XVII.—*Notes of Antiquarian Researches in the Summer and Autumn of 1854.*
By JOHN YONGE AKERMAN, F.S.A., Secretary.

Read November 23, 1854.

TEDDINGTON, MIDDLESEX.

ON the 30th June last, at the invitation of the Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society, I assisted at the opening of a Barrow at Teddington, near Kingston-on-Thames, but north of the river, and therefore in the county of Middlesex.

This Barrow stands within a field known by the name of "Barrow-field," on the right-hand of the road called Sandy Lane, leading from Hampton Wick to Bushey. A portion of it once extended into the road, but was cleared away about twenty years ago, when the road itself was widened, and the mound appears to have thus lost a considerable portion on its southern side, while traces of excavations in various parts of it plainly showed that it has more than once been assailed, not by the antiquary, but by treasure-seekers, as will be hereafter seen.

The mound, thus abridged of its proportions, measured from the level of the field to the apex 12 feet 3 inches, from north to south $52\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and from east to west 96 feet: this discrepancy shews the extent to which it had been reduced by the clearing already alluded to.

We commenced by opening a trench eight feet wide, on the north side of the tumulus, but the presence of bricks and tiles soon convinced us that we had been preceded, though probably at some distant period, and the cutting was suspended. A trench of the same width was then opened on the south side, and after some hours' work the floor of the grave was reached.

Traces of combustion, extending several feet around, were now perceived, the sand of which the tumulus was entirely composed being burnt to a brick colour, while fragments of charcoal were distributed in various directions. In the very centre of what we must consider as the site of the funeral pile, was a heap of calcined bones, upon which lay the bronze blade of a knife or dagger, of a

description similar to those hitherto met with in our primæval barrows. No traces of an urn were observed; but scattered on the floor of the grave were several fragments of flint, of which the like have so often been found in these early mounds, and which had probably served the purposes of knives to the tribe which had assisted at these obsequies.

As already observed, the whole of this Barrow appeared to be composed of sand, and was remarkably free from flints and stones, of which but very few were perceived; nor was the mass of calcined bones protected by any heap differing from the rest of the mound, the sand being in immediate contact with it. Neither were any human or animal bones discovered during this day's excavation, but, buried superficially, the workmen found a portion of the rim of a large urn, which afforded conclusive evidence that this Barrow had been disturbed at some former period. On the following day the excavations were continued by Mr. Charles Bridger, a member of the Surrey Archæological Society. On digging a little eastward of the first trench, fragments of a very large and rudely formed half-baked urn were discovered, and some portions of calcined human bones. This interment was about four feet below the apex of the mound, and had evidently been disturbed (probably at some very distant period) by treasure-seekers.

Further excavations by Mr. Bridger have produced a flint hatchet-head, and the bones of an adult buried superficially.

Mr. Quekett, of the College of Surgeons, to whom the calcined bones have been submitted, states that they are those of an adult, and that they have been subjected to a great heat, with free access of air during combustion. Among the fragments he detected portions of the cranium, portions of the upper and lower maxilla, the fang of an incisor tooth, and the phalangeal bone of a finger.

From the evidence obtained in the remains here discovered, we shall not err in assigning the first interment in this Barrow to a very remote period. The bronze dagger would seem to indicate that the individual whose obsequies had been celebrated by the rite of cremation, was a person of some rank and consideration among the primæval inhabitants of this district, since it is very evident, from the presence of flint implements in the mound, that the use of metal was not common among them.

WINGHAM, KENT.

On the 14th of August I visited the well-known site of an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Gilton, or, as it is commonly called, "Gilton Town," a suburb of Ash, three miles west of Sandwich. I found the sand-pit, the scene of Bryan

Faussett's explorations, had been planted with fruit-trees, a road having been made between it and the rising ground, upon which three windmills now stand. Hearing that some remains had been discovered on the other side, when a walk had been made at the back of the cottage of Mr. Thorpe the miller, I obtained his permission to open ground in that direction, but could find no further traces of interments; and removed on the following day to Wingham, where, by permission of Earl Cowper, I proceeded to explore the summit of a chalk-bank, at a spot called "Wetherden's Hall," about half a mile south-east from the town.^a

The frequent finding of Anglo-Saxon relics here for years past, by the workmen occasionally engaged in digging chalk, attracted the attention of Lord Londesborough (then Lord Albert Conyngham), who in 1843 prosecuted some researches in this spot, and, among other objects, discovered a bronze bowl or patera, and a fibula.^b

Those excavations were made at a venture, the ground having been opened here and there wherever the soil appeared loose and a grave was supposed to exist. This, therefore, rendered it now necessary to excavate a considerable portion of the surface-soil, an operation in which I was greatly assisted by labourers in the employ of Mr. James Elgar, who took a lively interest in our proceedings, and to whom I am indebted for a photograph of the spot; while his brother, Mr. John Elgar, kindly furnished me with a tracing of the site from the parish map, both of which are now exhibited.

There is probably no spot in England better calculated to recal the habits and superstitions of our heathen forefathers than that we are describing. At the foot of the hill rises a well of the purest water, the stream passing through the meadows and intersecting the northern portion of the town, below which it joins another stream called Wingham River, the source of which is "Wingham Well," a short distance south of Wingham.

The ancient road, which I am informed once ran from Canterbury, leads, in an easterly direction, across Wingham Down, passes along the southern end of the chalk-pit, and proceeds through the cleft in the hill called Blackney Down, on the summit of which it is crossed by the turnpike-road to Staple and Wodensborough. By the side of this old road, not many yards from the cemetery, stand a row of

^a This locality is given as "Weatherless Hall" on the Ordnance Map. It was formerly the property of Sir Brook Bridges, who exchanged it with Earl Cowper.

^b Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, vol. i. p. 3. These objects are engraved in "Remains of Pagan Saxondom," plates x. and xi.

very ancient elder-trees. As we looked on these trees, doubtless the offspring of others once highly venerated by the heathen Saxons, and on the beautiful spring already alluded to, our thoughts reverted to the ancient canons, which forbid the worshipping of such objects by those who had been converted to the true faith.^a

Several graves were met with which had been despoiled of their contents, but two were found to contain skeletons.

The first was of a woman, measuring exactly five feet three inches; the head to the west. The skull was of the usual elongated form, and carries had partly destroyed all the molar teeth. At the neck were several beads of different colours, formed of vitrified pastes. Near the left hand, which rested on the lap, were, what appears to be a bone spindle-whorl, the iron spindle passing through it; and a single bead, of amethystine quartz crystal, of the usual form.

The next grave contained the skeleton of an adult of middle stature. The skull was small, but the forehead high and beautifully formed. The sutures were obliterated, and all the molar teeth had evidently been lost in life-time, as the alveoli were perfectly closed. In the lap were an iron knife of the usual configuration, the tag of a waist-belt, a ring, a hasp,^b and a buckle, all of iron.

No further interments were discovered in the portion of ground excavated, but, although so few objects were acquired, one of them is yet of considerable interest. I allude to the distaff, the characteristic emblem of the Anglo-Saxon woman, as the spear is often that of the man.^c The flat bone ring in which the iron spindle was inserted is precisely similar to the object delineated in "*Saxon Obsequies*," plate 23, fig. 102. It was perhaps the binding or guard of a socket of some perishable material, for it will be observed that there are perforations near the edges by which it might be secured. That these objects were placed in the grave with the iron spindle passing within the ring will be perceived by the ferruginous tinge which it has imparted to one side of the bone.

^a "And we enjoin that every priest zealously promote Christianity and totally extinguish every heathenism; and forbid *well-worshippings* (*pil-peorðunga*) and the vain practices which are carried on with various spells, and with frith-splots and *with elders* (ʒ on *ellenum*)," &c. *Canons of Edgar*, c. 16. *Ancient Laws and Institutes of England*, ed. B. Thorpe, 8vo. London, 1840. The predilection of our heathen forefathers for such objects is strikingly illustrated in the choice of the site of the cemetery of Little Wilbraham. Compare the ground-plan, here given, with that in "*Saxon Obsequies*," a record of excavations by the Honourable R. C. Neville, 4to. London, 1854.

^b See a similar hasp in *Nenia Britannica*, plate viii. fig. 5. And another in Hoare's *Ancient Wilts*, vol. ii. p. xxxi. b. found with Anglo-Saxon remains at Woodyates.

^c See *Archæologia*, vol. XXXV. p. 267, note b.

The single bead of amethystine quartz, found near the left wrist, would appear to have been worn as a charm. A solitary bead is not unfrequently discovered near the left hand both of male and female skeletons.

STODMARSH.

Stodmarsh is a small village, about three miles from Wingham, overlooking the Valley of the Stour. At a short distance westward is the old mansion, Stodmarsh Court, erected in the reign of James the First. The ground rises abruptly at this spot, and the road from the village passes over it in a westerly direction. On the brow of the hill, on the south side of the road, and immediately facing the mansion, was formerly a tumulus, which was supposed to be composed of gravel, like the hill itself. About seven years since, a labourer engaged in removing this mound, which was then found to be formed of sand, suddenly broke into a grave, which, by its contents, was evidently that of one of the Saxon settlers in this district of East Kent. The man who made this discovery states that there were no traces of human remains, but the relics he dug up appear from their number and variety to have belonged to two persons, and those of different sexes. They are said to have comprised spear-heads and the umbo of a shield, bronze bowls, fibulæ, beads, and other personal ornaments and utensils. These the finder carried to his master, Mr. Collard, of Stodmarsh Court, by whom they were disregarded, and I regret to say the bronze bowl and the weapons have been lost. For the objects now exhibited I am indebted to the kind intervention of Mr. John Elgar, of Wingham Court, who immediately applied for and obtained them.

Objects found at Stodmarsh.

(See Plate.)

No. 1. Portion of a fibula of a base mixed metal, the sunk parts silvered. The lower part is ornamented with snake-like figures. The composition of the metal resembles that of a fragment of a fibula discovered with a large sword at Coombe near Sandwich.

No. 2. Portion of a bronze fibula of coarse workmanship, inlaid with gold and filagree work, and set with slabs of garnet heightened, as usual, by stamped gold-foil at the back.

No. 3. A buckle of very beautiful form and workmanship, the sunk portion being covered with a thin plate of gold, on which is set a filagree pattern of the same metal. The bosses with which it is ornamented are very characteristic, each being surrounded by a beaded line at the base. The base of the tongue has been probably set with a slab of garnet.

OBJECTS FOUND IN A TUMULUS AT STODMARSH, KENT.

(All of the actual size.)

No. 4. A small fibula of bronze, of coarse workmanship, set with a garnet in the centre. This was doubtless a female ornament.

No. 5. A spoon of mixed metal, which has been gilt. The bowl is perforated with five holes. At the junction of the handle with the bowl, a slab of garnet is inserted, heightened by a leaf of stamped gold at the back.

No. 6. A small stud, probably a portion of some ornament which was overlooked by the finder. It bears the usual pattern, and is set with a greenish opaque stone.

No. 7. A bronze buckle, probably the fastening of the belt of a man.

Nos. 8 and 9 are of bronze, and appear to have formed portions of the fittings of a belt or girdle. Similar objects are delineated by Douglas in *Nenia Britannica*, pl. xv. fig. 9.

No. 10. A bronze buckle in configuration resembling No. 7. but much more massive. Their Teutonic character is very striking, and their form may be compared with those given by Douglas (*N. Brit.* pl. xx. fig. 3). Compare also figs. 23, 25, 26, 28, and 32, in pl. xi. of "*La Normandie Souterraine*."

Of all these objects, the *spoon* is the most remarkable. It is the second example from the Anglo-Saxon graves of East Kent. The first, discovered by Douglas, and now preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, is engraved in the *Nenia* (pl. 2. fig. 9). It is of similar construction, but the bowl is covered with perforations, the largest being in the centre, while this has but five holes, and is ornamented with one slab of garnet only. Its use must be left to conjecture. Douglas supposed it to have been designed for magical purposes, and identifies it with the superstition of the *sieve and sheers*,* but of this we have no proof whatever. He states that his specimen was found between the bones of the femur, and perhaps rightly conjectures that it was worn at the girdle. The extremity of the handle is perforated, which favours such an opinion.

On visiting Stodmarsh, I discovered by the road side, a little westward of the Barrow in which these objects were found, a well defined tumulus, forty feet in diameter and about four feet high, and, having obtained the permission of Mr. Col-lard, I proceeded to open it. I found it, as its appearance plainly indicated, to have been artificially formed from the level of the surrounding soil ; but after some time consumed in excavating it, the solid gravel having been reached without any traces of an interment, it was abandoned. I was informed that an ancient elder once grew on this mound, and as these trees are reproduced during many ages like thorns, it is not altogether improbable that this was one of those relics of the

* *Nenia Britannica*, p. 6. *Pagan Saxondom*, pl. xxxiii.

superstitions of our pagan Saxon forefathers. That a tree had really formerly stood here we had proof in the decayed roots, which had penetrated to a great depth.

On the same day I opened a circular mound, contiguous to that which had been removed, as already described. It was much depressed, and formed artificially, and very compactly, of gravel, but it contained nothing. Why such a mound was made in close proximity to the other, which had produced so many objects of interest, must be left to the speculation of the antiquary. The accompanying sketch will shew the situation of these mounds, that marked with parallel lines being the one in which the relics were discovered.

DEERSON.

While at Wingham I learnt from Mr. Minter, a farmer at Wenderton, that some Roman urns had been found on land in the occupation of his brother in law, Mr. Goodson of Deerson, a farmstead near the village of Preston. On proceeding thither I found that a labourer in the employ of Mr. Goodson had, while digging in a gravel pit on the farm, a short distance west of Preston, disinterred some cinerary urns and a small patera of Samian ware. Unfortunately the urns were in a very fragile state and fell to pieces soon after their discovery; but a small patera of Samian ware, on the outside of which is scratched the word *SIINVNA*, had been preserved, and this I found placed before a hen-coop! The style of this inscription, the *II* expressing the letter *E* (*Senuna*), as is not unusual in the later Roman inscriptions in this country, warrants our ascribing this patera to a late period of the Roman occupation. Roman remains have been discovered in other places in this neighbourhood. Some urns were dug up by a labourer at a spot called White Hill, overlooking the valley of the Little Stour.

WOODBURY NEAR SALISBURY.

In the second field within the angle formed by the Hodstock * and the Longford

* I have ventured to correct the orthography of this name, usually spelt Odstock, on the authority of Anglo-Saxon charters. (Cod. Dipl. 387.) Hoddestoc means the land-mark of Hod, a Saxon probably of note in this district, whose descendants are yet found among the Hoddings, a name still existing in yeoman families in the South of England.

Roads, on rising ground, looking on the Avon, is a tumulus called "Rowbarrow."^a The spot on which it stands is a part of the district called "Woodbury,"^b which joins Harnham Hill. Its diameter is one hundred and twenty-eight feet, but its base has evidently been enlarged by the passing of the plough, which has removed the earth from and considerably depressed its apex. By permission of Mr. Jervoise, the owner of the land, and Mr. Attwater the tenant, I proceeded to open this Barrow on the 13th of September, cutting a trench ten feet wide from north to south. It was soon perceived that the whole mound from the level of the ground had been artificially formed. At about one foot below the surface the bones and teeth of ruminants were discovered, and lower down occasional traces of charcoal were met with. On reaching the centre on the following day a heap of flints was discovered, and as these are often found to cover and protect the interment care was taken in the removal of them, but nothing was found beneath, nor could any traces of a cist in the solid chalk be discovered. Although aware of the uncertain result of excavations in Barrows of the primæval period, of which this appeared to be an example, I was much disappointed at finding no object of interest within it. The bones and teeth and traces of charcoal were of the kind usually found in tumuli of this character, and I am led to conclude that it has been explored at some very distant period by the treasure-seekers of the middle ages, for the materials of which it was composed had acquired a solidity which age alone could impart to them.

The bones and teeth which have been alluded to are those of a large pig, a dog, and ruminants.

OLD SARUM.

Hearing that some human remains had been turned up occasionally by the plough in the field nearly opposite the Old Castle Inn, I obtained, on the application of Mr. H. J. F. Swayne, permission to make excavations, and on the 18th of September commenced operations; but after digging some hours, during which the labourers discovered a few human bones which had evidently been brought from

^a The term Rowbarrow would seem to designate a tumulus or eminence which had once been topped with stones, presenting a rugged apex. Compare the epithets Ruganbeorh, Ruwanbeorh, Ruanberg, in the *Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici*, *passim*.

^b Woodbury appears to have been included in the grant of Cenwealh to the Church of Winchester. See the land limits of this grant in my account of the Harnham Cemetery, *Archæologia*, vol. XXXV.

some other spot, further research was abandoned. The finding of the blades of two mediæval knives, and a very common jetton or abbey piece, with the legend AVE MARIA . GRACIA . PLENA . seemed to indicate that the field had been dressed at some early period with soil brought from the neighbourhood.

Subsequently I was informed by Mr. Swayne that skeletons had been dug out of the bank on the other side of the road when it was widened some years ago. We accordingly resolved to try this spot, and proceeded to excavate in the corner of the paddock attached to the inn, immediately opposite the entrance to the rings. The exact situation will be seen by the accompanying sketch, kindly contributed by Mrs. Swayne. The soil here consisted of loose earth and rubble, affording evidence that it had been removed. After excavating to the depth of three feet a purer chalky soil was reached, and two feet lower the men arrived at a cist cut in the chalk rock. This was filled with loose chalk, among which were observed some shards of Roman or Romano-British pottery, like those discovered in pagan Anglo-Saxon graves, and some pigs' teeth and the teeth of ruminants. Around the head and shoulders of the skeleton which lay in this cist were some large flints, placed like those discovered in pagan burial-grounds, and at the feet were some iron nails. The skull was in very perfect state, and the teeth even, white, and well preserved, bearing no marks of attrition. The body lay north-west by south-east, the head north-west. There was in fact nothing to distinguish this from one of the later pagan interments, but our subsequent finding appears to leave this problematical.

On widening the trench, and continuing it westward, other skeletons were discovered, but these were not so deep as the first interment. One of them was of a man who had passed the middle age, the cranium well developed, and the teeth nearly perfect. At the left side of the head were a chalice and paten of pewter.

No traces of a coffin were observed, but it cannot be safely asserted that there had been none.

A little to the right of this grave was another on the same level, and this had

been formed in the chalk rock. It contained the very perfect skeleton of a man of advanced age and of middle stature. The left arm from the shoulder to the wrist appeared to be defended by a narrow trough of lead, which on removal was discovered to be the remains of a coffin, which, from some fibres adhering to the outside of this fragment, had evidently been inclosed in one of wood.

MIDDLE WALLOP, HANTS.

On the 20th of September, by permission of Mr. Dowling the owner and occupier of the land, I opened the tumulus known as "Kent Barrow," or "Canute's Barrow," situated a short distance north of the Andover Road, and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles east from Middle Wallop. It is a conspicuous object on the Ordnance Map.

The diameter of this Barrow was found to be sixty-six feet, its height about six feet. It stands in the middle of a ploughed field, and the earth of which it is formed appears to have been taken from the alluvial soil around it, which in the vicinity of the Barrow appears to be scarcely a foot in depth.

I was informed that when the plantation of firs was made a short distance east of this mound, several human skeletons were dug up, but I could not learn whether any relics had been discovered with them. I also heard that traces of old foundations had been met with in the adjoining field north of this Barrow, but I could perceive no vestiges which would enable me to judge of their age or character.

The view from this spot is extensive. On the south is the well-known encampment called Danebury; four miles north-east is the town of Andover; and about midway is Abbot's Ann, where, in a field a short distance from the town, are extensive traces of Roman foundations.

The excavation proceeded by the cutting of a trench seven feet wide through the Barrow from south to north down below its base until the chalk rock was reached. As already observed, the mound was formed of fine mould, no pebbles or flints occurred, but several small fragments of Roman or Romano-British pottery appeared to perplex us. At length the centre was reached, and a cube yard of large flints, some of them weighing nearly a quarter of a hundredweight, was laid bare. They were not heaped together promiscuously, but placed, apparently with care and skill, so as to resemble rude masonry, the mould of which the tumulus was formed being used instead of mortar. It was very evident to all present that this mass of flints had never been disturbed, and it was only by the exertion of some force that they were detached from each other. The block thus formed did not rest on the chalk rock but on the surface of the ground.

As the blocks of flint were separated, it appeared that some of them had slight traces of charcoal upon their surfaces, but none apparently had sustained the action of fire, and as the demolition of the mass proceeded, we were on the tip-toe of expectation; strange to say, however, nothing was found beneath it but the alluvial soil on which it rested, unstained by fire or the least trace of any deposit. Further excavations on one side of the trench brought to light some bones, which Mr. Quekett informs me are portions of the pelvis of an ox, and two small flints of the chalk which have evidently passed the fire.

“ Kent Barrow ” therefore remains still an archæological problem, of which I fear it will be difficult to offer a satisfactory solution. Its exploration has disclosed a method of construction of which I believe but one other example—namely, a Barrow at Ellenborough in Cumberland, explored in 1763—has hitherto been noticed in this country. In that, however, the substructure was formed of turf.^b But to what age shall we ascribe the tumulus at Wallop? And must we regard it as designed for an altar or a cenotaph?

The presence of fragments of pottery, well baked and turned in a lathe, forbids our assigning it to a very early period, and most assuredly not to the more ancient inhabitants of the district, the aboriginal Britons; but the negative evidence which this supplies leads us to no safe conclusion as to its origin, which will probably remain for ever a mystery.^a

JOHN YONGE AKERMAN.

Society of Antiquaries, November, 1854.

POSTSCRIPTUM.

I was about to commit the foregoing remarks to press, when Mr. Wylie received a letter from Capt. Von Dürrieh, of the Royal Wirtemberg Engineers, the substance of which he has since communicated to the Society (Proceedings, vol. iii.

^a A friend who has looked over these sheets is of opinion that “ this Barrow is of the primæval period created for some purpose, sacrificial or commemorative, that we shall never rightly discover. You will remember,” he remarks, “ that I opened three very large tumuli near Blackwater, Hants, composed of fine mould, without finding a trace of relics within. Monsieur Feret of Dieppe has often named to me as singular, that in his examination of ancient Gaulish barrows and habitations, he has found substructions composed of blocks of chalk, set together in a rude masonry without mortar.” “ In fact,” he adds, “ I saw the same thing myself in a barrow at Varangeville; masses of chalk and large flints, with the occasional presence of charcoal.”

^b Archæologia, vol. II. page 57.

Feb. 1, 1855). In that letter the writer mentions the discovery by him of tumuli of an evidently similar character to that explored at Wallop. Placed on the altar-like substructure were earthen vessels and other objects indicating a Celtic origin. Subsequently in a letter with which Capt. Von Dürrieh has favoured me, in answer to inquiries addressed to him,—he observes, “The Hampshire Barrow, which strongly resembles our hill tumuli, greatly interested me. Your tumulus, however, has not the stones, which in ours, probably Keltic, are found to lie above the earth that covers the altar. If my health and the circumstances of the times permit, you shall have a full account of all my archæological labours.” The great importance of comparing our ancient remains with those of the Continent, is here apparent, and I shall anxiously look for the promised communication of the learned and gallant Captain. The sketch which accompanied his first letter showed that the substruction or altar of the Wirtemberg tumuli rests on the natural soil, and that it is covered first by a layer of earth, above which is a course of stones which are covered with earth in the ordinary manner. From this additional evidence I am disposed to consider the Barrow at Wallop of the later ante-Roman period, but the fragments of pottery alluded to are clearly those of vessels turned on a lathe, and not at all resembling the fabric of the more primæval British urns.

J. Y. A.

March 17, 1855.