

INTERESTING DISCOVERY IN THE COUNTY CORK.

AT the commencement of last week (says the *Constitution*) as a labourer was dressing a potato garden on the lands of Curraghealy, in the parish of AGLISH, his spade struck against a flag, on removing which an aperture in the ground was discovered that seemed to lead into a chamber. This fact was immediately communicated to some of the members of the Cuvierian and Archaeological Society. On Thursday Mr. Robert Day, jun., started for the scene of the discovery, and found in the first chamber a large quantity of bones, which he had carefully removed and subsequently brought into Cork. The report that human remains were seen in the crypt added much to the interest of the discovery, but subsequently this rumour turned out to be unfounded. With a view, however, to thoroughly investigate the nature and contents of these subterranean chambers, Messrs. Robert Day, jun., Joseph Wright, F.G.S., and Dr. R. Caulfield, F.S.A., proceeded on the afternoon of Monday to the spot, and after accurate measurement and examination made the following report:—The entrance to the first chamber, which is 9 ft. below the surface of the ground, is 5 ft. long by 18 in. broad. This led into a chamber, excavated out of the old red sandstone, 6 ft. broad by 4 in height and 10 in length, running about west to east. The old red sandstone dips north at a high angle, and the cleavage strikes north and south. From this a passage nearly circular, 5 ft. 6 in. in length, 2 ft. high, and 2 broad, led into a chamber No.2, which is 9 ft. long, 5 broad, and 4 in height. On the right of this chamber as you enter it is a compartment excavated in the form of an arch. Another passage, 2 ft. high, 2 broad, and 2 in length, leading into chamber No. 3, which, taking a crescent form, diverges north and south. At the right of this chamber, which is 4 ft. long, 5 wide, and 4 high, is a compartment similar to that in chamber No. 2. The passage out of this leading to chamber No. 4 runs east and west, and is 6 feet long, 2 broad, and 2 high. To the right is an arch similar to that in Nos. 2 and 3. Over this chamber was a shaft, which was bored out of the solid rock, perfectly circular and 7 in. in diameter; it took an oblique direction towards the surface. This chamber was 14 ft. long, 4 wide, and 4 in height. Beyond this was another apartment, which communicated with the surface, but the earth had fallen in, and further penetration into those gloomy passages seemed dangerous. The excavation of these crypts must have been accomplished with enormous labour. The floor was covered with large stones, one or two fragments of burned lime, and some vitrified stones, with clinkers were found, which would indicate that these crypts must have been used at a period much later than their construction. There was no appearance of a rath having ever occupied: this place though one exists a few fields away. From this eminence, which is about two miles northwest of Kilcree, there is a very magnificent prospect of the surrounding country. On the slopes of the valley are seen the parish churches of AGLISH, Magourney and Aghabolloge and the cross of Donoghmore, while towards the West Muschree mountain lifts up its cloud-capped crest. What these mysterious chambers were constructed for, by what race of people, and at what period of the world's history, will constitute an interesting archaeological problem for those who are curious in the ancient history of the races that in remote times may have inhabited this Island. The bones are awaiting identification, and the different animals to which they belong will be cleared up as soon as Professor Harkness, F.R.S., returns to Cork. It is still to be hoped that they may contain some fragments of the human family.

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