

little cloud has gathered and burst over all these ancient cities, and they have given place to the modern usurper, even, perhaps, as in days long passed they usurped on their own account. Although we may take it for granted that the Romans took possession of the cities of the Celts, and converted them into stations for themselves, yet it has never been proved that these Celts were the original inhabitants.

---

ART. XVI.—*On the Vestiges of Celtic Occupation near Ullswater, and on the Discovery of Buried Stone Circles by Eamont Side.* By Michael W. Taylor, M.D., Penrith.  
Given at Penrith, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1868.

THAT the territory around the embouchure of Ullswater, may have been a favourite settlement of the earlier inhabitants of Britain, is a conjecture reasonably supported, by a consideration of the natural advantages possessed by the locality, and the presence of those attractions so valued by savage races, which the physical cosmography and products of the country afforded.

The verdant vale of the upper Eamont, must have possessed rich and valuable grazing for the herds and flocks of a pastoral people; the mountain ranges of the lake country, of which this position is the threshold, would have defended their encampments, (as with an impassable barrier for miles,) from surprise from the southern half of the compass, and left them only the open country on their northern frontier to guard; whilst the rugged fells, forests, and dales, impenetrable to aggressive foes, would have afforded a refuge in time of peril, and in times of peace, happy hunting grounds for tribes whose subsistence depended much on the spoils of the chase. The stag and the roe deer, and, it might be, the elk and the buffalo, ranged at large over leagues and leagues of forest and fern around Martindale, and Hartsop, and Gowbarrow. The wild boar haunted the sides of *Boardale*, and found a lair amid the thickets of *Grisedale*, and *Swindale*, and *Stybarrow*; whilst the brake and the pine woods sheltered the bustard, the capercaillie, and bittern, and many species of winged game now extinct, or nearly so. The bosom of  
the

the lake itself, and its reedy shores, would have attracted wild fowl and waders of every degree, in hosts innumerable; and its depths would have yielded their funny treasures to the skill and cunning of the crafty savage, rude though his toils and his implements might have been.

Accordingly, when the archæologist goes a-field in this locality, he readily finds traces of an early people; and if he bends himself to the enquiry, it is possible, that he may fix the ages in which they lived, and define the parent race from which they sprang. The evidences on which he relies to estimate the antiquity of a settlement, in the absence of historic records, are the relics and the evidence of Language.

### I. LANGUAGE.

We appeal to the philologist to assist us, in assigning the derivations of the names still attached to the great features of the country, and the landscape; to the mountains and their various peaks; to the lake and river, and their tributaries; for we know, that no colonization by subsequent dominant races can obliterate names given by the prior occupants to the great landmarks of the country.

There is a vitality in language—it never dies. “The appellations of these vast and permanent parts of nature,” says Sir James Mackintosh, “are commonly observed to continue as unchanged as themselves.” Philology tells us that these names are derived, for the most part, from the Celtic, and from both the Hibernian or Gaelic, and the Welsh or Crymraig branches of that common stock. Of all the languages that ever existed, the Celtic is perhaps the richest in an appropriate and expressive nomenclature for physical objects; hence it is, that after the revolution of ages and the fluctuations of conquest, dominion, and race, together with all the changes which time and usage insensibly operate in language, and names in question are still distinctly traceable: whilst the extent to which they still obtain in Britain, seems to argue the original ascendancy of the race from whose language they were derived.

The word Ullswater, or Ullsmere, or Eusmere, is derived from the Celtic *wille*, the elbow, the name given to the lake, the lower portion was called the pool (Celtic *pwol*, water), the Saxon addition *ey*, converted it into the name of the village of Pooley; *wille* is also to be traced in Ulleatrow, Ullock, Uldale, Ullsby or Ousby.

The

The name of the hill Dunmallet, or *Dunmawland* (for in an exercise of this kind we must revert to the oldest orthography, which usually approaches nearest to the vernacular speech of the country), is from the Celtic *Dun maolin*, the hill of the beacon. The names of the hills of Mell Fell, and Dunmaile, behind Helvellyn, are both from the Celtic *maoile*, the heap or sepulchral mound.

A township on the left shore of the lake is called Wethermellock, evidently from the same Celtic word, with the diminutive *ock*. A hamlet in this township is called Wreay, from the Celtic *reidh*, a glade or clear space in a wood; and the stream which forms the cascade at Aira Force is the *Dockwray* beck. A rugged pike close by, is called the Knot, or Knock, from the Celtic *cnoc*, a hill. The next valley is Glencoin, from *glean*, the valley, *coine*, of tribute; and the next Glenridding, from *glean*, the valley, *rhyd* of the ford. The name of the river, now written Eamont, but formerly Yamon, and still so pronounced by the people who live on its banks, is derived from the Celtic *ea*, the water, and *mwn*, a mound. These instances are enough to show the extent and permanency of a Celtic occupancy in this neighbourhood.

## II. RELICS.

So far as our knowledge extends, we have no remains in Cumbria, of the Palæolithic or Drift period, when man was supposed to have been coeval in Europe with the great group of quaternary mamalia; our gravel pits, peat bogs, and caves are destitute of animal remains or unpolished stone implements. Bone caves do exist, however, in the district of Cartmel-in-Furness, and a description of them was read at the late meeting of the Institute at Lancaster. The relics of an early people, which we find in this locality, consist of their—first, Implements; second, Earthworks; and third, Graves.

We have before us here, by the kindness of our friend Mr. Mawson, of Lowther, his collection of ancient British implements and remains, which illustrates remarkably well both the ages of polished stone and of bronze. Most of these have been derived from our own immediate neighbourhood. Our time will not permit me of entering into the subject of the implements of those ages; but the collection before us affords examples of the varieties of form in which they usually occur, and is well worthy of examination after the lecture. I will proceed, therefore, to the subject of

## II. EARTHWORKS

## II. EARTHWORKS AND ENTRENCHMENTS.

I know of no vestiges in the area immediately surrounding the lake, of that class of earthworks or bowl-like excavations, to which the name of hut circles or British dwellings has been given. The most perfect specimens of these curious works are on the Wiltshire downs; also in some parts of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, and near Holyhead in Anglesea. Those also described by Dr. Barber, of Ulverston, at Birkkrigg and Urswick, as hut circles, are very curious.

But if all vestiges of the location of the simple beehive wigwams, and wattled huts of these remote people have been obliterated in this vicinity, we have many examples of the lines of ramparts, ditches, hollow ways, or streets, which surrounded or permeated these settlements. Very significant traces of such a British village are found at Woodhouse, on the old Yanwath domain, overlooking the river Lowther; also at Stonecar, near Penruddock. Immediately adjoining the lake, behind the farmhouse of Crosdormont, lines of embankments and hollow ways may be traced in various directions, which seem to me to indicate the former existence there of a British camp or British village. But the defensive positions, or the strongholds and fortifications of these people, have been more enduring, and have suffered less from obliteration.

There are two camps existing in this vicinity, which I will now describe.

That huge mass of conglomerate, formed by the gravel and drift, and alluvium, carried in the swirl of some mighty deluge, which guards the out-pour of Ullswater, is Dunmawland or Dunmallet. It occupies a strong natural position; it is an absolute cone with steep sloping sides, the abruptness being greatest towards the south and east—the sides presented to the lake and the river Eamont, which sweeps its base. The top of this detached hill, standing 900 feet above the level of the sea, is occupied with an extensive earthwork; and the circumstance of the hill being covered with ancient timber, and having for a long period enjoyed the privacy of an inclosed wood, has tended to conserve the outlines of the work with remarkable distinctness.

The defences consist of an embankment, and an excavated ditch surrounding a level plateau, which is indeed the turncated summit of the conical hill itself. The inclosure within the ditch is of an ovate form, its longest diameter, lying nearly north and south: its length is 103 yards, and its breadth  
at

at the centre is 42 yards, the area being a little less than an acre in extent. The average width of the ditch is 27 feet, and its depth about 13 feet. The embankment, the trench, and the margin of the inner inclosure are well observed along the western border, and also at the northern and southern extremities of the oval; but after rounding each corner to about 20 yards on the eastern side, both the vallum and the fosse become lost in the declivity of the hill, which at this aspect becomes so abrupt, that with a little scarping it might be made inaccessible; indeed, it is probable that these artificial defences were really never carried round in this direction, the nature of the ground having afforded strength sufficient at this point.

The area of the fort occupies the summit of the cone, and the ditch has been excavated on the shelving hill-side, so that with its scarp and counter-scarp it would have presented a considerable barrier to advancing foes; it seems to have been further strengthened by a wall of dry masonry, and the slabs and boulders and unhewn stones, forming the lower courses, may be traced along the inner lip of the inclosure.

It is probable that the ordinary path of approach to the fort wound round from the north of the hill, up the western slope, where the declivity is least steep; the main entrance seems to have been at the southern extremity of the western face of the *enceinte*, at which point there is a gap, penetrating obliquely through the breast-work and the outer defences. In the centre of the inclosure there is a mound of earth, or platform, raised to a higher level than the surrounding surface, which would have formed a banquette to command the wall, or it may have been the site of an interior citadel. There is a spring of water near this part.

This is doubtless a British earthwork, similar to some of those hill fortresses, and camps of refuge, which are frequently found occupying commanding positions in Wales, Wiltshire, and other parts of England.

This work has never been described nor surveyed in such a manner as its completeness and importance justify, but it did not escape the penetration of old Machell, and I can verify the accuracy of the description and measurements given in his unpublished MSS. Besides, he furnishes, in an unfinished pen and ink drawing, a bird's-eye sketch-plan of the hill of Dunmallet, clothed with wood—the ditch and earthworks on the summit—the lake and the river *Emot* running

running out of it—Pooley *stanke*, as it then stood—the place where the old *stanke* stood before there was a bridge,—the bridge at Pooley, and the village cross, opposite to where the Crown Hotel now stands.

The next hill to the west, on the left bank, and overlooking the lower reach of Ullswater, is Soulby Fell. On the spur of this hill exist the remains of another fortification, which is popularly known under the name of Maiden castle. The designation of *Maiden*, is one which is frequently applied to the Roman works:—as *Maiden* castle, on *Stanemoor*, and the *Maiden* way over that mountain pass, by Bowes to Kirkby Thore—as well as to British forts and inclosures. The appellation has possibly arisen from a corruption by the Saxons of the Celtic word *maen*, *mên*, or *mendia*, stone, into their own word *maiden*; thus there is a stone circle at Boscawen-ûn in Cornwall, called “*Nine Maidens*,” and another called the “*Dance Maine*,” and a large sepulchral chamber in Orkney, called “*The May’s Howe*” or “*Maiden’s Howe*;” in the same manner may our grand monument of “*Long Meg and her Daughters*” have derived its curious title from the “*Menhir*” or long “*maen*” or stone, the towering colossus within this megalithic circle.

The work of Maiden castle consists of an entrenchment, and an outer and inner bank; it is circular in form, the diameter of the enclosed ground is 82 yards, hence its area would be rather more than an acre. The fosse is here well defined along the southern and eastern border: its width there is about 18 feet. The southern and eastern portions of the circumference of the inner inclosure were, up to a few years ago, bounded with blocks of stone, like the first course of a modern dyke. These have now been all carted away for building purposes. There is a spring of water within a few yards of the ditch on the northern side. There is a circular entrenchment of a similar kind, on the summit of the neighbouring conical hill of Little Mell-Fell.

There can be no doubt, that these works of Dunmallet and Maiden castle, have been defensive encampments, and in all probability belong to the period of Celtic occupation. They are decidedly not Roman, for these people, in their entrenchments and castrametation, almost invariably adhered to rectilinear and rectangular figures, and the situation is rather out of the line of the Roman roads of the district.

The

The Ancient Britons, on the other hand, most generally assumed the circle or curvilinear, as the figure for the outline of their ramparts; as we see in their camps, in their hut circles, or in the arrangement of their sepulchral stones, in their cairns, and barrows, and tumuli. They did not discard the straight line, for we still see the linear direction preserved in the arrangement of some of their village entrenchments and their stone avenues, but when a turn was necessary, they seemed to have substituted the curve for an angle. These are the only British forts of which any traces remain on the left side of the lake.

Let us cross, then, to the right shore. About a mile above Pooley bridge, on the right of the lake bank, there is a green mound, of low elevation, from which the land juts out with a gentle bend, into the water. It is situated on Mr. Hasell's estate of Waterside, and this particular inclosure has been known for many years, under the name of Hodgson Hill. No particular groves nor elevations are now traceable on its surface, and I am not aware that there is any traditional knowledge extant concerning it. But it was examined and surveyed carefully by the Rev. Mr. Machell, about 200 years ago, and of all our local antiquarians and historians, Machell is the most original, and expert, and generally trustworthy. And this his idea, description, and plan of this place, which I reproduce here from his MSS., as his observations on it, have never been noticed by his copiers and commentators. On this hill, he fixes the site of what he calls "The ancient and noble fortification, called Trostermont or Tristermont." Be it noted, the name of Crossdormont is not now applied to Hodgson Hill, but to the estate immediately adjoining; but this mound, he considers to have been the abode, as he says, of Sir Tristram, one of the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table. Camden also notices this Crostermont, and it is marked on his map, whereas other places now of more consequence are omitted.

This plan, which is a copy of the drawing by Machell, will illustrate his idea of the work. The inclosure is in the form of a triangle, of which the base is formed by the shore line of the lake, measuring 320 yards, the other two sides are nearly equal, being about 180 yards in length. On every side, Machell supposes the hill to have been surrounded by water, so as to have been made by nature and art unapproachable to an enemy. A morass encompasses the whole  
of

of land side of the work. Forming the north side of the triangle, a runner of water still flows, the banks of which show mark of escarping. On the south side, the ditch has been filled up by the plough, but the hollow of the ground shews how easily it would have been to have flooded it with water.

I may mention, that during the late dry summer, the waters of the lake fell to the lowest level on record, and afforded a good opportunity for searching for any evidences of Pile building, or lake habitations, such as have been observed on many lakes in Switzerland, and also in some lochs in Scotland. I took the opportunity of this low state of the water to go carefully over the shoal water on this side of the lake, but I have not seen anything to induce me to suppose that the custom of "Pfahlbauten," or Pile dwellings, ever prevailed on Ullswater. But I believe this place of Crossdormont may have exemplified that form of island fortification, called the "Crannoge," in Ireland. For the space of 20 yards out from the base line of this triangle, there juts a shoal, over which the water is very shallow, giving a depth of not more than a yard. This space, Machell points out in his plan by a pricked line, as he says, to shew "how a beach may be built "into Ullswater to secure that side, and make the Plat uniform "and regular."

The "Crannoges" of the Irish and the "Packwerkbauten" of Switzerland, were formed of a solid mass of mud and stones, strengthened and bound with horizontal and perpendicular stakes, so as to raise a beach above the shallow water, or morass, in which the stronghold was situated. It is possible, that the shoal jutting out from Hodgson Hill may be the remains of such a raised beach, or "Crannoge," and that the fortification may have been thus strengthened on the water side, and the inclosure converted from a triangular into a quadrilateral form; bounded on two sides by the deeper waters of the lake, and on the land side, by the morass and the flooded ditches.

### III. GRAVES.

It is generally believed, that the earliest form of sepulchral structures, are those described by antiquarians as the "Giants' Chambers," or the "Ganggraben," or the "Passage graves." These consist of a vast mound, from one side of which a passage, formed by large blocks of stone, leads into a great central chamber, also walled with stones, in which the dead are deposited

deposited in a sitting posture. In this chamber, along with the *debris* of unburnt bones, it has been usual to find pottery, flint implements, and weapons of polished stone, but no articles of metal; hence the date of these interments is referred by archæologists to the second or polished period of the Stone age. Moreover, the evidences afforded by the formation of the skulls found in these graves, which are supposed to have belonged to men with round heads, and heavy overhanging brows, or presenting what is called the brachycephalic type, have induced ethnologists to attribute them to an earlier race of colonists than the Celts and Teutons. Some few of these chambered mounds are found in England, as at West Kennet, in Wiltshire; Wellow, in Somerset; Wayland Smith's Cave, in Berkshire; Plas Newydd, Anglesey; New Grange, County Meath, Ireland; and elsewhere, but there are no examples in Cumbria.

The earliest sepulchral relics found in this country, are reckoned to belong to the Age of Bronze; for this reason, amongst others, that the mode of burial generally observed, accords with what is esteemed the characteristic of the Bronze Age, viz., burial with cremation, or else with the body in a bent and contracted position. In the Stone Age it was usual to bury the corpse in a sitting posture; while those cases in which the skeleton was extended may be referred to the age of Iron.

Our sepulchral monuments may be said to consist of the cromlech—stone circles—the cairn—and the earthen barrow—and examples of all these are distributed very freely throughout the locality of Cumbria.

The dilapidated remains of the cromlech are common enough in this county, but in no instance that I am aware of is it met with now, with all its stones *in situ*. A few years ago, two or three were preserved in Furness, but they are now destroyed. The cromlech in its simple and more usual form consists of three blocks of stone set on end, in the manner of a tripod, bearing on their tops a large, prominent block, called the copstone. In some instances two stones are left, one upright, and the other fallen; in other cases a single standing stone marks the site of the original cromlech. We shall see examples of this on Barton Fell.

In many instances the cromlech was set round with a circle of smaller stones; but also you may have the cromlech standing alone without this investiture; or, again, you may have a circle or series of circles of stone without the central cromlech.

These

These stone circles, which are very common in many parts of England, and to which clings the popular but very fallacious name of *Druid Circles*, are now well known to be sepulchral monuments. They abound in Cornwall, in Wales, in the north of England, and north of Scotland. We find them in this neighbourhood, varying much in size, from the small, insignificant ring of a few stones on our hill sides, through the ascending scale of magnitude, to the gigantic proportions of our wondrous and far-famed monument, "Long Meg and her Daughters." A very perfect type of one of those circles we shall find on Barton Fell.

Usually the circle is single, but sometimes the stones are set in a concentric form, in a double, triple, or quadruple series. The Sunbrick circles, near Morecambe Bay, which I visited lately, in one of the excursions of the Lancaster meeting of the Institute, consist of an inner circle of 30ft. in diameter, formed of 12 stones, and an outer 90 feet, formed of 19 or 20 stones. Our circle at Yamonside, which will afterwards be described, is an instance of a quadruple circle. The area enclosed by some of these stone circles seem to have been raised in the form of a circular mound. The relative facility afforded by the locality for gathering soil or stones, seems to have determined whether such a tumulus shall have been an earthen barrow, or a stony cairn. Such vestiges as remains of tumuli, in the vicinity of Ullswater are situated on high ground, and principally on the Westmorland shore of the lake. The ground is rocky, stone is easily procurable, and soil less so; hence we find exclusively the cairn formation; and it is not until we reach the lower ground that we meet with the earthen barrow.

Immersed in the cairn, instead of being exposed to open view like the cromlech, there is also a recess provided for the dead, called the *kist-vaen* or stone-chest. This consists of an oblong box, formed of slabs of stone, placed in an upright position, inclosing a bottom of rock or stones, and completed by a cover of one or more flat stones on the top; within this the unburned body was placed in a doubled-up posture. Then was gathered, doubtless with great labour, a superincumbent mass of stones, forming a conical mound, to mark the burial place and perpetuate the memory of the dead. In the formation both of the cromlech and the *kist-vaen*, we may recognise rude representatives of the classic mausoleum and sarcophagus. One most perfect example of a *kist-vaen* is

now

now exposed to view amongst those remains, which I must now proceed to describe in detail.

On that part of Barton Fell, which separates the lowest reach of Ullswater from Askham and the vale of Lowther, there is a very extensive plateau of moor land; it is called Moor Doveack. It is 1000 feet above the level of the sea, it is the advanced outshoot of the mountain range of High Street and the Ullswater Fells; it is covered with ling and heather and short mountain grasses, that afford but a scanty bite to the *Herdwicks*, the country breed of mountain sheep, that are stunted on the *heafs* of these commons. The High Street Roman Road from Ambleside, which courses the summit of the mountain of the same name, and over the adjoining fells of Load Pot, and Swarth Fell, may be distinctly traced over Moor Doveack, in its route, (as I believe to the ford at Yanwath, as well as), to join the *Maiden Way* at Brovacum or Brougham. Besides this ancient causeway, there is a rough cart track over this common, leading from Pooley to Helton, and the valley of the Lowther, and it is to the left of this path to Helton, that the prehistoric structures, to which I am about to refer, are situated. Here was the burial ground of the clans who occupied the sides of the lake. I will indicate by numbers all the memorials to be met with in this interesting locality, beginning at the south.

No. 1.—Near the guide post, on the track leading to Heltondale, there stands a large single stone; it is called by those who frequent the common, the *Kopstone* or *Cock-stone*. It measures five feet out of the ground, and is about twelve feet in circumference. Although now standing by itself, it is on the south boundary of what appears to have been a circle of about fifteen yards in diameter—from the quantity of loose stones within this area, the circle seems to have inclosed a cairn. There are marks of exploration, at some long antecedent date, in the centre for interment.

No. 2.—(a) Two standing stones close to each other; appearance of circle; possibly the remains of a cromlech. (b) The base of a small circular cairn, nine feet in diameter; nearly obliterated; no standing stones; has been opened.

No. 3.—A very perfect and undisturbed example of a small single set stone circle. There are twelve stones standing in regular order, varying somewhat in size, and closely approaching or almost touching each other. The diameter of the space inclosed within them is eighteen feet. I was present at the

the discovery of the interment, under the superintendence of our honorary member, the Rev. Canon Greenwell, in 1866. It was found by digging about three feet under the present surface, about the centre of the circle, and it consisted of the remains of a sun-baked urn inclosed in a rude cell of flat stones, to prevent the pressure of earth. The urn contained calcined bones and black earth.

No. 4.—Standing on the south-west of No. 3, there are three or four large upright stones, which have formed part of the boundary of what has evidently been a cairn. The plateau of the cairn is easily made out, although the stones composing it have been removed down to the level of the ground; and it has occupied a circle of about fifteen feet in diameter. It has evidently been disturbed, and searches have been made at some former period for the interment, by diggings in the centre, and by cross trenches.

This cairn presents the following peculiarity, which has been noticed elsewhere, viz., that from portions of its circumference, there proceed three spoke-like projections, or prolongations of cairn structure, extending from it in a straight direction for several yards. These supplemental appendages no doubt would be added at a date posterior to the formation of the central mound, and in all probability were raised over secondary or subsequent burials. This same arrangement is even better seen in the next and more important monument we arrive at, No. 5.

From No. 4 a line of stones may be traced for some hundred yards, proceeding in a westerly direction; they pass by a small circle of fourteen feet in diameter, with a single stone of large size in the centre, in all probability the remains of a dilapidated cromlech, and leads towards

No. 5.—This is the most important of these sepulchral remains on Moor Doveack, from the fact of this cairn covering the largest area:—from its form and extent being well marked—on account of its elevation above the level of the ground—and from its presenting to view, at the present moment, an excellent and perfect specimen of a kist-vaen or stone chamber.

This cairn has been formed by the heaping together of a quantity of stones, of every variety of size, for even some large boulders still remain, which appear to have bounded the circumference of the case. The diameter of the circle is about twenty yards. Here, as in No. 4, you find the same spoke-like projections, or (to appropriate a botanical simile) gibbous appendages

appendages, to which I have adverted. There are three of these; one to the north, one to the south, and one to the west, each about thirteen yards in length, and two yards in breadth, imparting, on a bird's-eye view, a kind of star-fish appearance to the structure. Not precisely in the centre of the circle, but a little to the south-east of that point, lies the stone chamber. The measurements of the cavity of this stone-chest are four feet six inches long, two feet wide, and one foot seven inches deep. The two sides are formed of single blocks of the mountain limestone of the district, roughly shaped, and set on edge in an upright position; the two ends are closed by a round-shaped cobble. The lid is formed of a single slab of limestone, four feet six inches long, three feet wide, and five inches thick. The plane of the kist-vaen has a direction nearly north and south. This chamber, when first laid open a few years ago, contained the remains of a skeleton, and on a visit to it two years ago, I found a number of fragments of human bones still remaining. The body must have been deposited in a bent or contracted position, the length of the stone-chest being only four-and-a-half feet.

It is not, however, exclusively on high elevated situations, such as this on Barton Fell and Moor Doveack, that we are to look for the vestiges of ancient burial places. On the rough, stony, uncultivated surface of these high-lying moors, we find the remains of the cromlech, surrounded or not with stone circles, and the remains of the cairn mound, of stones, or of stones and earth combined. But the low-lying marshy ground by rivers' sides, the morass, the swampy hollows, useless and uncultivated on account of their wetness, seems equally to have been appropriated for burial places by some clans at certain epochs.

I have seen evidences of these graves on low marshy ground at Penruddock; at Beckses, near Motherby; on Cliburn Ling, in Newton Reigny parish; several on Hunsonby and Skirwith Moors, and various other localities; and also near this lake, at Crookadyke, near Crossdormont. In such cases on account of the softness of the substratum, I suppose, the monument ceases to be a raised barrow or cairn; but consists of large boulders, set round at regular intervals, in simple or composite circles. In the course of ages these stones have sunk in their beds, so as to be partially buried, and in many cases wholly so, their tops only being exposed; or their situation merely being marked by hillocks in the rough sod which covers them.

It

It is relevant to the sphere ground of the present monograph, that I should indicate to you some extensive vestiges of such prehistoric relics within the region of this lake, which have remained undescribed and unknown to archæologists; these I literally stumbled upon last summer, in a manner purely accidental.

Descending the left bank of the Eamont, after leaving Dunmawland after passing a few enclosures you arrive at a small field of about an acre in extent. The surface of this field, two years ago, was studded with stumps and hillocks overgrown with moss and herbage. There stood near the far hedge, a very large block of stone; its height above the surface was about three feet; it was blasted, and six cartloads of stone were carried from it, but much was left on the ground. You can still see the places from whence this and many other large stones have been removed; and in the disposition of these, and of the hillocks I have spoken of, you can mark a circular arrangement. This and the next field go by the name of Yamonside.

It is to this next field I am about to refer; and the adjoining chart will exhibit the site and location of these buried circles; I have made a plan also, in which is indicated the disposition and bearings, and distances of the separate stones so far as they can be traced by the marks on the surface.

This meadow is about 80 yards wide, and 150 yards long, and contains an area of 2-448 acres; it is skirted on its eastern border by the river Eamont. Most of this field is of a wet and swampy character. At the distance of eighteen yards from the river side, you notice the first hillock; strike the ferrule of your stick through the soft sod; it impinges on a block of stone, occupying a considerable surface, and evidently of considerable size; observe all around, there are similar hillocks; here and there the stones crop out of the surface, and you can estimate their probable magnitude. By a little circumspection, the eye of the observer can begin to trace a series of concentric circles. In the midst, there is a stone much larger than the rest. The top of it is of a hog-backed shape; it stands about a foot out of the ground, and its back is eight-and-a-half feet long and three feet thick. This I take to be the principal "maenhir" or long stone. Fix the end of your tape line on the centre of this stone, and you shall find twelve or thirteen stumps of stones or hillocks, at nearly equal distances from each other, occupying a circumferential position

position, in a circle of which the radius is about ten yards. Without this inner circle No. 1, at the radius distance of fourteen or fifteen yards, nine stones or hillocks, placed in a concentric form, may be traced, forming circle No. 2. Without this, at the radius distance of eighteen or twenty yards, concentric circle No. 3 is found, consisting of eighteen or twenty stones; and beyond this circle, No. 4, at the radius distance of twenty-four to twenty-seven yards, the sites of thirteen or fourteen stones can be fairly made out.

Here then, we have a complete peristalith of four concentric circles set round a monolith; of which circles the outermost has a diameter of 52 yards, or 156 feet, and in the formation of which there are at least fifty boulders of which we can mark the position.

Viewed in its pristine and perfect state, this elaborate and composite monument must have afforded a typical representation of Celtic sepulture; and that, too, not devoid of appropriate grandeur, and solemnity, and significance. These massive boulders, torn by nature from their parent rocks—polished and scored, it might be, by glacial action—but unchiselled and untooled by hand of man—(for at latest we are in the age of bronze)—set in their endless circular lines—standing alone in their barbaric ruggedness—symbolise to the mind, images of eternity and infinity, and monumental stability, with far greater force and faithfulness, than does the most ornate mausoleum, the most pompous epitaph, or the most priceless marble ever sculptured by the hand of an Angelo. But alas! for the mutability of human devices; these megaliths, raised by the labour of savage hordes—the silent sentinels of the funeral fires of races of chieftains two thousand years ago—the cynosure, doubtless, of neighbouring tribes—are now passed by, unheeded or unseen by every wayfarer; while Nature's mound, the great stronghold of those septa, *Dun maolin*, the mound of the beacon pile, frowns over the plain as of yore; and the river to which it gives the name, the *Ea mawn*—the water of the mound—flows by everlastingly, in mockery, as it were, of the fading of man's handiwork.

---

ART.