

## SIXTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

SIXTH REPORT of the Committee—consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Mr. G. Doe, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. E. Parfitt, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, and Mr. R. N. Worth (Secretary)—to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps where possible for their investigation.

Edited by R. N. WORTH, F.G.S., Secretary.

(Read at Newton Abbot, July, 1884.)

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THE Barrow Committee have the pleasure of presenting an account of the investigation of two Barrows at Great Torrington, the remaining portion of a group of five, partly in that parish and partly in Huntshaw adjoining, two of which had been examined in former years by the late Mr. H. Fowler and Mr. G. Doe. Though no additional light has been thrown upon the questions of the age of the Barrows and the race of their builders, the results are so far satisfactory that the whole group may be presumed to have had a kindred and probably contemporaneous origin; which previous discoveries would seem to assign to an early period of the Bronze Age.

The Committee may add that, in the new Ordnance Survey of Devon, all mounds of a sepulchral or presumably sepulchral character will be distinguished by the general term tumulus or tumuli.

J. BROOKING ROWE, Chairman.  
R. N. WORTH, Secretary.

### BARROWS AT HUNTSHAW AND GREAT TORRINGTON.

IN addition to the two barrows in the parish of Huntshaw which were examined in 1867 and 1875, and accounts of which are given in volumes ii. and vii. of the *Transactions*

of the *Devonshire Association*,\* there are three others forming part of the same group, but in the adjoining parish of Great Torrington. One of them, by far the largest of the five, is crossed by the road leading from Torrington, so that its complete examination would be a task of considerable difficulty. The remaining two, however, are situated in a field about a quarter of a mile to the south-west of the Huntshaw Barrows previously reported.

At the commencement of June, in the present year, Mr. Gabriel Fisher and Mr. McKelvie, together with my father, Mr. G. Doe, and myself, proceeded to examine these tumuli. They are about 100 feet apart, and by continued agricultural operations have been considerably reduced in height, being now respectively about 4 feet and 2 feet high only; while the diameter of each at the base is 42 feet. Investigating in the manner taught by previous experience we commenced operations by sinking a crowbar into different parts of the higher of the two mounds, and were soon rewarded by meeting with a heap of stones, on the south side of the barrow, about five feet from the centre. The workmen were then set to remove the soil around this buried cairn, and we found it to be of an oblong shape, about 17 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 2 feet high. It was composed of common "acre" stones, amongst which we found considerable quantities of wood charcoal. Under the stones was a small mound of clay, which apparently lay on the undisturbed ground. On the top of the clay was a flat stone. This was removed amidst considerable excitement on the part of the workmen, who stated that in their opinion we had at last come upon the "crock of gold." They were, however, grievously disappointed on finding only a round hole in the clay, about a foot deep, nearly filled with wood charcoal, and containing a few very minute pieces of burnt bone.

We then proceeded thoroughly to examine the rest of the barrow, but did not succeed in finding anything further. The general internal structure was of clay, interspersed with layers of very fine charcoal, and it was covered with common soil to the depth of a foot. There was a layer of stones around the lower part of the mound, which may have been the remains of such a stone capping as that found in the first barrow opened by Mr. Fowler.

The other barrow, which seemed to have been lowered at

\*"On the Opening of an Ancient British Barrow at Huntshaw." By H. Fowler. *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* vol. ii. pp. 187-189. "The Examination of Two Barrows near Torrington." By George Doe, *ibid.* vol. vii. pp. 102-105.

some early period of its existence, is different in construction from its neighbour; but, owing to the rough weather and other causes, we were unable to make so thorough an exploration as we could have wished. We had to content ourselves, therefore, with excavating a large space in the centre, and driving trenches therefrom to the circumference. No trace of stones of any kind was discovered in any part of this barrow. It seemed to be formed of clay and earth, with charcoal intermixed; the clay being occasionally met with in large lumps amongst the soil. Near the centre we came upon a layer of about six inches of dark sooty matter, but could not distinguish any pieces of charcoal therein. A little distance from this, however, we found some very large pieces, mixed with clay.

The absence of pottery of any kind, and the similarity of construction in the mixture of clay and charcoal, seem to lead to the inference that these Great Torrington Barrows were made about the same time as, or perhaps somewhat earlier than, the Huntshaw members of the group previously examined.

GEORGE M. DOR.