

SKETCH OF URN FOUND IN BARROW ON

THE HACKTHORPE HALL ESTATE.

(After Restoration.)

ART. II.—*An Account of the Opening, and subsequent Removal of an Ancient British Barrow upon the Hackthorpe Hall Estate, in the Parish of Lowther.* By JAMES MAWSON, Esq.
Read at Penrith, June 10th, 1874.

IN the year 1866 my attention was directed to a finely developed barrow upon the above-named farm, and in the autumn of that year it was explored by the desire of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lonsdale, in the presence of a large party from Lowther Castle.

The diameter of the barrow was about twenty-seven yards, and the height about four feet; operations were commenced by cutting a trench from the supposed centre in a south-easterly direction with no result. A second trench was then cut toward the east, which only yielded a small bone ring. A third was carried toward the west, and in a short time a large limestone flag was discovered, upon the removal of which a stone cist was exposed, made of limestone flags, set on edge and flagged at the bottom. The cist was lying nearly north-east, and was perfectly empty; near it a fine flint knife was found, and part of a broken urn. Other excavations were made with no result except the discovery of pieces of charcoal and bones.

It was now considered that the mound was pretty well exhausted, and it remained in the state in which it was left until the close of the following year.

Before the departure of Lord Lonsdale for the south, he desired me to remove the mound bodily, as it had been left in a very rough state, and occupied a portion of very good land. The removal was commenced in December; and the result I have the great pleasure of laying before this Society.

I commenced in the south-east side. The skirt of the mound consisted entirely of soil; upon approaching within about 33 feet of the centre, a circle of large stones presented themselves, these had hitherto been quite hidden from the view,

view, (I may here observe that they were ultimately found to encircle the mound); upon the first of these stones being removed, fragments of bones and charcoal were found mixed with the soil and stones of which the mound was composed. When within 26 feet of the centre, the workmen came upon some fine black mould, and within this was found the remains of a burial urn, containing charcoal and burnt bones. The urn was lying with its mouth downward, the bottom was in some measure decayed, but about 3 inches of the rim, and many other portions, were in good preservation. The upper part was neatly ornamented to the depth of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and below was a second ornament $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, making the ornamented surface $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep; below the urn gradually sloped away to a flat bottom, which at the depth of 7 inches was $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The outside diameter of the urn at the mouth was $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and at the swell or widest part 13 inches. Numerous flakes of stone were scattered about the urn. At a distance of about 12 feet right and left from the urn, burnt burials were found at the same distance as the urn within the stone circle. These burials were without urns. A circular hole 10 inches deep and 12 inches in diameter had been made in the subsoil, and within that the remains were deposited. Three land cobbles, of moderate size, were placed over the remains, and every crevice was most carefully filled with small flakes of cobble-stone, split beautifully fine and placed on edge; and over all, a covering of fine black mould was placed.

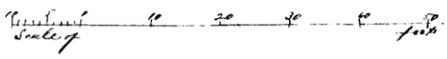
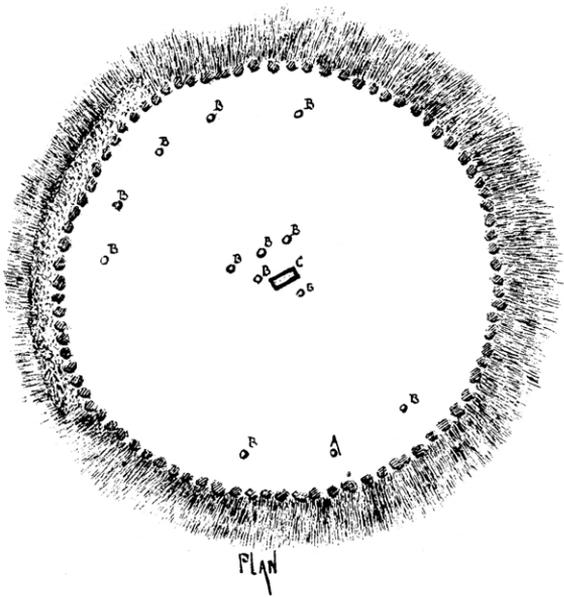
I may here observe that every subsequent burial was finished off in the same neat manner. It is a matter of surprise to me how the flakes of stone could be made so fine, as metal of no kind was found in the mound.

The removal was now proceeded with without any further discovery, until the workmen came near to the grave of last year. When within 3 feet of it, another burial was discovered. It was now thought advisable to inspect the grave a little more narrowly, and imagine my surprise when

PLAN AND SECTION OF AN ANCIENT BRITISH BARRON UPON THE
 HACTHORPE HALL ESTATE (AFTER THE EXCAVATION)

REFERENCE.

- A • BURIAL - BURIAL - WITH AN URB.
- B • BURIAL - BURIALS - WITH URB.
- C • CRIB - FOUR FEET LONG - TWO FEET WIDE - IN CENTRE - ONE FOOT SIX INCHES - AT THE ENDS - AND SIX INCHES - TWELVE INCHES - IN THE SUBSOIL.



when on removing the large limestone flag which formed the bottom, I found it to be the cover of a second grave or cist, 4 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 12 inches deep. This cist was formed of limestone flags placed on edge, and sunk one foot within the subsoil, the bottom was neatly flagged. The cist contained a large quantity of human bones broken into fragments. The flags of which the cist was made were all set in fine clay, well prepared for the purpose. At distances varying from two to six feet from the cist were four burnt burials. Near these were found a beautiful flint flake and two flint knives (one broken), and many fragments of flint. Also the half of a stone which had a circular hole through the centre. A broken piece of jet was found, which had formed part of an ornament. Near to was also found an egg-shaped cobble-stone, about 6 inches long and $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, which had evidently been used as a pounder; charcoal still adhered to it, and more on some places than others. The excavation was now continued to the north, and about 6 feet from the boundary stones a ninth burial was discovered, thence skirting the circle, the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and finally the thirteenth and last, not including the stone cist.

Charcoal was found throughout the barrow, but particularly in the north-west quarter, where the ground had evidently been subjected to intense heat, it was baked very hard to a depth of several inches.

Outside the stone circle, as shewn on the plan of the barrow when opened out, a pavement was discovered, composed of stones of ordinary size; for what purpose it was intended, I am not able to determine.

It is evident that the barrow in its original state must have been of much greater height, the quantity of soil round its base clearly proved this.

The plan and section of the barrow which I have herewith the honour of laying before the members of this Society, are from accurate measurements, taken by myself during the removal of the barrow. The urn, with the other remains, are now deposited in the gallery at Lowther.

To

To the north of the barrow, at only a field's width, are the evident traces of a British village. That the barrow was the burial place of the chieftain who ruled there, and also of his family, we may well suppose. A site more lovely he could not have chosen for his home and resting place. Long ages have passed away since the carefully constructed mound was raised by loving hearts and willing hands; it is now a thing of the past.

A feeling of diffidence has prevented me from laying the result of my exploration before the Society until now, but I think you will excuse me for doing so upon this occasion, and that you will feel some interest in this record of the removal of an Ancient British Burial Mound.

ART. III.—*An attempt to trace the Translation of Saint Cuthbert through Cumberland and Westmorland.* By the
REV. THOMAS LEES, M.A.

Read at Penrith, June 10th, 1874.

THOSE of us who were present on the last day of our last meeting will well remember how, on the road from Melrose to Dryburgh, we halted for some time on the brow of a hill, and contemplated as lovely a scene as can be found within the circuit of our island home. Below us lay, embowered in trees, a peninsula, formed by a magnificent horse-shoe sweep of the broad and gleaming Tweed. In the background, towered the three ruddy peaks of Eildon, standing out boldly against a blue sky, flecked by drifting cloudlets. In a valley to our right, nestled in foliage at the foot of Eildon Hill, we could just dimly discern the grey tower of Melrose Abbey; but our interest was centred on the promontory beneath, where once stood the Anglo-Celtic monastery of Old Mailros, from which, twelve hundred years ago, Christianity was spread over the mixed population of Picts, Scots, Britons, Angles, and Saxons, then inhabiting the