

# Transactions

OF THE

## BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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[www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk](http://www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk)

Rev. Alexander Bremner, Fyvie, also reported on the recent discovery of an ancient grave. He wrote—

The removal of road metal from a sloping bank on the farm of Kirkton, near the road leading from the Parish Church to the hamlet of Woodhead, exposed the end of a full length ancient grave. The sides and ends were built of dry stones, and the top was covered over with long stones laid across. In the grave itself nothing was found save some minute fragments of bone. On the lower side of the westmost cover there was an ordinary cup mark, and near it, in the building of the end of the grave, was found a stone having a cup mark of peculiar construction. In the middle of the plain surface of an irregularly shaped stone about one foot square, the outer edge of the cup was hollowed out in the usual manner. The centre part, however, had not been removed, but was rounded off, presenting the appearance of a segment of a sphere lying in the bottom of the cup, and rising up till it was nearly in a level with the plain surface of the stone.

Close to the south-east corner of the grave, but forming no part of it, was found a circular hole built with dry stones, and somewhat resembling an old lime kiln, having a depth and width of about three and one-half feet. As this hole was completely filled with fine black mould, it may perhaps be inferred that it was originally covered with long stones, which may have been removed in consequence of their interfering with the cultivation of the field. In the bottom of this hole were found some teeth very much decayed, but apparently those of some small ruminant. There were also some black lumps of hardened earth, which seemed to have been formed by the binding action of black oxide of iron, arising in all probability from the decay of some iron implement.

According to Sir John Lubbock, interments in which the corpse is in a sitting or contracted posture belong to the Stone Age; those in which it has been burnt and only the ashes interred to the Bronze Age; and those in which the corpse lies extended presumably to the Age of Iron.

It would be of great advantage if the workmen that are likely to find archæological structures had a knowledge of what things are likely to be found in them. They should know that no pot of gold or coins, such as was lately dug up at Aberdeen, is ever found in these ancient buildings, but that bones of men or animals, frail clay urns, and implements of stone, bronze, or iron, are likely to be met with, and that these, if carefully preserved and kept unbroken, are eagerly sought after for museums and by archæologists. The structures themselves should not be destroyed, but carefully cleared out and left for the inspection of all that are interested in such matters.