

person of the Celtic race ; but I think it impossible to determine whether they belonged to those German tribes who had settled in Britain long prior to Cæsar's time, or to those who inundated this country after its desertion by the Romans, about A. D. 448. The instances I have given of the antiquity of the use of cairns, and of thin ornaments of gold, indeed sufficiently shew the difficulty of coming to any accurate conclusion respecting their date. If implements of brass had accompanied them, the probability would have been that they had belonged to very early settlers : iron weapons would have been an evidence of a more modern date. I repeat my persuasion, that they have been ornaments to a weapon of some kind ; and, if I were pressed for a more decided declaration of my opinion, I should say, that they had belonged to the hilt of a sword. But as I am merely a tyro in the study of antiquities, I beg that you will receive my remarks with considerable doubt and hesitation. I feel disappointed that I am unable to give a decided opinion respecting the beads ; but I am sure that in the circle of your acquaintance, you will be able to obtain an account of them from persons much better skilled in such matters than I am.

Believe me to be, dear Sir, your's, very sincerely,

JOHN HODGSON, Sec.

*Extract of a letter from the Duke of Northumberland, to Thomas Davidson, Esq. of Newcastle upon Tyne.*

*Sion, 16th July, 1815.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have received your letter, inclosing one from Mr. Hodgson, concerning the gold beads upon the bar, and am sorry he cannot give a more decided opinion respecting them. He is perfectly correct as to the antiquity and universality of cairns. Many exist in Cornwall, by the same name, and the same custom is rigidly preserved, of the passengers, as they go by, flinging up a stone to add to the heap. Cairns,

I am assured, likewise are frequent among the Cossacks, in Tartary, and even in parts of the East Indies, and the custom of adding a stone to the cairn is also constantly practised, and looked upon as a kind of religious duty, in all these different parts. It is therefore probable that the cairns had their origin in the east, and travelled westward, with those hords who inundated Europe, or have been previously brought into this island by the Druids.

Adieu, dear Sir, and be assured I ever am

Your's, most sincerely,

NORTHUMBERLAND.

*Thomas Davidson, Esq.*