XXI.—*An Account of Researches in an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Stowting, in Kent, during the Autumn of 1866.* By JOHN BRENT, Esq., F.S.A., Local Secretary for Kent.

Read January 10th, 1867.

The “Old English,” or Anglo-Saxon, Cemetery at Stowting had not, I believe, been systematically explored until the close of the year 1866; yet its existence was rendered probable by the discovery of antiquities about twenty-two years since, when the road abutting on the ground was lowered by the parish authorities.

A full account was given in a Paper communicated to the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxi. by Mr. C. Roach Smith, of the relics then accidentally exhumed, and the Rev. Frederick Wrench, Rector of Stowting, gave a further account of the same, in a little work he published in 1845. About thirty skeletons were said to have been found, and amongst remains interesting to the antiquary were several swords of the usual type, beads of glass, clay, and amber, umbones, iron spear-heads, bronze buckles, knives, pottery, and three or four fibulæ. Several of these objects are in the cabinet of Mr. Wrench; others having passed into unknown hands have been dispersed, and probably for the most part are now lost. Amongst them there was, I understand, a fine silver brooch, set with coloured stones or glass. Three or four circular fibulæ are contained in Mr. Wrench's collection, of the usual patterns: one is a large and elegant specimen. Also, a silver wire ring or ear-ring, bronze buckles and tags, Roman coins, and a small piece of money plated with gold. This little coin is probably Merovingian, and, if so, is another proof of the Frankish element introduced into these and similar interments; gold coins of Clothaire having been found at Sarr, and one, if not two, complete specimens of the iron weapon or spear, the Angon of Agathias, as described by Mr. Akerman, in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvi.

In the researches which I have made, and which the Society of Antiquaries have honoured me by adopting, I have found during the past autumn twenty-five graves, which, as one contained two, another three, and another six or seven skeletons, would give thirty-four interments.

The soil was not unfavourable to the proceedings. The graves had been cut into a chalk stratum. The cemetery was in a field which had been used for

agricultural purposes from time immemorial, and of which the upper soil varied in depth from nine inches to two feet. The graves were rudely formed and in an uneven manner, very different from the clean-cut graves I had found at Sarr. Their irregularity may however be traced in some degree to the nature of the chalk, which was stratified, or ran in blocks, often misleading me as to the shape and extent of the graves.

The direction of the interments varied. In one instance they crossed. The prevailing direction was east to west, or north-west to south-east. Some, however, lay north and south, or nearly so. These were (with exceptions) the most interesting to the antiquary. The orientation of skeletons in the so-called Pagan-Saxon graves is remarkable. The Rev. Bryan Faussett found it almost general in the cemeteries of Gilton, Chartham, Kingston, Bishopstone, Sibertswold, and Barfreston. At Crundale the graves where cremation had not been practised pointed with the feet to the west. At Sarr, the graves lay east and west, or nearly so; a few only were found varying a point or two. Douglas, in the "Nenia," describes some Anglo-Saxon graves with the head to the north. Mr. Wright, I think, mentions graves at Bishopsbourne similarly placed.

All labour of trenching the ground at Stowting was saved by the use of an iron spear. This instrument, except in a few instances where the chalk ran uneven, or holes had been made into it at some period, rarely misled.

The excavations commenced on the eighth of last October, 1866 :—

Grave 1. It yielded a skeleton lying north and south. A very irregular interment about two feet deep. It produced a knife, similar in type to those found in the Jutish graves of East Kent; also a fragment of glass, the fractures apparently being fresh. No other remains were found, although particular search was made. The fragment of glass is something like the neck of a scent-bottle, and has three spiral cords of yellow beading running round it.

No. 2. North-west by south-east. From this grave we recovered a massive bronze buckle near the waist of the skeleton; beside it was an ox tooth. I mention this because I found similar objects in several of the graves at Stowting. They were almost always single, and thus seemed to me to be deposited in conformity with some rite or usage to us unknown.

No. 3. North-west by south-east. Nearly three-and-a-half feet deep. No remains but the skeleton; the teeth much ground down.

No. 4. A rudely-executed interment, lying nearly east and west, and about four feet deep. By the right knee lay the iron ferule of a spear, a bronze buckle, and a small bronze key of the pattern usually considered Roman. Close

by was a small tubular piece of bronze, which might have formed the binding to the edges of a strap or belt. A bronze tag, in length two-and-a-half inches, lay close beside it. It had been in contact with some iron object, and a piece of wood, perhaps portions of a box lined with thin bronze platings. A short knife, of peculiar form, in a wooden sheath, lay beside the buckle. Close to the skull, by the right ear, was an iron-socketed spear-head, about twelve inches long; and just beyond it, touched by the spear, a small black earthen vessel filled to the brim with clear water. Slabs of chalk had been placed around it on three sides, and a piece of chalk above it, so that it was protected from the soil falling into it. It almost touched the skull. Probably, the water had percolated through the chalk, and drop by drop flowed over as it fell in; for the sides of the vessel were moist and bright.

No. 5. North-west by south-east.—It contained three interments. At the feet of an adult skeleton, to the left, lay the bones of a child. Near the knees was a wire ring or armlet, with a sort of slip-knot, perhaps the usual suspension ring for keys. At the left side of the larger skeleton was a fine pair of bronze tweezers, two-and-a-half inches in length; also a knife. By the shoulder of the third skeleton, another knife, an amber bead, and a minute fragment of some bronze ornament; also, a bronze buckle without the pin, and the tooth of an ox.

No. 6. No relics for the antiquary.

No. 7. Nothing.

No. 8. A knife-blade only. North-west by south-east.

No. 9. A narrow grave, nine feet long, four feet deep, irregularly made, and slightly curved, lying north and south. At the waist were five bronze tags. A small saucer-shaped bronze fibula with a rude design of a face in the centre. (Plate XIX. fig. 4.) This type of fibula is rather rare for Kent. Similar ornaments were found by Mr. Akerman at Harnham Hill (*Archæologia*, vol. xxxv.), and belong also to the northern tribes who settled in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Gloucestershire. The rude face has a brotherhood amongst certain Scandinavian designs. By the left side of the skeleton lay a cruciform fibula (fig. 1); also, a small circular fibula set with garnets. Another fibula, rather larger, with garnets or sliced glass, unfortunately broken. A bronze girdle ornament (fig. 2), bronze rings, belonging most likely to iron keys, which I could rarely ever get out whole, here or at Sarr. Two iron handles, which had been attached probably to a box or coffer; a knife; a long bronze bodkin or stiletto; a fragment of a bodkin or small instrument's case, about twenty-four beads, one a large amber discoid bead. Around the skull was found gold wire

Herbert R. Smith delt et fecit.

ANGLO-SAXON REMAINS FROM STOWTING.

braid, weight 1 dwt. 14 gr. A few small amber beads lay near it, but whether they were woven into the hair with the braid, or merely scattered at the interment, I must not venture to decide. Besides the above were found an ornamented stud-head and two small Roman coins; one, a Constantine, being perforated for suspension. Ten inches at least beyond the skull, protected by slabs of chalk carefully placed around and above it, was a wooden stoup, bound with ornamental bronze hoops or bands. We may compare it with the Fairford and other stoups found in this country and on the continent.

The wood as shown by the grain is, as I am informed, pine. Its peculiarity is its fine state of preservation. The height of this little vessel is four and three-quarter inches, diameter four and a half inches. The handle is a thin arc of brass, fastened by a pin or stud at each end of the metal brim.

It has not the peculiar ornament noted beneath the handles of the Fairford bucket. It would scarcely hold, I think, a pint of mead, or any liquor Scandinavia or her gods delighted in; yet it is a neat little object, and has some ornament on the bright brass bands that surround it.

No. 10. East and west.—A bronze buckle, studs, and a small knife. The femur of the skeleton in this grave measured twenty-one inches less one-eighth.

No. 11. Two interments, the bones in the upper one lying east and west; under it a skeleton lying north and south on its right side, and much contracted or doubled up. A single clay bead and a small piece of bronze plating were the only relics of the upper skeleton. At the feet of the lower was a black earthen vessel, but of too friable a nature to be removed otherwise than piecemeal. Also, a bronze buckle without the pin.

No. 12. Nearly north and south.—Depth of the grave four feet nine inches. The head and shoulders were placed in a recess. At the waist lay the common iron knife, a bronze ring or buckle, a large circular ornament in bronze (fig. 12), with a design in the centre, like the Arabic numeral 3; probably it appertained to the girdle. Beside it were two flat bronze rings about two inches in diameter, to which wood or iron was partially attached.

Beads were found near the neck, amongst which was a long black glass bugle, a triple bead, and seven amber beads.

No. 13. East and west.—A very irregular grave. The skeleton, lying on its side, was that of an old person; no relics.

No. 14. East and west.—Irregular grave, two feet deep only. By the right side was a small spear-head or spiculum; just below it, two very small bronze studs, a knife, and the tooth of an ox.

No. 15. North and south.—Eight large beads by the left hand (figs. 7, 8, 9), pieces of iron, and fragments of bronze tubing, portions perhaps of a needle or a stiletto case.

No. 16. East and west.—A very shallow grave; the skull scarcely twelve inches under the surface; the feet more depressed. A glass bead lay by the right ear; lower down, a bronze buckle (fig. 10), and a little bronze holder for a coin, with a coin suspended. (See woodcut).

There is a medal of Constantine (and the Stowting example seems to be of this Emperor's reign), with a loop for suspension, in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. The presence of Roman coins in Anglo-Saxon Graves, often found near the head and neck, has induced some antiquaries to consider that the Northern nations adopted the custom, in imitation of the Roman practice, in which a coin was often placed in the deceased person's mouth as an offering to Charon, a sort of passage money. Mr. Akerman has given an instance ("Proceedings," May 1865) of a coin found in the mouth of a Saxon skeleton, the jaw being stained with the green erugo of the bronze. He hints that coins of the Emperor Constantine, on account of their frequent occurrence in Pagan graves, might be the "classical pagan *viaticum*." I must remark, however, that the third-brass of Constantine is in some places exceedingly common. At Canterbury it represents one half of the small Roman pieces found there.

No. 17. North and south.—Bones of a young person; no antiquities.

No. 18. East and west.—A shallow grave. Two beads only, an iron key, fragments of keys, and an iron knife.

No. 19. North and south.—Three-and-a-half feet deep. Seven beads, a knife, and fragments of keys.

No. 20. East and west.—Shallow grave. A knife and broken keys, an iron buckle by the waist. Also, a black earthen vessel, crushed apparently by the plough; it lay close to the surface. Also, a small fragment of black glass.

No. 21. This was a remarkable grave, or rather vault. It contained six skeletons, all lying nearly north and south. It was of a circular shape, nearly nine feet in diameter, and from four feet six inches to four feet eight inches in depth. As it was the lowest down the field, it had probably been somewhat increased in depth by the washing down of the soil from the upper part of the ground, as well as by the action of the implements of agriculture. The skeletons lay all on the same level. The skull of the second touched the left shoulder of the first, and the skull of the third the left shoulder of the second. The skulls of

the other four were parallel with the shoulder of the second interment. The feet were curved round, and nearly altogether, corresponding in some degree with the circular wall of the grave. The interments lay so close together that there was great difficulty in distinguishing the special relics of each. There were four or five necklaces of beads, comprising about one hundred beads. One or two of the necklaces consisted almost solely of small double and triple beads and bugles. Two of the necklaces, as well as I could note, were composed of the larger beads. They lay near the breasts and necks.

Amongst the first articles taken out were the beads and fragmentary keys; two spindle-whorls; a bronze bodkin (unfortunately lost); a bronze girdle ornament (fig. 3), of a pattern I never before met with; a fibula of very archaic shape, and of a type also unknown to me (fig. 5);^a solid bronze rings; two iron rings; two Roman coins (Dioclesian and Constantine), and a second and a third brass. Near these was a segment of ivory or of bone, perforated, and a purple bone-counter or button.

Leftwards to the third or fourth skeleton lay a small rude glass circular fibula. A fibula, set with twelve garnets, divided by thin partitions of silver (fig. 6). It has a solid silver back. I found at Sarr one much resembling it. I took out, further, a very small circular fibula faced with garnets; another rather larger, with three garnets, slightly damaged; also, two small bronze circular fibulæ; a fine cruciform fibula, three inches and a quarter long, set with three garnets (fig. 13). Besides the above was a spiral silver ring found encircling a finger-bone. It was unfortunately broken. A pair of iron tweezers and iron buckle, four iron knives and a bronze buckle, bronze suspension rings, one having a buckle attached, a bronze ring or ring fibula, and bronze tag, were also found (fig. 11).

A bronze wire ring was taken out in fragments.

Amongst the beads in this collection are two large blue-ribbed earthenware beads, commonly assigned to a Roman origin.^b I do not see why they may not be attributed to the same mechanics or workmen who wrought the other beads. Amongst these, are large and small amber beads, several glass beads, some peculiar for their very large bores, double and triple beads, and black bugles, the whole forming an interesting collection.

No. 22. East and west.—A very shallow grave. Nothing but a black earthen vessel too friable to be removed.

^a It is possible this may be an ornament once attached to horse trappings.

^b Similar beads have been found at Faversham, Sibertswold, and Barfreston, in Anglo-Saxon graves.

No. 23. East and west.—Adjoining the last. A very shallow grave; no remains but a black earthen vessel in fragments, probably crushed by the plough. This remark applies to the skulls, which in two or three instances, where the upper soil was scarcely nine inches deep, had met with a similar fate.

No. 24. East and west.—A shallow grave. It produced a few beads and a bronze stiletto.

No. 25. East and west.—A small irregular grave. The head had been placed on a ledge of chalk. I found only a small bronze buckle by the neck. The teeth were those of an aged person, and much decayed.

I venture a few remarks upon Grave 21.

I have found nothing like it in any previous researches. Its circular form as a Jutish or Anglo-Saxon grave is remarkable, and I believe without example.

We may well wonder what common calamity consigned these Anglo-Saxon ladies to the same grave and at the same time, for there was nothing in the construction of the vault to lead us to assume that the bodies could be deposited at any lengthened intervals of time.

At Bishopsbourne, Mr. Thomas Wright and others opened a tumulus which contained six skeletons; no relics, however, were found but a small knife and pieces of iron. At Sarr were several double interments. The first grave I opened contained two skeletons, the feet of one touching the head of another. In this case possibly one grave had run into another.

Anglo-Saxon graves containing more than one occupant are generally found to be unproductive; such at least has been my experience, except in the case of a grave at Sarr, wherein two old men, warriors, were buried one above another. One corpse had evidently been covered in before the other was interred. The grave was abundant in weapons, and produced a sword, three spears, a large axe, a long knife, umbones, and a sort of iron palstab.

Celtic tumuli, I need scarcely add, frequently contain a plurality of interments. At Exton Hill, Mr. Bateman opened one wherein were seven skeletons, the centre interment being surrounded by six others. Mr. Warne, in his "*Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*," gives an example at Dewlish of urns and skeletons placed one above another.

Mr. Thomas Wright, in his work "*The Celt, Roman and Saxon*," mentions an interment at Ozengall which contained a male and female; and another in which were deposited three skeletons, which, as he observed, might be those of husband, wife, and child, victims perhaps to some Danish invasion, yet rescued to be interred in the grave-yard of their countrymen, or subjects of some desolating pestilence. Nevertheless, No. 21 at Stowting is an extraordinary example, par-

ticularly from the fact of the similarity of the condition of the deceased, and their ornaments or relics. The perforated bone object found in the same grave resembles a similar relic from Long Wittenham, discovered by Mr. Akerman,^a in 1860, in connection with spindle-whorls, as at Stowting, and confirms the opinion of that antiquary that it had some reference to the distaff. Professor Owen, Mr. Akerman informs us, considered the relic in question formed from the antler of a deer;^b an object similar, but still more imperfect, was found at Starr, yet not one spindle-whorl appeared in all the 272 graves opened at that place.

At the period when the cemetery at Stowting was in use there was probably a population scattered through the valley immediately beneath it. At Brabourne Lees and on Stowting Common similar interments have been found. The practice of these Jutes, Anglo-Saxon or Old English—the latter term appearing to me to be the most appropriate—was to bury their dead at some distance from their settlements. Hence, we find their graves on lone hill-sides or open commons, on the “dounes,” as at Sarr, Adisham, Barham, Ileden, Kingston, Chartham, and other places in East Kent.

It is remarkable, however, that no cemeteries have ever been found belonging to certain localities where a numerous Anglo-Saxon population must have been located. Thus the neighbourhood of Canterbury has yielded only a few isolated relics. The same remarks apply to Reculver, Sandwich, and Richborough, unless we are to consider Gilton and Ash as belonging to the latter stations. Ashford and Dover have yielded but few Anglo-Saxon remains.

Are the burial-grounds of Reculver or Canterbury, where the Anglo-Saxon kings in Pagan times held court in rude magnificence, and attracted a considerable population, yet to be discovered? Or are we to assume that Chartham or Barham Downs, or, in the case of Reculver, that Hoath or Bromfield, were the localities to which the dead, borne for miles over the country, were finally consigned? and that Ozengall, Minster, or Sarr, represent the ancient burial-places of such inhabitants as might have once been settled in the Isle of Thanet?

The distance in most cases would be considerable, and the corpse must have been borne in cars, carriages, or by some other conveyance.

What, then, was the mode of Anglo-Saxon burial? and to what uses were those extraordinary objects called “clinch-bolts” adapted?

At Stowting not one of those implements turned up. At Sarr I found them

^a Mr. Akerman had previously found a similar object at Wingham, and Mr. Neville at Little Wilbraham.

^b *Archæologia*, vol. xxxix. p. 140.

in twenty graves and more. Some authorities have considered them to be the iron rivets of long shields? My opinion is, they are the iron bolts of biers or stretchers upon which the dead were laid or borne. We have no proof that long shields were used by the people whose interments we have been describing; on the contrary, their shields were circular, with an iron umbo or boss in the centre, and with iron bands; very like, in fact, one species of circular fibula, with its centre hemisphere of ivory or stone, and the slices of glass or garnet which adorned its field.

The diameter of these shields is about eighteen inches. We have, then, everything which would constitute their entirety but the wood or leather which formed their discs, for even the impression of a circular shield was seen for a few moments at Sarr on the floor of a grave where it had lain. Nothing, I think, corresponding to these clinch-bolts could apply to the Anglo-Saxon shield? Indeed, if so, they ought always to be found with the umbones and smaller bolts and plates belonging to such shields; but this is not the case.

In one grave at Sarr more than seventy of these objects were found; wood adhered to their entire length, between the nuts or screws. The weight alone of such a mass of iron would refute the idea they constituted part of a shield.

The Rev. Bryan Faussett, in upwards of 800 graves in East Kent, described in the "*Inventorium Sepulchrale*," has referred directly or indirectly to what he considered the evidences of the existence of coffins in 413 graves out of that number. There has never, however, appeared to be sufficient remains of wood, or wood ash, to prove to me in any way that coffins were used in the cemeteries of Sarr or Stowting.

The Anglo-Saxon sword, found in 27 graves at Sarr, lay generally by the left side, often touching the bones. It crossed occasionally over the knees to the right. The umbo, evidence of the shield, was often on the breast, but by no means generally so placed. As a rule, the spear-head lay by the right shoulder or ear; the ferule on the same side; frequently at the right foot.

All these articles, from the level they occupied, seemed as if primarily placed in contact with the corpse. If a coffin existed, and such objects were placed upon it, or beside it, this would hardly be their position. They could not be placed within the coffin, at least I think the shield could not, unless the coffin had no lid. The presumption is, that no coffins were used, at least not at Sarr. No remains of any were found, although occasionally a fragment of wood, or wood ash, appeared. In a few instances only, there was evidence of poles of wood, bars, or planks, placed at each side of the corpse, but, as there was no appearance

of wood in the centre of the grave, I presume those remains were rather the evidences of a stretcher than of a coffin.

In the former case, canvass or linen might have been used as a support for the body, it being attached to the poles or bars by the clinch-bolts.

The corpse of the Anglo-Saxon, clothed in some fashion, either in a shroud or in the habiliments of the deceased, was taken from the carriage or stretcher, or the stretcher was lowered into the grave.

I am certainly of an opinion that a bier or stretcher was sometimes placed in the grave and left there. In the latter case, the grave must have been considerably longer than the body, so as to have allowed room for the projecting handles. At Sarr, graves were found seven, eight, and in some few instances ten, feet long; but I am not prepared to say that clinch-bolts were found in these graves always, nor in these graves only.

In a few instances, the floors of the interments were strewn with the turf or sod cut from the upper soil, as I have frequently detected the remains of decayed vegetable fibre under circumstances which appeared to favour this supposition.

The body, in many cases, was accompanied by some weapon, implement, relic, or trinket. Thus the lady had her jewels and beads; and every woman almost had her keys, or rather her bunch of keys, and a knife. A vessel of glass or pottery, or of metal, or of metal and wood combined, was placed sometimes at the head, and occasionally at the feet, of the deceased.

Was this practice, in deference to the lingering rites of cremation, an imitation of those Roman burials, constantly exhibiting their evidences in the soil around? or did it arise from some conventional idea, that in these receptacles food or liquor must be stored to minister to the wants of the deceased?

We hesitate to reply. The Abbé Haignère,^a in his description of the sepulchres of Erchinghen, near Boulogne, alludes to a practice in France, as far back as the 12th century, of placing a vase of holy water in the grave. "That which we call holy water," continues the Abbé, "existed, in virtue of primitive tradition, under the term of *eau lustrale*."

The fashion of the pottery in the graves was various. Sometimes it took the shape of the modern squat beer-jug, with handles, as in two specimens found at Sarr. By the side of one of these objects was placed a pillared glass vessel. Sometimes we find an elegantly-shaped long-necked vessel; sometimes a small open-mouthed one, of the coarsest materials. Certain glass vessels, as the one from Grave 4 at Sarr, slight in fabric, thin as note-paper, and of most elegant

^a Congrès Archéologique de France, 27 Sess. à Dunkerque.

form, with little drops, like tears, suspended externally on slender lines, seem made especially for sepulchral purposes, and placed in the graves of the influential and well-endowed.

In respect of weapons, we find the arms of adult males of all sorts in these burials.

Mr. Akerman^a describes a spear-head, reversed,—a symbolism, he thinks, of the profession of the deceased—a boy priest, who had embraced Christianity; a stoup, on which were engraved Christian devices, having been placed by his side.

Amongst incongruous things taken from these “Old English” graves I may mention horse-trappings¹, and iron bits², little bronze weights and scales², an iron bell, dice², counters², a door-lock², children’s metal toys², a jeweller’s crucible², or iron casting-pot², the iron horns of a bow², spindle-whorls⁴, a mirror⁵, girdle ornaments⁴, a coin suspender⁴, a fork⁷, hair-pins^{5 6}, toilet implements, golden bracteates and braid^{2 3 4}, combs^{2 3}; lastly, a crystal ball², suspended in laps of silver, and a silver strainer² washed with gold and set with garnets, perforated in the centre with five holes: Douglas would have considered the last enumerated objects as pointing to some magical rites; and I am not at all assured that in so doing he would be wrong.

Fragile articles, especially glass and pottery, were often carefully protected from the weight of the external soil. The stoup and black earthen vessel now exhibited are examples; and a glass vessel found at Sarr was placed in a little recess cut into the chalk at the head of the grave. Wooden boxes, bound and plated with bronze, some having iron handles, were often used for the protection of small and delicate articles, although few remains of such articles are found, except such portions of them as came in contact with metal. Metal, especially bronze, acts as a preservative to wood and bone. I have found bones in immediate contact with it perfectly sound when the skeleton otherwise was completely gone.

Probably there was some rite or feast or ceremony at burials dedicated to the people whose remains I have been describing; some procession undoubtedly following the deceased warrior, in which his sword, his shield, and his spear were borne, whilst his horse and his slave, as described by Tacitus, followed also—one, or both, amongst certain European nations, to be slain at the obsequies.

^a Archæologia, xxxviii. p. 335.

¹ Faversham.

³ Kingston Down.

⁵ Gilton.

⁷ Harnham.

² Sarr.

⁴ Stowting.

⁶ Bournemouth.

⁸ Ozengall.

Homer's description of the funerals of Hector and Patroclus, although unhistorical, carry a certain evidence about them that they represented the practices of a period with which he was acquainted, and describe the obsequies of great men and kings. The two ceremonies alluded to differ in some respects, as though the poet made a distinction between Grecian and Trojan rites.

Achilles lays his own yellow locks on the hand of his dead friend ere the pyre is lighted, and sacrifices human victims amongst dogs and horses. The burnt bones first quenched with wine are collected into a golden urn, and the feast and games are held on the spot.

A golden casket incloses also the ashes of Hector, but the mourners adjourn to feast in the royal palace of Troy. The dead body, previous to cremation, is overspread with shawls of purple dyes. A grave is cut in the soil; the remains are covered with masses of stone, and a vast tumulus is reared—

Such were the rites to glorious Hector paid.^a

No such ceremonies as these were attached to our rude old English forefathers that we know of, although Scandinavia has her traditions how grandly some of the old sea-kings were buried. Nevertheless, of rites, ceremonies, or feasts, there are certain vague hints scattered in the graves I have been describing.

There is the singular deposit of an ox's tooth found in the graves at Stowting; more frequently too ashes of burnt wood, a clinker or a coal-ash,—evidences perhaps of some funeral repast, in the presence of the dead, before the earth was shovelled in.

In a Roman sepulchral vault, formed of massive timber and planks, and brought to light by a railway cutting five-and-twenty feet below the surface of the soil, I found oxen teeth under the lowest urn of the interment. I found them also at Sarr, with mussel and oyster shells, some of the latter being unopened, that is, with the valves in position.

Neither at Stowting nor at Sarr were there any evidences of tumuli. The removal of soil and the interment of a body, as in our church-yards, would naturally produce an agger, and, from the even appearance of the upper soil and the propinquity of some of the graves, I am inclined to think no artificial barrow had been raised. Yet, as the cemeteries both of Sarr and Stowting have been for years under the plough, it would be rash to pronounce a decided opinion.

To Mr. J. B. Sheppard of Canterbury I owe the complete state in which the Anglo-Saxon stoup appears, and the means he adopted for its preservation.

I cannot conclude without expressing my obligation to the occupier of the land, Mr. Newington, and to Mr. Thomas Burch, his neighbour.

^a Earl Derby's Homer.