

#### IV.

ON SOME STOKE CIRCLES ON THE SIDE OF A HILL AT THE EAST END OF QUENDALE BAY, SHETLAND. BY THE REV. C. L. ACLAND, M.A., HEAD MASTER OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, COLCHESTER.

In the extreme south of the Mainland of Shetland, and itself facing south, lies Quendale Bay. At the east end of the bay rises a long slope, very sandy at first, but afterwards covered with short close turf and small stones in about equal proportions. The slope culminates at an elevation of about 300 feet, in a well-marked "wart" or hill-summit, called on the Ordnance map the Erne's Wart, though locally much better known as the Wart, or Wart Hill of Quendale. On the south-west side of this hill, considerably below the top, is a perfectly level plain of two or three acres in extent. As nearly as may be in the centre of this plain is a group of concentric stone circles (fig. 1), which, so far as I am aware, has not yet been described. It consists of two large exterior circles, surrounding an interior circle of much smaller diameter. Of the two exterior circles, one is about a yard inside the other, the external diameter of the outer circle being 56 feet. The outer one has some forty stones still in place, the inner one thirty to thirty-five. The stones range from 2 to 6 feet in length at the surface of the ground, and some of them are 2 feet thick. Few of them stand more than 18 inches out of the ground, but, as I had no means of excavation, I cannot tell to what depth they may be covered. They are of the common sandstone of the district, but look water-worn, and as if they had been brought up from the shore, rather than quarried in the neighbourhood. There is an entire absence of the small stones so noteworthy in the remains of the other structures on the same hillside. An entrance to the circles faces to the east, a passage from it leading towards the centre. The stones on the north side of this passage are *in situ*. The outer stone is very nearly square, about 18 inches in the side, and stands 2 feet 6 inches out of the ground. Probably the south corner of the entrance was marked by a similar stone, but if so it is gone. Diametrically opposite this entrance, and therefore on

the west side of the circle, many more stones are lying on the ground than are needed for the circle itself, and look as if they were the

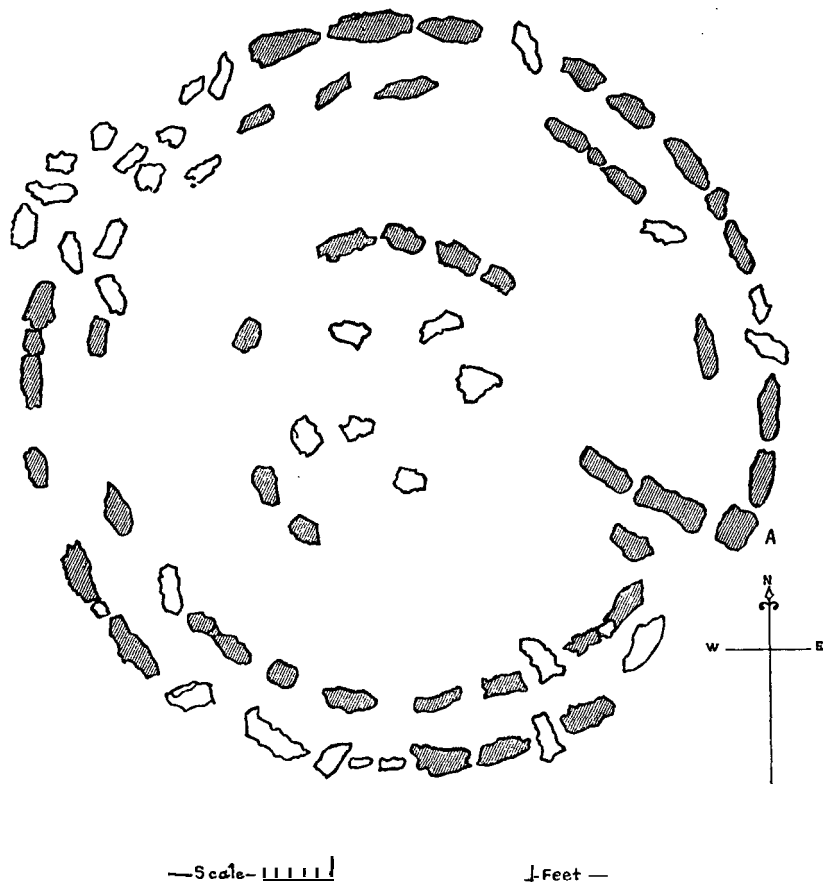


Fig. 1. Stone Circle at Quendale Bay, Shetland.

remains of some more elaborate structure. Concentric with the two exterior circles, but much smaller, is a third. On one side of it four

stones are still in place, and elsewhere one or two mark its position quite distinctly. Several stones lying near the centre of the whole may have belonged to this inner circle, or may indicate other arrangements the plan of which is no longer discoverable.

Such is a very imperfect, but so far as it goes accurate, description of what I take to be an interesting monument of a very remote past. There are to my knowledge several others, but I fear they are disappearing.

At various spots on this south-west side of the Wart, but not on this level plain, are other remains of circular stone structures, but they all differ from that which I have just described. They look like the remains of circular burial cairns, and seem to have been purposely destroyed. A more or less complete circle of large stones, 30 to 50 feet in diameter, many of the stones 5 or 6 feet long and 2 feet or more in thickness, can be plainly traced on the hill-side. Within and around these circles are scattered in complete confusion a great quantity of much smaller stones, which have to all appearance formed the bulk of the cairns of which the circles form the groundwork. I noticed half a dozen or more of these remains. There is also a kind of serpentine line of great stones which winds across and up a considerable portion of the side of the hill, and ends in one large standing stone, which is surrounded by the remains of a small circle of smaller stones.

MONDAY, *13th June* 1887.

PROFESSOR MACPHERSON, LL.D., Vice-President,  
in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Fellows :—

GEORGE HUTTON GEDDES, 8 Douglas Crescent.  
ALEXANDER GALLAWAY, Dirgarve House, Aberfeldy.  
HENRY BRUCE KIRKWOOD, 3 Belford Place.  
DAVID J. MACKENZIE, Sheriff-Substitute, Lerwick.  
GEORGE STEWART, 3 Forbes Road.  
FREDERIC WILLIAMS WILLIAMS, 3 Essex Grove, Upper Norwood,  
Surrey.  
D. ARGYLL ROBERTSON, M.D., President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By Dr W. M. BUCHANAN, 12 Eutland Square.

Spear-Head of chert,  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length, from the island of Macinaw, between Lakes Michigan and Huron.

(2) By Dr ALEXANDER KNIGHT, Keswick, through Professor Sir WILLIAM TURNER, F.S.A. Scot.

Old Candlestick Tinder-Box of tinned iron, with Flint, Steel, Tinder, and Spunks.

(3) By Mr DAVID Low, Lindertis, through JAMES DAVIDSON, F.S.A. Scot., Kirriemuir.

Perforated Hammer-Stone, found at Lindertis, Airlie, and exhibited at last meeting.

- (4) By Mr JOHN JAMIESON TAYLOE, Brechin, through HEW MORRISON, F.S.A. Scot.

Foot of a Glass, conical,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height, found in the walls of the Earl of Crawford's residence, Brechin.

- (5) By Eev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Small saucer-shaped Urn, found at Low Torrs, Glenluce (see the previous communication by Rev. G. Wilson).

Stone, with indented hollows on both sides, from Camrie, Glenluce.

- (6) By Eev. JAMES MORRISON, Urquhart, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Stone Cup of steatitic stone, somewhat oval in shape, measuring  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches high by 5 inches extreme diameter, having a handle at one side, perforated by a hole  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter, found in a mound of burnt stones, near Kenny's Hillock, Urquhart, Elginshire.

- (7) By ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Fragments of Pottery, chiefly handles of vessels, from a Terramara of the Bronze Age at Castione dei Marchesi, in the province of Parma, Italy.

Fragments of Pottery, handles of vessels, &c., from a Terramara at Montale, in the province of Modena, Italy.

Loom\* Weight of clay, and nine Whorls, also of clay, from the same.

Arrow-Head of horn, and small hexagonal Eoman Tile, from the upper layers of the same Terramara.

- (8) By Dr ARTHUR MITCHELL, C.B., F.S.A. Scot.

Thirteen Casts of Stone Implements, made for Dr Arthur Mitchell, C.B., by Mr John Eae, Hanover Street, Aberdeen, from originals in his collection, viz., Large Anvil Stone, from Skelmuir; six Stone Balls, with projecting knobs, from Aboyne, Udny, Kemnay, Turriff, and Leochel-Cushnie; perforated Stone Hammer, and partially perforated Hammer, from Fyvie; large wedge-shaped Hammer, perforated, from Turriff; rude Stone Lamp, from Elgin; and Stone, with groove round the middle, from Birse, Aberdeenshire.

(9) By Dr WILLIAM FEASEB, M.E.I.A.

Remains of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin; their Exploration and Eesearches.  
8vo. 1886.

(10) By Eev. H. J. SWALLOW, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

De Nova Villa, or the House of Nevill, in Sunshine and Shade; and  
the Battle of Neville's Cross. 8vo. 1887.

(11) By DAVID MURRAY, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Bull of Adrian VI., granting a Pension from Provand. 8vo. 1887.

(12) By ALEXANDER WALKER, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Knights-Templar in and around Aberdeen. 8vo. 24 pp. 1887.

(13) By J. T. IRVINE, F.S.A. Scot.

Five Pamphlets and Eleven Acts of Parliament of Queen Anne, &c.

The following Articles, acquired for the Museum and Library by the  
PURCHASE COMMITTEE during the present Session, from 30th November  
to 5th June 1887, were Exhibited :—

1. Two polished Stone Celts, one of greenstone,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length  
by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in breadth across the cutting face ; the other of felstone,  
5 inches in length by 2 inches in breadth across the cutting face, from  
Fordoun, Kincardineshire.

Flint Implement, or oval Knife, from Fordoun, Kincardineshire.

2. Stone Celt of American form, said to have been found at Auchter-  
House, near Dundee.

Wrought-iron Weaver's Implement, with a notch in the flat blade.

3. Wooden Sword, edged with shark's teeth, from Melanesia.

4. Portion of an Adze of porphyritic stone, polished, from Berwick-  
shire.

Flat Celt or Axe-Head of bronze,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length by  $3\frac{5}{8}$  inches  
across the cutting face, from Berwickshire.

Three Arrow-Heads of flint, from Berwickshire.

5. Palstave or Flanged Axe-Head of bronze,  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length by 2 inches across the cutting face, from Lanarkshire.

6. Upper Stone of Quern of sandstone, with side socket still retaining the wooden handle, found in a moss in Shetland.

7. Adze of greenstone,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, the butt tenon-shaped for insertion in the handle, from New Zealand.

8. Small oval Seal of brass, found at Gattonside, near Melrose. [See the description on p. 202.]

9. Two oval water-worn Pebbles, partially polished, and perforated for the handle as hammers, from North Uist.

Pins of bone and of copper, found in the Sands at Illeray, North Uist.

10. Collection of Hammer-Stones, being oblong water-worn pebbles, abraded at the ends by use, from Orkney.

Polished Celt or Axe-Head of claystone (burnt), 3f inches in length by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches across the cutting face, from South Ronaldsay, Orkney.

11. Collection of Savage Weapons, Carved Paddles, &c., from the South Pacific.

12. Twenty-nine Arrow-Heads of flint, from Banffshire.

Flat Celt or Axe-Head of bronze,  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in breadth across the cutting-face, ornamented with rows of chevrons punched work parallel to the cutting edge.

Double-edged Axe-Head of Bronze, both ends being alike and the shaft hole in the centre, from Attica.

13. Flat Powder Horn, 15 inches in length, with geometrical ornamentation, and stopper of pewter shaped like a thistle head.

Small Luckenbooth Brooch of white metal, said to have been found in Glenwyvis, Ross-shire.

14. Two Axe-Heads of iron, from Aberdeenshire.

15. Two Highland Dirks, one 16 inches in length, with carved handle, marked on the top J. BRODIE, the blade made from an old sword, marked 1740; the other  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, the handle carved with interlaced patterns and brass-mounted.

16. Polished Celt or Axe-Head of greenish mottled quartzite, 6 inches in length by 2 inches across the cutting face, the cross section a very

flattened pointed oval, the greatest thickness in the centre not exceeding  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch. It is said to have been found in a cist at Lochearnhead, Perthshire.

17. Two Highland Brooches of brass, one  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, ornamented with engraved patterns of interlaced work in circles, and having the initials R.D; the other  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, wanting the pin, and ornamented with patterns in the form of a square contained within the circumference of the brooch.

18. Two basket-hilted Swords.

19. Polished Celt or Axe-Head of claystone, 9 inches in length by 3f inches across the cutting face, and pierced with a round hole half an inch in diameter, in the centre of the implement, from Thetford.

20. Two Highland Dirks, with leather sheaths.

21. Eight Arrow-Heads of flint, from Aberdeenshire.

22. Small circular Quaich of wood.

Large Luckenbooth Brooch of silver,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by 2 inches.

23. Three oval disc-shaped Knives of polished porphyritic stone, from Shetland.

Two rude Implements of sandstone, also from Shetland.

Crusie-mould of sandstone, from Shetland, and a Crusie of iron, said to have been made in it.

Two Flint Implements, from Denmark.

Carved Paddle, with carved handle, from the Fiji Islands.

24. Mould of steatite, probably for ingots, from Shetland.

25. Twelve Collections of Flint Implements, &c., from the Culbin Sands, amounting to about 600 specimens.

26. Three Collections of Flint Implements, from Glenluce Sands, amounting to about 150 specimens.

27. Collection of Bronze Implements, Weapons, and Ornaments of the Bronze Age, from Denmark, about 70 specimens.

28. Cahier and Martin's *Nouveaux Melanges d'Archeologie*, Bibliothèques, 4to; Grant's *Demonology, Witchcraft, and Popular Delusions*, 8vo.

29. Worsaae's *Pre-History of the North*, 8vo, 1886; Worsaae's *Industrial Arts of Denmark*, 8vo, 1882; Hildebrand's *Industrial Arts* VOL. XXI.



of Scandinavia in the Pagan Time, 8vo, 1883 ; Eiano's Industrial Arts in Spain, 8vo, 1879.

30. Ferrall and Repp's Danish-English Dictionary, small 4to, 1863 ; Burgh Records of Stirling, 4to, 1886 ; Tenth Eeport of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

31. Jewitt's Ceramic Art of Great Britain, 2 vols. 8vo ; Michel's Scottish Expedition to Norway, 12mo, 1886.

32. Venuti—Numismata Romanorum Pontificum, 4to, 1744 ; Boyne's Tokens issued in the 17th Century, Svo, 1858 ; D'Emery—Catalogue des Medailles Antiques et Modernes, 4to, 1788 ; De Saulcy—Numismatique Judaïque, 4to, 1854 ; Henfrey—Coins, Medals, and Seals of Oliver Cromwell, 4to, 1877 ; Carelli—Nummi Italici, folio, 1812 ; Recueil de Medailles, with Supplement, 4to, 10 vols., 1763-67 ; Wellenheim—Catalogue de Monnaies et Medailles, 8vo, 3 vols., 1844.

There were also Exhibited :—

(1) By THOMAS BONNAR, F.S.A. Scot.

Oriental Water-Bottle of black ware, ornamented.

(2) By C. CAMPBELL, Rhodes, North Berwick.

Four old Glass Bottles—one with a crest, a hand holding a dagger, and motto, 'This is our Charter,' found in an old cellar there.

(3) By the REPRESENTATIVES of the late GILBERT BAIN, Mayfield Terrace.

Polished stone Axe, 12f inches in length by 4f inches in breadth across the cutting face, the cross section at half the length of the implement an oval of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, tapering to a bluntly conical butt. This fine specimen is of a beautifully variegated porphyry, highly polished, and quite perfect. It possesses the peculiarity of many examples from Shetland of expanding towards the end opposite to the butt, so that the lines of its sides curve inwards to the butt and outwards to the extremities of the cutting edge.

Three stone Axes of porphyry, varying from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 inches in length.

Two oval disc-shaped Knives, one of fossil coral,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length by  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches in greatest width, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in greatest thickness, finely polished and almost perfect; the other of porphyritic stone, 6 inches in length by 4 inches in greatest width, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in thickness.

Two rude Implements of sandstone of the Pointed type,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length.

One oblong rounded Implement of sandstone, 10 inches in length.

All these implements were obtained many years ago in the parish of Northmavine, Shetland, by the late Mr Gilbert Bain.

The following Communications were read :—