

years ago, but they have since been injured by some curious excavator, three accumulations of stone, immensely more huge than the others, and more artificially constructed, that seemed to mark out the resting-place of the kings or chieftains of the tribe. The bases of these larger cairns were hemmed in by circular rings of upright stones; and a wider ring, of larger masses, encircled the outside. A dark, low-roofed circular chamber occupied the space within. Its walls were constructed of upright stones; and uncemented flags, overlapping each other until they closed atop, formed the rude, dome-like roof. In the fat unctuous earth which composed the floor there were found unglazed earthen urns, as rudely fashioned as the surrounding building, and filled with ashes and half-calcined bones. It is a curious fact, that even so late as the close of the last century, Highlanders in the neighbourhood buried amid these ancient tombs such of their children as died before baptism. For, according to a superstition derived from the Church of Rome, and in some remote localities not yet worn out, unbaptized children were deemed unholy; and in this belief their remains were consigned to the same unconsecrated ground which contained the dust of their remote pagan ancestors. It forms another striking fact,—a fact full of poetry,—that near the western end of the plain of Clava there are the remains of an ancient Christian chapel, which still bears the name of the *clachan* or church; and a traditional belief survives in the district that it was planted in this citadel of idolatry by the first Christian missionaries. Would that we were acquainted with its story! and yet it would probably be merely another illustration of the fact, that the religion that most inculcates humility and self-denial is of all animating principles the most daring and heroic.—*March* 28, 1840.