nehenge From the Air

the oldest things there is alomething new. Stonehenge asleep for ever, when, lo! a odding by Colonel Hawley and S. Newall revealed three, and four, circles of empty holes ding the stones themselves. tographs have now revealed startling fact, unknown till

Let me explain. the entrance of Stonehenge un north-eastwards two paralks (seventy feet apart. These mks are known as the Avenue ny untenable hypotheses have anded upon them. At a dis-726 vards from the centre of at the bottom of a valorth to the Cursus; the but its course was a century ago, and was map-Sir Richard Colt Hoare in oughed land between two harrows called (by

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Stukeley, in 1783, continued straight on to ent ford of the river Avon," Its real course is plainon air photos taken in July, most favorable time, because
The Avenue appears as a pair parallel white lines; it sharply south-eastward, and after a straight run of just over mile, terminates abruptly (in let of West Amesbury) on the the Avon. All this is abew and was never before and there can be no readoubt that it is correct. ally, I feel quite certain that ks on the air-photos are those Avenue banks; but I do not tall others to be convinced until hes have been dug soross to ft. I have just returned from

with another archaeologist. e whole length of the Avenue. d not see the faintest trace on face until we had got a mile West Amesbury. But here, n the Old and New King Barhere is a bank in a field-track at the point where Stukeley's ements placed the Avenue, and one of the two parallel lines on -photo comes out. Here, about from Stonehenge, I picked up of "blue" stone. We could double line in a field of potatoes plainly-apparently the deeper the sifted-up flanking ditches better growth-and also the two branches meet. The utence of other surface indicawhere the lines appear on the oto is remarkable, but in some ot unwelcome; so much greate the triumph of air-photoif digging reveals the flanking beside the banks there. I inmake this crucial test.shortly wners' permission can be ob-

does this discovery mean? In st place it puts out of court nd for all the fanciful astrontheories of the late Sir Norockyer and others. An avenue splits into two branches, one to a race-course and the to a river (and neither branch cannot be regarded as orio the rising sun for purposes ship; and no serious archaeolorepute ever supposed it could. other hand, the suggestion of or Schuchhardt, that the was a Sacred Way along which ms led to the Cursus on the id (and to a settlement on the is strongly reinforced. The according to him, was a prestadium; it is about two miles. nd he believes that charlot funeral games were held ically in honor of a dead uried in Stonehenge. What atural than that a ceremonial ould lead from the one to the

was the purpose of the vered southern branch of Schuchhardt suggested might lead to Durrington emarkable camp (?), with on its inner side. He beearthwork to be the settlet, belongs to the same early Stonehenge. But we now thanks to air-photography, branch led elsewhere. Now, e two points worth noticing new course revealed: (1) It take the most direct route Avon to Stonehenge, but which has the easiest gradhally the total length of is 1 mile 1,310 yards, and in a straight line is 1 yards. The direct route crossing at least one valley.) And (2) it teron the river, at the point e river is nearest to Stone-

he ceremonial way along ones of Stonehenge itself ted. We now know for t the blue or ("foreign" te brought here by human im the neighborhood of the Hills in Pembrokeshire. Ex-Scopic examination of the Oreign' stones of Stone



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since Wednesday night last, and much

anxiety is felt for his whereabouts.

lenge has proved this beyond any easonable doubt. It remains uncer-

asported by sea or land. Dr.

Thomas, whose examination of the

stones has led to the knowledge of

their source, decides tentatively in

favor of a land route, mainly because

a sea route would be hazardous and

difficult. But I think he underesti-

mates the sea-going powers of our

prehistoric ancestors. In the Early

Bronze Age gold objects from Ireland

reached Wiltshire, for several of

them have been found in the barrows

there; beads, gold mountings for

knifehandles and for buttons and

other objects were particularly abun-

dant in the barrows immediately

round Stonehenge. Some were also

found in a barrow at Hengistbury, the

natural port of Salisbury Plain, at the mouth of the Avon. They have

been found in Dorset (in barrows

near the coast), and in Cornwall.

Such would be the natural distribution to expect if they were obtained

from traders by sea from Ireland.

There is no evidence of any such finds

along a land route, which too, would

be a most difficult one in those days. Dr. Thomas himself suggests that the port of Milford Haven was used, since the Altar-Stone at Stonehenge

is formed of a rock which occurs only

that the Scandinavians of those days

had good ships, for they have left

pictures of them carved indelibly up-

on the rocks of Bohuslan. Why not

There is one possible objection to

this theory. Was the Avon deep

enough then to float a raft carrying s

stone over two tons in weight? If it

was not, the theory of flotation from

Hengistbury up the Avon must be

abandoned. It is not a new one; but

the new discovery of the Avenue's ter-

minus makes it worth re-examining.

Perhaps some engineer will work out

The conclusions of Dr. Thomas

give a remarkable confirmation to the

tradition recorded by Geoffrey of Monmouth in the twelfth century,

that Stonehenge was brought by Mer-

lin from Ireland, and set up again as

a war memorial. Dr. Thomas sug-

gests that the extreme west of Wales

might well be confused with Ireland,

especially if there was any racial con-

nection between the inhabitants of

each (and there certainly was). I

would add that the confusion is the

by sea. Further the only monument

at all comparable to Stonehenge

(though less advanced-Cerisy-gofis near Newport in Pembrokeshire.

Doubtless the motive in transporting

the stones was a religious one. If

they had been set up in their Welsh

home as a sacred circle of stones, they

would certainly have great magical

value. This (indeed, is the only con-

ceivable reason for carrying them

off.-Saturday Night.

more likely, if the journey was made

the depth necessary.

also the people of these islands?

in that corner of Wales. We know

tain, however, whether they



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