Arbor Low.

THE QUARRYING AND TRANSPORT OF ITS STONES.

By H. A. Hubbersty.

THE probable method by which these large blocks of stone were quarried, or separated from the parent rock, would, I think, undoubtedly be that of cleavage by wooden wedges driven into the natural joint, or "dry bed" as it is now called by quarrymen; just as "rockery stone" is got at the present day, except that iron has now superseded the wooden wedge, for the stones at Arbor Low are almost entirely of this class. In its natural position, the upper or water-worn, surface of the blocks being partly or, in many cases, wholly, exposed to the air, would be easily found and by no means difficult to detach from the parent rock. It is to this water-worn surface of the natural rock that the stones at Arbor Low owe their remarkable appearance of extreme antiquity, for old as they are in their artificial state, their pot-holes and crevices were worn away by Nature ages before the day on which they were set up. This will be apparent to anyone who will compare the smooth or under surface of each with the rugged and venerable appearance of the outer face—which was once that of the naked water-washed limestone rock itself.

In his excellent account of the recent excavations at Stonehenge (*Archæologia*, vol. 58, pp. 73-4), Mr. Gowland suggests, from comparisons with the illustration of the transport of a colossus on an Egyptian tomb of the twelfth dynasty, and with that of the removal of great stones in

China and Japan in an ancient drawing, that the principle employed at Stonehenge for the transport of its larger stones was their suspension in a massive framework of horizontal beams, to which traverse poles were fastened, to be supported on the shoulders of as many men as might be required. But in a country like the High Peak of Derbyshire, where no long timber grows, and where the surface of the land, instead of being of a rich alluvial or sandy soil, is of a close, hard turf, with a harder sub-soil of yellow earth beneath of no great thickness above the solid rock, and which for a long period in the winter is, owing to its great altitude, so frequently frozen, I think the object would be attained by a simpler process.

In so different a district, the transport would, in all probability, be effected upon a strong sledge, made of two short wooden runners bound together by cross timbers. Upon this the large stones would be placed, and by means of ropes of hides or grasses easily drawn by a number of men from the quarry to the site at Arbor Low; very much in the same way as some of the farmers on the hill-sides in North Derbyshire still drag their hay to the barns, and as the miners of old hauled their lead ore to the "day-eye," or shaft bottom, in the mine.