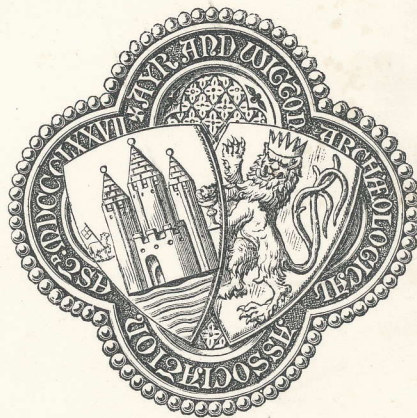


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AND
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

RELATING TO THE COUNTIES OF

AYR AND WIGTON

VOL. II.



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III.

NOTES ON THE ANCIENT BRONZE IMPLEMENTS AND ORNAMENTS OF WIGTOWNSHIRE.

BRONZES are much less common in this county than stone implements, yet several have been found which are very interesting. They indicate an important advance in the arts of life, and each specimen may be regarded as a single word or letter in that great national record which is still unread. It is very desirable that all such relics should be placed in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. No duplicates cast in the same mould have been found here, nor has any mould for casting been reported; but various fragments of crucibles have been picked up.

1. BRONZE AXE-HEADS.

These have been found of various forms.

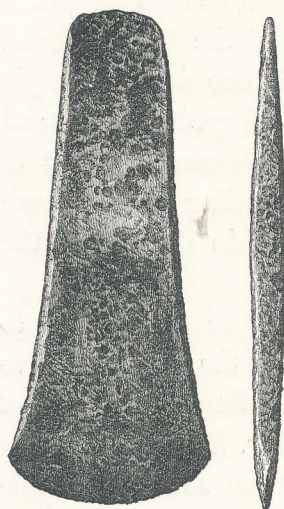


FIG. 1.—Flat Bronze Axe. Moss of Cree, Penninghame. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

§ 1. *Flat Axe-Heads*.—Perhaps the most ancient type would be moulded after the familiar pattern of the imperforate stone axe, and hafted in the same way. A plumber in Stranraer, on examining one of my stone axes, about 6 inches long, said he had seen one very like it which had been sold to him as old copper or brass. When searched for it was found it had gone to the smelting pot, the too common fate of such relics. Fig. 1 measures 5 by 2 by $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, edge lunate, sides flat, slightly concave behind edge and tapering to the butt, which is 1 inch broad, slightly convex and sharp, the surface a good deal wasted on one face. It was found in the moss of Cree, Penninghame, and presented to the Museum in Edinburgh in 1782 by Messrs. Brydon and Baillie.¹

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. v. p. 26; and *Catalogue*, 1876, p. 89.

Fig. 2 measures $6\frac{3}{8}$ by $3\frac{5}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, edge lunate, and bevelled on both faces about $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch, sides flat, concave behind edge and tapering to the butt, which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad, convex and sharp. This axe bears marks of use. Found at Innermessan, Inch, and now the property of our President, the Right Honourable the Earl of Stair. An interesting specimen of the same form has lately been presented to the Museum by Mr. Vance,

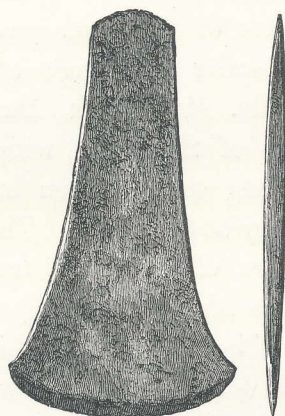


FIG. 2.—Flat Bronze Axe.
Innermessan, Inch. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

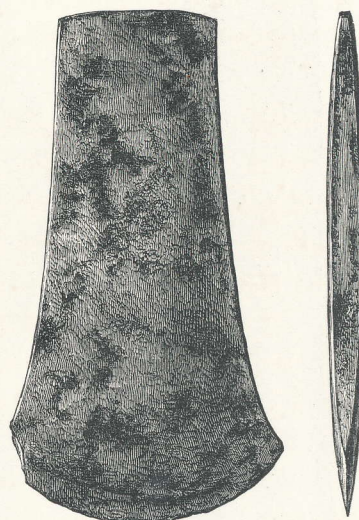


FIG. 3.—Flat Bronze Axe.
Knock and Maize, Leswalt. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

carpenter, Whithorn, through the Rev. Archibald Stewart, D.D., of Glasserton, which will be engraved in a future volume.

Fig. 3 is of a broader type and flattened at the butt. Dimensions, $5\frac{1}{4}$ by 3 by $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, edge lunate, and bevelled on both faces $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, sides flat, slightly concave behind edge, butt $1\frac{5}{8}$ broad and $\frac{1}{8}$ thick. The edge is slightly damaged at one side, and the surface has unfortunately been rubbed by the finder. It was found in a marsh near the farmhouse of Knock and Maize, Leswalt, by Mr. M'Niellie, farmer there, and is now the property of the Earl of Stair. There is in the Museum a very fine specimen of the type of Fig. 2, with rows of punch marks across the faces, from Kevans, Sorbie, which will be engraved in a future volume, along with some other examples.

§ 2. *Flanged Axe-Heads, or Palstaves*, sometimes called *winged* axe-heads.—This is an improvement on the flat type, giving a much better attachment to the haft. The axe-head is thickened toward the middle,

and has on each face a broad hollow, beginning at or close to the butt, and usually ending a little beyond the thickest part. We may suppose the haft to have had a head, at a right angle to the shaft, split and trimmed to

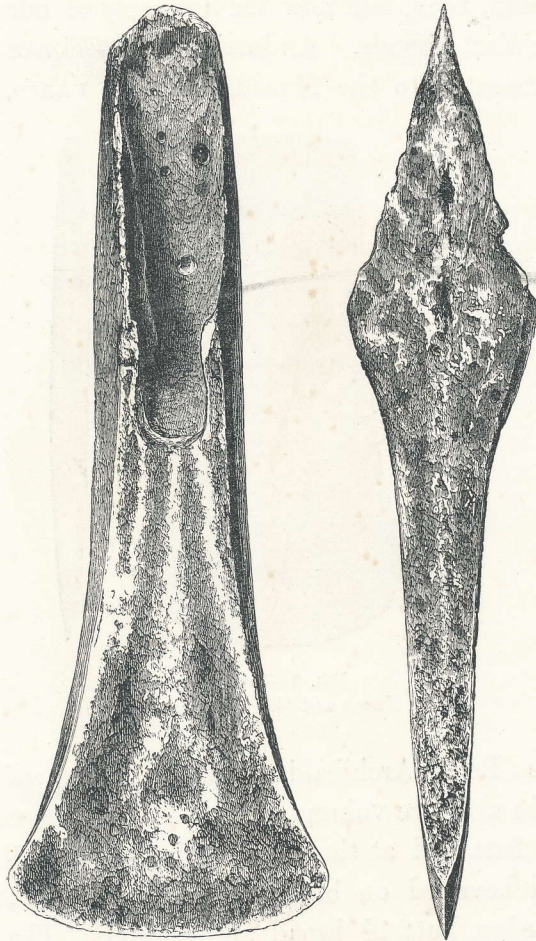


FIG. 4.—Bronze Palstave or Axe-head, the flange recurved.
Balcarry, Old Luce. Scale $\frac{2}{3}$.

fit into these hollows in the metal, and firmly bound by a ligature. The simplest type I have seen has the hollow for the split haft-head in the form of a deep and comparatively narrow groove on each face of the axe, leaving a broad border or flange at each side. Mr. M'Ilwraith, Dumfries, has one of this type, which was got among some broken brass in a foundry at Stranraer. The edge is broken off, and the fragment measures $3\frac{5}{8}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches; depth of hollow $\frac{7}{16}$, and thickness at break $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The hollow slopes out gradually towards the cutting edge, and the surface is very coarse. Another type has the hollows wider and the flanges narrower, with the edge of the flange either straight or more or less recurved, so as partially to close over the wood of the haft-head. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., of Monreith, has one from the Fell of Barhullion, Glasserton, about 6

inches long. I hope both may be engraved in a future volume. I have a fragment about 1 by 1 by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch which has been the butt of a palstave. In 1875 there was a very interesting *find* of three palstaves, all lying within a foot of each other, in deepening a ditch, where the Pilrooty Burn drains what has been a morass or small loch, on the south side of Balcarry farm, Old Luce. They were given by Mr. Leiper, the tenant, to Vice-Admiral Sir John C. Dalrymple Hay, Bart., and presented by him to the British Museum. By the kindness of A. W. Franks, Esq., permission has been

given by the Museum authorities to engrave two of them for this volume. The largest, Fig. 4, measures $7\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches, edge lunate, bevelled on both faces nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, and rounded toward the sides, which curve gradually inward, become nearly straight at their broadest part, and thence slope to the butt. The butt is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch broad, rounded and sharp, the haft-hollow is 3 inches long, becoming more narrow and shallow toward its rounded end, which is $\frac{9}{16}$ broad. The flange is slightly recurved at its highest part. The face, which has been much rubbed, shows traces, where the high lights are in the engraving, of three ornamental ridges, running from the end of the flanged hollow toward the edge, the central one apparently expanding at the lower end into a sort of loop.

The next in size is not engraved, being not so well preserved, and very similar in form to Fig. 4, except that the curve of the sides behind the edge is more like Fig. 5. It measures $6\frac{3}{8}$ by $2\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches, the haft-hollow $2\frac{7}{8}$ long, narrowing to $\frac{9}{16}$ of an inch, the flanges recurved.

Fig. 5, the least of the three, is also the finest, but has been much rubbed by the finders. It measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ by 2 by $1\frac{1}{4}$, edge lunate, and bevelled on both faces nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad. The sides curve rapidly inward behind the edge, then slightly outward at the broadest part, and thence slope inward to the butt, which is nearly straight, with rounded angles, sharp, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch broad. The haft-hollow is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, narrowing from the butt to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the curved end, and the flange is slightly recurved. The sides are ornamented by a central ridge from end to end, above $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch broad, below the place where the flange ends, and tapering most toward the butt. The faces have a bevel toward each side, bounded by lines curving inward from the extremities of the edge

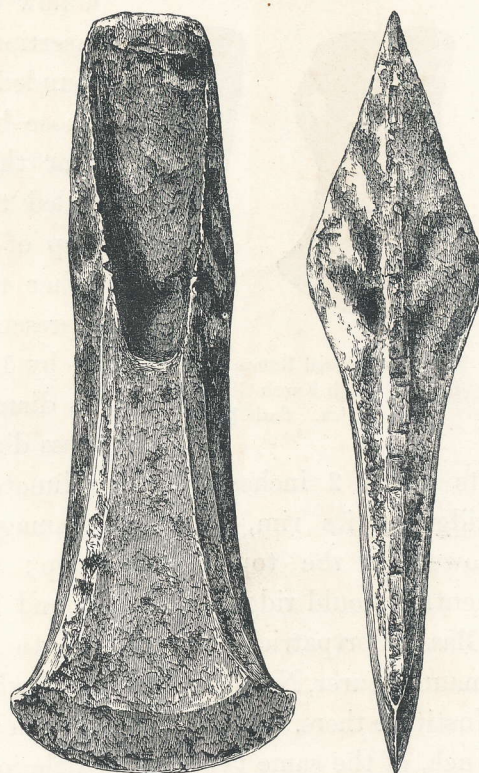


FIG. 5.—Bronze Palstave or Axe-head. The flange recurved. Balcarry, Old Luce. Scale $\frac{3}{4}$.

bevel, the outer one running to the highest part of the flange, and the inner one to the curve at the end of the haft-hollow. Mr. Gilchrist Clark of Speddoch has a set of three imperforate stone axes, all of the same material, but of different sizes, found lying close together in a peat moss in Colvend parish, Kirkcudbright. Perhaps we may hold it a fair inference from such finds, that sometimes, both in the stone and in the bronze age, a man used a set of axes of different sizes.

§ 3. *Socketed Bronze Axe-Heads*.—In this class the axe-head is a

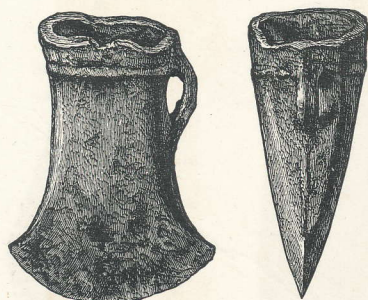


FIG. 6.—Socketed Bronze Axe-head, looped. High Knock Glass, Portpatrick. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

hollow wedge, the opening in the butt for the insertion of the right-angled haft-head being rounded at the corners or almost circular. Those here described have a *loop* on one side near the butt. By some archæologists it is called the loop of suspension, by others the loop of attachment; but I shall not adopt either theory implied in these terms. Fig. 6 represents a simple type. Dimensions, $2\frac{7}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches, the socket $1\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in its diameter parallel with edge, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in its cross diameter outside, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ by 1 inch inside,

its depth 2 inches, the edge lunate, the socket rounded, with a slight ridge at its rim, which is damaged, and another about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch lower, at the top of the loop; the sides are rounded, and have a central mould ridge. It was found in the neighbourhood of High Knock Glass, Portpatrick, and came into the hands of Mr. J. M'Keand, cloth manufacturer, Newton-Stewart, by whom it was presented to the Mechanics' Institute there. There is another in the same Institute, from Innermessan, Inch, of the same type, but a little longer, with a single ridge round it, just above the loop. Both of these axes have been a good deal worn by use and grinding.

Fig. 7 represents a very beautiful specimen, the property of the Earl of Stair, found by Mr. M'Niellie, farmer at Knock and Maize, Leswalt, in a peat moss on that farm, near Dundinnie march. Dimensions, $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{5}{8}$ by $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; diameter of socket parallel with edge $1\frac{7}{8}$ by $1\frac{5}{8}$ across, on the outside, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{9}{16}$ inside, depth of socket 4 inches. Edge lunate, socket rounded, with a large rounded moulding at the rim, and a smaller one at the upper end of the loop. The loop is $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch inside,

and $\frac{7}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch outside, on which it slopes up to the central mould ridge. It curves slightly outward at the upper end, joining the lower moulding round the socket, and more prominently at the lower end, where it runs quite across the side. The sides and faces meet in a distinct angle. On each face there is an ornament in slight relief. On one face a circular figure at the top is joined to two exactly similar ones, 1 inch from the edge, by two slight ridges, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, which start, $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch apart, from the lower segment of the upper figure, and terminate, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch apart, at the top of the lower figures. Each of these figures consists of a small central knob surrounded by two rings, the inner nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ and the outer $\frac{7}{16}$ of an inch in diameter. The other face has a circular ornament at the top, but not quite so high up, and three others below, in a row across it, 1 inch from the edge. They are exactly like those on the opposite face in form and size, except that the middle one below has a hollow instead of a knob in the centre. The upper figure is joined to the middle lower one by a straight central ridge, on each side of which a ridge runs, with a very slight outward curve at the lower end, into the segment of the outer circles next the middle one. They are nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch from the central ridge at the upper end, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch at the lower. At $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch outside of these two ridges two others start from the outer part of the top segment of the two outer circles and run up in a curve, parallel to the line of the axe side, till they pass the circle at the top, and meet above it in a slightly curved line. Mr. Evans kindly informs me that he has engraved an axe of a similar type from Kingston, Surrey, for his forthcoming work on Bronzes. It has more connecting ridges.



FIG. 7.—Socketed Bronze Axe-Head, looped.
Knock and Maize, Leswalt. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

2. BRONZE DAGGERS.

§ 1. *Bronze broad Dagger-blade*.—Fig. 8 represents one of solid metal and double edged, found in 1866 in a peat moss on the farm of Whiteleys, near Stranraer, and presented by Mr. Simon Hunter, the tenant, to the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. It is the “broad scythe-shaped sword” of the Irish antiquaries. It measures $12\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{4}$ by 1 inches, being broadest and thickest at the haft end, and weighs $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. The tang to which the haft has been attached is 3 inches broad and 2 inches long, rounded off at the upper part, and has four rivet holes with the bronze rivets remaining in them. The rivets are 1 inch long, and fully $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick.¹ The blade is fluted by a ridge-and-furrow ornament running from near the point almost to the tang, following the outline of the edges, and dividing the blade at half its length into four equal breadths.

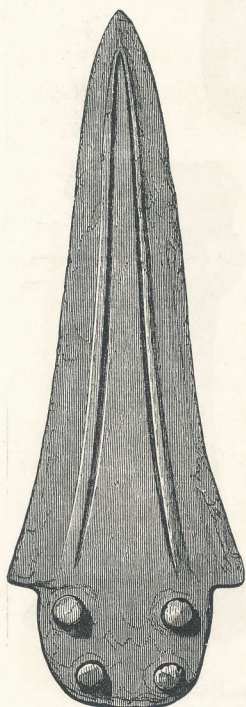


FIG. 8.—Bronze Broad Dagger-Blade. Whiteleys, Inch. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

§ 2. *Bronze Knife-dagger, with thin, triangular-shaped blade*.—Fig. 9 represents a small specimen found in the sandhills at Mid Torrs, Glenluce, and presented by me to the Museum in 1876. It is 3 inches long and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide at the butt, which still bears the mark of the haft. The point is broken and the tang is a good deal wasted. The blade is two edged, and is slightly bevelled at the edges. Only ten daggers of this type are known in Scotland, of which this is the ninth, described in an elaborate paper by Mr. Anderson.² As all the other specimens have been found in urns or cists, and as fragments of urns have been found near the spot where this one was picked up, it is probable that, like the others, it was deposited with an interment. Perhaps these small blades were knives for personal use. No bronze sword or dagger of the large, thick, and fluted type has yet been found with an interment in Scotland. The

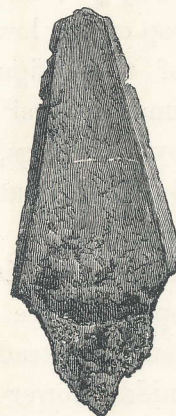


FIG. 9.
Bronze Knife-Dagger. Mid Torrs, Old Luce. Scale $\frac{3}{8}$.

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. vii. p. 423; *Museum Catalogue*, 1876, pp. 95, 96.

² *Ibid.* vol. xii. pp. 439-461.

urns with which these small blades have been found have all been of the form of a tall drinking-cup, and both urn and dagger appear to be peculiar to Great Britain.

3. BRONZE SPEAR-HEADS.

The late Mr. Peter Douglas, carpenter, Glenluce, told me that, when a boy, he found one among the stones of a large cairn on the farm of Drangower, New Luce, but it was lost.

Fig. 10 is referred to in the *New Statistical Account of Wigtownshire* as having been dug up at Merton Hall, Penninghame, near the old military road, in the year 1813, and given to the late James Black, Esq., M.D. of Bolton.¹ His son,

William Black, Esq., surgeon-major, 2 George Square, Edinburgh, kindly lent it to be engraved for this volume, and has since presented it to the National Museum of Antiquities. Length, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, width of blade 2 inches, and of socket $1\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch. The socket is carried tapering nearly to the point with a groove on each side, widening towards the broadest part of the blade, the outer edge bounded by a slight ridge, which becomes larger where it is carried on to form the loop. The loop begins near the base of the blade, the opening being $\frac{3}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch.

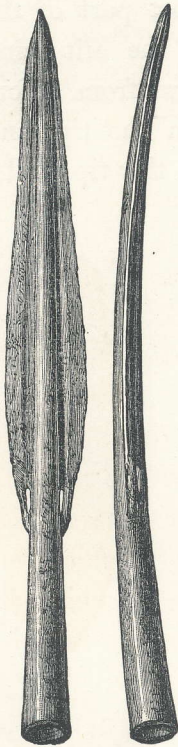


FIG. 11.
Bronze Spear-Head,
looped at base of
blade. Fell of Bar-
hullion, Glasserton.
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

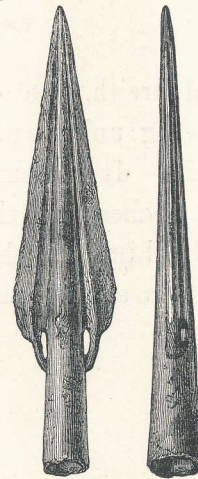


FIG. 10.
Bronze Spear-Head,
looped at base of
blade. Merton Hall,
Penninghame.
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Fig. 11 represents a fine specimen in the cabinet of Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., of Monreith, found on the Fell of Barhullion, Glasserton. It was found jammed between two masses of rock, and is bent. Length, $15\frac{1}{8}$ inches, blade 11 by $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$, diameter of socket 1 inch. The socket tapers nearly to the point, and the blades have a shallow broad groove on each side of it, the slight ridges becoming more marked toward the base, and curving outward for $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to form the loops, which are $\frac{3}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$, and terminate $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch from the base of the blade.

¹ *New Statistical Account of Wigtownshire*, p. 177.

4. BRONZE SWORD.

Fig. 12 represents the only one reported in this county; a fine leaf-shaped two-edged sword, in the cabinet of Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., of

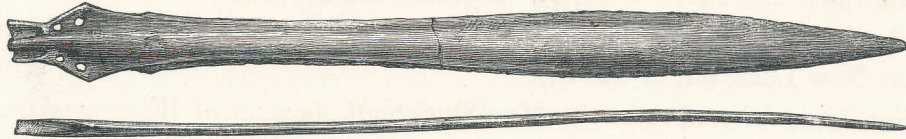


FIG. 12.—Bronze Leaf-shaped Sword. Monreith, Glasserton. Scale $\frac{1}{8}$.

Monreith, the exact locality and circumstances in which it was found being unknown. It is broken across the blade, and has lost part of the hilt. It measures $23\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the breadth at the hilt being 2 inches and the thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. The blade narrows from before the hilt, and then expands to a point about 8 inches from the tip, and has a slight central ridge which becomes more marked near the tip, and a



FIG. 13.—Bronze Needle.
High Torrs, Old Luce. Actual size.

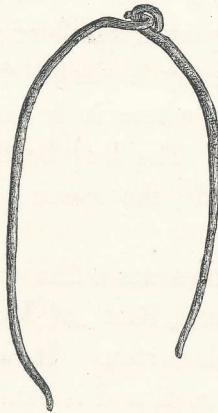


FIG. 14.—Bronze Looped Wire.
Knockencrunge, Torrs, Old Luce.
Scale $\frac{2}{3}$.



FIG. 15.—Bronze Pin, square-headed.
High Torrs, Old Luce.
Actual size.

slight groove along each edge. There are four rivet holes where the handle has been attached, and two deep grooves $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, where the hilt is broken off.

5. BRONZE NEEDLE.

Fig. 13 represents a bronze needle, which I found on our sandhills in 1878. The fragment is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, being broken at both ends; but part of the eye remains. In Vol. I. p. 23, a flint drill for boring the eye of *bone* needles is shown.

6. LOOPED BRONZE WIRE.

Fig. 14. I found this object, the use of which I cannot conjecture, at Knockencrunge, Mid Torrs, Old Luce. It consists of two pieces of bronze wire, looped together and tapering to the other end, where the largest one is bent in a little, and then straight at the point.

7. BRONZE PIN.

Fig. 15, found by me on 14th April 1879, at High Torrs, Old Luce, near the object in bronze, Fig. 17. Length $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, thickness nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, rounded, with a quadrangular head about $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch long, narrowing to the neck, which is surrounded by a ring. There are three pins in the Museum of the same form, but a little larger, from the island of Lismore. It has been thought desirable to have the composition of this pin ascertained.

The following analysis is by Ivison Macadam, Esq., of the Analytical Laboratory, Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh:—

"Copper . .	90.24
Tin . .	9.65
	<hr/>
	99.89

These results prove that the pin is made of an alloy resembling bronze." Mr. Macadam, in his note accompanying this analysis, says, "The results show the composition to be such as would warrant the pin being considered as of genuine old manufacture, and not of modern origin."

I have picked up among the Torrs a quadrangular pin, with blunt point and flattened at the other end, 2 by $\frac{1}{8}$ inches, another $2\frac{1}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$, round, slightly tapering and broken at the point, and a small finely pointed one $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch long, now in the Museum.

8. BRONZE PENNANULAR BROOCH.

Fig. 16 represents one found by me at High Torrs, Old Luce. It measures $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in its longest diameter, and a little less in the direction of the pin, which is wanting. The opening for the pin is formed by two serpent heads, now indistinct through the corroding of the metal. Mr. Gilchrist Clark of Speddoch has a fragment with a circular flower pattern, which seems to have formed one side of the opening of a similar brooch.



FIG. 16.—Bronze Pennanular Brooch. High Torrs, Old Luce. Actual size.

9. BRONZE OBJECT, LIKE A PENDANT.

Fig. 17 represents a prettily moulded object picked up near Fig. 15. It is of a cylindrical form, somewhat like a dumb-bell, with a loop at one side; length $1\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, diameter at the loop $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch, and at the rounded ends slightly more; diameter of loop about $\frac{1}{5}$ of an inch, with mould-mark inside. Two ridges $\frac{1}{5}$ of an inch apart run round from the inner sides. I can find no report of any similar object in bronze. In Scandinavia there are ornaments of a similar form made of amber; but I have no reason for supposing that this has any connection with them.



FIG. 17.—Bronze object, like a pendant. High Torrs, Old Luce. Actual size.

The workers in bronze sometimes used a kind of rivet, like the patent brass paper-fasteners now used. A narrow strip of metal was doubled, put through a slit punched through the two pieces to be joined, and then the loop was flattened down on one side and the two ends flattened back on the other. I have found a few of these among the sandhills of Old Luce.

I presented to the Museum in Edinburgh, in 1876, the objects figured in this paper as numbers 9, 14, and 16; and in 1879 numbers 13, 15, and 17.

GEORGE WILSON.

FREE CHURCH, GLENLUCE.