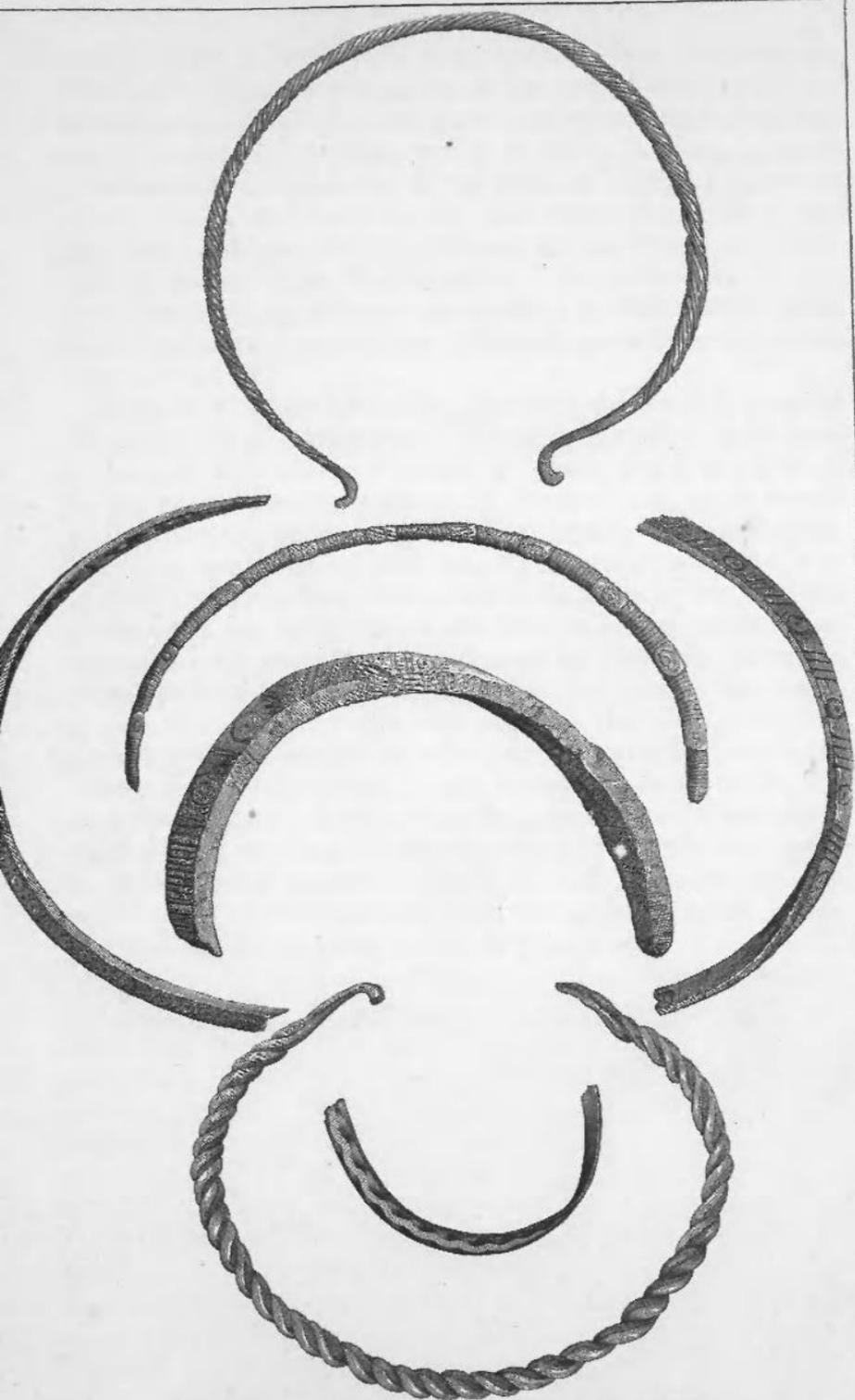


ROMAN REMAINS, CADBURY CASTLE, DEVON.



ARMILLE FOUND IN THE ANCIENT SHAFT, CADBURY CAMP

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF ROMAN REMAINS  
IN THE BRITISH HILL-FORTRESS CALLED "CADBURY  
CASTLE," NEAR TIVERTON, DEVON.

AN excavation of an interesting nature took place in the spring of the present year at Cadbury Camp, (or Castle, as it is popularly called,) in Devonshire, by the direction of George Fursdon, Esq., of Fursdon, the owner, and under his inspection.

This ancient encampment, which has been generally considered a British earth-work, is oval in form, its largest diameter being from east to west about 600 yards, and its smallest, from north to south, about 400 yards; the inner vallum is nearly perfect for more than two-thirds of the whole circumference, the outer vallum remains only at intervals; there are the evidences of two openings or entrances, one from the north and the other from the south, both being somewhat to the eastward of the centre of either side; the superficial extent enclosed is about two acres. The camp crowns the summit of the most lofty of a group of isolated hills, rising on the right bank, in the valley of the river Exe, and about two miles distant from the stream, eight miles to the north of Exeter, near the high road from Crediton to Tiverton, and equidistant from those towns. It is a commanding eminence, that in early times must have been a place of considerable strength. The views from it are of great extent in every direction: looking to the south, the prospect extends over the vale and estuary of the Exe to the sea, with Woodbury Castle and downs to the left, and Sidmouth Gap twenty miles distant; whilst to the right is the chain of the Haldon hills, beyond which are seen the heights of Dartmoor; to the north the view is bounded by Exemoor; to the west it extends beyond the limits of Devon to the Cornish moors; and to the east the whole range of the Black Down hills may be traced, even as far as *Castle Neroche*, and including the Wellington column in Somersetshire. Within the scope of these prospects are the earth-work called Dane's Castle, on the north side of Exeter, the ancient camps of Dolbury, Woodbury, Sidbury, Hembury, Dumdon, Membury, and Castle Neroche, and the line of the old Roman road at Straight-

way Head, commanding the camps of Musbury and Yardbury. The view of the camp in the parish of Dawlish, on Little Haldon, is now intercepted by the Mamhead plantations, but must have been visible, and by it there would have been communication with the camps at Ugbrooke and those on Denbury Down and Milbury Down, south-west of the river Teign, and Modbury in the south Hams.

The name of Cadbury has been derived from the Celtic 'cat' or 'cad,' *bellum, militia, praelium*. Hence the tribes of the Catti and Chattuarii received their designation, on account of their warlike character, and to this etymon are to be traced the appellatives Catumerus, or celebrated in war; Catvalda, powerful in war; Cædmon, a man of war, &c. 'Bury,' in its primary signification, denoted a place of defence, whether strong by nature or fortified by art, usually situated on eminences, especially in early times. The number of hill-fortresses in our own country, which have preserved the name of Bury, is very considerable. In Welsh, 'câd' signifies a battle; 'cader,' a strong or fortified place, as Cader Idris, &c. There are several other places in the western counties of England still known by the same primeval designation; for example, in Devonshire, Cadbury to the north of Chumleigh; in Somersetshire, Cadbury Camp to the west of Wraxall, North and South Cadbury south of Castle Cary, and near the remarkable fortress of Camalet, where Roman coins and remains have been frequently discovered. We find also Cadbury Heath in Gloucestershire between Bristol and Bath; Cadleigh in Devonshire, the adjoining parish to that of Cadbury, the camp in which is the subject of this memoir; Cadleigh, near Plympton Earle; Cadley near Marlborough, and Cadly in Glamorganshire, north-west of Swansea; Cadhay, near Ottery St. Mary, Devon; and Cadlands on the banks of the Southampton water, Hants.<sup>a</sup>

Mr. Fursdon's attention had often been attracted to a dip or indentation in the centre of the area of Cadbury Camp, and in March last he determined on having an excavation made; a very little beneath the surface soil, the workmen came upon "made ground," and at the depth of six feet the form of a shaft or well was evident about eight feet in diameter, but filled in with rubble, earth, &c. At the depth of twenty-

<sup>a</sup> See observations on names of places in Hartshorne's *Salopia Antiqua*, p. 245.

five feet where the shaft was only six feet in diameter, the workmen met with fragments of broken urns or vases, some ashes, small fragments of bone, various armillæ and other ornaments, beads, &c., and five feet below these the remarkable ring to be mentioned hereafter. The excavators continued their labour till they reached the bottom of the shaft or well at the depth of fifty-eight feet; at four feet from the bottom the well was contracted to three feet diameter, and formed into an inverted cone, and was evidently puddled round with clay for the purpose of retaining water. No spring rises in the hill, the supply of water must therefore have been the rain and drippings that could be collected from the surface, if the shaft was intended for a well.

Of the various objects found, the large ring is probably the most curious, it is of bronze and contains an intaglio of antique paste, transparent and of light green colour, bearing an object of which the name and use are unexplained. A similar form is met with in relief on two ancient coins of Argos in the collection of the British Museum, one of silver on which it is alone, the other of brass where it is associated with a tripod and a club; these facts seem to suggest that it represents some object connected with the sacrifices either to Apollo or Hercules.

There are no letters or other characters. (See sketch and impression.) Other articles found were a variety of extremely elegant and delicate armillæ of bronze, with



very fine patina, and exhibiting small portions of gold at intervals; some of them round, some square, some twisted, some flat, the latter have varieties of the "circle and point" pattern punched on them, of delicate design and workmanship, some have hooks for fastening; these are very similar to ornaments found in a Roman tomb in York. Also two small finger rings and two styles of bronze; portions of rings and armillæ, and a pierced button, of jet; several glass and enamel beads of various sizes and colours, one of them ribbed; a lump of enamel or glass which appears to have been set in a ring or other ornament; a small fragment of some instrument or weapon of iron, very much corroded; horses' teeth and

alveolar processes partially fossilized ; pieces of charcoal ; portions of clay and other rubble. Not any coins were found. The fragments of pottery were of three kinds, one black and two brown ; and parts of the mouths of three vases or urns were detected, one very coarse, of black earth or clay, and apparently unbaked ; one only had any pattern on it, in imitation of network ; a few fragments of human bones and some ashes were with some of the pieces of the urns.

It seems to be not improbable that a funereal tumulus, hill-grave or barrow<sup>b</sup>, may have existed within the limits of the fortress, which in later or more peaceable times, when it was desired to turn the camp into a pasture, may have been levelled and used to fill up the well in order to obtain an even surface ; and that the urns which had originally contained the ornaments and ashes, were broken unheeded during the process, and thrown with the refuse soil into the shaft.

The existence of shafts, resembling wells, filled up with rubbish, containing fragments of pottery and remains of the Roman or subsequent periods, has been repeatedly noticed near sites of Roman occupation. I am not aware that any instance, similar to that which I have described, had hitherto been brought to light in a camp or fortress of the early British age, such as Cadbury Castle appears to have been. It is however highly probable that on many occasions the invaders may have availed themselves of strong-holds constructed by the Britons, and have occupied them even for a lengthened period, where circumstances prevented the formation of works according to their own more scientific practice of castrametation<sup>c</sup>.

The researches carried out by Mr. Fursdon must be regarded as highly interesting, as having supplied undeniable evidence of such occupation by the Romans of a British hill-fortress in a remote situation, during no short period of time. It is probable that the importance of the position, as a speculative fortress, commanding many points occupied by British works, was the cause of its selection as a post permanently occupied by the Romans.

<sup>b</sup> Two barrows still exist not far from Hembury Fort, on Woolford Hill, and three on the same line of hills still further to the north-east on Brown Down.

<sup>c</sup> Many examples of Roman remains found in British camps might be cited,

but for the most part insufficient to shew actual occupation by the invader. The discovery of an iron Lar near Hembury Fort, between Honiton and Cullompton, deserves notice. It is engraved in the *Archæologia*, vol. xiv. p. 279.

Shafts of this description, frequently designated as "rubbish-holes," and considered by some to have been places of sepulture, wells, or store-houses for grain, resembling the *silos* of modern times, have been found in Thanet and various places in Kent, as also repeatedly in London<sup>d</sup>. The Hon. Richard Neville<sup>e</sup> has recently noticed one of these receptacles at Chesterford, and a detailed account of a remarkable discovery of several such shafts sunk in chalk rock at Ewell in Surrey, has recently been communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by Mr. Diamond, and printed in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxii. p. 451. Similar "rubbish-holes," containing bones, fragments of pottery, and remains of the most miscellaneous nature, have been noticed by Mr. Trollope in several places near the east gate, Lincoln, a site abounding in vestiges of the Roman age. In connection with these curious remains a passage in the description of ancient Perth, given by Pennant, may well deserve to be noticed. He states that, in the precipitous banks of the river Almond, at its junction with the Tay, the site of the ancient Bertha, where the Romans had a station, antiquities of their times frequently were brought to light by the fall of the cliffs. "Other falls," he observes, "have produced discoveries still more singular, and have laid open a species of interment, as far as I know, hitherto unnoticed. Some years ago in the face of a broken bank, were discovered six pillars in a line, ten feet distance from one another, and eighteen feet high from the top of the ground to the bed of the Almond, shewing out of the bank a semicircular face. These proved to have been the contents of certain cylindrical pits, sunk in the earth as places of sepulture. The urns were placed in them, and the hollows filled in with earth of a different kind from the banks, and so strongly rammed in as to remain coherent, after the former had in part been washed away. The Rev. Mr. Duff has described these hollows in a manner somewhat different, comparing them to the segments of a cone, with the broader end downwards, and to have been filled with bones, ashes, and

<sup>d</sup> The store places for grain at the city of Valetta, Malta, made during the rule of the Grand-Masters in that island, consist of deep chambers excavated in the natural rock; the access to each chamber is by one small opening on the surface, which is closed by a stone cover cemented down so as to exclude the air. In these chambers

the grain will keep perfectly sound for a length of time; the rock is naturally dry, and the climate remarkably so.

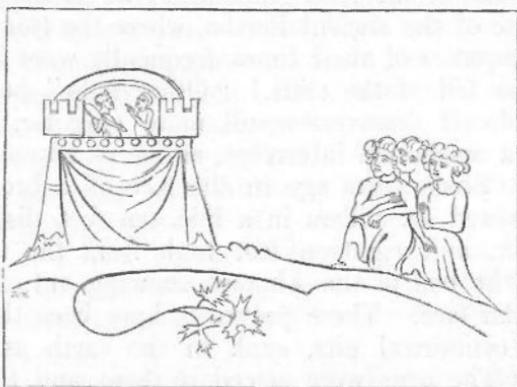
<sup>e</sup> Mr. Neville has printed some interesting memorials of his researches in Essex, entitled, "*Antiqua Explorata*," and "*Sepulchra Exposita*." Saffron Walden, G. Youngman. 8vo. 1847-48.

fragments of urns. These funebrious vessels have been found here of different sizes; one of very uncommon dimensions as well as materials, being of fine clay only half an inch thick, and entirely plated in the inside with brass. It was capable of containing ten gallons, and was filled with ashes<sup>f</sup>.”

The soil of Cadbury hill is chiefly of the red sand and marl prevalent in that part of Devon. Quite at the base of the hill, and very considerably below the level of the bottom of the shaft described, a spring bursts forth so copiously as to turn a mill not far from the source.

C. TUCKER.

#### NOTICE OF A MEDIEVAL MIMIC ENTERTAINMENT RESEMBLING THE MODERN PUNCH AND JUDY.



THE representation here submitted to the readers of the *Archæological Journal* is taken from an outline delineation at the foot of one of the pages of the celebrated MS. of the *Roman d'Alexandre*, preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and executed between the years 1338 and 1344<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>f</sup> *Tour in Scotland*, vol. iii. p. 109.

<sup>a</sup> At the close of this fine MS., which is known by the class-mark, 2464, Bod. 264, the date of completion of the scribe's portion of the work is thus recorded—"Romans du boin Roi Alixandre, qui fu perescript le xvij. jor de Decembre, l'an M.CCC.xxxviij." The illumination of the

volume was not completed until six years later, as thus stated—"Che livre fu per-fais de le enluminure au xvij. jour d'Avril, per Johan de Guse, l'an de grace, M.CCC.xliij." The artist was possibly a native of *Guise*, in Picardy, on the confines of the Netherlands.