

ART. XXX.—*Notes on Cup and Ring-marked Stones found near Maryport.* By J. B. BAILEY.

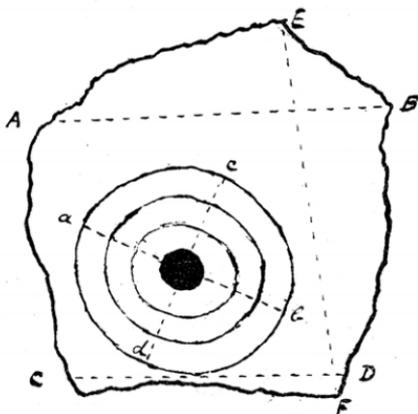
Read at Ulverston, Sep. 13th, 1887.

IN the year 1880, Mr. Joseph Robinson, amongst other matters, endeavoured to determine the exact position of the two roads that were supposed to leave the northern gateway of the Maryport camp; viz.: the one running coastwise to the Beckfoot camp; the other to old Carlisle. The former had been proved to exist at Beckfoot, but its presence nearer Maryport was not at all certain. The latter appears to have been in quite as unsatisfactory a condition. A diligent use of the spade, however, revealed the fact that a magnificent road, some 21 ft. wide, ran across the four fields nearest to the camp, but here explorations were suspended. Early, however, in April of the present year, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Carey, I was led to examine a field in which we thought it likely that we should find traces of the road to Old Carlisle. Nor were our suppositions groundless. The field to which I allude, is the one on the east side of the Bank End Road near the small plantation. Near the bottom of this field, some 15 yards from the N.E. corner, we came upon undoubted traces of the road. Although similar to those found nearer the camp, they are but fragmentary, so that we could not with any degree of certainty, determine the width of the road. Still a point was determined from which it would be easy to follow out the exploration in the direction of the camp so soon as the crop is off the ground. Following out the clue obtained, but away from the camp, I, a few days later, crossed the turnpike, and entering the field, through which is a "runner," I came
into

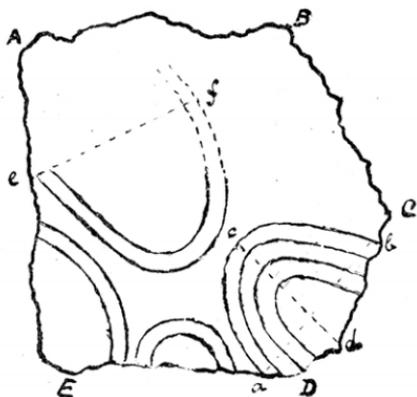
into the occupation road leading direct to Crosby. Certain evidences clearly seemed to point this out as being almost, if not entirely, on the foundation of the old Roman road: in fact numerous indications over and over again presented themselves, which, if they could be followed up, would doubtless prove the truth of my suppositions. But this road is interesting in another way, for, near it, in the field to which I have alluded above, were discovered two very remarkable stones, which I am about to describe.

Whilst walking along the Bank End Lane, early in March of the present year, I was struck with the immense heap of stones that had been brought out of this field and deposited in the lane. Naturally, I examined the heap narrowly, and was rewarded by finding the stone to which I shall first allude. It evidently is a stone of the district, and is somewhat of an irregular pentagonal shape. Its greatest length is 18 inches, the breadth being 16 inches at one end, and 12 inches at the other. In thickness it varies from 3 inches to 7 inches. On one face it bears a cup and ring marking, the other face being scored by the plough, thus showing that the sculptured face has been placed downwards. I made several enquiries as to the exact place where the stone had been taken out, &c. All that I could gather was that it had been dug out some 30 to 40 yards down the field, and at about an equal distance to the south of the line of the Roman road which runs through the field. So far as I could learn, neither bones nor charcoal were found; but this is not to be wondered at, as it was not likely that they would be observed even though they were there, the great, and, I should say, the sole object being the removal of such stones as interfered with the action of the plough. Probably a careful examination of the place, so soon as convenient, might reveal the presence of such remains,

On



$AB = 16 \text{ in.}$
 $CD = 12 \text{ in.}$
 $EF = 18 \text{ in.}$
 $ab = 10 \text{ in.}$
 $ed = 9 \text{ in.}$



$AB = 14 \text{ in.}$
 $BC = 11 \text{ in.}$
 $CD = 9 \text{ in.}$
 $DE = 13 \text{ in.}$
 $EA = 18 \text{ in.}$
 $ab = 9\frac{1}{2} \text{ in.}$
 $cd = 7\frac{1}{2} \text{ in.}$
 $ef = 10 \text{ in.}$

CUP-MARKED STONES, MARYPORT.

On the face of the stone is a central cup-shaped conical cavity, surrounded by a series of three rings. The cup itself is 2 inches broad and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep. The rings are not exactly circular, but slightly elliptical. The outer ring is 10 inches in its greatest, and 9 inches in its least diameter ; the others being 7 by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and 4 by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively. The depth of the markings is about a quarter inch. The whole of the work seems to have been done by some pointed instrument, though this fact is not so clear as it is in the stone I am now about to describe.

Some four years ago Mr. Robinson and myself had reason to go into the above-named field. In the hedge we found a very curiously marked stone, which we learnt had been taken out of the ground some distance down the field. Subsequently this stone was lost, but I am glad to say that it has turned up, and, together with the stone already described, is now in safe keeping in the portico at Netherhall. It appears to be a much ruder specimen than the other,—the rings are not so deeply cut, but they more perfectly show the character of the instrument with which they have been cut. Moreover, it is only a fragment of a larger piece, hence there is not a perfect set of any of the series of rings. Roughly it is of an irregular pentagonal form, the sides being 18, 13, 9, 11, and 14 inches respectively. Across the middle of the fragment stretch two large semi-elliptical sets of rings. The larger of these consists of two rings, some $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch apart ; the longer (*semi*) axis being 13 inches, and the shorter axis 10 inches. There has been no cup mark at all, unless, indeed, it is on the part broken off ; but this does not seem very likely. A large portion of both rings is only rendered visible by a succession of small dots, the greatest part of the surface of this part of the stone having apparently weathered off. Almost touching this set—indeed at a distance of only half an inch

inch—is a more elaborate set consisting of four rings, the shorter axes being $9\frac{1}{2}$, 8, $6\frac{1}{2}$, and 5 inches respectively; the longer being $7\frac{1}{2}$, $6\frac{1}{4}$, $5\frac{1}{2}$, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively. This, at first sight, seems paradoxical, but its truth appears when it is stated that a portion only of the “set” is visible, the larger portion having been broken off, hence showing only a part of the longer axis. Here again we have no appearance of a cup.

Filling up the space on one side of the stone are portions of two other series of markings, each having two rings. These are not only united to each other, but also to the two larger sets. That there are two sets is quite clear and distinct, but they are so small that measurements would be practically useless.

From the appearances presented by the stone, it is quite clear that the sculptured side has been left uppermost.