

IV.

NOTES ON CUP-MARKED STONES IN PEEBLES SHIRE.

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No Peeblesshire cup-marked stone has hitherto been recorded, although a ring-marked one at Lamancha is figured and described in the well-known work of Sir James Simpson. During many walks, which I took in

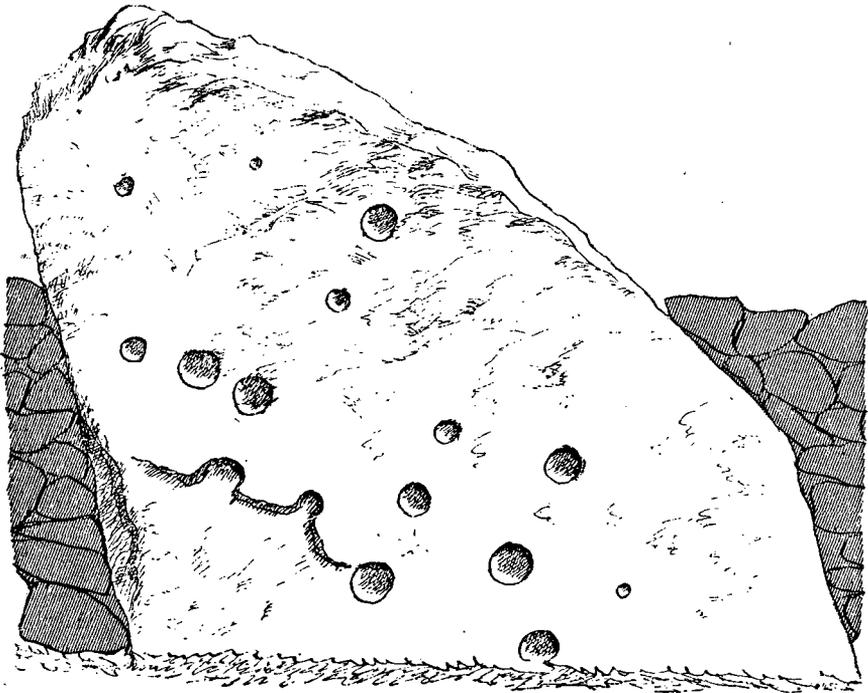


Fig. 1. Cup-marked Stone near Manor Kirk, Peeblesshire.

investigating the forts of the county, I kept a constant look-out for cup-marked stones. I never saw any indubitable example at or near the forts themselves, although there were several stones which at first sight seemed

to be cup-marked. A description of these, with illustrations, is given in Professor Duns' paper "On some Rock Markings," *Proc. S. A. Scot.*, 1885-6 p. 156. There is, however, an undoubtedly genuine example (fig. 1) in a conspicuous position, built into the wall of the public road about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile N.E. of Manor Kirk. Here it is certainly well seen, but at the cost of being subject to injury and insult from the idle and mischievous, of which it bears evident marks. The block is a flat slab of compact sandstone, set upright in the wall, and measuring 5 feet 2 inches in height above ground, 5 feet 9 inches in width, and 18 inches in thickness. Part of the surface has flaked off, but fourteen entire cups remain, with part of two others. The cups vary from about 1 inch to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and are arranged with the regular irregularity, both as to position and size, which in these objects often suggests a resemblance to constellations, although they have never been proved to represent the actual form of any constellation.

I was unable to ascertain the original position of this stone, but possibly it may be the standing-stone originally at Bellanrig, in the close vicinity, so strangely described by Armstrong (*Companion to the Map of Peeblesshire*, 1775) as "a large rude monument which, from its situation on Bellum or War Rig, may have been erected to commemorate some remarkable event. From the appearance of several impressions of horses' feet having been cut on the stone, it is thought to have been the site of a fair."

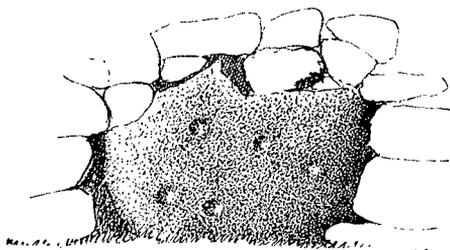


Fig. 2. Cup-marked Stone near Castle Hill, Peebleshire.

The only other cup-marked stone I have met with in the county is a fragment of hard whin-stone, measuring about 24 by 18 inches (fig. 2),

also built into the wall of a public road. It is situated a little South of Castlehill, Manor Vale, on the West side of the road. The cups are five in number, nearly equal in size, sharply cut, and in good preservation.