THE RUDE STONE MONUMENTS OF EXMOOR AND ITS BORDERS.

PART II.

BY REV. J. F. CHANTER, M.A., AND R. HANSFORD WORTH.

(Read at Lynton, July, 1906.)

IN continuation of the paper printed in last year's "Transactions," we now present plans and descriptions of some further monuments on Exmoor and its borders, our surveys for which were made for the most part May 14th to 19th last.

One slight variation has been introduced into our methods: on some of the plans it has been found inconvenient to place each elevation of the horizon on its sight line, and in each of these cases a small circle has been drawn representing the horizon, and the elevations on varying bearings have been indicated around its circumference.

MADDOCKS DOWN.

Our attention having been directed to an additional stone still existing at *Maddocks Down*, we searched the neighbourhood thoroughly, but have found nothing beyond one prostrate mênhir indicated to us by Mr. Pearse Chope.

There lies, in a field adjacent to *Higher Maddocks Down Farm*, a large spar or quartz block, 10 ft. in length by 4 ft. in width and 3 ft. 4 in. in depth; the exact location is long. 3° 59′ 54½″, and lat. 51° 10′ 37½″. Its shape is very irregular. We are informed by the tenant of this farm that five smaller stones have of late years been broken up and removed, but none of these appear to have been standing at the time of their destruction.

We understand that Mr. Smyth Richards, the owner of the estate, has given instructions guarding against all inter-

Fig. 1.

HANGMAN.

Fig. 2.

LONGSTONE, WEST LYN.

ference with the great mênhir described in our last contribution. This is a matter for congratulation.

HANGMAN HILL.

POLWHELE[1] has a reference to certain *Hanging-stones* near *Combe-Martin;* it runs thus:—

> Mr. Badcock seems to have been of opinion that those ancient pillars at Coombe-Martin, that were called the *Hanging-stones*, were some Druidical remains of a temple; and the *Hanging-stone* is the *Stonehenge* or *Balanced-stone*, which was remarkable in all these edifices. It is said that there is but one pillar left—which served as a boundary between Coombe-Martin and the adjoining parish.

In Plate I, fig. 1, we give a photograph of the mênhir which now crowns the Hangman Hill, in long. 4° 0′ 6″, lat. 51° 12′ 14″, about. The stone is 5 ft. 3 in. in height; its breadth points N. 59° E. The N.W. side measures 33 in.; the N.E. side, 18 in.; the S.E. side, 32½ in.; the S.W. side, 16 in.; at the top the stone is somewhat thinner, the N.E. side being 12 in. and the S.W. side 11 in.

This is probably the "one pillar left," according to BADCOCK; but we cannot find evidence on which to discuss the possibility of its having formerly had companions. We do not doubt, however, that it has given its name to the hill; it does not now form a parish bound.

LONGSTONE DOWN, WEST LYN.

A little distance South-east from *West Lyn* is an enclosure now about to be broken for cultivation, but formerly assigned to turbary allotments; it adjoins *Cheriton Road* and *Shamble Way*. Numerous stones are scattered over its surface, the greater number of which are the bond stones of the turf allotments. But towards its South end there are two mênhirs of a character different from their companions, and the larger of which is known as the *Longstone*. The smaller mênhir has long been prostrate, but the *Longstone* itself, although always leaning within living memory, has only recently completely fallen. On Wednesday, the 16th of May last, we visited this field, and found preparations being made for bringing it into cultivation. The workmen engaged—Mr. R. Bowden, of Lynton, and White—informed us that by the instructions of the owner of the land—Colonel Lean, of East Lyn—these two mênhirs were to be

[1] "Historical Views of Devonshire," p. 95.

re-erected to ensure their preservation. We understand also that Mr. H. Medway, the tenant, has interested himself in their safety.

The *Longstone* is no mean weight to manage in the absence of proper lifting tackle, but as Mr. Bowden was anxious to get the best information as to the proper position of this mênhir, we stayed with him and aided in the work. In all there were five of us, and our appliances were limited to an iron bar, two iron gates, and an oak pole from an adjacent copse. The smaller stone was easily set up. The larger, which is 9 ft. 6 in. in length, and measures 2 ft. 6 in. by 9 in. at the base, proved an arduous and anxious undertaking.

In the case of each mênhir the original hole occupied by its base in the subsoil was readily found. The breadth of each stone had been in a line pointing to the other, and so they were refixed. The smaller block measured 5 ft. 4 in. in length, by 1 ft. 6 in. wide and 10 in. thick at base, and it now stands 3 ft. 11 in. above ground. As re-erected, the *Longstone* stands 7 ft. above ground, and measures 27 in. by 9 in. at ground level; it points to the smaller mênhir, which is 55 ft. 10 in. distant in a direction S. 76° 47′ E. On this alinement the Western horizon has a depression of 0° 30′, and the Eastern horizon is neither elevated nor depressed.

Plate I, fig. 2, gives a view of these mênhirs, the *Longstone* being the nearer, and Plate II, fig. 1, gives a plan. The *Longstone* is marked on the six-inch quarter-sheet of the Ordnance Survey, Devon, III, S.W., in long. 3° 49′ 24½″, and lat. 51° 12′ 42½″.

The re-erection of these stones was absolutely essential to their preservation, and, although they may prove hindrances to agriculture, the gratitude of all archæologists is due to Colonel Lean.

Whether or no the smaller stones used to mark out the allotments have been stolen in past days from some prehistoric monument we cannot say; they have been so arranged in any event that their preservation is now of no importance.

There is a tradition that the *Longstone* was erected by some gipsies to mark the grave of a child of that tribe. Like most traditions, it claims for itself an antiquity that places inquiry out of all question.

WHIMB, FURZEHILL.

South-west of *Hill Cottage* or *Whimb*, at *Furzehill*, there stands a small mênhir on *Ilkeston Ridge*. The Ordnance Survey quarter-sheet is Devon, VII, N.W., and the position of the stone, which is not marked thereon, is long. 3° 49′ 51½″, lat. 51° 11′ 12½″. Whether this mênhir ever had companions we cannot say; it stands 3 ft. 3 in. in height, and measures 14 in. by 7 in. Its width points N. 4° 17′ W. There are barrows in the neighbourhood, one of which, South and a little East from the mênhir, is not marked on the Ordnance Survey. It should be placed in long. 3° 49′ 26″, and lat. 51° 11′ 4¾″. The extreme diameter is 24 ft., and the diameter across the top 12 ft.

LITTLE ROWLEY.

In a field North-west of *Little Rowley*, and near the western hedge, stands a stone marked on sheet, Devon, VI, S.W., of the Ordnance Survey, long. 3° 55′ 46″, lat. 51° 10′ 11¾″. Its present height is 2 ft. 9 in., but it has apparently been broken; its width is 24 in., and thickness 3 in. The direction of its width points approximately North-west.

TRIANGLES.

We have no triangles to record as the result of our survey, although by recent robbery a quadrilateral on *Trout Hill* has been reduced to this form, but this group will be found under the next heading.

QUADRILATERALS.

Of these we have to record two, both marked on the Ordnance.

Brendon Two Gates.—The first is shown on Ordnance Survey, Devon, VII, S.E., and lies about 1250 ft. distant, and a little East of North from *Brendon Two Gates*. Long. 3° 45′ 56½″, lat. 51° 10′ 11″. Three stones, including the central, still stand; one has fallen, but its place is marked by triggers. The East and West sides, measured within the stones, are 31 ft. 5 in. and 30 ft. 9 in. respectively. The North and South sides are 29 ft. and 29 ft. 5 in. The outer four stones all appear to have pointed to the centre, as the three standing still do. At *Chapman Barrows*, it will be remembered, all five stones point East and West, and at *Woodbarrow Arms* three of the outer stones point athwart the diagonals, the fourth along one side, and the centre

stone is parallel to this latter. Thus in this respect there is no agreement between the various quadrilaterals so far surveyed.

The centre member is the tallest still standing, reaching a height of 38½ in. above the ground, and measuring 9 in. by 4½ in. at the base.

One diagonal bears N. 52° 17′ W., and the other N. 34° 43′ E.

[See Plate II, fig. 2.]

Trout Hill, near fence.—A second quadrilateral is shown on Ordnance Survey, Devon, VII, S.E., long. 3° 43′ 31¼″, lat. 51° 10′ 29¾″. When the survey was made, in 1887–8, five members were in place. There may have been more stones, some of which were overlooked by the Ordnance surveyor. The three which we found and measured will not accord with the plan given on the $\frac{1}{2500}$ sheet. Under the circumstances we have given our survey on Plate III, fig. 1, and an enlargement of the Ordnance Survey on the same Plate III, fig. 2.

A barrow lies 196 ft. distant from the North-west angle of the triangle now left, and bearing S. 42° E. from it.

The tallest stone now standing is 28½ in. above the ground, and measures 10 in. by 6 in.

[See Plate III, figs. 1 and 2.]

PARALLELOGRAMS.

We propose extending this term to include, not only groups of nine stones arranged in three rows of three each, but also double rows of three stones each when the members are paired thus—

* * *

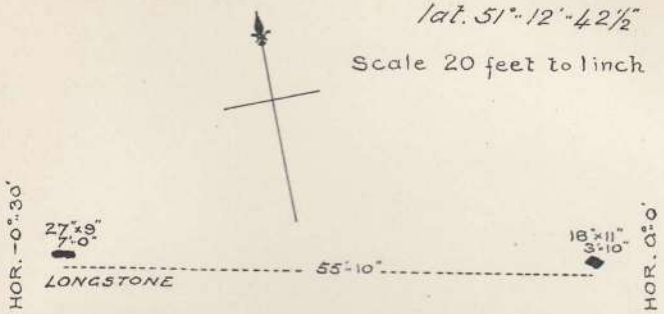
* * *

and the width between the rows bears some considerable ratio to their length. Our nomenclature must necessarily be artificial, and it is not desirable to bring into existence a multiplicity of new terms.

Little Toms Hill.—Shown on Ordnance Survey, Devon, VII, S.E., long. 3° 42′ 51½″, lat. 51° 10′ 32½″. Described by PAGE, see literature cited in Part I. (Where, by the by, the second word in last line of p. 381 should be "Chalk.") PAGE'S description is not minutely accurate; and it is curious that, having recognized this one group, he should

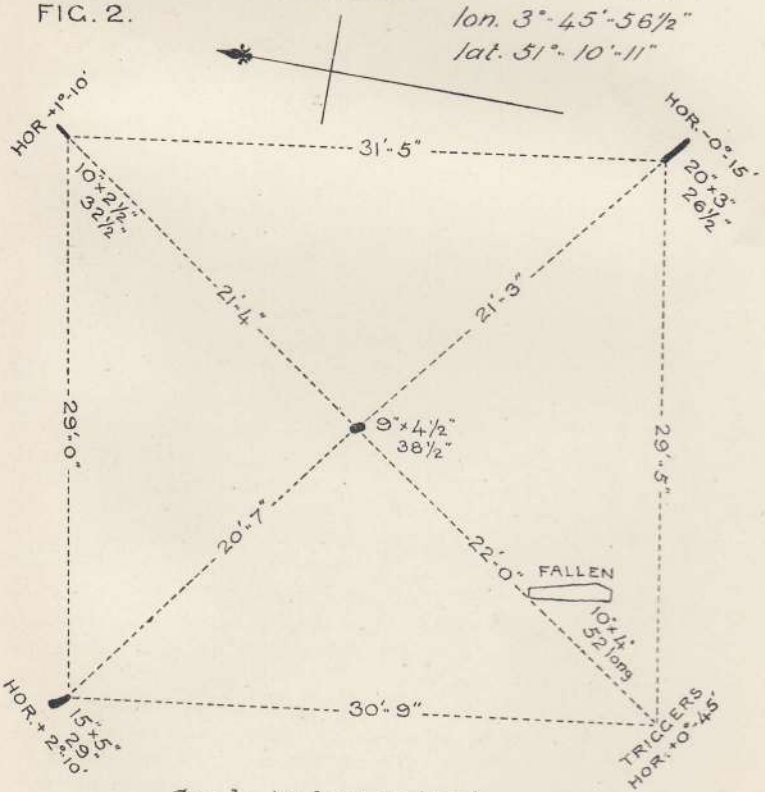
LONGSTONE, LYN DOWN. PLATE II.

FIG. 1. III.S.W. *lon. 3°-49'-24½"*
lat. 51°-12'-42½"



BRENDON TWO-GATES VII.S.E.

FIG. 2. *lon. 3°-45'-56½"*
lat. 51°-10'-11"



Scale 10 feet to 1 inch.

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TROUT HILL *NEAR FENCE* PLATE III.

VII.S.E. *lon.* 3°-43'-31¼"
lat. 51°-10'-29¾"

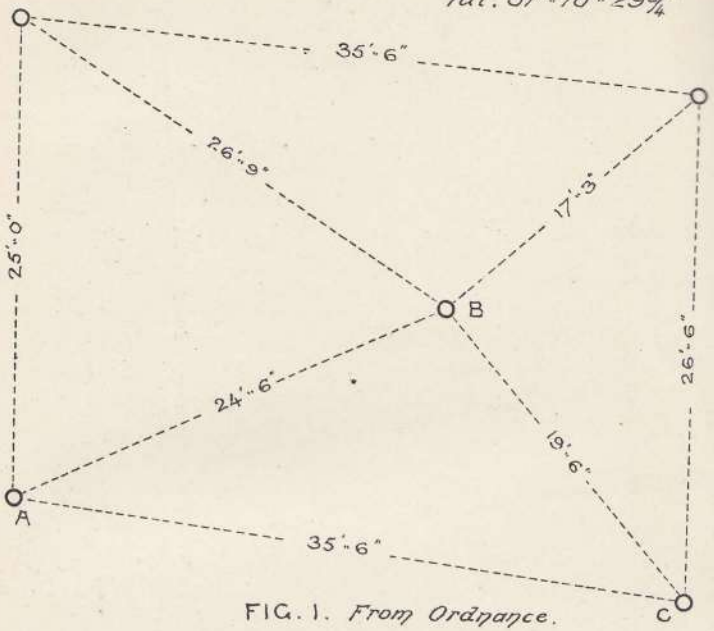


FIG. 1. *From Ordnance.*

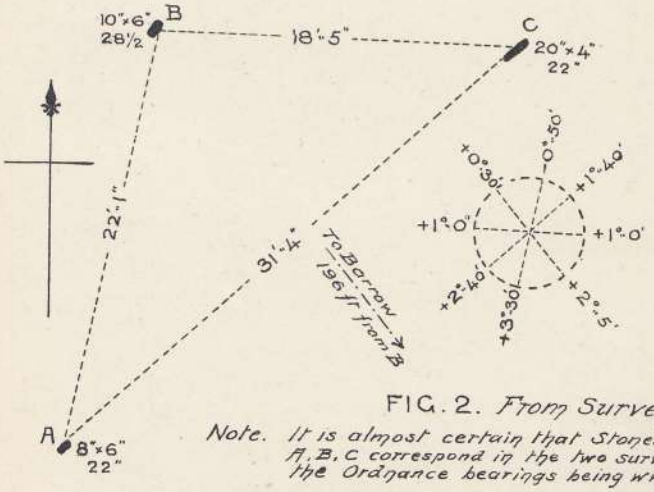


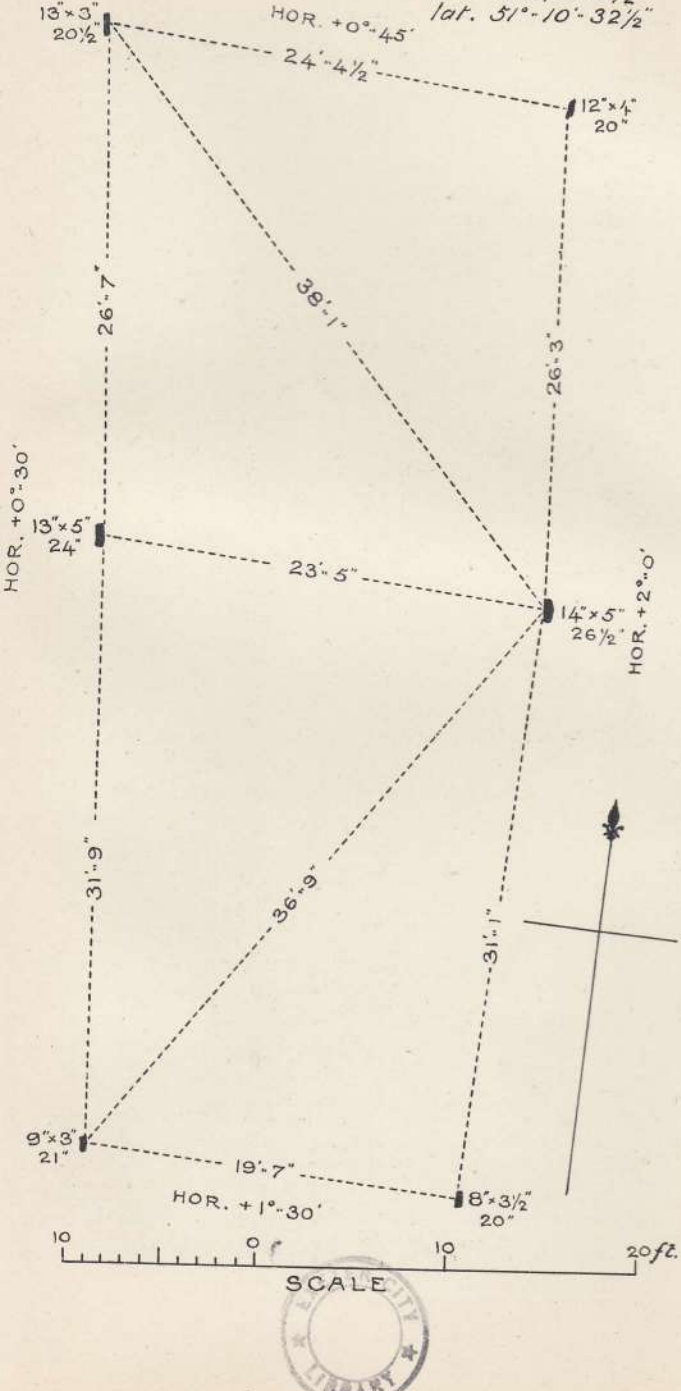
FIG. 2. *From Survey.*

Note. It is almost certain that Stones A, B, C correspond in the two surveys, the Ordnance bearings being wrong.

SCALE 10 feet to 1 inch.

PLATE IV. LITTLE TOMS HILL. VII.S.E.

lon. 3°-42'-51½"
lat. 51°-10'-32½"



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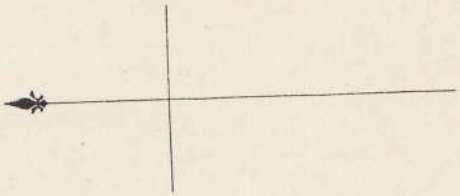
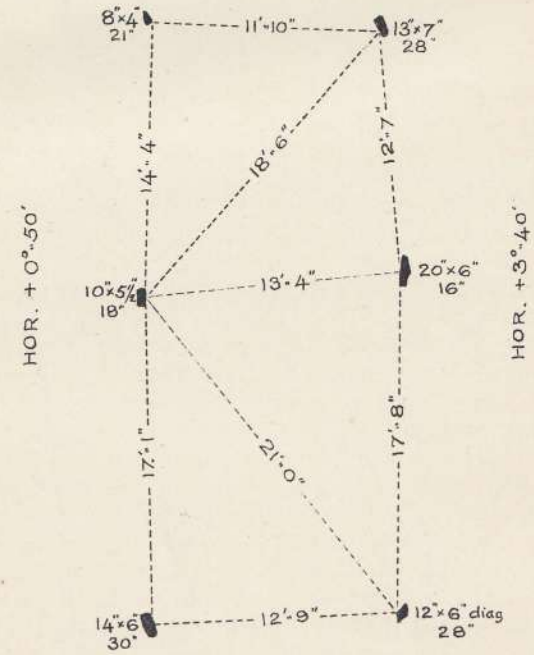
EAST PINFORD VII.S.E. PLATE V.

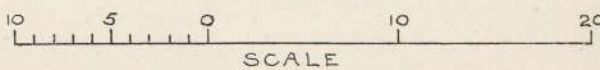
lon. 3°-43'-18"
lat. 51°-10'-14"



HOR. +2°-0'



HOR. +3°-20'



have thought it a solitary specimen. Within half a mile three other monuments exist, in addition to two cairns and a barrow.

We have here six stones, arranged in two rows of three each. The breadth of each member points along its row. The spacing in the alinements varies from 26 ft. 7 in. to 31 ft. 9 in., and between the pairs from 24 ft. 4½ in. at the North to 19 ft. 7 in. at the South.

The centre line of the group bears N. 3° W., the North horizon having an elevation of 0° 45′, and the South horizon an elevation of 1° 30′.

The largest stone forms the centre of the Eastern side, and stands 26½ in. high, measuring 14 in. by 5 in. at ground level. The greatest length of the parallelogram, measured to the centres of the stones, is 58 ft. 4 in.; its greatest width, between the stones, is 24 ft. 4½ in.

[See Plate IV.]

East Pinford.—Another parallelogram, shown on Ordnance Survey, Devon, VII, S.E., but only as having five stones, whereas all six are standing. Long. 3° 43′ 18″, lat. 51° 10′ 14″.

This is a more compact collection than the last, which it resembles, however, in having the spacing at one end of the rows somewhat less than at the other. Interspaces in the alinements from 12 ft. 7 in. to 17 ft. 8 in., between the alinements from 11 ft. 10 in. to 13 ft. 4 in.

The stones only approximately point along the rows, the corner members being somewhat irregular in this respect. The centre line of the group bears N. 90° 30′ E.

The Western horizon has an elevation of 3° 20′, and the Eastern an elevation of 2°. The largest stone is situate at the North-western angle, and stands 2 ft. 6 in. above ground, measuring 14 in. by 6 in. at ground level.

One hundred and fifty-nine feet distant from the South-eastern corner stone, and bearing S. 36° 23′ W. from it, is a small cairn, marked on the Ordnance Survey as a hut circle. East and a little North of the group, and distant about 500 ft., is another cairn, also marked as a hut circle on the Ordnance Survey.

The greatest length of the parallelogram, measured to the centres of the stones, is 31 ft. 9 in.; its greatest width, between the stones, is 13 ft. 4 in.

[See Plate V.]

STONE ROWS.

As in Part I, we include under the heading of "Stone Rows" some possibly fragmentary groups which, when complete, would perhaps have fallen under another designation.

Near Exe Head.—Not shown on Ordnance, Devon, VII. S.W., long. 3° 47′ 22¼″, lat. 51° 9′ 39½″.

Between the *Chains Valley* and *Exe Head* we have found a collection of stones more nearly recalling the *Dartmoor* stone rows than any other group which we have seen on *Exmoor*.

The total length of this monument is 162 ft.; it may very possibly be the remains of a triple row. The soil is peat, and some stones have sunk until the tops only are visible; probably others might be found beneath the surface by careful probing.

The centre row is the most perfect, and six stones are visible; the least spacing is 12 ft. 6 in., the greatest 64 ft. 10 in.; the average appears to have been about 15 ft., and if so, five stones are missing. Of the Western row four stones remain, and of the Eastern, three. At the South, the last stone is out of place for any row.

The largest stone occurs in the central alinement, and near its centre; it stands 2 ft. 9 in. in height, and measures 12 in. by 5 in. at ground level. Its width is set across the direction of the row.

The central alinement bears N. 31° 13′ E. The elevation of the Southern horizon is 5° 50′, and the Northern horizon is neither elevated nor depressed.

If this be the remains of a triple row, then the Western row is 20 ft. distant from the central, and the Eastern row about 12 ft. 6 in. distant.

This group would repay more detailed investigation, as probably several more stones would be found were time given to the search.

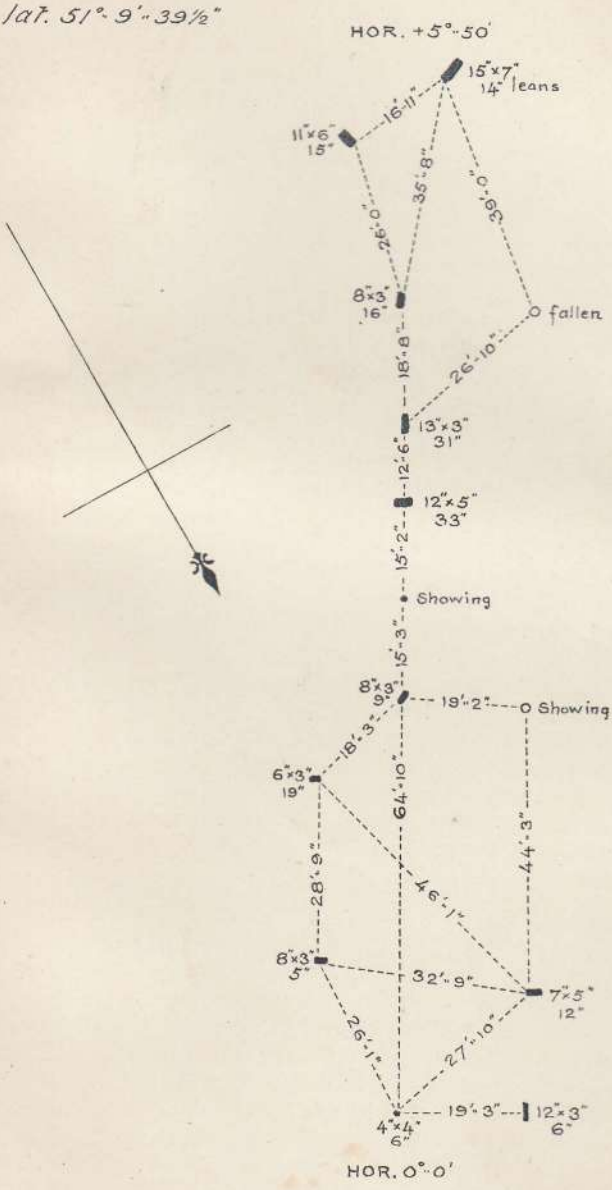
[See Plate VI.]

Furzehill Common.—Devon, VII, N.W. Long. 3° 48′ 24½″, lat. 51° 10′ 59″. Marked on Ordnance Survey.

The Ordnance Survey shows two stones, but of these the more Westerly has fallen, and in addition the place of a third intermediate to the other two is identifiable by the triggers. The spacings are 23 ft. 6 in. and 24 ft. The stone still standing measures 2 ft. 2 in. in height by 9 in. by 7 in.

NEAR EXE HEAD. VII. S.W. PLATE VI.

lon. 3°-47'-22¼"
lat. 51°-9'-39½"



SCALE 30 FT. TO 1 IN., FOR STONES 10 FT. TO 1 IN.

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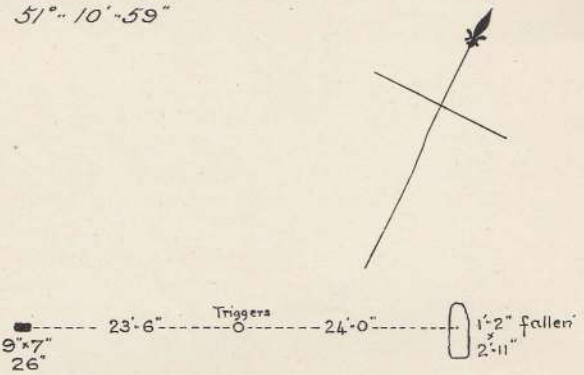
FURZEHILL COMMON PLATE VII

VII. N.W. FIG. 1.

lon. 3°-48'-24½"

lat. 51°-10'-59"

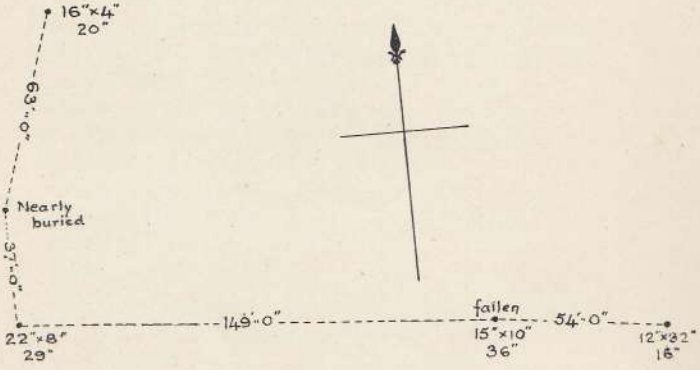


SCALE 20 FEET TO 1 INCH, STONES 10 FT TO 1 IN.

FIG. 2

lon. 3°-48'-46"

lat. 51°-11'-7½"



SCALE 60 FEET TO 1 INCH.

and points towards the triggers and fallen stone. The bearing of the row is N. 53° 13′ E. The elevation of the horizon has not been observed.

[See Plate VII, fig. 1.]

Furzehill Common.—Devon, VII, N.W. Long. 3° 48′ 46″, lat. 51° 11′ 7½″. Two of these stones are marked on Ordnance Survey.

Probably this is the remnant of some larger group. In all there are now five stones—three fixed, one nearly buried, and one fallen. The largest stands 2 ft. 7 in., and measures 22 in. by 8 in. There are two possible bearings assignable, but each is very uncertain. The first is N. 79° 27′ W., and the second N. 25° 43′ E. We do not attribute any importance to either.

[See Plate VII, fig. 2.]

Exe Plain, opposite *Old Cot.*—Devon, VII, S.W. Long. 3° 47′ 18¾″, lat. 51° 10′ 7½″. Not marked on Ordnance Survey.

Two stones only, probably the remains of a larger group. The directions of their widths are at right angles. There are some indications that a quadrilateral formerly existed here. Bearing of line joining centres, N. 44° 17′ W.; elevation of S.E. horizon, 2° 50′; depression of N.W. horizon, 1° 45′. Larger stone stands 2 ft. high, and measures 8 in. by 5 in. across diagonals. The distance from centre to centre of stones is 36 ft. 10 in. Mentioned here for convenience, but not regarded by us as a row.

[See Plate VIII, fig. 1.]

Near *Brockenburrow Lane*, Challacombe parish.

About 40 yd. North of Barrow "D" (refer to Plate XI, Part I) some six stones, nearly buried in the peat, appear to constitute the remains of a row. The total length between the end stones now visible is 66 ft. 2 in. The closest spacing is 6 ft. 7 in., and the widest 17 ft. 9 in. The direction is practically parallel to a line drawn through Barrow D and the stone marked as "last remains of row" which stands near it.

Since last year we learn the stone C, marked on the same plan, fell only five years ago.

Barrow A, marked on the plan, was opened this year, and a kistvæn 17 in. long by 13 in. wide was discovered; it

enclosed an urn containing burnt bones and a flint fabricator. The length of the kistvæn points N. 67° 13′ E.

Barrow B has also been opened, and yielded charcoal and one flint flake; it appears to have been disturbed.

Barrow C, also opened with no result beyond one flint core. This barrow has certainly been opened previously, and is quite possibly the grave of which Westcote tells a quaint tale.

UNCLASSED.

Clannon Ball, not far from *Brendon Two Gates*.—Devon, VII, S.E.; long. 3° 46′ 31″, lat. 51° 10′ 41¼″. Not marked on Ordnance Survey, but a circle around a small barrow hard by is shown as "Stones."

This collection comprises four stones still standing and one fallen. We cannot determine the original form from any indications, whether of pits or triggers, which might represent members now gone or the directions in which the remaining blocks point.

It is too highly speculative to assume that the stone marked A on plan occupied the centre of a pentagon, of which the three other standing stones marked three angles, yet the angles subtended at A are both approximately 72°. We mention the coincidence merely to dismiss it, and to record that all search for stones which should have completed the figure was fruitless.

The largest stone stands 1 ft. 11 in. in height, and measures 35 in. by 4½ in.

One hundred and eighty-one feet from stone A, and bearing N. 109° 57′ W., is the centre of a small cairn surrounded by an imperfect stone circle of 9 ft. 8 in. diameter; this, as mentioned above, is marked on the Ordnance, but not correctly described. A line from the cairn to A passes through another stone of the group. The horizon over the cairn has an elevation of 1° 15′.

[See Plate VIII, fig. 2.]

Trout Hill.—Devon, VII, S.E. Long. 3° 43′ 23½″, lat. 51° 10′ 26¾″. Marked on Ordnance Survey.

This group consists of five stones, all standing, and resembles a deformed quadrilateral. One line appears sufficiently well marked, since three stones are fixed on it, and two of these point along the alinement, which bears N. 15° W. The Northern horizon is elevated 1° 50′, and the Southern horizon is neither elevated nor depressed.

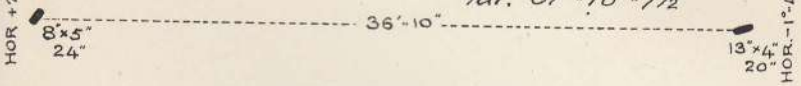
EXE PLAIN . VII. S.W

FIG. 1.

PLATE VIII

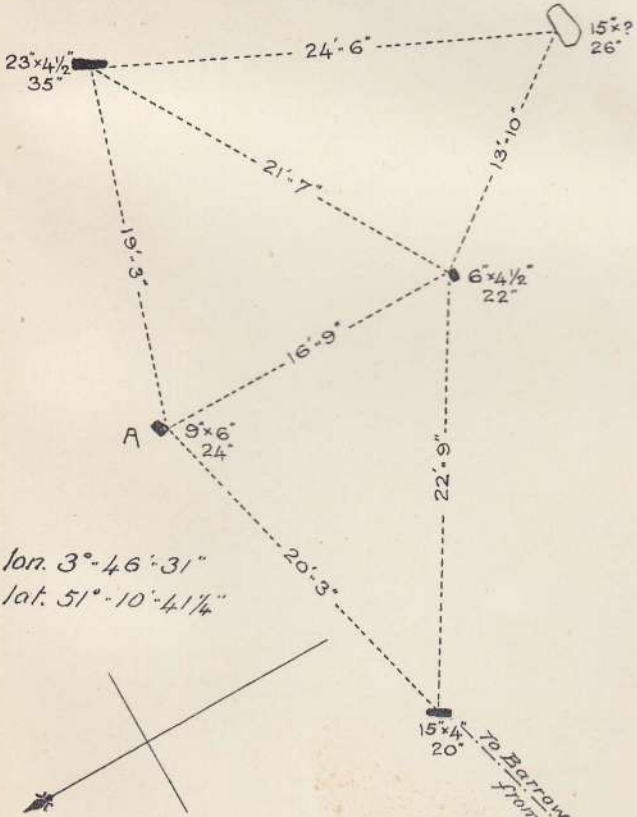
lon. 3°-47'-18¾"

lat. 51°-10'-7½"



CLANNON BALL. VII. S.E.

FIG. 2.



lon. 3°-46'-31"

lat. 51°-10'-41¼"

SCALE 10 FEET TO 1 INCH.

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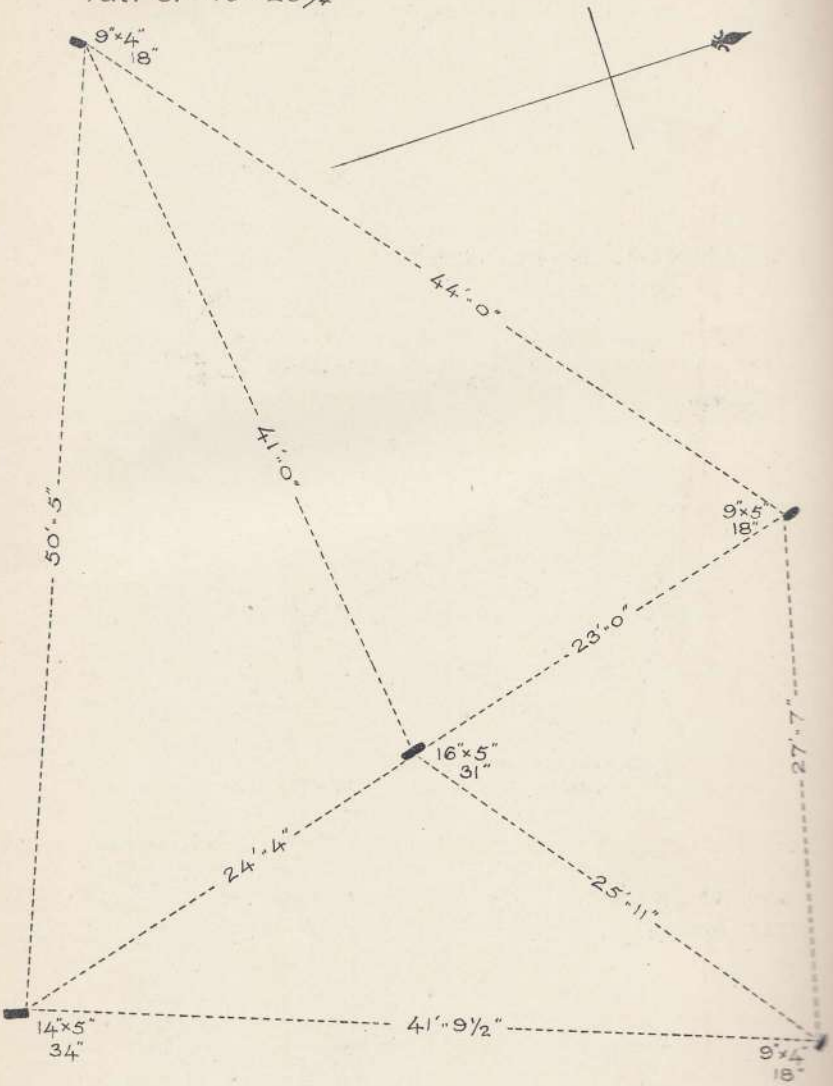
TROUT HILL. VII.S.E. PLATE IX.

lon. 3°-43'-23½"

lat. 51°-10'-26¾"



SCALE 10 FEET TO 1 INCH.

The largest stone stands 2 ft. 10 in. in height, and measures 14 in. by 5 in.

[See Plate IX.]

On *Badgeworthy Lees*, Devon, VII, N.E., South of *Withycombe Ridge Water*.—Two stones are shown on the Ordnance Survey. In addition to these, there is a small barrow or cairn, which should be marked in long. 3° 44′ 9″, and lat. 51° 11′ 15½″. It is 19 ft. in diameter, and lies 251 ft. from the Eastern stone, bearing 109° 7′ W.

The Eastern stone stands 2 ft. high, and measures 2 ft. by 1 ft. The Western stone stands 2 ft. 4 in. high, and measures 17 in. by 8 in. North-west from this latter is a hillside on which are several stones, some evidently set artificially; but whatever arrangement or order they may once have presented is now entirely lost, and natural rocks mingling with those which have fallen further obscure the matter.

On *Hoar Tor*, Devon, VII, S.E.—Three stones are marked on the Ordnance Survey. Of these two, lying near each other, and about long. 3° 46′ 20″, lat. 51° 10′ 16″, are not much above ground, and while probably set stones, call for no further remark.

The third lies, long. 3° 46′ 28″, lat. 51° 10′ 10½″, approximately South-west from the others. It stands 1 ft. 11 in. high, and measures 20 in. by 5 in. We cannot detect any companions.

On the hill between *Warcombe Water* and *West Lyn River*, especially on its Northern slopes, are several standing stones of no great dimensions. These are rather widely scattered, but it is possible that careful search might be repaid. On the same hillside we found several flint chips and cores in the mole-heaps, and this neighbourhood has yielded some good stone implements.

Valley of Rocks, Lynton.—The *Valley of Rocks*, formerly and more happily the *Valley of Stones*, has suffered in many ways from over-ardent enthusiasts. Almost alone of North Devon localities, it has had the Druids quartered upon it. POLWHELE, LYTTLETON, and others conspired in the eighteenth century to create a druidic atmosphere, and the haze is even yet hardly dispelled. POLWHELE[1] writes:—

In the meantime, shapeless piles of stone, on Exmoor or the adjacent country, might be approached as rock-idols of the Britons.

[1] "Historical Views of Devonshire," p. 54.

The Valley of Stones, indeed, in the vicinity of Exmoor, is so awfully magnificent that we need not hesitate in pronouncing it to have been the favourite residence of Druidism. . . . The Valley of Stones has a close resemblance to several of those spots in Cornwall which tradition has sanctified with the venerable names of rock-idols, Logan-stones, or rock-basons; and the North of Devon, though it may furnish us with no tradition of the Druids, must yet be examined with an eye to druidical antiquities. . . . Not that the Druids formed these scenes. No; they only availed themselves of such recesses; to which they annexed sanctity, by commemorating there, the rites of religion. The rock-idols are *purely natural*—as natural as the groves of Mona. . . . The whole army of Xerxes could not have raised, by force or skill, such ledges of rock, piled up in the Valley of Stones, as if by human industry. The most remarkable rock-idol in this valley is the Cheesewring. Lyttleton observes that it greatly resembles the Cheesewring near Alternon. Between Combmartin and Linton (says the Dean), and opposite to what you apprehend to be a Druid gorfeddan, is a karn of rocks, which they call the Cheesewring. It is much like that at Alternon.

And again:—[1]

In the central part of the Valley of Stones there are several plain circles, in diameter about forty feet.

Later, in his book, POLWHELE appears to have a suspicion that others sometimes failed in that discretion which should mark archæological speculation. He writes:—[2]

Not that I can trace at this moment, with an ingenious correspondent, "the ruins of a very great temple at Sticklepath, near Zeal-Monachorum, not far from Drewsteignton; the fragments of which (he says) are scattered through the village and over the sides of the mountain on which it was probably erected." The same gentleman declares that "the Valley of Stones is filled with the stupendous ruins of some Cuthite or Druid temple, where there was a *hanging-stone* (so characteristic of these structures), till the wind blowing down a great mass of the ruins, the end of one piece of rock fell against this stone, and it is now quite immoveable."

We are inclined to add with POLWHELE, but in a different sense from his, "*This much for the ages of primitive Druidism!*" But, in fact, there was to be more, for an open letter, printed and bearing date 26 January, 1854, contains the words:—

Improperly continuing the dominion and control of the Valley of Rocks in the hands of those who have misused it for the last

[1] *Op. cit.*, p. 62. [2] *Op. cit.*, p. 94.

fifty years, and have committed and encouraged the commission of multitudes of acts, such as the building of ugly stone walls and fences, and, worse than either, the removal of immense Druidical stones and circles, etc., etc., for the purpose of selling them for gate-posts.

COOK'S "Topography" (*circ.* 1822–3) probably borrows from POLWHELE in asserting:—

> The central part of the valley contains several circles of stone, above forty feet in diameter, most probably Druidical remains.

We have carefully and minutely examined the valley, and we find at the point marked "hut circles" on the Ordnance Survey (Devon, II, S.E.) certain collections of stone which may possibly be the remains of huts; while South of, and under, *Castle Rock* there is a circle or pound of 40 ft. internal diameter. The Ordnance Survey rather suggests that this consists of discrete stones, but it is simply the ruin of a circular wall or fence.

In the absence of those particular descriptions which we should have expected to find in the literature had any columnar circles ever existed, we conclude that the remains now visible are fair samples of a collection formerly somewhat larger. And we do not fail to remember that POLWHELE described the very ordinary huts of *Grimspound*, on *Dartmoor*, as among the most remarkable druidic circles in Devonshire. So great has been the change induced in archæological methods by the investigations of recent years that the *Valley of Stones* is one of the least likely places, to modern eyes, in which to search for stone monuments other than the remains of dwellings and their appurtenances.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The stone monuments we have now described are strikingly unlike any others at present known in *Devon* and *Cornwall*, and, indeed, we do not know where to point for their fellows.

At the same time there is every indication that their period is identical with that of the other West-country remains. The barrows associated with them, so far as examined, indicate a date in the early Bronze or late Neolithic periods. A few of the stone rows, especially that near *Exe Head*, form connecting links with the *Dartmoor* series. One barrow at least, near *Brockenburrow Lane*, has been found to contain a kistvæn, and within it an urn-burial,

while the urn contained, in addition to burnt bone, a well-worn flint fabricator. In shape the urn closely resembles that found at *Westerland Beacon*, and described in last year's Barrow Report. All this connects closely with *Dartmoor* and *South Devon*.

We are strongly of opinion that it is most desirable that the survey which we have commenced should be completed by the thorough examination of that portion of the *Exmoor* district which lies within the borders of *Somersetshire*.

The limit we have here set ourselves is that all the remains above described should fall within the area of these sheets of the Ordnance Survey which bear *Devonshire* numbers.

We are not in agreement with the latest astronomical hypothesis as to the origin and intent of stone rows and circles. And the fact that we have in most cases given the elevation of the surrounding horizon must not in any way be taken as even a qualified assent to such views. Since there are some who regard these measurements as essential to a complete survey, we have so far conceded the point as to give the information which their theories demand.

Whether orientation be a matter of moment or not, we have tabulated the directions of the principal lines in the various groups, and give the details below. The nearest half-degree is given in every case.

In quadrilaterals the diagonals appear to be the most important lines.

AZIMUTHS OF DIAGONALS OF QUADRILATERALS.

TABLE I.

Longstone Allotment,		
Chapman Barrows	N. 89° 30′ E.	N. 2° 0′ W.
Woodborough Arms .	N. 34° 0′ E.	N. 22° 0′ W.
Brendon Two Gates .	N. 42° 0′ E.	N. 52° 0′ W.
Trout Hill, near fence .	N. 10° 0′ E.	N. 87° 0′ W.

We add a table of diameters, as there is no sufficient evidence on which to decide that these were really of less importance than the diagonals.

AZIMUTHS OF DIAMETERS OF QUADRILATERALS.

TABLE II.

Longstone Allotment,		
Chapman Barrows	N. 44° 0′ E.	N. 46° 0′ W.
Woodborough Arms .	N. 74° 0′ E.	N. 17° 30′ W.
Brendon Two Gates .	N. 80° 0′ E.	N. 8° 0′ W
Trout Hill, near fence, not ascertainable.		

In the parallelograms we assume that the direction of the longest diameter would be the alinement.

AZIMUTHS OF LONGEST DIAMETERS OF PARALLELOGRAMS.

TABLE III.

Furzehill Common . . .	N. 12° 30′ W.
Little Toms Hill . . .	N. 3° 0′ W.
East Pinford . . .	N. 89° 30′ W.

The alinements of the undoubted rows are as follows. Where a row is double, a centre line between its members is taken.

AZIMUTHS OF STONE ROWS.

TABLE IV.

Westcote's Row, Maddock Down (?)	N. 83° 0′ W.
Benjamy, Ruckham Combe . .	N. 29° 30′ E.
Winaway	N. 20° W. approx.
Near Setta Barrow . . .	N. 45° 0′ E.
Brendon Common, Cheriton Ridge	N. 78° 0′ E.
Brendon Common, near Farley Water N. 34° 0′ E. and	N. 62° 0′ W.
Bray Common, Little Melcombe .	N. 54° 0′ E.
Near Exe Head . . .	N. 31° 0′ E.
Furzehill Common . . .	N. 55° 0′ E.
Near Brockenburrow Lane (?) .	N. 76° 0′ W. approx.

We have omitted any doubtful remains which may have been classed with the rows for convenience only.

No very hopeful generalization is derivable from these tables. The total angle covered is 179 degrees, and the widest unoccupied gaps are 21 degrees between N. 83° W. and N. 62° W., 24 degrees between N. 46° W. and N. 22° W., and 19½ degrees between N. 10° E. and N. 29° 30′ E.

Some significance may possibly be attributed to certain apparent attempts to indicate the cardinal points. Thus the diagonals of the *Chapman Barrow* quadrilateral deviate from North and South by 2° only, and from East and West by 0° 30′ only.

The parallelogram on *Little Toms Hill* points within 3° of North and South, and the parallelogram on *East Pinford* alines within 0° 30′ of East and West.

Whether this last-named feature have significance or not, it is somewhat remarkable that the stone rows have much the same range as those on *Dartmoor*, and exhibit a similar preference for the N.W. and S.E. quadrants. *Winaway* is

the one exception of any importance, and is paralleled on *Dartmoor* by the equally exceptional row at *Challacombe*.

With the experience gained on Dartmoor, we do not pretend to have exhausted the area covered by our survey—doubtless more will yet be found; indeed, near *Hoaroak* there remains a row which has been reported to us, and which we have not yet examined. But we hope to have rescued from oblivion the principal survivals of a great group of antiquities, the destruction of which is still proceeding. Is it beyond hope that the publication of these papers and the influence of our Association may lead to a check in the demolition of these unique stone monuments? And cannot road-menders and hedgers be made to respect the barrows and cairns of Exmoor and its commons, which form at present one of their chief sources of supply for stone? If not, then whatever antiquarian work is to be done in North Devon must be quickly done, and in any event the district affords a fruitful and little-worked field for operations. Especially is it interesting as showing how much must have been lost elsewhere in the county as the tide of agriculture flowed.