[Notes on an Exhibition of Incised Flints]

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WM. STOATE, Esq., of Wembden, Bridgewater, was elected a member.

The following presents were announced, and the thanks of the meeting voted to the respective donors:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

From the SOCIETY.—Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris. Tome viii, fasc. 4.

From the AUTHOR.—Sopra una rara anomalia dell'osso malare; Alcune Osservazioni sui Crani Siciliani del Museo Modenese e sull'Etnografia della Sicilia; La Neogenesi lettera di Enrico Morselli al Prof. Mantegazza. By Enrico Morselli.

From the INSTITUTE.—The Canadian Journal. Vol. xiv, No. 1.

From the EDITOR.—Nature (to date).

FOR THE MUSEUM.

From LOGAN D. H. RUSSELL, Esq.—One Grass Hat, as worn by Mandingo chiefs.

The Director read a description, by Mr. H. Howorth, of an Ashantee Fetish Curse, and exhibited the document.

MR. JOHN BRENT, F.S.A., *exhibited a small, but selected COLLECTION of INCISED FLINTS.*

THEY chiefly related to the Palæolithic Period, but were confined to the localities of the gravel beds of Canterbury, and of the coasts between Herne Bay and Reculver.

Mr. Brent's object was to show what he considered to be a distinctive difference between the worked Flints of Reculver and those of Canterbury; the former exhibiting, generally, a much higher finish and artistic character, whilst the latter, such as had come under his own experience, were of ruder workmanship, and from the circumstances under which they were found, possessed characteristics which seem to prove them to be of a remoter antiquity. He offered his reasons for this conclusion by a description of the geology of the two districts, and the peculiar conformation of the strata of each.

At Canterbury the incised flints were found at a depth of from 14 to 16 feet, in gravel drift and sand, with ossuary remains of the *Elephas Primigenius*. The flints rested immediately upon the chalk, and were even sometimes found in hollows filled with drift deposited in the chalk itself, the sur-

face of which was most uneven, often cropping up within a few feet of the upper soil, in small irregular masses, whilst at a short distance only, it lay far below the deepest excavations; the sand, gravel, and clay layers indicating often by their whirled and twisted appearance the forces of vast bodies of water which had acted on them. Near Reculver, the geological deposits are:—Firstly, Thanet sand extending to a considerable depth; above this lies the London clay, then a mixed deposit of sandy and clayey soil, and then, a thin red even line of gravel drift, close to the surface. In this line were deposited the Palæolithic Flints, which are precipitated to the beach by the combined influences of rain and frost, which yearly cause a great downfall of the facing of the cliffs.

The high tides and rough seas below wash away the clay, sand, and gravel, and thus leave here and there amongst beach and sand, the Flint implements of a remote period.

On the coasts by Herne Bay and Bishopstone no chalk is visible, but it comes to the surface in an even line two or three miles inland, and composes almost entirely the Isle of Thanet.

At Bishopstone there is no appearance of any violent catastrophe forming the gravel beds; but at Canterbury the whole of the tertiary formation seems to have been swept away.

The green-coated flints which often mark the junction of the chalk with the Thanet beds, and to which probably they belong, are wanting on the surface of the Canterbury chalk. Mr. Brent pointed out the elegance and finish of some of the Reculver Flints; one especially, which appeared to be executed by an artist in his way. The ripple-like flakings on a small black implement were shown, in which the furrows seemed executed with almost a mathematical precision, together with a fine little specimen (straw-coloured) of the smoothly-incised arrow-head type, with one cusp, a variety very rare, and probably the first that has been found in England south of Derbyshire. Both these objects came from the coast between Herne Bay and Reculver, and similar implements are described in Mr. John Evans' "*Ancient Stone Implements*," at pages 350 and 351.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. A. W. FRANKS observed that with regard to the interesting series of flint implements from Reculver, it must be borne in mind that nearly all the specimens have been found on the sea shore, being derived from the cliffs that are wasting away, and that their age must therefore be judged of by comparison with other specimens. Thus he agreed with Mr. Brent in considering the arrow-head with one large barb at the side (a very rare specimen to have been found so far south) as Neolithic, to which period he should also be disposed to refer a

small delicately-chipped specimen, somewhat slug-shaped. Of the Canterbury specimens the greater number were of a drift type; but among them was one which, though stated to have been found in the gravel, was not of that type, and resembled the implements found at Spiennes, in Belgium. On examining the specimen, the statement of the labourer who found it—viz., that it came from the gravel—proved incorrect, as on it there were indubitable marks of having lain for some time on the surface, and frequently been passed over by the ploughshare.

Mr. TIDDEMAN suggested that from a geological point of view there was no need to regard the two deposits at Canterbury and Reculver as of different ages and accumulated under different conditions, in spite of the signs of disturbance which the author stated to exist at the former place in contrast to the quiet aspect of the beds at the latter. The folding of the superficial deposits, and the occurrence of the implements in hollows on the surface of the chalk at Canterbury, might more naturally be attributed to the action of rain-water upon that soluble material. At Reculver, on the other hand, as Mr. Brent had shown, the implement-bearing gravels lay upon tertiary beds, which were not liable to that action. The beds at Canterbury demanded, so far as the facts brought before the Institute would enable one to judge, no more "violent torrential action" than that of "the *gentle* rain."

The Director read a series of papers for the author, of which the following abstracts are given:

NON-HISTORIC STONE RELICS *of the MEDITERRANEAN.* By Capt. S. P. OLIVER, Royal Artillery, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., Corresponding Member Anthropological Institute, etc.

PART I.—*The "TORRE DEI GIGANTI" of MALTA.* [With Plate vi].

THE author described four out of the five surviving groups of megalithic structures which alone remain in Malta and Gozo—viz. ; 1, Corradino Hill; 2, Hagiar Khem; 3, Mnaidra; 4, Gozo; 5, Marsa Sirocco (was not visited). The least important are those on the Corradino Hill, which at present much resemble the remains of so-called hut circles both British and Pictish. The second and third groups, both overlooking the sea near the village of Krendi, are in a far better state of preservation. They have been described by Houel, "*Voyage Pittoresque en Sicile et Malta*," 1787; by De la Marmora, "*Nouvelles Annales de l'Institut Archæologique*," 1836; by Lieut. Foulis, 59th Regiment, "*Malta Penny Almanack*;" by W. H. Bartlett, "*Gleanings, Pictorial and Antiquarian, on the Overland Route*," 1851; also in "*Art Journal*," 1853; "*Archæologia*," vols. xxii and xxix; in "*International Prehistoric Society's Transactions*," 1868; in Waring's "*Monuments and Ornaments of Remote*