

ART. VI.—*Stone Implements found at Braystones, Cumberland, with remarks on probable Neolithic settlements in the neighbourhood.* By W. H. WATSON, F.G.S., F.C.S.

Read at Seascale, June 11th, 1902.

THE rough stone celt (Fig. I.) and the quern (Fig. II.) were found by me near Braystones, in the parish of St. Bees. They are similar to others found previously



FIG. I.

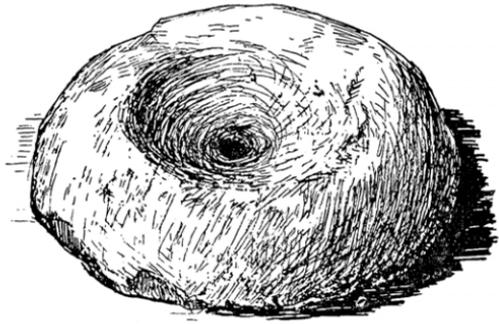


FIG. II.

(1871) at Ehenside or Gibb Tarn, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, by the explorations of Mr. R. D. Darbishire, F.S.A., and the then tenant of the land, Mr. Quayle. The stone axe (Fig. I.) is, however, unpolished; as probably in the early process of preparation by chipping. This specimen, 10

inches long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at widest part, I found four years ago (1898), though not previously described. It was partly exposed in some alluvial earth which had recently been dug up in deeping an open drain about four feet below the surface of the flat, rather boggy, land known as "the Boggles," situate three-quarters of a mile south of Braystones, and a similar distance from Sellafield.

The quern produced, 10 inches in diameter by 4 inches deep, with hole passing through it, was found in June, 1896, partly overgrown by rough grass at the eastern extremity of the same marshy land, and near the cutting of the Cleator and Egremont Railway, which adjoins the present boundary of "the Boggles." This quern is of exactly similar kind both in size, shape, and nature of stone to several querns found at Gibb Tarn, referred to above (R. D. Darbishire, F.S.A.).

As these "sporadic" specimens produced to-day bear much resemblance and some reference to the famous discoveries at the adjacent site of Ehenside in 1891, and Mr. Darbishire has kindly permitted me to show at this meeting several original photographs which he has recently presented to my collection of antiquarian objects at the Victoria Tower at Braystones. Among them is an excellent illustration of the particular stone celt, as found in its original wooden handle, one of the only two specimens yet known to have been found with heft attached.

I would point out from the topographical and geological conditions existing at "the Boggles," the (former) Ehenside Tarn, and in the surrounding Seascale district, there can be little doubt that by well-directed inquiry there would be found here yet unearthed a wealth of Neolithic remains. Especially over a particular area along the sea coast from St. Bees, and bounded by the valley of the Ehen as far as Sellafield, thence by the fells above Calder, Ponsonby, and Gosforth, and certainly as far as the river

Irt below Drigg, I have already pointed out (Presidential Address, Whitehaven Scientific Association, 1899) there may be here extensive remains of Neolithic Man. Dispersed over this area are gentle hills, with isolated depressions containing tarns or the remains of similar pools, now boggy places or marshy land (as at Ehenside) suggestive of habitations or lake dwellings. Thus, beginning at Nethertown (parish of St. Bees), we have (1) Nethertown Tarn or Lady Moss; (2) Silver Tarn; (3) Hartlica Moss; (3a) site of Gibb Tarn explored; (4) Braystones Tarn; (5) Lantern Tarn; (6) Hollas Moss; (7) Harnsey Moss, (8) Church Moss, near St. Bridget's, Beckermet; (9) Boggles, about 40 or 50 acres, chiefly marshy land; (10) Sellafield Tarn, about 10 acres; (11) Hall Senna Moss, Gosforth, and others. These are all extremely suggestive of probable Neolithic settlements; and, I think, Nos. 2, 4, 5, 10, and 11 especially.
