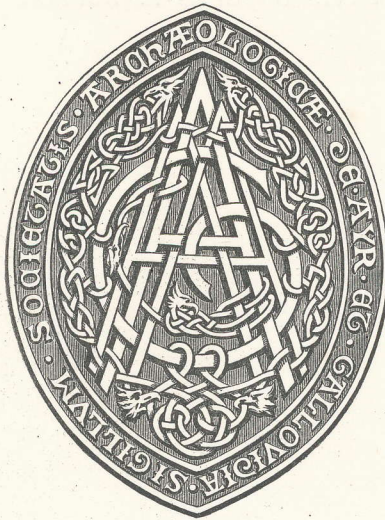


ARCHÆOLOGICAL
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VI.

DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT FORTS, ETC., IN WIGTOWNSHIRE.

1. KIRKCOLM.

It has long been my wish to publish a description of the camps, forts, fortified towns, cairns, and other ancient works in this district, for which many details have been collected in my note books. A serious illness laid me aside from all work for eighteen months, and when I began, in the summer of 1884, to superintend the measurement of some forts by a professional surveyor, a wound on my foot made me unfit to visit localities so rugged and difficult of access. The number of these antiquities in Wigtownshire is very great, and as my list contains several which are not entered in the Ordnance Survey Maps it is likely that a closer survey may lead to the discovery of yet more. I give a list, although incomplete, of the forts and camps in the Rhinns and Glenluce. In *Kirkmaiden*, at the Mull Head, two lines of fortification run across the narrow isthmus from east to west Tarbert. In the Ordnance Survey Map the line to the north is marked "Ancient Fortification," but the other is entered only as a field fence, although it is really two earthen dykes and two ditches, with hut circles, and a larger ring on the side next to the lighthouse. A little to the north-west of west Tarbert, on the coast of the Irish Channel, is a nameless fort.¹ Farther along is Dunora, or Dunorrich, on a rock at the base of the lofty sea cliffs. Then follow three forts, of which nothing is left but traces of the ditch across the narrow neck between the land and the cliff summits on which they have stood. Dunman is a large fort, crowning one of the loftiest precipices on this rugged coast, with remains of a strong outer wall and hut circles. At Crummag Head, on a lower rock, there is a circular stone fort, with a narrow entrance across a

¹ Not in Ordnance Survey Map.

ditch, faced with stone on one side, two outer lines of mound and ditch, and hut circles. Dr. Gemmill has kindly sent me a rough sketch plan of some curious remains at a place between Clanyard and Logan Bay, which may have been a fort. Dunichinie is a large circular fort north of the Mull of Logan. The Moat Hill at Drummore appears to have been defended by some earthworks. In *Stoneykirk* there is a small green projection, on the seventy-five feet ancient coast line, north of Drum-breddan Bay,¹ where the narrow neck is cut by a ditch. At Ardwell Point there is the fort called the Doon Castle. About five miles farther north is the fort of Kirlauchline, with three traverses. Inland, at Kildonan, there is a double fort. The name of Knockdoon indicates a fort north of Awhirk, but I have not seen the place; and there are traces of cairns at the Doon Hill of Kildrochet. In *Portpatrick*, on Cairn Pyot, the highest hill in the parish, there is a very large circular fort or camp, consisting of three rings, one within the other, but not concentric, of which the inmost is not in the map. In *Leswalt* there is a circular fort at Lashindarroch on Knock-na-maize, which has been ploughed over, and there are two on Port Slogan. At Larbrax is a fort with two traverses at the Kemp's Walk. There is one at Saltpans Bay, and another interesting one at High Auchneel.¹ Inland there is the fort at Aldouran Glenhead, called the Kemps' Graves, and a circular fort at the Tor of Craigoch, with outer defences. In *Kirkcolm* there is said to be no trace of a fort at the Dounan of Airies; but farther north there is Dunwick, then the Doonan of Dally, of which no trace is reported, and Dunskirloch, at Corswall Point. Turning along the coast toward Loch Ryan we find Dundream, of which little trace remains; Caspin, and a nameless fort at Jamieson's Point. There is the site of the Castle of Craigoch inland, where there may have been a fort. In *Inch* there has been a fort at Lefnoll Point,¹ near the end of the Deil's Dyke, and in a bend of that dyke, at the head of Beoch Glen, is Shinraggie or Shinriggie, a fortified town. Teroy is a fort west of the Braes of Balkerr, and the name of Kirclauchie Burn seems to indicate another in that neighbourhood. In *New Luce* there is a ruined fort, marked in the map as two cairns, on the Fell of Cruise or High Galdenoch, and another, with a cluster of green rings, and a large ditch and earthen dyke on the west and north, at Glen-iron several.¹ At Garvillan there is a stone fort on the Bennan,¹ which is double at the one end and with hut circles. It is marked in the

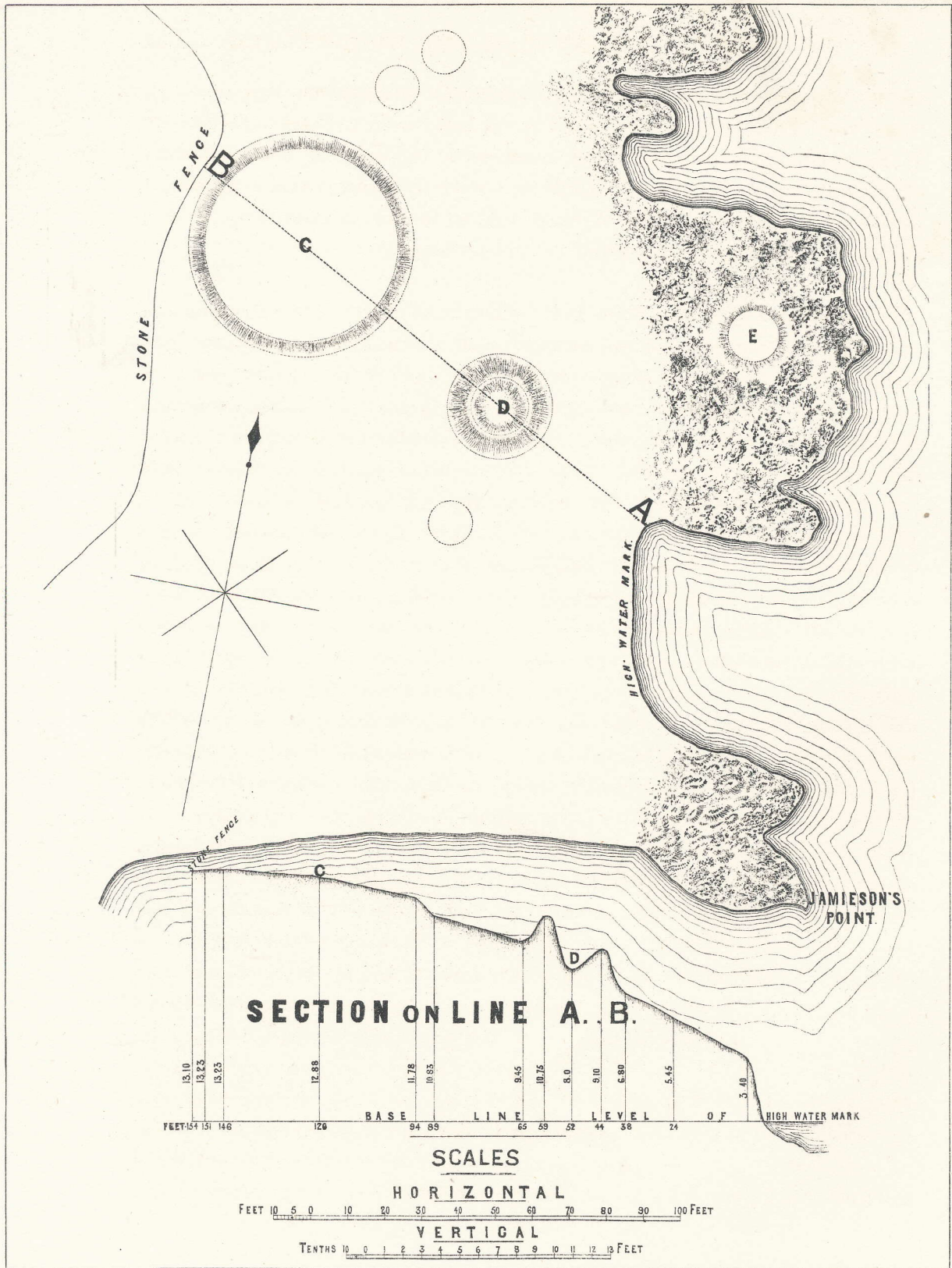
¹ Not in Ordnance Survey Map.

map "Pile of stones." There are two rings touching each other near the farmhouse, another is farther to the west, and there are three more near the north-west march of the farm, at a place called Klashherne.¹ There is a ring with two hut circles at Balmurrie.¹ In *Old Luce* there are three rings at Glenhinnie,¹ two at Glenwhan,¹ two in a wood called Baraigle,¹ near Dunraget, and the Roon Doonan at Dunraget. On Craig there are two rings,¹ each with a hut circle, and on Airyhemming there are three forts,¹ one of them with a cup-shaped floor at the one end, in good preservation. On the coast at Stairhaven there is a ring,¹ and a quarter of a mile south of the pier is a ruined fort entered in the map as a cairn. Near Low Sunonness is a fort called Garliachen,¹ and on the Mull of Sunonness is a ring. On Barhaskine there are remains of the entrance of what seems to have been a circular fort at the Carlinwark;¹ on the top of the Knock Hill is a fortified town; there is a ring on Barnsallzie; and there is a circular fort at Drumearnachan,¹ of which I have given a description in Vol. III. p. 56. At the mouth of the river Piltanton there is a cottage called Corrylinn or Corachlinn, corruptions of the name which Pont gives as Kereluing; and at High Torrs one of the sandhills is called Knockdoon.¹

Including the rings, with the entrance opening to the south-east, which may have been burying-places, the above list contains about sixty forts. There are fifteen in *Mochrum*, four in *Glasserton*, ten forts and camps in *Whithorn*, and several more in the other parishes not named in this list. Their great number in so small a district seems to indicate that many of them were places of refuge, to which the inhabitants in the immediate neighbourhood fled in times of danger. The differences in the plan and material of their structure may indicate differences of date, culture, or race, in those who made them. In several cases the names still given to them show that they were held by men of a different language and race. The plans and descriptions I hope to give in future volumes will make this more plain than any general statement can do.

I wished to begin with Kirkmaiden parish and the fortified town at the Mull Head, of which I made a plan many years ago, but the survey and plans of the other forts in that parish could not be completed in time for this volume. I shall start from the opposite extremity of the Rhinns, and describe those in the parish of Kirkcolm. And I take this opportunity of expressing my obligation to several friends in that parish who have shown

¹ Not in Ordnance Survey Map.



CAMP AT JAMIESON'S POINT, KIRKCOLM.

me the places of interest, and furnished me with information, without which these notes, such as they are, could never have been written. To Charles Wallace, Esq., of Dally, one of our members, to Mr. John M'Meehan, farmer at Knockneen, to Mr. James M'Robert, crofter at Knowes and a deacon of the Free Church, and to Mr. William Agnew, farmer at Balquhirry, I owe thanks for their ungrudging kindness and assistance.

I. *Jamieson's Point*.—Plate XIII. The parish of Kirkcolm is bounded on the east, north, and west, by the sea, and about the middle of its eastern shore a spit of sand, called the Scar, runs far into Loch Ryan. I have heard of no fort to the south of the Scar, but to the north-west of it, exactly opposite the boundary between Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, at Jamieson's Point, there is a circular stone fort. The point shelters a small bay where there is a house for curing fish. On the base line AB the fort is shown at C. The ring has an external diameter of about 60 feet, and is about 4 feet 6 inches broad. It is much dilapidated, the stones having been used in building the field wall close beside it. The explanation may be given here, once for all, that in almost all these forts the measurements cannot be given with minute exactness, the stone walls or ditches and earthen mounds being much wasted by time or violence, and the plans always look more neat and exact than the objects themselves. The ring is 90 feet from the sea at its nearest edge. At D is a ruined kiln, 24 feet from the fort and at a lower level, about 19 feet in external diameter, with a wall about 3 feet thick. It seems to have been used for burning lime at a comparatively recent date. At E, on a low rocky projection, there is a hut circle about 14 feet in diameter. There is a 12-foot circle 14 feet south of the kiln, and another of the same size and at the same distance from the fort to the north-west, and 4 feet farther is another rather less in diameter. The four circles seem to be ancient. At the south-east, a few feet outside of the plan, there is a well, now protected by stone work, and beyond it there are some indications of an outer trench, for the defence of the whole site of the fortifications, hut circles and well; but these are so faint I have not ventured to insert them in the plan. A supply of fresh water was obviously a thing of serious importance to the makers of these forts. Those forts which did not include or command a spring could only be occupied for a short time in case of war. I can find no old name for this fort, or any tradition or legend connected with it.

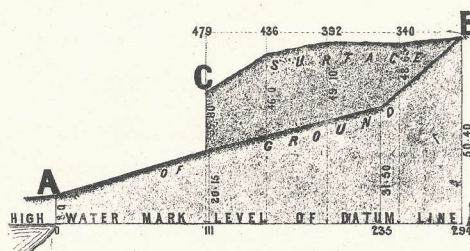
II. *Caspin* or *Caspan*.—Plate XIV. From Jamieson's Point the coast of Loch Ryan goes north-west to Milleur Point, where the loch opens into the Irish Channel, and about a mile south-west of that point the remains of another stone fort are found on a very rugged part of this rocky coast. It is above 18 furlongs in a direct line from Jamieson's Point. It is called Caspin on the map, but seems often to be pronounced Caspan by the people. It is on the farm of West Balscalloch, and is reached by a road from the farmhouse, shown by the field wall and dotted line to the right of A on the plan, which leads down to a precipitous cleft or isthmus, running north-east and south-west between two narrow creeks, from which seaweed was formerly hoisted by a windlass. The stones of the fort seem to have been used in making this road, and in building the breastworks where the kelp was gathered. The precipice on the landward side is higher than that crowned by the fort. The windlass at A was about 8 feet above extreme high-water mark. Two hundred and thirty-five feet eastward, at the highest point of the isthmus, about 31 feet above the sea, the entrance to the fort seems to have started by a steep ascent between two rocky points. On the right of this ascent a part of the drystone facing is still intact, showing from two to five courses, slightly concave. A good deal of debris of the building lies at the foot of the precipice to the left. B at the east end of the summit is about 51 feet 6 inches above the sea. The remains of a strong drystone parapet are seen all along the summit of the precipice from C, the total length being about 230 feet; at C it turns at a right angle to the north, about 35 feet. A few small hut circles can still be traced among the grass, of which one is shown to the right of B, and two more close together to the left. I saw no well, but some of the herbage indicates the presence of a water supply. An old man mentioned to Mr. M'Meehan a tradition that the fort had been used as a place for preaching. Its secluded position would make it suitable for a conventicle in times of persecution.

III. *Dundream* is a site above three furlongs farther to the south-west. I have not been able to visit it, but am told that there are no remains of which a plan could be made. There appears to have been a ditch or breast-work to defend the entrance.

Dinmurchie is a green spot on a very rocky point above two furlongs farther along the coast. The rocks are so precipitous as to make it almost



SECTION FROM A TO B & B TO C



SCALES

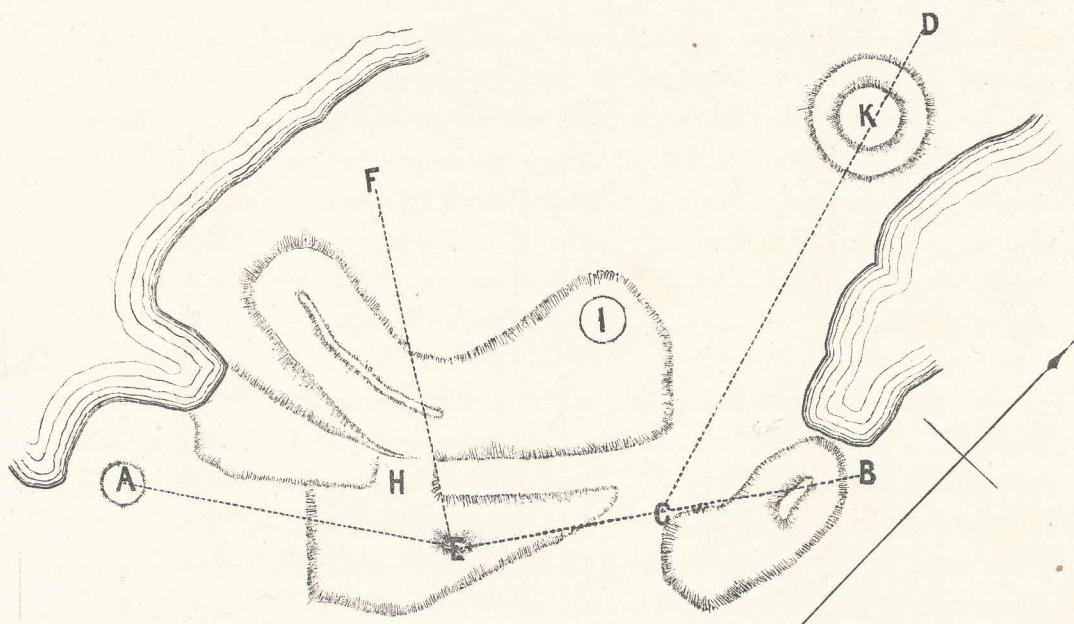
HORIZONTAL

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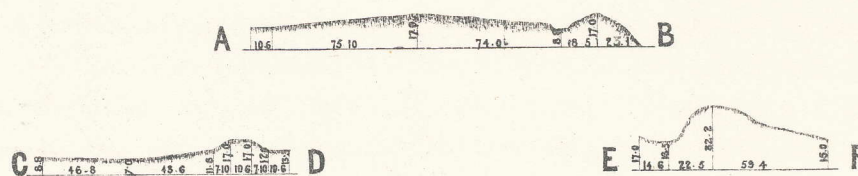
VERTICAL

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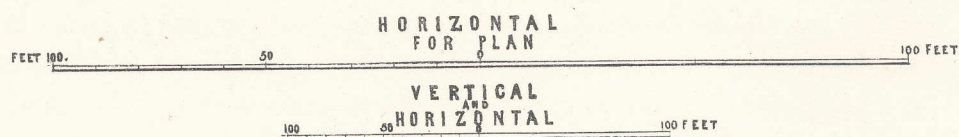
CASPIN, KIRKCOLM.



SECTIONS ON A TO B, C TO D, AND ON E TO F



SCALES



DUNSKIRLOCH, KIRKCOLM.

inaccessible on the landward side, and it is only in calm weather it can be reached by a boat. According to local tradition a giant called Murchie was buried here. Mr. M'Meehan tells me there has been a kind of mound of black burnt earth. About 40 years ago, say 1844, on digging in this spot a large wooden coffin was found containing bones. Not long before that a man from the neighbourhood tried to dig for treasure here, but took fright, and in his too hasty flight fell among the rocks and broke his arm. The place is said to be haunted, presumably by Murchie's ghost.

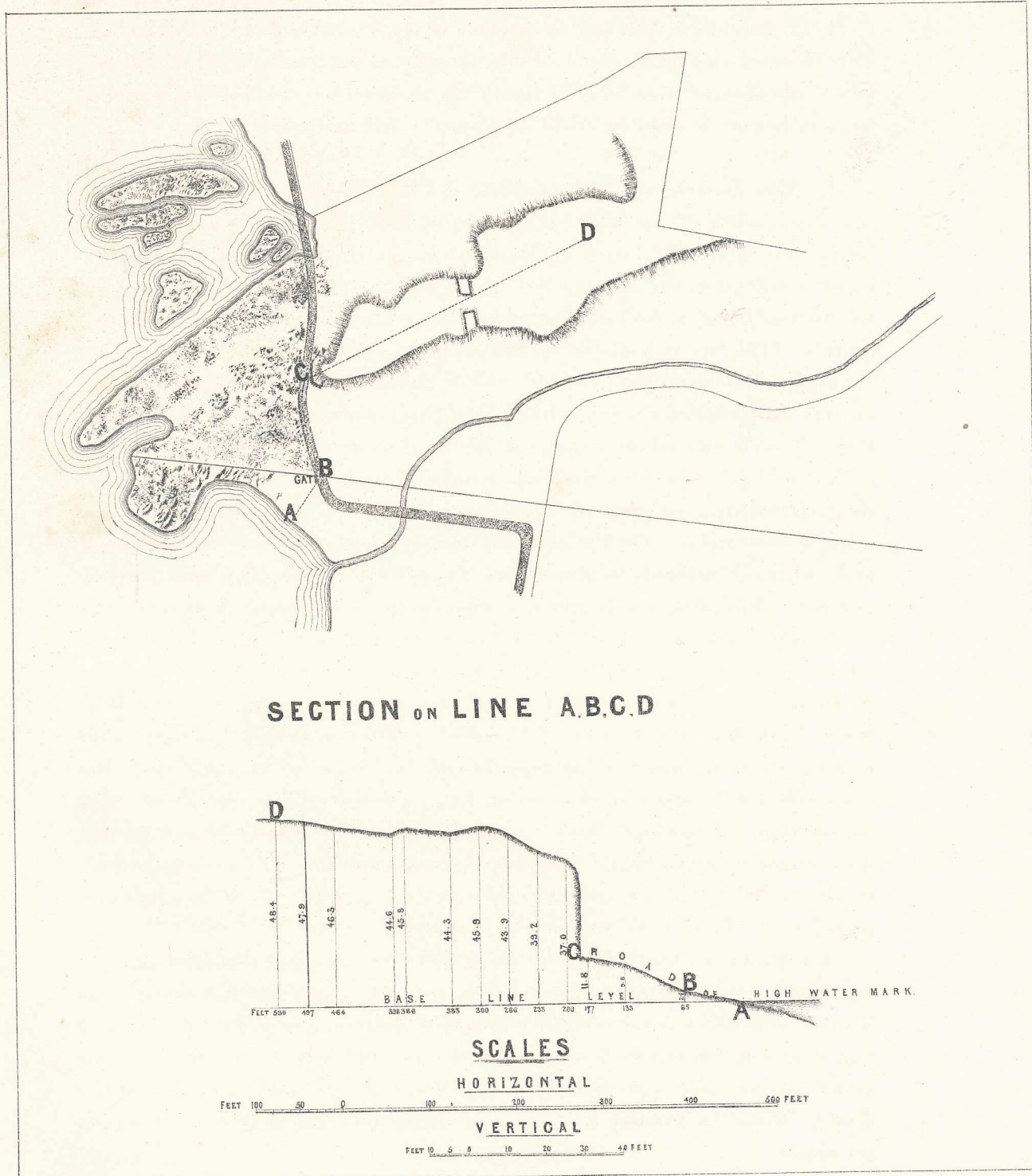
IV. *Dunskirloch*.—Plate XV. Fortunately the next fort can still be described. It is above 11 furlongs from Caspin, and immediately to the north of Corswall Lighthouse. I am indebted to Mr. James M'Robert for the survey, plan, and descriptive notes of this interesting fort.

A small rocky peninsula, lying nearly north and south, is joined to the mainland by an isthmus about 135 feet wide, between two small creeks. Across this isthmus runs, north-east and south-west, a narrow natural ditch, which has been improved by art and strengthened by heavy works both on the landward and seaward sides. At the south-west end it curves a little eastward to H, and is from 15 to 20 feet wide at the bottom, narrowing to 8 feet at H. Here an entrance crosses it, which is about 12 feet wide, 8 feet long, and 13 feet high. The ditch runs on nearly straight north-east for about 45 feet, with a nearly uniform width at the bottom of 8 or 9 feet. Of the side of the ditch facing the mainland the wester half is a rock from 14 to 17 feet high, and the half toward the east has had the steep slope strengthened by a very strong wall. This wall, according to the report of a man above eighty years old, was dilapidated in 1815 or 1816, when the various enclosures connected with the Lighthouse were built. Opposite C, from the beach to the knoll on the left the large foundation-stones are still in their place. The heavy stone-work on the landward side of the ditch has also been dilapidated. Between C and B is a small knoll 17 feet high, 50 feet long, and above 20 feet broad. Another at E is of the same height, about 70 feet long and 30 feet broad at the west end, narrowing to a point at the east. These knolls formed outer defences. On the line from E to F the level falls about 4 feet to H, and rises rapidly to above 32 feet at the top of a knoll. This knoll is curved, with its convex side to the ditch, and is 100 feet long, 40 feet broad at the east end, and 20 at the west end. On the north-east part of it is a hut circle at I, about 12 feet in diameter.

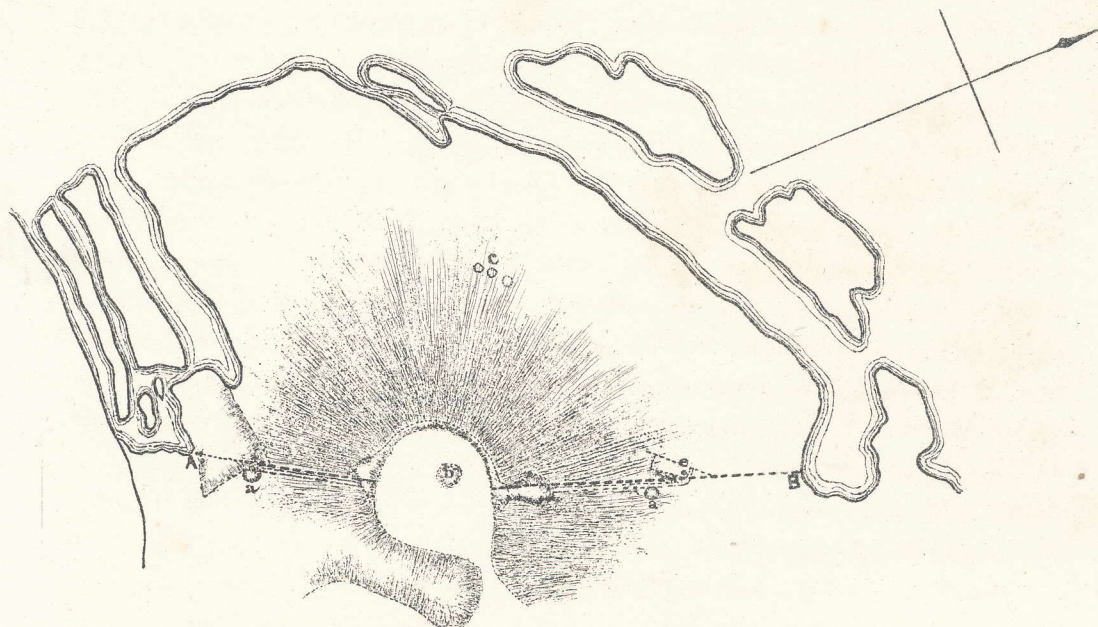
About 60 feet to the north of this circle, at K, the highest point of the line C D, 17 feet above the sea, is another circle about $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. The sides of the knoll slope or are scarped down to the level of 12 feet, where the diameter is about 27 feet. On the landward side of the ditch, at the south-west, is another circle A, about 10 feet in diameter.

V. *The Doonan of Dally*.—Plate XVI. This fort is about two and a half miles south of Corswall Lighthouse, at Dally Bay. It is above twenty furlongs in a straight line from Dunskirloch, on the flat grassy summit of a rocky headland of the ancient 50 feet sea beach, south-west of Dally, on the property of Charles Wallace, Esq., who takes a lively interest in the local antiquities. The site is bounded on the south by Dally Burn, which has cut its channel to the sea in the line of a dyke of diorite rock. Part of the precipice on this side is called Craigentarrie. A natural cleft or hollow on the west, at C, has been deepened by a rock-cutting for a road. It is said to have been made by Major Ross of Airies, who employed some men of the Sutherland Fencibles, disbanded after the Irish Rebellion. On the north the grassy slope is very steep. On the east, the fort was defended at the narrowest part, where it suddenly contracts to 50 feet, by a double ditch and earthen parapet. The outer ditch and the inner parapet are almost destroyed, and a modern entrance gap, 12 to 15 feet wide, has been made through the whole, to admit of the cultivation of the area of the fort. The width over all these defences is nearly 20 feet, and one part of the parapet is still about 5 feet high from the bottom of the ditch. There may have been an outer defence at the narrow part between D and the angle of the field wall, the sides being very steep to that point, but no trace of it can be seen. The area within the parapets and ditches is about 180 feet long, and 75 feet wide at the broadest part. The defence round the edges has been destroyed, and there is no trace of any hut circle or building, the whole having been cultivated. There is no well in the enclosure.

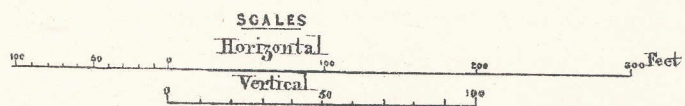
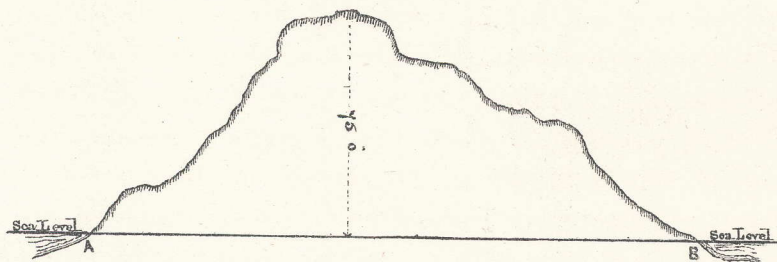
A little to the south of Dally Burn, between the field road and the sea, on a flat space with low rocky sides, is a green conical mound called *Dinbonnet*. On the narrow summit is a hollow, lying north and south, about 7 feet long and 3 feet broad, said by tradition to be a grave. I observed very small fragments of bone under one foot of soil on the south-east slope of the knoll. Both the Doonan of Dally and Dinbonnet are said to be haunted by fairies.



CAMP AT DALLY, KIRKCOLM.



Longitudinal Section from A to B



DUNWICK, KIRKCOLM.

VI. *Dunwick* or *Danwick*.—Plate XVII. This place is 4 furlongs south of the Doonan of Dally. It is called Castle Bull on the Ordnance Survey map, but that name was first used about the end of last century, when a bull fell over the steep bank and was killed. It is sometimes called Castle Bawn, but the common name is Dunwick, which was also the name of the small farm near it, now thrown into the farm of Airies. Mr. M'Robert informs me that he has heard some very old people call the fort *Danwick*. This form of the name seems suggestive of the Scandinavians, and it may be a tradition of some Danish viking, who drew up his ship in the adjoining creek and made this fort to secure his position. The Kemp's Walk at Larbrax Fort, a few miles farther south, and the Kemps' graves near Loch-naw, in Leswalt, are memorials of the presence of such foreign invaders. My friend M. S. Tait, Esq., Secretary of the Ferguson Bequest Fund, has kindly examined the title-deed of Airies estate for me, and informs me that it is dated 1578, and contains no place-names except Airies and Knockbrake. "It is merely described as a forty shilling land, held by one Campbell."

Dunwick is on a green knoll which projects from the 75 feet coast level, and rests on the 25 feet level. A low ridge of the drift gravel slopes down a little towards the narrow neck which forms the entrance to the fort. This neck is about 40 feet long and 45 feet wide, contracting on both sides till it is only about 7 feet wide near the knoll. The level summit of the knoll is somewhat pear-shaped, and its length, due east and west, is about 95 feet, its breadth about 85 feet. A little north-west of its centre there are traces of a circle, *b*, about 17 feet in diameter. The remains of the parapet round the edge are slight, and there is no trace of any ditch or parapet across the entrance. The natural hollow on each side of the entrance appears to have been improved by scarping. About 8 feet below the summit level of 75 feet, it begins to slope quickly down to about the level of 50 feet, where a narrow flattish ledge seems to have been made round more than half of the knoll on the seaward slope, as indicated by the outer dotted line on the plan. This ledge or path widens on the south-west slope, on the line AB, to about 15 feet, and on the north side it has a sort of outwork in the form of a loop, hollow in the middle, about 30 feet long and 20 broad over all, which slopes downward. The knoll seems to have been scarped from the summit down to this ledge, which is least distinct on the west side. On the section line AB there are traces of a wall or dyke of turf, from the ledge down to *a* on the south, and to *e* on the north side. At *a*, where

the vertical section shows a small level spot on part of the ancient 25 feet sea beach, there are remains of a 10 feet circle outside of the dyke, and there is a smaller circle at *a*, on the north side, which is also outside of the dyke. Three more hut circles are shown at *c*, about 100 feet north-west from the knoll, on the 25 feet level, where a little shelter is afforded by some rocks between them and the sea. A well is found at *e*, which seems to have been enclosed, and is inside of the line of dyke.

The outwork on the north slope of this fort appears to have attracted notice and excited speculation in the minds of some of the natives in former times. There is a tradition that three different attempts have been made to dig there for hidden treasure, all of which were prevented, the place being haunted by fairies. The first man who tried to dig cut off one of his own feet by the first stroke of his spade, the second was scared away by hearing the sea make a strange and alarming sound, and the third was terrified by the apparition of a lady in white, who drove him away with dire threats of vengeance if he ever presumed to disturb the place again!

There is a place called Dounan Park and Hill about a mile farther south on the coast, but I am told there are no remains of a fort to be seen there.

Craigoch Castle is a site towards the east of the parish, on the Craigoch Burn, which drains Loch Connell. At this place we have an interesting example of the effects of social and economic changes, still in progress, which are apt to pass without record at the time. It has been uninhabited for a good many years, but there are the ruins of three mills, all of which have been used in the memory of people still alive,—a meal, a flax, and a carding mill. There is now no flax or carding mill in the Rhinns or Glenluce, and the meal mills are becoming gradually fewer, owing to the competition of steam mills in the great cities. There were once two carding mills in Glenluce, and two tanneries in the village, now there are none; and the handloom weavers have either died out or taken up other kinds of work. I know only one woman who still spins with the large wheel. But to return from this digression to Craigoch, the ruined "House on the Rock" there, built on an ice-polished rock, was said by the late inhabitants to contain part of the old castle walls. I could see no evidence of this. Near a small linn above the mills, and on the opposite side of the brook, there is a small irregular knoll, with low and rather precipitous rocky sides. On the top there are traces of what seems to have been a ring fort, about 33 feet in one diameter and 28 in the other. On the north-east side, at

a distance of 15 feet, there is part of an outer mound or parapet. At the north there may have been an entrance where there is a cleft a few feet wide. Outside of the ring, next the linn, there is a circle which seems to have been a kiln. The place is too much destroyed to be shown on a plan, and I am of opinion it is not as ancient as the other places now described. Perhaps some digging might make this more clear. The Tor of Craigoch is a fine fort, about a mile and a half distant, in Leswalt parish. *Kirminnoch* is a name probably due to a fort once there.

It seems likely that some of the forts now described would have their defences strengthened by stockades of wood; but this is a mere opinion, for no relics of stakes have been seen.

Having finished this first instalment of my promised notes on the ancient forts in Wigtownshire I may take this opportunity of adding some notes on other antiquities in Kirkcolm parish. Several of the place-names mark the site of ancient *cairns*, all of which are said to have been destroyed. There are still some remains of a very large cairn, which had stone graves in it, at North Cairn. South Cairn and Cairnside, two adjoining farms, seem to be named from it also. About a mile to the south-east is Cairnbowie. About a mile and a half east of Dunwick are Cairndonald and Cairndonnan. In the south-west of the parish we find Cairnbrock. South of Jamieson's Point is Cairntootan. Cairn Connell is a hill east of Loch Connell. Between the years 1790 and 1810 there was a great dilapidation of cairns and forts for the purpose of building field walls when waste lands were improved.

Rock-hewn Grave at Ervie. This is a very interesting grave, and is, so far as I know, the only one in Scotland hewn out of the solid rock. I saw it a few years ago, and examined the ledge cut round the top, but the bottom was covered with liquid manure from the dung-heap which usually covers it. It is well described in the following letter to me by Charles Wallace, Esq., dated "Dally, Kirkcolm, 9th January 1878. In levelling the earth and rock to improve the courtyard and farm-steading at Ervie, at a considerable depth below the original surface an oblong chest-like cavity was found in the solid whinstone rock. It was 3 feet long by 2 feet broad, and about 2 feet deep, clean and neatly cut, and with the tool-marks distinctly visible on the sides. Round the edge was a neatly cut groove or ledge for a lid, and this lid was in a great measure entire,

although much decayed, when the cist was discovered. It was of oak, about 2 inches thick, and very much in appearance like the oak in the adjoining mosses. Above the oak was a rough stone slab. The cist contained nothing but a few inches of moss, and a thin layer of what looked like lime, probably calcined bone."

Old Mill at Cairnside. On 9th of February last Mr. M'Meehan took me to see a curious dug-out trough like a canoe, found in making a drain in a field called the Drangan, on Cairnside farm. The labourer had cleared out much earth and laid bare the remains of an ancient mill. At a place where the surface slopes rapidly down towards a small brook he found a trough, neatly cut out of a bog oak tree, the length 9 feet 5 inches, the width outside 1 foot 11 inches, and inside 1 foot 5 inches, the depth 1 foot 3 inches. It was lying below the clay, with the open end about 2 feet under the surface, on a hard gravel bank, and the lower end between 4 and 5 feet from the slope of the bank. The lower end has been cut square and pierced through the solid by two holes 5 inches in diameter on the inside and 3 at the outside. Over each hole on the end of the trough a piece of wood $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick was fastened, with a still smaller hole in it. Each piece was fastened on by ten oak trenails, five on each side, three of which were 1 inch thick, and two only $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick. The large ones had heads bent at a right angle, like the head of a walking-stick, but it is uncertain if the smaller ones had similar heads. I observed a trenail of this form used to fasten a rib on the inside of the dug-out canoe found in Dernaglaur Loch in Old Luce. In Vol. III., p. 54, I notice a similar one, which was found on the Crannog in Barhapple Loch, only it was untrimmed. Probably it belonged to a canoe of which a part was found there. This form of oak trenail seems to be very old. The perforated end of the trough rested in a groove cut in the outer edge of a heavy squared beam of oak about 6 feet long and 1 foot square, and below and in front of the beam was a floor, 3 or 4 feet square, of thick oak planks, which I could not see for muddy water. Beyond this floor, and at a little higher level, lay an upper millstone of granite, 3 feet in diameter and 5 inches thick, with a hole 6 inches in diameter. The hard bog oak seems to have been trimmed almost entirely with an axe. No one had ever heard of a mill or any dwelling being there. A good many broken flints were lying on the surface near the spot, and several flint flakes have been picked up. I got from the drainer a small stone celt, described along with others in Sir Herbert

Maxwell's paper in this volume. About thirty years ago a fine bronze sword was got a few yards off, in a field on the other side of the brook, but it cannot now be traced. In Dr. Munro's paper, in this volume, on our Lake-dwellings, will be found a note on a bog- or lake-dwelling in Kirkcolm.

Corswall Castle, about a mile south-east from the Lighthouse, is still represented by some ruined walls. Symson described it as "wholly ruinous" when he wrote. It is described in the *New Statistical Account*, pp. 102 and 103. I hope that this and the other ruined castles in Wigtownshire may be figured and described in future volumes of our Collections. There was a castle at Barnside which belonged to the Campbells; but it has been destroyed, only traces of the foundations remaining. It is said that the sandstone in it was taken to build the small manor-house at Balsarroch, a two-story house with thatched roof.

The Holy Wells at the site of Kilmore Chapel, St. Bryde's Well at her chapel, and St. Columba's Well, have been described in Vol. III. p. 91, by my friend the late Rev. Daniel Conway, by whose death our Society has lost a zealous and accomplished member. There is no building at any of these wells. Some traces of St. Bryde's Chapel still remain, but Kilmore Chapel has entirely disappeared. It was from Kilmore the rude sculptured stone was taken to the parish church which is now in the garden at Corswall House, and which is figured in Dr. Stuart's great work.

Chapel Dounan, a little to the east of Balsarroch, has also been quite destroyed. My friends Mr. Wallace and Mr. M'Meehan found two small slabs, each with a rudely incised cross, near this site, which they presented through me to the Antiquarian Museum in Edinburgh last year.

GEORGE WILSON.