



Photo, R. H. Worth.
RE-ERECTING BRISWORTHY CIRCLE.



Photo, Rev. H. H. Breton.
BRISWORTHY CIRCLE AFTER RESTORATION.
VIEW—LOOKING N.W.

BARROW REPORT.—*To face page 99.*

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT of the Committee—consisting of the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Mr. R. Burnard, the Rev. J. F. Chanter and Mr. R. Hansford Worth (Secretary)—appointed to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps, where possible, for their investigation.

Edited by R. HANSFORD WORTH, Secretary of the Committee.

(Read at Plymouth, 19th July, 1916.)

BRISWORTHY STONE CIRCLE.

In the Twenty-ninth Report (1910) reference is made to a stone circle on Ringmoor and to a cairn in its immediate neighbourhood.

The stone circles of Dartmoor, other than hut-circles, are very commonly associated with sepulchral remains. In some instances the circles actually enclose barrows, as on Stallmoor at the southern end of the long stone row in the Erme valley. Instances have been found where, although no barrow lay within the circle, yet on excavation its area yielded every evidence of large fires having been lit therein, in such cases barrows and cairns were associated with the circles. At Brisworthy Circle on Ringmoor the only result of the excavation, which was not very thorough, was the discovery of a very trifling amount of charcoal and one rough flint flake; but there is a cairn at 313 feet N. 77° E. from the circle, and this cairn covered what was evidently an interment after cremation.

Brisworthy Circle was carefully restored in the year 1909, the Rev. H. H. Breton, of Sheepstor, being the initiator of the restoration, and the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Mr. R. Burnard, and the Secretary of your Committee being present at various times while the work was in progress.

Your Committee's Secretary made a survey of the circle

before the work of restoration had been commenced, and this survey is now published. If it be argued the matter is somewhat outside the province of our reports, the association of stone circle and barrow must be the reply, and the especial fitness of the record in the present year, when we hope on our long excursion to visit this antiquity. Nor should original surveys of restored monuments be left too long in private hands, the danger of their irreplaceable loss is too great.

On the plan herewith, the dotted circle has a diameter of eighty feet, and it will be seen that it just touches the three stones on the west and the one stone on the east that were still standing (standing stones are indicated by hatching). It would appear that the internal diameter of the circle as originally constructed was eighty feet. The standing stones were somewhat massive, and the highest (on the east) stood 3 ft. 8 ins. above ground.

Of fallen stones, undoubted members of the circle, there were eighteen, while the positions of two others were indicated by "triggers" and of one more by a pit.

There is a stone fence to the south of the circle, and the southern half has been robbed of nearly all its members, a fact which is something more than a coincidence; one stone on this southern side had been cut in two and a part only taken away.

Judging by the most perfect portions of the circumference the stones were originally six feet apart from centre to centre, and accordingly there would have been about forty-two before the monument was robbed. Twenty-two are now left. These have been carefully re-erected; most were put up by hand, but one required the use of sheer-legs. By the courtesy of the Rev. H. H. Breton a block showing this pillar in course of re-erection is here inserted.

On the plan, such portions of the stones as were buried beneath the turf are indicated by dotted lines.

R. HANSFORD WORTH.

CIRCLE

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