

ART. II.—*Tumuli of Cumberland and Westmorland.* By the Rev. William Greenwell, M.A.

Read at the First Meeting of the Society, at Penrith, Tuesday, September 17th, 1866.

THE purpose of the present paper is to give an account of the examination of some places of sepulture, made by the Rev. J. Simpson, vicar of Kirkby Stephen, and myself, during the spring of this year. Before entering into an account of the particular places of burial in question, it may not be out of place to give a brief description of the different modes of interment which are found to exist throughout the North of England. In speaking of burial I refer entirely to times which have been called pre-historic—that is, which belong to a period before the Roman invasion. To interments subsequent to that time I shall not refer in this paper, beyond saying that from the numerous Roman settlements in this district, very valuable results would accrue from a proper investigation of the sepulchral remains in connection with them.

The field, indeed, upon the borders of which I am only just touching, is a very wide one. You possess in the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, besides numerous remains of fortified places, and of sites possibly of religious and political assembly, in the shape of stone and other circles of large dimensions, a very great number of places of burial, very many of which have been at various times ignorantly destroyed, but of which enough remain to enable a very just view of the burial rites and customs of those early people to be arrived at. They exist, scattered about, especially upon the unenclosed lands, in great abundance, and we may hope, in these days of scientific archæology, that they will receive that careful and critical examination which alone justifies their disturbance.

Two modes of burial were in use during the times we are considering, apparently contemporaneous, and not showing, so far as is at present known, the reason of their difference. The more frequent is the depositing of the body after burning,—burial by cremation; the other the depositing of an unburnt body,—burial by inhumation. I will take the latter first, because, it will be necessary to mention under this head, a class of burials which appear to me to belong to a period still earlier

earlier than that to which the greater number of burial mounds belong. These very early barrows are found more frequently in the south-west of England than elsewhere. They have occurred however in other parts, and I have examined three of them in Yorkshire. One, I believe, is to be found in this county, where indeed, many others may remain unnoticed. Whether the barrow in question is one of the kind I am referring to, can however only be settled by the spade. These barrows are, contrary to the usual round shape, very long, the length being about four times the width, they generally are placed east and west, and the interments are always at the east end. They belong, I believe, to an age when metal was unknown, at least nothing but implements of flint have ever been found in them, and so many have been opened as to make this negative evidence very strong. The skulls which have been found in them present very marked features, being very long, and in other respects also they show a striking contrast to those of the bronze-using people of the round barrows. The limits of this paper will not allow me to do more than merely to advert to this subject. If the barrow I mentioned above turns out as I expect, I hope to be able to give you a paper devoted exclusively to the question of these remarkable places of burial.*

To come then to the round-headed people of the age of bronze, who buried, as I have said, indiscriminately by cremation and inhumation. The unburnt body is found under various circumstances, perhaps most frequently in a chamber made of stones set on edge, with one or more covers upon them, and without any mound over the place of burial; these burials are more common than we might think, for as there is no outward indication of an interment, in the shape of a barrow, it is only by accident that they have been discovered. Burials, in most respects similar to these, are also found under circular mounds of earth, or cairns of stones, of various sizes, sometimes one, at other times several bodies being placed in a barrow, and usually in a district where stone occurs, in cists made by slabs of stone, or in graves sunk into the rock, where such exists; at times however, no cist or stone protects the body from the surrounding earth. A much rarer mode is where the burials have been surrounded by circles of separate stones, or circles of earth, and where no mound or cairn has ever occupied the space within the circles, which usually go

* An examination of this supposed barrow shewed that it was a natural gravel mound.

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by the name of Druidical circles. The way in which the body is deposited is, in all these several cases, the same. It is in a contracted position, the knees drawn up towards the chin, and the hands towards or laid upon the face; the body is more frequently laid on the left than on the right side, and with the head towards all the points of the compass. With the body is frequently found a hand-made earthenware vase, ornamented profusely with varied patterns, made by impressions of twisted thong, or a pointed piece of wood or bone, and which probably contained food for the use of the departed. With males have also been deposited daggers of bronze, and in a few instances hatchets of the same metal, and in some cases, knives, scrapers, and arrow points of flint; with females, their ornaments, in the shape of beads of jet, amber, and glass, and knives of flint, awls of bronze, and various implements of bone. In a few rare instances, but these belong to a rather later period, when iron had been introduced, a chief has been buried with his horses and chariot, and sometimes armlets, fibulæ, and other articles of bronze and ornaments of gold have occurred. Amongst the material of the barrows are frequently found animal bones, the relics possibly of the funeral feast.

Under precisely the same circumstances, burials after cremation occur, *i.e.*, simply placed in the ground without mounds, more frequently under barrows, and also within circles of stone or earth. The burnt bones are often enclosed in badly baked vessels of clay (they have all passed the fire), and not unfrequently smaller vessels accompany the burnt bones, but do not enclose them. In many instances, however, the bones are merely laid on the ground without any accompanying or enclosing vessel. As in the case of the unburnt bodies, similar articles of bronze and flint and ornaments of jet, &c., are found with the burnt body, which, in many cases have been burnt, but in others placed amongst the bones after they had been collected from the funeral pyre. Pins of bronze and bone are very usual adjuncts to a burnt body, and probably were used to fasten the cloth or skin in which the body seems to have been enclosed. Throughout all the barrows whether covering burnt or unburnt bodies, and scattered without any order, are frequently found chippings of flint and sherds of pottery, which seem to have been thrown in by the attendant friends, whilst the mound was being raised, no doubt with some symbolical meaning. It not uncommonly happens, to find both burnt and unburnt bodies in the same barrow. In one

one case, in Northumberland, I found a large stone cist in the centre, which contained the unburnt body of a child, about two years old, surrounded by nine burnt bodies enclosed in urns.

After giving this very brief and imperfect sketch of pre-historic burial, but which may serve to introduce the account I am about to give, I will now proceed to read you the details of what was observed in the places of interment which Mr. Simpson and myself examined.

The first barrow we opened (May 28th) was on Ashfell, in the parish of Kirkby Stephen, and on the estate of Matthew Thompson, Esq., by whose kind permission this, with two others near it, was examined. It is fifty-five feet in diameter and about six feet high, and is formed of a strong clay, no doubt gathered from some spot not far removed, though the soil in the immediate vicinity is of a different character. We made a wide cutting from the south-east side, in the hope of coming upon secondary interments, which are usually found in that position. About ten feet from the outside and two feet below the surface of the barrow, we came upon a deposit of burnt bones laid in a round heap, about one foot in diameter, upon the clay; with them was neither urn, flint, nor any other object. We then carried the trench through the centre, without meeting with the primary interment, which still no doubt remains in the barrow, the centre having been lost in throwing up the mound. This is no unfrequent occurrence, for I have several times found the primary and central interment several feet out of the centre. We reserve for some future occasion the further investigation of this barrow, from which, hitherto, so little of interest has been obtained.

On the 31st of the same month, we examined three cairns on the Windy Hills, on Ashfell, all on the estate of Mr. Thompson. The first, which was made of limestone rubble, with some little earth, was thirty-one feet in diameter, and five feet high. In the centre, sunk into the limestone rock, was a cist, about three-and-a-half feet by two, which contained nothing. There were signs of disturbance about the cairn, and it is quite possible that it had been previously rifled, though I think it on the whole, more probable that the body—an unburnt one—had gone entirely to decay.

A second cairn, eighteen feet in diameter, which had a circle of stones, set on edge round the base, had been almost totally removed to build an adjoining wall. An examination of the site disclosed the fact that the interment had been of a burnt
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body, for numerous fragments of calcined human bones were scattered about under the sod.

The third cairn fortunately turned out to have been left undisturbed, at all events in its most important parts. It was thirty feet in diameter, and about four feet high, and formed like its neighbours, of limestone rubble and earth. In the centre was a grave, sunk into the limestone rock, three feet six inches long, two feet wide, and two feet three inches deep, lying N. and S. There was no cover, but that may have been removed in a partial disturbance, to which, on some previous occasion, the cairn had evidently been subjected. This grave was filled with earth and stones, amongst it was a very large quantity of shells of *helix nemoralis*, probably the remains of snails which had gone there to hibernate. I have however seen in Northumberland, four cists where the bodies had most certainly been laid upon a thick layer of the same shells; and in this case they may also have been designedly placed there. Within the cist in the upper part, were some fragments of animal bones, and a small portion of a red deer's antler. When we reached the bottom, we found the interment, that of a male, of good size, perhaps he had been about five feet eight inches high, and of robust make. The body was laid on the right side, the head being to the south, the right hand was under the chin, the left hand on the knees, the legs drawn up towards the chin. With the exception of some pieces of charcoal, most probably the remains of the fire which cooked the funeral feast, of which the above-mentioned animal bones were relics, nothing was found in the cist, nor did we observe even a piece of flint or pottery throughout the material of the cairn.

So far as I know, this is the first instance of a skull having been found in a Westmorland barrow, and preserved. Though broken into a very great number of pieces by the pressure of the mound, I have reconstructed it, and with the exception of a small portion of the base of the skull and of the left parietal bone, it is quite perfect. It is a very typical specimen of the brachy-cephalic head of the people of the round barrows, of the age of bronze, and as such, will form one of a series of northern skulls which will be engraved in a work on our pre-historic races and burials, upon which I am now engaged. It measured seven-and-two-eighths inches from the glabella to the inion, and its greatest breadth (parietal) is six inches, the height from the plane of the foramen magnum to about an inch behind the coronal suture is five-and-three-eighths inches.

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It thus gives a breadth of nearly eighty-three, taking one hundred to represent the length, the mean of twenty-five skulls from round barrows in various parts of England being eighty-one. It possesses the other peculiarities which mark this type of skull, in the prominence of the parietal tubers, the flatness of the skull above the lamdoidal suture, the prominence of the superciliary ridges, and the prognathism of the maxillaries. The teeth have been very brittle, and those that remain are nearly all broken; but several had been lost during life, not a usual occurrence with those early races, who, thanks to the want of sugar, and the not using of hot drinks, preserved their teeth in a very remarkable way. Amongst the lost teeth, are in the upper jaw all the molars on the left side, and the two incisors; in the lower jaw on the left side all the molars, and two on the right. Like all the teeth of those people, that I have seen, they are very much worn down, due to feeding upon badly ground and hard grain, and to eating their meat not much cooked.

On May 30th, after examining the very interesting collection of sculpture and other antiquities at Lowther Castle, amongst which are the remains of two or three Anglo-Saxon crosses of great beauty, we went to Moor Divock on a hopeless expedition to recover a perfect skull, which Mr. Simpson had found in a cist within a cairn, about four years ago, and which he left in the cist, after replacing the cover. Unfortunately some persons have since then rifled the cairn, and nothing was left except some small portions of the bones of the leg. Moor Divock is especially rich in sepulchral remains, the first we observed was a standing stone about six feet high, called the Kop Stone; it stands on the south-east side of a circle of small stones, about sixty-eight feet in diameter, the space within which, is roughly paved with cobble stones. North-west of the Kop Stone, and about four hundred yards from it, is a circle of stones ten in number; the circle is eighteen feet in diameter. They stand about three feet above the ground, and within the circle are many smaller and rounded stones, probably the remains of a cairn, which—as is not unfrequently the case—has been surrounded at the base by a circle of larger stones. In the centre of this circle, and two feet below the surface, in a hollow sunk in the ground, we found the interment, that of a burnt body, above the burnt bones was a deposit of sand about three inches in thickness, upon which was laid, on its side, and with the mouth to the west, an urn. It is of the flower-pot shape, five-and-three-quarters inches high, six inches wide

wide, at the mouth, and has four unpierced ears round the shoulder, where it is six and a half inches wide; it is entirely covered with herring-bone-placed lines of impressions made by a pointed instrument, and is of the type of urns commonly called food vessels, which accompany, but do not contain the bones of a burnt body. Amongst the bones were two fragments of another vessel, which had been placed there as mere fragments, a not unusual feature in such burials.

There are, I believe, several other places of burials in the shape of cairns on the moor, but I had not time to visit them.

On May 31st, we examined two cairns situated in Mallerstang, on a piece of haugh land, just above the river Eden. The position of these cairns is unusual, as it is very uncommon to find them placed on low-lying ground. The first was much destroyed, the stones having been removed almost down to the surface of the ground. It has been sixty feet in diameter. We made a partial examination, but did not find the interment; several clippings of flint, and numerous pieces of charcoal testified to the sepulchral character of the mound, and Mr. Simpson and I propose to complete the investigation on some future occasion. About fifty yards from this was a smaller cairn, fifteen feet diameter, and one-and-a-half feet high. In the centre of this, in a hollow, sunk in the surface of the ground, one-and-a-quarter feet deep, was the deposit of the burnt bones of a body, under a flat stone. Above them on the north side were the remains of a small urn, of the type called "an incense cup," much decayed. It has been three inches high and three inches wide, and has one hole now, and probably had once two through the side. This class of urn, the use of which is very difficult to understand, is by no means an unfrequent accompaniment of a burnt body. They are usually pierced with two holes sometimes at the top, but as often near the bottom of the urn. They also occur without any holes, and sometimes with a large number through the side; I have one from Yorkshire, which has twenty-seven holes in rows of three, running round the urn. The whole surface of the urn from Mallerstang, even to the bottom, is covered with an ornamental pattern, made by punctures of a small pointed implement. In this cairn we found no flint.

We, at the same time, opened one of those enigmatical rectangular mounds called giants' graves, so many of which remain in this district, and which look very like barrows, though of a rather uncommon shape. Several have been examined at various places, all of which, like that in Mallerstang,

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showed no signs whatever of their being places of burial. They are certainly artificial, but I can offer no conjecture as to their origin or purpose.

Such is an account of an examination of a very few of the burial mounds which still remain in the county of Westmorland, and which I have much pleasure in laying before your Society. I hope to be able to make some further explorations, when I trust the results will be, on the whole, more satisfactory than those I have just been detailing; whatever they may be, you shall have an account of them, and we must always bear in mind that however trifling the facts we thus recover may seem, yet when they are brought together we are enabled sometimes to come to conclusions which are of great service in giving us an insight into the burial customs, and through them, it may be, into the religious belief and social habits, of the people of these early times.

ART. III.—*Carlisle Cathedral.* By John A. Cory, Esq.,
Carlisle.

Read in the Fraternity, Carlisle, 7th Nov., 1866.

IN the following paper, I do not profess to lay before you any new discoveries or much original matter, for the excellent local histories, and the accurate illustrations of Mr. Billings, leave but small gleanings to reward the labour of future investigators. It appears to me, however, that it may not be wholly uninteresting or out of place, before paying a visit to the Cathedral, to explain in a cursory manner the rise and progress of the architecture to which I shall then call your attention. We have all heard of the Normans and of their conquest of England. The present Cathedral of Carlisle, and a great many of the finest buildings of our country, were founded by men of that race. Whence, it may be asked, did these men, originally a horde of Northern pirates, acquire their ideas to design and their skill to execute buildings which we, after eight centuries have elapsed, still view with admiration? For three centuries after the birth of Christ the whole Roman world, with few exceptions, practised Roman architecture, derived principally from the Greeks, but after the