

NOTES ON SOME RECENT DIGGINGS IN PRE-HISTORIC
GRAVES, IN WYNAAD, SOUTHERN INDIA.¹

By MICHAEL W. TAYLOR, M.D., F.S.A.

The great range of the Western Ghâts of India runs through the country of Malabar, parallel to and at an average distance of twenty-five miles from the coast line. The principal passes over this mountain barrier in the Malabar province, are, one by the Nelimboor valley up the Carcoor slope to Devalah, and one by a zigzag road up the Tambracherry Ghât to Vythery, both of which rise to the altitude of 2,600 ft., and lead to the great tableland of India, which at this locality is known as the district of the Wynaad. From this plateau, rise again mountain masses of granite and granitoid schist, to the height of 6,000 to 7,000 ft. above the sea, often worn by subaërial denudation into conical shapes and ridges, forming distinctive features in the landscape, such as the peaks of Chumbra, Panora, and the Camel's Hump; to the east rise like a wall the steep northern faces of the Nilgiri Hills, attaining the altitude of 8,000 to 9,000 ft., whilst to the north the slope trends away on the plains of Mysore. From the Vythery pass to the foot of the Nilgiris, is a distance of about 40 miles; this territory embraces what is known as the S. Wynaad, and this is the district to which I am about to refer.

Up until very recent times, the greater part of this expanse was a dark inhospitable region; the mountain slopes up to a certain height were clothed with primæval timber, of prodigious growth—the red cedar and the blackwood, with their widely expanded tops—the poon, smooth and straight as a ship's mast—the immense cheera, with its big buttresses on every side, supplied by

¹ Read at the Monthly Meeting of the Institute, Dec. 1, 1887.

nature for its support—the wild mango tree, the giant ben-tek, the iney, and the tana, surrounded by a host of climbers and tangled undergrowth; the lighter ridges were covered with an impenetrable jungle of scrub, thorns, and bamboo. On the sides of the mountains above the forest zone, and on some of the sandy hills scattered over the plain, the denuded surface could afford only a growth of coarse jungle grass. The prodigious depth of black vegetable mould shews that this condition of forest had existed from primæval ages; and hence there could never have been any continued occupancy of such a country, except by a few shifting scattered jungle people. This territory was overrun by Tippoo Sultan, and held by him as a hunting-ground for the elephant, the tiger, and the sambur.

Now, the country has been extensively cleared on all sides for the cultivation of coffee and cinchona, and, as a consequence, it has been opened up by roads, and has received into it a large immigration of coolie labour, of Canarese from Mysore, and of coast people.

During a visit to India last winter I resided for a few weeks in this district, my head-quarters being at Panora, about five miles from Vythery; and I felt desirous to learn if there existed in the vicinity any relics shewing the occupancy of early races, such as are found on the Nilgiri hills, the Deccan, and other parts of India. My enquiries soon elicited that there were no great structural erections, such as temples, or megalithic monuments within the sphere of ground, which was under my observation.

Up the Velleri Mulla valley, on Mr. Romilly's estate, I was shown a collection of about half-a-dozen rough granite boulders, set together in a circle, 6 ft. in diameter, but so disordered and irregular as to leave it uncertain whether the arrangement was artificial or not.

On the estate of Colarie, in the Moopenaad district, close to the planter's bungalow, which is placed on the top of a small hill, there is a large tabular stone, lying prone, which is reputed to be a *swami* stone, that is a sacred stone. The slab is formed of granite; it is 5 ft. 6 in. long by 4 ft. wide, and from 6 in. to a foot thick; it is placed flat, and supported a foot above the surface of the ground by stones underneath; it is overshadowed by a wild mango tree of great age, and immense size, with spreading

branches ; it is said that the natives used to worship here, and lay upon this stone fresh flowers, fruit, and libations as votive offerings at certain seasons. I did not excavate, but I think it very probable that this is the cap-stone of a dolmen, inclosing a burial chamber, such as has been found on the Nilgiris, and which are so numerous in Algeria, in France, and in other parts of Europe ; there were no traces of cup or ring makings.

There is another similar tabular stone of greater size on the top of Culpetta hill, a large mountain mass of red crystalline granite close by, which is still in great repute as a *swami* stone, and the natives go up the mountain and worship at this spot on certain holy festivals.

These dolmens covering a sepulchral cell or chamber, and sometimes set round with a circle of stones, are pretty numerous just outside the area of the Wynaad forests, in the Nelimboor Valley, and at Amarapollium ; in many of which the entrance slab is perforated with a circular hole. My friend, Mr. Minchin, of the Glenrock estate, near the foot of the Nilgiris, described to me the character of several such graves which he had found at Goodalur, in which the end stone presented a circular aperture ; they were sunk below the surface, the cap-stone only being flush with the ground, and they were without surrounding circles.

Here it is worth quoting the remarkable dolmens found in 1868, in the neighbouring country of Coorg. One of these possessed two cells, side by side, with a partition stone between them, closed in front by two stones, each with a circular aperture, the roof being formed of a large covering slab, thirteen feet by nine feet.¹ This structure finds its identical analogue in the tumulus with the two circular holes in front, which is seen at Plas Newydd ; only if the Welsh cromlech was so partitioned, the dividing stone has disappeared. I allude thus specially to this particular of the circular openings in the entrance stone in Indian cromlechs, it being one of the objects of this paper to verify, from my examination of the graves in this district an identity even in detail, of modes of Indian sepulture, with those prevailing in Europe in pre-

¹ Proceed. Asiat. Soc. Beng. for 1868, with plates. Rude Stone Monuments, Fergusson, p. 473.

historic times. The circular opening in the entrance stone is found in the Circassian dolmens ; it occurs frequently in France, as in that covering the entrance to the cromlech at Trie, Oise ; at Grandmont, Bas Languedoc ; at Carnac ; in the chambered tumulus at Kerlescant ; and in this country at Plas Newydd, and in Redmarton, in Gloucestershire.

Another variety of dolmen occurring in Malabar consists of a convex, or discoid slab, six or eight feet in diameter, called a *Kodi-kal*, or "umbrella-stone," from its resemblance to a *Kodi*, or native umbrella. The stone may be flat with the surface covering a chamber excavated in the ground, or it may be raised and supported on three or four upright unhewn pillars, so as to present the appearance of a gigantic mushroom.¹ All these structures are known to the natives under the name of *Pandu-kolis*, literally "the houses of the Pandus," that is as having been the work of the five Pandava brothers, hero-shepherd-kings, as refugees during their persecution. Another very generally credited legend is, that at some very early period of the world men did not die, but after increasing in stature gradually for a number of years, they dwindled into pigmies of a few inches in length, when they ceased to eat and drink or perform most of the other functions of animal life, and were in a state of doubtful existence, enclosed in these tombs, with the implements and arms they had used in the enjoyment of their faculties.

Note how this identical thread of tradition runs through the web of fairy folk-lore in Europe. The dolmens and cromlechs in France are called by the common people the "*Grottes aux fées*." In the West and North of England the cairns, quoits, and cromlechs, with which it is unlucky for mortals to meddle, are haunted by "*Pigseys*" and "*Spriggans*," mischievous sprites, who entice men into bogs, who ride farmers' colts by night and chase their cows. The Cornish elphin creed² was that the *small people* were the spirits of those who inhabited Cornwall thousands of years ago, who when they first came into that land, grew to be giants, but ever since the birth of

¹ Description of the Pandoo Coolies in Malabar. By J. Babington, Esq., Trans. Bombay Lit. Soc., 4to, Lond. 1823. Vol.

iii, p. 324.

² Popular Romances of the West of England, 1881. Robert Hunt.

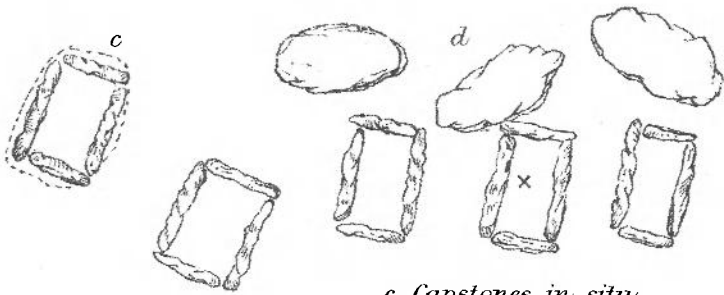
Christ have been getting smaller and smaller ; eventually they will turn into muryans or ants, and at last be lost from the face of the earth.

There are scattered over the western ghats, and living in the depths of the forests, a tribe of people, called the Kurumbars, now scanty in numbers ; they are looked upon by the natives themselves as being the oldest race in the country, and are believed to be a remnant of the aboriginal federation, which held sway over the south of the Peninsula before the advent of the great Dravidian wave of invasion, and they are regarded by those who have best studied the archæology of the south of India as having been the builders of the Kistvaens and cromlechs.

Sections of these tribes are indigenous in the Wynaad forests, and are there called the "Moopahs." The term "Moopah" (*Muppan*, the "n" not sounded) is a word signifying an elder or old man, or old people. These fugitive and forlorn folk do not congregate in villages, but dwell in the jungle, where they make small clearings, on which they cultivate *ragi* and other coarse grain ; they have a full knowledge of forest life, are fond of the chase, expert with the bow, and in waylaying animals by nooses and nets ; they are the axe-men of the country, and engage in contract with the planters for felling of jungle and timber, but do not take to other kinds of manual labour ; their language is chiefly a dialect of Malialym : they have no traditions about themselves except that they were always there. I applied to the "Moopahs" for intelligence respecting any tumuli, stone circles, dolmens, or "Pandu-kulis," of which they might have any knowledge in the jungles or neighbouring hill-sides. They professed an ignorance on the subject, and that their people knew nothing about these graves or stone structures. But in a few days a "Moopah" came and volunteered to guide me to some objects in the vicinity. Accordingly he conducted my friend Mr. Lamb, manager of the Panora estates, and myself to a place about three miles distant, situated in the valley which runs through the country, not very far from the line of the government road leading from Maypadi to Vythery, where he shewed us two barrows, which I constitute as group No. 1.

These remains comprise two tumuli, of similar form and

Group a.

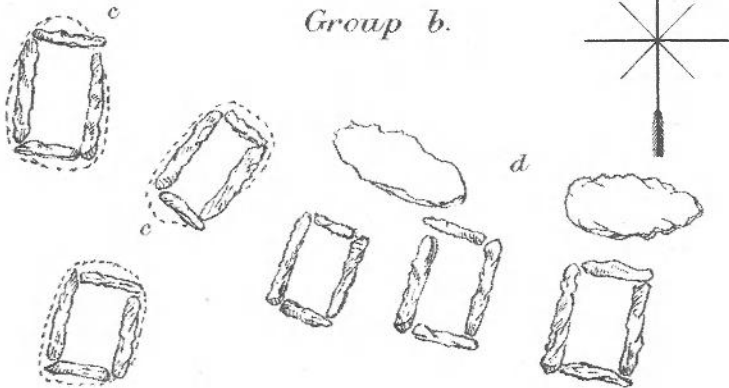


c. Capstones in situ

d. Capstones displaced.

*At the distance of about 30 yards in a
line directly S is a second group.*

Group b.



0 2 4 6 8 10 Feet

GROUND PLAN OF CISTS, KORTAMUNDA.
S. WYNAAD.

size, placed a few yards from each other. They were situated on some terraced ground at the edge of the jungles, elevated just above an extensive level grass marsh, which shewed the remains of irrigation works for paddy culture, but which must have been abandoned for many years. Both the tumuli consisted of earth heaped up, forming an oval or boat-shaped barrow, about twelve feet long and eight feet wide, with an elevation of about two feet above the surface; the major axis of each of these barrows was very nearly north and south. At the northern end of each of these barrows a removal of soil had exposed a number of flat stones, which were found to be connected with a kist-vaen. The sides of these cists were formed by flat slabs of granite, set on edge parallel to each other, the ends being closed by similar slabs, thus enclosing a rectangular cavity about 4 ft. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. The cap stones which had covered the cists lay partially buried in the earth close by, and it being evident that the place had been overhauled previously, I did not pursue the exploration. The type of these tumuli was just such as is found amongst the round barrows on the fells of Westmoreland and Northumberland.

The Moopah next conducted us to a sandy grass hill, situated about one and-a-half mile from this spot, at a considerably higher elevation, in a great cinchona clearing at Kortamunda, where he pointed out to us some remains which I shall note as group No. II.

On December 27th, 1886, in company with my friends, Mr. H. B. Winterbotham of Anda Tode, and Mr. E. C. Mitchell of Luckady, with a gang of half-a-dozen coolies, armed with picks and mamooties, or the heavy hoe, which is the universal digging implement in India, we proceeded to excavate the remains on Kortamunda hill. Mr. Winterbotham, the manager of the estate, had kindly previously directed to have the crown of the hill cleared by burning off the dense rough thatching grass, which had been standing 6 ft. high, so that we could now well perceive the disposition of the graves. By a reference to the ground plan it will be seen that the collection consisted of two groups (*i.e.*, *a* and *b*), placed in a line N. and S., thirty yards apart; group *a* comprised five cists, which lay side by side in a row, from three to five feet

distant from each other; in group *b*, there were six of these cists similarly arranged. The major axes of the cists was 15° to the E. of N. In group *a* all the cists were exposed to view, and the covering slabs had been displaced, in fact, an exploration of these tumuli had been made in February, 1882, and Mr. Mitchell, the advantage of whose company we had now, was present on that occasion, and he gave us an account of the results of that digging. It seems that this group of cists was then surmounted by a rounded barrow of earth, heaped up above the surface of the ground. In the process of clearing away this mound a remarkable object presented itself. Just under the surface, and I believe partially projecting from the soil, and lying over the cover slab of the kistvaen, marked X in the plan, was the model of a panther or tiger, about half life-size, made of clay, which had been apparently sun-baked, but not burnt in a kiln. The head and fangs, the pugs and claws, and the general form, though treated somewhat conventionally, indicated sufficiently well the type of the animal it was sought to reproduce.

Each of the five cists was covered by a flat slab; within the cists were numerous pieces of bone, also a number of small stone beads pierced with holes; but no metal nor stone implements. A large quantity of broken chatties, and a variety of vessels of unglazed pottery were met with in the mound and in its vicinity. Within two of the cists, lying in the north-east corner of the cells, were discovered the peculiar saucer-shaped dishes, perforated with a small hole in the bottom, which were presented to me by Mr. Mitchell, and are shewn in Plate I., fig. 1, and will be referred to again presently, as I found them to be a type of dish prevailing all over the place.

The work of excavation shewed that all the graves in this cemetery were constructed in a similar manner. The side-stones were split slabs, set on edge parallel to each other, 4 ft. long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep, and 3 to 4 ins. in thickness; the stones which closed the ends of the box were about 3 ft. long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep, and about 4 in. thick; whilst the covering slabs were $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long, 4 ft. wide, with an average of 6 in. thick. The quadrangular cavity thus

inclosed was nearly alike in all the cists, about 4 ft. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft., and as a rule there was no basement stone, the bottom being the red clay, in which the hole had been dug out to the depth of 18 in. under the natural surface. The stones of which the kist-vaens are formed are of a red granitic rock, which must have been brought from the Culpetta mountain, which is a mass of granite on the opposite side of the valley, about a mile distant. This stone occurs there in a tabular condition, and admits readily of splitting.

As the group *a* had been considerably despoiled, the work of excavation, on this occasion, was mainly directed to some of the cists in group *b*, which had not suffered from interference. The dimensions and character of these graves were the same as those just given. On the removal of the cover stones we found the interior filled with a red mould of fine consistence, from amongst which we recovered a quantity of unburnt bones, in a soft chalky condition, but all in small pieces; amongst which could be detected portions of calvarium and fragments of the harder structure of the shafts of the long bones. Sparsely scattered in the interior were portions of charcoal, the size of hazel nuts, but the evidence of the bones made it certain that the bodies had been inhumed without cremation. In the north-west corner of one of the cists was one of the peculiar perforated vessels, similar to those found by Mr. Mitchell. It is in shape an open flat saucer-like bowl, round at the bottom, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide at the rim, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, made of fine paste, well fired, and unglazed, of a reddish colour, clean and unstained by any sediment. The vessel has evidently been neatly turned on the wheel, it has a rounded lip, and the exterior below the rim is encompassed by five plain circular bands and groovings; about an inch from the centre of the bottom the floor is perforated by an accurately round hole, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter (fig. 1). In close proximity to this holed basin was deposited the peculiar article of pottery (fig. 2). It consists of a globular or somewhat pyriform vessel about the size of a cricket-ball, with sides about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, inclosing a hollow cavity, the opening at the top having been plugged with a stopper of clay, which has been pressed into it so as to seal the orifice, and moulded

by the fingers into a pointed horn-shaped handle, projecting from the top of the vessel. It is of rude construction, hand-made, of coarse gritty clay, and unfired. In the second cist we examined, we found a small globular vessel of the same description, closed with a horn-like stopper; and also one of the perforated shallow basins, in a fragmentary state. The only other objects found within these cists were some sharp-pointed quartz-flakes. But hard by, on the western side of the cists, about a foot below the surface, we came upon a bed of buried pottery and broken chatties, of great variety of form, and in great numbers, lying close together, which will be referred to afterwards.

On January 3rd, 1887, in company with Mr. Winterbotham and Mr. Altzenweiler, the proprietor of the adjoining estate, we proceeded to examine some remains on another grass hill on Kortamunda, three-quarters of a mile in a line 10° west of north, from the preceding group. These consisted of four kist-vaens lying together, one or two yards apart; they were exposed on the surface, the side stones were standing, but in two cases the cover stones had gone, and in another the cover had been displaced. We dug into three of these cists; the sides and ends were formed of flags of split gneiss; the dimensions were about the same as those previously recorded.

Cist No. 1.—No cover. A few inches below the surface, fine mould, and agglutinated lumps of earth, with pieces of bone sticking to them, flat fragments of the cranium, and of long bones, friable, chalky, uncalcined. Fragments of a chatty in terra cotta, which when put together, formed a saucer-like bowl, 4 in. wide at the top, with a round hole at the side near the bottom, similar to fig. 1. Also a little globular hand-moulded clay pot, about the size of a tennis ball, with a neck $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide in the mouth, which was stopped by a plug of clay pressed into it.

Cist No. 2.—Side stones fallen inwards, but kept apart by the end stones; cover displaced. Under the red clay came to fine mould, and soft earth, with pieces of bone and a small quantity of charcoal scattered in it; then to a chatty broken in pieces, but which had left an impression of its interior on the fine earth so as to present a

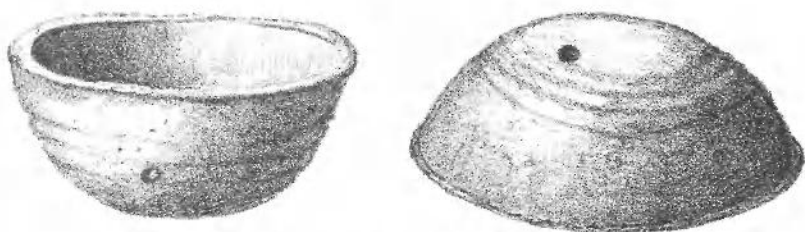


Fig. 1.

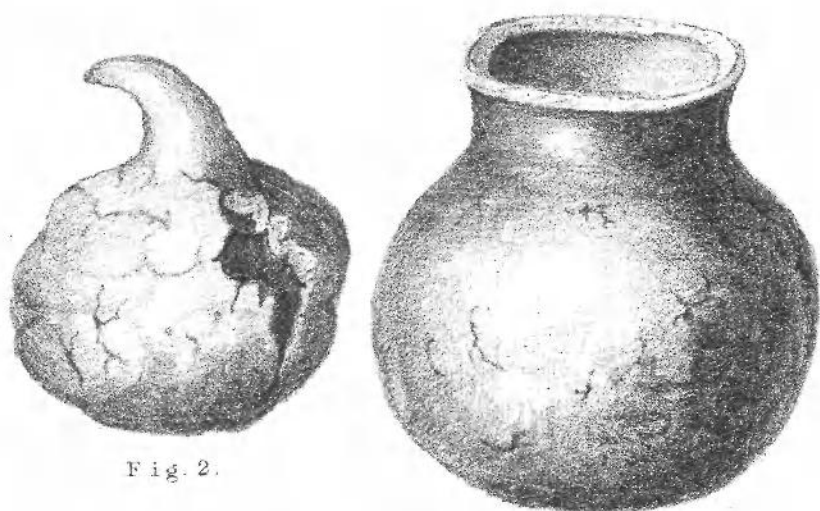


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

cast of the vessel. The form was that of the saucer-shaped basin, with the perforation in the side, which was the species of pottery invariably present within these kist-vaens. In this grave was also found a ball of unburnt clay of a diameter of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., without any mouth or opening into it; in making a section through this, it was seen that the walls were $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, and enclosed a cavity, which was filled with black carbonaceous material, which, under the microscope, presents vegetable structure, presumably the *debris* of grain, or food placed within it for the benefit of the dead.

Cist No. 3.—Amid the fine mould in this grave, occurred a considerable quantity of uncalcined bones in fragments. In the north-west corner lay one of the usual saucer-like chatties, with the hole in the side; and separated from it by a small flagstone, was standing erect, an urn (fig. 3) in a very perfect state. This vase is of a globular shape in the body, with a rounded bottom and narrowing at the neck. It is $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $2\frac{1}{5}$ in. wide at the mouth, swelling out to $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. at the body, the lip is slightly everted on the exterior and bevelled within. It is made of rather coarse paste, which has undergone slight firing, and is black in the interior, and it is perfectly plain, without any attempt at ornamentation.

As on the other grass-hill, in the neighbourhood of the graves, so had we here, close by these kist-vaens, deposited a vast heap of pottery of very various forms, for the most part broken or crushed. The *debris* of this earthenware was found embedded in the red clay about a foot under the surface, and occupying a considerable area disposed in layers side by side, but much intertwined with the roots of scrub and jungle-grass.

By excavating with care, I was enabled to recover a great number of different types of this embedded pottery. One of the most frequent forms is that of a decanter-shaped vessel, with a globular body and round bottom, from 8 to 12 in. high, with a narrow cylindrical neck, from 4 to 6 in. long, with a thick everted lip, and often ornamented with encircling flutings and plain bands or rings. Another form is that of a flower-pot shaped jar, with a mouth 6 in. wide, with a thick overhanging rim, and encompassed with alternate zones of flutings and

moulded bands, but always plain, and without indentations. There were also many cups and vases of various forms and dimensions, some with flat projecting flaps at the side for handles, others without. These larger utensils are composed of coarse clay, and have been made by aid of the wheel, and are reddened by fire.

Other smaller articles again are composed, for the most part, of finer and more carefully prepared material, and appear to have been more thoroughly burnt, and in some cases shew elaborate mouldings of bosses, spirals, and curved lines, produced by a pointed instrument on the wet clay. Then again, there were a number of covers and lids of vessels, surmounted by figures of animals, such as the tiger, cow, deer, birds, sometimes of fantastic and monstrous design; also men's heads and faces, some gentle and pleasing in character, others distorted and frightful, with grinning mouths, shewing the teeth, with tongues lolling out, &c.; heads of women also, with the cartilages of the nose, pierced with the same form of ring-ornament as that used at the present day.

The most frequent relic however, amongst these heaps of pottery was the emblem of the horn of the cow. These horns occurred in a great variety of forms, from 12 in. long downwards, often lying separate and detached; some were made hollow in baked clay, and faithfully represented in details the natural object. These horns were found also in a diminutive form, and some had been attached to cow-idols and to the human female figure. Again, it was frequent on some of the little covers and lids of vases to have the tops projected in a horn-like style. (See plate II.

So far as our exploration extended, there was no evidence in or about these graves of the existence of any implements or weapons of bronze or of iron.

The subject of the resemblance of the tumuli and sepulchral customs of the early races in India, with those prevailing in some parts of Europe in pre-historic times, has been fully recognized by those who have been engaged in Indian archæological research. Captain Meadows Taylor¹ was struck with the similarity of construction and contents of the barrows explored by him in the Deccan, and compares them in a sketch with those

¹ Tran. Roy. Irish Acad. 1867-74, vol. xxiv, p. 329, *et seq.*



POTTERY OUTSIDE OF CISTS, KORTAMUNDA.

examined by himself at home on Twizel Moor, near Alnwick. General Cunningham, in his description of the Bhilsa Topes, has referred to the similarity. Mr. Rivers-Carnac,¹ who has described pre-historic remains at Nagpore and other parts of India, has drawn particular attention to this similitude, and has summed up the incidences of association as follows: (1) Shape of the tumuli in India and Europe are the same. (2) The barrows in India and in Europe always face towards the south. (3) Remains found in the Indian barrows resemble almost exactly the remains dug out of similar burial-places in Europe. (4) The cup-markings on the boulders, which surround the Indian tombs, are identical with the marks found on the stones around the same class of burials in Europe.

This affinity may be further demonstrated by reference to that wonderfully corresponding coincidence, common in both Eastern and Western dolmens, viz., the circular aperture pierced through the stone closing the entrance to the chamber, to which I have previously alluded. This likeness cannot be accidental. The intention or advantage of such an opening, whatever it may have been, was derived from the same inspiration; and the method of achieving this end must have accompanied the migration of a kindred race.

These diggings in the Wynaad afford still further supplementary evidences of a pre-historic connection between the East and West. These different groups of graves, presumably covered originally with earthen mounds, disclose cists alike in slab-construction, and of a size just capable of containing an inhumed body with doubled-up legs, exactly similar to those with which I am familiar in the north of England. In both cases, within the kist-vaen, are deposited the sepulchral vessels. It is generally regarded that food was placed in these urns to sustain the buried person on the passage to another world—but whatever may have been the intention of the arrangement the objects provided were similar, and it is but fair to assume that the sentiment which inspired the act was alike in one case as in the other. It must be admitted, however, that a somewhat different type of

¹ *Asiat. Soc. Journ.* vol. xlviii, p. i, 1879.

"food vessel" prevails in the Wynaad cists to what is common in the British examples. As we have seen, in these Indian graves the sepulchral vessels are of small size, rude construction, devoid of ornament, and of those elaborate bone and string markings, which so usually adorn British cinerary urns and "food-vessels;" moreover they have, what is very uncommon with us, a cover to the mouth, which is often sealed with a stopper of clay.¹ At the same time we may be reminded that the pottery found in most of the cromlechs which have been opened in Algiera, is almost always plain and destitute of ornamentation. Then again, the flat saucer-like dish, with the aperture in the bottom, which accompanied every interment, is of a pattern, so far as I am aware, rarely found out of India. Pottery of a similar shape, but without the perforation, does occur, but rarely; it has been lately found in some of the chambered cairns of the Stone age, in Caithness and Orkney.² The so-called "incense cups" which are found in British tumuli, associated with deposits of burnt bones, present the feature often of perforations in the sides, more or less numerous, but I cannot suppose the vessels in question belong to this variety of sepulchral ware, or were ever designed to fulfil a similar purpose. The object of the perforation is a puzzle. The only conjecture I would hazard would be that the vessel was used as a receptacle for drink for the departed spirit; that it was filled with some liquid, water, or possibly milk, or *ghee*, and that the aperture may have been fitted with a plug of some porous fibre or material, so as to represent the bosom. The quantity and variety of pottery accumulated outside the graves is interesting; no doubt some of these articles contained worship offerings to the spirits of the deceased relatives, who were supposed to be pleased with presentations of food and drink, or were idols to propitiate the ancestral shades, or to deprecate the displeasure of evil demons.

¹ Vases with covers have been very rarely met with in Britain; they have occurred in Wiltshire and Derbyshire, as well as in Yorkshire. In Denmark urns with lids are not very uncommon, and they have occurred in Germany and

Italy. British Barrows. Greenwell, p. 164, note.

² Notice of the Excavation of a Chambered Cairn of the Stone age at Unstan, in the Loch of Stennis, Orkney. By R. S. Clouston. Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., vol. vii, 1884-85.

Remains of pottery, in all respects similar to this, have often been found around ancient sepulchres in India. During the year 1840, the late Sir Walter Elliot pursued excavations in many of the cairns, and circles on the Nilgiri hills, of which he gave a most interesting account¹; and he recovered, associated with metal, quantities of articles and terra cotta figures, identical with those found on this occasion; these are now on shelves in the British Museum. In a Governmental research on the Antiquities of the Nilgiris, conducted by Mr. Wilkinson Breeks,² a number of cairns were opened, and the same type of vessels were discovered, along with figures of animals and men in fantastic forms, and basketsfull of heads, horns, and tails of buffaloes.

We have seen that the emblem of the cow's head and horns was very frequent in my own diggings, and I wish to call attention to the very remarkable correspondence between these forms and those which have been found in the debris of the archaic cities of Greece.

Dr. Henry Schlieman,³ in his excavations at Tiryns, met with terra-cotta cows, about 3 in. long, and also female idols with cow-heads; at Mycenæ he found, at a depth from 3 to 11 feet, hundreds of idols in the form of a cow, all more or less broken. In the fourth city of Troy⁴ the cow-idols also occur, and the Trojan cows correspond very well with those found in such abundance at Mycenæ, with the difference that the Mycenæan cows are thoroughly baked and have always a painted ornamentation; owl-headed vases, with female characteristics, denotive of Athena, are also numerous, and the covers of many of them present the same style of pointed horn-like handles to which I have drawn attention. Grotesque figures with the cow's face were also frequent in the Cyprus excavations,⁵ and there is one from Ialyssus now in the British Museum.

Dr. Schlieman declares that the cow-headed figures must needs be the idols of Hera, the tutelar deity of Mycenæ, whose cow-character and identity are derived

¹ On Ancient Sepulchral Remains in Southern India, particularly of those on the Nilagiri Mountains. Internat. Cong. of Pre-hist. Archæol. Trans., p. 240, Norwich, 1868.

² An Account of the Primitive Tribes and Monuments of the Nilagiris. By the

late James Wilkinson Breeks of Madras Civ. Serv. Lond. 1873.

³ Mycenæ. By Dr. Henry Schlieman.

⁴ Ilios. City and Country of the Trojans. By do. 1880.

⁵ Cyprus, Its Ancient Cities, Tombs, and Temples. By Palmi di Cesnola.

from the Pelasgic cow-goddess Io, both of whom are evolutions of the moon-goddess Isis on the Delta of the Nile. In the first Egyptian stage the ideal conception of this goddess Isis took this horn and cow-character from the symbolic horns of the crescent moon, in the same way as Athena the goddess of the dawn, was at first represented by idols with the owl's face.

I therefore claim to have shewn, that the highly specialized objects discovered about these Indian burials and in other previous excavations, have their analogies amongst the remains disinterred from the archaic cities of Greece and Troy, and that the cow-worship, of which these were the symbols, surviving in India into more recent ages, to which these burials may be referred, is a manifestation of a cult, the prototype of which arose on the banks of the Nile.