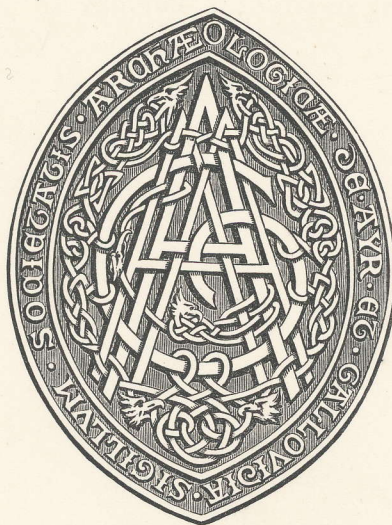


ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
AND  
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS  
RELATING TO  
AYRSHIRE & GALLOWAY

VOL. VII.



EDINBURGH

PRINTED FOR THE AYRSHIRE AND GALLOWAY ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MDCCCXCIV

1894

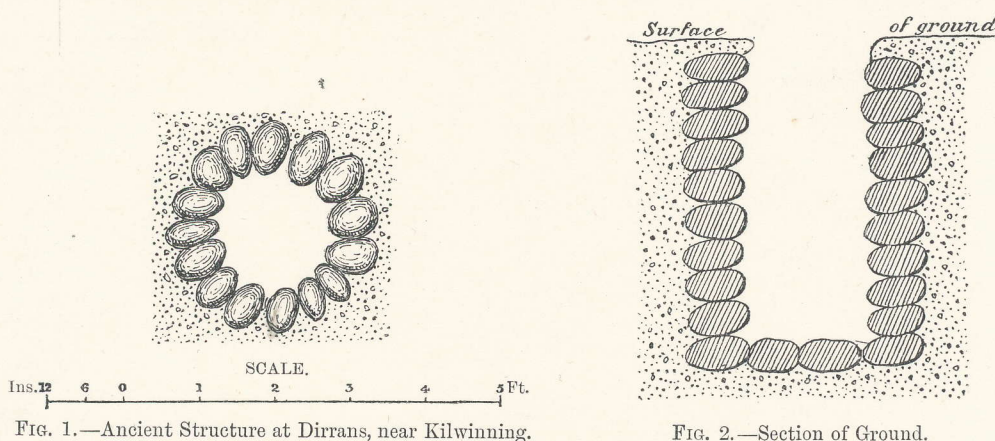
## CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF ANTIQUITIES found in Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, and now in the National Museum, Edinburgh. By Geo. F. Black . . . . .	1
II. A BRONZE SWORD-SHEATH found in Ayrshire. By Robert Munro, M.D. . . . .	48
III. THE SEAL OF THE PRIORY OF WHITHORN. By the Hon. Hew Dalrymple . . . . .	53
IV. ON A STONE CRANNOG in Ashgrove Loch, near Stevenston. By John Smith . . . . .	56
V. THE ARDROSSAN SHELL-MOUND, with an Account of its Excavation. By John Smith . . . . .	62
VI. ANCIENT STRUCTURE AT DIRRANS, near Kilwinning. By John Smith . . . . .	75
VII. TWO ANCIENT FIREPLACES AT SHEWALTON AND ARDEER. By John Smith . . . . .	77
VIII. DUNDONALD, ITS BELL AND SURROUNDINGS. By William Alexander, M.D. . . . .	80
IX. SELECTIONS from some Papers in possession of the Countess of Stair. By the Hon. Hew Dalrymple . . . . .	83
X. NOTES ON THE EXCAVATION OF A MOUND CALLED SHANTER KNOWE, near Kirkoswald, Ayrshire. By the Marquis of Ailsa . . . . .	93
XI. PROTOCOL BOOK of Robert Broun. By Rev. Walter MacLeod . . . . .	98
INDEX . . . . .	217

## VI.

### ANCIENT STRUCTURE AT DIRRANS, NEAR KILWINNING.

IN 1882, when sand was being removed from side of Garnock Water at Dirrans, near Kilwinning, a vertical section of an ancient structure was laid open. It was built of smooth water-worn stones taken from the bed of the



river, and measured 18 inches in diameter, inside; being circular in plan and 4 feet deep.

This chamber must have been a very ancient structure, as the stones of which it was built—mostly whinstones—were very much decomposed, some of them so much so as to be easily crushed to powder in the hand.

It was placed 12 feet from the top of the south bank of the Garnock Water, but had probably been at a much greater distance from the river

at one time, as it, the latter, was corroding its bank in a southern direction.

It had no lid or covering of any sort, and a small tree grew right on the top of it.

In the bottom there were a few inches of a fine grayish powdery

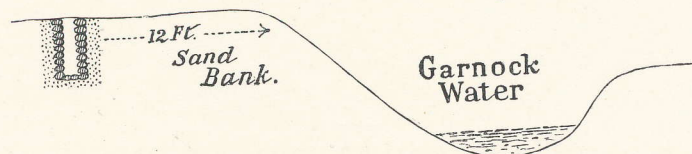


FIG. 3.—Section 2 of Ground.

material which I took out and sifted carefully through a riddle, but found no relics. The rest of it was filled up with sand.

There was therefore nothing to indicate what the structure may have been used for, but in all likelihood it was a place of interment.

It could not possibly have been a well, as no water is got in this sand, in the district, till a depth of 10 or 12 feet is reached.

JOHN SMITH.

MONKREDDING.

\*

