

PART III.

ANALOGOUS SCULPTURES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

The instances of cup and ring sculptures which I have described or alluded to in the preceding chapters, have—with a few exceptions noted in the context—been all discovered within the last few years; and, no doubt, very many more examples will be detected in other localities in Scotland and England, when sufficient archæological investigation is directed towards them. But, in the meantime, it is not uninteresting to inquire if any similar lapidary sculptures have been found elsewhere. On this subject there still exists as yet very limited information. I am not aware that any carvings of the same early art-type have hitherto attracted the notice of antiquaries or travellers in any distant quarters of the world; and Brittany and Scandinavia are the only parts of the Continent of Europe where, as far as I know, any analagous sculpturings have as yet been met with. They have been found also in Ireland. I shall very briefly advert to some of the leading instances and forms of the analogous early lapidary sculptures of Ireland and on the Continent, with a view of comparing and contrasting them with the simpler cup and ring cuttings of Great Britain.