



Stonehenge, an Ancient Druidical Temple.

Having given you several accounts of our Pagan ancestors and their worship, I, this month, present you with a drawing of Stonehenge, one of their ancient temples. It stands in Salisbury Plain, near the town of Amesbury, and is situated on the top of a slightly rising ground. At present it is in a ruined state, but originally was a magnificent place. The circle in which it stands measures 1107 feet in circumference, and is surrounded by a ditch and small rampart on the inner side. It seems to have had only one entrance, and that from the north-east to the south-west.—The building itself is in the centre of this circle. It appears to have consisted of four circles of stones, one within the other, and all open to the sky.—Many of these stones are of great size. Some of those of the outer circle measure 13 feet high, and between 6 and 7 wide. On these are laid others as the lintel of a door is placed upon its side posts. All the upright pillars are fitted to those lying on them by what is called a tenon and mortice; and great skill and powerful machinery must have been used to fix all in their proper places. There were once 30 pillars in the outer circle, and only 17 now remain. It is 300 feet in circumference. Within this great circle is another, formed by upright stones, of a less size,

and without imposts. Of these there were originally 40 but only 20 can now be traced. The third circle is within this, and had only 10 stones, placed in five pairs, with imposts, and all of great height. The highest are twenty-one feet and a-half, and the lowest above sixteen feet.

A fourth circle of 19 stones stood inside this, but only 11 now remain. These are less than the last, and never had imposts. Both this and the third circle are in the shape of a horse-shoe, with the opening towards the north-east.

Such is the temple of our forefathers. How different is the country now to what it was when the Pagan Britons used to go up thither, and pay them adorations to cruel, unknown deities! How thankful should we be that, while these ruins of their temple remain, their rites and superstitions have long since passed away! But so it shall be with all idolatry at last. Its glory will one day depart, and all that shall remain of it will be a ruin and a name to mark where once it was. With China, with India, with all the world, it shall be as it has been with Britain. Christ's reign shall spread till it has demolished all heathenism, and shed around the glories of the gospel of the blessed God. May that kingdom come soon!