

VIII.—SOME NOTES ON PREHISTORIC BURIALS ON
TYNESIDE AND THE DISCOVERY OF TWO CISTS
OF THE BRONZE PERIOD IN DILSTON PARK.

By J. P. GIBSON.

[Read on the 26th of April, 1905.]

Although Northumberland possesses a large number of prehistoric camps, the prehistoric burials discovered within its limits are not correspondingly numerous.

In the great text book of the subject, *British Barrows*, out of two hundred and twenty prehistoric burial places examined and described by the Rev. Dr. Greenwell, just thirty are found in Northumberland, and two only of these occur on Tyneside. This seems a small proportion, taking into consideration the fact, that for many years Dr. Greenwell was resident at Ovingham, on Tyneside, and had there ample opportunities for observation.

The fertile lower reaches of the Tyne have been almost continuously under the spade and plough since prehistoric times; this may account for few traces of early burials remaining there. Probably most of those which did exist were destroyed when no interest was taken in them and no record was kept of their discovery. This explanation does not serve in regard to the upper portions of the watershed, which are almost exclusively used for pasturage. In these higher reaches the numerous evidences of Roman occupation which still exist show how little disturbance of the surface has taken place during the last fifteen hundred years.

While much has been done in the examination and excavation of Roman sites, the many difficulties in the way of pre-

historic research and the small tangible results produced by it seem to have caused it to be comparatively neglected. To Dr. Greenwell, the late Rev. George Rome Hall, and Captain R. C. Hedley this society is indebted for many of its records of prehistoric Tynedale. Most, however, of the discoveries made of prehistoric remains have been the result of accident; an extensive and fertile field for research still lies open to the systematic worker who will undertake to explore the Tyneside hills. It would be useful and interesting work for some of the younger members of the society, to whom the bicycle and motor car afford means of rapid locomotion in outlying districts, to undertake the examination and description of the prehistoric remains to be found in the Tynedale country, recording those known to have been destroyed, describing those still in existence and noting for future guidance which of them have been already excavated or examined.

In Tyneside traces of the early Stone Age are not found as they are in many of our southern counties. Evidence is wanting of its occupation in the Eolithic, Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. 'The men of the berg-battered beaches, the men of the boulder-hatched hill' passed away and left no trace behind.

It is true that British camps throng the Northumbrian hill-tops, but it is difficult to estimate, even approximately, the lapse of time since they were first made and occupied, or to fix definitely to what period they may be ascribed. It has certainly been proved by the excavations made by the late Rev. George Rome Hall, that some of them were still used in the Iron Age and during the Roman occupation of the north of England. Of the Neolithic, or later Stone Age, and of the Bronze Age that overlapped and was concurrent with the latter portion of it, relics are not uncommon in Northumberland, and Tynedale seems to possess its fair share.

During the early part of this period the country was held by

a small and dark-skinned race, probably of Eur-african descent, who differed greatly from their successors both in their physical characteristics and in their burial customs.

The common use of bronze seems to have been introduced by the incursion of a Eur-asian race, supposed to have come to Britain from Switzerland and central Europe, where they had previously settled for a time. Their coming forms one of the great landmarks in the progress of civilization, as they brought with them the art of weaving, the knowledge of the mining and smelting of metals and of the working of gold and bronze.

The Neolithic and Bronze Ages may be said to have terminated with another invasion, when the new-comers, who overran the land, brought with them arms and implements of a new metal, and inaugurated the Iron Age in Britain.

This invasion marks the emergence of Britain from the prehistoric period—that is, the first epoch in its history to which even an approximate date can be assigned. Probably a safe guess would place it between five hundred and three hundred years before the commencement of the Christian era.

Much of the certain knowledge of prehistoric man that we possess is derived from a study of his burial places, and in any attempt to build up his history our chief text-books are the memorials erected by his loving care to his cherished dead. They bring down to us messages of his labours and his wars, his loves and his hates; they reveal to us the implements and weapons of the man, the trinkets and jewellery of the woman and the toys and playthings of the child. They show us the build and stature of the man himself and they indicate to us his robes of hides and skins and his dress of woven materials. They explain to us his methods of work in hacking, chipping, flaking and polishing stone, his wondrous skill in metal work, and his comparatively rude attempts in the modelling and decoration of vessels of baked clay. From them we learn both the animals

he hunted for food and those he had managed to domesticate, and they yield up to our search even the bits of his horses and the very wheels of his chariots.¹

Thus from the deathless houses of their dead we are able to glean a certain knowledge of our early ancestors, which shows us that the naked painted savage we read of in our school-days was only a baseless myth and a creature of the imagination.²

The great works of General Pitt Rivers and Professor Boyd Dawkins are unfortunately costly and rare, and thus out of the reach of most readers; but Greenwell's *British Barrows*, Bateman's *Ten Years' Diggings*, Llewellynn Jewitt's *Grave Mounds and their Contents*, and Windle's *Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England* are useful and easily accessible books of reference concerning early British grave mounds and burials. The last-named of these books contains a list of twenty-seven places in Northumberland where barrows have been found. This list is a meagre and imperfect one, and its completion or extension is urgently needed.

As a slight instalment of such a much-needed work, while putting on record the finding and unearthing of two prehistoric burials at Dilston park, I have added a few personal notes on discoveries of like character in the districts of south Northumberland lying in the watershed of the Tyne that have come under my own special notice.

HOWFORD.

In the year 1856, while the Border counties section of the North British railway was being made, a cist was discovered in a deep cutting near Howford and at a short distance above the meeting of the north and south Tyne. It contained a skeleton

¹ B. C. A. Windle, *Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England*, pages 286-287.

² 'In our moist and cold climate paint is an insufficient costume.'—Dr. Greenwell's address at Catterick.

in the usual doubled-up position, and an urn which was 'collected' by the late Mr. Fairless of Hexham, and is now in the British museum. When I saw the cist a few days after its discovery it was empty; three of the sides were standing, the top stone resting upon them being about two feet below the surface of the soil. The cist had been broken into on the west side, which was flush with the east bank-side of the cutting. In size and shape it was like those found recently at Dilston Park³ and it was a typical Bronze Age burial.

BIRTLEY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND GUNNER PEAK.

From 1880 to 1887, in company with the late Rev. George Rome Hall, I visited many of the numerous British remains he discovered and excavated in the neighbourhood of Birtley and Gunnerton and made a series of photographs at the Gunner Peak camp. As most of his discoveries are recorded in the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, it is needless to say more than that many of the objects he discovered in his excavations were sent to the museum at Alnwick castle, and that subsequent visits have shown that the traces of many of his discoveries and excavations have now quite disappeared.

CHOLLERFORD.

In 1886 a cist, covered by a large and massive stone, six feet long and over five feet wide, was found in the garden of the station master at Chollerford, which contained some bones and a worked flint. It was described by the Rev. George Rome Hall in the *Proceedings* of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club, and some notes upon it appear in the *Proceedings* of the society.⁴ It was within a few yards of the banks of the North Tyne, but out

³ See illustrations on pp. 133 and 135.

⁴ 2 ser. vol. II. p. 170.

of reach of the highest flood and only a few inches below the surface of the soil. An illustration of it appears in the fourth volume of the *New History of Northumberland*, page 169, made from my photograph of it, but the date of the discovery is given there in error as 1868 instead of 1886.

TARRET BURN.

In 1889 a cist was disclosed near the Sneep, on the right bank of the Tarret burn, by the falling away of a gravel bank which had been undermined by the flooded stream. It lay on a pretty piece of heather-clad moorland and I came upon it shortly afterwards while grouse shooting there. When found, it contained the skeleton of a woman of about twenty-five years of age and a vessel of baked clay of the beaker or drinking-cup type. Papers on the cist and its contents, by Captain R. Cecil Hedley and Dr. Laing, appeared in the fifteenth volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana*.⁴ When the skeleton was found the skull was in a fine state of preservation, and an amusing incident occurred in connexion with it. While making a photograph of it to illustrate Mr. Hedley's paper I was much puzzled by the appearance of one of the incisors of the upper jaw. All the other teeth were sound and perfect and of the rich colour of old ivory, but this incisor was much whiter and showed signs of decay, which suggested a prehistoric origin for toothache. Careful enquiries showed that the teeth when found lay loose and detached in the bottom of the cist, and were sent with the skull to a dentist to be cemented in their respective sockets. The dentist, finding that one prominent incisor was missing, and being anxious to turn out a neat job, supplied its place with one extracted from a former patient. Prehistoric toothache is yet an open question, but that nineteenth century tooth still remains in the prehistoric jaw.

⁴ Pages 49 and 51.

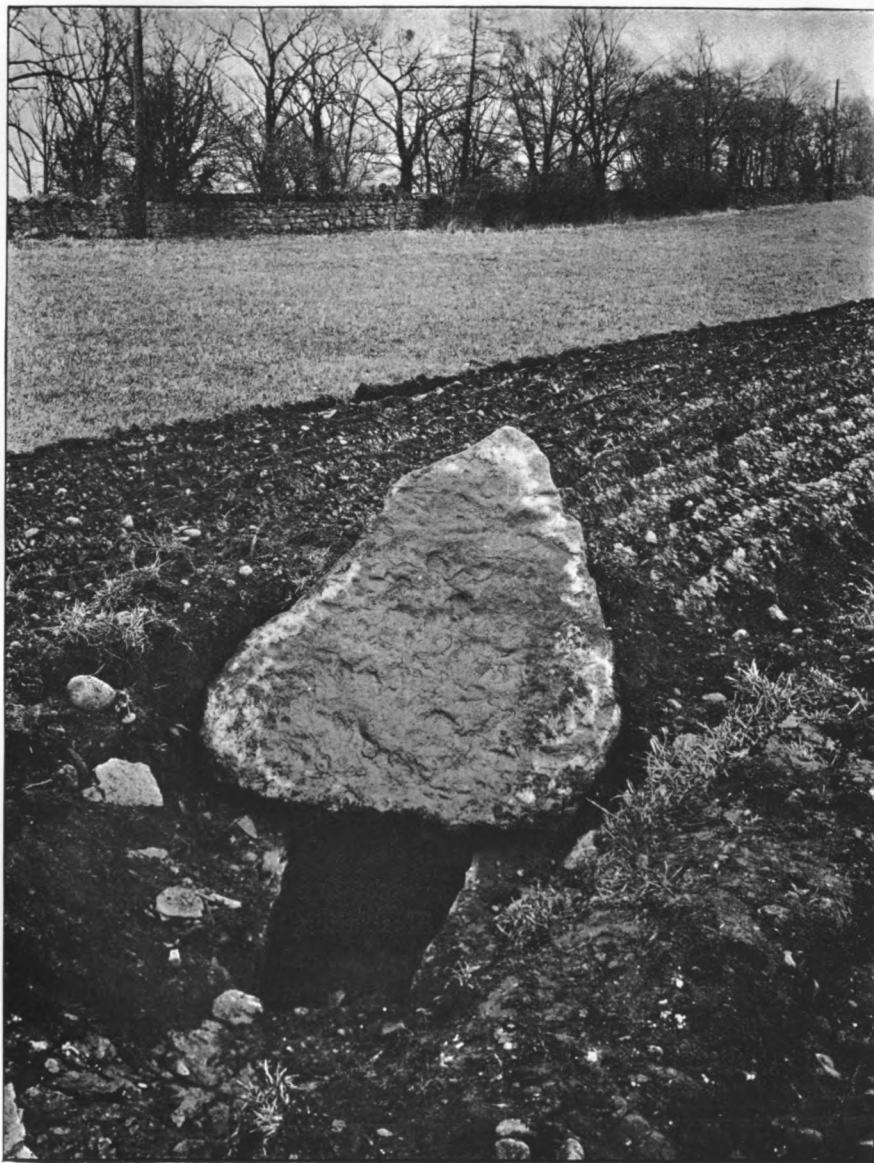
There was no evidence at Howford, Tarret burn or Chollerford, that any barrow over the cists had ever existed, but Tarret burn was the only place where such evidence was to be expected, as the long and continuous course of cultivation which has gone on at Howford and Chollerford must have tended to efface all surface inequalities.

THE DILSTON PARK BURIALS.

The ruins of the north-western tower of the 'pleasant Dilston hall' of the old Northumbrian ballad, *Lord Derwentwater's Lament*, stand on a commanding height on the right bank of the Devil's water, about half a mile from its confluence with the Tyne. Below, to the west, in the angle formed by this junction, lies a range of fertile haughs, which formed part of the noble park attached to the hall during the time it was held by the Radcliffes. After the execution of James, third earl of Derwentwater, in 1716, for the leading part he took in the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, his estates were forfeited to the crown and afterwards given to the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich. Under the commissioners appointed to manage the estates the park was cut up for arable land, but place names still indicate its former use. Its chief farmstead is still called Dilston park, and an ancient well on the road side near its western boundary, which once possessed a great reputation for the cure of scrofula, retains the name of 'the park well.'

Local records tell of a discovery of prehistoric remains made in Dilston park in September, 1830, when the men employed in levelling the Newcastle road came upon a cist containing a skeleton. No exact record exists of the spot where it was found, but there is evidence that it must have been a little west of Widehaugh and not far from the site of the recent discoveries.

In the spring of last year, having heard a rumour that some urns supposed to be Roman had been found at Dilston park, I at



CIST A, FOUND AT DILSTON PARK, 1904.

From a photograph by Mr. J. P. Gibson.

once went there to make enquiries of Mr. Pigg, the tenant of the farm. In his possession I found three early British funereal vessels, of the type usually known as drinking cups.

As handled vessels have occasionally been found, having similar decoration, and evidently intended for actual household use as drinking cups, in speaking of those just found it may be better to call them beakers, a name used by some recent writers for vessels of this type.

The three beakers were in good condition but some portions of the lips were missing in each. Mr. Pigg's son, who found them, said that while ploughing, he noticed that in passing a certain spot the ploughshare twice or thrice struck a large stone that it failed to move. On examination this proved to be a large and heavy slab, lying about a foot below the surface of the soil, which he was unable to lift. After finishing work for the day he returned to the spot with his brother, and with a crowbar they raised the stone and found under it a small square chamber containing the three beakers, one of which stood erect, the two others had fallen and lay on their sides. There seemed to be nothing more in the chamber except a sprinkling of soil on its stone floor, the condition of which suggested that at some time there must have been a flow of water through the bottom of the chamber.

As it seemed important that immediate search should be made for the missing portions of the beakers, we secured a spade, a trowel and a sieve, and at once went to examine the cist and the disturbed soil about it. The illustration, page 133, shews the appearance of the open cist, which was near the west end of a field, lying immediately to the west of a modern house called Dilston plains, and about twenty yards south of the Newcastle and Carlisle road. The walls of the cist were formed of four thin slabs of sandstone, set on edge and resting on a stone floor. The massive stone which formed its cover had apparently been



CIST B, FOUND AT DILSTON PARK (BEFORE THE OPENING), 1904.

From a photograph by Mr J. P. Gibson.

brought from the bed of the Devil's water, about half a mile distant, where there is an outcrop of similar stone just below Dilston mill. A careful sifting of all the disturbed soil gave us some missing pieces of the beakers, many scraps of partially burnt bones, portions of four human teeth, and a few small pieces of charcoal made from some hard wood.

Mr. W. C. B. Beaumont, M.P., of Bywell hall, to whom, as owner of the soil, the beakers belonged, having been informed of the discovery, kindly placed at my disposal the services of his chief woodman and some labourers for further search.⁴ By carefully probing the soil for some distance around the cist, another large stone was found, lying about two yards farther east. As this was evidently the cover of a second cist, before removing it I sent notice to Mr. Beaumont to give him an opportunity of seeing its opening. Unfortunately, he was unable to be present, but his agent, Mr. J. C. Balden, came in his stead. When the earth had been cleared away from the top of the stone a photograph (cist B, p. 135) was taken, showing the cover of the cist just as it lay when first put in its place some thousands of years ago, and preparations were then made for raising the cover and revealing the contents of the cist.

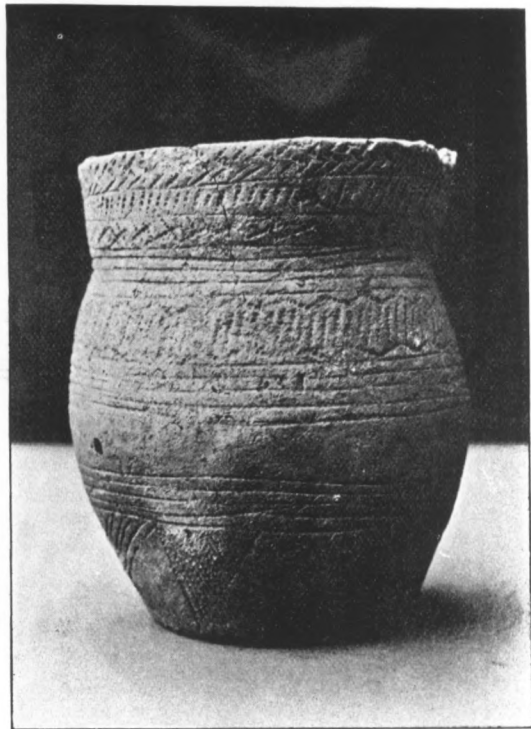
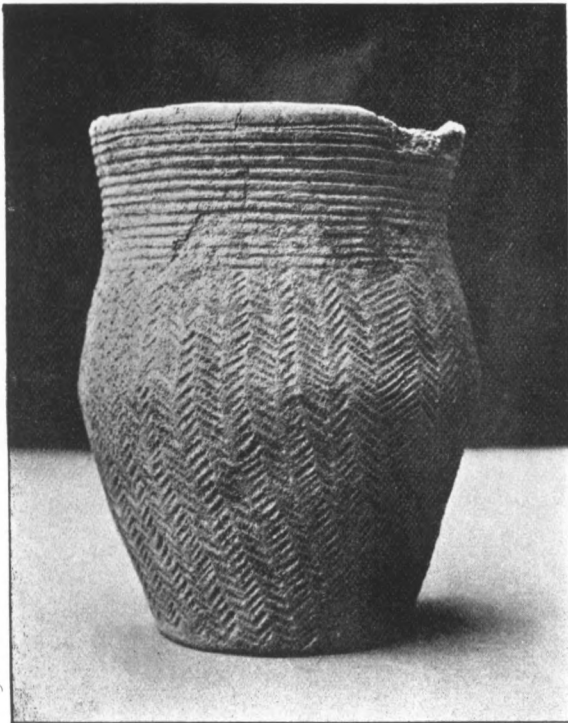
The sportsman who knows the keen anxiety of the gunner, quietly working up to his dogs, backing each other at point; or hearing, crouched in his heather-sheltered butt, the warning cry of 'Ma-ark, ma-ark,' as the grouse rise far in front of the beaters and sweep down wind towards him; or the angler who has hooked and played his first spring fish and is trying to bring it within reach of the gaff, may realize something of the feelings of the antiquary awaiting his first peep into a newly-found prehistoric cist.

There was a hush of expectation as the crowbar was inserted

⁴ The thanks of our society are due to Mr. Beaumont for the facilities he afforded for the examination and preservation of the cists.—J. P. G.



CIST B, FOUND AT DILSTON PARK (OPEN), 1904.
From a photograph by Mr. J. P. Gibson.



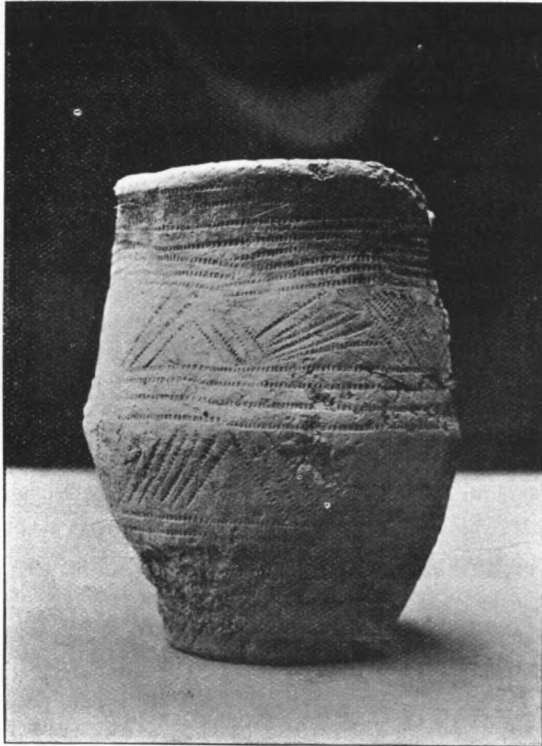
1.

2.

BEAKERS FROM CIST A IN DILSTON PARK. (Scale, one half linear.)

From photographs by Mr. J. P. Gibson.

and the cist cover slowly raised, and a sigh of disappointment as the stone fell back and disclosed only a chamber half full of fine soil, which in the long course of ages had been carried into



3. BEAKER FROM CIST A IN DILSTON PARK.
(One half linear.)

From a photograph by Mr. J. P. Gibson.

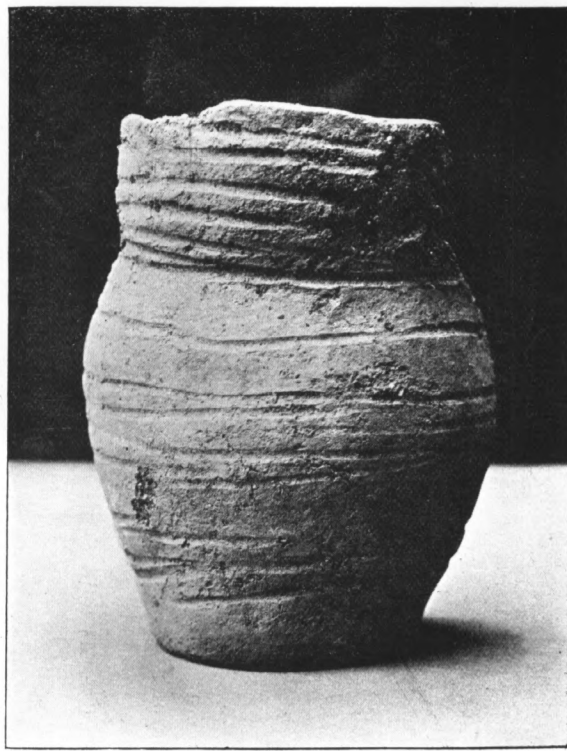
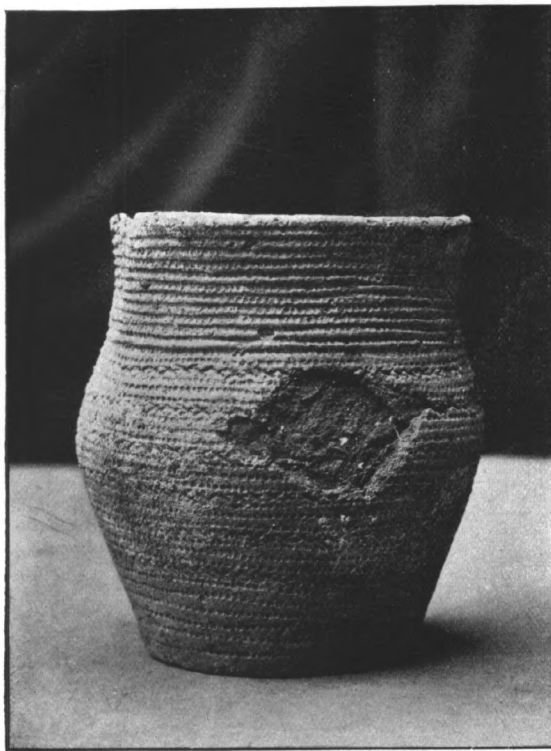
it by the percolation of surface water. Near its centre was a heap of lightly turned earth, evidently the work of an industrious mole that had gained access to the cist at one corner where the stones had not a close joint.

Many of the beakers in cists of the Bronze Period, when found, have not been standing erect, as it might naturally be supposed they would be when the cist was closed. As there seemed no means of accounting for their overturn after the closing of the cist, many theories more or less sentimental have been offered in explanation of this puzzle. As these vessels have a narrow base, which is often uneven, they are top-heavy and are easily upset. No doubt many of these overturns have been made by the blind miner, who could easily gain access to the cists and would there find comfortable quarters ready made, where his movements might soon upset any beakers they contained. Probing the loose earth with my fingers, I was delighted to find something hard and curved, which turned out to be the rim of a vessel. The careful use of the trowel soon turned out two beakers in fair condition and similar in type to those found in the first cist. They had been overturned and both lay at the south-west end of the cist. At the south-east side of the cist there had been a deposit of ashes, but it was impossible to say whether they had simply been placed on the floor of the cist or had originally been enclosed in a skin or other receptacle of perishable material.

The distance between the two cists was two yards, and the longer axis of both of them lay E.N.E. and W.S.W.

The illustration, page 137, of the second cist open shows the relative size of the chamber and the beakers it contained, and it also indicates on the left the line of the Newcastle and Carlisle road.

As a considerable amount of trespass was caused by curious visitors coming from the adjacent road to examine the cists, and as the stones of which they were composed lay in the way of the plough and interfered with its work, it was decided that they must be removed. As a means of preserving them from total destruction, I suggested that the stones of which the cists



4.

5.

BEAKERS FROM CIST B IN DILSTON PARK. (Scale, one half linear.)

From photographs by Mr. J. P. Gibson.

were composed might be numbered and placed near Dilston castle in their original arrangement, and they now appear near the doorway of Dilston castle as two dolmens in miniature, which, with reasonable care, may form a very lasting and interesting record of the discovery.

During the Bronze Age the size of burial mounds and chambers appears to have been decreased, and the cist became a receptacle for a single interment, not meant to be opened for subsequent burials.

Many cists have been found in the north with no traces of any mound over them. The question arises, has there ever been any mound over these two cists? There seems no visible trace of any, but on the other hand, if one had existed, a long course of cultivation of the land might easily account for its total obliteration.

THE BURIALS.

As no stone or metal weapons, implements, or ornaments were found in either of the cists, the interest in them is centred in the nature of the burials and the funereal vessels accompanying them.

As regards the question of inhumation or cremation, the following facts, that I can personally vouch for, leave, I think, no doubt that both the Dilston park cists contained burials after cremation:—

1. No unburnt bones were found, although the soil in and about the cists was thoroughly and carefully sifted.
2. Scraps of partially burnt bones were found in both cists.
3. In cist B there was a distinct heap of ashes on the floor of the cist.
4. Small pieces of charcoal were found in both cists.
5. Portions of four human teeth from cist A had evidently undergone the action of fire, little of them remaining except the enamelled parts.

The teeth of which remains were found were incisor, canine, bicuspid and molar. Judging from the condition of the canine tooth, which is very perfect and little worn, the age of the person interred was probably from seventeen to twenty.

THE FUNERAL VESSELS

are five beakers, made of the common clay of the district, which is of good quality and becomes red when burnt. It is found in abundance not far from the site of the cists and there is a large brickyard a few hundred yards away where both bricks and draining tiles are made.

BEAKER NO. 1, CIST A (page 138).

Dimensions: Height, five and three-quarter inches; width, four and a half inches; diameter of rim, four and a quarter inches. The neck is ornamented with a series of fourteen incised lines running around it, apparently made with a blunt pointed tool. The lower part is covered with twenty-seven lines of herring-bone ornament running up and down, probably made by stamping the clay in an unburnt state with narrow strips of bone or wood notched so as to form lines of small impressions of a square, round or triangular shape. For a time it seemed as if the ornamentation of this vessel was unique, but somewhat similar decoration occurs in a vessel four inches high found at Aberbechan in Montgomeryshire, and described in Mr. Thurnam's paper in *Archaeologia*, vol. XLIII., where an illustration of it is given on page 394. The zigzag or succession of chevrons which forms the herring-bone ornament is the leading motive in the ornamentation of this beaker, and is also found on beakers 2 and 3. Used in Egyptian hieroglyphics the zigzag is RA, the sign representing water, liquid, sea or waves, and doubtless it is meant as an imitation of wave forms. The zigzag is also the chief ornament on the beautiful column from the

treasury of Atreus at Mycenae, recently presented to the British museum by Lord Sligo, which is dated about twelve hundred years before the commencement of the Christian era, going back to the times Homer sings of in his *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

By the arrangement of the chevron in different fashions many other decorative figures are produced, and Mr. Romilly Allen, in his *Celtic Art in Pagan and Christian Times*,⁵ shows the wonderful number of patterns formed on ancient British pottery by its combinations.

BEAKER NO. 2, CIST A (page 138).

Height, five and a quarter inches; width, four and a half inches; diameter of rim, four and a quarter inches. The varied ornament of this beaker can be best understood by a reference to the photographic illustration of it (*vide* page 138). The numerous fine horizontal lines in the design may have been made by the impression of fine cords placed round it while the clay was in a plastic state. This beaker shews the action of water in the cist. It had fallen over and lay on its side when found, and it has lost a triangular piece from its lip, which measures about four inches at the rim, narrowing down to a point about two inches below. At this broken portion, the remaining edges of the beaker, which have lain in water, are thinly coated with a white incrustation, which, I believe, is phosphate of lime from the burnt bones of the burial.

BEAKER NO. 3, CIST A (page 139).

Height, five and a half inches; width, four and a half inches; diameter of rim, four and a quarter inches. In this beaker the ornamentation is similar in type to that of no. 2, but is much coarser in quality and inferior in design. This vessel is in the

⁵ Pages 28 to 37.

worst condition of any of the lot: when found, much of the upper part had been fretted away by the action of water and little more than one-third of its lip was left. The horizontal lines on this beaker seem produced in the same fashion as the shorter impressed lines, and unlike those on No. 2 beaker, could not have been produced by a cord carried around it.

BEAKER NO. 4, CIST B (page 141).

Height, five inches; width, four and a half inches; diameter of rim, four inches. This is the smallest of the beakers, and though apparently very simple in its decoration, it displays excellent workmanship and artistic design. Twelve incised lines, made with a blunt pointed tool, are carried round an inch and a half of the top of the neck, then the raised ridges intervening between these incised lines have been impressed with a series of dots, such as might be made by a string of very small round beads, possibly formed of threaded seeds. The remainder of the beaker has bands of similar dots around at slight intervals; six of the lowest of these intervals are quite plain; of the remainder, each third interval is filled by a chain of saltires or St. Andrew's crosses. I have not met with or found illustrations of similar work on any beaker; those that have a resemblance to it in some points have not the secondary work on the raised ridges round the neck, which seems uncommon or unique.

BEAKER NO. 5, CIST B (page 141).

Height, six inches; width, four and three-quarter inches; diameter of rim, five inches. This is the largest and by much the rudest of the beakers. There are six irregular horizontal impressed lines around the neck, and as many around the body of the beaker, apparently made by a thick cord. The upper part is much injured and most of the neck is wanting, but sufficient remains to shew the shape and size of the vessel. The

clay of which it is composed is thick and coarse and contains grit and a shiny, sparkling material which apparently is iron pyrites.

The illustrations of these beakers are all made to scale and are half linear size. They are photographed to shew as little of the imperfect sides as possible.

RELATIVE AGE OF THESE AND OTHER VESSELS
OF THE BRONZE AGE.

As vessels of similar shape, with ornamentation of like character, have frequently been found in similar cists accompanied by bronze weapons and implements, those found at Dilston park may with certainty be assigned to the Bronze Age.

In the *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. II. 4th series, March, 1904, is an interesting and careful paper by the Honourable John Abercromby,⁶ attempting to discriminate between earlier and later forms of the beaker.

Mr. Thurnam, writing in 1870,⁷ divided beakers into three types, viz.:—

- (a) High brimmed globose cup.
- (b) Ovoid cup with recurved rim.
- (c) Low brimmed cup.

Mr. Abercromby further elaborates this division into fifteen sub-types and attempts a chronological arrangement of these numerous sub-types extending over a suggested approximate period of two hundred years.

There appears nothing in the Dilston park discovery to confirm this suggested arrangement. Mr. Abercromby tells me that evidence received since the paper was published has convinced

⁶ 'A proposed chronological arrangement of the drinking cup or beaker class of fictilia in Britain.'

⁷ *Archaeologia*, vol. XLIII. page 391.

him that 'the whole question requires a fresh investigation.' Dr. Greenwell says,⁸ 'It is no uncommon occurrence to find in the same barrow, and under circumstances that show that the several vessels are the product of the same period, some which evidence considerable skill while others might have been made by the veriest tyro in the trade.'

The Dilston park find confirms and adds to this statement, as it furnishes two instances in which in the same cists (not merely in the same barrows) vessels are found varying widely both in form and decoration. It also proves the great difficulty of attempting to fix any relative dates of Bronze Age beakers by a comparison either of their shape or ornamentation.

Hitherto few instances have been recorded of beakers having been found in burials where the remains had been cremated. Dr. Greenwell,⁹ in describing barrow LXII. in the parish of Rudstone in Yorkshire, where he found two beakers with two burnt bodies, says, 'The finding of "drinking cups" in connection with burials after cremation is of very infrequent occurrence; indeed, I do not know of any previous instance on the wolds in which such a conjunction has been observed.' And also, in referring to the same burials, 'It is very rare to find a drinking cup accompanying burnt bones; I have only found it so deposited in one barrow at Rudstone, where three bodies, one unburnt and two burnt, were placed in a deep grave, each having a drinking cup of similar shape and ornamentation buried with it.'

Sir Richard Colt Hoare¹⁰ states that in his excavations he found thirty drinking cups, of which three were found deposited with burials after cremation.

Mr. John Thurnam, in a paper on Ancient British barrows,¹ says, 'Drinking cups are the accompaniment of unburnt bodies

⁸ *British Barrows*, p. 234.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 245.

¹⁰ *Ancient Wilts.*

¹ *Archaeologia*, vol. XLIII. p. 338.

and are placed in the grave near the head or more frequently near the feet. There is scarcely any rule without an exception, real or apparent, and out of two hundred and seventy-two burnt interments in Wiltshire barrows two are accompanied by this form of vessel, perhaps employed out of caprice or in the absence of others of more appropriate form.'

Mr. J. R. Mortimer,² in summing up the results of the examination of two hundred and ninety-five barrows, says, 'It is still more rare to find the true drinking cup with a burnt body; no such instance has occurred in my experience.'

The Honourable John Abercromby, in the paper already alluded to,³ gives a list of two hundred and twenty-two beakers found in various parts of Great Britain, with photographic illustrations of one hundred and seventy-one of them. Of these two hundred and twenty-two beakers, he says nine were associated with burials after cremation, two of these were from the burials at Rudstone previously recorded by the Rev. W. Greenwell. He also alludes to the three from Wiltshire barrows mentioned by Sir R. C. Hoare and Mr. Thurnam; making a total of twelve beakers found associated with burials after cremation. The great increase made to this list of twelve by the addition of the five Dilston park beakers, shows the importance of their discovery, affording as it does further proof that inhumation and cremation were used contemporaneously much more than was at one time supposed.

As this paper has been rigidly kept to a bare statement of facts, it may not inaptly be closed by a quotation of a more imaginative and poetic character from a charming book on a kindred subject, published in 1903⁴:—

² *Forty Years' Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*, page lv.

³ *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. II. fourth series, pages 323-410.

⁴ *Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey*, by W. Johnson and W. Wright.

'The whole subject of these prehistoric burials is full of allurements. These primitive tombs are eloquent with the mysterious echoes of bygone people, who, now unnamed and forgotten, once trod the "long dim aisle of years." We stop to think of these moorland barrows, covering the dust of men who were fashioned like unto ourselves, men whose relics the peasant heedlessly disturbs or casts aside. As we stand there, . . . trying to appreciate the great antiquity of the mound, we muse on the evanescence of a single generation and the unutterable feebleness of the individual man. An overpowering sense of bewilderment creeps over us and we fall under an inscrutable spell.'

'Stars, silent, rest o'er us;
Graves under us, silent.'



PREHISTORIC CIST WITH HUMAN REMAINS AT NORTH SUNDERLAND.