

“ 𐌹 6 Comgall do 6zai6 Mairicir 6e66air 1 n-6r6 Ulad6 pa m66air do Mairicreac6aib 6orpa uile. Keating (printed vol. p. 68.)

“ It is Comgall founded the Monastery of Bangor in *Ard Uladh*, which is the mother of all the monasteries in Europe.”

“ One authority more occurs to me in confirmation of the name. It is a *rann* composed by Aengus na n-a6r [O’Daly] to ridicule Savage, whose territory it was.

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Mr. O’Daly supplied the *rann*, as follows :—

6r6-Ulad6 6ann, 6or6ad,
6ir 6an a6ibneap, 6an a6p6onn;
Mac an 6-Sabairi6, an 6r66air6 6all,
6eap 6or6air6 b6irneac6 le h-a6cinn.

‘Ard-Uladh destitute, starving,
A district without delight—without mass,
Where the son of Savage, the English hangman,
Slaughters barnacles with a mallet.’ ”

Tribes of Ireland, pp. 60-67.

ON AN OGHAM CHAMBER AT DRUMLOGHAN, IN THE COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

BY WILLIAM WILLIAMS, ESQ., DUNGARVAN.

THE Decies of Waterford are rich in primæval remains, such as ogham monuments, Pagan temples, Pagan altars, raths, carns, rock-basins, and, though last not least, “cloghers”—a class of objects which, as it appears to me, form the very A, B, C, of Irish Archæology. I had intended to offer a few brief remarks on each of these subjects; but, considering the limited space at the disposal of the Editors in the first issue of the new Series of the “Journal,” it has been considered better to confine the present Paper to an important discovery recently made in this locality.

The townland of Drumloghan, which is on the property of Mrs. Bernal Osborne, is eight miles from Dungarvan, three from Kilmacthomas, and two from the village of Stradbally. The public road from Dungarvan to Waterford passes through the bog of Drumloghan, cutting off a small portion, which forms a deep valley on the western side. At the northern extremity of this valley is a gentle eminence, which is crowned by an elliptical enclosure, the longer diameter of which is one hundred and thirty-six,

the shorter one hundred and twenty feet. At first sight it looks like a *liop*, but such it is not: the usual external trench is wanting, and there is, besides, traditionary evidence that it is a *cealúpac*, that is to say, an ancient cemetery, if not actually of Pagan origin, at least long disused, except for the interment of unbaptized children, suicides, and any others not considered entitled to burial in consecrated ground.

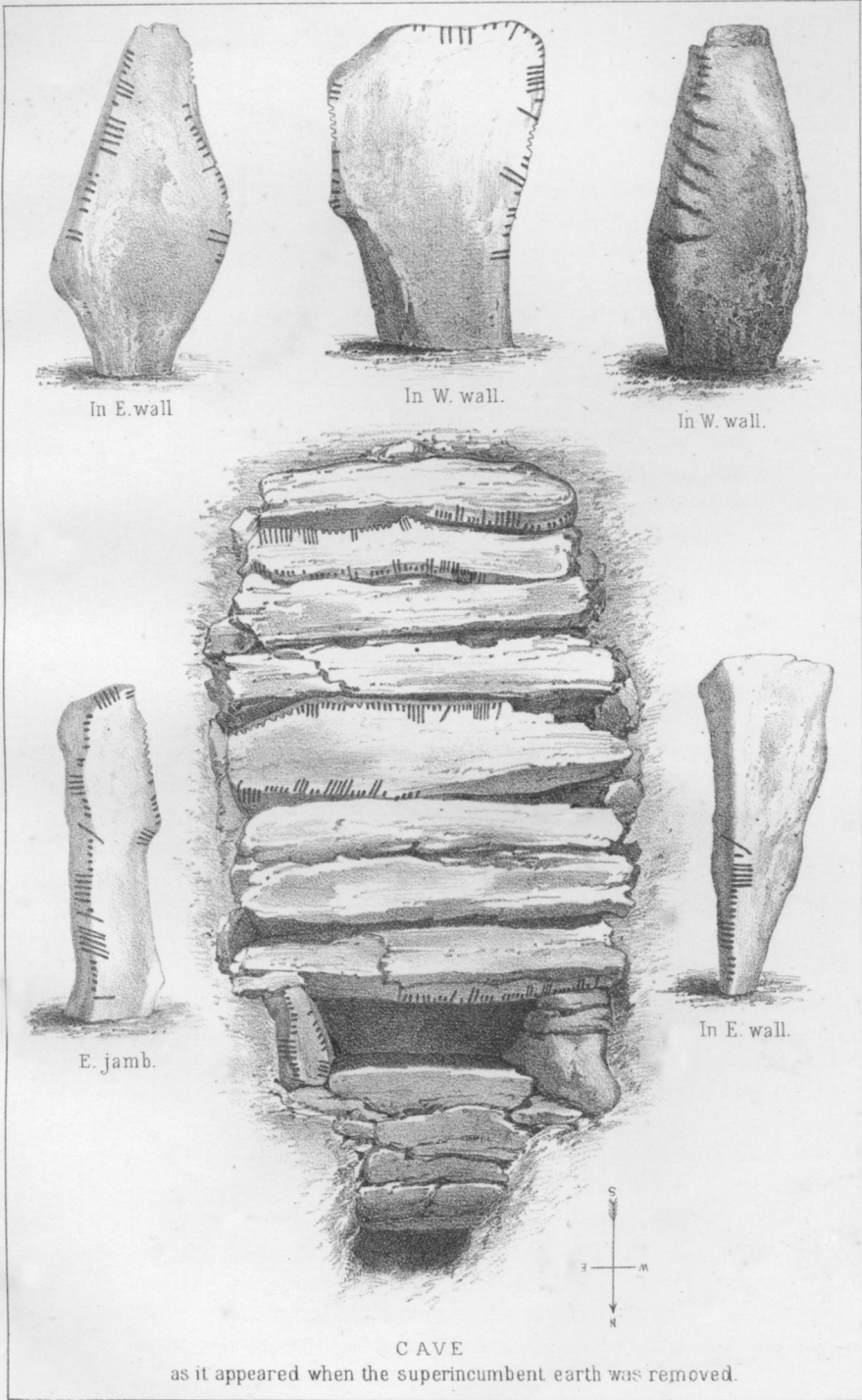
Passing out of the old cemetery to the west, the eye is at once attracted by the remains of a broad circular rampart. This external ring appears to have been concentric with the cemetery, and of about thrice its diameter. It can be easily traced from N. to S. E. ; and although the remainder is now quite obliterated, I have no doubt that originally it surrounded the cemetery. Nay, more, fortified by the presence of the ogham cave, shortly to be described, and of a fine rock-basin which lies at a few yards distance from the cemetery, I have no hesitation in stating that this great external ring was an open-air Pagan temple. Mr. William Quealy, a very intelligent and obliging young man, on whose land the cemetery is situated, and who, too, gave practical proof that he is no stranger to the exercise of the national virtue of hospitality, directed his men, a few weeks since, to demolish the remains of the external fence above referred to. In the progress of the work they came upon a long stone which crossed the foundation of the fence ; and having noticed some earth to fall into the ground by its side, they removed it, and found underneath a moderately large chamber, which contained nothing but loose earth and a few small stones. Having failed to turn up the much-coveted *hoard of gold*, they proceeded with the work of demolition, and took little further notice of the matter. Intelligence of this important discovery having been brought me a few days later, I visited the spot in the month of August last, and was agreeably surprised at finding that the chamber thus accidentally broken into was an ogham cave, similar in its architectural character to the one discovered some thirty years since at Dunloe, in Kerry, but differing from it in some few unimportant details.

The new *find*, which lies due north and south, is an ob-

long chamber, not curved like the Dunloe one. It is very rudely constructed, without any kind of bond or cement, and measures internally eleven feet in length, five feet in width, and four feet in height. Both end walls are built of small undressed surface stones. Each of the side walls is formed of seven rough pillars, of unequal heights, the shorter ones being supplemented by small stones, and any opes or wants between them filled up with the same kind of materials as those used in the end walls. The roof is formed of eight long stones, averaging five feet in length, and resting horizontally on both side walls; and when finally covered over with earth, the structure must have risen to a height of three feet or so over the level of the field. It was not, however, left so exposed: the broad circular fence, now partially demolished, passed directly over the roof, thus completely screening it from observation, and effectually protecting it from external injury. It would appear that the architect of the Dunloe cave took similar measures for the protection of that structure; for it will be remembered, that, as in the present case, it was the removal of an old fence that led to its discovery. Another curious coincidence is, that in this case, also, one of the roof-stones is cracked, though not supported internally like the Dunloe one. Hitherto I could discover no trace of a passage by which the chamber could be entered; but, as there was a quantity of earth lying on the floor, I felt little doubt that its removal would solve the mystery; and seeing also that, in the then circumstances of the structure, it was impossible to get a view of a considerable portion of the ogham marks, I pointed out the difficulty to Mr. Quealy, who entered into my views with an amount of alacrity and intelligence that would do credit to a veteran archæologist. Having summoned an old *seanchaidhe* who fills the important post of cow-herd on the farm, we directed him to lower the earth before the open end of the cave, and to remove the earthen covering of the roof; but strictly cautioned him on no account to disturb even the smallest stone of the structure. My second visit was made on the 18th of September, when I found the necessary clearings far advanced. In the space of one hour or so I had the roof completely denuded of its earthen covering, and the earth

and stones lying on the floor of the chamber thoroughly examined and cleared out. It was ordinary yellow clay, without the least admixture of any foreign substance.

The total absence of human remains here will seriously affect, if, indeed, it do not completely upset, the theory of the *sepulchral* character of this class of structures, notwithstanding the *accidental* circumstance of the presence of such remains in the solitary instance of the Dunloe cave. The promised New Zealand Archæologist, having finished his sketches of the ruins of St. Paul's, may, perchance, happen to visit Kilkenny, and would probably find abundance of human remains within the precincts of the sacred ruins of St. Canice's; but should he thence conclude that it was originally a great mausoleum, would he not err? Christians in every age, actuated by feelings which we can readily understand, have longed to be buried near the shrines at which they worshipped during life; and, as there is nothing new under the sun, it can be hardly doubted that the Pagans of old would desire to have their remains deposited in places connected with religious worship, and to which the odour of sanctity attached. The original entrance to the cave was now readily discovered at the northern end of the chamber. It is twenty-one inches square, on the same level with the floor of the cave, and formed of small flags. It was quite full of earth; runs N. and S. a distance of four feet, and there curves inwards towards the cemetery. This was indispensable, in order that the opening of the passage might be clear of the overlying rampart; and the circumstance seems to favour the belief that the construction of the rampart was coeval with that of the chamber. All obstacles being now cleared away, we replaced the lintel stone which the labourers had removed, and set to work. A young friend who accompanied me made the sketches from which the accompanying illustration has been obtained, while I was occupied in making a careful transcript of the ogham inscriptions, nine in number. Four of the inscribed stones are in the roof, three in the east wall, and two in the west wall, all of which are figured in the accompanying Plate. It need be hardly remarked, that in such a sketch a portion only of the ogham marks could be shown; but in dealing with the inscription, as I



W. Lyttelton, del., 1867.

Forster & Co. Lith. Dublin.

OGHAM CAVE AT DRUMLOGHAN, CO. WATERFORD.

have done in a former communication, they were given in full. I visited the cave a third time on the 18th of September last, in company with Messrs. George M. Atkinson, of London, and Richard R. Brash, of Cork. On this occasion I had an opportunity of comparing my own transcript of the ogham marks with one made independently by Mr. Brash, and had the satisfaction to find that we tallied in every thing, *as far as the latter went*. The disposition of the inscribed stones in this structure is very instructive. Some of those in the roof have their bases to the east, whilst the bases of others are turned towards the west. Again, some have the inscribed face upwards, whilst others have them turned downwards. The same may be said of the pillars in the side walls: some have their bases uppermost, and, in consequence, a portion of the inscribed tops buried in the floor; while, in both the roof and side walls, two inscribed stones are sometimes found so close to each other as to render it exceedingly difficult to see the marks, and impossible that any kind of graving tool could reach them in their present position. All this proves clearly that the stones were inscribed before being built into this structure—a truth which is powerfully corroborated by the appearance of the monuments themselves, some of which are so much weather-worn as to lead to the irresistible conclusion that the inscriptions were many centuries old when placed in their present position. In a word, the most ordinary observer, who will take the trouble of examining this chamber, cannot fail to be impressed with the conviction that these inscribed stones were not considered of any literary value by the architect, and that he treated them as mere building materials. If this chamber formed an integral portion of a Pagan temple, as I trust in a former Paper¹ to have placed beyond doubt, the vexed question of the “age of ogham writing” may be looked on as settled, even without the aid of the clear internal evidence furnished by the inscriptions themselves.

¹ *Paper*.—The Paper, to which reference is here made, will be found in the second series of this “Journal,” Vol. vi., amongst the Proceedings of the October Meeting for the year 1867; at which the forego-

ing description of the Drumloghan ogham chamber was also read in a slightly different form—thus securing to Mr. Williams the credit of being the first to announce the discovery.—ED.