

weekly periods. I dare not confidently affirm this. Was this a relique of an early British chief, or of a later Scandinavian warrior? for such circles have been raised in Scandinavia and the Orkney Islands by the Northmen, and this is a district which the Northmen colonized. A similar circle of stones occurs at Cloughton near Scarborough.

RATHS.

Under this name it is proposed to notice mounds of greater size than ordinary tumuli, which appear to have a somewhat different construction, and a different relation to the old centres of population. These mounds are sometimes wholly artificial, but as frequently some natural feature of the ground has been exaggerated into a dome-shaped mass, as by cutting off the end of a tongue of land. The mound is usually encircled by a ditch at some distance down the slope, and by a more or less conspicuous bank at the outer edge of this ditch, as if formed by the earth thrown out from it. In plain ground the whole mound is surrounded by the hollow from which the materials were gathered; but in other cases the slope is continued downward from the bank to the surrounding surface. Other mounds, in which these features are less obvious, seem to have the same relation to the sites of population, and to be neither tumuli nor military posts.

Such conspicuous heaps of earth are not unfrequent at or near the termination of old villages in Yorkshire. At Lofthouse and Kildale, in the north-eastern district, and at Middleton-one-Row, the rath is placed to the west of the village; and at the old British village on Danby Moor, it lies to the east. At Kippax it is to the west of the church; and the same is the case with the greater mound at Barwick in Elmet, which we regard as a fort. At Westow it is on the western side.

A little south of the village of Acklam is a considerable mound which may probably be put in the same catalogue, but its form is not very distinct. Aldrow, on the hill above Birdsall, is of an uncommon form, at an angle of the double dike, which here