

*Remarks on the foregoing communication, by DR HIBBERT.*

On the subject of this interesting notice, I would beg to make a few observations. It will be admitted that, when ornaments of this description are found in a barrow, the most direct indications are presented of a tumulus devoted to females. But it is said, that such articles are frequently found in a barrow of a very peculiar construction; for, according to Sir Richard Hoare (in his *Ancient Wiltshire*) a female barrow is formed by a very small tumulus, and sometimes by two or even three mounds, contained in a vallum which is often beautifully moulded. It is to be regretted, therefore, that on the present occasion we are not made acquainted with the form of the female barrow discovered in Ross-shire, as it would be interesting to compare it with the sepulchral constructions of the same class which occur in the south of England. Sir Richard Hoare observes that a female barrow very rarely contains sepulchral urns. In Ross-shire, however, an urn certainly accompanies female ornaments of dress.

With regard to the race of people to whom the barrow of Ross-shire is attributable, little can be offered but conjecture. The opinion advanced by Dr Stukeley, that glass, amber, or jet ornaments, are indicative of a druid-barrow, has been long since condemned as in the highest degree absurd. I am myself strongly inclined to assign the origin of the Ross-shire barrow to the Vikingr or Sea-Kings of the North, who came from Scandinavia, and took possession of the northerly coasts of Scotland, as well as of Orkney and Shetland. The shores of the Baltic, from which this daring people were accustomed to make their piratical descents, have been celebrated, from the most rude and early period, for the amber and jet which they contained; and it was probably from this site that the beads and other ornaments of Scandinavian females not uncommonly found in the barrows of Scotland were derived.

The articles of jet found in the Ross-shire barrow consist, in the first place, of a bead necklace (*See Plate 5, fig. 4.*) Other of the ornaments discovered (*See fig. 6, 7, 8, and 9,*) which are curiously studded with gold spots, had been most probably suspended from a girdle that encircled the waist; and it is a curious circumstance, that their form and use are perpetuated in the appendages of a similar description which the Icelandic female still attaches to her ancient dress of wadmél, worn by her, in conformity with the custom of her Scandinavian ancestors, upon her bridal-day. (*See fig. 12, which represents these ornamental appendages to the Icelandic girdle; they are copied from an engraving given in Dr Henderson's Iceland.*)

All these decorations of the girdle are perforated with holes evidently intended for their mutual connection by means of threads. (*The perforations of the large central ornament, fig. 5 of the plate, are displayed in fig. 6, which is a representation of its underside.*)

The two lesser ornaments of jet (marked in the plate, fig. 10 and 11) probably formed the drops of two ear-rings.

(*All the articles discovered in the Ross-shire barrow are represented on a scale two-thirds the size of the original.*)