

Thus far about eighty individuals of the great fossil elk, and one reindeer, are represented in the remains recovered from the Ballybetagh Bog, without any traces of the co-existence of man having been observed. But no better locality could be chosen to test the question. Lying though this interesting locality does, in such near vicinity to the Irish metropolis, it has been left nearly untouched by the hand of man within the whole historic period, during which cathedral and castle, college, mart, and wharf, have crowded the banks of the Liffy. The traces of the primitive architecture of remoter eras have thereby escaped defacement. The general contour of the district remains little changed. The aspect is wild and savage; and it requires no very great exercise of the fancy to restore the ancient mere, reclothe its shores with forests, the buried trunks of which abound in the underlying peat, and reanimate them with the magnificent herds of the great fossil deer. Here are still the unefaced memorials of primitive art. On the rising ground on the south-east margin of the bog stands a large chambered cairn, which has been rifled; and the exposed chamber shows the megalithic structure characteristic of the most ancient works of this class. There is also a circle near it formed by an enclosure of stones and earth, which is regarded by the natives with superstitious awe. According to the belief of the peasants, if their cattle stray into this enclosure they will die.

Here, then, it is probable that the bed of the neighbouring tarn or bog must contain some evidences of the primitive arts of the Cairn-builders, with means for determining the relative date of their presence there, as compared with the true age of the *Cervus megaceros*. A report of the successful operations which rewarded the brief labours of the excursion party was made to the executive council of the British Association, and steps were taken with a view to a systematic and thorough exploration of this favourite haunt of the great fossil Irish elk, one of the most remarkable among the fauna of Europe's Palæolithic period.