

Fig. 1.—Hondaas de las Hadas, Spring of the Fairies ; Department of the Basses Pyrénées.

From a drawing by Gen. Sir Vincent Eyre, C.B.

## The Archaeological Journal.

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### MEGALITHIC REMAINS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE BASSES PYRENEES, WITH NOTES ON PREHISTORIC ARCHÆOLOGY IN SPAIN.<sup>1</sup>

By LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., President.

DURING my stay at Pau, in the winter of 1867-8, I made the acquaintance of the Vicomte de Villemarqué, a distinguished antiquary of Brittany, who has given much attention to what they call Celtic antiquities. He informed me that within a short distance there were some remarkable monuments of this period—indeed, the only ones he was aware of south of the province of Poitou. We accordingly arranged for an expedition to visit them, and we were fortunate enough to secure as a companion General Sir Vincent Eyre, to whose ready pencil I am indebted for the accompanying sketches. I regret extremely that owing to circumstances we were not enabled to give as much time to the investigation of these monuments as I could wish. There was a good deal of snow on the ground, and I did not make any measurements, relying upon obtaining this information in detail from another source; in this expectation I have been disappointed.

After passing the picturesque and woody sub-Pyrenean region, we emerged on the Val d'Ossau, which leads to Eaux Bonnes, and stopped at Bielle. This is the site of a Roman town, and mosaics of that period have been discovered there.

<sup>1</sup> This memoir, of which the greater portion was communicated by the noble author at the annual meeting of the Institute at Lancaster in 1868, is here reproduced, by his kind permission, from

the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. x. p. 472. The Institute is indebted to the liberal courtesy of the Academy for the use of the accompanying illustrations.

However, neglecting them, we left the beaten road, and penetrated into the flanks of the main chain of the Pyrenees. The scenery was very fine, commanding as we did the beautiful Val d'Ossau, and enveloped by an amphitheatre of mountains. Between three or four miles from Bielle, we got into the snow, and found ourselves in a circular valley, with a stream running down, a humble chapel, and a plateau surrounded by a circle of chestnut trees, in the midst of which was the most remarkable of the circles which came under our observation. The spot is called, in the dialect of Béarn, *Hondaas de las Hadas*, or Spring of the Fairies (see Fig. 1). In the month of May I understand that there are great festivities among the peasantry, who dance and amuse themselves under the trees. It is considered a blessed spot, and no evil spirit ventures to disturb their innocent enjoyments. The spring has a still holier character; it is under the protection of the Virgin Mary, and its waters were held to be a sovereign remedy against the rinderpest, when it first invaded the south of Europe, about the middle of the last century. The chapel was then erected, and I believe that the patron saint is considered to have exerted a prophylactic influence during the prevalence of the late *peste bovine*.

But to come to some details of the "druidical" circles. They are very small, the largest not measuring above four or five feet in diameter. There are a very considerable number of them, between thirteen and twenty. Some are perfect, others in a dilapidated state. The stones of which they are formed are evidently of the locality, and none are of large dimensions. They are very rude, and there is no appearance of cutting or dressing. There are also no signs of inscriptions, or designs of any description. We fancied that we could trace one, if not two, large circles enclosing the whole; but it was exceedingly difficult to form any accurate opinion on the subject, owing to the state of the ground, which was covered with snow. I trust that some competent antiquary, with time at his disposal, will give a more detailed and satisfactory description.

Turning to the right, and ascending a hill of slight elevation, we came to a kind of terrace overlooking the winding Gave d'Ossau. There were no trees, but a good deal of gorse, box, and the other usual Pyrenean underwood. Here,



Fig. 2.—Circles of stones, near the Val d'Ossau, Department of the Basses Pyrénées.

From a drawing by Gen. Sir Vincent Eyre, C.B.



Fig. 3.—Cromlech at Buzy, near Oloron ; Department of the Basses Pyrénées.

From a drawing by Gen. Sir Vincent Eyre, C.B.

after a little investigation, we discovered the object of our search. In a nearly straight line, following the course of the terrace, we found about a dozen similar circles. They were of about the same dimensions, but the stones were rather larger (see fig. 2). These curious remains probably had been less disturbed than the others, owing to the superstitious dread which as we heard prevails in the neighbourhood with respect to them. They are supposed to be haunted by the *loup-garou*, and no peasant would venture to approach them after dark.

These are the only circles which we heard of; but I have little doubt that, if the sides of this extensive chain of mountains were closely examined, many more would be discovered. The whole of this country doubtless was occupied by the Iberian race, of which the Basques are the remnant; and yet, strange to say, I have not been able to ascertain that any undoubted monuments of that widespread family have been discovered in the south of France.

On our return, we went through Arudy to Buzy, on the road to Oloron, and near that town visited a very interesting cromlech, or *dolmen*, as they are called in France. It is not a large one, but in a good state of preservation. This is probably owing to its having been originally buried in a mound of stones. The tradition is, that some thirty or forty years ago there was a band of robbers who haunted a neighbouring wood, and they, holding the popular idea that such monuments always contained treasures, took the pains to remove the heap of stones, when the cromlech, and I believe no treasure, appeared. It is not often that archæology is indebted to men of their calling for such valuable discoveries. The accompanying woodcut (fig. 3) gives a perfect idea of the Buzy cromlech.

I proceed to offer some notices of Spanish archæology, and especially of the Prehistoric remains in the Peninsula.

Spain is a country full of interest, and has been very imperfectly explored. Its riches in an Agricultural, Metallurgical, and Geological point of view, are tolerably well known. The great masters of the painting schools of Seville, Badajoz, Granada, and Valencia have a world-wide reputation. Its sacred edifices, especially the cathedrals of Burgos, Toledo, Cordoba, and Seville, have been long studied by the architects of all nations. It is not, however, so well known

that a rich mine of Archæological wealth exists in the Peninsula. It is true that the ruins of the Roman cities which once existed have long attracted observation; the aqueducts of Alcantara, Segovia, and Tarragona, the amphitheatre of Italica, and the ancient city of Merida, have been the pride of Spaniards. Their museums also contain fine collections of ancient coins, belonging to the Iberian, Carthaginian, Roman, Gothic, and Mussulman periods. There are few local museums; those of Seville, Granada, and Tarragona are the most remarkable that I have visited. I must also mention that a National Museum of Antiquities is now in course of formation at Madrid. It is under the direction of one of the most distinguished Archæologists of Spain, El Señor Don José Amador de los Rios, and contains a magnificent collection of Roman, Arab, Mediæval, and prehistoric remains. It has also a very large ethnographic collection, as well as a cabinet of ancient Spanish coins, attached to it.

The Academia de Historia has a fine library, and some Mahometan inscriptions, besides a magnificent silver *lanx*, called the *Disco Teodosiano*. It was found at Merida, and is in a fine state of preservation. It is ornamented with figures in relief, representing the Emperor Theodosius and his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius, sitting on thrones, with other allegorical figures, and an inscription proving that it had been produced in commemoration of the *Quinquennales* of the elder emperor. I know of nothing like it in any museum in Europe. It will doubtless be ultimately deposited in the National Archæological Museum at Madrid.

I shall not allude further to the Moorish antiquities, which are very remarkable, and have attracted much attention in Spain. This country possesses several accomplished Arabic scholars, among whom El Señor Pascual de Gayangos is *facile princeps*.

To come to the subject which I have principally in view, Prehistoric Archæology, I was agreeably disappointed in finding that although, as I believe, out of Spain little is known of the most ancient monuments contained in it, at the present moment nothing interests the learned in that country so much as the late discoveries in the Swiss Lakes and Caverns of the Dordogne. They are also giving great attention to the study of Celtic remains in Ireland, Brittany,



and other parts of Europe ; and, what is most important, there are many intelligent antiquaries who are busy in researches through the different provinces of their own country, and making excavations, &c. I may mention, among the most distinguished, Senores Don Manuel de Gongora y Martinez, Don Hernandez of Tarragona, Don Jose Villamil, Don Francisco Tubino, and Don Antonio Benavides, the President of the Academia de Historia. Don Manuel de Gongora has lately published a very remarkable work on this subject, from which I shall, before the conclusion of my memoir, make a few extracts. I also feel bound to express my acknowledgments to Don Francisco Tubino, who first indicated to me some of the sites where prehistoric remains were to be found. It is remarkable that, whilst we are accustomed to consider the Spaniards as very backward in most branches of intellectual inquiry, it is the only country that I know of in which a respect for Archæology is endeavoured to be planted in the rising generation by elementary works. I may specially refer to a little volume printed at Barcelona, which I may call an Archæological Primer, by Don Jose de Marjanés, for the use of the national schools. It is entitled "Nociones de Arqueologia Espanola."

It appears that caves used as human habitations, cromlechs, logan stones, megalithic structures and cyclopean walls are found in many parts of Spain. Of the latter I shall instance the remarkable Iberian walls of Tarragona, and the Castello de Ibros, near Baeza. As to what are generally called Celtic monuments, they seem to be generally scattered through the country, particularly through the mountains of Andalusia, the Sierra Morena, the Cantabrian chain, Catalonia, and even Portugal. Rude vases of pottery, implements of stone, axes, arrow heads, &c., are very common, as well as celts, lance heads, palstaves, and other implements of bronze. In all their museums there are some of these, and I brought home a few examples. In the Museo Nacional Arqueologico of Madrid there is a large collection.

There are also some curious figures, which certainly belong to a very remote period, and have sorely puzzled the antiquaries (see fig. 4). They are called the *Toros de Guisando*, and sometimes *Marranos*. They are very rude representations of animals, roughly cut out of granite blocks.



By some they are supposed to represent bulls, by others, bears or wild boars. They are called of Guisando, because they were first discovered in a deserted tract between Avila and the Escorial, called Guisando. But there are several sets of these *Toros*. The representation here given is taken from a photograph of some preserved in a courtyard of one of the ancient palaces at Avila, in the Province of Ancient Castile.

Celts and palstaves are of very common occurrence; and it is most remarkable that specimens with two loops are not considered of unusual occurrence (see fig. 5). In the Armeria real at Madrid there are two fine palstaves, each having two loops; they are said to have been discovered in

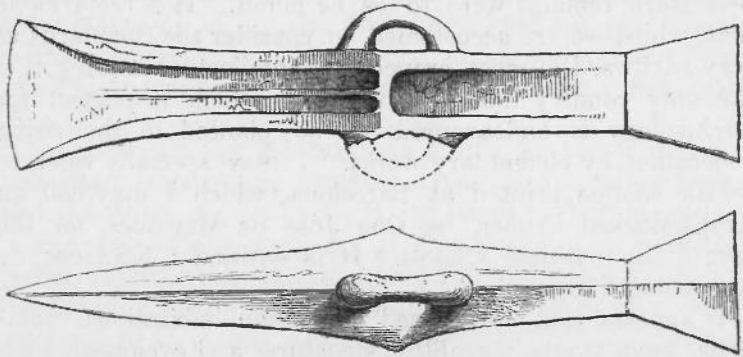


Fig. 5.—Palstave, with two side-loops, found in the ancient Province of Asturias, North coast of Spain.

the north of Spain; similar objects have also been found in Portugal. I saw a very fine example at Grenada. There is one in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, which I believe was found in Ireland; another Irish example is in my own collection,<sup>2</sup> and a third, found in Somerset, is in the possession of Mr. Norris, of South Petherton.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Figured, Arch. Journ., vol. ix. p. 194; Catal. Museum R. I. Acad., p. 382.

<sup>3</sup> No example of a socketed celt with a loop at each side has been noticed as found in the British islands. The moiety, however, of a stone mould for casting celts of this type was found at Chidbury Hill, near Everley, Wilts; it is in the possession of the Rev. E. Duke, and was exhibited by him in the Museum of the Institute at the Salisbury meeting. It

has been figured in "The Barrow Diggers," pl. v. p. 78. A similar peculiarity may be noticed in one of the matrices in a stone mould found in Anglesey, figured Arch. Journ., vol. iii. p. 257, and vol. vi. p. 358. A bronze socketed celt with two loops, found in a Tartar hut 15 miles N.W. of Kertch, and near the Sea of Azof, is preserved in the British Museum; it is figured Arch. Journ., vol. xiv. p. 91.

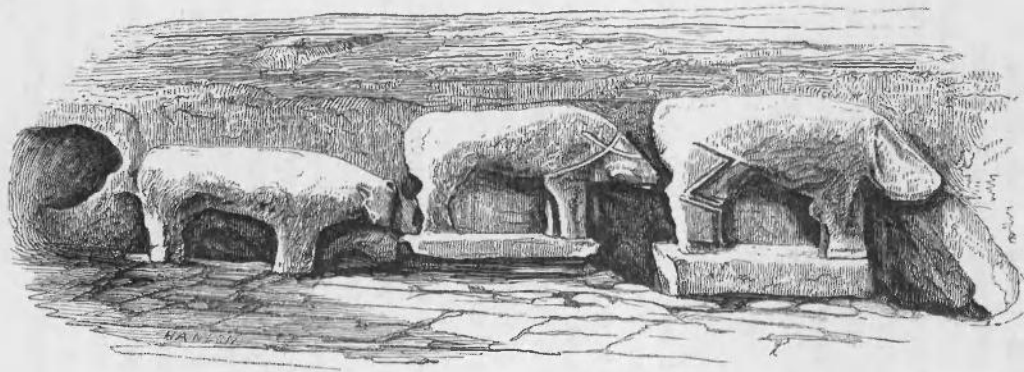


Fig. 4—Toros de Guisando, or Marranos, now preserved at one of the ancient palaces at Avila.

I shall not allude to the discoveries made in the rock of Gibraltar, as they have been so well described by Dr. Busk and others. I may, however, mention that they belong to a recent geological formation, and have been accompanied with remains of man.

Mr. Evans ("Transactions of the Ethnological Society," vol. vii.) describes some interesting discoveries in Portugal. The Museum of the library of Evora contains some interesting arms of stone, which he calls club-celts, and a gouge also of stone. Mr. Evans notices some hatchets of amphibolic green schist, found in a cromlech at Alcobulo; a stone muller for corn in another cromlech in the same locality; also a hatchet, found at Castello de Vidè, Alentejo.

In the cave called Casa da Maura, near the village Serrade El Ré, there are two deposits, both connected with human remains. The lower deposit consisted of flint flakes, a fragment of a sort of lance-head of bone, and other fragments. The upper deposit contained, mixed with human bones, hatchets of polished stone, knives, arrow-heads and other instruments of flint, bone, and stagshorn; fragments of rude pottery, black, with white grains of sand or calcareous spar, together with bones and teeth of animals, pebbles, flint and limestone flakes; small fragments of stone hatchets, and flat pieces of schist with designs upon them, which may have been used as amulets; charcoal; numerous shells of *Helix nemoralis* and *aspersa*, and some pierced valves of *pectunculus*, much worn; also a lance-head of bronze.

#### CASTILLEJO DE GUZMAN.

On the right bank of the Guadalquivir, on a low range of hills, one of which contains a Roman camp, at a distance of about three miles from Seville, is the noble farm and country residence of the Conde Castillejo de Guzman; and in a vineyard is the so-called *Cueva de la Pastora*, consisting of a long gallery or underground passage leading to a small circular chamber. It is constructed of undressed stones, without any mortar; the side walls of small ones, the covering stones of larger dimensions. It resembles in every respect the Picts' Houses of Ireland and Scotland, and might be said to be a miniature New Grange. There are at two intervals large stones for the support of jambs of a doorway. The length of the gallery is 27 metres, about 88 ft. It is barely

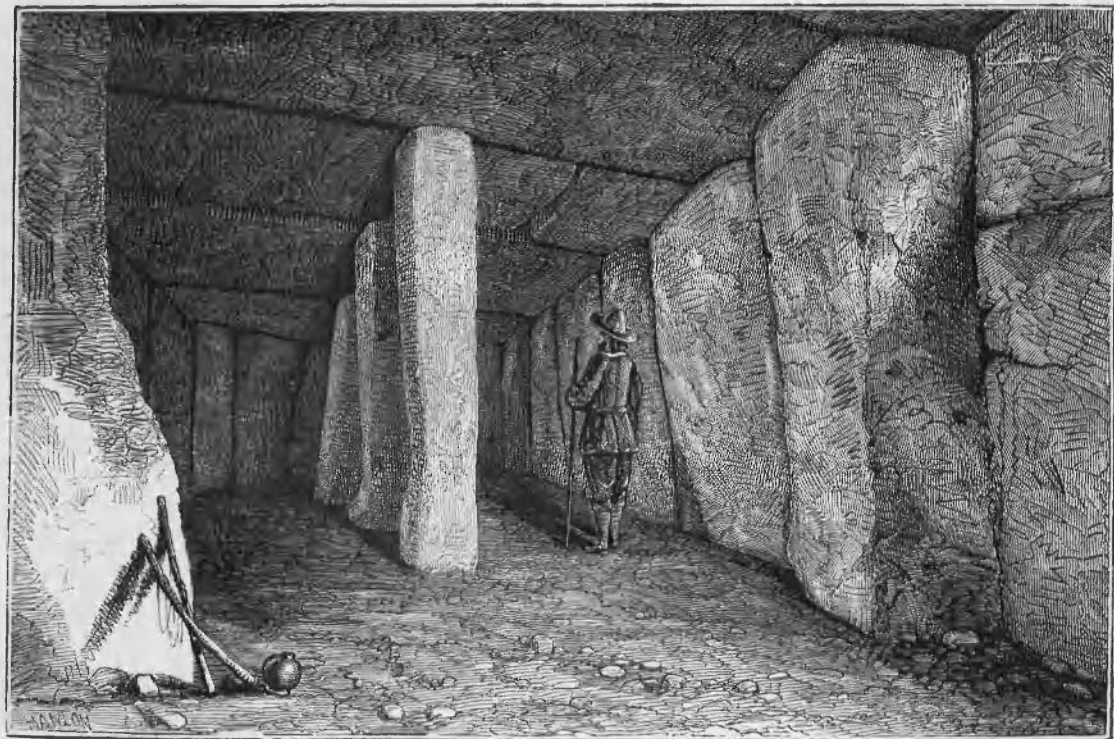


Fig. 6.—Cueva de Mengal, near the ancient city of Antequera, in the province of Malaga.

Interior view, from a memoir by Don Rafael Mitjona.

3 ft. wide, and its greatest height not above 6 ft. The doorways are situated, the front at about 36 ft. from the entrance; the second, at about 52 ft. further, close to the entrance of the circular chamber. This room is surrounded by a wall, consisting of two distinct bands of masonry, the lower one of small stones, the upper of large overlapping stones, which cover it in. Don Francisco Tubino, to whom Spanish Archæology owes so much, and who first called my attention to these remains, mentions in his luminous report on the discovery that he observed in the interstices of the stones in the circular chamber groups of fossil shells of the oyster kind. Signor Professor Villanova pronounces them to be the *Ostrea sacellus* or *caudata* of the miocene formation. I cannot say that I observed any.

#### CUEVA DE MENGAL.

This remarkable monument is situated in the immediate vicinity of the ancient City of Antequera, in the Province of Malaga.

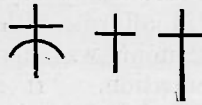
I shall not dilate on the many objects of interest which this picturesque town still affords, although its magnificent collection of Moorish armour was destroyed or dispersed, during the French occupation. It is on the site of a Roman town, and is full of Roman inscriptions, with other vestiges of the same period. The *Cueva* has been known for a considerable time, but has not long attracted the attention of antiquaries. In 1847 Don Rafael Mitjona published an essay upon it, with some illustrations, which I have borrowed for the present occasion. I have also given his measurements; but I will not trouble you with his theories, or discuss the question whether we owe this monument to the Celts or the Tarduli. It is covered with a small mound; but the ground has been so much cleared away, that not only is the entrance easily accessible but ample light has been admitted. It is very grand and imposing. (See fig. 6.) I believe there are similar monuments in Brittany and Touraine; but I have not had yet the advantage of visiting them. The cave extends from east to west. The entrance (fig. 7) is at the east; in length it is  $86\frac{1}{2}$  Spanish feet, and the greatest width is 22 ft; the height is from 10 ft. to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  ft. These are Spanish feet; but the difference between

an English and a Spanish foot is insignificant. (See the section and ground-plan, figs. 8, 9.)

The immense size of the stones is its most important feature. The side walls are more than 3 ft. thick, and consist of ten stones on each side, and one stone closes it at the end. The cave is covered in by five colossal slabs, which are partly supported by the lateral walls, and partly by three great pillars. The following are the dimensions of the covering stones, in the order as we enter the apartment :—

	Width.	Length.	Thickness.	Cubic Feet.
1.	16 Ft.	18 Ft.	4 Ft.	1,152
2.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	4	1,218
3.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	4	1,300
4.	16	27	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,944
5.	23	27	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,794

The stone is a limestone of the neighbourhood, and has no appearance of regular dressing, nor is there any mortar used. On one of the stones near the entrance I noticed three crosses of this form :—



#### DILAR.

A hunter, sporting at a place called Dilar, about two Spanish leagues from Granada, seventeen years ago, on the verge of the Sierra Nevada, came on some tumuli ; one of these mounds was resorted to by rabbits, and on attempting to dislodge them, he discovered a sepulchral chamber. This discovery was supposed to indicate a mine. A company was formed ; the whole tumulus was excavated, and all the stones that were not useful to an adjoining manufactory of baize were destroyed. Fortunately an artist of the name of Don Martino Rico appreciated their value, and made a sketch of their original state.

I visited the spot during my tour in 1867, and I regret that, with the exception of two large stones, which seem to have formed the entrance, there is nothing remaining *in situ*



Fig. 7.—Entrance, at the east end. Height, about 10 ft.

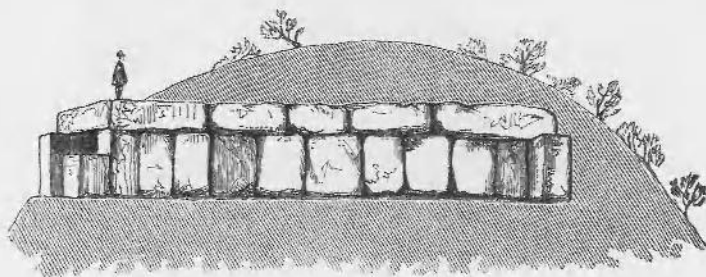


Fig. 8.—Section of the gallery. Length, about 86½ ft.

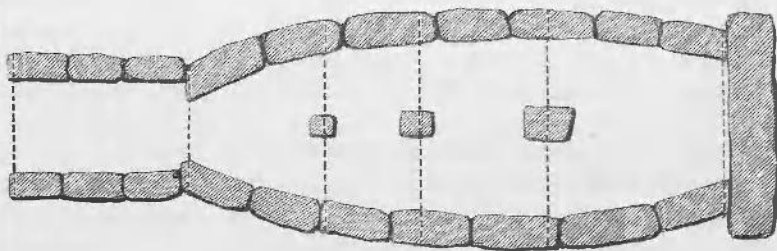


Fig. 9.—Ground plan. Length, about 86½ ft., greatest width 22 ft.

Cueva di Mengal, in the Province of Malaga.



(see fig. 10). Their dimensions are—height, 245 in., and their front width is 317 in. There is an opening in the



Fig. 10.—Tumulus at Dilar, near Granada. Entrance, and megalithic jambs of the door-way.

door of 195 in. I also saw the stones which had been removed from thence, and have been used for flagging at the manufactory of Don Pedro Rogés. The dimensions of one of these are 242 in. in length, by 131 in. in breadth; another measures 262 in. by 124 in.

In the immediate vicinity of this unfortunate tumulus there are two other mounds, which have not been disturbed, and I trust are reserved for investigation in less troublous times.

Having exhausted the more remarkable monuments which I have visited, I shall conclude with some extracts from a remarkable work by Señor Don Manuel de Gongora y Martinez, entitled “*Antiquèdades Prehistoricos de Andalucia.*”

That distinguished archæologist describes the cave of Albuñol, near Motril, in the Province of Granada, vulgarly called *Cueva de los Murcielagos*, or Bats’ Cave. It is situated on the side of a steep ravine, which is approached by a

steep path A. (see the accompanying ground-plan, fig. 11). It is in limestone rock. In this cave there were found at B. three skeletons. Around the skull of one of these there was a diadem of pure gold (see fig. 12) of twenty-four carats, weighing twenty-five *adarmes*, about twelve drachms, and of the value of sixty dollars or about £12. At C. there lay three more skeletons, the skull of one of them was stuck between two large stones, and beside it a cap of *esparto*, (the Spanish broom, or *genista*) with fresh marks on it, apparently of blood. At D. twelve skeletons were discovered, surrounding the body of a female, admirably preserved, clothed in a garment of skin, open on the left side, and kept together in the middle by two straps interlaced. It had a necklace of *esparto*, from the rings of which hung marine shells, except the central one, which had a boar's tusk fashioned at the extremity; there were also ear-rings of black stone, without any opening, and probably fixed by a ring.

The skeleton with which was found the diadem, was clothed in a fine short tunic of *esparto*, the others in a like garment, though of somewhat coarser material; caps of the same, some with the cone folded back, others of a semicircular form; sandals of *esparto*, some of them elaborately worked. Close to the skeletons there were flint knives, hatchets, and other instruments, arrows, with flint points fixed to rough sticks with a very tenacious bitumen; rude but sharp arms of silex, some of them kept in purses of *esparto*; vessels of clay; a large piece of skin; very thick knives, and pickaxes of bone; spoons of wood, with large low bowls, very short handles, and a hole for suspension.

At E. lay upwards of fifty bodies, all with sandals and dresses of *esparto*, arms of stone, and a bone polisher. Each of the three skeletons at C. had a basket of *esparto*, varying in size from 6 in. to 15 in., two of them full of a kind of black arenaceous earth, probably food carbonized by time, and a variety of small baskets, with locks of hair, flowers, poppy-heads, and univalve shells. The skeletons were covered with flesh reduced to the condition of mummies; the dresses and baskets retained their original colors. The vases were very rude, but some of them with ornamental borders. They had spouts, handles, &c.; some of the fictile vessels were sun-dried, others baked.

This cave was discovered in 1831, but it was immediately

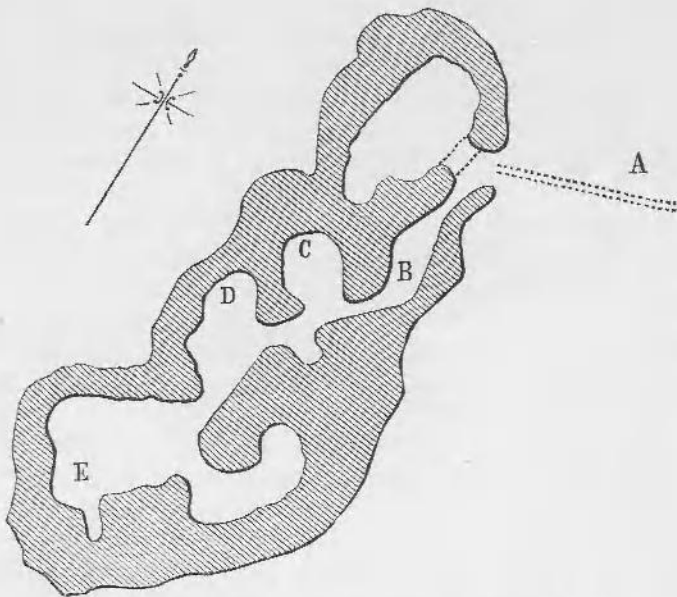


Fig. 11.—Ground-plan of the Cueva de los Murcielagos, a cave at Albuñol, Province of Granada.

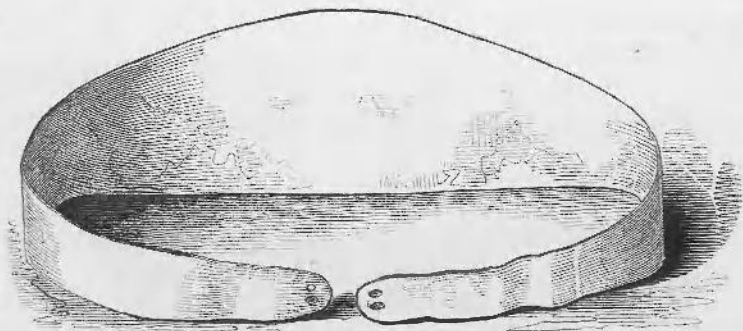


Fig. 12.—Gold diadem found on a skull, in the cave of Albuñol.  
Weight about 12 drachms.

taken possession of by miners, who turned everything topsy-turvy in search of metals ; and, not finding any, they did much damage by their careless manner of scraping off the saltpetre which had accumulated on the walls of the cavern. However, Señor Don Gongora succeeded in securing specimens of all the objects discovered, mostly on the spot.

The gold diadem is still in existence, in the possession of Don Condres de Unzor.

In the same work there are descriptions of some very remarkable cromlechs in the Cañada de Hoyon, between Granada and Alcalá la real. The three following examples may be specially noticed :—*Dolmen del Hoyon*, *Dolmen del Herradero*, and *Dolmen de la Canada del Herradero*.

I wish also to call attention to the following monuments, illustrated in the same valuable work :—four *Dolmens* at *Mugadar del Conejo*, *Dolmen de las Ériales*, near which were found arms of bronze, and clay vessels, *Dolmen de las cuesta de los Chaparros*, and three *Dolmens* of *El Hoyo de las Cuevas del Congriuel*. In one of these there was found an arrow head of stone (fig. 13), with three points. I have also given a representation of a copper palstave, with two side loops, found in the Sierra de Baza (see fig. 14).



Fig. 13.—Three pointed arrow-head of stone, found in a cromlech near Granada.

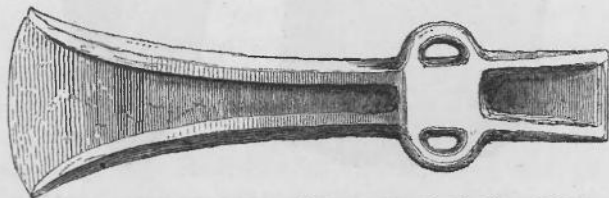


Fig. 14.—Copper palstave, with two side-loops, found in the Sierra de Baza.

#### CUEVA DEL GATO.

Within a few miles of the city of Ronda, by the lower road to Gibraltar, in the beautiful Val de Angostura, there

is a chasm in the mountains which form its northern boundary, through which there rushes a brawling stream to join the river below. Its sides are covered with a luxurious brushwood, and the most gorgeous wild plants.

Just below its opening there is a small cave, known as the *Cueva del Gato*, which is sometimes resorted to by the shepherds of the district. This, probably, was the abode of some of the wild tribes which peopled this country in primeval times. A stone celt was found there by a friend on the same day that I visited it. This relic is here figured; it is of a coarse-grained reddish-brown material; in form it is rudely wrought, and unusually unsymmetrical; about half an inch of the surface towards the lower extremity, or cutting edge, has been somewhat roughly polished. This part of the celt, as will be seen by the woodcut (fig. 15), had been chipped in use, and much injured.

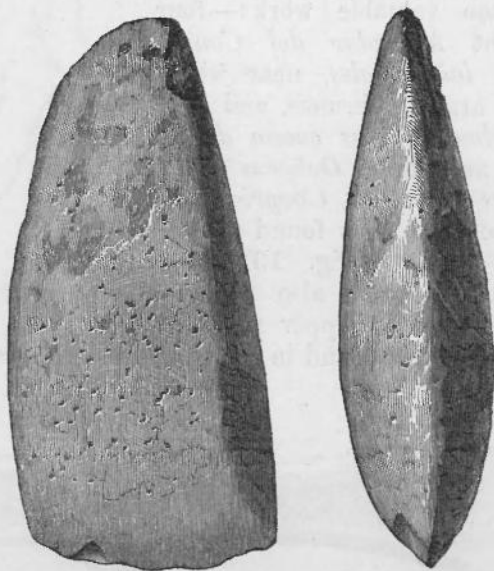


Fig. 15.—Stone celt found at the Cueva del Gato, near Ronda, in Andalucia.  
(Length of the original  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in., breadth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.)

In the possession of Lord Talbot de Malahide, F.S.A.