

**On the opening and examination of a barrow of the British period at
Warkshaugh, North Tyneside / by Geo. Rome Hall.**

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those animals. Part of the jaw and one of the cranial bones of a fish were also found. These may all be supposed to have been brought there by human agency, or to have inhabited the cavern at the same time as man. But there were likewise many bones of small wild birds as well as of barn-door fowls, some of them with feathers still attached, and all evidently of quite recent origin. For these the fox must doubtless be held responsible.

It will be seen that none of these remains necessarily indicate great antiquity. Even as belonging to the historical era they would scarcely appear to date many centuries back. Had the human bones and shells not been present, the rest of the remains could easily have been accounted for by our looking upon the cave as an old fox-hole. We conclude, however, that the cave must, at some time or other, have been used by man as a place of resort—as is indicated by the burnt wood and remains of edible shell-fish—and afterwards, either by intention or accident, as a place of burial. We have evidence of the presence of not less than seven human beings, five of whom seem to have been males, one a female, and one a child. Why so many of our fellow creatures should have left their remains there, at a period which cannot but have been comparatively recent, is difficult to understand; nor can we even venture to hazard a conjecture as regards this part of the subject.

10.

XV.—*On the Opening and Examination of a Barrow of the British Period at Warkshaugh, North Tynedale.* By the Rev. GEO. ROME HALL. (Plate XV.)

AMONG the numerous vestiges of the pre-historic vale-dwellers of the North Tyne, yet remaining, are several *tumuli* or barrows. At High Shield Green a group of such burial mounds takes the form of an ancient cemetery. They are clustered around a great central cairn on a lofty eminence, not far from several ancient British camps. In the autumn of last year (1864), six or seven of these barrows were carefully examined, including

"Dan's Cairn," but without any results worthy of remark.* An immense mound of earth, with deep surrounding fosse, stands at the junction of two ravines, under the great basaltic crags of Gunnarton. It resembles the so-called bell-shaped or conical barrow of the South of England, though from the conformation of double ramparts and ditches which pass from brink to brink of the adjoining ravines, the idea of its use as a work of defence and post of observation is suggested to an observer. The "Money-Hill," as it is popularly named, from the local tradition of concealed treasure, was lately excavated under the direction of the Rev. W. Greenwell, to whom I have been much indebted for information on disputed points in connection with the examination of the Warkshaugh barrow, and in preparing the present account of its opening and contents. In the case of the Gunnarton Money-Hill we came upon traces of a mediæval exploration, in the shape of the fragment of a drinking-vessel of that period. But the evidence of its sepulchral origin was at best negative, as no sufficient traces of inhumation were found to warrant any strong opinion—though such a result, after the lapse of so many ages from its first formation, cannot be considered unexpected. Nor is it conclusive proof against the possibility of an early interment, as many of the more ancient barrows, generally allowed to be such, have proved similarly unproductive. This very remarkable mound and its associated works (whether it was made for interment, for defence, or as a session mound for

* This barrow is about forty feet in diameter, and three feet high, after being used as a quarry for the formation of the neighbouring fence walls. The original interment had no doubt been reached, and every trace of associated relics destroyed. The name is probably a traditional reminiscence of the fearful ravages of the North-men, *Dan* being a familiar rendering of *Dane*, as "Dan's Linn," a precipitous escarpment of limestone with ancient iron-stone workings beneath, occurs about two miles to the west of the cairn. (Compare the "Dane's Holes" and "Danes' Graves" of Durham and Yorkshire.) In one of the smaller barrows was found at the centre a circle of stones, set on edge, about three feet in diameter, within which only fragments of charcoal and chippings of freestone reddened by the action of fire were noticed. A similar circle was discovered by the Rev. W. Greenwell, in one of the *howes* which he opened in the North Riding of Yorkshire. It contained two urns with burnt bones, and a smaller urn inverted over the mouth of one of the larger urns. The stones composing the barrow were in both cases much burnt. (See *Archæological Journal*, Vol. XXII, Notices of the Examination of Ancient Grave Hills in the North Riding of Yorkshire, in the year 1864.)

law gatherings and Druid ceremonies,) will well repay a visit, and it is in the neighbourhood of British forts on the Gunnar Crag and Pity-me Hill.*

It must be confessed, that in the matter of barrow-diggings, the ploughman in this district has been more favoured by fortune than the antiquary. Though several interesting tumuli have been accidentally discovered in this valley, even within the last few years, no careful examination of them seems to have been attempted, or, at least, no record of it remains. Solitary burials of the pre-historic or Romano-British period have been found in drainage at Carry House, on an escarpment near the Warksburn Bridge, where it falls into the North Tyne, and in a low-lying site by the river at Smalesmouth, near Falstone. In the first case an urn, having the ashes of cremation within it, was taken out of a cist or stone-lined grave, strangely enough, placed almost in the centre of a British fort. The urn is lost, having been at once broken to pieces by the finders when disappointed in their expectations of a concealed hoard. In the second instance an ornament of black bog oak, perforated with five holes, as if used in securing the proper adjustment of the lady's attire who was buried there, in primeval days, was found within the cist. And in the last example, the covering-slab of the cist attracted the attention of the road-makers, who were in want of material for breaking up, when the grave itself was uncovered. The urn, of the so-called "drinking-cup" type, was in excellent condition, from the dryness of the site by the way-side, and though it stood nearly twelve months in a neighbouring cottage, at Greystead, I found it in good preservation. It is now in Mr. Greenwell's

* The resemblance between the mysterious concentric circles incised on the rocks of Northumberland, and the configuration of these ancient earth-works, was pointed out by Mr. Greenwell, who has the honour to have first brought the subject of these most interesting rock-symbols before the public, in a paper read at the Newcastle meeting of the Archaeological Institute, in 1852. The great central mound represents the hollowed cup of these symbolical figures, around which are similar concentric lines, in this case, the surrounding ditches and rampart. From the centre also a projection, as it were, of the diameter passes through and beyond the encircling lines. The hollow way of the Money-Hill fort runs for a distance of one hundred and twenty feet from the circular fosse, and answers to the duct or channel which leads out from the central cup of the rock inscriptions.

collection, and is represented (plate XV, fig. 1) in the annexed sketches of British sepulchral remains of this locality.

One or two family-barrows of the same early period occur in the district. Near the Barrasford School-house, on a natural outburst of the basalt, which was ploughed around for several years in succession without suspicion of anything but a "quarry," three or four cists were at length disclosed by the till. In one cist was an urn, which was so little valued by its possessor, that it fell in pieces in an out-building through exposure to the weather. In a cultivated field on the Barrasford Green farm, a large barrow, formed of massive stones, was similarly uncovered a few years since by the plough. Five cists were contained in it with urns in each, of which only one, of the so-called "food-vessel" type, with very peculiar scorings, has been preserved, having been sent by Mr. Thompson, the farmer, to the Alnwick Castle Museum. This urn is also represented (fig. 2.)*

Such are the chief sepulchral remains of the early inhabitants of this district, which had come to my knowledge previous to the exploration of the Warkshaugh barrow. This interesting and important tumulus, which has been carefully and thoroughly explored and examined, I now proceed to describe.

In November last (1864) one of Mr. Snowball's farm-servants, in ploughing a field opposite to Wark Station, struck against an inverted urn in a spot within a hundred yards from the river-bank. The plough carried away the upper portion, as it stood on a level with the surface, so that the ploughman was able to put his hand through the aperture in search of the treasure, hidden therein, as he expected, in the "troublesome times." His hasty investigation, however, was so ill-rewarded by the handfuls of calcined bones which he brought to light, that he scattered them around him in disgust, and but a small portion have been recovered. When the farmer himself went to the site of the discovery, he at once sent for Mr. Henry McLauchlan, who was then at Wark engaged on his antiquarian survey and map of the county for the late Duke of Northumberland. After

* I am indebted for the sketch to E. Chapman, Esq., who kindly had it drawn of the original size.

Mr. McLauchlan had taken the dimensions, the urn unexpectedly fell in pieces from the damp state of the surrounding soil after recent rains. Close to the urn on the east they noticed a freestone slab laid horizontally, and on further use of the pickaxe and spade a second, and then a third, forming a kind of flagged path about three yards in length. Here another slab, placed perpendicularly, was found to intervene between the end of the last, and a fourth slab, so massive in its proportions, that it was taken to be merely a "quarry" or outburst of the freestone rock. Happily, with the aid of crowbars, Mr. Snowball and his men removed it in fragments, and were rewarded for their perseverance by uncovering at length a well-formed cist or stone-lined grave, on the top of which this huge slab had been placed. It was at this stage of the excavations that I saw the barrow. From observation of the ground it seemed to have covered a large extent of surface, rising gently towards a centre on all sides, and might reasonably be supposed to contain more than one interment. I thought it desirable, therefore, to have the spot carefully examined, and having asked permission of the proprietor, J. H. L. Allgood, Esq., of Nunwick, he not only readily granted the request, but with great courtesy furnished the men to make the exploration, as far as was thought requisite.

It was not until several weeks after the discovery, in January of the present year (1865), that I had the opportunity to proceed further with the examination of the Warkshaugh barrow. Our first endeavour was to dig a trench seven yards long, and four and a half feet wide, nearly due north from the site of the inverted urn when first observed. The depth was from two and a half to three feet, being slightly beneath the undisturbed surface. In this direction, towards the western edge of the barrow, nothing of importance was noticed, except a pavement of water-worn stones, evidently put there by design, about a foot below the soil, and on a level with the urn. Some of these stones were reddened by the action of fire. Another trench was next dug at right angles to the former, bearing nearly due east, along what seemed to be the highest part of the gentle slope. This was made of considerable width—twelve feet, and about the same depth as

the other. The workmen had proceeded (with Mr. Snowball's aid and direction during my absence for a few hours,) more than ten yards before they met with any different indications. On my return, towards night-fall, they had just struck upon a second cist with an urn contained in it, which had unfortunately been broken by the fall of a side slab ages before. Next morning this cist was carefully cleared out, and the fragments of the urn hardened by exposure to fire on the spot, so that now they have been put together by Mr. Greenwell so as to show the shape and ornamental scorings. Probably the first urn might have been saved by similar means. A small and rude flint knife was found among the sand which filled this as well as the other cists. Beyond the second cist, but closely adjoining it on the east, a trench was also excavated, where some immense water-worn stones and slabs were seen to protrude. It was cut from south to north, along what appears to have been the eastern face of the barrow for nineteen feet, by ten feet in breadth. As it was just possible that between the southern and eastern cists a third interment might have been placed, we next had a trench of rather less dimensions dug in that direction from the second line of excavation. Here we were not long in coming upon another cist with very massive covering, slab smaller, and more irregular in form than the other cists. There was nothing within but fine sand.

The barrow remained open in this condition until the beginning of May, and was seen by Mr. Greenwell and others. At this time Mr. Snowball, to whom I am under great obligations for his frequent assistance in our explorations, desired to fill in the site in order to proceed with the tillage of the land. In probing a few inches beyond the large northern trench he found, at almost the last moment, the central cist, which I had not thought to exist, from the result of our earlier excavation. This fourth cist, which in so large a barrow was not difficult to miss, had no covering slab. It had no doubt been displaced by the plough some time since, as it occupied a slightly higher relative position than the rest. This cist also contained no remains, though it was lined with a large and well-shaped slab at the

bottom. The discovery of the central cist was very opportune, as it completed, in all probability, the sepulchral design of this ancient family-barrow, and proved it to be in all respects an excellent typical specimen of its class.

The following details, drawn from personal observation and measurement, may not be devoid of interest. I regret that the Tyneside Naturalists cannot verify the survey and the sketch now before them by an actual inspection for themselves. The inexorable march of the seasons and the requirements of modern husbandry, as unchangeable when archæology only is concerned as the laws of the Medes and Persians, demanded that our labours and their recompense should be once more buried from the light of day. It may be that when Lord Macaulay's New Zealander ponders over

"The long results of Time,"

on London Bridge, some local antiquary will resuscitate these twice-sepulchred relics of the past, and re-describe them in their less perfect state to such of our successors as feel, with Terence, a human interest in all that affects our race,* or throws a ray of light on its earliest phases and conditions of existence.

To begin with the characteristics of the Warkshaugh barrow itself—its *position* and *internal arrangements*.† The situation is very unusual, low-lying by the brink of a turbulent river, which in flood might be thought to have washed over its site a thousand times since it was originally placed there. Before the river embankment was made the overflow must have approached very near to the western face of the tumulus; though we can scarcely suppose that the builders of it, in times when the rain-fall would be much larger than it is now through the great extent of primæval forests on the flanks of the Cheviot range, would endanger the perpetuity of their monument of tribal or family affection by placing it within reach of even the highest flood. All the "*car-neddau*" or tumuli of the district, which I have before noticed,

* "*Homo sum; humani nihil a me alienum puto.*"

† A rough plan of its situation on the Warkshaugh farm is appended, together with a more exact ground-plan of the barrow, wherein the relative position of the cists, flagged-way, and cinerary urn, is defined.

stand on sites considerably elevated. Some occupy positions, as Dan's Cairn, which overlook the whole upper reach of the North Tyne, and could be seen from the Scottish hills, in accordance with the usual desire of a Pagan chief to have his name and fame held in remembrance after his death. Of these the words of the bard are descriptive, when he says of his buried forefathers,

————— "Yn garnedd
Mewn gwerni mae 'n gorwedd :"
"They are lying in the barrow on the *moor*."

But respecting this tumulus, the site of which within memory almost has been overgrown, like the rest of the valley-slope from the river to the Watling Street, with underwood and natural oak, the answering description would be couched in another line—

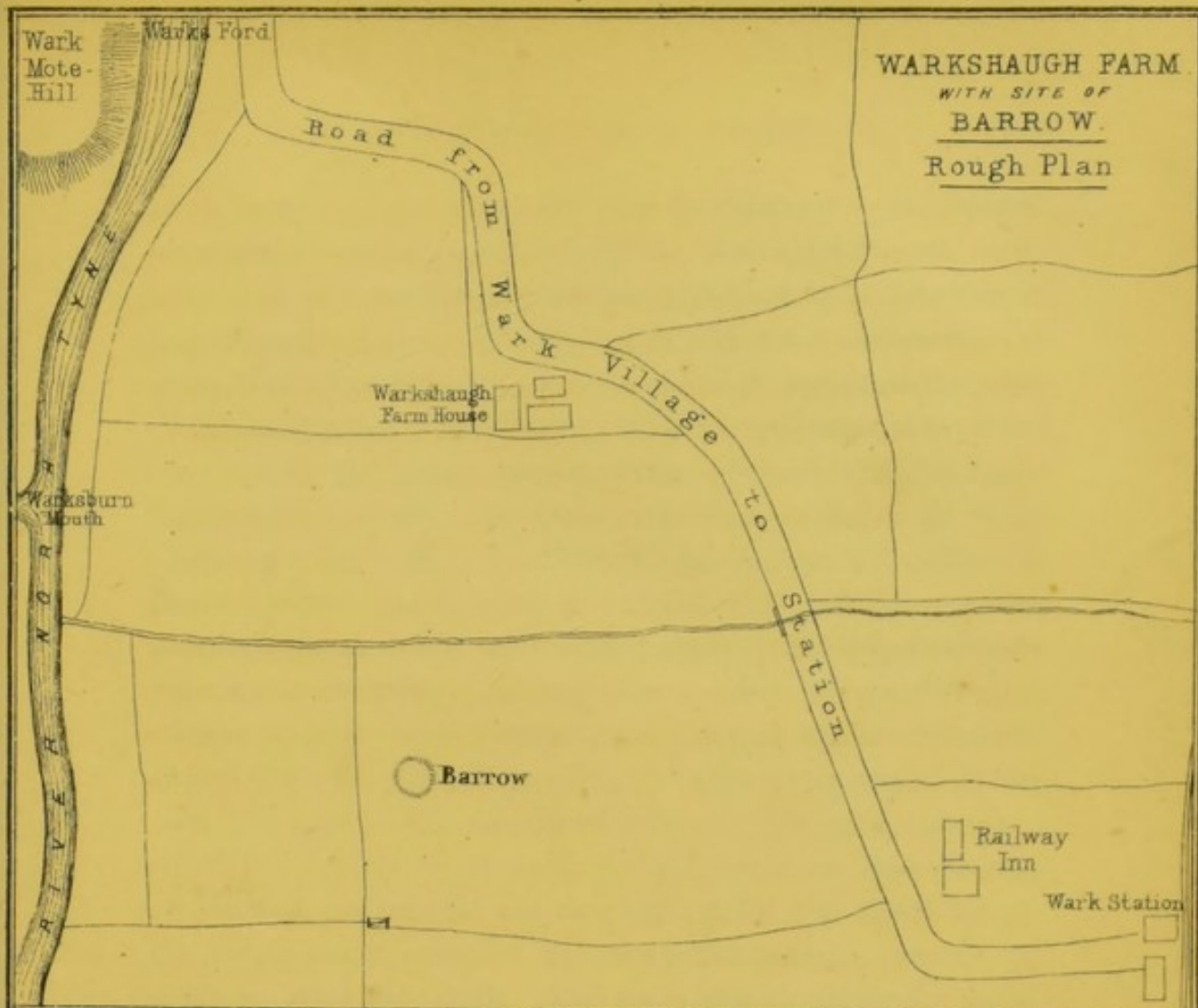
"Eu beddau a'u cudd gwyddwal :"
"Their graves are hidden by the thicket."

The outline of the barrow has long been rendered indistinct by yearly tillage; but it can be remembered since it stood at least two feet higher than it does now. The ring of larger stones which usually encircles the base of such tumuli could be easily seen at the east and north, within which the level surface appears to have had a rough kind of pavement. Here, where many of the stones were reddened throughout by fire, the funeral feast may possibly have been held, as a kind of sacrifice to the manes of the departed, according to the prevailing custom of ancient mourners, civilised or barbarian—one, too, which has lingered in this valley through both Pagan and Christian times to this day.* The funeral pyre was also probably erected in this open space for the burning of the body, whose calcined bones were enclosed in the urn which was first discovered. The whole barrow must

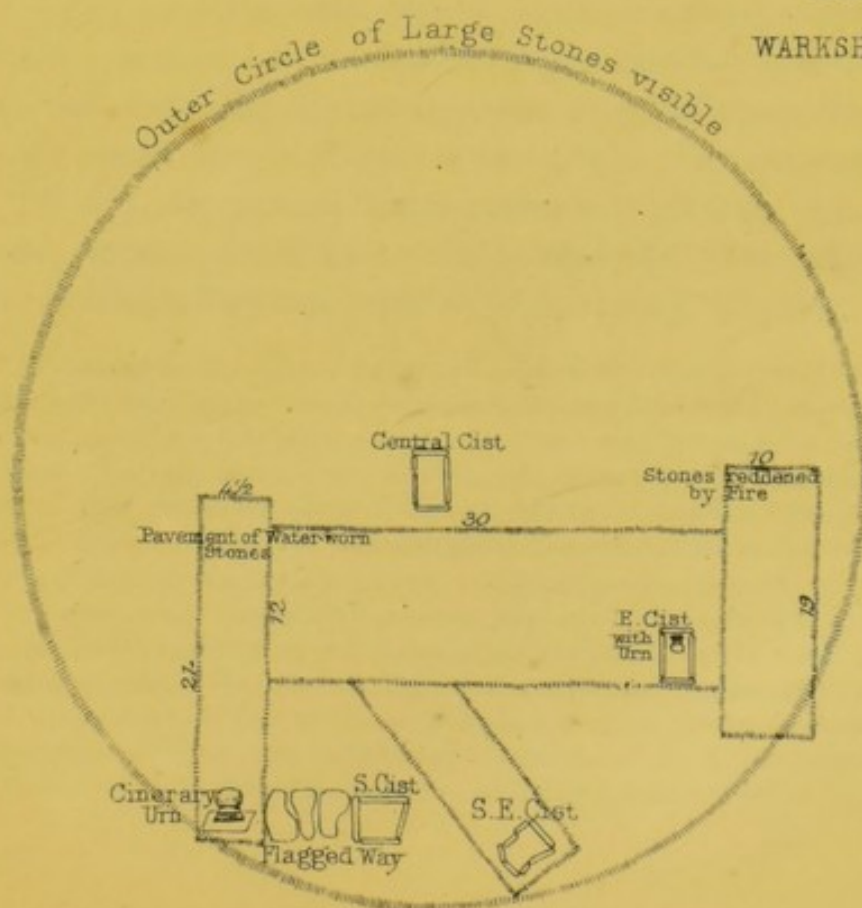
* In Brand's "Popular Antiquities," Vol. II, p. 237, (Bohn's Edition,) there is a full description of these "Funeral Entertainments," which are traced down from very early times. Hutchinson, in his "History of Northumberland," Vol. II, ad. fin., p. 20, assigns the origin of the *Arvel*-dinner to the British period; the word, still not uncommon in the North of England, namely, Arthel or Arvel, being "frequently more correctly written *arddelw*." The similar funereal banquet among the Greeks and Romans is well known. See, especially, Juvenal, Satire V, l. 85. An allusion to the same custom occurs in Hamlet, Act I, sc. 2, who, speaking of his mother's marriage, says—

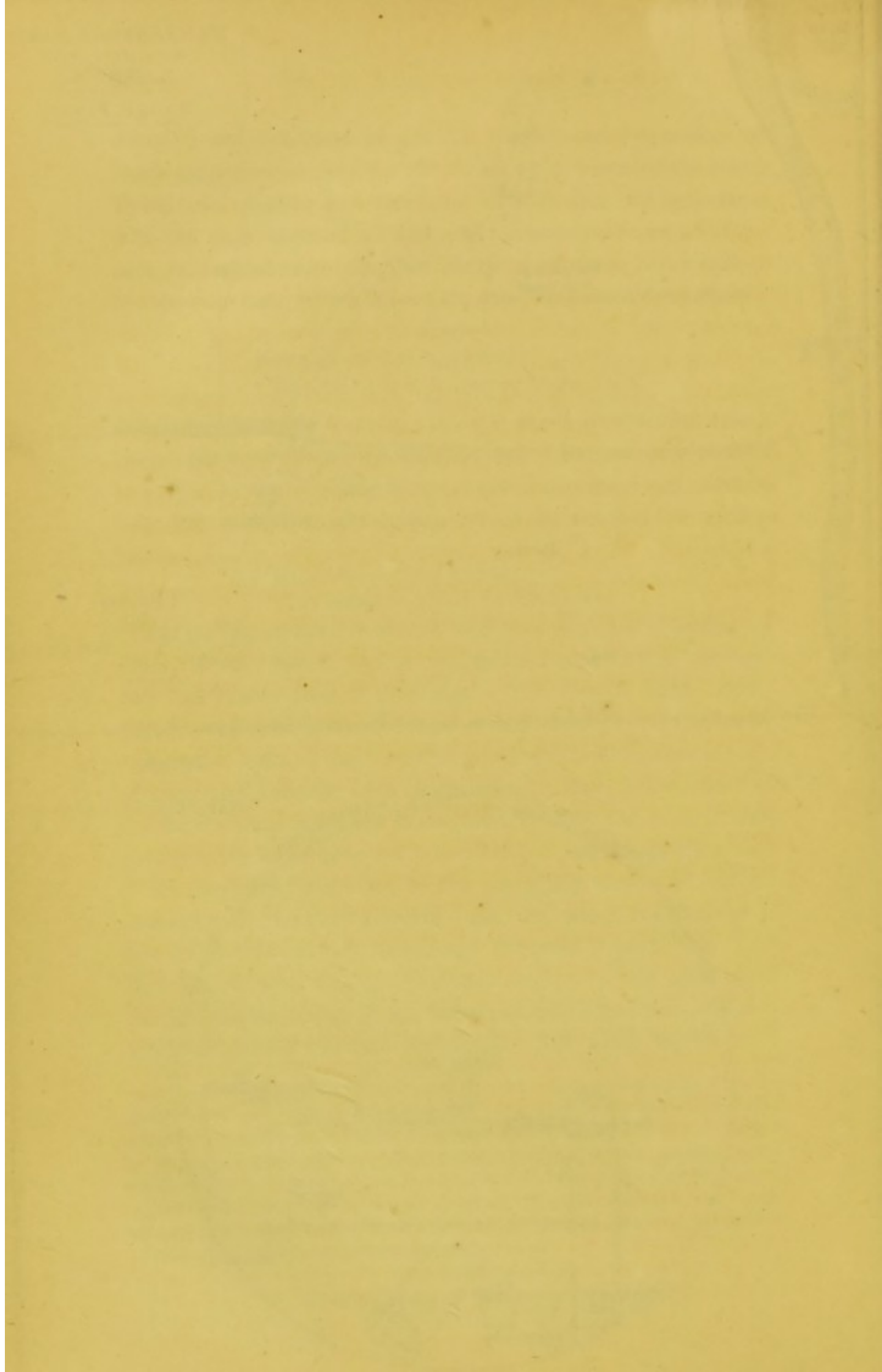
"The funeral bak'd meats
Did coldly furnish forth the marriage-tables."

WARKSHAUGH BARROW, NORTH TYNEDALE.



GROUND PLAN OF WARKSHAUGH BARROW.





have been not less than sixty feet in diameter. Its internal arrangements are of peculiar interest. The southern cist, as we have seen, was connected with the largest urn by a rude kind of flagged path—the use of which it is difficult to conceive. A closer bond of relationship or regard no doubt underlies the cause of its construction. Perhaps husband and wife were thus united even in their last home—perhaps father and son, falling in battle together, in contesting the ford of the Tyne below or above the adjoining “Mote Hill” of Wark,* like Saul and Jonathan on Mount Gilboa, “in death were not divided;” and the survivors perchance deemed that their spirits might in this way hold more intimate communion with each other. But the precise cause of this peculiar connection between cist and urn is confessedly among “the secrets of the grave.” The arrangement of the cists is precisely what past experience would suggest, namely, a central, and, probably, in order, earliest interment, then a second on the east towards the sun-rise, and a third and fourth following the apparent course of the sun in the heavens, towards the south-east and due south. This arrangement can hardly be dissociated from the known solar-worship of the ancient Britons, and indeed of every early race of mankind without a revealed religion, which is also exemplified in the circular form of hut-circle and fort alike, having their entrances chiefly on the east. Another reason for the absence of the cists on the north and west is, probably, the natural desire common to all men that their mortal remains should lie not in the shade but in the glad sunshine in which they had loved to bask in their life-time. Our

* It is remarkable, that a narrow tract of land on the Birtley margin of the North Tyne, opposite to the Mote Hill, has from time immemorial formed part of the parish of Wark. This long tract of rich alluvial soil constitutes the Warkshaugh farm on which the barrow is situated. The name proves, that as far back as the Saxon period, it was attached to the village of Wark, the ancient capital of the royal franchise of Tynedale, although wholly separated from it by a wide, and often impassable river. The fact of the Mote Hill (an elevated platform of natural rock, perhaps, as tradition asserts, improved by artificial means,) having always commanded the excellent ford beneath, one of the best on the North Tyne, may be held to countenance the suggestion of my friend, the Rev. H. Taylor, of Wark Rectory, that in the British period the tribe holding this excellent vantage-ground would be able to extend their boundaries beyond the river, where no similar place of defence exists in the flat haugh before mentioned. Undoubtedly it would be the scene of many fierce encounters between the hostile septs of aborigines who inhabited the opposite banks of the river.

dalesfolk are so wedded to this sentiment of their most ancient ancestors at the present hour, that it is often difficult to persuade them, even in a crowded churchyard like that of Birtley, where primitive usages are still in full force, to consent to their relations being interred on the north or shaded side, whose surface is therefore but seldom disturbed until it becomes a necessity from want of space elsewhere. The same reason which has caused the Druidical circles of the Anglo-Scottish Borders to abound only in the West, in Westmoreland and Cumberland, may have some connection with the avoidance of the western part of the barrow for purposes of interment. *Anwn*, the west, was the *Sheol* or *Hades* of the ancient Britons, the land of the dead, and therefore regarded with especial reverence.* And this may also have something to do with the choice of its peculiar site as lying in the western-most portion, probably, of the tribal territory of that sept (of the Celtae) who inhabited the eastern bank of the river and built this sepulchral monument.

With respect to the different "*cistveini*," or stone-lined graves, and their dimensions, I shall take their natural order, as they may have been originally arranged, and not that of their discovery. The *central cist* was as follows, within the enclosing slabs—the sides three feet four inches, and three feet two inches, the upper end-slab one foot nine inches, and that at the bottom one foot six inches. The flagstone underneath, at the depth of one foot six inches, seemed almost to be squared by a modern mason, so clearly defined was its form, three feet two inches long by two feet one inch broad, and four inches in thickness. This large freestone slab was reddened by fire on the upper surface, and the cist itself was near to the spot where most of the burnt stones were found. The stone-chippings found in it when the sand was removed were also reddened, almost allowing the conjecture that the body had been burnt within the cist. A good deal of black earthy matter, of an unctuous nature, (no doubt, the remains of the decayed body which had been placed here *unburnt*, and of the fragments of the funeral feast, perhaps,

* Davies' "Celtic Researches," p. 175.

mingled with many small pieces of charcoal,) was found however near the top or head, in this as well as in each of the other cists, and effectually disproved such a theory. The *eastern cist* was peculiar in containing an urn, though not with burnt bones in it, or the ashes of cremation. It measured two feet five inches in breadth, and the two side slabs were three feet five inches, and three feet three inches long. A massive slab, four feet in length, by two feet nine inches broad in the widest part, and seven inches thick, covered it, and a second covering slab, two feet six inches long by fourteen inches wide, was laid over it at the head or north end. When first opened a bottom slab appeared at about nine inches deep, which proved to have been originally placed at the west side, and had afterwards fallen inwards, crushing the urn, and forming the apparent bottom lining. Several large water-worn stones were set round the covering slab, and their weight had caused the fall of the other on that side. Here we were able to inspect a section of the sand which filled each of the cists. It appeared to have been brought from the margin-beds of the river, and not to have percolated, as we might suppose, in the slow lapse of centuries with the rains or floods descending through the super-incumbent mass of loose materials of which the barrow was composed. Only a few years since the base of the cairn remained, and so numerous were the stones found on the spot whenever it was ploughed that the farm labourers declared that "they grew." The section consisted first of a four-inch layer of fine sand on which to place the body, then a mixture of soil beneath, two and a half or three feet deep, of darker colour than the rest, and, lastly, the alluvial drift in its natural undisturbed condition. This cist was formed more carefully than the others, of good freestone slabs, as if to do honour to the person whose relics it held in safe keeping. The *south-eastern cist*, on the other hand, was the most rudely formed of all. The huge covering slab, three feet eight inches long, by two feet six inches wide, and nearly a foot in thickness, seems to have pressed the lining slabs beneath into their irregular shape, and made it appear smaller than it would originally be. It was, indeed, the least in size, averaging two feet four inches

long, by one foot three inches wide. The *southern cist* had one of its side-slabs rather shorter than the other—three feet five inches, and two feet nine inches respectively, the end slabs being one foot eleven inches, and two feet one inch in length, so that the average width of the cist was two feet. Here, as in that at the centre, was a bottom slab at about two feet six inches below the cover, which gave hopes that some portion of the inhumed skeleton might have been recovered. Very small fragments of bone, not sufficient to show anything definite, mingled with the dark unctuous matter as in the other cases, and with tiny pieces of charcoal, alone remained. As none of the cists could be perfectly water-proof, though plainly constructed with great care, it is only left us to infer that the carbonic acid, held in solution by the water gradually percolating through the layers of stones and sand had been enabled, in the long period which must have elapsed since their original formation, to dissipate even the osseous substances of the human frame, and bear away almost every vestige of the interred body into the sub-soil beneath. The sources whence the massive slabs forming the various cists had come, were clearly the adjoining pools in the North Tyne. Mr. Hutchinson, indeed, of Warkshaugh, holds to the opinion that the great covering slab of the south cist could be taken only from the Park House quarry. At all events, these huge unhewn blocks (chiefly of freestone, except in the case of two slabs in the central, and one in the southern cist, which were of a crumbling bastard whinstone,) must have cost the ancient barrow-builders a vast expenditure of time and labour, with their primitive mechanical appliances, before they could be placed *in situ*. In the south cist, it should be added, protecting slabs were even placed edgewise like a roof over the cover. The relative level of the cists, measuring from the top of the perpendicular slabs to the surface of the soil, was as follows—central, nine inches; eastern, three feet seven inches; south-eastern, one foot six inches; and the southern, three feet three inches: the average depths of the cists themselves being about two feet.

The *urns and flints* found in or upon the barrow, and thus assisting, above everything else, to determine the age and race

to which we may attribute it, remain to be briefly noticed. I was told by the labourers that, in my absence, they had found several urns, large and small, in prosecuting the digging of the later trenches. Fragments of these supposed urns were produced, which certainly bore a close resemblance to unscored pottery; but on nearer inspection they proved to be portions of the crumbling whin already mentioned, and they contained numerous small fossils. Two characteristic urns, however, were discovered. That which was not in any cist had been placed on a flat stone in a line with the paved way, and was protected from injury by four small surrounding slabs, being probably covered originally with another slab since displaced. A fragment, showing the peculiar scoring, is figured (fig. 3). This cinerary urn was seventeen inches in diameter and thirteen inches high, of a somewhat flattened form, with a rounded or slightly convex bottom, (the result, perhaps, of external pressure in a damp soil,) which the plough pierced in its inverted position. It seemed as if it had been made on the spot for its special purpose, and never used in a domestic capacity, as it could not stand alone if this was the original shape. After the calcined bones had been placed within it the rim had apparently been cemented to the bottom slab with damp clay to preserve them more securely. In the midst of the zigzag lines of scoring around the upper part of the urn, for like cinerary urns generally it was plain beneath, and embedded, indeed, in various parts of the pottery of both urns, but especially distinct in this larger one, were numerous bright specks of a golden colour, no doubt particles of mica mingled with the natural clay. The portions of the second urn found in the eastern cist were so far recovered that an entire side was obtained, from which the annexed sketch has been made (fig. 4). It is of a more graceful shape, of the so-called "food-vessel" type, and much smaller, having dotted scorings, made with a triangularly pointed instrument, ornamenting it from top to bottom. The dimensions are—six inches high, seven and a half inches the top diameter, and three and a half inches at the bottom. Unscored patches occurred at intervals of two or three inches around the urn, below the overhanging rim, from which little ears had

projected, as we may suppose, for the purpose of suspending the vessel in the wattled house-circle of the departed British chief. In it also was a dark incrustation which might possibly be the prepared corn or food provided by filial or friendly piety for the sustenance of his enfranchised spirit in his journey to Annwn, the land of shades. This cist, besides pointed chippings of stone which a few years ago might have ranked as a rude kind of weapon, held towards the head a small *flint knife*, one and five-eighths of an inch long, by one inch wide in the widest part. I took it at first for an arrow-head, but there was no sufficient equipoise in its construction to carry it in a straight direction from the bow, being in this respect very different from the accurately formed arrow-heads in Mr. Greenwell's collection. The marks of human art and work are plain on one side in bringing it by a series of blows to a sharp edge. On the top of the barrow, close to the central cist, was also found another implement of chert, or limestone-flint—probably the so-called “thumb-flint” of Celtic antiquaries. The latter is a little peculiar in being not only chipped along one rounded side, but apparently ground by friction to a smooth surface around the other, instead of being struck off at one blow. The sharply defined end for use has been thus formed, and no doubt served the self-same purpose which such rude instruments subserve at this day among the Esquimaux—that is, to sharpen and smooth pointed implements of bone for dress, for fishing, or the chase, or even for their primitive weaving. Various chippings and fragments of flint and chert were also found on or near the barrow, cast there, perhaps, as part of the funeral rites; some of a yellowish colour, but mostly of the dark natural hue of the pure nodule with its encrustation of chalk. Mr. George Tate, of Alnwick, informs me, that the only part of Northumberland where flint occurs is in this valley; and that he found specimens of true flint in Lewis Burn, and a small boulder in the Whickhope Burn. He thinks that the primitive vale-dwellers obtained their supply from deposits *in situ* in the valley itself, and not far distant from the spots where they are found. A great number of flint chippings were certainly discovered in an ancient British camp at Pasture House,

immediately above the village of Wark, in reducing the ground to tillage; and some, if not the largest portion of these, may have been brought down Wark's Burn, nearly opposite to whose junction with the North Tyne the Warkshaugh barrow was placed. But one of the small flint implements found in the eastern cist has plainly come from the pure chalk formation—and the nearest point where such nodules are to be obtained is the Yorkshire coast, near Whitby, whither they have been rolled by currents from the coast farther south. Such flints must therefore have been brought from a considerable distance. It is remarkable, that the field on which the tumulus was raised (especially around its immediate site), is well known for the number of flint chip-pings that are continually brought to the surface by the plough. Mr. Snowball tells me that his workpeople are accustomed to look there for a piece of flint on which to strike a match, whenever they rest from their labours, whether men or women, in order to solace themselves "with a pipe;" and an ancient dame always declared she could find flint readier to hand than the less effective sandstone.

From data already given, it will be seen that this barrow had for its builders some of the earliest, if not the aboriginal inhabitants of Britain. The pottery of the urns, and their scorings, differ considerably from those characteristic of urns of the later British or early Romano-British age, such as that found at Smalesmouth.* It is similar to a fragment now in the Alnwick Castle

* The larger urn was of the usual cinerary type, ornamented with a zigzag design around the upper part of the herring-bone pattern. It appears that at the period when this barrow was formed two modes of interment were in use—cremation, or burning the body on the funeral pyre, and deposition in a cist with or without an urn placed amidst fine sand. As the barrow was evidently round we can assign with safety the occupants to the brachycephalic race who succeeded, and, as a bronze-armed people, probably supplanted the dolichocephalic race, whose burial places are the "long barrows." The shape of the tumuli of the two races seems to have borne intentionally a close resemblance to the conformation of their respective *crania*. It is supposed that the latter race may have introduced both cremation and the use of metals. In the Warkshaugh barrow we find an interesting example of the two stages of inhumation: the first, when the relics of the burnt body were enclosed in a large, partially ornamented urn of coarse pottery; and the second, when an urn of a different type, scored throughout, and of finer make, was deposited by the side of the departed chief, who was laid in the stone-lined grave doubled up with the knees to the chin, and reclining usually on the left side facing the sun in its daily course in the sky. The peculiar flagged way from the cinerary urn to the southern cist proves almost beyond question that the two modes of interment were in this case contemporaneous.

Museum, which came from a remarkable barrow near the Barrasford Station, where a second interment of an Anglo-Saxon warrior with his shield and sword—the former, to judge from the silver riveting disks, being of rich workmanship—had taken place centuries after that of his British predecessor. We cannot always determine the age of such sepulchral monuments merely by their contained relics, as the different periods of the stone, the bronze, and the iron age, of pre-historic archeology may well be conceived to have overlapped, so to speak, or “dovetailed” into each other. We might be inclined to attribute the Warkhaugh barrow to the earliest stone age, according to the usual classification, and carry the date of its construction as far back (for the rudeness of the flint weapons or implements will permit it) to the very remote period which saw the inhabitation of the bone caves, and the formation of the Kjökken-möddings of Denmark, and the lake habitations of Switzerland, and other countries. Sir John Lubbock has shown, however, in his “Pre-historic Times,” that “the arrow was employed after the first cannon had been used in battle;” and that “it is evident, also, some nations, such as the Fuegians, Andamaners, and others, are even now only in an age of stone.”* So that on the whole we may safely conclude that the formers of these cists, and those who used the rude implements which accompanied them to their last earthly resting place, were of that Celtic race who probably inhabited the numerous “camps” and hut-circles, and left their names engraved, as it were, in the most unchangeable forms of nature—in the rivers, and hills, and many local names of Western Northumberland.

The beginning, therefore, of the age of bronze—the close of that of stone—the Neo-lithic period of later ethnologists—centuries, probably, before the Roman legions, under Agricola, first traversed the eastern slope of this valley—undoubtedly saw the pious hands of a kindred tribe erecting this family sepulchre. Here, with solemn traditional rites, they laid their loved ones to rest with the same sun shining over them, the same river running

* Chap. I, p. 3.

by, which we ourselves behold. And though we with the Christianised Cymro can no longer conceive such a burial honourable, whose proverb it became to wish in anger one against another,

“Ah! carn, ar dy wyneb,”

“Ah! a barrow on thy face,”

or, “May'st thou lack Christian burial;”—though the barrow has long been assigned only to the mortal remains of the criminal, the suicide, and the heathen, as Shakespeare most fitly represents the priest in “Hamlet” saying of the lost Ophelia,

“For charitable prayers,

Shards, flints, and pebbles, should be thrown on her,”

yet we must not forget that such poor memorials of affection were most suggestive to the human hearts that mourned around this their lasting monument, it may be, five and twenty centuries ago, and who saw in such observances—in the flaming pyre, the spark-emitting flint, the setting and rising sun,* even in the “shards, flints, and pebbles” cast upon the funeral barrow, a faint but welcome recognition of man's renewal and revival to another, and, perhaps, higher life, when his pilgrimage on earth was done.

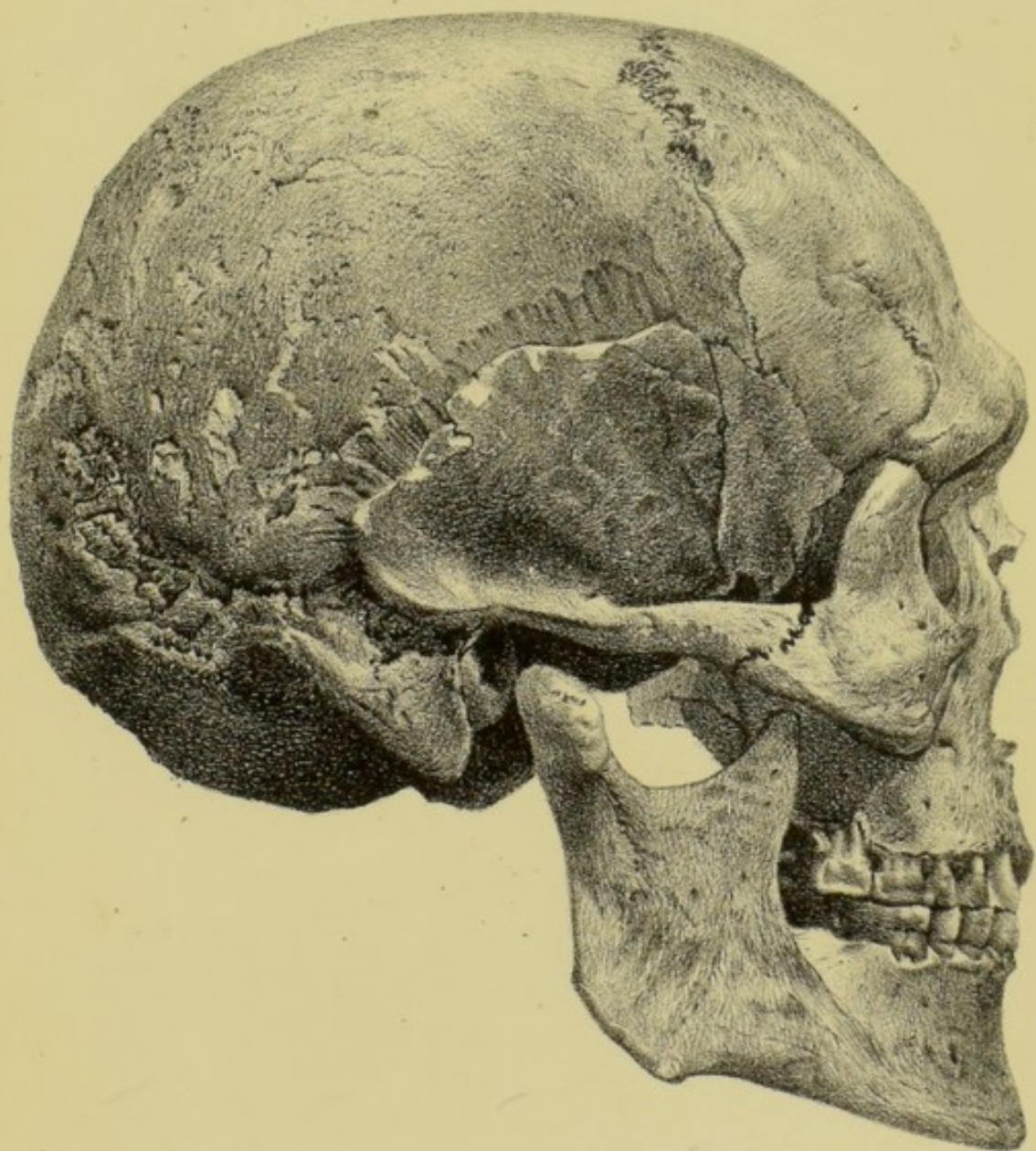
EXPLANATION OF PLATE XV.

- Fig. 1. Smalesmouth urn. Height of original 7 inches; width at mouth $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width at bottom $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
- Fig. 2. Barrasford-Green urn. Height $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width at top 5 inches; width at bottom $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches.
- Fig. 3. Fragment of large urn (half the true size) from Warkshaugh barrow. Height of urn 13 inches; width below rim 17 inches.
- Fig. 4. Urn from Warkshaugh barrow, eastern cist. Height 6 inches; width at top $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width at bottom $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

* Professor Max Müller, in his interesting Essay on “Comparative Mythology,” which he, more than any other, has aided to raise to the dignity of a science, thinks (*Oxford Essays*, 1856, p. 87,) that the elementary character of the pagan gods in its original conception by each branch of the great Aryan or Indo-Germanic race was almost always solar. He differs from Lauer and Kühn, who seem to connect that conception too exclusively with the fleeting phenomena of clouds, and storms, and thunder. Compare for the prevalence of the same heliacal worship among the early Semetic races, the words of the patriarch of Uz: *Job xxxii.* 26—28.

XVI.—*The Sessions of the Liberty of Tynedale, held at Wark, in the Thirteenth Century.* By EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D.

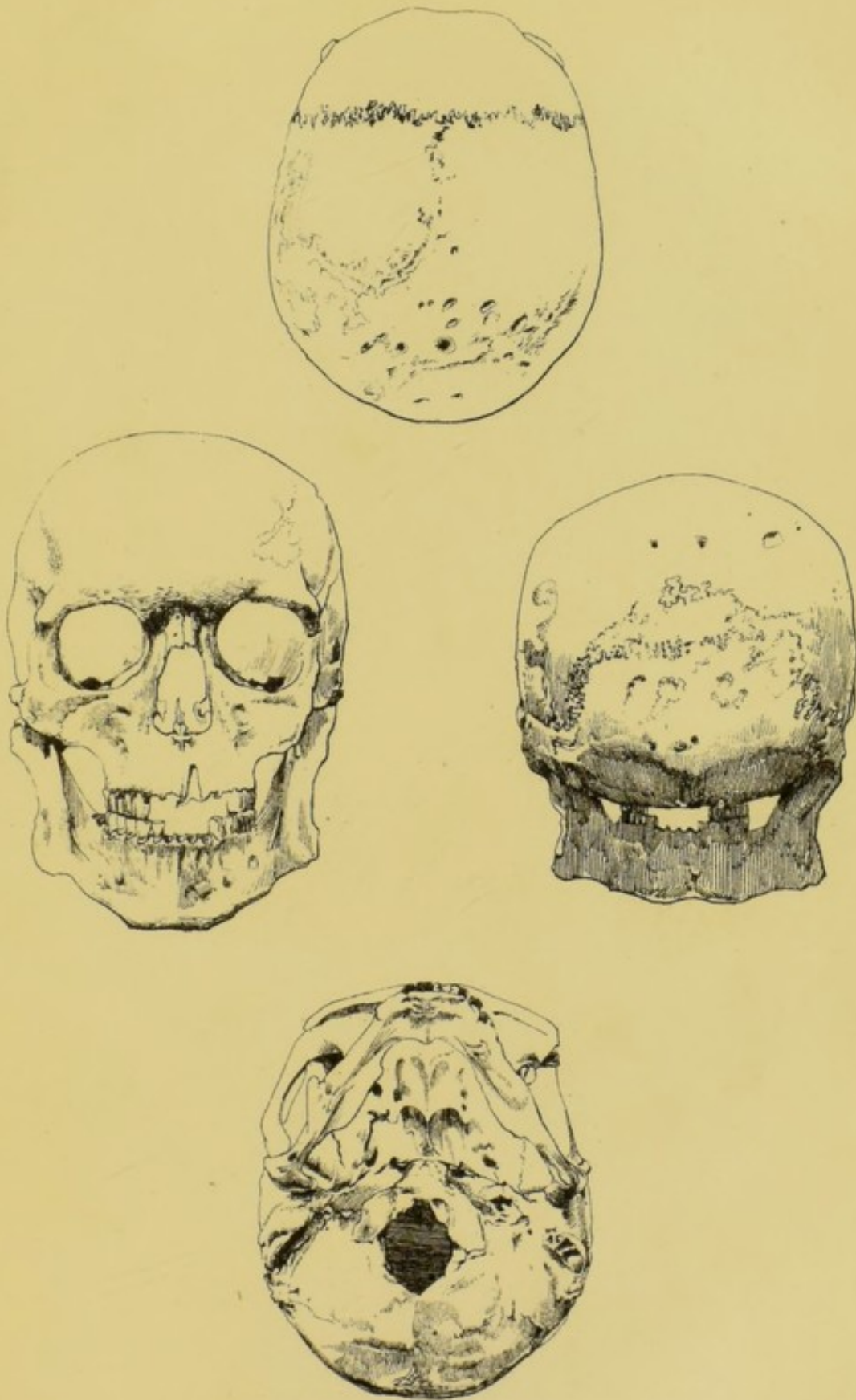
THE little village of Wark was once the capital of the Franchise or Liberty of Tynedale. It was a royal manor, and for a considerable time it was, with the rest of Northumberland and Cumberland, held by the Scottish kings, having being originally granted to them by King Stephen, to purchase their neutrality. Henry II of England, however, resumed the royal demesnes alienated by his predecessor; but in 1159 the Liberty of Tynedale was re-granted to Scotland, being given to William, son of Earl Henry, and father of Alexander II. Tynedale was a manor held by the Scottish crown of the kings of England by homage only, and the Scottish monarchs enjoyed their *jura regalia* here as much as in their own proper domains. Here, at Wark, and on the very spot where we now stand, they held their judicial courts, on the ancient Mote Hill or Hill of Assembly, which had no doubt been used for that purpose in Saxon, and perhaps even in British, times. There is no record of a castle or stronghold having existed here; but there was, no doubt, a building for the purposes of the Court. And in the fifteenth year of Edward I there was at Wark a capital messuage, with a garden and a park of ninety-six acres, containing various sorts of game, and also eight acres of meadow land attached to the house. The mill of Wark, of which no vestige now remains, was also the property of the Crown, and produced the enormous rent of seventeen pounds a year, while the herbage of the whole park only brought in two pounds annually. At that time William Conne was the keeper of the park, at a salary of three-half-pence per day. There was of course a prison here, and the repairs of the prison door in the year above specified cost tenpence. It is said to have stood nearly in the centre of the square of the present village. It does not seem to have been a very safe place of custody, for numerous entries in the documents we shall generally allude to are to the effect, that the prisoner was lodged there "*et postea evasit.*" Robert de Insula or De Lisle, the then proprietor of Chipchase, was probably the lessee of the mill at Wark, as he



ANCIENT BRITISH SKULL.

Uderton, Northumberland.





ANCIENT BRITISH SKULL,

Iderton, Northumberland.

QUARTER SIZE



Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 3.

