

ON THE REMAINS OF THE ANCIENT CIRCULAR HABITATIONS
IN HOLYHEAD ISLAND, CALLED CYTTIAU'R GWYDDELOD,
AT TY MAWR, ON THE S.W. SLOPE OF HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN.

By the Hon. WILLIAM OWEN STANLEY, M.P.

IN many parts of Anglesey, but particularly near Holyhead, are to be seen in rough and uncultivated districts of heathy ground, over which the plough has never passed, certain low mounds, which on examination are found to be formed of a circular wall of stones, but are now covered with turf and dwarf gorse or fern. These walls generally enclose a space of from 15 to 20 ft. in diameter, with a doorway or opening always facing the south-west, and having two large upright stones about 4 or 5 ft. high as door-posts. These sites of ancient habitations are usually in clusters of five or more, but at Ty Mawr on Holyhead Mountain they form a considerable village of more than fifty huts, still to be distinctly traced. These villages are usually placed in positions sheltered by rising ground from the north-west winds, and are generally protected from hostile attack by rude walls of dry masonry or by precipitous rocks. Such remains of circular habitations have, time out of mind, been called *Cyttiau'r Gwyddelod*, or Irishmen's Huts; but, as Rowlands in his *Mona Antiqua* observes, this is a vulgar error, if by *Gwyddelod* be meant the inhabitants of Ireland, who never inhabited Anglesey so as to have left any remains of their creals and cottages behind them, seldom staying long in it: but, "if by *Gwyddelod* be meant aborigines, the first inhabitants, as it is not unlikely it may, for the two words that make up that name are purely British, viz. *Gwydd* and *Hela*, *i.e.* wood-rangers, perhaps the common appellation of the aborigines, lost with us and retained only by the Irish, then the objection falls to the ground, and the instance confirms the conjecture that they are the remains of the first planted

habitations while they were destroying the woods and cultivating the country.”¹

In connexion with the supposed tradition that would ascribe these sites of dwellings to Irish occupants, I may refer to a very interesting memoir in this Journal, on the Cloghauns, or ancient habitations, of a similar nature, in the County of Kerry in Ireland, by Mr. G. V. Du Noyer, who states that the Rev. C. Graves, D.D., now Bishop of Limerick, informed him, during the meeting of the British Association at Dublin in 1857, “that he was acquainted with a Welsh poem of undoubted antiquity and authenticity, wherein was given a description of the earliest stone houses erected in Wales. It was stated that in the time of Caractacus, the Welsh cut down all their great forests in order to render their country less tenable to the invading Romans; and, as they had hitherto constructed their houses of wood, when this timber failed them they adopted the Irish form of stone houses, that of the bee-hive, constructed of dry masonry, a mode of building hitherto unknown in Wales. This interesting record fixes the date of the Welsh Cloghauns, and affords us strong evidence of the antiquity of that form of house in Ireland.”²

We have also numerous vestiges of such ancient habitations in various parts of England, amongst which may specially be cited a similarly constructed bee-hive hut, to be seen in Cornwall, at Bosphrennis, in the parish of Zinnor.³

The circular form for their dwellings seems to have been almost universally adopted by the earliest races of men in all countries. The nomad tribes of the East, the earliest of all, formed their circular tents with a few poles, probably covered with skins before the invention of cloth made of camel's hair, removing their tents from time to time as they required fresh pasture for their flocks and herds. The

¹ Rowlands, *Mona Antiqua*, p. 27.

² *Archæol. Journal*, vol. xv. p. 22. A writer in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, vol. v., third series, p. 307, criticised somewhat severely the suggestion received from the learned prelate, as above stated, by Mr. Du Noyer, whose reply is given, *ibid.* vol. vi. p. 148, where he cites as his authority the curious Tale published in the Iolo MSS. by the Welsh

MS. Society, entitled “The Account of Caradoc.” The Poem is doubtless, as Mr. Du Noyer observes, not of “undoubted antiquity;” but the description given in it of the bee-hive stone hut is so perfectly applicable to that of the cloghaun, that it well merits the attention of the antiquary.

³ *Arch. Camb.* vol. ix., third series, p. 120.

savage tribes also of Africa, the wild Indians of America, the Islanders of the Pacific, the inhabitants of New Guinea, who construct circular houses on platforms over the water, like the ancient lake-dwellers on the Swiss lakes, the Esquimaux, with his ice-formed hut, and the Lapp, all adopt the circular form to this day. An ancient race of men scooped out circular holes in the chalk and gravel near Salisbury, covering the top with wattle and baked clay. When man in his rude state only required shelter from the heat or inclemency of the weather, the circular form was the easiest of construction, and also that best suited to resist the force of wind and rain, or even the attacks of wild beasts. The one entrance gave sufficient light, and the cooking was either conducted outside in pits, or the boiling was contrived within the hut, by means of hot stones, heated outside the dwelling and then placed in a raw skin filled with water, or, as civilization gained ground, in rude earthen vessels, which, in early times, may not have been sufficiently hard and well baked to bear exposure to the open fire.

In the autumn of 1862, Mr. Albert Way being with me at Penrhos, I directed two or three of the circular huts at Ty Mawr to be cleared of the turf and stones from the fallen roof which filled the interior. On clearing out one of the most perfect of these circular mounds, which stood by itself apart from the other clusters of huts, we found that the interior had been divided across the centre by a line of flat stones placed upright in the ground on the floor of the hut. They were about 2 ft. high, and 2 in. thick ; there was a passage left in the middle, and to the right, on entering the space inside this division, there was a square fire-place, formed on two sides by flat stones or jambs placed at right angles to the division before mentioned, and forming the back of the fire-place. It was about 18 in. wide, and 2 ft. deep, open in front. When first discovered, it was half filled with round stones and flat pebbles about the size of the hand, which had been collected from the sea-shore ; all these had the undoubted marks of having been heated in the fire. There was also the appearance of great heat having been applied to the sides and back-slab of the fire-place, but we noticed no remains of charcoal or ashes mixed with the stones. On the right of the fire-place, in a niche made in the outer wall of the hut, we found some handfulls of limpet and periwinkle shells, no

doubt relics of the food of the inmates. A saddle-shaped quern of coarse grit (see woodcuts), and two rubbing-stones or grinders of the same grit-stone, were found on the floor of the hut ; also a small perforated circular stone, about one inch in diameter, of the kind usually supposed to have been whorls for spinning. A core of hard trap had the appearance of having been chipped to obtain flakes for arrow-heads ; and here and there other stones had indications on them, as having been used as hones for sharpening celts or other instruments, for pounding substances used as food, or breaking bones to extract the marrow. All these relics seem to indicate a Stone Age of very early date. No fragments of pottery or iron were found.

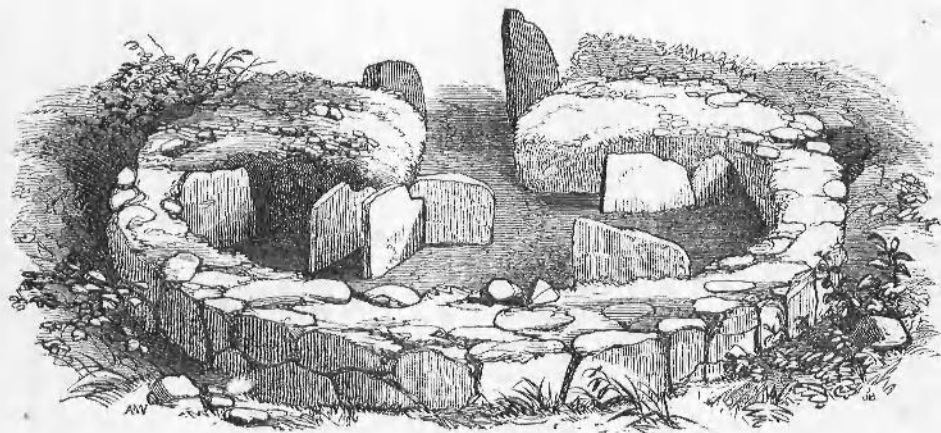
In the other huts excavated there was no sign of any division in the centre or of any fire-place.

In the year 1832, the tenant of Ty Mawr farm, Hugh Hughes, on removing some of the large stones near the huts, found underneath them a considerable number of bronze spear-heads of different forms and sizes ; also well formed bronze celts, axe-shaped and socketed, with rings of various sizes, armlets, and a great many red amber beads. Representations of the most interesting of these relics accompany the present memoir.⁴

The situation of this village is on the south-west slope of Holyhead Mountain, above Ty Mawr farm, and extending from the road and gate leading to the South Stack Light-house, about 600 yards towards the east. It is well sheltered from the north by a steep face of rock and the flank of the mountain. An accurate survey has been made by my agent, Mr. T. P. Elliott : about fifty circular huts are easily traced, as marked on the plan, but there are indications of many more which have been nearly obliterated by the cultivation of the land and by removal of the stones for building walls as fences. These dwellings are placed—some singly, some clustered together—without any regular plan ; some have smaller circular rooms attached, without a separate external entrance, similar to those described in the Kerry cloghauns, which the Irish call dog-kennels, and very

⁴ The discovery has been noticed in this Journal, see vol. vi. p. 237 ; and in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxvi. p. 483. It deserves notice that a stone mould for casting spears and celts of similar fashion

to some of those disinterred at Ty Mawr has occurred in Anglesey ; it was found between Bodwrdin and Tre Ddafydd, and is figured in this Journal, vol. iii. p. 257.



Hut-Circle, one of the *Cyttiau'r Gwyddelod*, at Ty Mawr, on Holyhead Mountain; on the estates of the Hon. W. O. Stanley.

Excavated in 1862.

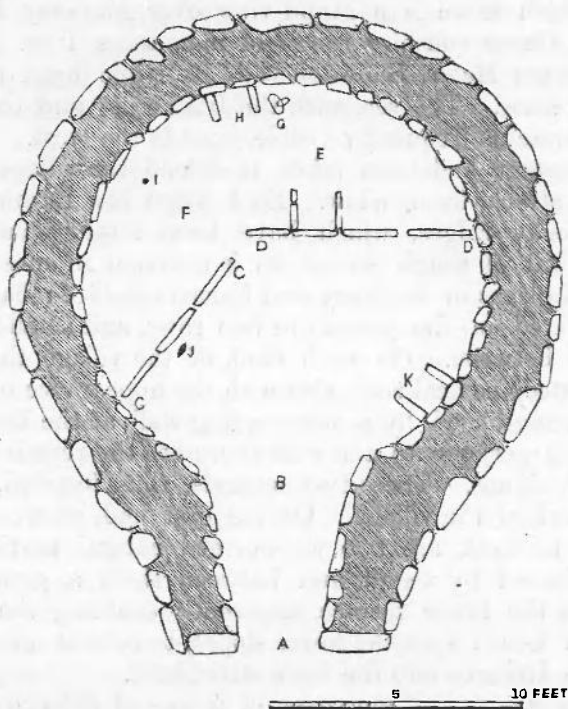
probably the dogs for the chase were kept in them. The entrance is always facing the south-west, and many of the large upright door-posts are still standing.

The village is placed on a flat terrace of ground, about 60 yards wide on the north-east, but double that width on the south-west. An almost perpendicular cliff, about 25 ft. high, defends it on the mountain side to the north. The ground falls, in several gradual slopes, towards the south, from which there is a grand view over Anglesey, bounded by the Carnarvonshire range of mountains, from Bardsey to Penmaen Mawr, Snowdon with its triple head towering in the centre. The sea, with the Irish coast and the Wicklow mountains frequently visible, bounds the west.

Advantage had been taken to defend the village against hostile attack from below. Each slope has terminated in small rocky ridges, which have been strengthened by a double wall of rough stones, as is common in most of the fortified places in Anglesey and Carnarvonshire; flat stones being fixed in the ground in two rows, and smaller stones built in between. On each flank of the village there is a rather steep conical rock, also with the appearance of having been strengthened by a surrounding wall at the base; and on the larger one to the west there are the remains of circular dwellings. These two mounds, thus fortified, defend each flank of the village. On the east end, where the huts cluster thickest, are two well-formed natural bastions, also strengthened by a wall, and between them a grassy slope leads to the lower terrace, apparently enabling the inhabitants, if forced from the lower slopes, to retreat under cover of these defences into the main stronghold.

There are traces moreover of a line of defence which I have noticed at Inys Benlas, a remarkable detached rock on the shore to the south-west of the huts, by Tyn y Nant, crossing the road above Ty Mawr farm-house, and thence by the East end of the village of Cyttiau, along the mountain ridge to Meini Meillion, which is indicated in the Ordnance Map as the site of ancient vestiges, and thus to the precipitous parts of the mountain with the remarkable stronghold on its summit. These traces are indicated by Mr. Elliott in the survey that accompanies this memoir. Possibly they may have some connection with the ancient approach from the shore, which is mostly hemmed in by cliffs and unap-

ANCIENT CIRCULAR HABITATIONS IN HOLYHEAD ISLAND.



Ground-plan of a Hut-Circle at Ty Mawr, excavated in October, 1862.

A. Door-posts and entrance, width 3 ft. B. Passage into the hut, width 6 ft. C C, and D D. Partitions of upright slabs. E. Cooking chamber and fireplace. F. Chamber at the corner of which lay a grinding stone. G. near a fireplace, as supposed. H. also a spindle whorl. I J. A second grinding stone. K. Supposed fireplace.

From measurements by Mr. T. P. Elliott, of Penrhos.

proachable rocks along the Western side of Holyhead Island. The most convenient landing-place in this part of the coast may have been at Hén Borth, immediately below the group of hut-circles ; a little farther to the South there is a small dangerous bay, shown in the Ordnance Map, and called Porth y Gwyddel. The natural landing-place on the West coast of the Island, however, seems to have been at Porth Dafarch.

No one can examine the whole position without being struck with the skill evinced in the selection of this site for these habitations, and the way in which it is protected against hostile attack ; particularly if we take into consideration the rude weapons of offence in those early times, before the invention even of bows and arrows. More recent examination of the ground leads to the belief that the protecting line of defence extended from the steep cliffs above the sea, on the West, to a precipice of the mountain on the East, thus placing the village in connection with the strong fortified camp on the summit called Mur Caswallon.

I am inclined, with Mr. Rowlands, to give a very early date to these structures, and to think that the people who first inhabited these huts were not the Irish rovers, but the aboriginal race of men who first peopled Anglesey. It is, however, probable that these villages were inhabited until much later times ; and, as is proved in similar habitations near the Menai, examined by Mr. Wynn Williams, as noticed hereafter, were occupied by the Roman invaders in the first century. The Irish, we know, made their incursions into Anglesey frequently during the third and fourth centuries, until finally driven out by Caswallon ; he defeated their chief, Cerigi, who was killed at Holyhead A.D. 450. Up to the year 900, the Irish and Danes made frequent raids into Anglesey, but it does not seem certain that they ever formed a permanent settlement in the island.

It will be observed, on reference to the description of the Irish cloghauns by Mr. G. V. Du Noyer, that he could never find any trace of a fire-place or a window. Dr. Petrie, in his *Inquiry into the Round Towers of Ireland*,⁵ attributes

⁵ The Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland, anterior to the Norman Invasion ; pp. 124, 126. See also Dr. Petrie's Essay on the Ancient Military Architec-

ture of Ireland, where the mode of construction used by the earlier colonists is described.

the erection of the circular cloghauns to the Firbolg and Tuatha de Dannan tribes who inhabited the country long prior to the introduction of Christianity.

On examining the present state of the Cyttiau'r Gwyddelod, it is difficult to decide with certainty whether the huts were built in bee-hive form with a stone roofing, like the Irish and Cornish huts, or covered with timber poles and sods over them ; some persons are inclined to think, from the quantity of stones that have fallen into the huts, that they may have had stone roofs formed of slabs "stepped over," according to the technical term, or overlapping each other and forming a rudely fashioned but very durable dome.

From the small dimension of the huts—15 ft. to 20 ft. in diameter inside—it is hardly possible to suppose that the hut opened in 1862, with a division in the centre, could have been used as a dwelling-house ; and from the absence of any appearance of a division, or of a fire-place, in the others, I am inclined to think that they used certain huts set apart for cooking—as do at the present time the negroes in Jamaica, who always have huts separate. It has been lately stated that "the negro never cooks in his hut ; his fire-place is in the open air, close to his hut ; or he has a small kitchen as an outbuilding in his yard."⁶ The gipsy also has his fire outside the tent.

Tylor, in his *Early History of Mankind*, p. 262, informs us that the Assinaboins, or stone-boilers, dig a hole in the ground, take a piece of raw hide and press it down to the sides of the hole, and fill it with water : they then make a number of stones red-hot in a fire close by, the meat is put into the water, and hot stones dropped in until it is boiled. In Ossian's *Fingal* we read :—"It was on Cromla's shaggy side that Douglas placed the deer, the early fortune of the chase. Before the heroes left the hill, a hundred youths collect the heath ; ten heroes blow the fire ; three hundred chuse the polished stones." This passage is thus explained in a note by M'Pherson :—"The ancient manner of preparing feasts after hunting is handed down by tradition. A pit lined with smooth stones was made ; near it stood a heap of flat stones of the flint kind. The stones as well as the pit were properly heated with heather ; they then laid the venison at the bottom, and a stratum of stones above it,

⁶ The "Times," April 12, 1866.

and this they did alternately until the pit was full; the whole was then covered with heath to confine the steam."⁷

It is almost useless to multiply instances, such as the mode by which the South Sea Islanders and other nations cook their pigs and animal food.⁸

The peculiar form of fire-place discovered in the hut at Ty Mawr, the round and flat stones half filling it, large heaps of stones outside the hut, all bearing marks of having been intensely heated in fire—just those which would be used for stone-boiling or cooking in pits—all would point out that such had been the custom of cooking their food practised by the early inhabitants of these huts. If we consider the small size of the dwellings, and if like the Irish and Cornish huts they had no aperture at the top, it would have been almost impossible for the inmates, without suffocation, to have made a fire inside of wood, heath, or gorse. We may therefore conclude that the larger animals were cooked in pits outside, but that shell fish, or small portions, were boiled or roasted on hot stones, and that such grain as they possessed was roasted, and ground by the querns, inside the dwelling.

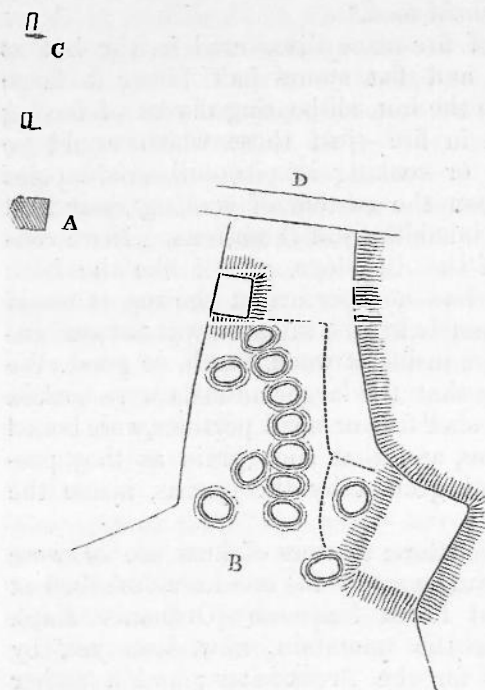
The remains of four of these clusters of huts are or were to be seen near Holyhead; namely the one here described at Ty Mawr; another, at Porth Namarch (Ordnance Map), on the north-east side the mountain, now destroyed by the extensive quarries for the Breakwater; and a rather large colony at Inys Llyrad (the Island by the Ford), on the Anglesey side of the Penrhos river, halfway between the Stanley embankment and the Four-mile Bridge. This island at high water is quite surrounded by the sea, and two hundred years ago it was the only approach to the Island of Holyhead at low water, by crossing the ford below to the Mill Island, on the Holyhead side of the stream. There is a small steep conical island, about a mile S. W. of Ty Mawr, called Inys Benlas, or Inys Swyddog (the Soldiers' Island). It bears the appearance of having been used as a fortified post, and, from the large number of loose stones which have been collected at the top, may afterwards have been a cairn

⁷ The "milk stones," described by Sir C. Jervoise, Bart., in *Arch. Journal*, vol. xx. p. 371, may be vestiges of some similar practice amongst the ancient inhabitants

of Hampshire.

⁸ See Sir J. Lubbock's *Prehistoric Times*, p. 380, and Tylor's *Early History of Mankind*, p. 266, &c.

or burial-place, or perhaps a watch-post for fire-signals to warn the Ty Mawr village of hostile attacks. There is also the appearance of a small cluster of huts at Plas, in lower



Group of Hut-circles at Plas.

A. Farmhouse at Plas. B. Hut-circles and earth-works.
C. Erect stones or Meinihirion (height, 11 ft.). D. Road to Holyhead.

ground, about half a mile to the South of that place, but recent cultivation has nearly obliterated all the circles. There seem to have been huts both of square and circular form; this ancient village has been strongly protected by natural ravines and stone walls. Here also are two large upright stones, or Meinihirion, about 11 ft. high. Tradition says that a large coffin was found between them, composed of several flat stones and enclosing remains of bones, with spear-heads and arrow-

heads, but I am unable to obtain accurate evidence of the facts.

If we suppose all these four villages to have been inhabited at the same time, giving five persons to a family or hut, and that there were 200 huts, we should have a large population for so small a district; probably at that time proximity to the sea gave the means of subsistence, and the interior of Anglesey was dense forest, bog, and waste land, when the Romans invaded it.

That the bronze weapons found in the huts at Ty Mawr, being objects mostly of Irish type, should be regarded as a convincing proof that they were inhabited by the Irish

rovers, may, I think, admit of a doubt. The discovery might be explained (as they were all found in a heap in one spot) by the conjecture that they were the spoils of the Irish after some defeat—perhaps that of Cerigi at Holyhead, by Caswallon. Still we must remember that moulds have been found in Anglesey for casting spear-heads and celts of the same form as these found at Ty Mawr.⁹

On the summit of Holyhead Mountain are the remains of a wall of defence, composed of very large unhewn stones, from 10 to 15 ft. high, in places where the natural face of the rock is not sufficiently precipitous. It has a well-constructed and defended entrance facing the south-east. The wall is called *Mur Caswallon*, and is marked in the Ordnance Map as *Caer Gybi*. It enclosed a space of sixty or more acres, and probably was the place of refuge against invaders, the cattle being driven up there for safety. The Romans may have used it, as some gold coins of Constantine were found on the east side of the fortress, about 1820, by a person digging turf. At Penrhos, in 1852, a small copper coin, also of Constantine, was found a foot below the surface of the ground. The reverse, under two armed soldiers with helmets and spears, each with a trophy before them—*TRS.* and *GLORIA EXERCITUS*—denotes that the coin was struck at Treves in honour of the victorious army. Several other vestiges of the Romans have been found from time to time near Holyhead.

Just below Ty Mawr, at Pen y Bonc, a curious jet necklace was found in a rock-grave (see the accompanying woodcuts).

The Rev. W. Wynn Williams has examined and described several circular habitations and fortified places near the Menai.¹ One, at Porthamel, on the top of a limestone rock, is defended by a wall through which there is a well-defined entrance; within are 16 or 17 circular huts or foundations; another group exists at Llangeinwen.² All these habitations and camps have certainly been used by the Romans, as coins and Samian pottery are found on excavation. It is highly probable that the Romans took advantage of these fortified villages to shelter and defend themselves

⁹ See *Arch. Journal*, vol. iii. p. 257; vol. vi. p. 358.

¹ *Arch. Camb.* vol. iii. N. S. p. 209.

² *Ibid.* vol. ix., third series, p. 278.

from the natives after their battle on crossing the Menai Straits. Probably the island was held in subjection by small detachments on the Menai, also at Holyhead and its neighbourhood close to the sea. No remains, that I have heard of, are found of any villa or permanent abode. A Roman road crosses Anglesey from Porthamel to Holyhead, by Four-mile Bridge, near which is *Caer Helen*, a Roman camp. It is believed that the Romans worked the *Amlwch* copper mines. Old workings have been found, and stone boulders from the sea shore, now in the British Museum, for breaking the rock. It is probable that the miners lighted fires of brushwood; when the rock was heated, they threw water upon it, and with these stones detached the rock. The only object of metal known to me as having been found is a small pointed piece of bronze in old workings at *Llandudno*; it was sent to me by Lady Erskine of *Pwlycrochan*, near *Conway*, and was exhibited by her permission at a meeting of the Institute in 1850.³

The Romans brought no doubt a certain amount of civilization with them; but in ancient records we read that after the Romans left the country the Druids returned to *Mona*, and exercised their Pagan rites of worship, when driven by the early dawn of Christianity from other parts of Britain. About the year 600 *St. Kybi* was established at Holyhead,⁴ with other anchorites, who may probably have founded the numerous chapelries, *Capel y Llochwyd* near the top of the mountain, towards the precipitous northern side of the Island,⁵

³ Possibly the end or tip of a small ingot. See notices of this and other relics of metallurgical operations in North Wales, in this Journal, vol. vii. p. 68. In the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street, London, there is a stone maul from the Old Mine, *Nant-yr-Arian*, *Aberystwith*; also a number of stones with shallow basins and "buckering" stones, for pounding ore. These are from ancient workings in *Cardiganshire*.

⁴ A.D. 580, *St. Kebius* flourished and founded a monastery at *Caer Guby*. See notices in *Dugdale's Monasticon*: edit. *Caley*, vol. vi. p. 1475.

⁵ The site of *Capel y Llochwyd* (loxyd, wilderness) is now marked by a heap of shapeless ruins. Not far distant there is a remarkable precipitous gully, or crevice, through which a dangerous path descends to a spring of fresh water

near the shore. The spot is indicated in *Speed's Map, 1610*—"Chap. *Yloughwid*." Amongst many wild traditions connected with this singular place may be mentioned that of a gold image of a female, with one arm, concealed amongst the ruins of the Chapel; to this popular fable very probably the total overturning of the remains of the little building may have been due. No trace of wall can now be recognised. The deep crevice in the cliff may have served for escapes or for secret access from the sea to the great fortress on Holyhead Mountain, to which it might form a sort of covered postern. Moreover, the remarkable supply of fresh water to be thus obtained could not fail, in times of extremity, to be of much value either to the anchorite or to the occupant of *Mur Caswallon*.

Llan Saint Fraid at Towyn y Capel,⁶ Capel Gorlas, and Capel Gwyngena.⁷

The singular burial mound at Towyn y Capel, on the margin of a little bay on the western shore of Holyhead Island, has been described in a former volume of this Journal. The large number of skeletons there accumulated in successive tiers, and being it is believed those of adult males only, suggested the inference that they had there been slain in some deadly conflict. It was stated that the corpses had been deposited, not in parallel rows, but radiating from the centre of the mound. It is desirable to correct the erroneous impression thus formerly entertained in regard to the interment. The mound, having subsequently become breached by violence of storms, has wholly perished, and the graves have from time to time been seen on all its sides. They may have been about 400 in number. The bodies had all been placed with the heads towards the west.

Holyhead town, it is believed, was pillaged and burnt by the Irish and Danes about A.D. 900.

With regard to these early habitations of man, of which I have endeavoured to describe so remarkable an example in the foregoing observations, nothing is more difficult than to attempt to fix a date. At Ty Mawr we find only the rudest form of stone implements for the purpose of crushing grain and preparing food, and the remains of shell-fish; also bronze weapons with ornaments concealed in a heap under a stone, which is by no means an unusual circumstance.

The only guide that we have to approximate to the age when these early habitations may have been occupied, will be the nature and substance of the articles found on excavation. We may thus divide the periods. First, the rudest form of stone implements almost entirely used for crushing or pounding food, with a total absence of any sort of pottery or weapons of offence. Next we have rude remains of pottery, bronze and stone weapons, with flint arrow-heads, by their form adapted for the defence of man against hostile

⁶ Arch. Journ., vol. iii. p. 226. In the map engraved by Hondius, 1610, and given by Speed, this remarkable spot is shown as "Llansaufraid," namely, church of St. Bride, by whom doubtless the

small oratory on the summit of the mound was dedicated.

⁷ Is not this the ancient name of Rhoscolyn—Gwainfain, as mentioned in an old document, *z.* Edward IV?

attacks of man, and also for the destruction of savage beasts or the larger animals for food.

At a later period we find, at Fisherton near Salisbury, in the caves of the South of France, and the Pfahlbauten of the Lakes of Switzerland, a higher state of civilisation ; pottery with some attempt at ornament, rude drawings of animals on bones, nets, also twine, needles for sewing, barbed arrow and spear-heads, very similar to those still used by the Esquimaux or South Sea Islanders. Yet, in the vestiges near Salisbury, the relics of the Lake-dwellers in Switzerland, or in those of the inhabitants of the caves in France, we do not recognise weapons of war.

In many of these early habitations in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, there is all the appearance of successive occupation, more particularly exemplified in the recent excavations of ancient subterraneous structures by Mr. S. Laing, M.P., in Caithness, the lowest portion of which exhibits the features of the Cyttiau in Wales, such as rude stone implements and remains of shellfish.

We may, I think, surely place the probable occupation of these Holyhead habitations in the earliest of these periods.

With these few remarks, I must leave this interesting question to be solved by others more experienced and more learned than myself.