

while flint weapons are imperishable, those of iron are not likely to long survive their owner in a shallow grave. Further, if this grave was made after a battle, then it represents the work of a victor and was the last resting-place of a leader of rank. One might, if wildly speculative, conclude that Theobald, the brother of Aethelfrith, was laid here. The less distinguished dead may have been buried in great trenches, and perhaps a cairn was raised over them—one looks with suspicion on the dyke which crosses the Rig, for the making of which

count for so few graves being found on the Rig. Standing beside this upright stone one's thoughts are carried far back into time, when rival races fought here for pre-eminence.

When the Romans abandoned North Britain in 410, the Cymri were in possession of what may be described as the South of Scotland, and their lands were in continuity with those of their kinsmen in Wales. Deprived of support from the Romans, who had formerly helped them, this possession was disputed, and they were pressed upon from



An Ancient Border Grave.

a large number of stones must have been necessary. About the middle of the Rig there is a small heap of stones surrounded by a ring of larger ones, more or less sunk in the moss. The Battle of Dawstone Rig in 603 is said to have ended at Adderstone Shiels, a distance not far short of ten miles in a direct line; and the dead would probably be buried where they fell, which may ac-

the south by the Saxons as well as by the Picts from the north. A great leader appeared, the Arthur of legend and idyll, who fought for them and defeated their enemies; and poets, inspired by the heroism of their struggles, commemorated mighty deeds in words which laid the foundation of British Poetry. In time the Saxon invader became increasingly formidable, and the