

II.

ON THE STANDING STONES AND CUP-MARKED ROCKS, ETC. IN THE VALLEY OF THE ADD AND SOME NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS OF ARGYLE. BY DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D., SECRETARY. (PLATES I, II.)

Perhaps no district in Scotland contains so many interesting remains of antiquity as the part of Argyle between the south end of Lochawe and the Mull of Kintyre, especially the part comprised in the parishes of Kilmartin, Kilmichael Glassary, and North Knapdale. Sepulchral cairns, stone circles, standing stones, cup- and ring-marked rocks, Early Christian monuments, churchyard recumbent monuments of the Iona type, hill forts, mediæval castles are all represented, and generally well represented. No wonder, then, that the chief antiquarian remains in a region so richly endowed have been already recorded in our *Proceedings*, or in special works, by such ardent observers as Canon Mapleton, Canon Greenwell, Captain Thomas, Sir James Simpson, Miss Christian Maclagan, Colonel White, Messrs James Drummond and Romilly Allen. But where they reaped there is still much to be gleaned, and during a residence last autumn at Cairnbaan I was able to make observations on a considerable number of objects which have either altogether escaped attention, or have been imperfectly noticed hitherto. In the present paper I shall confine myself to the standing stones, cup-marked rocks, and one or two other remains which specially deserve to be recorded, leaving the hill forts, of which I succeeded in seeing no less than twenty-two, to a future occasion.

I. STANDING STONES.

The standing stones of the district are all derived from the early diorite rock which along with quartzite forms the infinitude of rocky knolls and miniature mountain ranges, invariably running from south-south-west to north-north-east, that play such a prominent part in the geology and scenery of Southern Argyle. The diorite knolls, as Dr.

Peach pointed out to me, are readily distinguishable, by the growth of grass and bracken upon them, from the quartzite knolls, which are usually clothed with heather, and also by their mode of decay. Usually rounded and smoothed by glacial action at the ends, the sides at the top are apt to break into thin tabular slabs, which not unfrequently are narrow and pointed, and project in long irregular lines, which at first

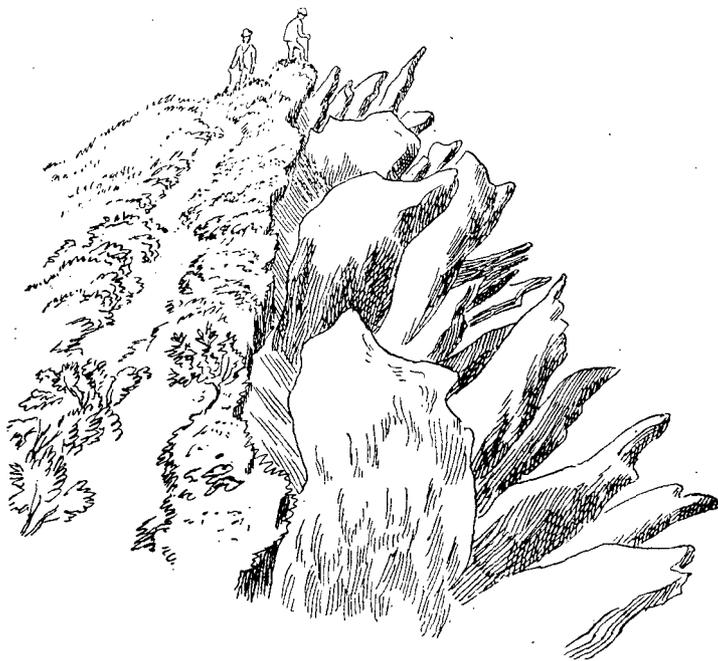


Fig. 1. Diorite Rocks, Torrabbharain.

point upwards, then horizontally, and then downwards, finally losing their hold and lying on the slope. A fine example (fig. 1) occurs at Torrabbharain, Glassary, where the disrupted rocks form a natural *chevaux-de-frise* to a prehistoric fort. I have seen many such tables *in situ*, 8 to 12 feet long, but Mr E. B. Bailey, of the Geological Survey

Staff, estimated the length of some on a knoll near Tayvallich at not less than 25 feet. Nature having thus provided ready-made standing stones, all that the primitive inhabitants had to do, after sliding them down the slopes, was to drag them along the valleys to the selected sites, which are always on low ground.

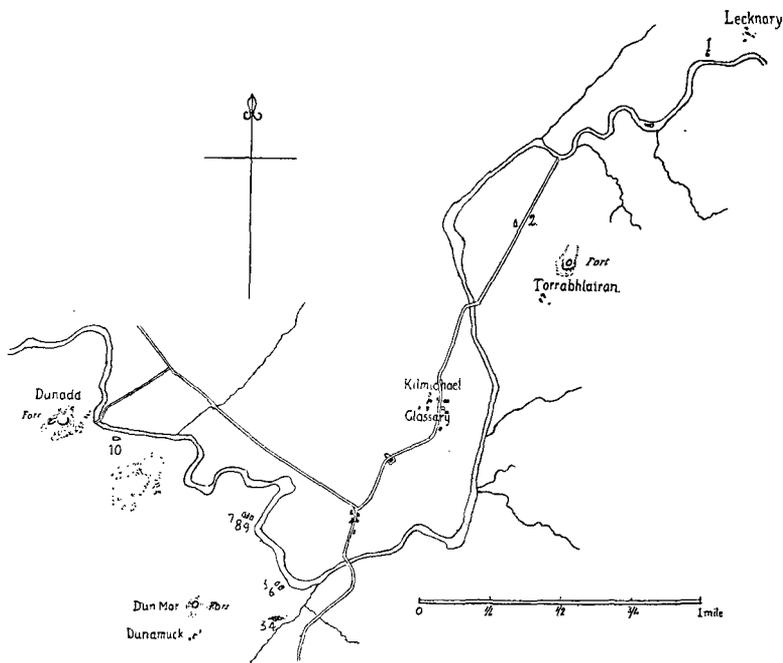


Fig. 2. Chart of Standing Stones, Valley of the Add.

The most interesting standing stones of the neighbourhood occur in groups in the valley of the Kilmartin Burn, but as they have been already described by Dr Stuart,¹ Sir James Simpson,² and Mr Romilly Allen,³ I need say nothing about them.

¹ *The Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, ii. 67, pl. cxix.

² *Proc. S.A. Scot.*, vi., App. 34, pls. xvii. xviii.

³ *Op. cit.*, xvi. 110.

STANDING STONES IN THE VALE OF THE ADD.

The river Add, on escaping from the hill country, meanders through four miles of cultivated meadow, as far as Dunadd, whence, with many a bend, it flows 3 miles further, through the dead level of the Monadh

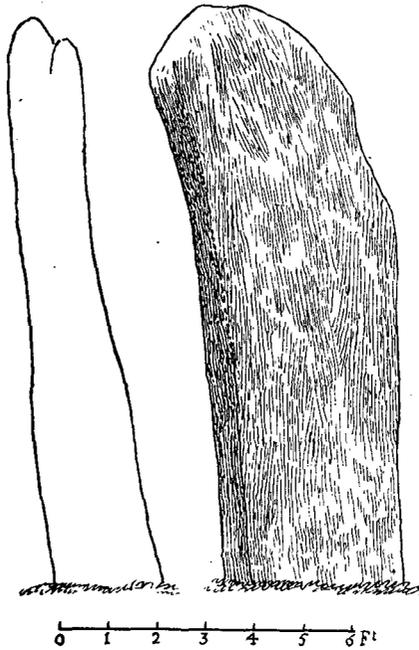


Fig. 3. Standing Stone No. 1, Lecknary.

Mor, to fall into Crinan Loch. In the meadowland are three monoliths and three groups of standing stones, placed as shown in the chart, fig. 2, reduced from the 6-inch Ordnance map.

1. *Monolith at Lecknary.* Fig. 3.

Beginning at the upper end of the meadowland the first example

stands 250 yards west-south-west of Lecknary farmhouse, and 30 north of the river. It is called "An Car" on the Ordnance map, a rare instance of this application of an obsolete Gaelic term. I did not see this stone, but I am able to give a front and side view¹ of it (fig. 3), from a measured drawing kindly taken for me by Miss C. S. Campbell, Glassary Manse. It is 12 feet high and 3 wide at the base.

2. *Monolith near Kilmichael Glassary.* Figs. 4 and 5.

Nearly a mile south-west of the last and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north-north-east of Glassary Kirk, in a level field on the west side of the public road and 350 yards east of the river, facing south-south-west, or right down the valley. It is 6 feet 4 inches high, 4 feet wide at the base, narrowing to 2 feet 8 inches at the top, and is 7 inches to 9 inches thick. Near the base of the face are about thirty small round and oval cups, most of which were recently uncovered by Miss Campbell, from whose rubbing fig. 5 is taken. The back of the stone (fig. 4) has two longitudinal ridges and bears five cups near the base.

3, 4. *First group near Dunamuck.* Fig 6

Nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles south-south-west of the last, and 500 yards east by south of the fort at Dunamuck, two slabs lie prostrate in a field sloping gently to the Add, 220 yards to the north. The Rev. Duncan Campbell, Glassary, informs me that the spot is called *Leacaich/uaine*, and in his

¹ My sketches of the stones are front views, with an occasional side view, and are on the uniform scale of 4 feet to the inch. I have set up some of the fallen stones in the figures as they would appear if rooted about 3 feet in the ground. Others, being partially overgrown, are merely represented in outline, as their form is uncertain. The numbers before the headings correspond with the distinguishing numbers of the stones on the chart.

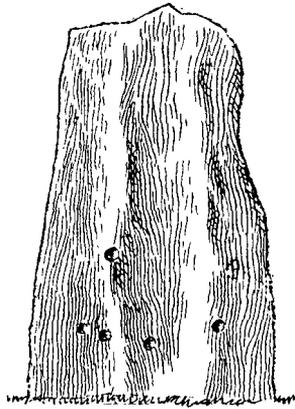


Fig. 4. Standing Stone No. 2, near Kilmichael Glassary. Back.

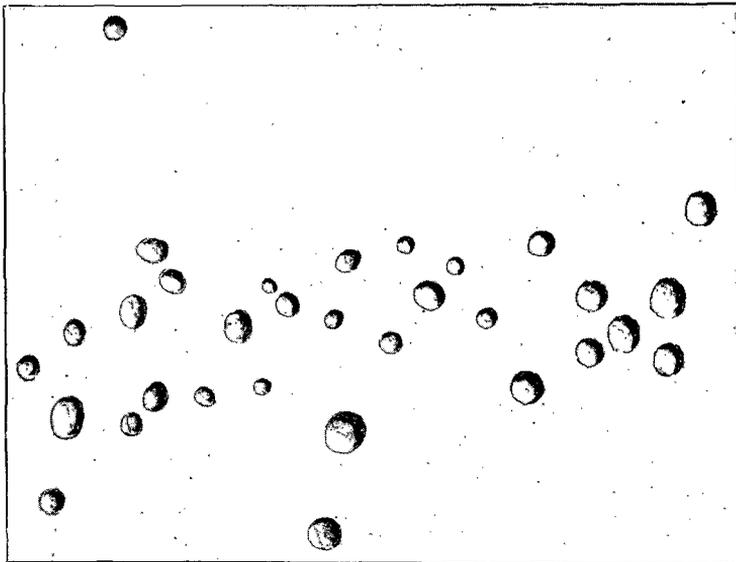


Fig. 5. Cup-marks on the face of the Standing Stone No. 2, Kilmichael Glassary.

early days a few cottages were still inhabited there, of which no vestige remains. Tradition has it that markets were formerly held here, and webs of cloth were measured on one of the stones. If re-erected, the stones would both face south-east, but one would stand about its own length in

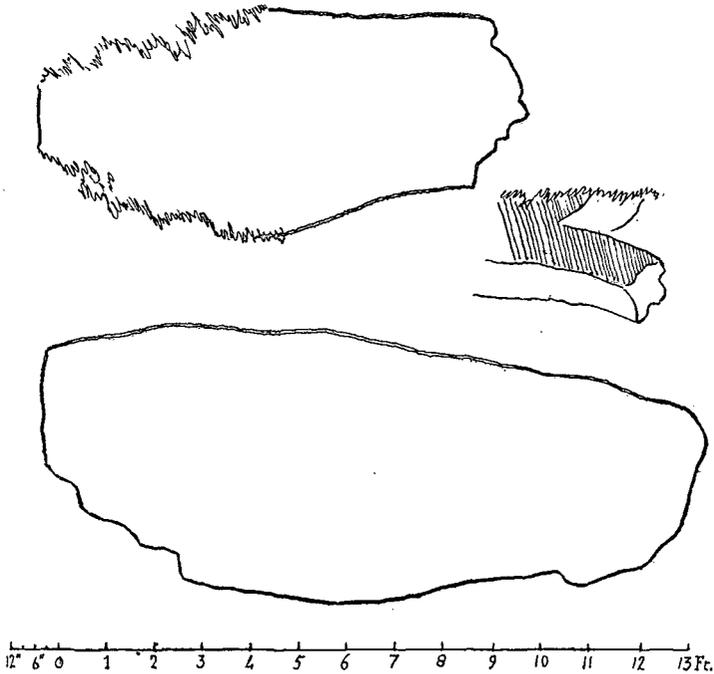


Fig. 6. Standing Stones, now prostrate, Nos. 3 and 4, east by south of Dunamuck Fort.

front, and to one side of the other. The eastmost stone is 13 feet 3 inches long and 5 feet 6 inches wide at 3 feet from the base. The other, much buried at the base, is 10 feet 2 inches long and 5 feet wide near the middle. The top, partially buried, is split so as to gape like the open jaws of an animal, as shown in the figure.

5, 6. *Second group near Dunamuck.* Fig. 7.

Two stones stand in line, 20 feet apart, and facing north-east, 180 yards north of the last, and 60 south of the Add. One is 12 feet 6 inches high and 5 feet wide at the base, the other 8 feet 6 inches high and 3 feet 4 inches wide.

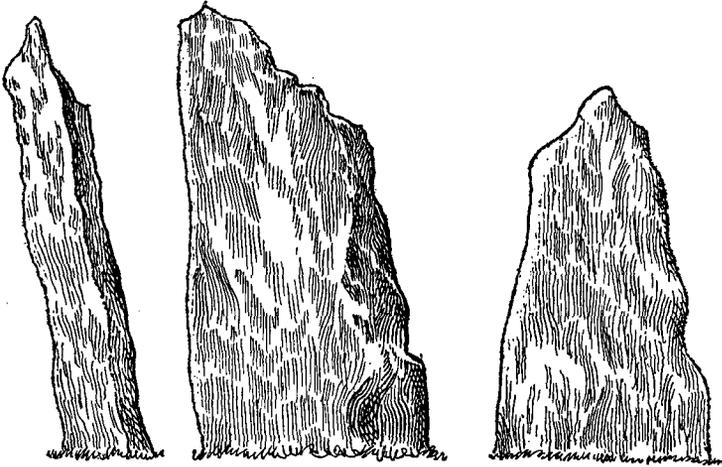


Fig. 7. Standing Stones Nos. 5 and 6, and side view of 5, east by north of Dunamuck Fort.

7, 8, 9. *Third group near Dunamuck.* Figs. 8, 9.

Nearly 500 yards north-north-west of the last, and 630 north-north-east of Dunamuck Fort, 70 yards from the river. Nos. 7 and 9 stand 14 feet 10 inches apart, in line, facing nearly east, as laid down on the Ordnance map, and No. 8 lies prostrate about half way between them, with its butt a foot behind their line, and its top pointing obliquely from it to the south-east. No. 7 leans back considerably; it is 9 feet high and 4 feet 8 inches wide at the base. No. 9 is 7 feet 6 inches high and 4 feet 6 inches wide at the base. No. 8, the fallen stone

(fig. 9), is columnar, 12 feet 3 inches long and 2 feet 3 inches to 2 feet 7 inches wide.

10. *Monolith near Dunadd.* Fig. 10.

A massive prostrate slab, 1000 yards west-north-west of the last, 300 east of Dunadd. If set up it would face east-north-east. It is 14 feet 3 inches long, 4 feet 5 inches wide at the base, increasing to 6 feet at 11

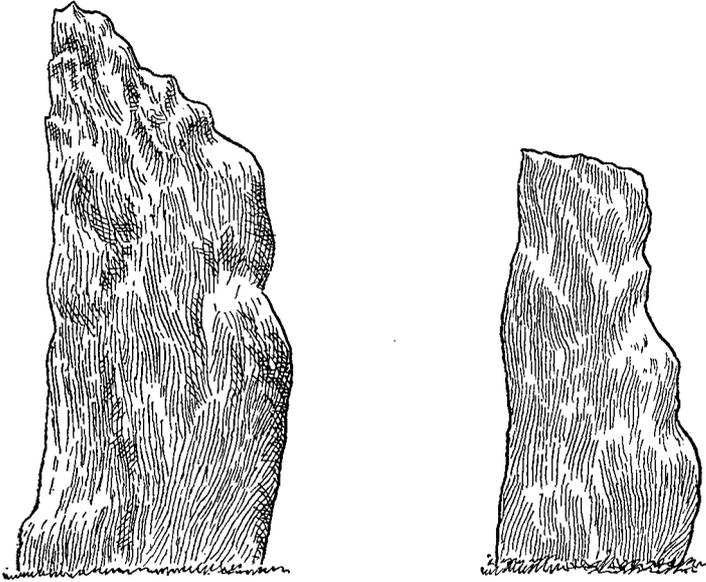


Fig. 8. Standing Stones Nos. 7 and 9, north-north-east of Dunamuck Fort.

feet up. It is 16 inches thick on one side and only 4 inches on the other. A wide semicircular hollow in the top must have given it a singular aspect when erect.

It may be remarked regarding the Standing Stones in the vale of the Add, that they do not seem to be placed so as to favour the theory that has been advanced of their being the remains of a great avenue.

11, 12. *Standing Stones at Achnabreck, Cairnbaan.* Fig. 11.

11. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east-south-east of Cairnbaan Inn, and 300 south of Achnabreck Farm, a slender monolith lies on the west side of Achahoish Burn, and close to the south of a road, which was probably

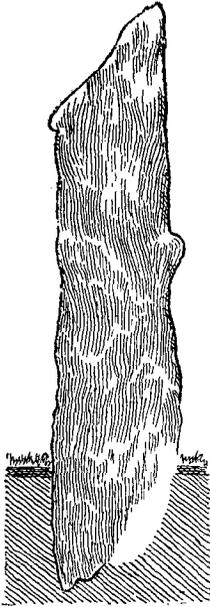


Fig. 9. Standing Stone No. 8, as if re-erected, in the same group as Nos. 7 and 9.

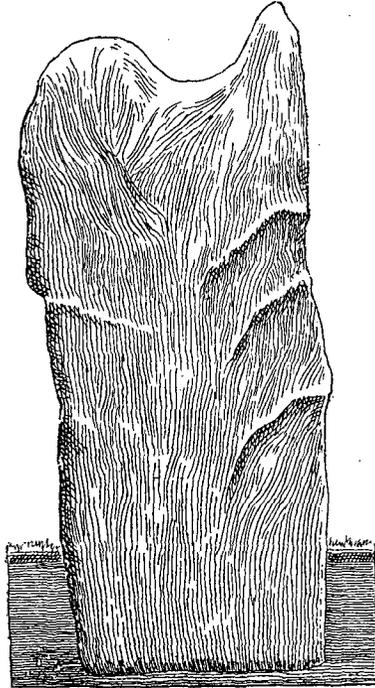


Fig. 10. Standing Stone No. 10, as if re-erected, east of Dunadd.

the highway to Lochgilphead before the moor in the valley below was drained. The stone (on the right, fig. 11) is 15 feet in length, from 2 feet to 2 feet 6 inches in width, and 10 inches to 16 inches thick. A very artificial-looking projection at the base, shown in the figure, is probably natural. The Rev. Mr Campbell remembers when this stone was erect.

12. 300 yards south by east of the last, and 500 south of the farm, a very thin slab (on the left, fig. 11), 7 feet 9 inches high, 3 feet to 3 feet 3 inches wide, and sharp-pointed, stands on the north bank of the road.

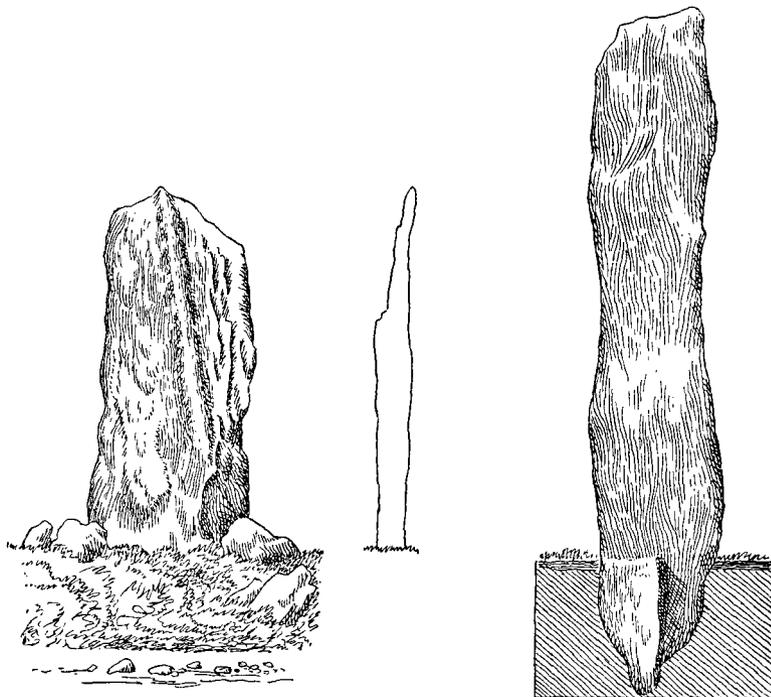


Fig. 11. Standing Stones Nos. 11 and 12 (No. 11 as if re-erected), Achnabreck.

13. *Standing Stone at Creagantairbh, Ford.* Fig. 12.

13. A mile and a quarter south-south-west of Ford Church, 130 yards east by south of Creagantairbh Beag farmhouse, close to the west side of the highway, stands the base of an obelisk, at the foot of

which the shaft lies prostrate. The base is 5 feet 6 inches high, and has an oblique ledge, half way up on to which the shaft would accurately fit. If restored, the height of the stone would be 16 feet 2 inches above ground, and it must have had a very handsome appearance,



Fig. 12. Standing Stone No. 13, as if restored, near Ford.

tapering in width as it gradually does from 2 feet 6 inches to 2 feet. It is 18 inches thick at the base and 10 inches to 12 inches at the top. Mr Romilly Allen, in a paper in our *Proceedings* in 1880, says that he saw it "inclined considerably from the perpendicular," so the shaft must have fallen comparatively recently.

14. *Standing Stone at Barnshallig, Tayvallich.* Fig. 13.

14. About 1500 yards south-west of Tayvallich Church, 300 south by east of Barnshallig farmhouse, and 140 east-south-east of the prehistoric fort on Dun Brònag, this slender stone stands conspicuously on a pleasant green plain in a sequestered open moorland. The stone is

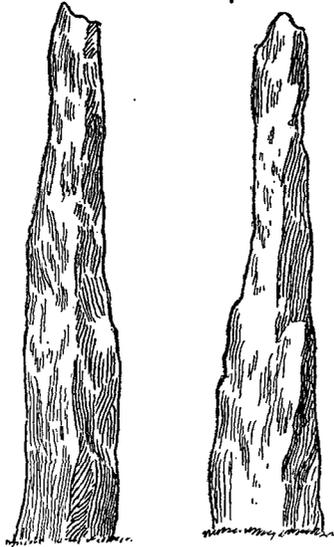


Fig. 13. Standing Stone No. 14, Barnshallig, Tayvallich.

11 feet high and three sided. I am informed by Dr Peach that a similar stone stands about 350 yards to south by west, near Upper Farnock, as marked on the Ordnance map.

The general remark concerning all these standing stones may be made, that they nearly all end in a point. Some gradually taper to the top. Others end in a peak at one end of the top. Occasionally the nearly level top is emphasised by a minute sharp point.

II. CROSS-SLAB AT KILMORY OIB, LOCH SWEEN.

Of the seven Early Christian Cross-slabs near Loch Sween described and figured by Captain, now Colonel, White, R.E.,¹ I have only seen

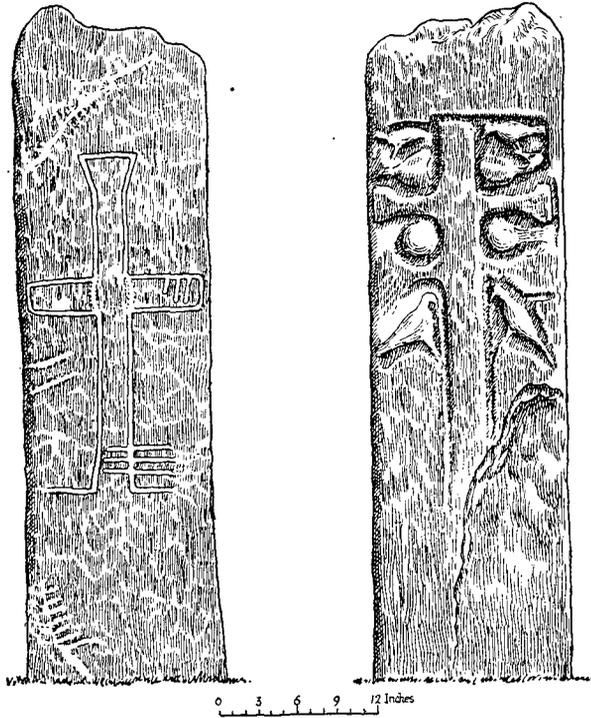


Fig. 14. Cross-slab, Kilmory Oib.

the one at Kilmory Oib. As my drawings, from rubbings made by myself, show some details not given in his freehand sketch, I reproduce them in fig. 14.

The slab stands sentry over a well at Kilmory Oib, a deserted hamlet,

¹ *Archæological Sketches in Scotland*,—Knapdale. Captain T. P. White, R.E.

3 miles north-east of Tayvallich, and half a mile east of the Caol Scotnish head of Loch Sween. With its back against a rocky hillside, the hamlet stands facing Loch Coil a' Bharra, on a shelf raised 90 feet above it and 200 above the sea. But although the loch is not 150 yards off, it is concealed from view by a natural bank at the edge of the shelf.

The approach from the north, leaving the highway near a sharp bend where there is a stone circle, is by a beautiful road of close green turf

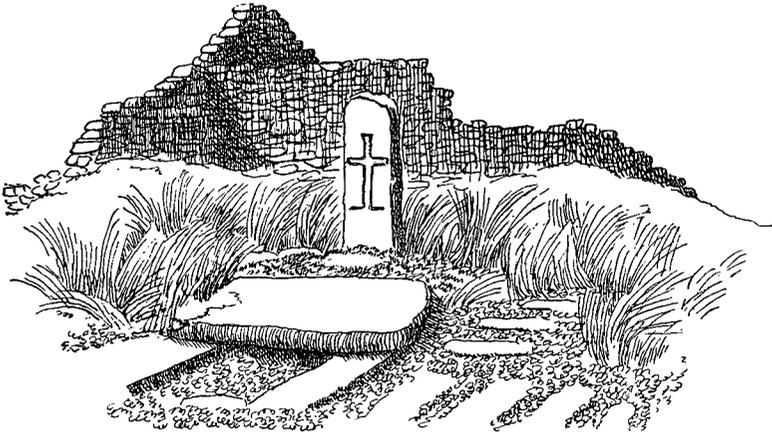


Fig. 15. Cross-slab and Ancient Well, Kilmory Oib.

along the shelf for 500 yards, and the hamlet, standing on a lovely sequestered site, is one of the most impressive of the many sad evidences of a vanished population that I have seen in the Highlands. Over the well the cross-slab still stands (fig. 15), where in all probability it was originally erected many centuries ago, in pious gratitude for the never-failing spring, which still flows abundantly from the square carefully-built well, headed by a massive slab, 6 feet 6 inches long and 2 feet 6 inches wide, laid between the well and the monument. A close level crop of watercress fills the well, the watercourse, and the neighbouring ground,

which must have been wet when the hamlet was inhabited, as stepping-stones lead to the well.

The cross-slab, fig. 14, is 4 feet 3 inches high, 1 foot 3 inches wide, and 4 inches to 5 inches thick. It has a cross on either side, each of which presents some unusual features. The one on the face towards the well is incised, the other on the back is in relief. The peculiarity in the incised cross is that it appears to have three perpendicular lines in the south arm of the cross, close to its outer margin, and three horizontal ones at the foot of the cross, within the shaft, and prolonged beyond it on one side. The horizontal direction of the one set and perpendicular direction of the other, as well as the similarity in depth and width to the incised lines of the cross itself, seem to indicate that these markings are original, and are not natural defects or the result of decay.¹ Seven parallel marks running in an oblique line near the foot of the stone, and a branching or leaf-like set of marks near the top, which come out in the rubbing, do not resemble the cutting of the cross, and are probably the result of decay or accident.

The cross in relief on the back is much worn. Even since Colonel White's freehand sketch was taken, the incised St Andrew's cross on the right side of the raised cross must have become very indistinct, as I did not notice it, and it came out very faintly, if at all, in my rubbing. The only other example of a rudely incised cross saltire among the Early Christian Monuments of Scotland appears to be not far off, at the very ancient burying-ground, *Cladh Bhile*, Ellary, Loch Caolisport, described by Mr William Galloway (*Proc. S.A. Scot.*, xii. 32, pl. iii. No. 4A).

The upper bird on the left of the cross, better preserved than its fellow, is perched on what at first I took to be the bill of another duck-like bird, but this is probably an odd result of decay.

Below the transverse bar, and separated only by a pair of bosses, is

¹ The only analogy to these triple lines that I know of is at Balquhiddy, where three parallel perpendicular lines are incised in the lower right quarter of a rudely incised cross on a slab with a sword.—*Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, pl. lxviii. 9.

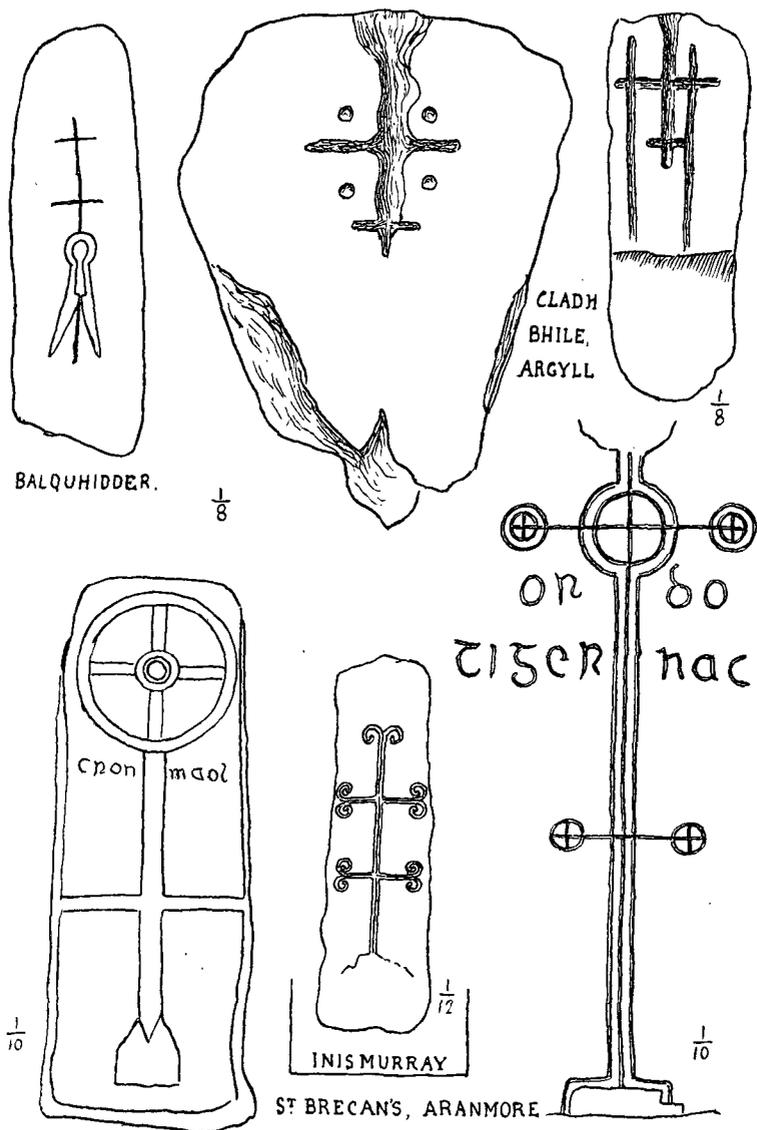


Fig. 16. Scottish and Irish "Patriarchal" Crosses.

apparently a second bar, with expanded ends like the one above. Colonel White took this for a pair of leaves, but they spring from the cross with such a wide flat surface that this seems unlikely. If it be a second bar, it is a unique example in Scotland of a "patriarchal" cross in relief. Three rude incised examples, however, are known, two at *Cladh Bhile* (*op. cit.*, pl. iii. 5B and pl. iv. 9), and one at Balquhidder (Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, ii., pl. lxviii. 7). The proximity of the bars does not seem to be an objection to the "patriarchal" theory, as in this respect much freedom was used. I have collected in fig. 16 the three incised Scottish examples, and for comparison the three known in Ireland (*Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language*, George Petrie, LL.D., edited by Miss M. Stokes).

III. STONE CIRCLE NEAR KILMORY OIB.

This circle, if it may be so called, as it is a well-defined oval, is 500 yards north by east of the sculptured stone and well at Kilmory Oib, about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile south-west of the farmhouse of Baranloisgan, close to a sharp bend in the road on its ascent of the pass to Loch Sween.

A very regular oval space, measuring 65 feet by 42 feet, is marked by a standing stone at each end of the long axis, a row of recumbent stones on the north-west side, and on the south-east side by the well-defined edge of a steep short slope to the marshy flat below, fig. 17. On the north-west side a steep hillside rises up, with a narrow level space between it and the circle. The contained area is slightly and regularly domed, and the whole conformation suggests artificial making-up, although rock crops out on the slope.

The erect stone at the south apex is a curious three-sided block, measuring 5 feet 10 inches round the base, 3 feet 2 inches in height towards the area, and 4 feet 4 inches towards the outside. The opposite one is a flat slab, 9 inches thick, 3 feet 9 inches in height, and 1 foot 9 inches to 2 feet 3 inches in width.

A dense growth of bracken and briars prevented me from surveying the recumbent stones accurately, and they are laid down in the figure only

in a rough way. They are thirteen in number, vary from about 3 to 6 feet in length, and lie generally pretty close to each other. Save one in the area, but near the south standing block, not a stone is to be seen at or near the south-east side.

This circle, if it may be so called, is unique in Scotland, as far as I

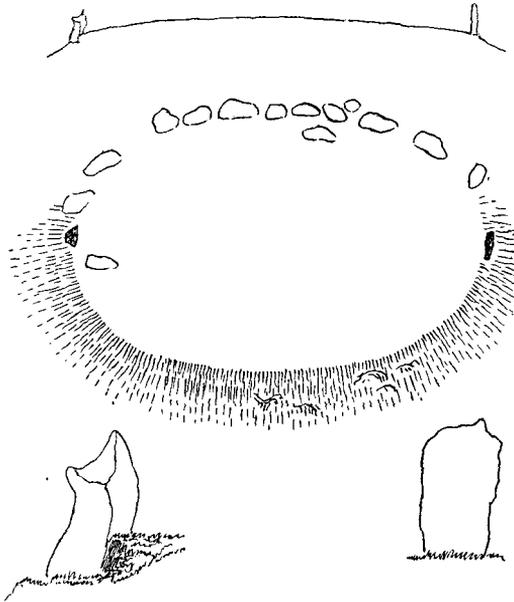


Fig. 17. Stone Circle near Kilmory Oib.

know, in its regular long oval form, and still more unique if the blocks at the apices were originally the only erect ones, as they are now. Whether the south-east side was originally lined by stones like the north-west side must remain doubtful, unless excavation may possibly reveal their beds. It is likely enough that they did exist and have been used up for road metal, as the circle stands temptingly, almost touching the highway.

IV. CUP- AND RING-MARKED ROCKS AND STONES.

The broad and easy path that leads from Lochgilphead by Cairnbaan and the valley of the Add to Loch Crinan must always have been an important line of communication between the east and west coasts of Argyle, and would naturally be occupied from very early times. Hence perhaps there is no other locality in Scotland that displays so many important cup- and ring-markings.

Beginning from the east, the following is a list of those that have already been recorded :—

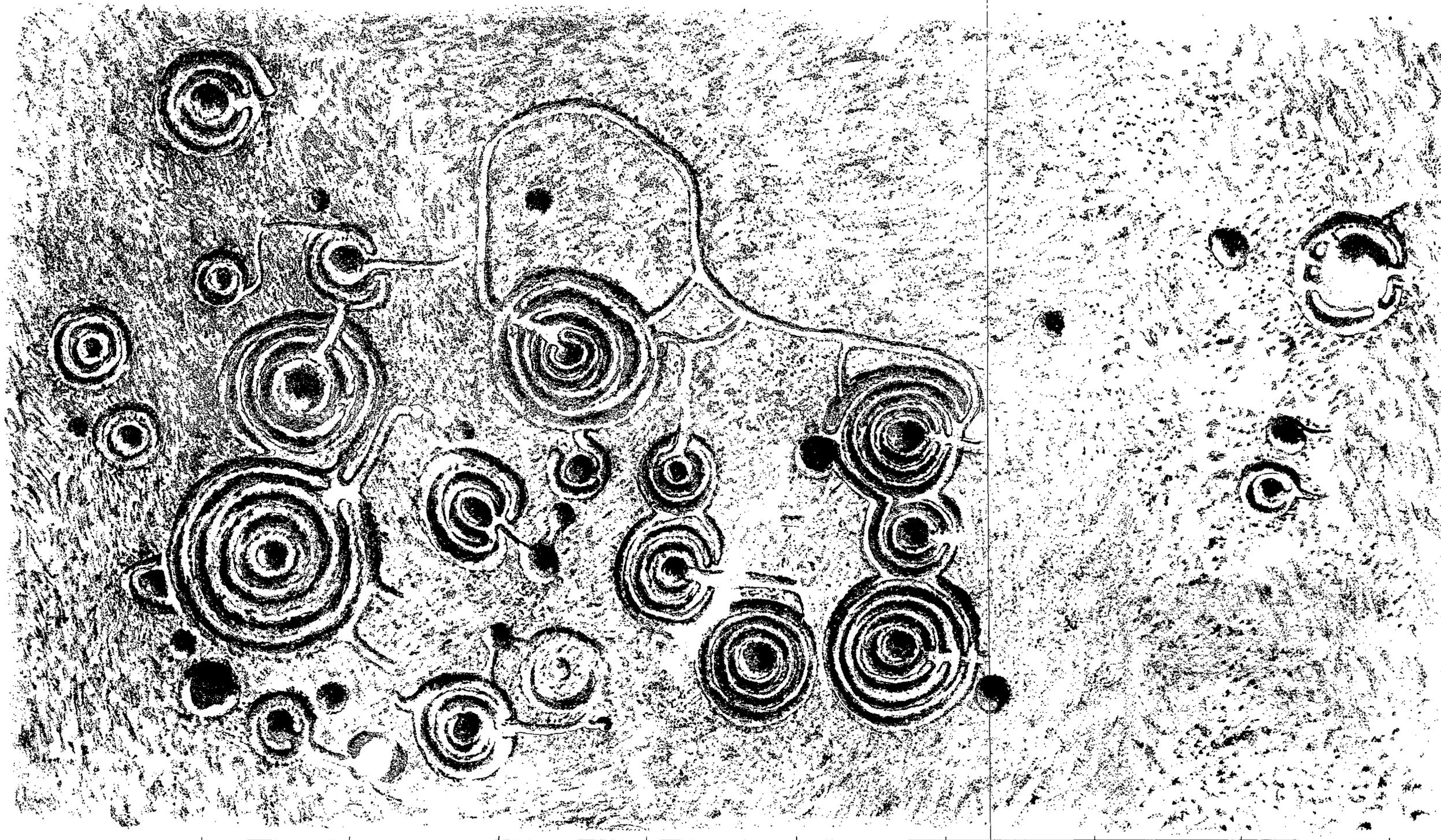
	No.
On Rocks,	1, 2, 3, three separate rocks at Achhabreck.
	4, one at Cairnbaan.
	5, one at Calton Mor (now Poltalloch).
	6, one at Baluachraig, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Kilmartin.
	7, one at Tyness.
On a Cist Slab,	8, ¹ one at Tyness, on "a sliding panel" of a cist, Cairnbaan.
On Standing Stones,	9, 10, two at Largie, Kilmartin.
	11, 12, 13, three at Ballymenach, Kilmartin.
	14, one at Tor a Bhlarain, Kilmichael Glassary.

All these except No. 6 were recorded by Sir James Simpson, and he gave complete or partial illustrations of all except Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 14.

Nos. 1, 2, and 7 are completely and No. 4 partially illustrated in *Incised Markings on Stone in Northumberland, Argyle, and other Places*, from drawings made in 1863 and 1864 by direction of Algernon, Duke of Northumberland, 1869.

No. 6 was first recorded by Mr Romilly Allen, and is figured by him, along with 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, in "Notes on some Undescribed Stones with Cup-markings in Scotland," *Proc. S.A. Scot.*, xvi. 79.

¹ Not truly a cup- or ring-marked stone, as the carving is rectangular.



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 FEET.

CUP AND RING MARKED ROCK AT CAIRNBAAN.

No. 5 was destroyed when first discovered, with the exception of two fragments which may still be preserved at Poltalloch.

The discovery only a few years ago of another rock-set at Kilmichael Glassary by Miss C. S. Campbell adds a 15th to the list. This and No. 14 are illustrated for the first time in the present paper, and I also give the Cairnbaan Rock, as my rubbings of it show details not given in Sir James Simpson's plate.

To produce my illustrations, the rubbings were copied on one-fourth of the scale, by measurement on paper ruled in squares. The drawings were studiously compared with the rock-markings, which should always be done, as details that do not come to the surface may be missed in the rubbings, and, on the other hand, the rubbings may prove apparent cups to be due to weathering. Finally, the drawings were reduced about one-fourth in the figures.

CUP- AND RING-MARKED ROCK AT CAIRNBAAN. (PLATE I.)

The rock lies 300 yards north by west of Cairnbaan Inn, on a level bit of moorland east of the disused slate quarries. As it does not rise above the grass and heather, it is not easily found, except by noting its position on the Ordnance map. The rock slopes gently in the long direction of the sculptured space, which measures 9 feet by $5\frac{1}{2}$, but the mass of the carvings is in the upper 6 feet by $4\frac{1}{2}$. There are in all 16 simple cups and 21 ringed cups, of which only 2 simple cups and 2 single-ringed cups are appropriated by the detachment at the foot. Sir J. Simpson's plate shows another simple cup and a one-ringed cup, detached a foot from the main set to the left, but these are now overgrown with turf. The cups are from 2 inches to 4 inches in diameter. The ringed cups have from 1 to 4 concentric circles, and the figures thus formed vary from 5 inches to 14 inches in diameter.

A certain degree of order, and particularly a tendency to an arrangement by threes, can be made out. Near the top are three ringed cups in line, diminishing in size to the right, and attached to each other, the

first to the second by intersecting it, the third to the second by a very short channel.

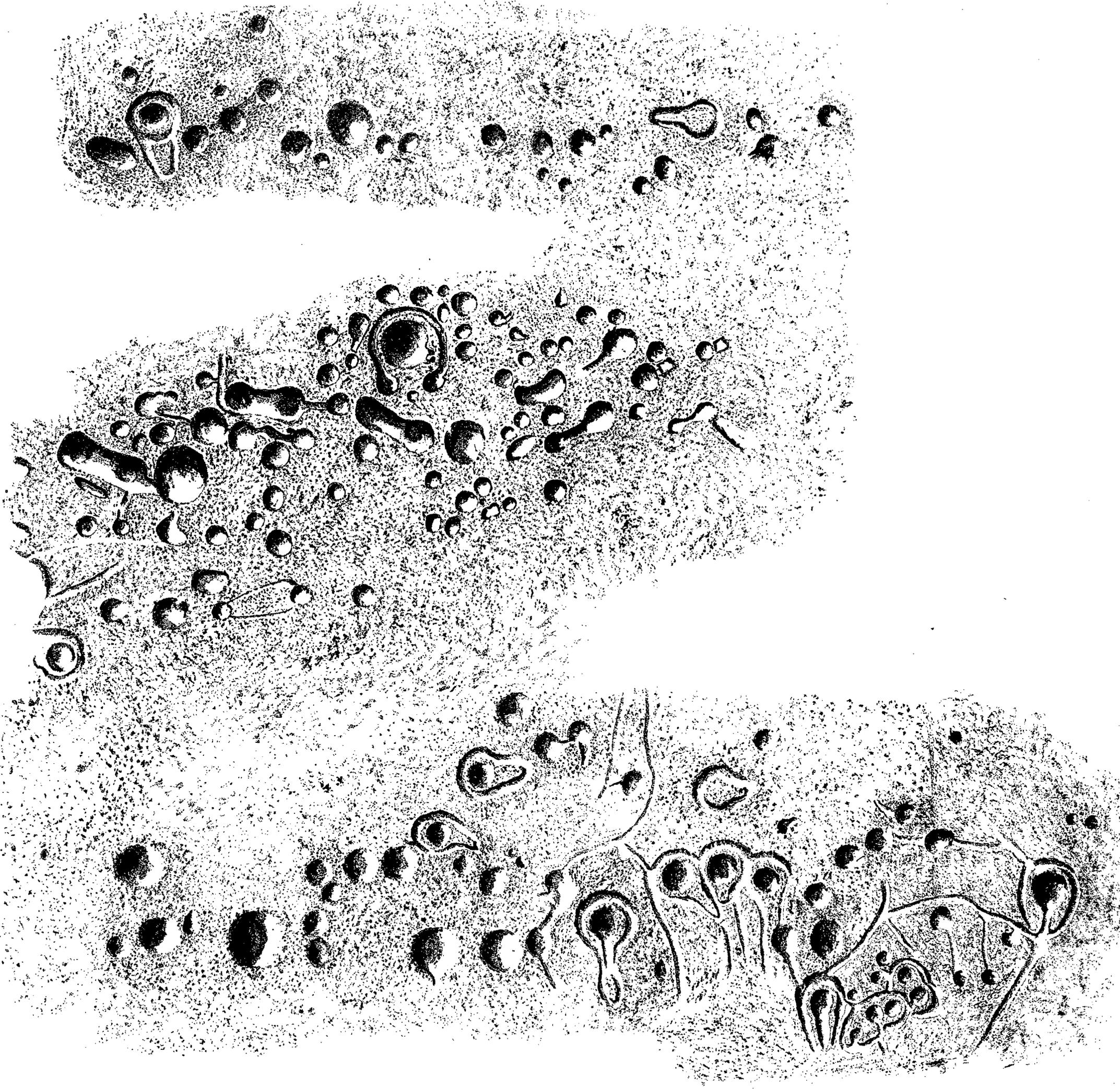
Below these are three others nearly in line, but widely detached from each other. Further down, three ringed cups are connected by intersections of the rings, and so are the lowest three of all, which, although almost touching the three above, are not connected with them either by intersection or by channels.

Possibly all the cups and circular figures were originally connected by channels, because, as the latter are quite shallow, they wear out sooner than the much deeper cups. Even now, with the exception of one or two breaks due to cracks in the rock, all four rows are connected with a channel, which, for no apparent reason, unless to include a solitary out-lying cup, takes a wide sweep over the unsculptured part of the rock to the right, and returning inwards, ends in the outer ring of the lowest right-hand figure. A long straight duct, shown in Sir James Simpson's plate, running down on the left from the main set towards the detached few at the bottom, I could not see.

Of minor details the most noticeable are: a small triangular annex at the top of the left-hand upper circle; a hooked annex to the right-hand circle of the second row; and in the same row, the form of the middle figure, where the two encircling grooves nearly unite below, but are cut off by ridges both from each other and from the central duct, which itself is cut off from the cup.

CUP-MARKED ROCK AT KILMICHAEL GLASSARY. (PLATE II.)

This example, discovered a few years ago by Miss C. S. Campbell, of the Manse, and only completely uncovered during my stay at Cairnbaan last autumn, lies about 100 yards from the church, on the opposite side of the road, on the old site of the village. The rock is partially subdivided into three parts by two clefts, but not so as to disconnect the parts entirely. This has apparently led, however, to the sculptures being arranged in three divisions, which, although they might have been connected, are not so, and each division has characteristics of its own. The



CUP MARKED ROCK AT KILMICHAEL-GLASSARY.

three sets run parallel to each other from south-south-west to north-north-east, and the rock, nearly level at the upper or north-west side, slopes gently in the middle to the south-east, ending with a steep fall from the lower margin of the cup-markings.

The Upper Division occupies a nearly level space of 8 feet by 2 feet. It contains—

- (1) Nineteen detached circular or oval cups, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 6 inches in diameter.
- (2) Two pairs of cups, each united by a shallow groove.
- (3) A pear-shaped figure, 11 inches by 8 inches, outlined by a groove, with a cup in the body of the pear, and a Minie-bullet-shaped flat boss in the neck.
- (4) Another, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, containing a round flat boss, with a long tongue-like projection.

The Middle Division, on a surface of 8 feet by from 1 foot to 2 feet 4 inches, contains—

- (1) Fifty-one detached circular or oval cups, 1 inch to 7 inches in diameter.
- (2) Two very elongated ovals and one broad curved hollow.
- (3) One cup with a blind projection.
- (4) A row of seven cups connected by a groove and two cups connected by two grooves.
- (5) Seven cups connected with other figures.
- (6) Six "dumbbells."
- (7) A large cup, nearly surrounded by a groove ending in small cups.
- (8) One cup and ring.

The Lower Division, on a space of $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 3 feet greatest breadth, contains—

- (1) Twenty-nine detached circular or oval cups, 1 inch to 6 inches in diameter.
- (2) Thirteen cups attached to each other or to other figures.
- (3) Eight pear-shaped or tongued figures.

- (4) Connected with one of them, a complex figure consisting of two oval spaces, enclosing or intimately related to eight small cups.
- (5) One ringed oval cup.

On the whole carved surface of the rock, the number of cups, detached, attached, and central, is 154, exclusive of two long oval excavations, and a broad curved one, and the cup-shaped ends of the dumbbells.

Of "dumbbells" there are six, and of pear-shaped or tongued figures ten.

In two of the latter the centre is not a cup, but a flat boss.

Whether by accident or intention, the carvings are sometimes so placed as to form complex designs. In the middle division there is the large cup, surmounted by a groove cupped at the ends, suggestive of a judge's head and wig, with an irregular ring of cups encircling the whole.

In the lower division three cups, whose rims have projecting tongues, are connected as a tripartite and much-channelled figure.

In the same division is the complex figure (4 in the list), which almost defies description.

Of concentric circles there are none, and even the simple circle can hardly be said to exist, except in one rather doubtful instance, at the left-hand bottom corner of the middle division, where the carving is much worn and partially erased. The tongue-like figures are indeed surrounded by grooves, but they are not circular, and their *raison d'être* seems to be to define the figures.

Characteristics of the three Divisions.

The upper set is extremely simple, consisting almost entirely of detached cups with two pear-shaped figures.

In the middle set are no pear-shapes, but the "dumbbell" is introduced, and there is the complex "wiggled" figure. The channel is very scantily represented.

In the third division the "dumbbell" is absent, but the "pear" or "tongue" reappears, and we have the tripartite tongued figure and the other indefinable design.

In the southerly half of this division channels continue to be almost absent, but in the northern half they abound, tending ultimately to run out at the edge of the steep fall in the rock to the east.

"Dumbell" Figures.

The dumbell or spectacle-like figure, proceeding from the junction of two cups by a channel or groove, is not uncommon in the Rock Sculptures of this country and the Continent. Sometimes it is represented as if, besides the surface resemblance, a second "dumbell" was sunk in the floor of the cavity, and I thought this was the case in one of those at Glassary, but it proved to be a deception, due to a sediment, and disappeared when the sediment was cleared out. In one of the Glassary examples both cups are deeper than the connecting groove. In another, only one cup is so.

Pear-shaped or tongued Figures.

In some, the tongue is a groove protruding from the cup, and in one of these a little oval boss occupies the tip of the tongue. In other cases the tongue is a solid projection from the rim of the cup. In two, the centre, instead of being a cup, is a boss, from which the solid tongue proceeds. These bosses are flat, and are simply the original rock surface left undisturbed, and defined by a groove. As far as I have observed, such tongued figures have not hitherto been recorded anywhere else, at home or abroad.

The Ducts or Channels.

The ducts or channels, both in the Cairnbaan and Glassary rocks, are not more than from a quarter to half an inch in depth, whereas the cups and rings average from 1 to 3 inches in depth. The ducts, therefore, could only serve as drains for the cups and rings to a very superficial extent. Moreover, the cups and rings are often purposely blocked where they join the ducts. Yet it is natural to regard them as drains, because they always tend to run in the direction of the downward slope of the rocks.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It is not my purpose to discuss the theories that have been started as to the origin and meaning of the mysterious and widely-spread cup-markings on rocks and stones, but I would merely point out the difficulty of reconciling with any one theory two sets of carvings so utterly different, although locally so near each other, as those of the Cairnbaan and Glassary rocks. If we take the ideographic theory, for example, the one set is apparently a totally different script from the other. I should like also to notice the danger of generalising, when a new discovery may at once upset conclusions that seemed warrantable enough. The seven sculptured rocks previously known in the Crinan district were all of the cup and ring type, but the newly found Glassary rock is of the cup type. Lastly, I may observe that the absence of traditions or legends concerning the cup-marked rocks, among a people so given to legends as the Highlanders, seems somewhat remarkable. Single marks, such as those said to have been made by the foot and knee of Ossian when he landed in his famous leap of a mile from Rudale to Dunadd, may draw legends around them, but even the imaginative mind of the Gael seems to have been unable to devise a legend that would fit the collected masses of cups and rings, and this apparent absence of any trace of a connection between them and his race may perhaps be regarded as a proof of their remote origin.

MONDAY, 8th February 1904.

ROBERT MUNRO, M.D., LL.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Candidate was duly elected a Fellow of the Society:—

Mr JOHN WATSON, Architect, 25 Frederick Street.

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



Fig. 1. Bead from Loch Ronald. (†.)

Fig. 2. Bead from Camelon. (†.)

(1) By the Right Hon. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, Bart., M.P.,
President.

Bead of Vitreous Paste, with yellow spots (fig. 1), found at Loch Ronald, Kirkcowan, Wigtownshire.

(2) By ROBERT BEATSON, Camelon.

Bead of Blue Vitreous Paste (fig. 2), having white spots with blue centres, found in the South Camp, Camelon.

Small Altar of Grey Sandstone, uninscribed, 15½ inches high, found at Camelon.

(3) By A. W. JOHNSTON, F.S.A. Scot.

Midrib of a Bone Comb, ornamented; and a plain Bone Handle of an Implement, with a hole for the tang, found in excavating near the

Round Church of Orphir, Orkney. (Figured in the last volume of the *Proceedings*, p. 24.)

- (4) By D. FRASER, Lochawe Hotel, through Rev. JOHN M'LEAN, Grandtully, F.S.A. Scot.

Slender Whetstone of Quartzite (fig. 3), $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, found in excavating near Lochawe Hotel.

- (5) By Professor G. BALDWIN BROWN, F.S.A. Scot.

The Arts in Early England. By G. Baldwin Brown, M.A., Watson-Gordon Professor of Fine Art in the University of Edinburgh. 2 vols. 8vo. 1903.



Fig. 3. Slender Whetstone of Quartzite found near Lochawe Hotel. (3.)

- (6) By ERSKINE BEVERIDGE, F.S.A. Scot.

Coll and Tiree: Their Prehistoric Forts and Ecclesiastical Antiquities, with Notices of Ancient Remains in the Treshnish Isles. By Erskine Beveridge, Author of *The Churchyard Memorials of Crail*, etc. 4to. 1903.

- (7) By Rev. W. A. STARK, F.S.A. Scot.

The Book of Kirkpatrick-Durham, Kirkcudbrightshire. By the Rev. William A. Stark, Minister of the Parish. 8vo. 1903.

- (8) By ALAN REID, F.S.A. Scot.

The Royal Burgh of Forfar: A Local History. By Alan Reid. 8vo. 1902.

Limekilns and Charleston: A Historical and Descriptive Sketch of a Notable Fifeshire Neuk. By Alan Reid. 8vo. 1903.

(9) By WILLIAM J. HAY, John Knox's House.

A Handbook and Directory of Old Scottish Clockmakers from 1550 to 1850. Compiled from Original Sources, with Notes by John Smith. 8vo. 1903.

(10) By Professor A. R. S. KENNEDY.

The Money of the Bible. (Reprint from the Encyclopædia Britannica.) 15 pp. and Plate.

The following Communications were read :--