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WITH

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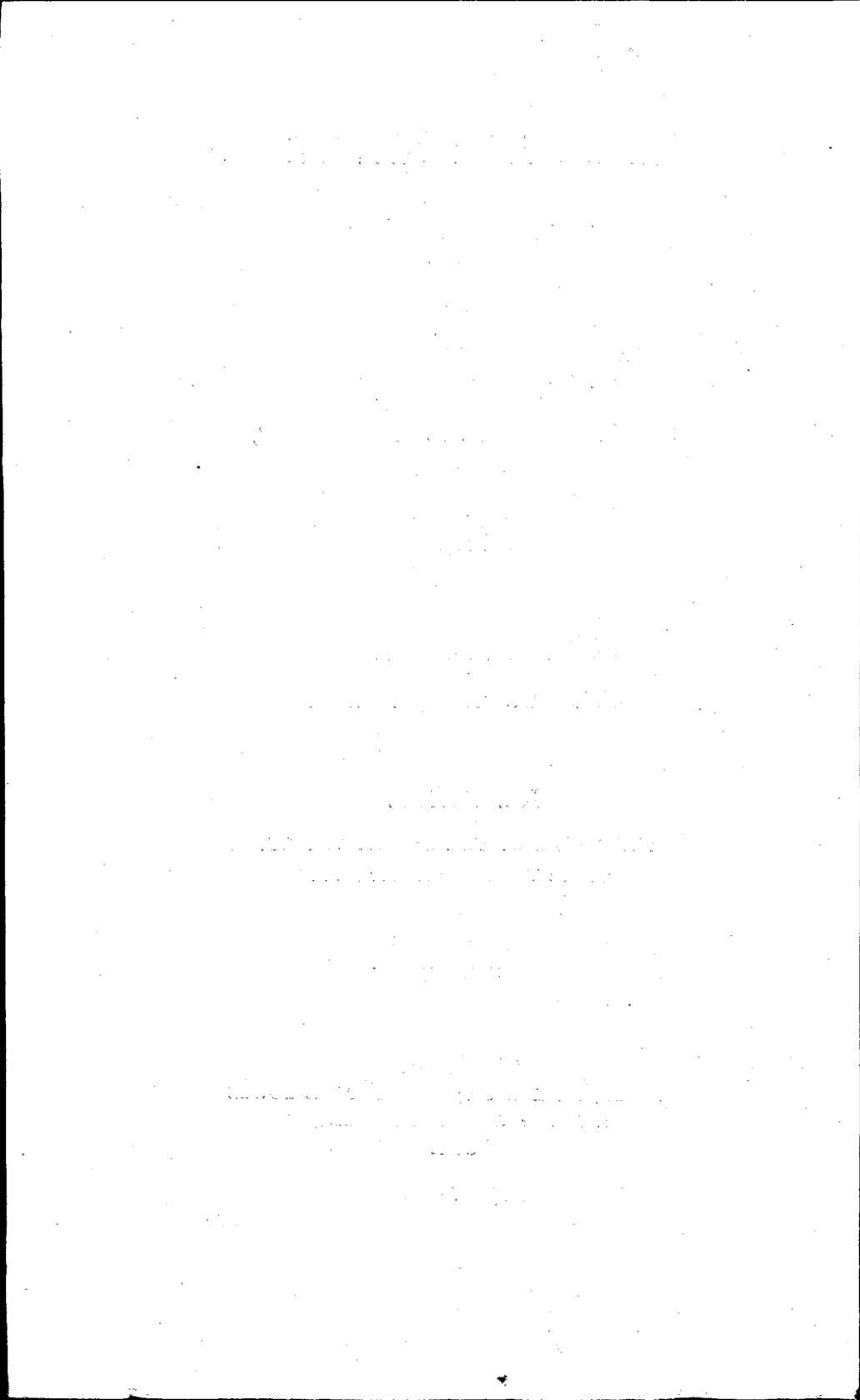
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It is much to be desired that the ignorance and confusion that prevail with regard to so many of the college arms could be dispelled, and that scientific correctness and artistic treatment could be more studied. How far Peterhouse would be justified in again reducing its four pallets to the traditional three, or Trinity Hall in reverting to the beautiful arms of its founder, I cannot say; but, as both the present shields are clearly blunders, such a reversion would be a practical renunciation of Cooke's error. At any rate the mitre should be omitted from the Jesus arms, and the ermine bordure of the modern Trinity Hall shield should not be engrailed; the compilers, too, of the *Cambridge University Calendar* should abstain from assigning to the suppressed Michael House and King's Hall arms that were never borne by either foundation.

A large number of seals, original Grants of Arms, and other documents were exhibited.

Some discussion ensued on these, and the Chairman expressed the indebtedness of the Society to the Governing Bodies of the Colleges, for allowing the exhibition of their Grants of Arms.

BARON ANATOLE VON HÜGEL made the following communication:

ON AN ANCIENT WELL AT MOUNTSORREL.

The well which forms the subject of this communication was discovered in February, 1892, having been accidentally exposed during the course of some blasting operations in the granite quarries at Mountsorrel, near Loughborough, in Leicestershire. By the courtesy of the Earl of Lanesborough, I am enabled to exhibit some of the objects which it contained.

Mr R. F. Martin, the Managing Director of the Mountsorrel Granite Company, was good enough to send me prompt intimation of the find; and, owing to his kindness, I had two opportunities of inspecting the well before its destruction, once alone, and once in the company of Mr Jenkinson¹.

¹ To Mr Martin I am, also, yet further indebted for careful notes which have furnished many of the following data.

Even at the time of my first visit, the quarrymen, in the course of their work, had already entirely cleared out the well; and the black earth and débris with which it had been completely filled was being rapidly shovelled into trucks, to be disposed of with other quarry refuse, and thus any small objects which it may have contained were swept away and lost. This is the more to be regretted when we consider the great interest of those objects which by their size had attracted the attention of the men, and had in consequence been saved. Yet these visits were not altogether fruitless; for some hours of diligent search in the heap of well-earth, which recent snow and thaw had transformed into a tenacious slimy mass, most difficult to manipulate, yielded a considerable number of fragments, some of which were missing portions of the objects already picked up by the workmen.

The well, a rectangular vertical shaft, with sides measuring seven feet and four feet respectively, and some sixty feet in depth, had been sunk in a fault in the granite near the summit of the hill, the actual Mount Sorrel, one side of which has already been entirely quarried away. In the steep cliff produced by these operations, the whole vertical section of the well had been exposed to view. As the breadth of the well-shaft coincided with the entire width of the 'fault,' the two long sides of the shaft showed a natural smooth face of rock. The upper twenty feet of the well had passed through a thin layer of soil and disintegrated surface-rock, and to this depth the sides of the shaft were faced with a neatly built wall of thin slabs of blue lias lime-stone¹. The upper courses of this stone facing lay directly under the turf, but it seems probable that the mouth had been protected by a wall and coping, which in course of time had been destroyed.

Some Roman pottery, mostly in a very fragmentary condition, was found in the well; it consisted of the coarser kinds of ware, and included a graceful vessel with little stout loops under the rims for suspension, evidently a pitcher used for

¹ This stone, Mr Martin informs me, must have been brought from Barrow, a spot about one and a half miles distant from Mount Sorrel.

raising water from the well. There were also some bricks and tiles, both plain and flanged.

But the most interesting discovery was a wooden bucket with bronze fittings of, presumably, late Celtic workmanship. Its form and general construction will be seen in the accompanying drawing (fig. 1). The ornamental details of the bronze fittings are given on a larger scale on plate XII.

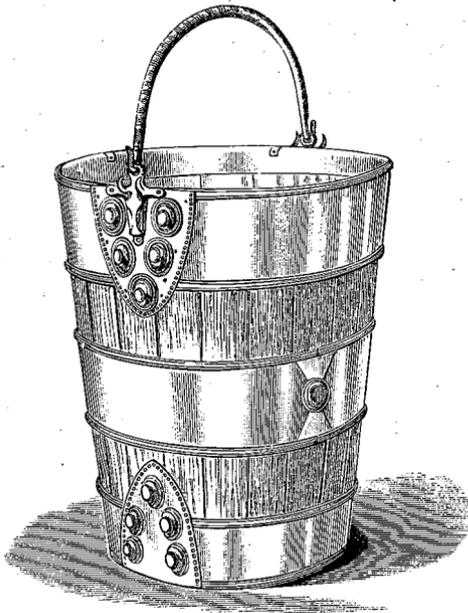
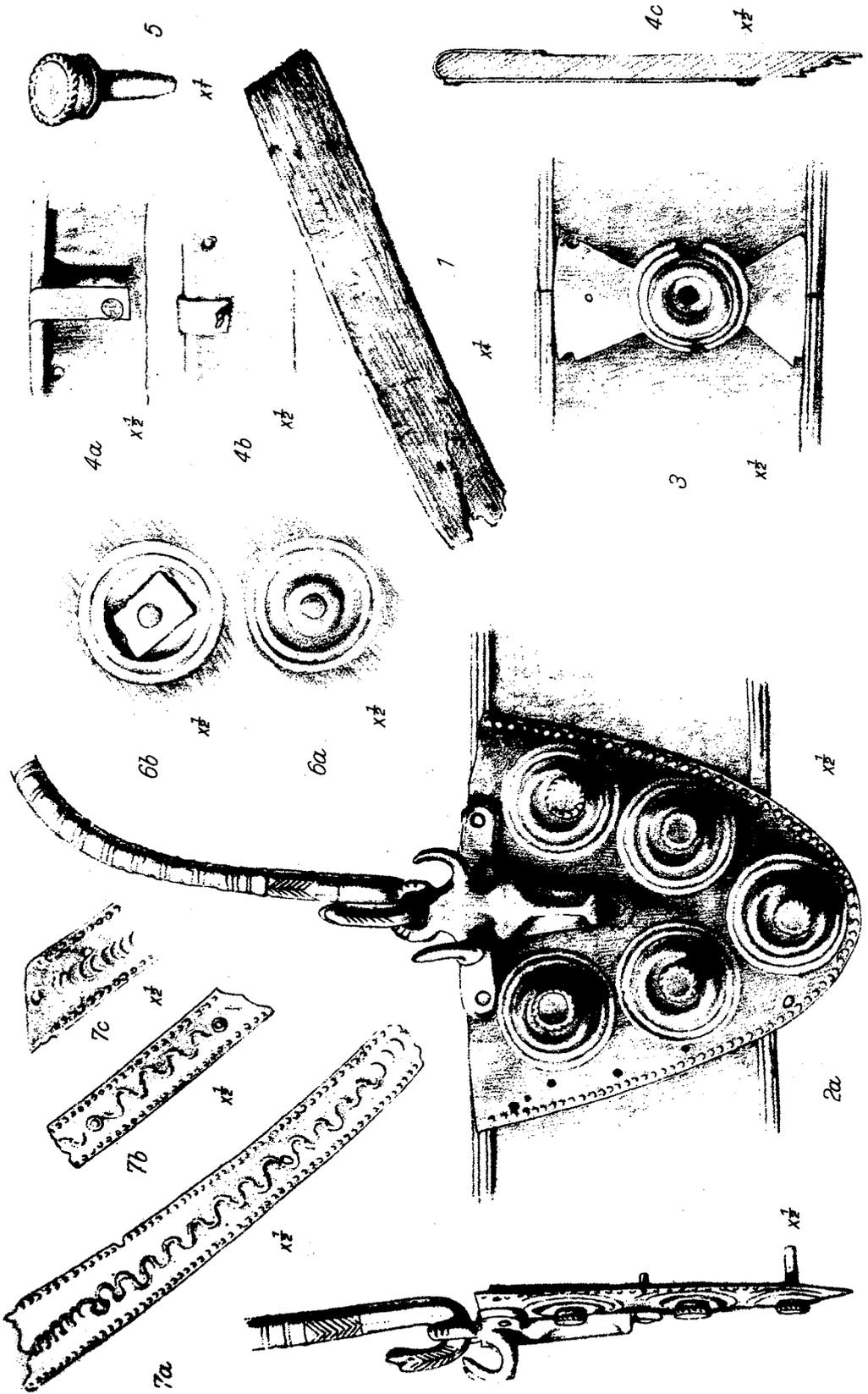


FIG. 1. Restoration of bucket (about one-sixth of the actual size).

From the statement of the workmen engaged in clearing out the well, it appeared that when found the bucket was practically intact; but it had received such rough treatment at their hands, that when I reached Mount Sorrel it was completely broken up. Of the wood-work but one imperfect stave remained, as the bucket had been pulled to pieces and trodden under foot after the bronze bands and ornamental fittings had been wrenched off. Important portions of the bronze-work



were also missing, but of these Mr Jenkinson and I were so fortunate as to find several¹, all indeed that were required for a reconstruction of the vessel.

Judging by the existing portion (it appears to be the lower half) of one of the staves (fig. 1), the bucket was composed of seventeen moderately stout staves, which must have measured about 3·5" in width and 0·3" in thickness. The wood appears to be pine.

Three broad bands of bronze encircled the bucket, the first, placed immediately below the rim, measuring a fraction over 3" in width; the second, the central band, the same; and the third, which went round the bottom of the bucket, measuring 2·4". Along the edges of the bands a narrow fillet, about 0·1" wide, is soldered, bearing a simple, flat, bead-moulding (figs. 2a, 3, 4c). The rim of the bucket was protected by a bronze band, about one half of which has been preserved. It was nailed to the inside of the mouth of the bucket, and bent outwards over the rim; and, as an additional safeguard, a number of small bronze straps, attached by little angular nails to this band, were brought over the rim and fastened under the first hoop, thus acting as clamps in keeping the rim-guard in its place. This is the usual method employed by the Saxons in securing the rim-guards of their buckets. Fig. 4a (Pl. XII.) shows the inner, and fig. 4b the outer, view of a portion of this rim-guard, and exhibits in place one of these little straps, the only one that was found. A longitudinal section of the upper portion of the bucket is also given (fig. 4c), with the rim-guard and the upper band *in situ*.

The ornamentation of the bucket is bold and striking. Two pairs of large bronze plates (a larger and a smaller), in shape like a broad shield with a square top, were fixed across two of the bands on opposite sides of the bucket; the larger pair (length 4·2", breadth 4·5") pointing downwards across the upper band (Pl. XII. fig. 2a), and the smaller pair (length a fraction

¹ One of the four shields, one (the only one recovered) of the pair of ornamental devices attached to the central band (Pl. XII. fig. 3), one of the two ornamental bands, one of the long stud-rivets, &c.

over 4", breadth 4.3"), pointing upwards, across the lower band. Where these shields cross the bands there are traces that the moulding of the marginal filets has been reduced in order that the shields might fit closer. Each of the shields bears five circular bosses, in repoussé work, consisting of a bold inner ring, two narrow outer rings, and a central stud, formed by a neatly moulded rivet with a stout flat head and a milled edge (Ibid. fig. 5). A line of raised dots surrounds the lateral and lower margins of the shields, the square top being left plain. The upper pair of shields is quite intact: of the lower pair, a portion of one shield remains, showing the lower and two of the side bosses with two studs attached; the other shield, though perfect, has lost all but one side stud. The straight top of this shield shows signs of having been battered by coming in contact with the ground.

The studs in the four upper bosses were purely ornamental, being simply riveted at the back of the shield, but the fifth stud, the lowest, being placed in the point of the shield which projected beyond the bronze bands, was furnished with a shank of sufficient length to be driven through the boss into the wood of the bucket. In some instances the rivetted studs appear to have worked loose, and the perforations in the bosses to have become too large to hold them, and the studs to have been then refixed by some less skilled workman than the maker of the bucket. Whatever the reason, the two studs in the fragmentary shield are not so neatly clamped as the others (Ibid. fig. 6*a*), but are held in place by clumsy quadrangular collars, cut from a plate of bronze (Ibid. fig. 6*b*); moreover, as will be seen by comparing the two figures, to gain the necessary space at the back of the boss for these collars, the little cup-shaped hollow, in which the head of the stud rested, has been tampered with.

The edges of the shields are drilled with a number of small holes irregularly placed, and corresponding perforations occur in the underlying portions of the bands. Three additional perforations occur in the upper band near the outer margin of one of the shields.

The lugs or ears for the handle were fitted to the upper shields. They consist of cross-shaped pieces of solid bronze, on which a conventionalised head of an ox, with strongly curved horns, is moulded in bold relief (*Ibid.* figs. 2*a*, 2*b*). The two lugs vary somewhat in size and finish, the one figured measuring 2·7" in length, and nearly 2·4" in breadth; the other, somewhat smaller and relatively shorter, has the remaining horn (for one is broken off) considerably less curved than those in the figured example. The top of the plate, i.e. the forehead of the ox, is prolonged into a stout loop which projects above the horns so as to clear the rim of the bucket, and afford a secure hold for the handle. These lug-plates were not attached to the shield, but, for greater security, three nails, one passing through either arm, and one through the base, were driven into the wood of the bucket, the underlying shields and the hoops being neatly drilled for the purpose. Of these nails only the lower one has been preserved. It is 0·6" long, and both the flat head and the angular shank are poorly finished.

The ornamentation of the smaller pair of shields is identical with that of the larger. Their relative position on the bucket cannot with certainty be made out. That shown in the engraving seems the most probable, but it is possible that the upper and lower pair, instead of occupying the same sides of the bucket, were placed opposite to each other; though the decoration of the central band, yet to be described, and the general design of the bucket, make this arrangement appear extremely improbable.

The central band, unlike the upper and the lower, is composed of two pieces, and the joints were concealed by a small ornamental device consisting of a boss and stud (the latter missing), similar to those on the shields, but with a spreading flange above and below, the whole cut out of a stamped plate of bronze so as to fit in between the marginal fillets of the hoop (*Ibid.* fig. 3).

The curved handle (*Ibid.* figs. 2*a* and 2*b*) is of solid bronze, round in section, and tapers towards the gracefully moulded, hooked ends. Its upper surface is gently broken by thirty-six

annular double mouldings (its lower surface is plain), and there is a band of incised work above the recurved ends: these terminate in nicely modelled snakes' heads, and were hooked through the lugs above described. The two handle-ends vary slightly in their ornamental details, as will be seen by reference to the plate; the front view of one end being given in figure 2*a*, and the profile of the other end in figure 2*b*.

With the bucket were found two slim, tapering bands of bronze. They are round at their narrower ends, and their wider ends are cut on the bevel, and drilled with several small holes. They are stamped with a central sinuous line, which here and there is broken into by a scale-like pattern (figs. 7*a*, 7*b*, 7*c*).

It is worthy of note that both these patterns were produced with a small gouge-like tool. On one of the bands (fig. 7*b*), the zigzag is diversified by some small rings which are occasionally perforated. Along either edge of the bands is a line of raised dots. The bucket itself having been destroyed, I have no clue as to how these bands were fixed, but by their shape, the curve they have assumed, and the shape of their wide ends (fig. 7*c*), I think there is little doubt that they formed slanting, ornamental straps between two of the hoop bands¹.

The height of the bucket was approximately 13 inches, but this cannot be made out with certainty, as the encircling bands may possibly have been placed somewhat wider apart than is shown in the engraving. Its diameter at the rim was 11·3", and at the base about 9".

Fragments of other buckets, but of rough workmanship, and with plain iron handles and bands, were also found in the well, including portions of one that had been cut out of the solid, instead of being made up of staves.

The well, besides the above-mentioned antiquities, contained a number of animal bones. These included the pig, the sheep, the ox (one of them is a very large abnormally shaped head), the dog, and the red deer. All the skulls of cattle bear marks

¹ These bands are not shown in the woodcut, as their position is but problematical.

of having been pole-axed. Among the antlers of the deer (*Cervus elaphus*) there is one very large specimen, which must when intact have been a magnificent example, rivalling in size any of the large heads of the Hungarian deer, which are the largest existing representatives of their race. The circumference of this horn at the base, above the terminal whorl, is 6'2", and its weight, in its present somewhat mutilated condition, exceeds nine pounds.

I am informed that the pottery and other utensils were found together at the bottom of the well; above these lay the bones; and last, and topmost, brushwood and some large pieces of wood (? pine). The fact of these objects having been deposited in distinct layers seems to indicate that the water of the well, at the date when the bones were thrown into it, had by some means become polluted, or possibly, the supply having failed, it had been found a convenient refuse pit. The brushwood with earth, etc., may, after a time, have been thrown in to close the well, and to prevent unpleasant exhalations arising from the decaying refuse matter.

It should be mentioned that previous to the discovery of the well antiquities have from time to time been found by Mr Martin's quarrymen. The Earl of Lanesborough possesses a small bronze gouge, a stone quern, and various pieces of Roman pottery, which he kindly allowed me to see, all of which had been found on the Mount Sorrel hill in the course of the last twenty years.

In the summer of 1881 a curious little chamber was discovered in the southern slope of the hill, of which Mr W. H. Macaulay, of King's College, who fortunately was on the spot at the time of the discovery, has kindly sent me the following particulars.

The chamber was built of rough stone and mortar, surface granite and blue lias having been used for the purpose, the top of the wall being just below the surface soil and turf. It was of an irregular quadrilateral form, but having the S.W. corner cut off by an angle projecting inwards. The N.E. corner, where the entrance had presumably been, was broken away. There

was no roof remaining, but on the floor were many pieces of Swithland slate which may have formed part of one. The area of the room was about $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 7 feet. The walls, which were over a foot in thickness, and four feet high where they were least destroyed, had their inner surface coated with a yellow plaster, on which were painted in red a number of irregularly spaced vertical bands, some being much broader than others. A narrow horizontal band, or line, of the same colour united two of the vertical bands near the top of the wall, and was continued at a lower level as far as the wall was still standing. A similar line, but in black, ran along the bottom of the wall (about a foot from the floor) and appears to have been carried right round the chamber. The rest of the surface had been painted white with a design in red, but of this design (curved and branched red streaks and disconnected spots of irregular shape) only some patches remained, whereas both the vertical and the horizontal bands were well preserved. On the floor, which consisted of a layer of rude concrete made with Barrow lime, there were found, besides the pieces of Swithland slate mentioned above, a few oyster and other shells, small bones, and pieces of horn.

That so commanding a position as Mount Sorrel should have been occupied from remote ages by the Britons, and after them by the Romans and their successors, is but natural, and we have sufficient evidence to prove that such was the case; but the why and the wherefore of these occupations is beyond the scope of the present paper.
