

A FEW REMARKS UPON THE ANTIQUITIES OF SILVER FOUND AT CUERDALE.

ON some of the rings and other silver ornaments found at Cuerdale, there appears a triangular pattern with three or four points (cf. figg. 32, 33, 45, &c.) totally different from the designs on Celtic, Roman, or Saxon remains, and which never seems to occur on any objects found in the interior or southern parts of Europe. To the instances which Mr. Hawkins has already cited of similar patterns on silver objects found in Denmark and in Finland, I can only add that I have seen precisely similar objects, with the same pattern, in Ireland, Prussia, and Sweden; and that in the interior of Russia, in tumuli in the neighbourhood of Moscow, the same pattern has been found on rings and other ornaments, of which drawings are to be seen in Copenhagen. In nearly every instance these ornaments have been found along with oriental or Cufic coins, which, as Mr. Hawkins has shewn, also was the case at Cuerdale. This affords a strong argument in favour of the opinion that they are of eastern origin, and were brought to the north in the same way as the oriental coins.

The discovery of so many coins of this class in Russia, from the Caspian and the Black Sea up to the shores of the Baltic, sufficiently proves that from the eighth until the eleventh or twelfth century, there existed a very lively intercourse by trade between the east and the northern parts of Europe. Leopold von Ledebur has published a map marking most of the places where discoveries of oriental coins and silver ornaments have been made^a. Frähn has given an account of the discoveries in Russia, and Hildebrand lately published an important description of the Anglo-Saxon coins in the Royal Swedish Cabinet of coins, (Stockholm, 1846, 4to.) It contains a resumé of similar discoveries in Sweden. In the Swedish cabinet there are at present more than 1,000 different species of oriental coins, found in Sweden; and, besides numerous varieties from about seventy places, mostly situated in the

^a In his little book, "Ueber die in den Baltischen Landern in die Erde gesun-

kenen Zeugnisse eines Flandels-Verkehrs mit dem Orient," &c. Berlin, 1820. 8vo.

eastern and northern provinces of the califat, there are coins of eighteen dynasties, among which are some of the African and Spanish califs, but they are exceedingly scarce. The coins of the Samarinds form the five-sixth part of the whole. A Swedish numismatist, Mr. Tornberg, who is about to give an account of these coins, has been enabled through the numismatic differences which the coins present, to shew that they have been brought from the east to the north through two distinct channels. One class seems to have been brought from the Transoxana of the Bulgars (coins of which dynasty are not uncommon in the Swedish finds) to Russia; then down the river to the Baltic. Another class came from Khorasan, across Armenia to the Black Sea, when the Khazars and other people received them, and brought them further up through Russia to the Baltic^b.

It was undoubtedly for carrying on this trade that in the old time so many Norsemen frequented the town of Novogorod in Russia: it is even said that the town was built by the Norsemen. On the island of Gothland, where sometimes several thousand Cufic coins have been found in one place, and where these coins are most frequently discovered, was another great, and perhaps the greatest, place of trade for northern Europe, Wisby, which afterwards, with Novogorod, formed a considerable part of the Hanse confederation. The numerous Anglo-Saxon, German, and Hungarian coins of the tenth and eleventh centuries, which have been found in Gothland, shew however that this trade was greatest as long as the connection with the east continued. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries Russia began to be disturbed by internal wars and invasions of Moguls, &c., which broke up the connection between the east and the north. The way in which the trade was carried on was after that time by the Black Sea, from the Crimea to Venice and Genoa; the wares no longer went to the north, whence the Norse merchants so long had brought them to England and Ireland.

It is exceedingly remarkable that we have accounts in the works of very old Arabian authors relating to the trade between the north and the east. These writers, who themselves visited the shores of the Baltic, describe the manners of the pagans living there. They mention trading places in the north, as Slesvig in Denmark, which from other sources also

^b Cf. Hildebrand, l. c. p. ix.

is known to have carried on a great trade with Russia. Most of these highly interesting and important accounts have been translated from the original Arabian by Professor Rasmussen of Copenhagen, in his valuable treatise *De Orientis Commercio cum Russia et Scandinavia medio ævo*, (Hafniæ, 1825, 4to.) He has also here collected all the numerous accounts in our Icelandic sagas and our northern chronicles relating to the visits of the Norsemen to Russia, and their commercial relations there.

Hildebrand in describing the Cufic or oriental coins found in Sweden, says (p. xi.) "that along with them are generally found silver ornaments, large rings for the neck, or the head, of wires twisted together, smaller rings for the arm, partly of wires twisted together, partly made of a single thin piece of silver, the ends of which form a beautiful knot; bracelets, sometimes with patterns, which are made with a punch, ingots, both complete and broken, lumps of silver, mostly hammered and rolled together for convenience of transport, and in order that they might be used as money." This description would exactly apply to the silver ornaments found at Cuerdale. "There can be no doubt," continues Hildebrand, "that those ornaments, ingots, and lumps of silver have accompanied the coins from rich Asia, where they could much more easily obtain silver than in the northern parts of Europe, even if we suppose that the little silver which is to be found in the mines in the Scandinavian mountains was known and used at the time in question. This view is confirmed by the circumstance that similar ornaments are still used in some parts of Asia."

As those ornaments are not found in the west of Europe, except along with Cufic coins, and not at all in the interior or southern parts of Europe, and as similar silver objects are said by Frähn to have been found in Russia with the same coins, I regard it as without doubt that Mr. Hawkins has been perfectly right in giving an oriental origin to at least a great part of the silver ornaments found at Cuerdale, a view which Hildebrand also adopts^c. It is very natural to suppose that some of them would be smelted and made into other shapes after they had been brought to the British islands by Norse merchants or vikings. But the original oriental types seem to have been very much retained. It is worth observing, that they were found along with coins of Norse sea-kings and earls.

^c l. c. p. xviii.

I cannot conclude these few remarks without expressing the hope that British antiquaries will at a future time take great care to ascertain the localities where Cufic coins and silver ornaments have been found in England and Ireland. By such facts we should be enabled to give a still clearer and more detailed account of the remarkable trade between the east and the north of Europe which existed at so early a period, and of the influence which this connection with the Levant had upon the civilization of the north of Europe.

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ON THE CITY OF ANDERIDA, OR ANDREDESCEASTER.

AMONG the numerous questions which have long exercised the ingenuity of antiquaries, one is the site of the ancient city of Anderida, or Andredesceaster, respecting which it is proposed to add another to the many discussions the subject has already experienced. There is, there can be, no expectation of discovering new sources of information, or of throwing absolutely new light upon the matter. All we can hope to accomplish must be to collect the substance of the notices in our old annalists; to make some observations upon the account so obtained; and to conclude with a consideration of the probabilities with regard to those places where the lost Romano-British city is, by their respective advocates, supposed to have stood.

The Saxon Chronicle^a, and several others of different periods, allude to the fate of Anderida, but merely announcing its utter destruction, they are too concise to serve the present enquiry; therefore, neglecting them, we will produce the copious statement of Henry of Huntingdon. "The kingdom of Sussex begins, which Ella maintained long and most ably; but auxiliaries had joined him from his own country, &c.—Relying therefore upon (his) large forces he besieged Andredescester, a very strong city. The Britons then collected as thick as bees, and beat the besiegers in the day by ambushes,

^a Gibson's edition, p. 15.