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SEPOLCHRAL BARROWS AT BROAD DOWN, NEAR HONITON, AND
AN UNIQUE CUP OF BITUMINOUS SHALE THERE FOUND.¹

By the Rev. RICHARD KIRWAN, M.A., Rector of Gittisham.
Hon. Local Secretary of the Devonshire Association.

ON the occasion of the seventh Annual Meeting of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature, and Art, held at Honiton in July, 1868, under the presidency of Sir John Duke Coleridge, M.P., it had been determined by the Council that an examination should be made of a group of barrows situate at Broad Down, Farway, about four miles distant from the place of meeting. Excavations were accordingly made at three of those barrows, and they were visited by the members of the Association. The following notices relate chiefly to the examination of one of those curious grave-hills, and to a remarkable relic,—a cup, of bituminous shale, so far as I am aware, unique,—disinterred on that occasion.

It is desirable on many accounts to place on record, as extensively as possible, within the range of archæological literature, the leading facts connected with the discovery of the interesting pre-historic relics that were then brought to light; partly because, whilst the disinterment of such remains connected with primitive deposits has been of common occurrence in the adjoining counties of Cornwall, on the one hand, and of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, on the other, they have hitherto been of very rare occurrence in Devon. I have a further inducement to follow this course by the occasion it affords of giving illustrations of objects thus discovered, for the benefit of those who have not had an opportunity of inspecting the originals. In addition also to their rarity, a further interest gathers around these curious

¹ This Memoir is here reproduced, in somewhat abridged form, from the more detailed Report that has been given in the Transactions of the Devonshire Asso-

ciation, vol. ii. part ii. p. 635, and also in the Transactions of the International Congress of Pre-historic Archæology held at Norwich, p. 381.

sepulchralia, from the fact that they supply a link in the chain of the pre-historic archæology of Devonshire. The two extremes of the series, which have been worked out with much ability, may be stated thus:—The discoveries made at Brixham Cavern, and at Kent's Hole, near Torquay, carry back the existence of man upon the soil of Devonshire to a time cotemporaneous with that of the cave-men of France and Germany. Very different conditions of climate, of coastline, of relative land and sea-level, then prevailed; probably the rigour of the glacial epoch still existed, whilst the mammoth, the cave-bear, the tichorhine rhinoceros and other extinct animals, roamed over the district which now forms the shores of Torbay. We start then with this fact, that when man existed upon the continent of Europe in the glacial period (that is to say, at the most remote period of his history yet disclosed), he also existed in Devonshire. Here we have the one extreme of a series, of which the other is limited by the dawn of the historic period. Of this we have numerous examples in Devonshire; nor need I refer to any other than that of the Roman *Isca* (Exeter), which has yielded abundant evidence of man possessing a knowledge of the metals, and a certain amount of civilization. The intermediate period, however, so far as regards the county, has been but imperfectly worked out, and yet surely it is not from want of materials. The cromlechs, circles, dolmens, meinhirs, upright stones disposed in avenues, and other antiquities of a similar character on Dartmoor, the hill-fortresses of East Devon, and the ancient burial-mounds which are to be found dotting the summits of the higher ground in the neighbourhood of Honiton and Sidmouth, and also in other parts of the county, are so many landmarks of the history, the national customs, the social habits, and, it may be added that they testify to the warlike character of the primeval inhabitants of Devonshire. So abundantly are these venerable remains scattered over the hill-tops that frown down upon the vale of Honiton, that probably no district in England is richer in them. Almost every swelling prominence has its intrenched fortress, and of these some are so extensive that they would have required a small army to defend them against attack on all sides. I may cite as an example Hembury Fort, three miles distant from Honiton: it is of ovate form, measuring about 400 yards in length, and

130 yards in breadth ; within a mile also of Broad Down is Blackbury Castle, measuring from east to west 220 yards, and from north to south 115 yards. The same district also abounds with the sepulchral remains of its early inhabitants. And yet, up to the present time, these vestiges of a people, the very name of whom is lost, have attracted but little attention. Many barrows have been destroyed by the advancing plough of the agriculturist, but in no cases have the cinerary urns and other mortuary remains been preserved.

Leaving the town of Honiton by the Sidmouth road, the ground quickly rises, and attains an elevation of about eight hundred feet above the sea level. At a distance of three miles, at a point where four roads meet, known as Hunter's Lodge, is a large flat stone which, according to tradition, was used as an altar for human sacrifices. A portion of it upon one side appears to have been cut away, and it may originally have formed one of the supporting stones of the cap-stone of a dolmen. Local tradition further states that the stone descends the hill every night, bathes in the stream for the purpose of washing out the stain of human blood which is still upon it, and that before morning it returns to its original position.

If we now take the Seaton road, a branch of the old British and Roman Ikeneld Way, that, passing from Colyford over Farway Hill, through Ottery St. Mary, joins the main road at Fair Mile, we observe, on the left, a mound crowned with trees. Other mounds of a similar character, though smaller in size, occur at intervals ; these are the first evidences of the cemetery of an extensive tribe—the outlyers of the Necropolis that we are now about to enter. As the eye travels over the undulating surface of the ridge that constitutes the boundary of the coombes on either side, it detects here and there the swelling outlines of the tumuli which are the sepulchral vestiges of the early inhabitants of the district. Invariably they crown the summits of the ridge, and command a glorious panorama, presenting the most lovely combinations of scenery. Looking inwards you note the alternations of hill and valley, of wood and water, of heathy upland gradually merging into sunny pasture, and stretching out as far as the eye can reach ; whilst, if you view the prospect sea-wards, it will be found to embrace the

range of the great bay of Dorset and Devon, extending from Portland on the east to Berry Head on the west, and bounded on either side by coast scenery of the finest character. An inspection of the site of these tumuli serves to show that the position selected is not accidental. I have mentioned the fact that they crown the swelling summits of the hill, whilst again they are absent in the gentle hollows that occur between the undulations; and we can scarcely avoid the inference either that the warrior was buried on that spot which was within sight of the scene of his deeds of prowess, in order that his companions or his progeny, as they looked upon the memorial, might be incited to emulate his valor; or else, that the mighty hunter was laid to sleep in that resting-place, from which his friends fondly hoped that his spirit would still look down upon the wooded slopes of the vale beneath, where the wild red-deer had often yielded to his skill in the chace.

In his description of the barrows of Denmark Worsaae observes, of the vestiges of the "Age of Bronze,"² "The barrows of this period were placed, wherever it was possible, on heights which commanded an extensive prospect of the country, and from which in particular the sea could be distinguished. The principal object of this appears to have been to bestow on the mighty dead a tomb so remarkable, that it might constantly recall his memory to those living near; while, probably, the fondness for reposing after death on high and open places may have been founded more deeply in the character of the people." A similar peculiarity appears to have distinguished the primeval burial-places of Scandinavia.³

As we proceed eastwards we reach the summit of Farway Hill, where, at a short distance to the left of the road, there is a circular entrenchment, known as Farway Castle. It is about 200 feet in diameter, and is surrounded by an *agger* of low elevation, with a shallow fosse on the outside. We have here, probably, the remains of the enclosure within which resided the tribe whose *sepulchralia* we are about to examine, and who held this position as a place of refuge in case of any sudden raid. Encircling this castle is a group of

² Worsaae's *Primeval Antiquities of Scandinavia*; translated by Sir John Lubbock, Bart., p. 13.

³ Nilsson's *Primitive Inhabitants of*

ten or twelve circular bowl-shaped mounds, rising gradually from the level of the ground towards the centre; they vary from 40 feet to 80 feet in diameter, and attain a perpendicular height, which ranges from four or five to ten or twelve feet. Some of this group of barrows were partially destroyed when the high road across the hill was made at the commencement of the present century; and at that time, according to tradition, sepulchral urns were discovered, none of which, however, were preserved. A glance at the surrounding district suffices to show that the advance of agriculture, as it has made its way up the hill-slopes, has promoted the destruction of these grave-mounds. Here and there a field may be observed that has been reclaimed from the moor-land waste, the level surface of which bears no evidence of sepulchral remains; whilst immediately contiguous to the hedges that bound the field barrows are numerous; the conclusion seems irresistible that others were destroyed and all traces of them obliterated, when the field was enclosed. Wherever the once verdant surface of the down has disappeared beneath the ravages of the plough, there have barrows been levelled, and the vestiges of the ancient inhabitants ruthlessly destroyed.

Continuing our journey in the same direction, we arrived at that part of the hill known as Broad Down, where, by the permission of Sir Edmund S. Prideaux, Bart., it was resolved that excavations should be made, as before stated, on the occasion of the meeting of the Devonshire Association at the adjacent town of Honiton.

The first of the barrows then examined was situated in a field to the east of the high road, overlooking the beautiful vale known as Roncombe Gurt; it measured eight feet in height, and ninety-four feet in diameter; around it there appeared to be traces of a shallow ditch. The action of the plough had gradually worn down the surface of this barrow, so that its height had been reduced by some two or three feet, and the fosse had become well nigh obliterated, although the mound retained its circular form and symmetrical curvature. Since the excavations were made, I have observed that the remains of a circle of large boulders may still be traced around a neighbouring barrow; these stones are firmly bedded in the tough peaty soil, and are partially overgrown with heather and furze. They resemble in cha-

racter the stones that are still to be met with in the neighbourhood, though probably collected from different places, there being grey weathered smooth stones from the surface of the moor, and which had once been exposed to the eroding influence of the atmosphere; whilst again there are angular masses of flint or chert which had been quarried in the neighbouring hill-sides. It appears probable that at least all the larger members of this group of grave-mounds were once protected by a circle of boulders placed at regular intervals around the base of each of them, a peculiarity that assimilates them to some tumuli in Northumberland that have been lately explored.⁴ In most cases these stones have long since been carried away for building purposes, or to be broken up for the repair of the roads.

Operations were commenced by cutting a trench four feet wide through the centre, from south-east to north-west. The mound proved to be formed of alternate layers of peat and of a blue clay, which the workmen said did not belong to the locality. It appeared never to have been disturbed. No indications of a deposit became apparent until the natural surface was reached at the centre of the barrow; a layer of charcoal, apparently the burnt remains of brushwood, such as the surrounding furze and heather would supply, yielded the first intimation of an approaching "find." Interspersed with the charcoal were nodules of ruddle;⁵ beneath it was a thin ferruginous seam, perfectly solid, and hard like stone, which possibly might be the result of heat. In this, and in two tumuli subsequently examined, iron ore occurred abundantly, either in the form of a thin band, or in the shape of nodules of pyrites.⁶ The latter mineral is of common occurrence on the surface of the hill, but it is present in these barrows in such abundance as to suggest the probability of its having been placed there designedly.⁶ Possibly a nodule of this material was then, as now, regarded as a "thunderbolt," and

⁴ See an article entitled Descriptions of Cairns, Cromlechs, Kistvaens, and other Celtic Monuments. By Captain Meadows Taylor. Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. xxiv.

⁵ Red ochre or red hæmatite. A stratum of this ore occurs at Peak Hill, near Sidmouth, about six miles distant from Broad Down. Mr. Bateman suggests, in Ten Years' Diggings, p. 179, that ruddle was probably used as a war-paint by the

ancient Britons. He mentions the occurrence of a nodule in a barrow at Castern, "which, from its abraded appearance, must have been in much request for coloring the skin of its owner."

⁶ In a list of the Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire, tabulated by Sir John Lubbock in his work on Prehistoric Times, several instances are mentioned in which nodules of iron pyrites were found in barrows.

belonged to the class of objects that was supposed to have a talismanic virtue. Beneath the bed of charcoal was a layer of flints, placed, with some regard to order, side by side, so as to form a kind of pavement 13 feet by 9 feet.⁷ The interstices were filled up with blue clay, which in some instances had become baked by the action of the fire when the funeral pyre was kindled; from the same cause the surface of the stones, when not protected by the clay, had been partially vitrified. Beneath this layer of stones was the natural surface of the ground, which appeared to have been pared down to the depth of a few inches, as if to afford an even surface. The general features in connection with this barrow will be best understood by reference to the accompanying diagram. (See Section, No. 1.) Increased care was now used as we proceeded with the investigation; the excavations were carried on until we reached the original surface, exactly below the centre of the mound, where we discovered the interment. It consisted of a deposit of calcined bones resting upon the charcoal, which spread out from the bones for some distance, and covered the layer of flints which formed the funeral hearth.

Immediately contiguous to this deposit, raised slightly above it, and a few inches to the east, a very remarkable cup was brought to light. Fortunately it was removed in a state of complete preservation, with the exception only of a slight indentation on the rim, which the workman made with his pick-axe. On the removal of this cup it was taken to a neighbouring cottage, and, as it began to crack and warp by exposure to the atmosphere, it was immersed in water. This very rare and curious relic, which is here figured, measures $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches in height, its greatest diameter, which is at the mouth, being 3 inches; its capacity is about a gill. The form of the bowl is ovate or bell-shaped, tapering from the rim, and terminating in a cone; originally the periphery was circular, but it has become in a slight degree distorted by the pressure of the earth beneath which it lay. The ornamentation consists of four series of hoop-like rings that encircle the bowl in a plane parallel to the rim; of these the first hoop, consisting of three rings, occurs immediately

⁷ A barrow opened at Tenby, and described as paved with stones, is mentioned in *Arch. Journ.*, vol. x. p. 76. See also Warne's *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, p. 41,

wherein the author, in describing the excavation of a barrow, says, "A portion of the base of this mound was rudely paved."

ANCIENT OBJECTS FOUND IN DEVONSHIRE.



Drinking Cup of Bituminous Shale, found at Broad Down, near Honiton. Orig. size.
In the Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

For this and the following Illustrations the Institute is indebted to the kindness
of the Rev. Richard Kirwan.

ANCIENT OBJECTS FOUND IN DEVONSHIRE.



"Incense Cup," found in a Barrow at Broad Down, near Honiton, 1868.
Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (original size).

beneath the lip; a second, consisting of four rings, is found round the centre of the bowl, which thereby is divided into an upper and lower section; a third, consisting of three incised lines, is situate at about the centre of the lower portion of the bowl, whilst at the apex of the cone is a terminal ornament of three concentric circles. The border of the cup is ornamented along its interior margin by a pattern of two parallel chevrony zigzags, that run beneath a single horizontal incised line. The handle, which is of one piece with the bowl, is too small to admit of the insertion of a finger, and was probably intended to be used for a string-hole, as a means of suspending the cup from the shoulder or waist of its owner. It measures $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, with a mean breadth of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, and is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness; its ornamentation consists of two upright bands, each of which is formed of two parallel lines that are continued along either edge upon its exterior surface. (See woodcut, fig. 1.)

A very curious and interesting question arises as to whether this cup is hand-made or lathe-made.⁸ The difficulty of forming such a vessel on the lathe, so as to leave the projecting handle, which, it will be remembered, is of one piece with the bowl, would at first sight appear to be almost insurmountable, and would suggest that the cup is hand-made. And yet, upon a close examination of the bowl of the cup, the incised lines that form its ornamentation occur with such regularity as almost to preclude the possibility of their having been carved by hand; moreover, marks which a rotating tool would produce may be distinctly traced within the interior of the vessel. This latter opinion is confirmed by that of a skilful practical turner, to whom I took an opportunity of submitting the cup. He expressed himself satisfied that it had been made on a "pole-lathe," and added that there would be no difficulty in turning the upper part so as to leave a projection, which would admit of being afterwards fashioned by the chisel and cut through to form a handle.⁹

⁸ In Wilde's Catalogue of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, pp. 217 *et seq.*, there occurs a description of ancient wooden methers or drinking-cups; they are mentioned as of a single piece, most of them are turned on a pole lathe, and of various sizes, from those capable of holding about a quart, to others not larger than a wine-glass. In regard to ancient vessels of wood may be cited some oak

bowls found, as stated by the late Rev. E. A. Bray, Vicar of Tavistock, in a bog between the Ashburton and Moreton roads. The fashion and dimensions of these ancient vessels are not given. The Tamar and the Tavy, by Mrs. Bray, vol. i. p. 136. An oak of large size, also alders and willows found in the bogs on Dartmoor, are there noticed.

⁹ The history of the lathe in prehistoric

Shortly after the discovery above related, a visit to the barrow was made by the members of the Devonshire Association, on the morning of 31st of July. Naturally, the cup was an object of great interest, and speculation was rife as to the material of which it was composed. At first it was thought to be made of pottery; when it had become dry, however, by exposure to the atmosphere, it presented the appearance of fossil wood or of bog-oak. A few days after its disinterment, I availed myself of an opportunity that occurred of sending the cup to London with a view to obtaining from the authorities at the British Museum an opinion as to its material. It was shown at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, and was submitted to the inspection of Dr. Birch and of Mr. Franks, by both of whom it was considered to be formed of Kimmeridge shale. Subsequently it was exhibited at the International Congress of pre-historic Archæology at Norwich, by the members of which it was pronounced to be quite unique of its kind, although doubts were expressed as to the material of which it was made.¹ Afterwards it was submitted to Professor Tennant, and also to Mr. Etheridge, one of the curators of the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street, and by both an opinion was expressed to the effect that it was formed from a lump of Bovey Tracey lignite. Under these circumstances, I referred the question to Mr. W. Pengelly, F.R.S., of Torquay, who has devoted much attention to the beds of Bovey lignite, and who contributed a monograph thereon to the Transactions of the Royal Society. His reply to me was as follows:—"I was present when the Broad Down tumuli were opened in July last, and saw the vase in question very soon after it was found. I confess that I am very sceptical about its being formed of Bovey lignite; and this, partly because of my recollection of the vase, and partly on account of the provoking tendency of the lignite to crack and break into pieces on exposure to the air. This, however, I hope to test very soon, by getting a vessel turned of lignite, if possible." The opinion thus expressed by Mr. Pengelly is confirmed by that of Mr. John Divett, proprietor of the Bovey lignite beds, as follows:—"With regard to the little

times is an interesting subject for research.

¹ A full account of the discovery has

been given in the Transactions of the Congress, in which the cup is likewise figured, p. 371.

vase that you mention, I do not for a moment believe that it was turned from Bovey coal. That the Bovey coal is *torno rasile* I doubt not; but I know not the conditions under which a vessel turned out of Bovey coal could hold together for many years. I have seen a piece, well varnished, remain in shape for some time, but even that protection does not last long."

As regards, however, the disputed identification of the material of which the cup is formed, and which has been regarded by some authorities as fossilized wood, such as has occurred in turbaries, or in strata at a considerable depth, for instance at Taunton,² it may be stated that I have been favored with the opinion of Mr. Carruthers, of the British Museum, a gentleman most competent probably of any of our savans in this country to decide the vexed question. After minute and most careful examination with the microscope, Mr. Carruthers pronounces without hesitation that the material is a bituminous shale, in which no trace whatever could be recognised of woody structure.

It may not seem irrelevant to the subject under consideration to notice the singular little cup, described as of oak, found in 1767 in the King Barrow, Stowborough, near Wareham, Dorset. The interment was in this instance in a large hollow trunk of an oak: several human bones, unburnt, lay in this depository, wrapped in deer-skin. No weapon, or traces of metal, were found, with the exception of a small portion (as stated) of gold lace. The cup measured about 2 in. in depth; the mouth was elliptical in form, the major axis measuring 3 in., and the minor 2 in.; it was ovate or bowl-shaped, and had probably been placed at the head of the corpse; the exterior surface was engraved with horizontal and oblique lines. Although described by Mr. Hutchins as formed of oak, it is more probable, as suggested by Dr. Wake Smart, that it may have been of the Kimmeridge shale of the district.³ Worsaae describes an interment very similar in character, that occurred in a barrow in Denmark:⁴ the

² Trans. Somerset Arch. Soc., 1864.

³ This cup is figured in Hutchins's Hist. Dorset, vol. i. p. 26, first edition, 1774; Camden's Britannia, vol. i. pl. 11, p. 76, edit. Gough. See also the account by Mr. Hutchins, Gent. Mag., vol. xxxvii. p. 53; Warne's Celtic Tumuli of Dorset:

Tumuli opened at various periods, p. 4. This remarkable relic came into the possession of Gough; it is not known whether it still exists.

⁴ Worsaae's Primeval Antiquities of Denmark, p. 96.

corpse had been laid in the thick stem of an oak, about 10 ft. in length, and split in two; remains of garments were found, a lock of brown human hair, a bronze dagger, palstave, &c., and "a small round wooden vessel, with two handles at the sides, in which was found something which had the appearance of ashes." A similar interment of the Bronze Age has been described by him in this Journal, in a barrow in South Jutland. It was accompanied by a one-handled wooden cup, decorated with studs of tin; the bottom of the vessel tapers to a very narrow base.⁵

In a memoir entitled "The Kimmeridge Coal-money," contributed to the Purbeck Society in 1857, by the Rev. John H. Austen, there occurs a description of vessels composed of Kimmeridge coal or shale that have been already discovered.⁶ Mr. Austen gives an extract from a communication made by the late Professor Henslow to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society in 1846, on the materials of two sepulchral vessels found at Warden, in Bedfordshire.⁷ The Professor says, "Upon looking over some fragments of Romano-British pottery from the neighbourhood of Colchester, I met what appears to have been part of a large *patera*, or at least some vessel with a flat surface and a shallow projecting rim. This fragment is of the same material as the Kimmeridge 'Coal-money;' and bears the impression of a fossil ammonite (?) distinctly marked upon its surface. Upon drying, it has become cracked and warped, precisely in the same manner as we see specimens of the 'Coal-money.'" The same author describes also the two vessels which were found at Warden, in Bedfordshire, now in the possession of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, and which, he says, are "composed of a bituminous shale, in all respects similar to that which occurs in the Kimmeridge clay, and from which the coal-money has been turned."

An account of the discovery, by the late Lord Braybrooke, of two other vessels of Kimmeridge coal, was given in this Journal by Mr. Albert Way, F.S.A.: "In December, 1856, two remarkable *canistra*, vessels formed of Kimmeridge coal or shale, were discovered in proximity to Roman remains at Great Chesterford, Essex, and are now preserved in the

⁵ Arch. Journ., vol. xxiii. p. 32.

⁶ Papers read before the Purbeck Society, by the Rev. John H. Austen, pp. 82-97, and pp. 221-238.

⁷ Transactions of the Cambridge Antiquarian Soc., 1846, where one of the vessels is figured. The second (imperfect) is in the British Museum.

Museum at Audley End. The vessels are so perfect, and the condition of the materials so compact, that they were for some time concluded to be of wood. By exposure to the air the coal has cracked and exfoliated, precisely as the 'Coal-money' usually does. No doubt can exist of the identity of the material. The vessels have been carefully compared, by many persons who have seen them, with the specimens of 'Coal-money,' for which we are indebted to Mr. Austen. The material is precisely the same. These vessels of shale are remarkable as having been turned out of blocks of very large dimensions, whereas the vases before mentioned found at Warden were formed of several pieces rabbeted together."⁸

Mr. Way also informed me that in the Museum at Boulogne is a covered box of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, which he believes to be of Kimmeridge coal, from the apparent identity of material with that of the vessels found at Warden and at Great Chesterford.

I am enabled to supplement this list of vessels formed of Kimmeridge shale by other examples, that may afford the means of suggestive comparison with the cup under consideration. In draining a withy-bed at Rempston, near Corfe Castle, in 1845, the workmen came upon a deposit of Kimmeridge "coal-money," that occurred beneath a bed of peat; there was also a vessel, described as "like the bowl of a large glass or rummer, and with the bottom or stand broken off." Here we have an instance of a cup somewhat similar to that found at Broad Down, indubitably of Kimmeridge shale. Now as the "coal-money" with which this cup was associated is an undeniable proof of turning craft,⁹ it is reasonable to suppose that the cup here alluded to was an imperfect or damaged object, thrown aside with the refuse of the lathe. The remark that "the stand was broken off" may probably refer to the portion of the shale that pivoted on the lathe, and which would have been turned off or cleared away smooth, had the vessel not been rejected as a failure before its completion. In explanation of the use

⁸ Arch. Journal, vol. xiv. p. 87.

⁹ Kimmeridge coal-money is now known to be the central part that was turned out of rings, amulets, *armillæ*, and other circular ornaments that were lathe-made. It was thrown away as refuse. See the

late Mr. Sydenham's Memoir read at the congress of the Archæological Association at Canterbury, 1844, Arch. Journal, vol. i. p. 347, and the valuable summary of notices by the Rev. J. H. Austen, Purbeck Papers, p. 92.

of this material in the manufacture of cups, *paterae*, and personal ornaments, for which it appears to present no peculiar advantages, it may be suggested that possibly a superstitious value attached to it. This opinion is based on the fact that amulets of Kimmeridge coal, *armillae*, beads, and other such ornaments, have been frequently found in barrows.¹ A large slab of this material has occasionally occurred as the covering of an interment in a tumulus. Mr. Austen has also quoted the authority of Pliny, who mentions that the *gagates* of Britain, a mineral to which the lignites and shales of the Dorsetshire coast and of Devon bear a certain resemblance, possesses, amongst other medicinal or magic virtues, that of driving away serpents.²

In noticing other objects which appear to present features of analogy with the drinking-cup found at Broad Down, and that by comparison may assist us in arriving at a knowledge of the relative date to which it should be referred, I may here allude to the remarkable discovery of a cup of gold, in possession of the Queen, that was disinterred from a barrow at Rillaton, near the "Cheese-wring" in Cornwall, in the year 1837, as related in this Journal by Mr. Edward Smirke.³ A bronze celt, of simple form, was found with it, and an urn or vessel of fictile ware, that does not appear to have been preserved. The deposit had been made in a cist formed of flat slabs of stone. This highly curious gold cup—so far as I am aware, unique—measures in height $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. ; the diameter at the mouth is $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. ; at the widest part of the bowl $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. The handle measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{7}{8}$ in., greatest width. The weight of the cup is 2 oz. 10 dwts. ; its bullion value is about £10. The handle, which has been a little crushed, is attached by six rivets. This appendage, it should be observed, seems, at least in its present state, fit only for means of suspension, barely affording sufficient space for the smallest finger to be passed through it, a peculiarity presented likewise in the cup of shale before described. On the bottom of the cup there are concentric rings or corruga-

¹ Some of these ornaments are figured in Sir R. C. Hoare's *Antient Wilts*, vol. i. plate 34. See also *Transactions of the Archaeological Association*, 1845, in which occurs a description of two ornaments of Kimmeridge coal found in a barrow on Alsop Moor, and which, the author sug-

gests, "were attached to the dagger as charms."

² Pliny, *Nat. Hist.*, lib. xxxvi. cap. 19.

³ *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xxiv. p. 189. *Journal Roy. Instit. of Cornwall*, No. ix. 1868.

tions like those on the rest of its surface, as shown in the wood-cut accompanying the interesting memoir by Mr. Smirke.

Many points of resemblance between this cup and that brought to light on Broad Down will be readily observed ; as, for instance, the dimensions, and also the general outline, which in both cases is ovate or conical ; the rounded base, and the character of the ornamentation ; these, and other peculiarities, are indicative of a certain general resemblance between the two objects before us.

In searching for other examples of cups or vessels which are not dissimilar in character, we must not fail to notice the amber cup that was found in a barrow at Hove, near Brighton, in the year 1856, and figured in this Journal. The discovery is thus described by Mr. Barclay Phillips :⁴—"On reaching the centre of the tumulus, about 6 ft. east of the road to Hove Station, and about 9 ft. below the surface, in stiff clay, the labourers struck upon a rude wooden coffin, 6 or 7 ft. in length, deposited east and west, and formed with boards apparently rudely shaped with the axe. The wood soon crumbled to dust ; a knot, however, or gnarled knob was preserved, and ascertained to be of oak. In the earth with which the coffin was filled many fragments of bone were found, seemingly charred. About the centre, the following objects were discovered:—(1.) A cup, or bowl, supposed to be of amber, with one small handle near the rim, sufficiently large to pass a finger through it. A band of five lines runs round near the rim, interrupted by the handle. The height of the cup is $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., average thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The interior surface is smooth, and the appearance would indicate that the cup had been formed on a lathe, which, however, seems scarcely possible when the position of the handle is considered. The cup would hold rather more than half a pint. (2.) A stone axe perforated for the haft. It is of an unusual type, and is wrought with much skill ; the length of it is 5 in. (3.) A small hone (?) of stone, measuring $2\frac{7}{10}$ in. in length, perforated at one end. (4.) A bronze blade, of a type which has frequently occurred in Wiltshire, and in other parts of England. The labourers state that the coffin rested on the natural soil—stiff yellow clay, whilst the barrow seemed to have been formed of the surface mould of

⁴ Arch. Journ., vol. xiii. p. 183.

the locality and rubbish heaped together, with considerable quantities of charred wood.”⁵

In this amber cup, and also in its handle, it will be seen at once that we have again a certain constructive resemblance with the treasure-trove of Broad Down. The rounded base, the ovate form, the smallness of the handle, and the character of ornamentation, all combine in pointing to a general approximation of type.

Among other relics that claim notice in connection with the subject before us, two small urns, of a shape that has been regarded as peculiarly Irish, deserve attention, as presenting certain features of analogy with the peculiar cup found at Broad Down, and also with other vessels that have been mentioned. These Irish *fictilia* are formed with a pointed base, so that, like the antique *rhytium*, or the fox's head drinking-cup of modern times, they could not stand erect. A similar fashion appears in some drinking vessels of glass of the Anglo-Saxon period. Of one of the little Irish vessels to which allusion has been made, a representation will be found in this Journal.⁶ It was found near Castlecomer, co. Kilkenny, in quarrying stones; it had been deposited in a small circular cist formed of stones, resting upon a slab about 2 ft. square; another slab covered the top. Within this cist there was an earthen cylinder, described as without a bottom; that part may possibly have perished, or have been broken away. This urn was rudely scored with a chevrony pattern, and within it had been placed the small vessel that rested on its mouth. It is of hard grey or ash-colored ware, and even in its present broken state shows considerable elegance in form. The lip is unusually broad, and projects so as to render the little vase apparently ill suited for the purpose of a drinking-cup. There is no handle. The lower part, ribbed like a melon, tapers to a point at its base. Around it, and within the cylinder, there were many calcined fragments of bones, of which also a quantity was found outside the cist. The Rev. James Graves, Secretary of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, by whom this discovery was made known to the Institute, observed that this specimen bears close resem-

⁵ The whole of these remarkable relics have been presented by Baron Goldsmid to the Brighton Museum. It is much to be regretted that a group of objects so unique in character should not be perma-

nently preserved in the British Museum.

⁶ Arch. Journ., vol. viii. p. 200. See also Journ. Kilkenny Arch. Soc., vol. i. p. 136.

blance in size and shape to that found near Bagnalstown, county of Carlow, a figure of which was published by the Royal Irish Academy.⁷ This object is now in their Museum. Mr. Graves remarked that the small funereal vases of this type seem intended to have been placed inverted, perhaps over the ashes of the heart, and within larger vessels containing the other relics of the body. The fragments of the large urn are of red imperfectly baked ware; the bones enclosed within it comprised fragments of bones of an adult that had been exposed to cremation. This little urn may have measured in its perfect state about 3 in. in height. The vessel referred to by Mr. Graves as having been discovered at Bagnalstown has been figured in a previous volume of this Journal.⁸ It is thus described by Sir W. R. Wilde:—"When reversed, the bowl" (which is rounded at the base) "presents, both in shape and ornamentation, all the characteristics of the Echinus, so strongly marked, that one is led to believe the artist took the shell of that animal for his model. It possesses the rare addition of a handle,⁹ which has been tooled over like the rest of the vessel. This beautiful little urn stands but $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. in height, and is $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. across the outer margin of the lip, which is the widest portion. Its decoration consists of nine sets of upright marks, each containing three cross-barred elevations, narrowing towards the base, which is slightly hollowed; the intervals between these are filled with more elaborately-worked and minute impressions, each alternate space being further ornamented by a different pattern. A rope-like ornament, surmounted by an accurately-cut chevron, surrounds the neck. The lip, which is nearly flat, is one of the most beautifully ornamented portions of the whole; a number of small curved spaces, such as might be made by the point of the nail of the forefinger, surround the outer edge, and also form a similar decoration on the inner margin; upon the flat space between these, somewhat more than $\frac{1}{8}$ in. broad, radiate a number of very delicately-cut lines."¹ This beautiful little urn was found in a railway cutting, in a small stone chamber; it contained portions of the bones of a very young child, and was imbedded in a much larger and ruder urn, filled with

⁷ Proceedings, vol. iv. p. 36; vol. v. p. 131.

⁸ Arch. Journ., vol. xiv. p. 393.

⁹ This is small and agrees in typical

character with that of the cups already described.

¹ Catalogue of the Museum of Antiquities of the Royal Irish Academy, p. 179.

fragments of adult human bones ; possibly, as Sir W. Wilde remarks, they may have been the remains of a mother and child. Mr. Graves subsequently sent notices of some very curious "food vessels" from a lake-dwelling in Lough Erne, near Enniskillen. They are of ill-baked black ware, diameter 4 to 10 inches, and some examples have a very diminutive ear or handle near the rim, suited only for suspension by a cord.

Such are the particulars that I have been enabled to collect concerning cups or vessels associated with ancient interments, and which afford materials for useful comparison with the specimen from Broad Down. At the conclusion of the memoir I will briefly summarise these facts, and point out the inferences as to the relative age of the barrow and its contents which these notices tend to establish.

It is worthy of remark that the tumulus from which this cup was taken was entirely barren of any further results. Subsequently we extended laterally the trench that had been originally cut through the barrow, and also carried out a careful examination for a considerable distance around the centre, but without finding another deposit. Not a vestige of pottery, no flint flake, worked flint, or weapon of any kind was discovered, which could afford a further clue to the people by whom this tumulus was raised, or to the relative age in which they lived.

We next proceeded to examine a barrow, which lay about 100 yards to the south-west of that which we have just described. It was about 90 ft. in diameter, had been originally surrounded by a shallow fosse, and was 8 ft. in perpendicular height at the apex of the mound. (See sections, No. 2.) Owing to the land being under cultivation, the height of this tumulus was much reduced.

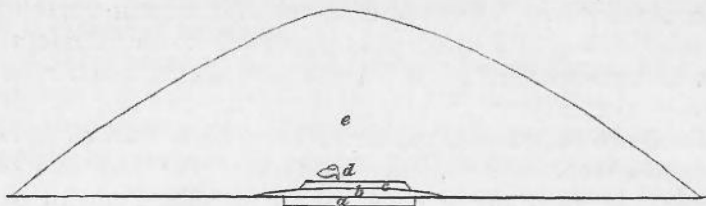
I have given elsewhere detailed accounts of the results of this and of subsequent excavations on Broad Down.² In the barrow first explored we found abundant signs of burning, and a layer of flat stones overlying the burnt materials of the mound, but no trace of the deposit. The search had almost reached conclusion when one of the visitors noticed amongst the *débris* thrown out by the workmen a very per-

² Transactions of the Devonshire Association, vol. ii. part ii., p. 635; Transactions of the Third Session of the Inter-

national Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology; Norwich, 1868; p. 381.

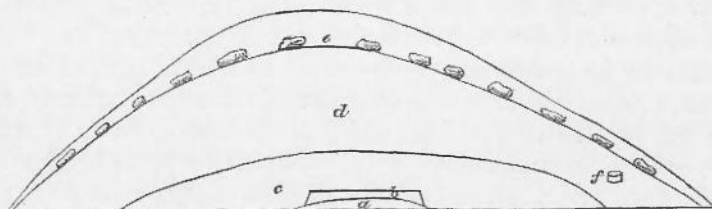
SEPULCHRAL BARROWS AT BROAD DOWN, DEVON.

No. 1.



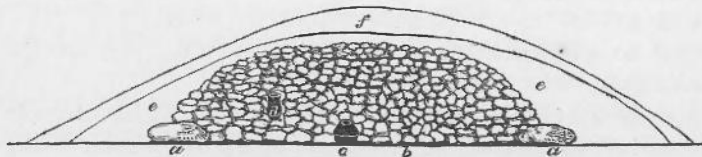
a. Pavement of flints. *b.* Deposit of charcoal. *c.* Layer of calcined bones.
d. Cup of bituminous shale. *e.* Mound of clay and earth irregularly stratified.

No. 2.



a. Deposit of charcoal. *b.* Layer of calcined bones. *c.* Layer of clay and earth.
d. Burnt earth and charcoal. *e.* Layer of stones capping the mound.
f. Probable position of incense cup.

No. 3.



a. *a.* Circle of large boulders. *b.* Cairn of flints. *c.* Urn. *d.* Drinking cup.
e. Burnt earth and charcoal. *f.* Covering of surface earth.

SECTIONS THROUGH THE THREE BARROWS.

fect and beautiful example of the so-called "incense cup;" it has two small perforations on one side, and the bottom is scored with ornament arranged in the peculiar cruciform fashion noticed upon certain other little vessels of this description.³ This cup was entirely filled with calcined bones, as supposed of an infant.

A third barrow, one of a group of nine situate at a distance of about 200 yards to the east of those already noticed, was then examined. The construction was peculiar. The spot to be occupied by the mound had been marked out by a circle of large boulders, some of them weighing probably half a ton, and placed about 3 ft. apart. Within this enclosure the interments had been deposited, and a mass of stones loosely piled over them, the whole being covered with burnt earth, about a foot in depth, finally capped with surface earth. At the centre there lay an urn in fragments covering a deposit of burnt bones, and surrounded by charcoal. On the east side of the barrow, about 18 ft. from the centre, was brought to light a second deposit, accompanied by an urn of the class designated "food-vessels;" it is ornamented with a band of incised vertical markings around the rim, and parallel lines forming horizontal rings or bands encircling the vessel at regular intervals over the entire surface, like a series of hoops. (See a section of this barrow, No. 3.)

Such, then, are the particulars of the exploration of the barrows at Broad Down that have come under my observation, the narration of which I have endeavoured to compress within the narrowest limits that a faithful description would admit of. One or two questions arising out of the facts that were then observed naturally suggested themselves, and to these I propose now to endeavour to furnish a reply. Where, however, opinion amounts to little more than conjecture, based as it is upon negative evidence in part, or upon facts that are obscure and of doubtful interpretation, I shall express that opinion with diffidence and reluctance.

The question of primary importance is this:—To what people, and to what period, are these barrows in Devon to be ascribed? This is a question, the solution of which is attended with difficulty. In seeking to furnish a reply to it, there are several points which require consideration. The

³ It has been figured, *ibid.*, as are also the urns in the barrow No. 3, next described.

first of these which may be mentioned is the mode of interment. We find at Broad Down remains bearing the marks of unquestionable antiquity, and which have certainly been exposed to cremation. Now barrow-burial, with its accompaniments, appears always to have held a prominent position amongst the funeral rites of a pagan people; but as soon as that people embraced Christianity, their long-established customs, repugnant rather to Christian sentiment than to Christian doctrine, did not long survive their conversion; the old methods of interment were gradually modified, and cremation yielded to inhumation. If the correctness of this inference be allowed, we shall at once be able to refer these remains to a period antecedent to the first introduction of Christianity into this island in the second or third century under the Romans. This inference is confirmed by a comparison of the mode of burial with which we are here familiarised with that in common use among the Saxons. Occasionally indeed cremation appears to have been practised by that people; but by far the more usual custom among them was to dig a grave or cist in the ground, to the depth of several feet, and to raise a mound of low altitude over it. The Saxon graves, too, instead of being comparatively barren of relics, as are the tumuli of Broad Down, abound with traces of human art; they form, in fact, an archæological mine, from which are dug out weapons and personal ornaments of all kinds, including articles of leather elaborately ornamented with silver or enamel, helmets, spears, shields, swords, daggers, and other weapons; beads of amber, glass, and porcelain; whilst brooches, rings, earrings, and bracelets of gold, silver, and copper, form but a small portion of the catalogue.⁴ Once more, the entire absence of coins, pottery, or weapons that bear the impress of Roman art, such as are constantly found in Roman tombs, tends so far to prove that these tumuli were not raised by that people, who, indeed, seldom commemorated their dead by so ambitious a memorial as the barrow.

On the other hand, the antiquities associated with the tumuli that have been described agree in all respects with the characteristics presented by the remains found in other barrows that have been explored in different parts of the

⁴ See an article entitled, "The Saxon Grave-mounds and their contents," by L. Jewitt, F.S.A., *Intellect. Observer*, vol. xii. p. 459.

kingdom, and which are generally accepted as of Keltic origin.

The shape and size of the mounds, the mode of their formation, the cremation of the interments, the form, the quality, and the style of ornamentation of the accompanying pottery, all point to the conclusion that these barrows are the sepulchral remains of a people that inhabited the spot many ages before the time of the Roman invasion. One more link in the chain of evidence is supplied by a comparison of the drinking-cup found in the barrow first excavated with the gold cup at Rillaton and the amber cup disinterred near Brighton. The general style and character of these three cups, their similarity in regard to form and size, the ovate form of the bowl which is shared in some degree by them all, the smallness of the handle intended rather for suspension than the insertion of the finger, the ornamental parallel lines that encircle the bowl, and the perpendicular lines that edge the handle in each case of these rare and interesting relics,—all these peculiarities imply a certain constructive analogy, and point to the conclusion that they belonged to members of one and the same people, or of tribes that were cotemporaneous, and who lived under much the same conditions. Now we know that the Cornish treasure-trove, as well as the Brighton treasure-trove, were associated in the burial-place with weapons of bronze; so that in the case of these two relics we cannot err if we attribute them to the "Bronze Age." Moreover, the absence of pottery along with the burial with which the Broad Down cup was found, also leads us to assign that relic to a remote period;⁵ whilst, upon the other hand, the absence of bronze in that tumulus by no means implies that this metal was unknown when the interment took place. Bronze articles with burials are extremely rare.⁶ For a long period after its introduction, this metal appears to have been employed only for more important articles. Being of necessity expensive, and imported from abroad, as we learn from Cæsar, the poorer classes would continue for a long series of years to employ stone as

⁵ I may here cite the authority of Sir R. C. Hoare, who says that "simple cremation was probably the primitive custom. The funeral urn in which the ashes of the dead were secured was the refinement of a later age."

⁶ "Articles such as swords, spear-heads and celts, which were of bronze, appear only on the rarest occasions to have been interred with their owners." Canon Greenwell in Arch. Journ., vol. xxii. p. 256.

their material in the constructive arts ; and probably the rich, in addition to their bronze implements, frequently used others of stone, and especially in cases that would have consumed a large quantity of material in their fabrication. Thus the absence of bronze, in the case of the tumuli under consideration, may be accounted for, both by its liability to decay, and also by the fact of its intrinsic worth, which would render it too valuable to be constantly hid away in a grave-mound. However, we have evidence that bronze has been found associated with burials in barrows belonging to this group, and in immediate proximity to those lately examined. About a hundred years ago a "stone barrow," the mode of construction of which appears to have been identical with that above described, was destroyed, and at the same time a collection of "bronze spear-heads, amounting to half a wheel-barrow full, was discovered."⁷ By far the larger portion of these were carried into the neighbouring town of Honiton, and were there sold as old metal. At present one only is known to be in existence ; it is in the possession of Doctor Snook, of Colyton. It is of a common type, known as the palstave.⁸

I am indebted to a friend for the following extract from the diary of the late Matthew Lee, Esq. :—"July, 1763. The labourers on Lovehayne Farm, Colyton, near Southleigh, destroyed a stone-barrow in order to procure a supply of stones for the new turnpike road. Upon one side of the barrow they found about a hundred Roman chisels for cutting stones, of a metal between a copper and brass colour, rough, and unhardened." It is possible that, as has often occurred, there were spear-heads mixed with the objects familiarly called "celts," or "chisels." These latter bronze relics are quite distinct from "spear-heads." They are properly to be described as "palstaves," of the type without any side-loops. It is by no means improbable that this was one of those remarkable hoards or deposits buried by some itinerant manufacturer of bronze weapons and implements. The single specimen preserved agrees well with the description given in Mr. Lee's diary, being a somewhat defective

⁷ Davidson's *Antiquities of Devon*, p. 73.

⁸ This, and another relic of bronze, obtained at Honiton, and possibly part of the great hoard in the barrow at Love-

hayne, are figured in the memoir before cited, *Trans. Devon Association*, vol. ii. Congress, Prehist. Archaeology at Norwich, p. 381.

and unfinished piece. The rough seams at the side, left by the divisions of the mould, have not been trimmed off.

Here then we have evidence which will enable us to arrive at an approximate date for the barrows that exist on Broad Down. Upon a survey of these facts, I see no difficulty in assigning a high antiquity to the relics that have been lately brought to light, or in considering them as the remains of a people who flourished long before the advent of any historic race. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, we must assign them to a period antecedent to the Roman invasion of Britain, and probably we shall not err if we refer them to a period far more remote, when bronze, whilst known, was scarce, and when its use was confined to the more powerful part of the population.

I have ventured to put forth these conjectures, at the same time that I have stated the reasons on which they are based, because it would appear as if some degree of theorizing is required in order to reconcile and explain isolated facts; and, whilst I do not claim universal acceptance for the conclusions at which I have thus arrived, they will be so far useful if they provoke discussion, which is the road to truth, that ought to be the object of all our investigations. I am fully aware that before we can pronounce with confidence upon any of the important points that have been raised in this memoir, more extensive researches must be carried out. Up to the present time no cranium has been discovered to supply a cephalic index, whereby a knowledge of the general type of race to which these people belonged may be arrived at. It is worth any pains, however, to establish such a fact, if possible; for the determination of the cranial type would enable us to draw trustworthy conclusions, and is exactly that which is required to dispel the mists that still enshroud the pre-historic period of East Devon archæology.

In conclusion, I may state that Sir Edmund S. Prideaux, Bart., has presented to the Albert-Memorial Museum in Exeter the various relics that have been excavated from the barrows situated on his property at Broad Down. It is hoped also that they may constitute the nucleus of a collection available henceforth for the purposes of public instruction and gratification, and specially illustrative of the pre-historic archæology of Devonshire.