

GAULISH FORTRESSES ON THE COAST OF BRITTANY.

(AR CHASTEL COZ, THE OLD CASTLE, FINISTERE.)

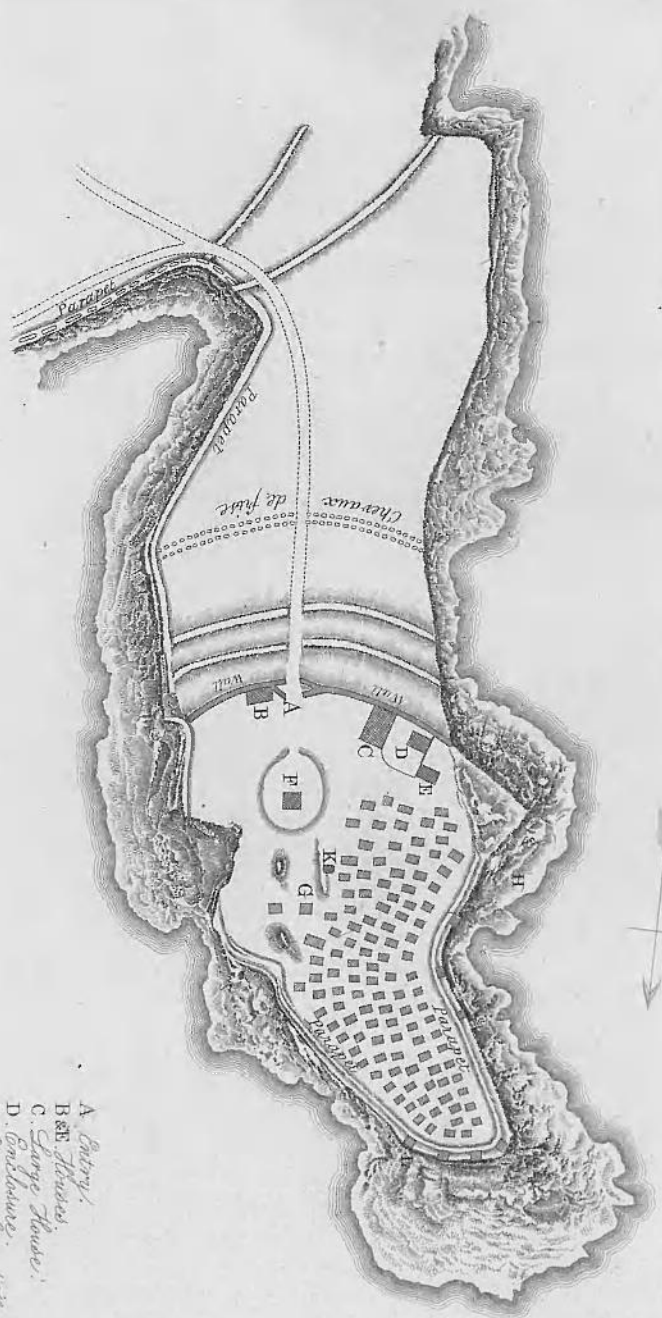
By R. F. LE MEN, of Quimper.

ABOUT half way between Douarnenez and the Pointe du Raz, and following the Roman road, which runs parallel to the coast-line, the traveller reaches the bourg (or what in England would be called a village) of Beuzec-cap-Sizun. This bourg, situated on the summit of an almost uncultivated plateau, from which the sea is visible, was formerly the chief place of a deanery and territory known in the middle ages as Pagus-cap-Sizun. It embraced within its limits eleven parishes, and must formerly have been a place of considerable importance, if one may judge from the number of Roman and Celtic monuments still remaining. It is bounded on the north and west by the sea, on the south by the Bay of Audierne and the river of Pont Croix, and on the east by the small streamlet called Riz, which runs into the Bay of Douarnenez.

The ancient parish of Beuzec, so called from St. Budoc, a Breton saint of the sixth century, has become so much reduced since its transformation into a commune, at the end of the last century, that the traveller can find no accommodation of any kind. The church, with the exception of the tower (a copy of the remarkable one at Pont Croix), is devoid of all details of interest.

The bourg is little more than a mile from the sea, which is reached by a narrow path across a wild heath, rapidly descending as it approaches the shore. At this point an immense rock, with almost perpendicular sides, and rising the height of about 150 ft. above the level of the shore, forms a small peninsula connected with the mainland by a narrow tongue, which is not always safe to cross with a strong west or north-west wind. This work is called by the natives Ar Chastel Coz, or old castle; and its claim to be called a castle is fully borne out by the strong defences constructed by men at a period when such a work, in con-

20 40 60 80 100 Meters.



Plan of Castle Loz.
Commune de Buzes-cap-Vivien Haute-Garonne.

- A. Entry.
- B & C. Towers.
- C. Long House.
- D. Enclosure.
- E. Modern Guard House.
- F. Stables.
- G. Granary.
- H. Kitchen.
- I. Stables.
- J. Stables.
- K. Stables.
- L. Stables.

nection with its natural defences, was impregnable. These defences consist of five entrenchments, with two lines of stones set up edgewise, and running right across the tongue of land which gives access to the rock.

The following is the arrangement of the various defences. At the entrance of the peninsula, and where the slope of the ground is such as almost of itself to serve as a defence, two banks start from a common point above a little creek, and run divergingly towards the south-west, thus forming an angle. They have no ditch or fosse on either side of them, and are about a yard high. The one which runs a little more to the south is composed of stones and earth, and loses itself on the hill which commands the beach at a distance of 44 yards from its commencement; the other, formed almost entirely of blocks of granite, runs right across the strip of land. Beyond these two lines of defence the ground slightly inclines towards the north as far as that part of the isthmus where it rises to the platform of the rock terminating the peninsula. It is exactly at the spot where the ground thus begins to rise, and nearly 110 yards from the two lines just mentioned, that a system of defence occurs which I have not observed in other ancient fortresses in Lower Brittany. It consists of two rows of stones, from 2 ft. to 3 ft. high, set upright, like little *menhirs*, in two rows, 4 ft. 8 in. apart, and running across the whole breadth of the neck of land. Some of these have been removed, principally in the central portion of the lines; but the rows are very perfect at each extremity, and reach to the very edges of the precipices on each side, thus completely intercepting all approach to the interior.

The escarpment which separates these lines of stones from the rocky platform has three entrenchments accompanied with fosses, and placed about 13 or 14 yards from each other. The first two are composed of earth and stones, one of them measuring in height, from the bottom of the fosse, 2 yards 8 in., and the other, 11 yards 4 in.; the third and innermost one, which touches the platform, serves as the base of a wall, 2 yards 2 in. thick, of dry but regular masonry. In its centre is the entrance, 5 ft. wide, the sides of which are flanked by two large blocks of stone. The height of this third line, including the wall on its summit, is 20 ft.

On the other side of this line stretches the platform divided by a rocky crest into two slopes of unequal extent, the western one of which is not very steep, while the other forms an escarpment on the eastern side. It is on this crest that the buildings of the semaphore and *corps de garde* now stand. A parapet with its *chemin de ronde*, constructed of earth and stones, some of them being of considerable size, runs round on the west, north, and east sides of the platform, and continues following the precipice as far as the entrance to the peninsula, where it ends, after having turned the little creek, from which start the two diverging lines already mentioned. In this particular portion it is formed entirely of large upright stones placed near each other. This parapet, which is in its highest parts about a yard high, appears to have been made, not so much with a view to defence, as to prevent dangerous accidents to the inhabitants, especially during storms, and at night time, when a false step might cause immediate destruction.

The whole surface of the platform, and especially the western slope, is marked with shallow depressions of a somewhat rectangular outline, and surrounded with a ridge of earth of greater or less height. These depressions are the sites of ancient dwellings, and are so numerous and so regularly arranged that they remind one of the cells of a beehive, or the cellular tissue of certain plants. More particularly in the evening, when the sun's rays fall obliquely, is this arrangement conspicuous. Notwithstanding, however, the care exhibited in this economical use of all available space, still there was apparently not sufficient room, for several dwellings have been established outside the parapet on the steepest slopes, giving the appearance, as it were, of hanging over the sea. Some of these have been partly destroyed by the falls of rock, which are constantly taking place in different parts of the coast.

A group of six houses alongside of the third wall which defends the entrance to the platform on the south side deserves more particular notice. The first two, of triangular form and very small dimensions, have been built inside the wall one on each side of the entrance-gate A.¹ The third, B, situated a little more than two yards to the east of this

¹ It has been suggested that these two houses are simply forked ends of the walls. They seem more like guard chambers. See plan.

entrance, is of rectangular form, 30 ft. long, by nearly 17 ft. broad, touching the rampart, and constructed of flat stones of a moderate size sunk in the ground with their sides touching. Other stones are placed above this first course, or range, so as to form as regular courses as the material permitted.

About 32 yards to the west of the main entrance occurs the most important structure of the whole fortress C. Rectangular in form, like the preceding one, and also resting against the ramparts, it measures 14 yards long by 9 broad. The walls, nearly a yard thick, are of dry masonry, but the stones are smaller than those used in the building B, and are arranged very carefully. An enclosure, the banks of which at present are very low and composed of earth and stone, runs from the north-west angle and connects it with a building E, of the same rectangular form as the preceding, placed about 12 yards further to the west, and constructed exactly in the same manner as B, but measuring only $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards by 3. (See fig. 9.) A kind of court, in which a depression of the ground indicates the remains of a house, lies between the rampart and the enclosure which connects the two houses C and E.

In company with M. Grenot, in the month of June, 1868, I first visited Castel Coz, which, up to that period, seems to have been unknown to antiquaries. In 1869 I made several other visits, and on one occasion with Mr. Burt, one of the honorary secretaries of the Royal Archæological Institute, but without discovering anything which could throw light on its origin and history. Some small fragments of pottery, which were evidently ancient, but of no decided character, and a few irregular flint chippings, which had been brought by moles to the surface, did not give sufficient grounds for forming any opinion. There was, indeed, a striking resemblance between this fortress and the entrenchments so common in Finistère, and usually assigned to the middle ages, and in or near which are constantly observed traces of dwellings similar to those at Castel Coz, in connection with the conical *butte* or mound, which is surmounted usually by the remains of a rectangular tower. On the other hand, there was some analogy with the fortified places, enclosing traces of circular habitations, as lately noticed in France, and more particularly in Wales and Scotland, and which are

sometimes regarded as places of refuge for the inhabitants anterior to Roman times. In this difficulty I thought that the spade and pickaxe would answer such questions more satisfactorily than the most ingenious conjectures ; and having been provided with the means by a small grant from the Council-General of the Department, with the assistance of M. Grenot, I commenced operations in September, 1869.

During fifteen days' digging, the houses (B, C, E, among others) were proved to be rectangular, with one exception, which, abutting against the rock, was semicircular. The ordinary dimensions of the rectangular sites were $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards in length and 3 yards 1 ft. in breadth. They had not the carefully-executed masonry of the houses B, C, E, but were simply hollows sunk in the ground down to the bare rock, varying in depth from 2 ft. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft., and the outline marked by a low ridge of earth. The walls are simply the sides of the natural rock, except where, in some instances, occurs a kind of dry masonry of small stones roughly put together. In the majority of cases the fire-places are of circular form, and of little more than a yard in diameter, and placed about 6 in. under the level of the ground, being surrounded by pointed stones placed upright in the ground.

At the time of the discovery, one of these hearths still retained some cinders mixed with animal bones and a great number of shells of the common limpet. A second fire-place was also found in the house E, with cinders and charcoal upon it. (See fig. 9.) It is formed of a large stone placed against the wall on the south side.

The fire-place in the house C differed altogether from those of the other houses. (Fig. 10.) It occupied the south-west angle of the chamber, and was of rectangular form. Two blocks of unwrought stone bounded it on the north and east sides. A third stone inserted in the wall near the angle projected about a foot above the level of the floor, as if the hearth or fire-place had been originally covered entirely with stones. In the interior its breadth is 4 ft. 8 in., its length 3 ft. 3 in., and the opening between the two stones one or two inches more than the length. No traces of doorway or staircase were found in any of the houses examined ; the open space in the eastern wall of the chamber C, and which, at first sight, might be taken for a doorway, has been caused by the falling of the stones.

Hence it is probable that the occupants descended into their abodes by means of ladders or wooden stairs. It is also to be remarked that each house is complete in itself, and in no case has been divided into two parts by a cross wall, as is frequently the case in similar dwellings in Wales and Scotland. Excavations were made in ten houses, which led to the discovery of a great many objects, of which the following is an account :—

I.—Twenty mill-stones, or rather large stones on which grain was crushed—of these seven are entire—the others have been more or less broken in early times. They are all of granite, and from variety of form may be divided into five classes.

(1.) Two rather thin and long grinding-stones with straight sides. Their extremities are equally rounded and raised, and of the same thickness. The upper face hollowed out, somewhat like an English saddle, and the lower one smooth and rounded. The length slightly exceeds 16 in. and 12 in., and the breadth is about 7 in. These mill-stones have been formed of flattened stones, the sides of which have been cut away to diminish the breadth. The depression on their faces has been produced by the friction of a muller, pushed backwards and forwards by the two hands. When used, they were probably placed on the knees of the person crushing the grain.² (See fig. 1.)

(2.) Five stones, four of which are incomplete, thicker at one of their extremities than the other. The under side is slightly flattened, the upper one hollowed out, but in an oblique direction. These belong to the most common type of primitive implements. Mr. Albert Way has noticed several in his account of the objects discovered by the Hon.

² Two similar millstones and one muller were found, two years ago, by M. Briot in digging up a wood on his estate of Kerlagattu, about two miles from Quimper. A bronze statuette of rude character, representing the god Mars, and many portions of Gaulish vases enclosing burnt bones, were also found at the same time. A few months back M. Grenot and myself found several flint chips and quartz pebbles, which had served as percussors. The ground, in which all these objects were brought to light, occupied an elevated position, and was formerly

surrounded with entrenchments, traces of which still remain. On the same estate, and within a short distance from this fortified place, M. Briot, from twelve to fifteen years ago, destroyed several graves, consisting of hollows of little more than five feet long, covered with flat stones, the sides being formed of stones placed edgeways on the ground. These graves, which are of a type common in Finistere, and which are, in fact, nothing but little dolmens entirely buried in the ground, contained, at the time of their discovery, some polished stone celts.

W. O. Stanley in circular dwellings near Holyhead, and described in the *Journal of the Institute* and in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*.³ I have myself mentioned in the latter publication some that have been found in Brittany,⁴ under menhirs and dolmens, and in the subterranean gallery of La Tourelle, near Quimper. Since the publication of that account M. Grenot has discovered four more of the same kind in a covered alley near the village of Gouesnac'h, about ten miles from Quimper. These kinds of mills are still in use in parts of Asia, Africa, and America, and have been accurately described by Dr. Livingstone in the account of his travels. He states that, in South Africa, "they use a block of granite, syenite, or even schist, from 16 in. to 18 in. square by 5 in. or 6 in. thick, while the muller is a piece of some similar hard rock about the size of an ordinary brick, and convex so as to fit the hollow of the under stone. The woman grinds, kneeling, and with her two hands moves the convex stone, much as a baker does his dough, backwards and forwards. From time to time she adds a little grain, which, when crushed, falls on a mat placed there for the purpose."⁵ In the specimens I have seen, the surface used in this rubbing and crushing the grain is frequently regularly worn away, through its whole extent sometimes. In some specimens it is hollowed out in the centre and furnished at the top and sides with a rude moulding of greater or less projection. The museum at Vannes contains one or two of these millstones which have been found in dolmens. When the mill has long been in use, this surface becomes worn away, and the extremity by which the meal or flour escaped is

³ Arch. Journ., xxiv. p. 229; Arch. Camb., third series, xiv. p. 385.

⁴ Arch. Camb., third series, xiv. p. 305. The Museum of St. Germain possesses two similar millstones,—one from Abbeville, the other from a tumulus near the Great Salt Lake, in Utah, in the United States of America. They have also been found in the lake of Neuchâtel (Mortillet, "Matériaux pour l'Histoire de l'Homme," iii. p. 263); in the grottoes of Boissy (Haute Loire), and of Sacarry, near Tarascon (*ibid.*, ii. p. 390; iii. p. 212); in the Cave of Bodeillac (Ariège), collection of M. le Comte de Limur at Vannes, etc.

⁵ The Zambesi and its affluents. In

that part of Algeria where the Arabs still live a wandering life, the women who have the duty of preparing the food of the family make use of Roman mills, which are composed of two stones,—one convex, the other concave. The former she turns with her right hand, inserting the grain with her left hand, through a small aperture made for that purpose. The meal is caught on some material placed for that purpose. When the tribe is on its travels, the woman carries the mill on her shoulders. M. Olivier, of Quimper, formerly a sub-officer of Spahis in Algeria, is my authority for this account.

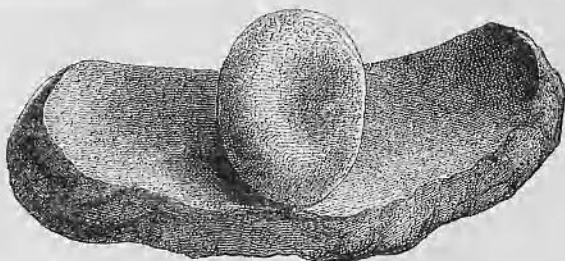


Fig. 1.—Length about 15 inches.

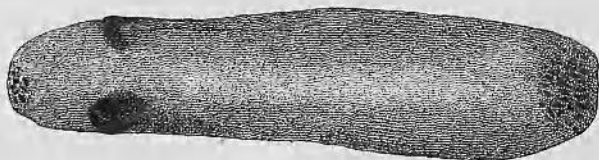


Fig. 2.—Length 6 inches.

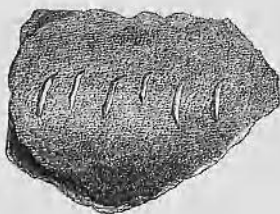


Fig. 3.—Original size.

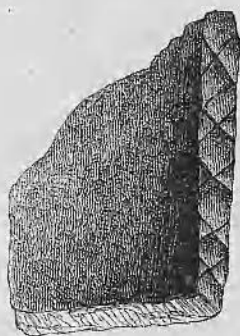


Fig. 4.—Original size.



Fig. 5.—Original size.

Ancient relics found in Castel Coz.

Fig. 1. Stone on which grain was crushed with a muller. Similar stones have been found in Anglesey by the Hon. W. O. Stanley. Fig. 2. Pestle with hollows for the fingers. Fig. 3. Pottery marked by the finger-nails. 3, 4, 5. Fragments of pottery, original size.

very much reduced in thickness. This portion is, therefore, almost always found broken.

(3.) A millstone with its upper face perfectly flat. It is the only specimen of this kind that I have seen.

(4.) Eight small flat millstones, of oval form, and measuring about 12 in. by 7 in. The upper face of these is either flat or very slightly convex. These millstones from their lightness were probably supported on the knees by the left hand, while the right hand worked a flat muller-face. They are all more or less fractured. A similar millstone was found some few years ago in the *oppidum* of Castel Mur, on the sea-coast between Castel Coz and the Pointe du Raz. M. Grenot discovered a second near Audierne, in a place near the coast, called Trez-Goarem, where, among some chips of flint and quartz and pieces of very coarse pottery, there were indisputable traces of Roman occupation.

(5.) Four round granite pebbles, 10 in. long and from 5 in. to 8 in. in breadth, bearing on one of their faces evident marks of friction. These appear to be millstones in a half-finished state.

(6.) The half of a kind of porringer (*écuelle*), nearly 6 in. in diameter, holding an intermediate place between millstones proper and the stone mortars found in circular habitations in England, but which are entirely wanting in Castel Coz. It is made out of a hard reddish granite with a quantity of quartz crystals. It is also well polished by long use. It was found in the chamber E. A similar object, both as regards its form and dimensions, was found a few years ago under a rock near the town of Tregunc (Finistère), where are so many menhirs and two rocking-stones.

With the exception of the last mentioned article, all these millstones came from the great chamber C.

II.—About a hundred mullers (*molettes*), the greater part of which are more or less broken, some being round, others flat, and measuring from 2 to 8 in. in diameter. These are simple rolled stones collected from the beach, and require no particular description. One of them, however, has been worked with considerable care, and reminds one of the ordinary mullers used by painters in grinding their colours.

III.—Twenty pestles (*pilons*), formed of straight long stones brought, like the last mentioned, from the shore, some being round, others flat, from 4 to 8 in. long. (See fig. 2.)

All of them have their extremities marked with traces of percussion. Some of them present on each side towards their upper extremity little hollows to receive the thumb and middle finger, while the forefinger pressed strongly on the instrument when in use. In one of these implements, the sides of which are unusually flat, these little cavities have been replaced by dotted work (*pointillé*), and evidently with the same object, namely to prevent the fingers slipping on the smooth face of the stone.⁶

IV.—Eight small quartz oblong stones, a little more than 3 in. long, and narrower in their middle. These seem to have served as burnishers.

V.—Sixty hammers or percussors, being mostly irregular pieces of granite, more or less angular, and having natural depressions, such as to receive the fingers. Others are formed of flattish quartz boulders, or compact *grès*, of oval form, and very smooth. Several of these last mentioned have an artificial cavity, or kind of fretted work (*pointillé*), which is excellently adapted for assisting the grasp. They all of them bear marks of percussion, so as to leave no doubt of their use and object. One of them, however, is of a different form, being spherical. It is a pebble of quartzose *grès*, and has many traces of hard usage as a hammer. These various types of hammer were also found in the subterranean chambers of La Tourelle, near Quimper.

VI.—Nineteen sharpening stones, many of which are of a fine hard grain. They have evidently been used for a long period, and are furrowed with lines produced by some sharp-pointed implement. The largest of them bears on its surface marks of oxide of iron. Their length varies from 2 to 10 in., and one or more of them were found in all the excavated chambers in Castel Coz. They are exactly like those found at La Tourelle.

VII.—Eight buttons or spindle-whorls of baked clay, without any ornament, and measuring in diameter from 6 to 8-5ths of an in., and 4 to 6-5ths in thickness. Some of them are equally convex on both sides; others having on one side the form of a truncated cone, and more projecting than the other. They all came from the large chamber C, except one, which

M. Paolo Livy has found in a dwelling on the Lac de Fimon (Venice) a stone celt, in which a small hole has been

worked, near the handle, to receive the finger. (Mortillet, "Matériaux pour l'Histoire de l'Homme," i. p. 323.)

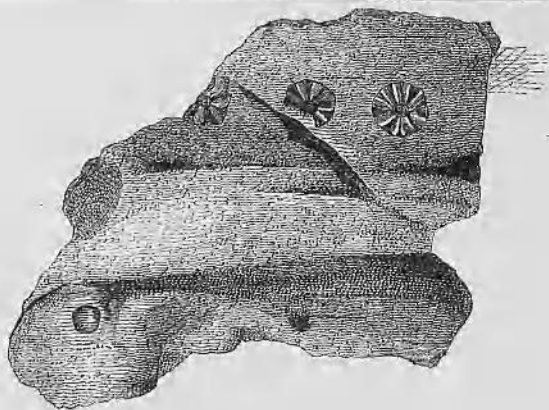


Fig. 6.—One-third original size.



Fig. 7.—Original size.

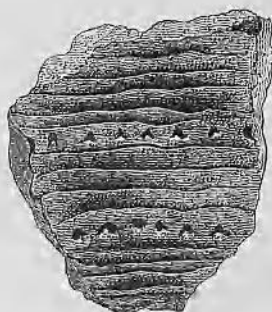


Fig. 8.—Original size.

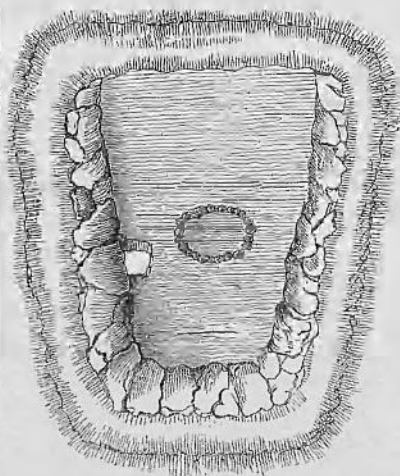


Fig. 9.

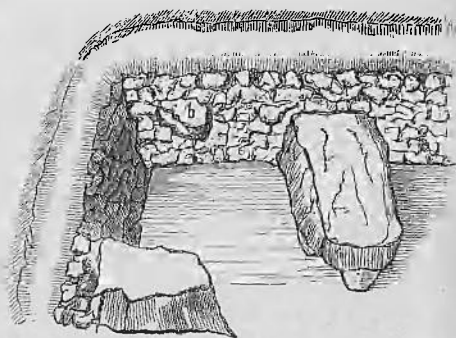


Fig. 10.

Ancient relics found in Castel Coz.

Fig. 6. Fragment of a large vessel, impressed with ornaments like spokes of wheels. Fig. 7. Fragment with ornamented rim. Fig. 8. Fragment with triangular punctures and parallel lines. These wood-cuts are from drawings by Mlle. Le Men. Fig. 9. Interior of the house E. with two fire-places. Fig. 10. Fire-place in the house C.

was found in a kind of enclosure or court, contiguous to the chamber, but about a yard from the wall of it. Archæologists are not yet agreed as to the intended use of these objects. They are considered to be either spindle-whorls, buttons of garments, amulets, or marks of distinction. It is possible that they have served more than one use ; but it is certain they are found in large numbers in caves, in dolmens or cromlechs, and with lacustrine remains.⁷ They have also been found in Palestine associated with the most primitive productions of human industry. They must, moreover, have continued in use during the occupation of Brittany by the Romans, for I found seven or eight specimens while excavating a Roman settlement a little more than half a mile from Quimper. Mr. Stanley also discovered several in the circular habitations of Ty-mawr, near Holyhead, with Roman coins and pottery. A large number of those found in Northern Europe are made of stone, while those found in Brittany are more frequently of baked clay.

VIII.—A button of bone with a central aperture, and which has served the same purpose or purposes as the articles just described. Its interior diameter is nearly an inch, and its thickness about half an inch. One of its faces is conical, the other convex, and it bears traces of fire.

IX.—A ring of white glass, having a slight violet tinge, and broken in two pieces. The interior diameter measures two-fifths of an inch, the exterior about twice as much. There was also found part of a blue bead of a necklace.

X.—Half of a bead of a necklace in blue glass.

XI.—A plain bronze ring, having an interior diameter of about an inch. It has on its inner face a kind of projecting moulding.

XII.—A very small bead of a bronze necklace.

XIII.—A bronze implement 2 in. long, terminated at one of its extremities by a ring. It is difficult to conjecture the use of it, unless, perhaps, it may have been a kind of punch or a bodkin.

XIV.—Twelve portions of stone celts or axes, among which are three with cutting edges. One of them is of flint, three are of quartz, and the others of a fine and compact *grès*.

⁷ In the Museum at Vannes are spindle-whorls of burnt clay exactly similar to those found at Castel Coz. These were discovered in the dolmens of Keriaval, of

Mane Kerlud (Carnac), of Er Hourich (in La Trinité-sur-Mer), of Resto (Moustoir-ac), and of Mane-lud and Mane-er-Hroeg (Locmanaher).

XV.—The lower part of a bronze sword, still having one of the pins by which the handle was secured.

XVI.—Ten fragments of swords of oxidised iron. They appear to have belonged to two different weapons, one of which was curved, and little more than 1 in. in breadth. The second, which had only one cutting edge, was somewhat less broad.

All the above objects, commencing with No. VIII., came from the chamber C.

XVII.—Several flint chips, which have served as points of arrows, knives, or scrapers. These flints have been procured by the inhabitants of Castel Coz from the pebbles found on the sea-shore near their abode. These pebbles, which are generally of small dimensions, give a somewhat irregular cleavage, and hence the implements thus manufactured do not display that excellence of working that occurs in other parts of France, where flint is not only much more abundant, but occurs in larger masses. These chips were found not only in all the excavated houses in the Castel, but throughout the whole extent of the fortress, and even on the outside of the entrenchments. Close to these chips were found a great many of the cores from which they had been detached.⁸

XVIII.—More than a hundred sling-stones which have been worked into their present form by natural agency alone. Their average length is about 2 in., and they were discovered in all the houses, especially in C, where they were heaped up in a mass. In addition to these there was in all the houses that

⁸ It is not always safe to trust to flint chips, if found near the sea, as evidences of early occupation, unless accompanied with objects of such a kind as to furnish some grounds for assigning to them a high antiquity. In examining, a few months ago, one of the finest covered alleys in Finistère, in the commune of Ploubinec, near the Bay of Audierne, I noticed in the interior several flint chips which I could not understand, as the floor of the gallery bore no traces of recent excavation. A peasant, however, soon solved the mystery by informing me that, when they wanted a flint for their tinder-box, they took some flint pebbles from the shore and broke them on the massive stones of this gallery. Even to this day the Bretons, in some

remote districts where the common match-box has not yet penetrated, obtain their fire by reducing the thoroughly-dried roots of oak and other trees to charcoal on a strong and quick fire. This charcoal is then placed quickly in a little horn or bone box secured with a cork attached by a small copper chain. By means of a flint and steel fire is obtained either for domestic purposes or lighting pipes when employed in the field. The carbonised roots are called *tont*, and the *tont*-box was once an indispensable article in a Breton farmhouse. Pelletier, in his dictionary of the Breton language, at the word *tont*, says that at the commencement of the seventeenth century this kind of tinder was almost universal in Higher as well as in Lower Brittany.

were examined a great number of larger stones of a round form, but which appeared to be too large to be used with a sling, although they may have been intended to be thrown by hand against the enemy.

XIX.—An immense number of fragments of hand-made pottery, as various in form as in the quality of the earth of which they had been made. They may be divided into three groups.

(1.) Vases of considerable dimensions, from 15 to 20 centimetres across, and in height from 0·25 centimetre to 0·35 centimetre. They are made of coarse clay containing little silicious pebbles, and are badly baked. They are of various colours, grey, brown, and reddish, all three colours sometimes being found in the same vase. The bottom is flat and thick, and slightly projecting, and bearing all round it marks of the pressure of the thumb in joining it more firmly to the body of the vase. Some of them have a spheroidal form, with a pattern formed by the impression of a finger or nail, surmounted by a short neck. The neck is frequently surrounded by one or two projecting fillets marked by oblique impressions, so as to give the appearance of a twisted rope. Others more or less resemble the form termed *ollaire*, and that called *pot-à-fleur*. They terminate with straight or slightly curved limbs, which are ornamented either with finger marks or by oblique lines, which in some instances are crossed by others, thus forming the cross of Saint Andrew. (See fig. 4.) None of these vases had any traces of a handle.

(2.) Vases of a small or moderate size, of fine clay well baked, without traces of silicious particles, with a few exceptions, where they exist in very minute quantities. These were also hand-made, but made with great care by means of stone or wood implements, which have left, both on the inside and outside, numerous traces of their employment. Some of these are of brown or grey earth, frequently covered with a black coating called *vernis de graphite*, being apparently produced by black lead, and which readily disappears by washing. Others again are of a more delicate material and reddish colour, and, if dry rubbed, exhibit a brilliant red patina, not unlike some kinds of Samian ware. These vases are, for the most part, cups with receding stands and projecting brims, and some of them are not more than 4 centimetres deep, with diameters from 8 to 25 centimetres.

Similar vases have been found in the dolmens of the Morbihan and of Finistère. Some have a spheroidal form with the rims furnished with a small moulding, the form of which appears to bear a resemblance to Roman pottery. Their ornamentation consists of chevrons and parallel lines, sometimes separated by rows of points. Two fragments have impressions of a circular form, which seem to have been effected by a round tool with a flat end impressed on the soft clay.

(3.) Thick vases, of large dimensions, of red clay, in which occur, instead of the silicious particles, small portions of *schiste talqueux* presenting numerous white specks. The material is soft, greasy to the touch, easily scratched with the nails, and cut with a knife as easily as soap. The very numerous fragments of this kind seem to have been portions of large flat-bottomed shallow bowls and spheroidal-shaped vases, very similar to the vessels still commonly used in many communes of Finistère for carrying milk to the towns. The rims of both kinds of vases have projecting flat lips, the upper face of which is hollowed out into one or two deep grooves, which go all round the edge. Their ornamentation consists of spirals, or concentric circles, and of series of parallel lines cut obliquely by other lines. A kind of *dolium* made of the same clay, 15 millimetres in thickness, and which, in its entire state, must have had its greatest diameter measuring 45 centimetres, is ornamented with a series of impressions measuring 25 millimetres across, representing wheels of eight spokes, reminding one of the bronze Gaulish wheels which are found frequently in France.⁹ (See fig. 6.) The edge is also hollowed out by a deep groove or channel, and furnished with an upright handle, pierced with a small hole a centimetre in diameter.

Lastly, there is a very large vase, the exact form of which it is not easy to determine from its remaining fragments, which have projecting ribs or mouldings about the size of a little finger of ordinary dimensions. Those ribs occur only in the exterior of the vessel. This vase is of white clay, and is totally dissimilar from any of the preceding ones. These fragments of pottery were found in all the houses that were excavated, and especially in C; and, although nothing

⁹ Numerous examples have been figured in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*.

but fragments were found, they occurred in such numbers that it was not difficult to ascertain the exact forms of the principal type.

XX.—Eight discs of clay, of which the diameters vary from 22 millimetres to 6 centimetres. These are, in fact, nothing but portions of vases ground into their present form. They were found in several of the houses, but their use seems uncertain. Similar objects were found in the tumulus of Mane-Rumentur, in Carnac, and are at present in the museum of Vannes.

XXI.—Several hundred little round polished stones of different colours, and which were collected from the shore. They were found in all the houses to which they had been brought from the beach, but for what object is unknown. Mr. Stanley, who has also found similar stones during his excavations at Tymawr, near Holyhead, asks if they might not have been intended for some kind of play. The conjecture is very plausible, but it is still a conjecture, to which I take the liberty of adding another. There exists in the Indian Seas, the Maldivian Islands, &c., a little yellow shell of the division *Cypræa*, and vulgarly known as *Monnaie de Guinée* (*Cypræa moneta*). These shells are picked up by women three days before and after the new moon. They are then sent to India, Siam, Africa, &c., where they are used as money by the Negroes. Is it not possible that these little pebbles might have been employed in a manner somewhat analogous to the *Cypræa moneta*, or, at least, have served as counters?

XXII.—Some portions of clay, burnt into brick, and bearing impressions probably of wicker-work, and found in chamber C amidst charcoal and burnt bones.

XXIII.—A large number of shells of the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*), which are excessively common among the rocks of Castel Coz and the whole line of sea-coast. They were found embedded in a mass on the hearth of one of the small habitations, and also in C. From the effect of time, they have become brittle to the greatest degree.

XXIV.—A great many bones of mammalia of various kinds and sizes, which, from my imperfect knowledge of comparative anatomy, I am not able to assign to their different species. Among them, at least, is the tusk of a wild boar, about three inches long. They are all more or

less broken, many of them longways, and many in consistence are like rotten wood. These were found in the same places as the limpet-shells.

XXV.—A portion of the rim of a vessel of Samian ware, and certainly of Roman make. It was found just below the turf, in such a position that it may have been brought to the place after the habitations had been demolished.

These numerous objects here described were found very unequally and variously scattered among the different houses of the fortress. The smaller houses contained only mullers, percussors, sharpening-stones, flint chips, sling-stones, and some few fragments of pottery scattered about on the ground. Not a single dwelling contained a millstone, or ornament, or sufficient fragments of pottery to make up a vase. The houses, in fact, were apparently stripped of the most important implements, and of all objects more particularly valued by their owners. On the contrary, in the large chamber C, besides hammers, mullers, sling-stones, flint chips, which were found in great numbers, there were found twenty millstones, stone hatchets, arms of metal, divers ornaments, and, lastly, the *debris* of hundreds of vases. I use the term *debris*, as there was not found a single entire vessel, although among them were some which must have been nearly half-an-inch thick. The greater part of the millstones, mullers, stone hatchets, and all implements which might have been adapted either for defence or other personal use, were broken to a greater or lesser extent. Most of these objects bore manifest traces of a tool, either a pointed hammer or metal punch, which had been employed in breaking them. It is clear, therefore, that this destruction must have been intentional. On the other hand, the collection of arms, implements, and vases found in chamber C was so large that, in their entire state, they could not have found room, even supposing that the four walls of the chamber had been furnished with ranges of shelves over one another. These, therefore, may have been brought out of the smaller houses and collected into the principal one for the more secure and speedy destruction of all the resources of the castle. To make certain of their object they made an immense fire, which extended along the south side of the building. Into this they threw the various implements, having previously broken them. This appears to have been

the case from the cinders and charcoal among which they were found, and from the fact that all of them bear marks of the violent heat to which they have been exposed. The same thing had occurred on the hearth where the burnt bones and shells mentioned above were discovered. These facts seem to warrant the conjecture that the same persons who took this castle were the authors also of this destruction. One thing, however, appears to me, from a careful examination of the whole ground, that, after the sacking and destruction of the castle, it was then finally and for ever abandoned.

After the description of this castle and the objects contained within it, follows naturally the question, who were the inhabitants? They could not be Bretons of the early Middle Ages, because the arms and implements of that people were totally different from those of the occupants of Castel Coz. I do not wish to suggest that, as regards industrial details, the Bretons were much more advanced: I am even convinced that in some respects (as, for example, that of pottery) they were their inferiors; nor were their habitations better constructed, but iron, which is so rare in our fortresses, was in general use with them. The Bretons had besides borrowed from Roman civilization certain implements and forms of vases, which are entirely wanting at Castel Coz. Nor was it the Romans race that left such extensive traces of residence in so many parts of our country of so lasting and decided a character. The Romans, besides, were too skilful tacticians to establish themselves in such situations as that of Castle Coz, where they could not take advantage of their military superiority. We have, therefore, no alternative but to place as far back as the time of Gaulish independence the occupation of this fortress.

The comparison of these habitations with others noticed in France and in certain other localities, the Gaulish origin of which is established by historic documents, does not permit us to doubt that Castel Coz was a Gaulish *oppidum*, analogous to those which Cæsar has described in his Commentaries. The place was, moreover, admirably calculated for a place of refuge to a population accustomed to rough weather, and to whom the most simple conveniences of life were unknown. Not only were the inhabitants safe from all attacks of enemies, but nature had supplied them

with resources which would permit them to sustain a siege without fear of being starved out ; for, from the middle of a large rock, which rises to the west of the fortress, issues a spring of water very abundant during the greater part of the year, and never dry in the hottest part of it. It was from this source that the workmen employed in the excavations supplied themselves ; and, although my visit was at the end of the summer, yet it still furnished a satisfactory quantity. On the other side there was a plentiful supply of shell-fish close at hand, and even at the present time this part of the coast is celebrated for its abundance of fish, so that one is almost sure of meeting with fishermen at the extreme north of the peninsula—the only spot where a descent to the sea is possible. About 150 yards to the east is an abundant stream, whence in ordinary weather a supply of water could be had ; and, even in case of a siege, it was possible to reach it by means of boats.

It was not easy to ascertain the precise number of houses in Castel Coz ; but I endeavoured to arrive at some approximation by placing a small square of paper secured by a stone wherever a depression in the ground marked the site of a house. When I had placed all the squares of paper I had, namely, 108, there yet remained a great number of houses not thus marked out, so that I was not able to complete my operation. But I think that I may, without any exaggeration, place the whole number at from 150 to 200 ; which, allowing five persons to a house, would give us a population of between 750 and 1000.

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