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On the Hunebedden, or Cromlechs, in the Province of Drenthe, in Holland.

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he meant the Cimmerii; and this people might (as believed by many of the Romans) have been of the same race. But this people, which was powerful in the time of Homer (at B.C. 1000), and again in the seventh century B.C., when they overran Asia Minor, had sunk into weakness long before the time of the great Cimbric invasion, and could not possibly, if it still existed in or about the Caucasus, have sent out such hordes as those which, towards the end of the second century B.C., threatened Italy. He thought we must accept the unanimous testimony of the ancient writers as to the direction from which, and even (in a general way) the country from which, the Cimbri set out to make their attack upon the south. Tradition was rarely mistaken in such matters. In conclusion, he would repeat that the evidence seemed to him scarcely sufficient to justify any decided and absolute conclusion, but he thought there were strong grounds for regarding the Cimbri as either Germans or Celts, and on the whole it seemed to him that the balance of the evidence was in favour of the Celtic theory.

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Mr. Brabrook read the following paper for the author :—

*On the HUNEBEDDEN, or CROMLECHS, in the PROVINCE of DRENTHE, in HOLLAND.* By D. LUBACH, M.D.

IN February, 1872, Mr. A. W. Franks made to the Society of Antiquaries a communication respecting the megalithic monuments of the Netherlands. His object was “to call attention to this interesting group of antiquities, and more particularly to direct the notice of the Fellows of the Society to the efforts that are being made by the Government of the Netherlands for the preservation of these precious memorials of the past.” It is for this reason that his description of the hunebedden of Drenthe is very short; indeed, it does not take one page of the nine which his communication fills in the “Proceedings of the Society.”

I have thought that it might be interesting to the British anthropologists and students of primæval antiquities to give a more detailed account of these remarkable remains, which are so little known in England, just as, to say the truth, the Netherlands in general are still in many respects a *terra incognita* for the English. This is proved by the great number of often incomprehensible errors with respect to the natural constitution, the inhabitants, their customs, and the institutions of this country, which are stated in English books as indisputable truths.

The province of Drenthe, in Holland, consists of a diluvial plain, the middle height of which above the surface of the sea is more than ten miles, gradually sloping towards the borders of the province. The soil consists of diluvial sand and loam,

mixed with stones and gravel—so-called Scandinavian diluvium, the stones and petrifications of which are the same as those of some regions of Scandinavia. A considerable part of this diluvium is covered with turf, and some small rivulets and brooks have set off along their borders a layer of clay.

Though agriculture in Drenthe has made great progress in late years, a great part of the soil still lies uncultivated. In general Drenthe is in many respects the most backward province of the kingdom of the Netherlands, and one often meets there much, especially with respect to institutions and customs, of which nothing is found in the other provinces.

If Drenthe is in this respect remarkable for the archæologist, it is particularly so on account of the grave-mounds, or *tumuli*, and *cromlechs* (these latter called here, as in North Germany, *hunebedden*), which are found here. These cromlechs are not found in other regions of the Netherlands, with the exception of a doubtful monument in the province of Utrecht, near a village called De Vuursche. The *tumuli* in Drenthe are not very high, generally 1 metre or  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Their form is round, oval, or sometimes square, and their diameter is from 3 to 5 metres. However, there are also found oblong ones, some of which are from 3 to 5 metres in breadth, and from 10 to 30 metres in length. Formerly many of them were surrounded by circles of stones, which have now disappeared everywhere.

The diggings have taught that in the *tumuli* are found—(1) urns of rude pottery, containing burnt bones of men; (2) small heaps of human bones; (3) objects of earthenware, as drinking-cups and other vessels, discs, &c.; (4) implements of bronze, rarely of iron, but, with one exception, never of stone; metal spear-heads, arrow-heads, knives, daggers, the fragments of a sword, celts, in form very similar to those found in England, hairpins, fragments of armlets, &c. The urns are often adorned with lines or rows of punctures. If there are more urns than one in the same *tumulus*, then they are often placed one above another, and sometimes they are in an inverted position, with their mouths resting on the ground. In some *tumuli* no urns are found, but only heaps of burnt bones; in others there are found similar heaps and urns. There are found urns which contain small urns, filled with bones of little children; in this case the great urn probably contains the bones of the mother. The place of the urns and the heaps of bones in the *tumuli* differs greatly. They are placed—(1) simply in the earth of which the *tumuli* are made; (2) on a little mound of pebbles in the interior of the *tumulus*; (3) on a floor of pebbles; (4) between two floors; (5) within an enclosure of larger stones; (6) in a small cellar or cist in the form of a trough. Where a floor of pebbles is found

it sometimes extends very far outside the tumulus, underneath the surface of the heathy plain. The stones of the floor of a tumulus near Borger filled about a hundred carts. The earth of the tumuli is very frequently mixed with a considerable quantity of charcoal and ashes.

The opinion of the Dutch, and, if I am not mistaken, of most of the German antiquaries, is, that the tumuli of this description are Germanic.

The megalithic monuments of the Drenthe, commonly called "hunebedden," consist of large capstones or covering-stones, commonly of granite, supported by smaller upright stones. The uprights form two rows, with a space of one or two metres between them. The space between every two upright stones of the same row differs, but generally it is broad enough to suffer a man to creep through. The capstones are placed transversely, so that every capstone rests on the two rows or walls of the monument. The two longer sides of a hunebed, formed by these two rows, are never parallel; they constantly diverge towards the west, or towards that part which is nearest to the west, the consequence of which is that the inner chamber is widest at that end. Generally, also, the upright and the capstones increase in bulk towards the west end, and thus the whole hunebed is there not only broader, but also higher. The middle distance between the under surface of the capstones and the floor of the inner chamber is one metre. Undoubtedly the open spaces between the upright stones and the capstones originally have been filled up with small fragments of rock. In the hunebedden that are best preserved, each end of the inner chamber is closed by one stone that in every respect resembles the upright stones which form the longer walls of the construction, and each of which forms one of its two smaller sides. The Dutch antiquaries call these stones *sleitschaenen*, closing-stones; we shall call them end-stones. It is not probable that the entrance of the hunebedden was at one of the smaller sides; it seems to have been at one of the longer ends. In many instances there is found a so-called "portal," consisting of two rows of two or three stones each. These rows are at right angles with one of the longer sides of the hunebed, and placed rather towards the south end. These portals are never covered with capstones, but in Germany they are, and it is highly probable, if not certain, that the portals of the hunebedden of Drenthe formerly possessed them too.

The outer side of the upright stones is always rough and angular, or somewhat rounded; the inner side, on the contrary, is flat, and sometimes so smooth that it seems to have been roughly worked. The same is the case with many of the cap-

stones, the under surface of which, forming the ceiling of the inner chamber, is not unfrequently very smooth. Some of the capstones, the outer surface of which has a somewhat rounded form, bear at a distance a resemblance with huge bed-pillows flung across the two walls of the hunebed. If the capstones of all the hunebedden had such a form, which is not the case, however, it might be conjectured that the hunebedden (beds of hunes) were so called because of the resemblance. In some of the stones of which the hunebedden are formed small holes are found, evidently bored, of the depth of 1 centimetre.

I must add to what I have remarked about the structure of the hunebedden, that many of them (originally, perhaps, all of them) are surrounded by a row of stones, that are placed at a distance of about three steps from the hunebed. The position of the hunebedden with regard to the points of the compass is not, as has been asserted, invariably in an eastward or westward direction. It appears from the researches of the late Mr. L. J. F. Yanssen that the position of the fifty hunebedden which he investigated is as follows:—

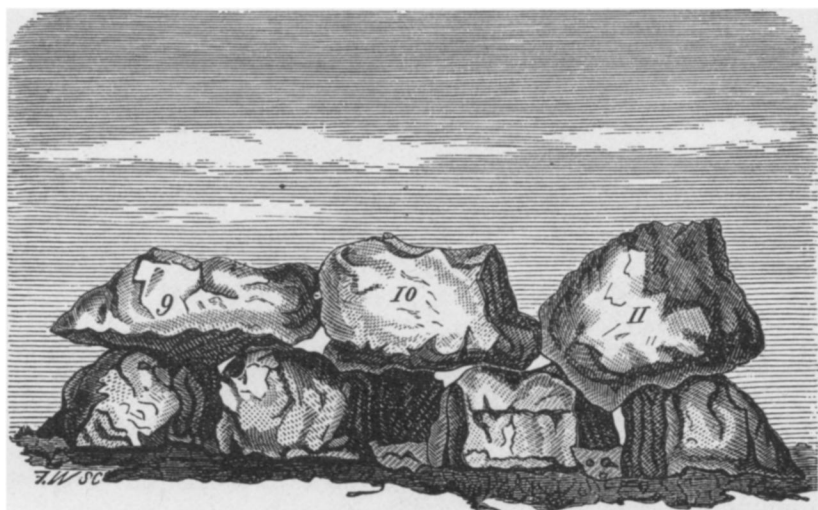
Of 15 hunebedden . .	..	E.—W.
Of 2           "     ..	..	N.—S.
Of 24         "     ..	..	N.W.—S.E.
Of 6          "     ..	..	N.E.—S.W.
Of 2         "     ..	..	N.W. by W.—S.E. by E.
Of 1 hunebed   ..	..	N.E. by E.—S.W. by W.

At least two-fifths of the existing hunebedden are situated on the top of a low barrow or hill, in a hollow that is, however, rarely so deep that the monument cannot be seen at a moderate distance. In my opinion there cannot be any doubt at all that the hunebedden were originally covered with mounds of earth. The entrance of the portal was probably closed by a large stone, and perhaps it was also covered with sand.

In the province of Drenthe there are still existing 55 hunebedden. Their number has been much greater, probably the whole of Drenthe, especially the eastern half of the province, was once covered with this kind of structures. When Christianity was introduced in Drenthe, which happened in the latter half of the 8th century, the Drenths began to destroy the heathen monuments, previously regarded with awe and veneration. It is probable that many churches have been built of the materials gathered from the hunebedden. Part of the village of Odovru and of the tower of the church of Emmen, consist of irregularly formed stones of the same nature as those of the hunebedden. The same materials were used for the walls around the churchyards, for foundations of dwellings, for mark-stones, &c.

Afterwards many of the hunebedden have been demolished by gunpowder, to procure stones for sea-dikes and for pavements. A proclamation of the Government of Drenthe of the 21st of July, 1734, renewed on the 6th of November, 1818, by which it was forbidden to disturb the hunebedden and other ancient monuments, was of small avail, because the hunebedden are situated, in most cases, on grounds belonging to private persons, or are owned in common by the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, who, by inheritance, have a right in them.

In 1868 Mr. L. Oldenhuis Gratama, counsellor in the court of Drenthe, addressed an "open letter" to the college of the Deputy States of Drenthe. He asserted in this that the hunebedden are *res religiosæ*, and therefore *res hullius*, and that,

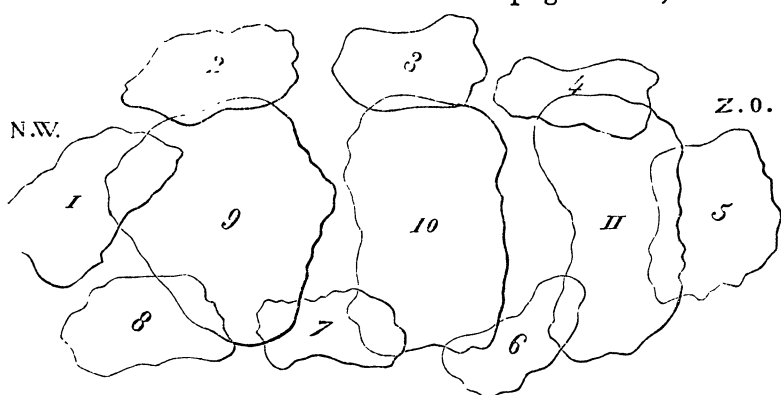


VIEW OF THE HUNEBED OF FINAARLOO.

according to our laws, they are as such the property of the state, which on that account is justified and obliged to take measures for their preservation. The Royal Academy of Sciences, on receiving this "open letter," addressed a letter to the Minister of the Interior, urging him to use all his influence for the preservation of the hunebedden, and in the Second Chamber of the General States, of December, 1868, Baron Slaet van de Beele endeavoured to instigate the Government to promote the preservation of these *reliquiæ*. Minister Sock, however, in order to avoid contention with the peasants of Drenthe, who are very jealous of their rights of property, chose another and more practical way, by voting a sum of money for the acqui-

tion of the hunebedden by the state. By the care and zeal of the Royal Commissary of Drenthe, Mr. Y. L. G. Gregory, 31 of the 55 megalithic monuments of Drenthe have become the property of the state, and 21 the property of the province of Drenthe, while one belongs to some of the inhabitants of the village of Finaarlo, and another to an inhabitant of Westenesch. Many of the hunebedden and cists of Drenthe are much damaged and disturbed. Of some but a few stones are still existing; of others the stones have sunk and sunk, and have been removed from their original place, which is partly the fault of imprudent diggings in search of treasures and antiquities. The best preserved of the hunebedden is that situated near Finaarlo, which is regarded as typical. It is for that reason that I give a more ample description of it.

This hunebed consists of two rows of upright stones, each of



### PLAN OF THE HUNEBED OF FINAARLOO.

three stones, two end-stones, and three capstones. There are neither traces of a portal nor of an outer circle of stones.

The length of the whole hunebed (S.E.—N.W.) is 5.70 m., its greatest breadth 3 m., its greatest height 1.57 m. The dimensions of the several stones are as follows:—

#### *Upright stones and end-stones.*

	Ms.	Ms.	Ms.
No. 1 (end-stone)	is high 0.75,	broad 1.00,	thick 0.46
„ 2 (upright stone)	„ 0.70	„ 1.00	„ 0.56
„ 3 „ „	„ 0.75	„ 1.25	„ 0.53
„ 4 „ „	„ 0.66	„ 1.00	„ 0.75
„ 5 (end-stone)	„ 0.71	„ 1.00	„ 0.75
„ 6 (upright stone)	„ 0.72	„ 0.92	„ 0.35
„ 7 „ „	„ 0.64	„ 1.00	„ 0.58
„ 8 „ „	„ 0.72	„ 1.13	„ 0.32



*Capstones.*

		Ms.		Ms.		Ms.
No.	9	is high	0.66,	broad	2.00,	long 2.00
	„	10	„	0.81	„	2.00 „ 1.00
	„	11	„	0.88	„	2.45 „ 1.26

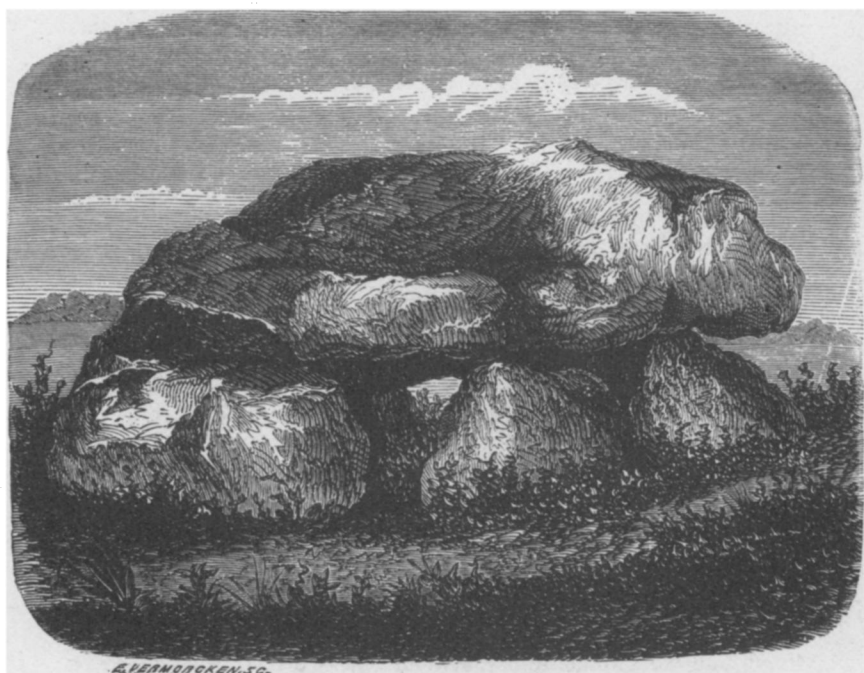
All the stones are of granite.

Much larger, but also much more damaged, than the hunebed of Finaarloo is one of the hunebedden near the village of Borger, and another near Emmen. The former has a length (N.W.—S.E.) of 22 m., its breadth is 3.8 m., its greatest height 2.8 m. The breadth of the inner chamber is, at the west end, 2.5 m., at the east end 1.70 m. The space between the upright stones is 0.85 m. The length of the largest capstone, which is one metre thick, is more than 3 m., its breadth is 2 m. There are 12 upright stones at the north-east end, and 13 at the south-west end; 10 capstones and 1 end-stone at the south-east end, while the north-west end-stone is wanting. At the south-west end are found the remains of a portal of 6 stones, 3 in each row. The largest of the hunebedden near Emmen has a length (E.—W.) of 26 m., a breadth of 13 m., and the breadth of the inner chamber in the middle of the construction is about 3 m. There are 11 upright stones at each side, 2 end-stones, and 7 capstones. The length of the largest capstone is 3.75 m., its breadth 2.5 m., its thickness 0.5 m. The structure is surrounded by an oval row of stones, the southern part of which is much damaged. At the south side traces of a portal are found.

I said that, with the exception of a dubious monument at de Vuursche, in Utrecht, there are found no hunebedden in our country beyond the boundaries of Drenthe. An interesting specimen, however, exists in the province of Groningen, but it is situated very near the frontiers of Drenthe, and in a part of the province that formerly belonged to Drenthe. This is the hunebed of Noordlaren. It has 4 upright stones, 2 capstones, and 1 end-stone at the north-east end. It seems that originally it has been much larger, and that the biggest stones at the south-west end have been removed. The largest of the existing capstones has a length of 3.5 m., a breadth of 2.25 m., and is 1.5 m. thick. There are traces of a surrounding circle of stones. A fair and typical example of a hunebed, which is, however, of no great dimensions, may be seen near the road from Odovru to Emmen. It consists of 3 upright stones at the northern, and 4 at the southern, side, with an end-stone at each end, and 4 capstones. The length of this hunebed is 5.5 m., its breadth 2.2 m., its greatest height 1.5 m. All the stones are in their right places, but, to say the truth, this hunebed has been restored.



Between the hunebed of Finaarloo and the scanty remains of other monuments of the same kind, only consisting of a trilith or some scattered stones, there are others in all grades of preservation or destruction. My purpose is only to fix the attention on the hunebedden of Drenthe, and to give a general idea of their structure, not a complete description, and therefore I don't think it necessary to expatiate on other monuments of the same kind: for instance, the picturesque hunebedden near Rolde, or one of those near the way from Borger to Rumen, the capstones of which are uncommonly flat on the upper side; the triple



VIEW OF THE HUNEBED OF NOORDLAREN.

hunebed near Emmen, which may be compared to the double cromlech of Plas Newydd (Jewitt, "Gravemounds and their Contents," page 54), and others. But I must say something about three monuments that are not hunebedden, that is to say, that are not cromlechs but cists (Dutch, *grafkelders*, i.e., grave-cellars). One of the three was discovered in 1756 near the little village or hamlet of Eext, in a tumulus on the heathy plain. The visitor ascends a low tumulus, and arriving at the top finds in it a quadrangular cave or cellar, into which he

descends by means of a kind of stairs of four steps, formed of pebbles. The cellar has a depth of 1.3 m. The northern and southern walls consist each of three flat stones, tightly joined together, but the stones of the southern wall are not so broad as those of the northern, because a space of 0.6 m. has been used for the stairs. The breadth of these walls is about 3.7 m. The eastern and western walls are made each of one stone, the eastern having a breadth of 1.7 m., the western of 2.05 m., so that the cellar is somewhat broader at the west than at the east side. It will be remembered that the hunebedden also are somewhat broader at the west side, and that the portals are always found at the south end. The floor of the cellar consists of earth covered with grass. When it was discovered it was covered with three capstones, which have, however, disappeared.

Recently two other cellars of a similar description have been found near Emmen. I visited these in May, but my occupations did not permit me to examine them very closely. The cellars are very near each other, and the space in which both of them are found is surrounded by an oval row of stones, which I suppose to be about 1.5 m. high and 0.9 m. broad. The capstones have been preserved.

It is my opinion that all the hunebedden have been explored. In ancient times many have been destroyed in the hope of finding treasures in them. Afterwards they have been searched by antiquaries, but, as it seems, not always with sufficient care. It appears from the researches of the latter that, after removing the sand from the floor of the inner chamber, a floor of pebbles was found; beneath this floor, and sometimes resting on another floor, were found, imbedded in sand mixed with charcoal and ashes, urns with burnt bones, fragments of rude pottery, arms, and other implements, in contradistinction to the tumuli, always of stone, never of metal; celts, knives, arrow-heads, hammer- or axe-heads, &c., partly made of flint, partly of granite, syenite, serpentine, jasper, agate, chorite, &c., and of various degrees of finish and workmanship. Between the two floors of the grave-cellar at Eext, there are found urns, celts, a hammer or axe with a hole in it, a flint arrow-head, and a globe of *yser-oer* or iron ore (hydrate of oxide of iron), a substance frequently found in layers in the diluvium of the Netherlands.

As I have said, it was merely my intention to give an idea of the structure of the cromlechs of Drenthe, not an exhaustive description of these monuments. I only remark that the general opinion of the Dutch antiquaries and ethnologists is that the hunebedden are prehistoric places of sepulture, erected by a pre-Germanic race, that was not, or not yet, acquainted with the use of metals. I have explained this more amply in a paper on

the hunebedden, in the Dutch monthly journal, *Album der Natuur*, but a full examination of this subject cannot find a place within the narrow compass of the present communication.

The meeting then separated.

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MAY 23RD, 1876.

AT a SPECIAL MEETING held in the Theatre of the Royal School of Mines, Jermyn Street, by permission of the Director-General of the Geological Survey,

Colonel A. LANE FOX, *President, in the Chair,*

Lieutenant CAMERON, C.B., R.N., gave the following account of the anthropology of the regions traversed by him in his recent journey across Africa.

The lecture was illustrated by diagrams enlarged by Captain Dillon from Lieutenant Cameron's own sketches, by maps, and by objects from the West Coast of Africa, for comparison with similar ones described by Lieutenant Cameron.\*

THE PRESIDENT: The remarks which I shall make by way of preface will be very brief. We are mainly indebted to the Geographical Society for originating this successful expedition of Lieutenant Cameron. This Institute is not in a position to originate important investigations of this kind. The reason of that, I am sorry to say, is, because the people of this country know their geography far better than their anthropology—if it can be said that the majority of persons have any knowledge of anthropology at present. We have compulsory geography, but not at present compulsory anthropology, and I am afraid it will be some time before people realise the fact that “the proper study of mankind is man.”

But we are not without some claim to the honour which Lieutenant Cameron is about to do us to-night. He is the first African traveller who has gone out with a prepared list of queries furnished by the Anthropological Institute. The expedition was got up in a great hurry, but as soon as it was decided upon, the officers of the Geographical Society, with the friendliness to anthropologists which they have always shown to us, immediately informed us of it. Not more than two or three days were allowed us, but I immediately set to work to get up a series of queries from some of our leading anthropologists, amongst whom were Mr. Franks, Mr. Evans, Prof. Rolleston, Dr. Beddoe,

\* The illustrations for Commander Cameron's paper will, it is hoped, be given in the next number of the Journal, but they are unavoidably postponed for the present.