

THE STONES IN MUTFORD WOOD.

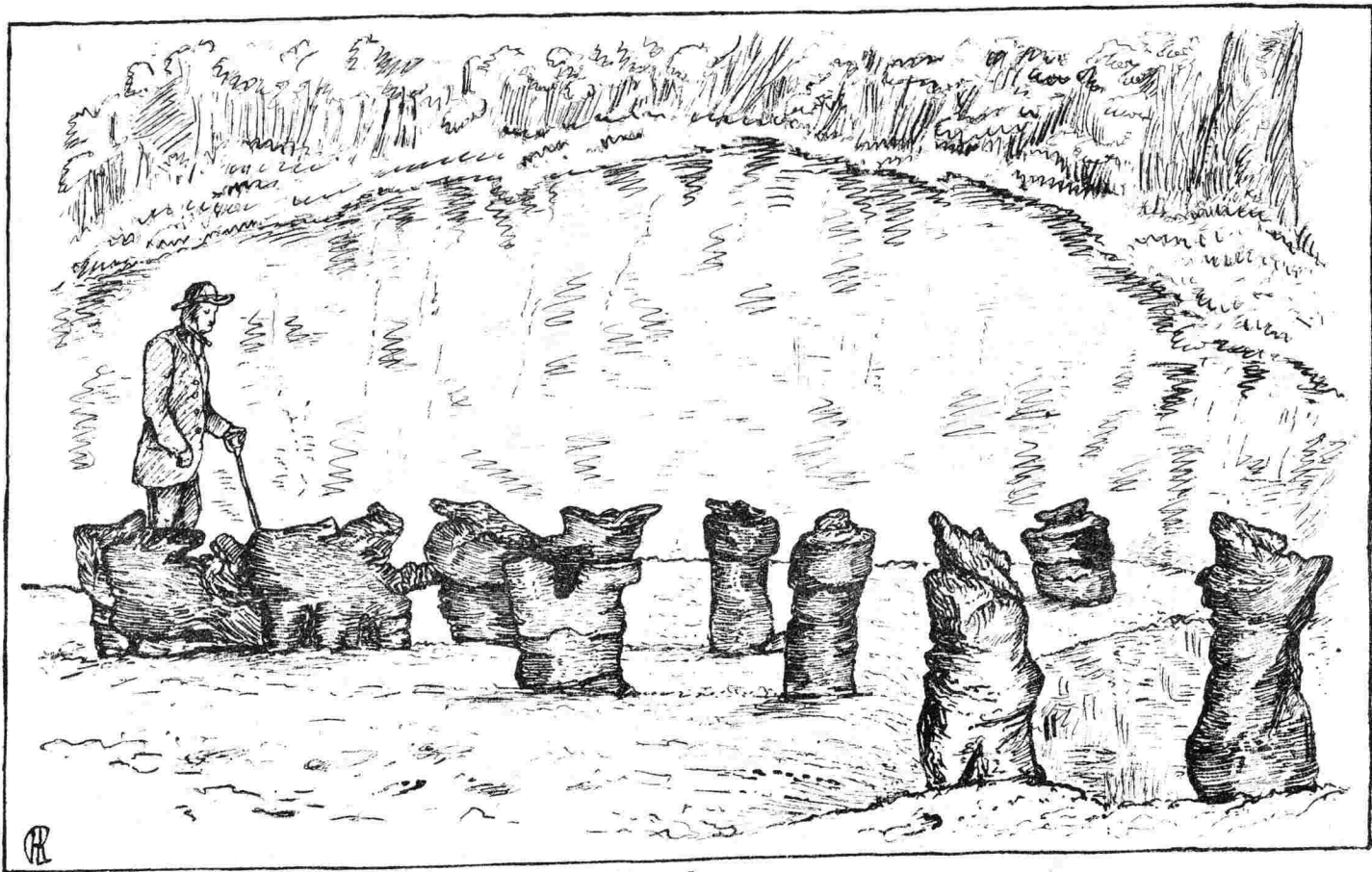
THE strangely-shaped and strangely-standing stones in Mutford Wood, an illustration of which accompanies this notice, were discovered in the early part of March, 1870.

In a small natural hollow on the south-west side of the Wood, close by the road which runs from the parish of Carlton Colville to the village of Mutford, the Rev. W. H. Andrew's gamekeeper was digging for a lost ferret when he came upon some large stones of a peculiar shape, and they were subsequently excavated. All the stones were found imbedded perpendicularly in the post-tertiary formation of the district, their ends nearest the surface being about three feet below it, and all upon the same level. Some of the stones are not more than three feet in length, others nearly seven. The top soil of the hollow was loam to the depth of about two-and-a-half feet; below this is pure yellow sand, lying in horizontal strata. In the loam above the stones were found bits of (perhaps mediæval) pottery, some bones of a young horse, and a small portion of apparently half-burnt bones, with a few small oyster shells.

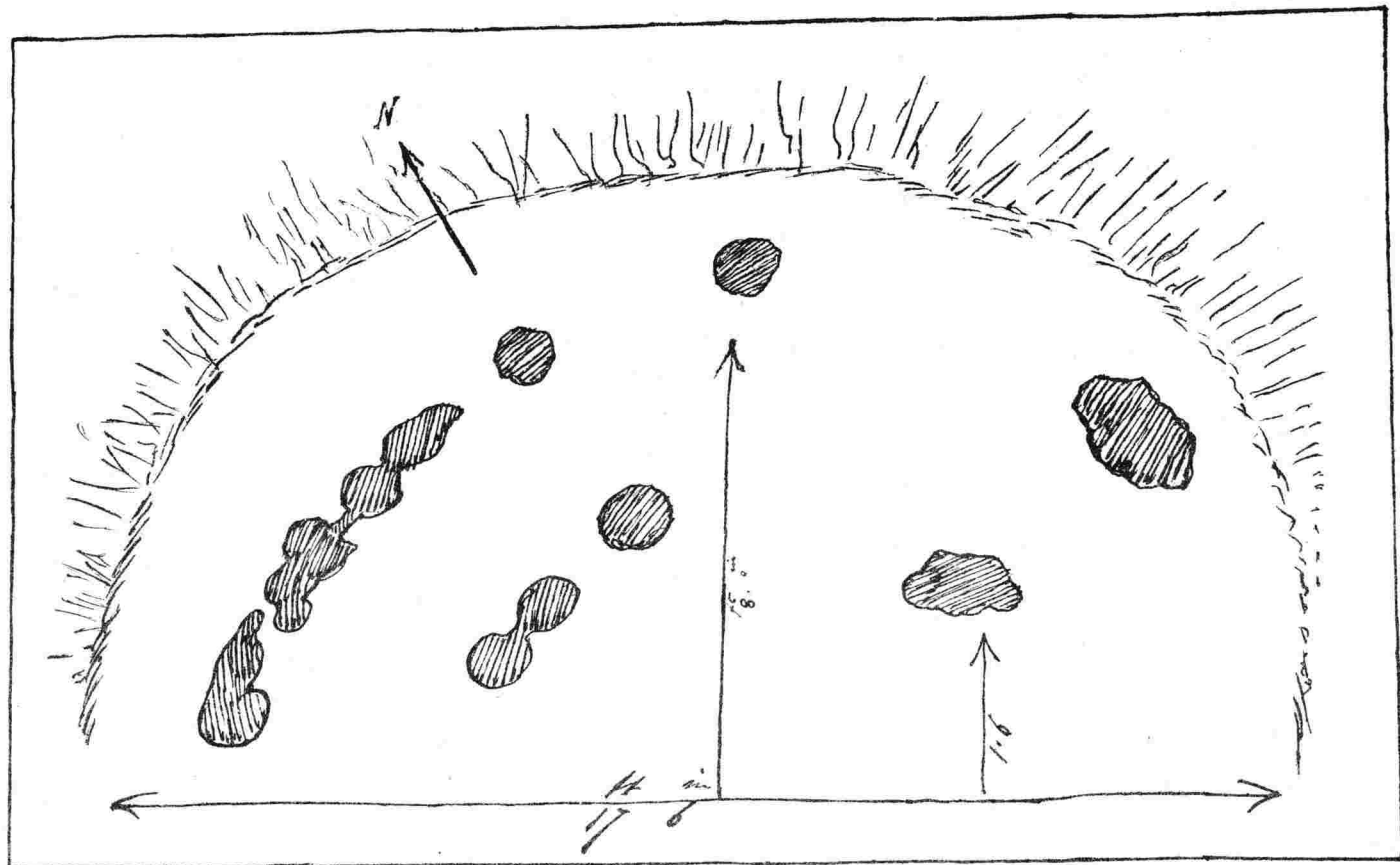
Professor Sedgewick visited the stones last summer, and at once pronounced them to be natural sandstone formations, produced probably by infiltration of lime, and very peculiar from their columnal character.

The sandstone composing them lies in horizontal strata, similar to that of the soft sand around. One of the stones is so like a small column, with a weather-worn capital, that it is difficult not to imagine it the rude work of human hands; and upon first entering the excavation the group is singularly striking, reminding one of the (so-called) Druidical erections on a small scale.

H. K. CREED.



Stones in Nutford Wood.



Ground Plan of the Stones in Nutford Wood.