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lastly, a *jury* is now mentioned, although the number of jurymen is not defined, and the empannelling of a jury is entirely a matter of option for the judge.

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*On a CIRCULAR STRUCTURE at CUMMER, CO. WEXFORD.*  
By G. H. KINAHAN, M.R.I.A.

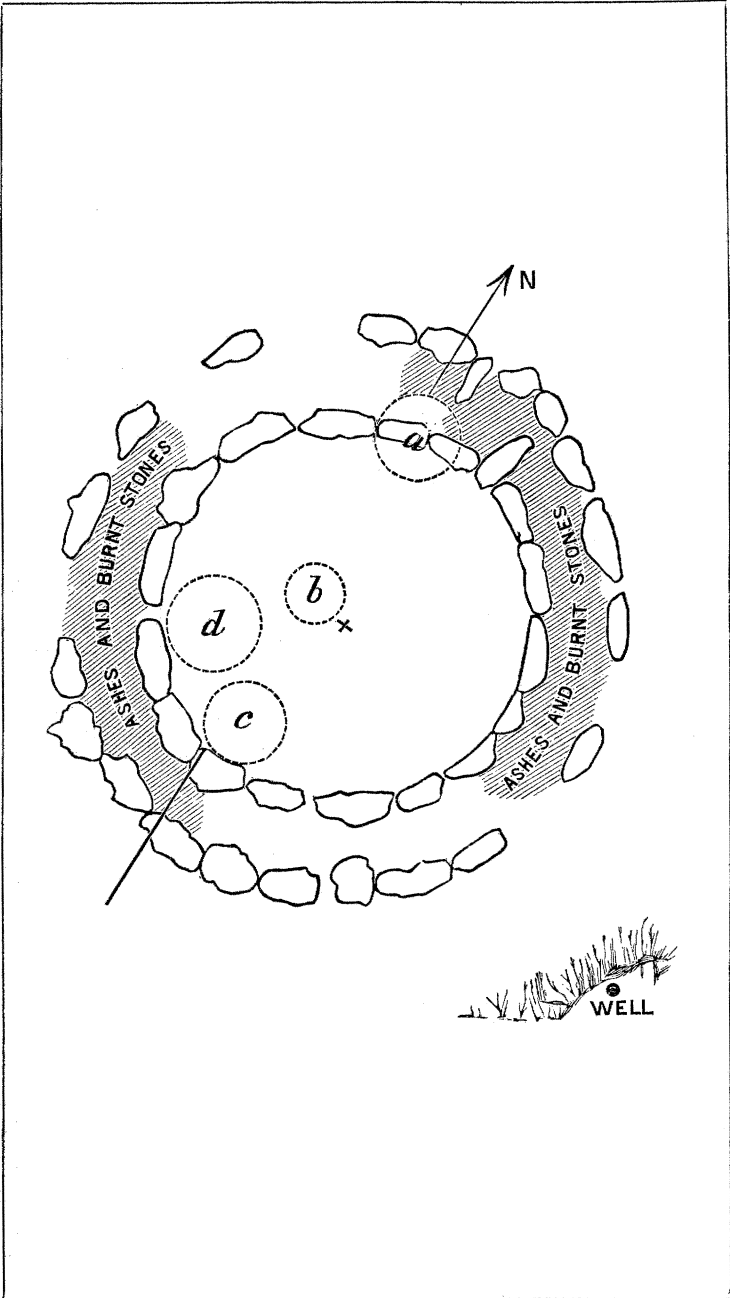
(WITH PLATE XI.)

IN the neighbourhood of the Croaghan Kinshellagh range, the ridge of hills at the junction of the counties of Wicklow and Wexford, in different places are the records of prehistoric sepulchres. Of those for which I could find exact localities, a list has been made from the Royal Irish Academy, and to one of these localities, on account of a remarkable structure at it, I would beg leave to draw the attention of the members of the Institute.

The locality to which I refer is Cumber (Ordnance sheet 2). Here formerly, at the well adjoining the village, a patron was held, but was given up some fifty or a hundred years ago, while at a much earlier period a people who burned their dead used the place; the locality may first be described.

A little north-west of the well is a structure formed of two circles of standing stones, respectively 9 feet and 11·5 feet in diameter. During explorations, courteously permitted by the Right Hon. Viscount Powerscourt, lord of the soil, it was learned that the stones seemed to have been set up on the surface of the ground, or were very slightly imbedded therein, the rock coming nearly to the surface, while afterwards a mound was made about them. The stones in the outer circle slope slightly outwards, and were underpinned to keep them from falling, while the stones in the inner circle have been wedged to keep them upright and close together—the stones for the most part being those peculiar ones, flat at one side and round at the other, so often found in mountain streams which flow through glacial drift. Between these circles, to the south-west and north-east, the space was filled up with wood ashes, mixed with burnt shingle, the ashes generally predominating. The outer circle was a little lower than the inner, thus forming a narrow terrace round the structure: the inner circle being very regularly placed, the outer not so regularly; some of the stones of the latter, however, may have been previously removed.

In a north and south line, a little west of the centre point, three pits, *a*, *b*, and *c* (Pl. XI), were found—*a*, under the inner



PLAN OF CIRCULAR STRUCTURE AT CUMMER, CO. WEXFORD.

circle (2 feet in diameter, and 2·5 feet deep); *b*, immediately west of the centre of the circle (1·5 feet in diameter and depth); and *c*, immediately inside the inner circle (2 feet in diameter, and 3·5 feet deep); while a fourth pit (*d*) adjoined *c*, it being wide and shallow (3 feet and 1 foot). These pits were below a thin floor of ashes that was 3 feet below the surface, inside the inner circle: while margining this floor and lining the inside circle were burnt stones, in places regularly placed and forming a rude pavement.

Thirty-three yards or thereabouts south of the well are irregular low "black heaps," made up of ashes and roasted shingle.

Twenty yards to the north-west of the well, in or about 1877, one of the residents of the village, James Bain, when building a wall, raised a flagstone that was at the surface of the ground, and under it found a square "stone box" formed of flags. This seemed to be full of ashy clay; but when rudely clearing it out with his spade he smashed up a large figured urn that was in it. From the fragments, the urn has been estimated to have been about 12 inches in diameter at top and 9 inches high, with a flat lip and slightly curved sides. This kistvean had evidently been put in a hollow purposely excavated in the slate rock.

The same James Bain, between thirty and forty years ago, found, about 50 yards south-west of the circles, in an old ditch, three kistveans in a line: the two outer ones had somewhat similar urns in them to that just mentioned, while the centre one had besides, inside the large urn, a handsomely ornamented small one. The latter was in his possession till a few years ago, when it was stolen from him.<sup>1</sup>

Extending nearly due north from the village for 270 yards is a wide, stony path locally called the "causey" (corruption of *cassaun*, a path) and at the north end of it, in an angle formed by the meeting of two country roads, are some standing stones: these a few years ago were very numerous, forming circles, squares, paths, &c., but now nearly all have been carted away for building purposes; but the original arrangement, in part, can be still traced out by the holes in which the stones stood. Still further north, immediately south of a wall, to the north of the ridge, are a group of stones that appear to be the ruin of a small cromlech.

As previously mentioned, at very early times there was a *fearta*, or graveyard, in the vicinity of Cumber village; while

<sup>1</sup> Three miles to the north north-east, south-west and south of Loggan Moat two *fearta*, or graveyards, were discovered, having kistveans in them but no urns; to the south-east of the moat, however, in the side of the fosse there were kistveans with urns.

that the place was one of note appears suggested by the megalithic structures on the ridge at the north end of the "causey." Here there does not appear to have been any interments, as Bain states that while the stones were being raised and removed he carefully watched for anything that might be turned up. This I can believe, as it is popularly believed there is a treasure buried somewhere about. It may here be mentioned that during the explorations no implement or ornament, or trace of them, were observed; neither could I learn had any ever been found.

What is the circular structure at the well? Is it very ancient and of the time of the interments? or is it comparatively modern and of the time when the Christian patrons were held? The pits evidently are much older than the circles, as they were filled in before the circles were erected. It is also evident that a succession of fires were burned in the space inside the inner circle, and the ashes thrown out to the south-west and north-east. But who lit these fires, and why were broken stones mixed with the wood during the burnings?

Could these circles have been a furnace in which to burn the dead? or was it an altar on which to burn the sacrifices? If so, ought there not to be some remains of bone charcoal, of which I could not observe a trace? If post-Christian, there ought to be some trace of iron implements, of which I could detect none, or of some other record. A piece of a glass bottle was found in my absence, apparently near the surface of the ashes, to the north-east, between the circles, and this was all. As, however, I was not present I cannot say if it had been introduced or not; I suspect the first.

What also are the "black heaps"? May they have been due to fire, kindled for burning the dead? In connection with them it should be mentioned that black heaps are more or less common in most of the boggy valleys from Wicklow through Wexford into Waterford, in connection with certain ferriferous rocks—the burnt stones found in them being broken-up pieces of these rocks. This would suggest that they were for "roasting of ore" purpose; but somewhat similar heaps in the "Red-deer country," co. Waterford, are, by tradition and the ancient name—the places where the deer was roasted—as pointed out by R. J. Ussher, in a paper recently published in the "Zoologist" (March, 1882).

*Explanation of Plate XI.*

Plan of circular stone structure at Cummer, co. Wexford (Ordnance Sheet 2). Scale 5 feet to 1 inch.

Pit <i>a</i> ,	2	feet diameter and	2.5	feet deep	} under ash floor 3 feet below surface.
„ <i>b</i> ,	1.5	„ „	1.5	„ „	
„ <i>c</i>	2	„ „	3.5	„ „	
„ <i>d</i>	3	„ „	1	foot „	

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JUNE 27TH, 1882.

Major-General PITT-RIVERS, F.R.S., *President, in the Chair.*

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following presents were announced, and thanks voted to the respective donors:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- From Mrs. BRASH.—The Ogam Inscribed Monuments of the Gaedhil.  
By R. R. Brash, Esq.
- From the AUTHOR.—The Early History of the Mediterranean Populations, &c., in their Migrations and Settlements. By Hyde Clarke, Esq.
- Notes on the Archæology of Missouri. By F. F. Hilder, Esq.
- Steinsculpturen aus Guatemala. By Dr. A. Bastian.
- From the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—Smithsonian Report, 1880.
- From the SOCIETY.—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Vol. LI, Part 1, No. 1.
- Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Vols. II, III.
- Report of the Council of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society for 1881.
- Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, March, 1882.
- Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology. Vol. VII, Part 3.
- Journal of the Society of Arts. Nos. 1543, 1544.
- From the EDITOR.—Correspondenz-Blatt, June, 1882.
- “Nature.” Nos. 659, 660.
- Revue Scientifique. Tom. XXIX, Nos. 24, 25.

Mr. H. C. R. BECHER exhibited photographs of ancient terra cotta heads from San Juan Teotihuacan, in Mexico, and from Silenus in Sicily, calling attention to the similarity of form

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