

whether these patterns have been handed down from a remote period or invented comparatively recently.

There is a certain temptation, considering the many survivals of a Scandinavian origin which may be found in the Lake Country, to trace these traditional designs to a Scandinavian source, but although one or two of the common forms have a superficial resemblance to the well-known forms of Scandinavian ornament, it cannot be said that the general appearance of the work of the Westmorland carver favours such a theory, which is not a very plausible one.

On the other hand, the patterns do not seem to have been inspired by the mediæval wood-carving in the churches; in fact, there is little such work in the Lake District proper to serve as an example for the local craftsman, nor do the designs resemble the ordinary decoration of sixteenth-century furniture in the more accessible parts of England, which may be ascribed largely to Italian or Flemish influence. It is open to discussion to what extent the carving upon this oak furniture is the work of professional carpenters and village cabinet-makers, or of the owners of the furniture. Probably both have contributed something; doubtless the village carpenter was skilful enough to be able, if required, to add the carving to the cupboard or the chair which he had fashioned. At the same time, there seems to be little doubt that the yeoman employed some of his leisure in embellishing his household possessions.

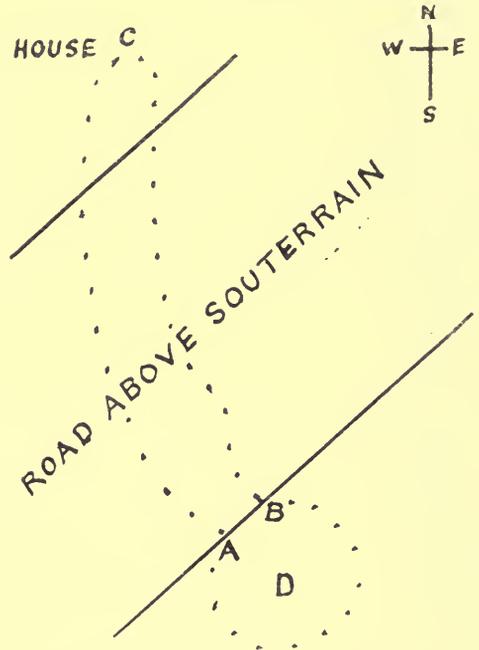


Notice of a Hebridean Earth-House.

BY DAVID MACRITCHIE, F.S.A. SCOT.

“**I**N treating of the ancient remains in Coll,” observes Mr. Erskine Beveridge, F.S.A. Scot., in his excellent book on *Coll and Tiree* (Edinburgh, 1903), “mention may first be made of an underground gallery—apparently the only site in either of the islands now under notice which can be classed as an

‘Earth-House’ or subterranean dwelling. This structure is at Arinabost (two miles north-west from the small village of Arinagour), only a few yards thence from the point of junction of the roads thence running south-west and south-east.” Mr. Beveridge does not give any diagrams or photographs illustrating this place, a want which is now partially remedied in the present pages. But his written description is so precise that it would be unpardonable not to quote it here in full. Of the structure in question he



ARINABOST EARTH-HOUSE. GROUND-PLAN.
ENTRANCE AT A B.

continues thus: “It was discovered upon the levelling of the west (or Ballyhogh) highway, about the year 1855, when a piece of twisted gold was found, evidently part of a bracelet. The original entrance is believed to have been to the north of the road last mentioned, in a spot now covered by the dwelling (a former school-house) which immediately adjoins.* The passage still extends south-eastward in a flattened arc for

* This is the house indicated at C in the present ground-plan.

38 feet from beneath the porch of this house, under the road, and emerging into the remains of a roughly circular chamber, 7 feet in diameter, now laid bare in a gravel-pit.*



ARINABOST EARTH-HOUSE. DOORWAY AT A B IN GROUND-PLAN.

The greatest present interior height of the gallery is 50 inches, with a width of about 27 inches, and the walls are clearly mere underground linings; the roof consists of broad stone lintels at short intervals, bound together by narrower transverse slabs, either at right-angles or in pairs diagonally. Part of the roof is stated to have been of wood, and the passage to have extended farther north than the porch of the old school-house. The chamber, disclosed in the gravel-pit at the south-east extremity, was partially excavated in the summer of 1896 by Mr. Robert Sturgeon, postmaster of Coll, who unearthed some quantity of kitchen-midden bones and shells, a large bronze pin with a fluted head, at least two fragments of flint, and a few bits of crude unglazed pottery. In the same place was found a large glass bead (cylindrical in shape and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long), of an indigo blue colour, and enamelled with white spiral ornament." It may be added, with regard to this bead, that it was afterwards (1903) presented by Mr. J. M. Howden, F.S.A. Scot., to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and is portrayed in

* The site of this circular chamber, removed long since, is indicated at D in the present ground-plan.

the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii., p. 68, where it is referred to as "specially interesting, as being the only one of its kind hitherto found in Scotland."

On 7th May, 1906, I visited this souterrain, and took some snapshots of the existing entrance,* the only portion that can be photographed without the aid of artificial light. This aperture is really that end of the passage which Mr. Beveridge describes as "emerging into the remains of a roughly circular chamber 7 feet in diameter." That chamber has now quite disappeared, but its situation is indicated at D in the ground-plan here shown, the letters AB marking the present entrance into the passage. The combination of a circular chamber with a long passage of access makes this souterrain almost identical with that at Gress, in Lewis, and the dimensions of both are similar. Both are also closely allied to a kindred souterrain at Usinish, in the island of South Uist.

Mr. Beveridge has bestowed so much care on his work that the measurements recorded by him must be accepted as accurate. Those taken by myself at Arinabost do not altogether coincide with his, but it must be



ARINABOST EARTH-HOUSE. DOORWAY AT A B IN GROUND-PLAN.

stated that mine are only approximate, so far as the interior of the souterrain is concerned. My measurements of the doorway are accurate, and as Mr. Beveridge omits this

* A B in the present ground-plan.

detail, I here record them. Breadth of entrance at top (lintel stone), 2 feet 3 inches. Height at A, 24 inches. Height at B, 30 inches. The roof at doorway is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the natural surface of the ground, and this may be taken as the probable depth underground of the whole roof of the passage. It ought to be explained that the surface of the ground is marked by the grassy line which runs along about the level of the shoulders of the gentleman who obligingly stood to represent the scale, and who is standing on what was the floor of the former circular chamber. The stones built above that grassy line are merely part of the wall of the modern road which crosses above the roof of the souterrain. According to my estimate, the present length of the gallery, which I explored to C, where it is blocked up, measures 25 feet. Mr. Beveridge says 38 feet, but probably he followed the outer arc, whereas I took the medial line. The average width and height of the gallery seemed to me several inches greater than Mr. Beveridge's estimate, but my measurements in this respect were not very precise. Altogether, this souterrain presents no striking difference from many other "weems" or "coves" in Scotland and Ireland.



London's Movable Monuments.

BY J. TAVENOR-PERRY.

Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.

TWAS once thought that stability, if not immobility, was essential to every monument; but the changes which have taken place in London of late years have almost taught us that if we desire to set up any monument as an enduring memorial, it should be constructed, if not actually on wheels, yet so as to be capable of perfectly easy transmigration. Sometimes a fancied street improvement demands the destruction or deportation of some memorial which blocks the way. Sometimes an accident or a mere freak of fancy relegates a statue to some position for which it was never intended; but sometimes without any

reasonable excuse one monument is pulled down to make room for another with much the same object that a new font is presented to a church to replace the old one, ostensibly, to judge by the inscription, "to the glory of God," but obviously only for the perpetuation of the name of its donor.

Some alterations in the positions of monuments are, perhaps, inevitable in such a city as London, where changes and improvements must be continuous, unless municipal life stand still. They were not unknown in Rome. When Hadrian was about to build his temple of Venus at Rome, he found the colossal statue of Nero in the way; and by the aid of twenty-four elephants the great bronze mass, which was nearly 100 feet high, was dragged to another position. When Constantine built the triumphal arch which bears his name, he transferred to it from an arch which Trajan had built in his Forum some of the most essential parts, such as the columns and the best of the sculpture; and when he moved the capital of the empire to the shores of the Bosphorus, Rome, Athens and Antioch were despoiled of their movable monuments to decorate Byzantium.

Within the last few months we have had in London one of these monumental transferences for which, at first sight, there does not appear to be any adequate motive. In 1771 Brass Crosby, the then Lord Mayor of London, had the courage to oppose both the Court and the House of Commons by committing an act which had most important and far-reaching results in the struggle for the freedom of the Press, and for this act he was imprisoned in the Tower. His fellow-citizens, in memory of his martyrdom, and as a monument of the great victory he had obtained for liberty, erected in St. George's Circus, Southwark, an obelisk, not, perhaps, of high artistic value, but intended to be a permanent record of one of the most important historical events in the annals both of the city and of the country. This has now been pulled down, and in place of it has been raised a tower, neither more useful nor more graceful than the original monument, which records all the names of the various people who were concerned in its erection, as well as the fact that, not they, but the old obelisk had been removed to Bethlem Hospital.