

What may be termed their *native* fossils are exceedingly curious. I have seen personal ornaments of the stone period, chiefly beads of large size, made out of a pink-coloured carbonate of lime, which had been found in the bed of gravel on which one of our Galwegian mosses rested, and which intimated that the 'stone period' had commenced in the island ere this moss had begun to form. We find the same fact borne out by the Black Moss on the banks of the Etive, Argyleshire, where, under an accumulation of eight feet of peat, there occur irregularly oval pavements of stone, overlaid often by a layer of wood-ashes, and surrounded by portions of hazel stakes,—the remains, apparently, of such primitive huts as those in which, according to Gibbon, the ancient Germans resided, and which were, we are told, 'of a circular figure, built of rough timber, thatched with straw, and pierced at the top, to leave a free passage for the smoke.' Similar remains, but apparently of a still more ancient type, have been laid open in Aberdeenshire; and I find Mr. Wilson stating, in his archæological history, that on several occasions, rude canoes, which had been hollowed out of single logs of wood by the agency of fire, and evidently of the 'stone age,' have been found in Lochar Moss, Dumfriesshire, with ornamental torcs and brass bowls, not less evidently of the subsequent 'bronze period.' It is stated by Dr. Boate, in his *Natural History*, that in Ireland, the furrows of what had been once ploughed fields have been found underlying bogs,—in one instance at least (in Donegal), with the remains of an ancient plough, and the wattles of a hedge six feet beneath the surface. In 1833 there was discovered in Drumkilen bog, near the north-east coast of the county of Donegal, an ancient house formed of oak beams. Though only nine feet high, it consisted of two storeys, each about four feet in height. One side of the building was entirely open, and a stone chisel was found on the floor,—indicating that this ancient