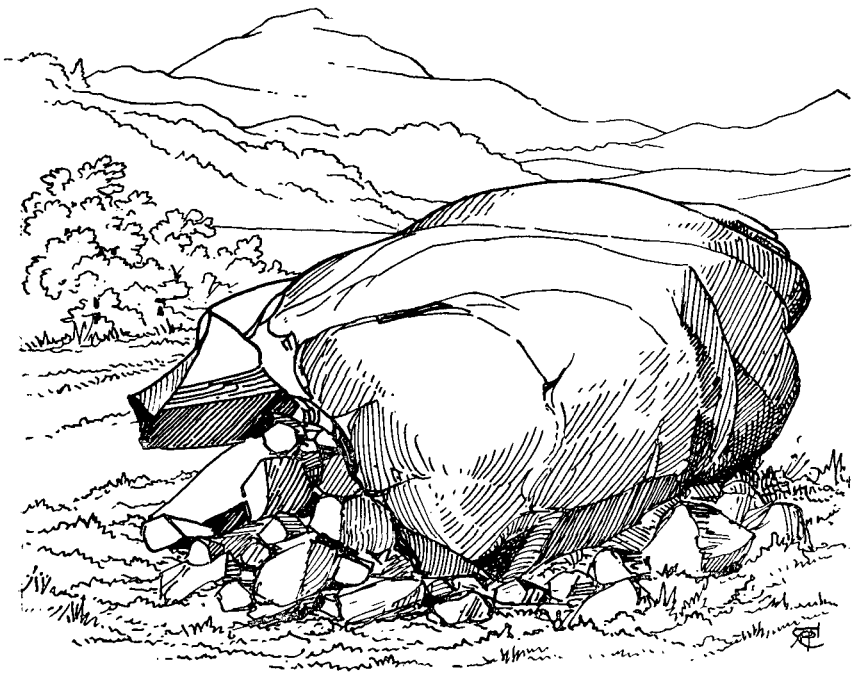


Fig. 38. The Jury Stone, near Pitcairn Church, Grantully.

The surfaces are smooth, and, except for a small space near the middle, very rounded (see fig. 38). I take it to be merely a stranded boulder, which, happening to rest upon a hillock already conspicuous, assisted the good folk of a bygone era as a landmark for their place of meeting, perhaps in days prior to the erection of the Church, which is within a stone's throw on the north-east.

No. 25. *Standing Stone, Grantully Vale.*—In a level field, and within a few score yards of the railway near Grantully Station, and to the east of it, stands the Stone next to be noticed. The site is 200 feet above sea-level. Whether there were other Stones or not in association with this one to justify the name of Circle it is not possible to assert;

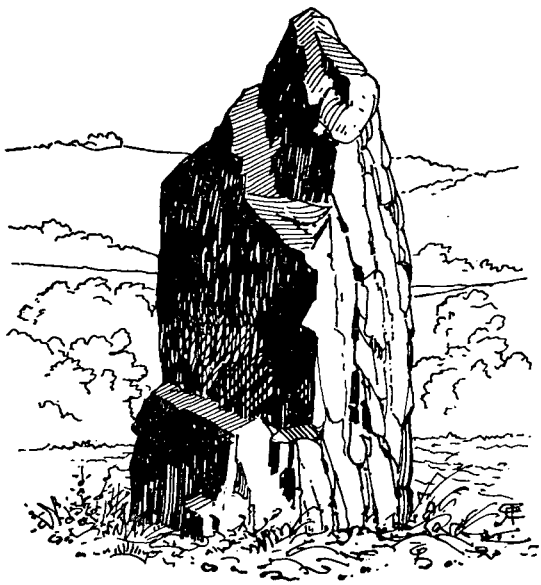
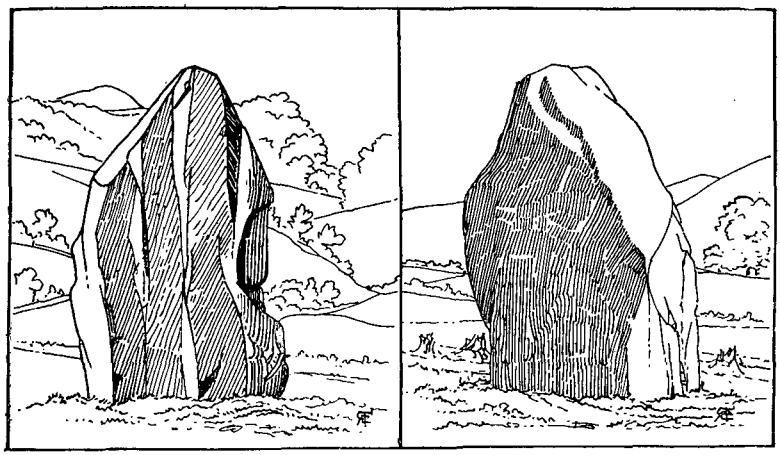


Fig. 39. Standing Stone, Grantully Vale; View from the South.

but one of two aged residents in the immediate vicinity averred that there were many years ago two Stones here, somewhat close together. The one now extant, a mass of rugged, thickly-veined, quartz-bearing schist, is narrow at the top, fissured vertically, and broadens out to a solid base which girths 8 feet 9 inches. The height is 4 feet, and its shorter axis lies due north and south. A view of the Stone, as seen from the south, is shown in fig. 39.

No. 26. *Standing Stone, Balnagard.*—The little village of Balnagard

is bisected by the main road between Ballinluig and Grantully Inn at a point about 2 miles east of the latter, and low down among the fields bordering the Tay, *i.e.* on the north of the village, on a small croft between the railway and the river, there stands this one great monolith, which, we may almost positively affirm, is the remnant of a group that once rendered the spot conspicuous. Favoured by fortune on the day of my visit, I met with an old villager, who not only guided me to the



A. B.

Fig. 40. Remains of Circle at Balnagard, Grantully ; (A) from the S.W., (B) from the N.W.

Stone, but recalled certain occurrences of some twenty years ago which have proved of considerable interest in respect of the "finds" connected with this site.

The Stone is an imposingly massive block of whinstone, with sides 5 feet and 5 feet 5 inches broad, edges 17 inches thick, and an over all height of 7 feet. The greatest girth, at about 4 feet high, is 12 feet. The summit is pyramidal in contour, the two slopes being nearly equal in length and in angle (see the views, fig. 40, A and B).

The field, at the date of my visit, was in corn-stooks, therefore

investigation was limited; but, in spite of the stooks, it was easy to note that two great stones lay buried on the east of this erect monolith. One of these surfaces—for they were both flush with the ground—lay 24 feet away, and the other 39 feet away in the same line, from the edge of the monolith. Their exposed surfaces were only a couple of feet wide, and there was no special indication of their character. Whether they are fallen Standing Stones, or the covers of cists, are points at present unascertainable without excavation. But the aged crofter, above referred to, having attempted to describe in some detail the exploration that was carried out on this spot several years ago, quoted to me the name of Rev. A. Meldrum, minister of Logierait and one of the Fellows of the Society, as one having information on the subject. In communication with Mr Meldrum, I subsequently gleaned the following facts :—That in or about 1887, the Duke of Atholl caused some excavation to be made near the Stone still standing, and "that a cup was found which His Grace carried with him." Later, probably about 1892, Mr Meldrum was at the Stone, and he "came upon a flag lying a few inches under the surface of the ground." This flagstone was turned up, but nothing was found underneath.

Having previously written to Mr Alex. M'Kay, Secretary to the Duke of Atholl, for information respecting certain Standing Stones, I received, in his reply, a copy of the labels attached to several urns now preserved at Blair Castle. One of these points to the fact that the "cup" mentioned by Rev. A. Meldrum was an urn of the so-called food-vessel type. It was found in a cist in the haugh near Tom-na-Croiche, which is the name of the ground at the Standing Stone of Balnagard.

Group G, Strath-tay (Lower).

No. 27. *Clach Glas, Haugh of Tullymet.*—For the purposes of the present Report, Lower Strath-tay comprehends the district lying between Ballinluig, where Tummel and Tay join their waters, and that part of the country watered by the Tay near Murthly Castle about 4 miles east

of Dunkeld. There are eleven sites within these limits marked by megalithic remains.

The Grey Stone, passing on the O.M. under the name of *Clach Glas*, stands on the west of the railway, at the level crossing of the Haugh of

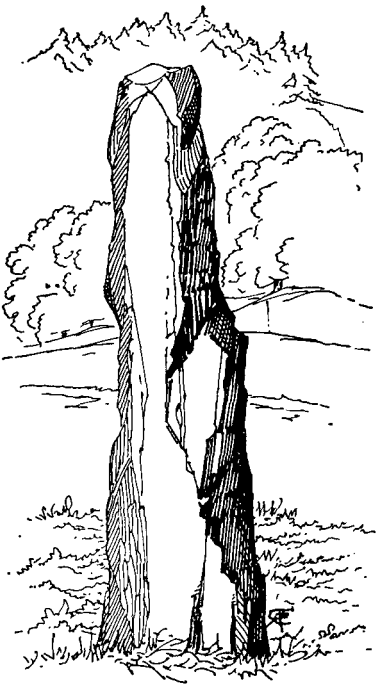


Fig 41. "Clach Glas," Haugh of Tullymet; View from the S.W.

Tullymet road, and about 180 yards S.W. from the farm-steadings, at a height above sea-level of 197 feet. It is 1½ miles N.W. of the station at Guay.[1]

Like several other sites on the banks of Tummel and Tay, this is a

[1] Pronounced Gāi; ai = ay, almost as "buy" is pronounced, regardless of its *u*.

lowly one, and is indeed on one side, the east, completely shut in by deep and lofty woodlands. Also, like several others of the Stones, this

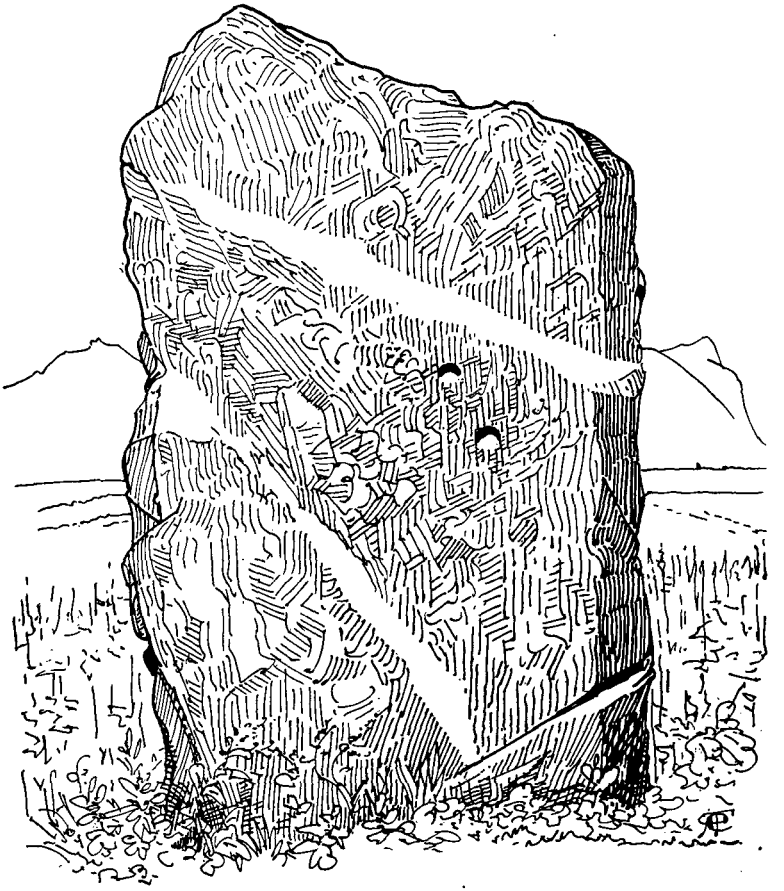


Fig. 42. "Clach Glas," Haugh of Tullymet; View from the South.

is a thinnish and long, somewhat pointed slab-like piece of the common gritty schist plentiful in the district. Seen from the S.W. (as in fig. 41),

it is a tall slim Stone; but from the south its broad surface is impressive, and bears near the centre two good cup-marks (fig. 42). In girth it measures over 8 feet at the base and about 7 feet at the middle. The height is 5 feet. The two cup-marks, which are about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, as may be seen, occur upon the lower portion, which is much

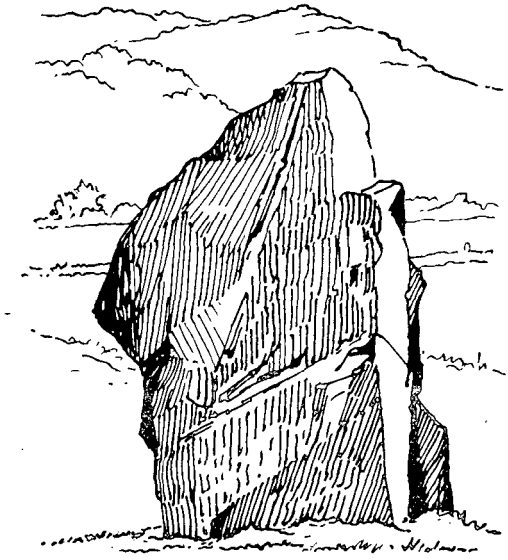


Fig. 43. Standing Stone at Kilmoraich; View from the East.

thicker than the upper, the "ledge" just above them, indeed, suggesting a fracture, and, if so, the probable destruction of other cups along with the lost fragment.

In conversation with a very aged man, whose duty it is to attend to the gates at this level-crossing, I gathered that he remembered having seen in his youth "quantities of flat stones all lying about the ground," close to the *Clach Glas*, and on its south and east. The Gaelic name, however, was not known to him.

No. 28. *Standing Stone, Kilmoraich.*—The site of this monolith is about 1¼ miles from the station at Guay in a north-westerly direction, and a little way from the steadings in a field to the north-west. It is visible from the road. It is a rugged stone, 4 feet 8 inches in height, 3 feet 7 inches broad along the southern face, and in girth at

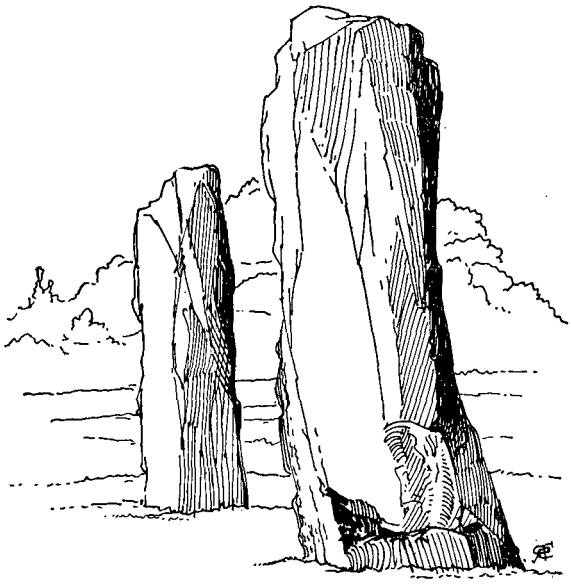


Fig. 44. Standing Stones, Dowally; from the N.N.E.

the base measures 9 feet 3 inches; about midway its girth is 7 feet 10 inches. The most characteristic view is from the east, as shown in fig. 43. In conversation with people at the little farm, no further information regarding older conditions could be obtained.

No. 29. *Standing Stones, Dowally.*—These two unusually tall Stones must be well known to all pedestrians on the great road between Dunkeld and Pitlochry, for they stand within a few feet, almost within arm's length, of the dike that here skirts that road. In spite of this

conspicuous position, and their being within a stone's throw of Dowally Church, they are not indicated on the O.M.

They occupy a position in a small grass-plot on the west of the road, and stand 10 feet apart in such a manner that a straight line bisecting them lies N. 3° E. by S. 3° W., or, practically, nearly north and south.

They are both pillar-like and massive blocks of quartziferous schist. The nearer one, in the view from the N.N.E. (fig. 44), stands 8 feet 9

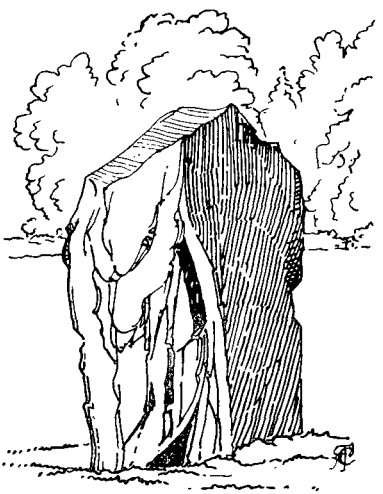


Fig. 45. Standing Stone at Pulney Lodge.

inches clear of the ground, with a slight lean over towards the other Stone, a basal girth of 8 feet, and a girth near the top of 8 feet 7 inches. The other Stone, 7 feet 8 inches in height, has a basal girth of 10 feet 11 inches, and at 5 feet up of 10 feet.

No. 30. *Standing Stone near Pulney Lodge, Dunkeld House.*—This Stone is marked on the O.M., in a field behind the Lodge, at a height above sea-level of 300 feet, and styled "sepulchral." In size and character it much resembles the Kilmoraich monolith, and seems to have stood solitary for ages. It is a roughly oblong slab of schist, set with

its longer axis nearly east and west, the north face measuring 4 feet and the south 4 feet 9 inches, and the basal girth about 10 feet 7 inches. It is 4 feet 9 inches in height. The grandly-timbered policies of the ducal estate enclose this site on all sides. In the illustration (fig. 45) the Stone is drawn as seen from the east.

No. 31. *Standing Stones, Dunkeld Cathedral grounds.*—I give the site this appellation, because of its close proximity to the western end of the Cathedral, as shown on the O.M. Having, on my first visit to historic and beautiful Dunkeld, made inquiries, from several persons well acquainted with the district, for the site of the two Standing Stones here, and then obtained no information regarding them, my quest subsequently led me, through the obliging help of Mrs Tracey, to introduce myself to Mr Alexander M'Kay. My object being explained, Mr M'Kay kindly supplied me with a pass which acted as the "Open sesame" for the lovely demesne of Dunkeld House; and in taking advantage of this courteous permission, I examined minutely the whole space of ground overshadowed by the magnificent foliage of stately trees, close to the Cathedral precincts, without discovering the slightest trace of any monolith whatsoever.[1]

No. 32. *Remains of Circle, Newtyle.*—One mile five furlongs east of Dunkeld the Tay makes a deep, elbow-like bend, and the Coupar-Angus road, following the course of the river, emphasises this crook, just a little below Newtyle, and at this point, at the base of some now disused slate quarries, the two great Stones next to be noticed stand within 30 feet of the road, with a background of splintered grey rocks behind and above them. The Stones are named on the map, and indicated by a minute dotted ring, which symbol I take to mean that, when surveyed, there were here several Stones, possibly enough to constitute a circle, or a group at any rate possibly circular, as are so many other groups throughout this great district.

In the ground-plan (fig. 46) I have indicated slightly the unusual fact

[1] No further information having reached me regarding this site, the question as to the date of removal, etc., must be for the present postponed.

that the ground behind the Stones is higher than it is elsewhere. I hold this to be purely natural and not the edge of an artificial bank; and on that assumption I believe that the other Stones originally completing this group stood between these two blocks and the road, and that in the making of the road they were destroyed. An old cart-track runs up between the Stones, leading from the main road (which is 30 feet west of them) up to the quarry. The mean axis of the two Stones runs N. 13° W. and S. 13° E (true), and although their broader faces do not point towards the centre of a circle on the west, it is certainly much more probable that the

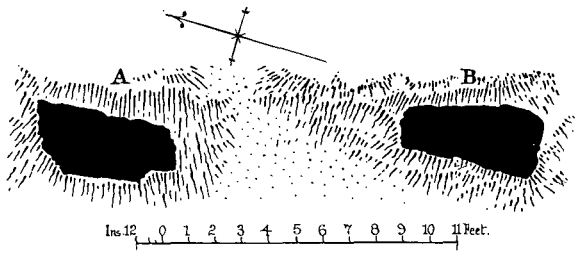


Fig. 46. Remains of Circle at Newtyle, Dunkeld; Ground-plan.

other Stones were on this side, the lower and flatter ground, than on the east, where the ground slopes and is more broken and rough.

Both Stones are of the common quartzose schist, but they differ considerably in shape. A is 6 feet 7 inches high at the north corner, but only 4 feet 10 inches at the south, and its vertical height at the east side is only 3 feet. The basal girth is 13 feet 3 inches, and in the middle 15 feet 9 inches. The broad east face measures 5 feet. Stone B is level-topped, and 5 feet in height; it has a basal girth of 12 feet 4 inches, and at the middle of 11 feet 8 inches.[1] Its two broad faces are of the same breadth.

[1] I have been, possibly, over-particular in measuring in several of these Stones two girths, one at the base and the other about the middle; but I think these measurements are required, in order to dissipate the theory, stated in various notices of Standing Stones, that the Stones are invariably set with the narrowest extremity on the ground. That arrangement is assuredly not the rule among these Perthshire sites.

In the illustration (fig. 47) these Stones are shown as viewed from the roadside on the west.

No. 33. *Standing Stones, East Cults.*—The position of the two unusually tall and massive Stones on this upland farm is one well known in the district, perhaps on account of the prominence of the site, given on the O.M. as 668 feet above sea-level, which commands a splendid prospect down past Caputh into the lower strath of the Tay. The farm-house is in a straight line

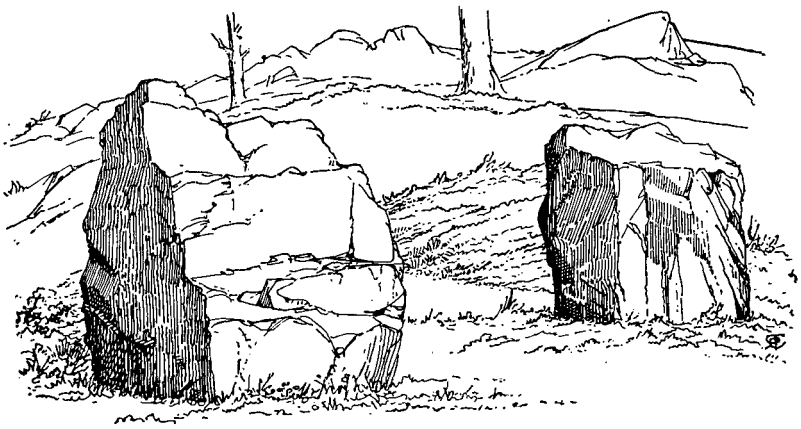


Fig. 47. Remains of Circle at Newtyle, Dunkeld; View from the West.

three miles due east of Dunkeld Bridge; but the winding, hilly, and picturesque farm-road past Dungarthill makes it a good four miles and a half.[1]

The two great erect Stones are in the field on the west of the house; and near one of them lies a huge mass of whinstone, displaying one of the most interesting cup-marked surfaces that it has been my good fortune to see.[2]

[1] For the strenuous toil demanded, on one of the few extremely hot days of this summer, in reaching East Cults, we were amply rewarded, not only by the great interest of the three Stones, but by the rare hospitality extended to us by Miss Robertson.

[2] The Stones have all been planned and drawn by the late J. Romilly Allen in the *Proceedings*, vol. xv. p. 84. As, however, the results obtained by my measurements (especially regarding the cup-marked Stone) differ from his, I record them here.

In the ground-plan (fig. 48) this prostrate block of whinstone is drawn in outline. The two shaded plans represent the bases of the two Stones now erect. The one in the centre is so set that one of its four faces fronts due N.E., and the other three S.W., S.E., and N.W. respectively. Compared with the western erect Stone, this central one is slender, girthing 9 feet 5 inches round the rhomboidal base; at 4 feet high it expands to 10 feet 7 inches, and it is 6 feet 7 inches in height.

The much taller Stone towards the west stands 9 feet clear above the ground, and is a distinctly seven-sided block, girthing at the base and

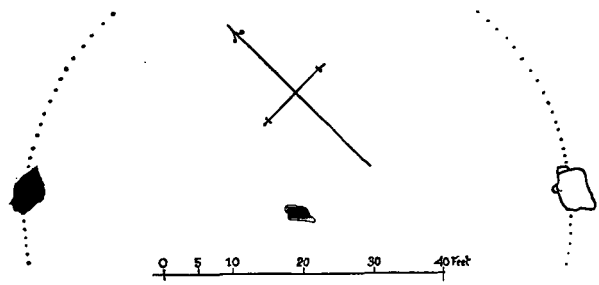


Fig. 48. Standing Stones, East Cults; Ground-plan.

at 4 feet up, 13 feet 6 inches. In the view from the west (fig. 49) the three Stones are shown as a contrast to the view from the opposite side, drawn by J. Romilly Allen; and in the other view, from the south, (fig. 50) the two erect Stones are drawn.

By studying the ground-plan, it will be found that the true centres of the three Stones are precisely 39 feet apart. On the supposition that B was really a central monolith, and that C was originally erect (reasons for which will follow), we should have a great Circle of 78 feet in diameter—not at all unusual in Aberdeenshire, though far from common in Perthshire.[1]

While investigating and carefully mapping the cup-marks on the now

[1] Compare the Circle, above described, at Balhomais.

fallen boulder at C, which occupied one whole afternoon of unbroken sunshine, the following features were noticed. This block of whinstone,

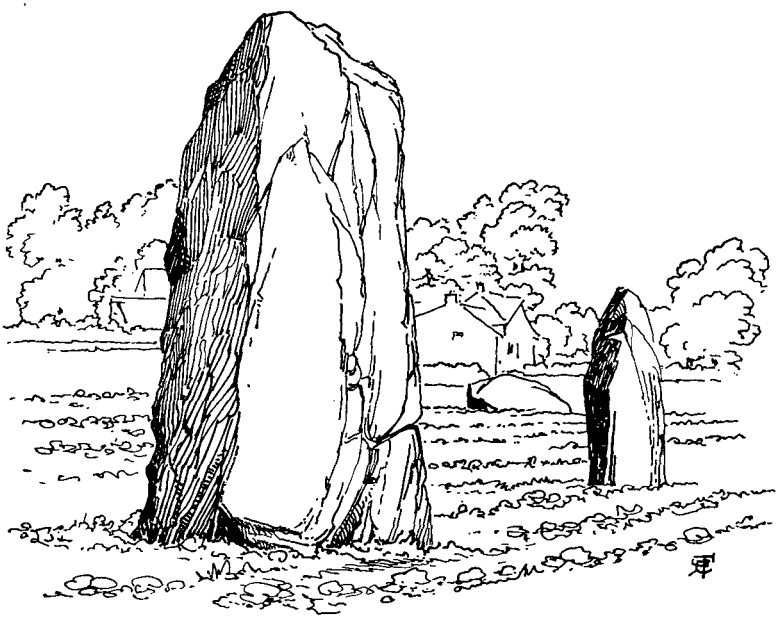


Fig. 49. Remains of Circle, East Cults; View from the West.

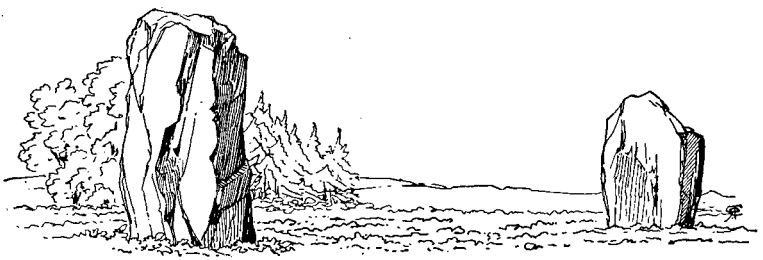


Fig. 50. Standing Stones at East Cults; View from the South.

though now prone, appears to be only a fragment of a great stone, first, because its present lower end, the edge to the left in the drawing

(fig. 51), is distinctly fractured; it recedes very sharply below and all along is rough and jagged. The next important point to notice is that the present upper surface is most distinctly divided into two portions by a sharply-defined ridge running across it in the line indicated by the

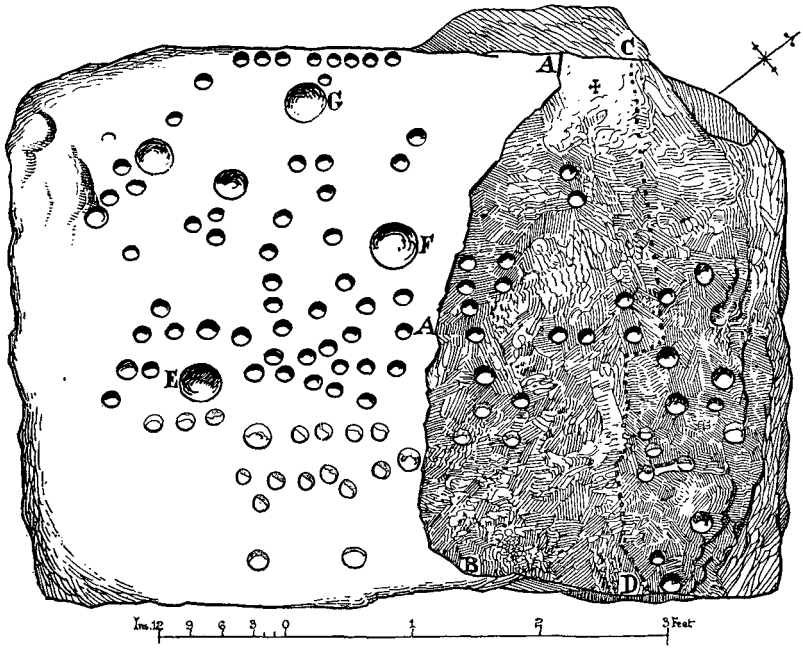


Fig. 51. Cup-marked Stone at East Cults.

letters A A B. This ridge is about half an inch thick throughout. All the north-eastern portion of the Stone, shaded in the plan, displays the raw blue-grey tint of the whinstone, and is, by about half an inch, at a lower level than the greater portion containing the large cups, all of which are weathered and rounded by exposure to frost and rain. The difference in colour between these two portions of the surface is not more marked than the difference in the contours of the cup-marks. On

the larger S.W. space, the colour is greyish-red; on the smaller, blue-grey; on the larger, all the cups are softened and rounded at the edges; and on the smaller space all the cups are most remarkably sharp-edged and clear—far clearer than any series of cups known to me. It would seem, therefore, as if this narrower portion of the Stone had been protected from weathering; and my contention is, that the broad and less rough edge on the N.E. was really the original base of the Stone and that it was once just as erect as its two companions. It will be observed that the two most central large cups, E, F, lie due north and south of each other. If the Stone were upright, this arrangement may have possessed some significance at present unknown to us; and again, if it were upright, the centre of its base would fall in precisely with the radius of 39 feet from the central Stone of the Circle (see plan, fig. 48).

The cup-marks themselves offer some new points for consideration. It has been already pointed out that two, E and F, lie north and south; it is, further, true that G is due west of F. Beyond G is a curiously straight row of eight small cups, five of them close together, the others close together also, but separate from the five. Only one couple of cups is connected by a broad groove—near the east angle of the Stone. The surface, as at present, slopes to the south-west at an angle of about 15° from the irregular line C D, the remainder being flat. The total number of true cups—cups, that is, that are measurable and fairly deep—is 115; 32 being found on the higher, blue-grey portion, and 73 on the lower and much weathered portion.

No. 34. *Standing Stones, Stare-dam.*—This site, on the south of the Tay, is given on the O.M. at a point about 2 miles to the north of Bankfoot, in a field at the height above sea-level of 300 feet, a few yards to the S.W. of these cottages.[1] There are two Stones, as shown in the plan (fig. 52), of no great bulk or height. They stand rather over 12 feet

[1] Contiguous with the ground on which the cottages stand is a large pond, and one naturally concludes that the name, Stare-dam (=mill-dam), might have sprung from this pond. That the name has no connection with the water is proved by the fact that the pond was only made a year ago as an electric motor power.

apart, and present no salient features that might suggest positions for any other Stones, if these two are members of a Circle. The Stone A is

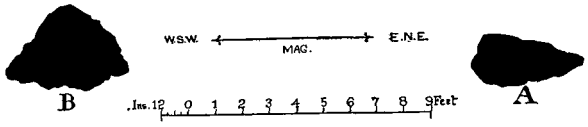


Fig. 52. Standing Stones at Stare-dam ; Ground-plan.

a somewhat rounded boulder of whinstone, with its most smooth and vertical side facing the north, a height of 4 feet 3 inches, and a girth of

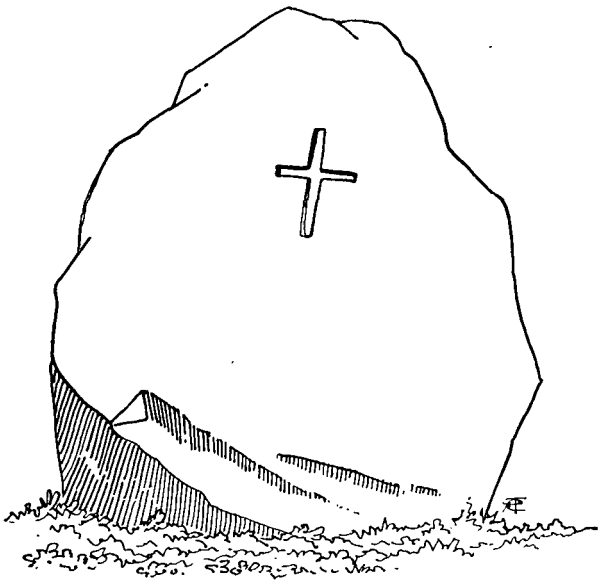


Fig. 53. Incised Cross on east face of one of the Stones at Stare-dam. (Scale $\frac{1}{12}$.)

9 feet 3 inches. The other Stone is considerably larger, girthing at the base 11 feet and at the greatest 7 inches more. Its height is 4 feet 6 inches. It is of the usual quartzitic schist.

Being half buried in standing corn, it was impossible to show these Stones in one view; but a drawing of the broad east face of Stone A is appended (fig. 53), showing an incised cross deeply cut into the surface. The cross measures 11 inches in length by 8 in breadth, is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide and nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch deep, plainly cut without any ornament.

Its appearance is in favour of great age, as the lichens encrusting its hollow are of the same texture and colour as those so firmly grown into the Stone elsewhere. And it is worth noting, also, that the cross is incised upon the rougher side of the monolith. This side, however, faces nearly east. As far as my knowledge extends, this is the first instance on record in which the symbol of the Christian cross, presumably of the later type, has been noticed incised upon the face of a Stone which is a member of a pre-historic group.

No. 35. *The Witch's Stone, Meikle Obney.*—This farm is 2 miles N.W. of the village of Bankfoot, and the Standing Stone is situated on the edge of the farm-road about a couple of furlongs to the south-east, at about 500 feet above sea-level.

The map-name is simply Standing Stone; but in the locality the somewhat common legend is told of a witch who, when flying through the air on some Satanic behest, let the Stone fall out of her apron. The Stone is a massive block of schist, 6 feet 8 inches in height, and set upon what is now the gateway of a field, so that the wire fencing has been secured by staples driven into its hard surface (see the view from the west, fig. 54). In girth about the middle it measures 10 feet 10 inches, and at the base 11 feet 7 inches. The top is peaked and the Stone is quite vertical.

No. 36. *Remains of Circle at Blelock.*—This site, in Auchtergaven, marks the southern limit of the present survey. When driving up to the farm, a discovery was made which merits attention, because the experience should have the effect of enforcing caution on those who attempt the difficult task of explaining place-names. Before reaching the farm-house I was informed that its name was Pitsundry. Every

feature, however, as marked on the Ordnance map I carried, agreed accurately with the locality to which the name Blelock[1] was there attached. I expected at least one Standing Stone, and it was there, in the right place, a little to the west of the steading. On asking the tenant whether this was Blelock, he said, no, it was Pitsundry.

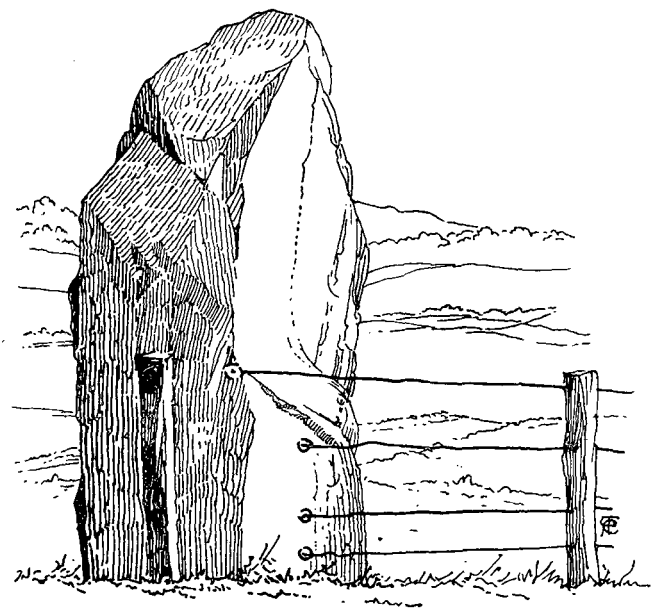


Fig. 54. The Witch's Stone, Meikle Obney.

Showing him the map, I requested an explanation. He then, after some cogitation, remembered having heard his father say that, about fifty years ago, the factor, in order to save confusion between Blelock, Over Blelock, and Nether Blelock, had altered the name to Pitsundry—a name which, so far as I could judge, seemed quite unsuitable; for the most of the farm is high, level ground, and devoid of any notable hollow, such as might be defined by the epithet Pit.

[1] Pronounced Bláe-lock; but the first syllable is short, although bearing the stress.

On accompanying me to the site of the Circle,[1] the farmer told me, with evident compunction, that he had himself ordered the removal of several of the Standing Stones. Some of these were buried close to the positions they originally occupied, and these are shown in the ground-plan (fig. 55).

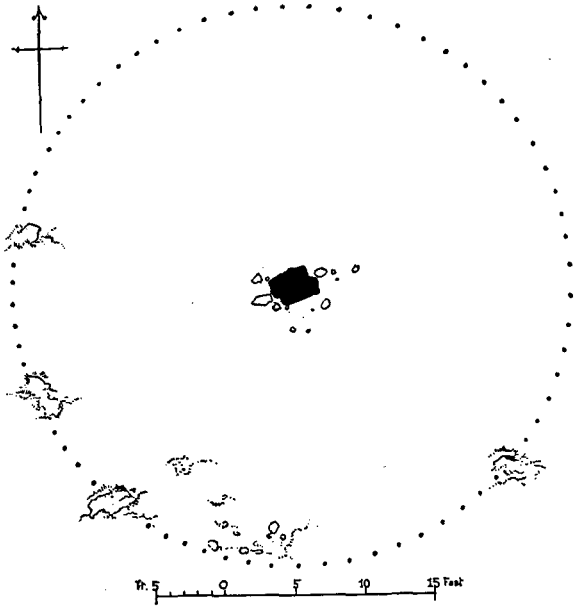


Fig. 55. Remains of Circle at Blelock (now Pitsundry); Ground-plan.

This Circle, therefore, is interesting from its having a central monolith, which, on the testimony of one well acquainted with the ground, was surrounded by other erect stones.[2] The diameter may be stated roughly as about 40 feet; and if the space between the three ridgy

[1] Marked on the map at about 200 feet above sea-level.

[2] Due west of this monolith, a quarter of a mile, is St Bride's Well, giving name to the farm of Logiebride. I observed that this name was pronounced in the locality as if it were spelt Luggie-bride.

spots on the west and south-west be taken as mean interspaces, there were probably twelve Stones originally. The site is a somewhat conspicuous one. A view from the south is given in fig. 56.

No. 37. Standing Stone in the grounds of Murthly Castle.—In an open field, bordered on the east and south by the richly-planted avenues leading to the Castle, there stands this great rounded block of schist,

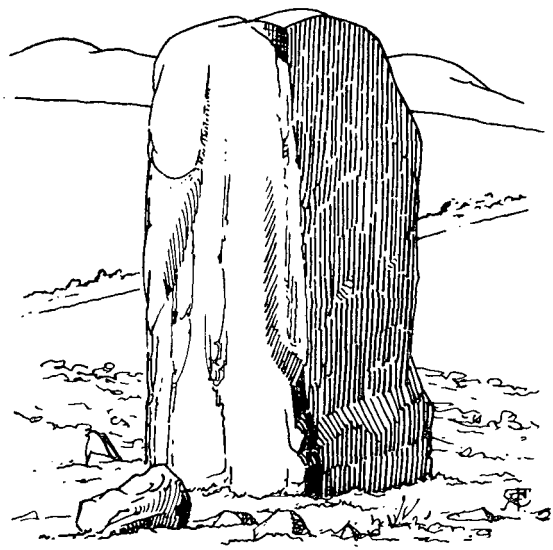


Fig. 56. Remains of Circle at Blelock ; View from the South.

rudely tapering from a very broad base to an apex which is fully 7 feet 8 inches above the ground (see fig. 57).

Round the irregular base it measures 13 feet 4 inches, and at 3 feet loses only 3 inches of that girth. No one side is conspicuously longer or smoother than the others, and its axial diameter, taken from the worked-out plan, measures 5 feet 7 inches in a line running almost exactly due east and west. The field is on the 200 feet contour. Appended is a view of this Standing Stone as seen from the south-west (fig. 57).

No. 38. *Circle within the grounds of the Asylum at Murthly.*—This, perhaps the most imposing group of megaliths at present under notice, is situated almost 300 yards from the entrance gate and to the N.E. of it. About forty-five years ago, the Stones stood out prominently in the open field, and they are drawn on the map in a somewhat confused

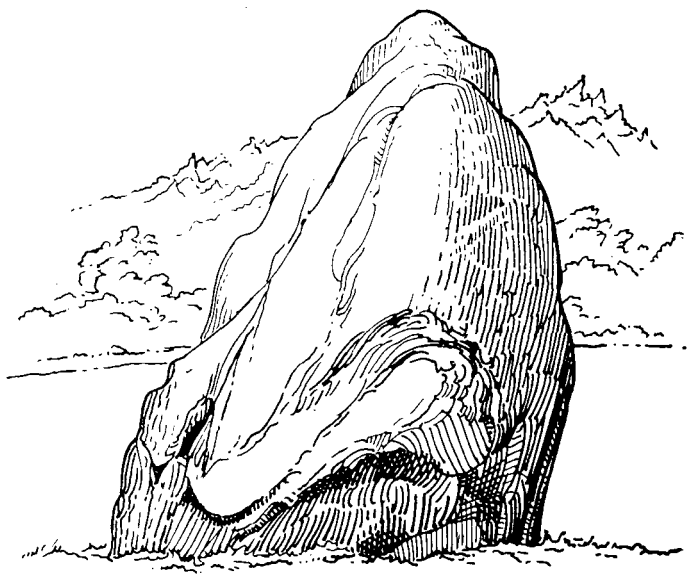


Fig. 57. Standing Stone, Murthly Castle.

manner, as if the remains consisted of four great Stones with four or five others within the enclosed area. In 1863-4, however, when the Asylum grounds were in process of being laid out,[1] the site was planted with oaks and other trees, and a circular earthen mound raised all round the Stones. It is this mound that first attracts attention on seeing the spot; but the sharpness of its lines and its breadth effectually dispel the passing idea that here was an example of

[1] By Dr M'Intosh, first Superintendent of the Institution.

the Aberdeenshire variety so frequently observed during former investigations.

The site is about 200 feet above sea-level.

As the ground-plan (fig. 58) shows, there are now here five Stones, set upon the circumference of a true Circle, which measures 32 feet

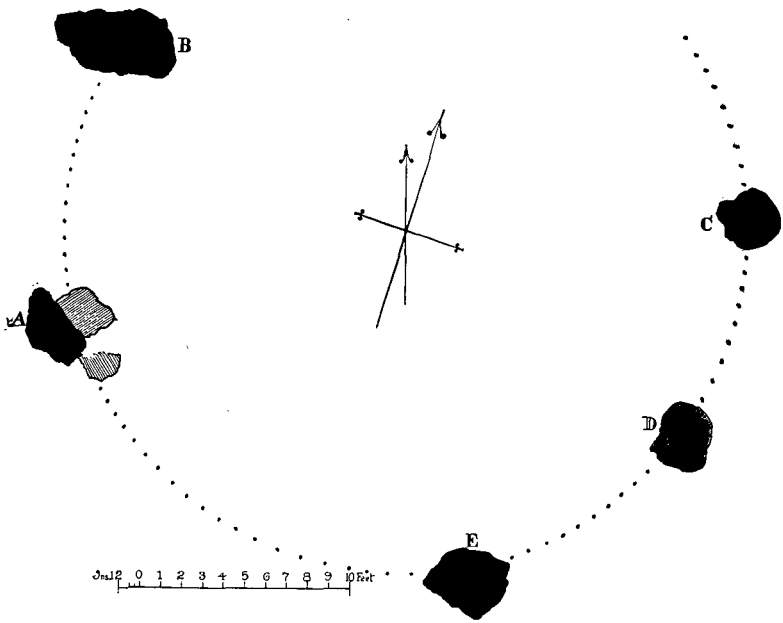


Fig. 58. Circle in Grounds of Asylum at Murthly ; Plan.

8 inches in diameter. The Stones differ greatly in shape, bulk, and height, and no two are placed precisely north and south of each other. There is space, however, for three more, with an interspace of about 11 feet, and the Circle may thus originally have had eight Stones.

The Stone nearest the S.W., A, is a tall, oblong-sided block, 8 feet in height, 10 feet in basal girth, and 11 feet 6 inches at a height of 4 feet. The top slopes westwards, and is rugged like the rest of the Stone.

At its inner side there rests a squarish block (see the large shaded

stone in the plan, fig. 58), which seems to be set against the monolith, and is nearly 1 foot in thickness. Another block, not so clearly exposed, rests on the S.E. of the great Stone.

At B is a huge, amorphous, rounded boulder, 4 feet in height, 6 feet in length, and over 3 feet in breadth. The other three Stones are more symmetric in base, though only one, D, is set with its broader face fronting the interior of the Circle. Stone C, 3 feet 5 inches in height,

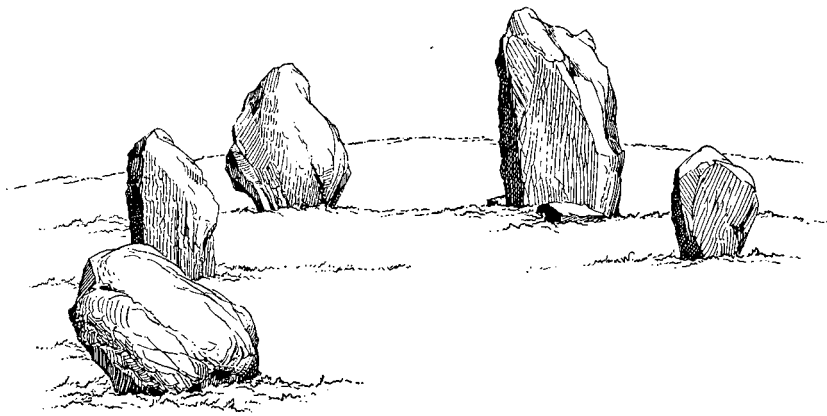


Fig. 59. Circle in Grounds of Murthly Asylum; View from the N.E.

is a broad, squat boulder, rounded in all its parts, and girthing about 10 feet. Stone D is straight and pillar-like, 5 feet in height, and in girth about 10 feet. Stone E, tapering from a very broad base, is 5 feet 6 inches in height, and 12 feet 6 inches in girth. The different forms may be seen in the view, taken from the north-east (fig. 59), from which, however, I have omitted all the trees in this little plantation. These stand now so thickly around as to exclude all possible views of the landscape features beyond.

It is on record [1] that during the time when the Asylum grounds were

[1] By Sir Arthur Mitchell, in the *Proceedings*, vol. ix. p. 268. One urn, found alone, contained among the incinerated bones a small bone button—the first of its

being laid out, there were found some cinerary urns within a few yards of the Circle. Some of these were in groups of two or three, and, says Prof. M'Intosh, "one series was found arranged in a circle." There is, however, no warrant for stating that any of these relics were found within the area enclosed by the Standing Stones.

Concluding Remarks.

In classifying the material now collected for the portion of Perthshire here noticed, the following results are obtained, which are conveniently ranged under five heads, viz. (*a*) Circles containing more than four Stones: as at Faskally Cottages, Tigh-na-ruaich, Fortingal, Balhomais, Lundin, Blelock, and in Murthly Asylum grounds. In some of these groups, the position of the Stones remaining, taken in conjunction with the diameter of the Circle, has justified this allocation.

(*b*) Groups of four Stones: as at Edintian, Fonab Moor, Fortingal, Carse, and Lundin.

(*c*) Remains of Circles, known to have been such: as at Pitfourie, Balnagard, Newtyle, and East Cults.

(*d*) Groups of two Stones: as at Balnabroich, Dowally, and Stare-dam. Nothing being known regarding former conditions at these sites, and the Stones themselves not affording any conclusive evidence, they fall to be placed in a separate group.

(*e*) Monoliths. The number of these in comparison is remarkably high. They occur at Balnabroich, Enochdow, Stotherd's Croft, Cottertown, Tilt Hotel (Clach na-h' Iobairt), Urrard (Claverhouse Stone), near Grantully old Distillery, at Grantully Vale, Haugh of Tullymet (Clach Glas), Kilmoraich, Pulney Lodge, Meikle Obney, and Murthly Castle—thirteen in all.

With material of such variety, it is at the present date impossible to assert precisely in many instances whether a single Stone, or a couple of

type noticed. It may be compared, by the figure of it, p. 269, with a somewhat similar piece of perforated bone found in an urn taken out of the Cairn at Gourlaw, described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxix. p. 416.

Stones, is or is not the remnant of a Circle. But, in this connection, we may bear in mind what was written considerably over a century ago of the parish of Logierait,[1] viz. that "none of the Stones called obelisks remain here [*i.e.* Sculptured Stones]; but many of those stones which are said to have belonged to Druidical places of worship." As by "Druidical places of worship" the writers of the accounts nearly always intended "Circles of Stones," the inference seems clear that the majority of the sites contained such Circles.

MONDAY, 10*th February* 1908.

SIR JAMES BALFOUR PAUL, Lyon King of Arms, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows:—

HENRY M. CADELL, B.Sc., F.R.S.E., of Grange, Bo'ness.
Major HUGH BROWN COLLINS, Auchenbothie, Kilmalcolm.
JOHN SMITH KAY, Jun., 12 Glengyle Terrace.
JAMES MACDONALD, J.P., Dellifour House, Kingussie.
GEORGE MACKAY, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., 20 Drumsheugh Gardens.
JAMES WILKIE, B.L., S.S.C., 108 George Street.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By Rev. P. H. RUSSELL, Ollabery Manse, Northmavine, Shetland.

Collection of Antiquities from the Mainland of Shetland, consisting of:—

Rudely chipped implement of greyish sandstone, club-shaped, $24\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in greatest diameter, tapering towards

[1] *Old Statistical Account*, vol. v.

both ends, which are broken off, found in digging a drain at Crookston, Ollabery.

Portion of another similar rudely chipped implement of darkish stone.

Oval polished Knife of dark porphyritic stone, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches; and portion of another, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; both found in clearing out the foundations of an ancient structure, supposed to be a Broch, at Gluss.

Portion of an oval Knife of dark stone, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches, broken at the ends, found at Ollabery.

Pounder of granite, cheese-shaped, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, slightly hollowed on opposite faces, found at Ollabery.

Adze of brownish indurated clay slate, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, found on Roeness Hill.

Axe of greenstone, unsymmetrically shaped and much chipped, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in greatest breadth, found near Ollabery.

Portion of a polished Axe of greenstone, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, also found near Ollabery.

Half of a polished circular Disc of micaceous schist with garnets, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness, found at Roeness Voe.

Rudely shaped Cup of Steatite, squarish, with rounded corners, 3 inches by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, the cavity about 1 inch in depth, and the sides about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness, the outside very roughly dressed, from Ollabery.

Oblong, irregularly shaped lump of steatite, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth and about the same in thickness, perforated, and having six depressions on its irregular sides, as if cavities for moulds for small objects of unrecognisable forms, found beneath the floor of a cottage in Ollabery.

Oval, flattish, naturally shaped pebble of slaty stone, $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in breadth and about an inch in thickness, perforated at the broader end so as to be hung with string between the horns of a bolting or butting cow, from Ollabery.

Two Charm Stones, small, naturally shaped pebbles of mottled serpentine, used in Ollabery to preserve or recover milk to cows supposed to be bewitched.

Figure of a Bird cut in steatite (the bill broken and renewed), $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height, the back and wings incised with lines running from head to tail, found 30 inches under the surface in a moss when casting peats at Ollabery.

Sinker of steatite, of somewhat conical shape, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in breadth and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, with a perforation near the apex and another at one side near the base, from Ollabery.

Small Jar of brown glazed earthenware, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter at the mouth, with two pierced ears under the brim, the sides bulging in the lower part and again contracting to a base of $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, found in the bank of a burn at Roeness Voe.

Ancient Key of brass found in a peat-moss at Gosafiord, Hillswick.

(2) By JOHN MORTON, Whelphill, Abington.

Old Peat Firegrate of Iron, such as was used in shepherds' houses, from Whelphill, Abington.

(3) By the MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Calendar of State Papers, Foreign, Reign of Elizabeth, 1581–82; Calendar of State Papers, Venice and North Italy, vol. xiii., 1613–15; Calendar of Patent Rolls, Henry VI., vol. ii., 1429–36; Acts of the Privy Council, 1601–4; Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII., vol. xx., Part 2, 1545; Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward III., 1350–54; Calendar of Close Rolls, Edward III., vol. x., 1354–60.

(4) By FRANCIS MARTIN NORMAN, Commander R.N., the Author.

Berwick Historical Monuments Committee's Official Guide to the Fortifications of Berwick. 8vo. 1907.

(5) By WILLIAM REID, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Guide-Book to the Old Steeple (Tower of St Mary's), Dundee. Second Edition. 1907.

(6) By R. N. HALL, the Author.

Guide and Souvenir, Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Mashonaland, South Africa. 8vo. 1907.

Notes on the Traditions of South African Races, especially of the Makulanga of Mashonaland. 8vo. 1907.

Prehistoric Gold Mines of Rhodesia. 8vo. 1907.

(7) By Professor J. C. EWART, M.D., the Author.

On Skulls of Horses from the Roman Fort at Newstead, Melrose. 4to. 1907.

(8) By F. C. INGLIS, F.S.A. Scot.

Ville de Paris: Commission de vieux Paris. Communications relatives à la découverte, et à l'identification des restes de l'Amiral Paul Jones. 4to. Paris, 1906.

(9) By CHARLES MENMUIR, M.A., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Rising of the North: The Rebellion of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland in 1569. 8vo. 1907.

The following Communications were read:—