

2. ON STONES OF MEGALITHIC AVENUES.

Leading to some megalithic circles are planted, in a few instances, long double rows of megalithic stones, generally spoken of as alleys or avenues. The most marked instance of this arrangement in England was that which formerly existed at Abury. At Callernish, in Lewis, we have a well-known example of a Scottish megalithic circle, with its avenue, still standing.

Formerly a long avenue of this kind seems to have existed near the circle or circles at Shap, in Westmoreland. Camden, in his "Britannia," writing towards the end of the sixteenth century, describes the avenue at Shap as consisting of "huge stones of a pyramidal form, some of them nine feet high and four thick, standing for nearly a mile at an equal distance." In Gough's edition of Camden's "Britannia," published in the latter part of the last century, it is stated that within the memory of man this avenue, or "double row of immense granites," extended for about a mile through the village of Shap, but has since been "removed to clear the ground."¹ A few of the stones, however, of this Shap avenue still exist. One of them is an oblong massive block, about nine feet high and five feet broad, now half fallen, and prostrated against a bank of earth in Aspers' field. On its flattish top I measured one cup six and a half inches broad, and one inch and a half deep; and a second cup nearly three inches in breadth, three-quarters of an inch deep, with a single circle nine inches in diameter, cut around it. These cups and ring-cuttings on this Shap stone are represented on Plate XVII. fig. 4, but the outline of the stone itself is imperfectly given in the lithograph.² A second of the Shap avenue blocks stands still erect about one hundred and fifty yards south of this marked monolith, and is known under the name of the "Goggleby Stone." It is a hard, round block, about ten feet in height and eighteen in circumference. On its north side, about two and a half feet above ground, there is carved out upon it a circular disc, five inches broad, excavated but flat in the centre—the remains, I believe, not of a cup, but of a worn-out ring-cutting. I could

¹ See Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, 1806, vol. iii. p. 414.

² This stone is noted as marked in Hodgson's work on Westmoreland, p. 139.

not trace any evidences of artificial tooling on any of the stones of the Shap circle placed by the side of the railway, about a mile south of the village, nor on the double circle at Gunnerkeld, two or three miles northward.

PLATE XVII.

OBELISKS AT COLINTON, LARGIE, BALLYMENACH AND SHAP.

