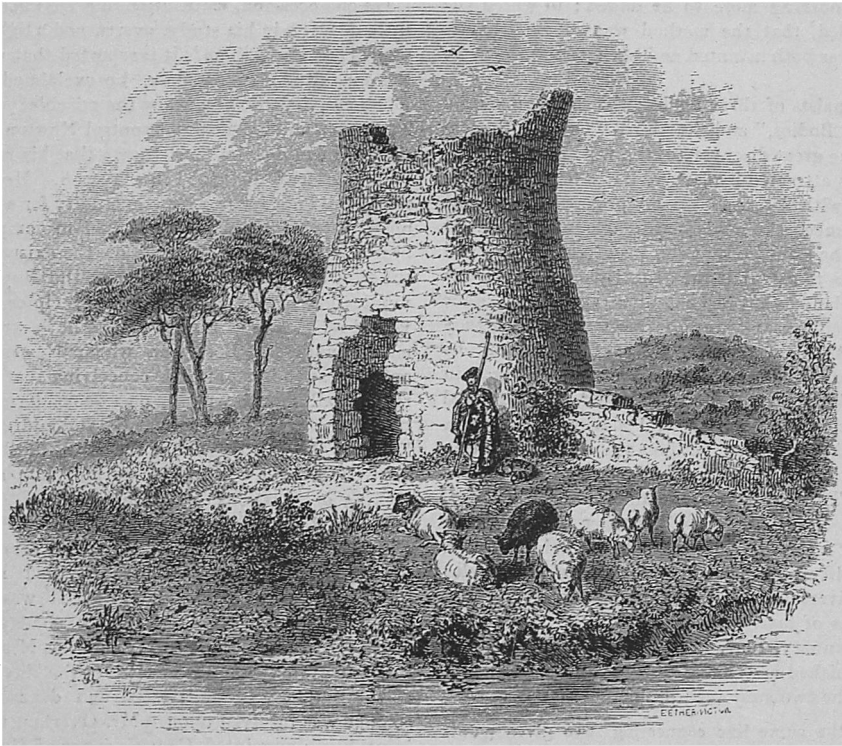


ANCIENT TOWERS IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

Not far from the ancient residence of the chief of the Clan Mackay, in the extreme north of Scotland, there is an ancient fortress known as the Tower of Dornadilla. This Dornadilla was the fourth king of Scotland, and reigned 250 years before the birth of Christ. His father, Mainus, was a man pre-eminent for wisdom and justice, and loved peace and

of the tower, and present somewhat the appearance of the shelves of a library.

The Tower of Mousa, represented in our engraving, is another ruin of the same description. It is of a circular shape, fifty feet in diameter and forty feet in height, and is constructed of large stones, uncemented. The peculiar form of

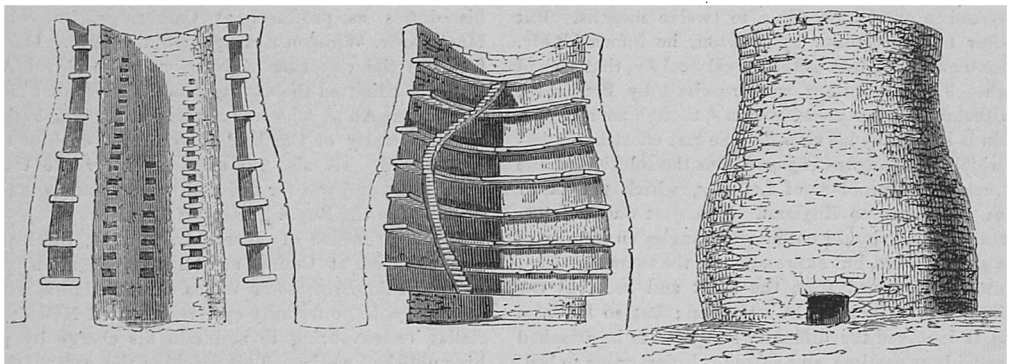


TOWER OF MOUSA.

prosperity above the strife of spears and the triumphs of conquest; and when Dornadilla came to the crown, he found the kingdom peaceful and the people happy; so he devoted his life to the pleasures of the chase; and the chief thing known about him is, that he framed those laws for hunting which prevail to the present day.

the building rendered it utterly impossible to scale the walls, and its stony strength was sufficient to bid defiance to the attack of the foe. The walls are fifteen feet thick.

In the islands of the Hebrides similar towers are found; they are discovered in nearly every part of northern Scotland, dotted over the face of the land, the delight of the tourist and



INTERIOR OF THE TOWER—AND THE EXTERIOR RESTORED.

The tower which bears his name is constructed of roughly hewn stones, without cement, and is about thirty feet high. The entrance is low and difficult, and the walls immensely thick. Within, a series of stone galleries or benches rise up, one above the other, a ladder, likewise of stone, leading from one tier to another. These galleries, commencing at a slight elevation from the ground, are continued to the summit

the puzzle of the antiquary. They have been ascribed to the Scandinavians, the rough Norse worshippers, the people of Thor and Odin; and again to the Danes, whose piratical invasions and hardy prowess once made all northern Europe tremble; but the most likely hypothesis is that which places their origin in the days of that terrible warfare which continued for so long a period between the Picts and Scots.