

ART. VII.—*Gold Armlet found in Westmorland.*

BY ELLEN K. WARE.

Read at Penrith, July 4th, 1889.

THE gold bracelet I exhibit was found early in 1889 by a labourer, on a piece of moorland in or near Winton, a hamlet of Kirkby Stephen. It was lying on a ledge of rock covered with soil. The ends seem at sometime to have been cut or broken off. It weighs 1 oz. 4 dwts. 6 gr. It appears to be part of an armlet of the ancient British or prehistoric period, certainly anterior to the Roman Invasion. The armlet, of which is a fragment, probably had five or six twists and possibly a hook at either end. Several have been found in various parts of England, and Canon Greenwell has a very fine one in his collection. This armlet was probably made by twisting together two hollowed-out pieces of gold, having a section of the shape of a cross. It might have been used for bullion, and this may account for its being chopped up.

NOTE.—The armlet was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London, on February 29, 1889, when Chancellor Ferguson made the following remarks :—*

I have the honour to exhibit a gold armlet which was found recently upon the Higher Winton Common, just under the fell of that name, which is situated near the town of Kirkby Stephen, in the county of Westmorland. The armlet was found three feet below the surface of the ground in a cleft of the rock, and had apparently been lost and fallen into the situation in which it was found; there was no trace of box or wrapper, nor was anything else found with it. This therefore, is a case not of *treasure trove*, but of *bona vacantia*, a lost article, which belongs to the finder and to no one else.†

* See *Proc. S.A.* 2nd Series, vol. xii., pp. 322-323.

† See Presidential Address by John Evans, P.S.A., St. George's Day, 1887, *Proc. S.A.* 2nd Series, vol. xi., pp. 380-381.

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The armlet is of fine gold, and weighs 1 oz. 4 dwts; it has been made by twisting into a spiral a rod of gold, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, whose section is a quatrefoil with flattened lobes, measuring something under a quarter of an inch in extreme diameter: the spiral so formed measures about $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, and has been bent into a rough circle of about $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter; one of the ends is rough, as if the rod had been broken off from a longer rod; the other end seems to have been recently cut with a knife, probably by the labourer who found it.* There is no provision for clasping together the ends of the armlet, and it has been intended to retain its position, when worn, by its elasticity.

It thus differs from the armlets formed by twisting into a spiral a flat strip of gold or a square or prismatic rod of that metal, or by twisting together three or four rods or wires. I have not been able to find a similar armlet in the books and should be glad to know of one. The armlets formed of wires twisted together are generally assigned to a later period than the plain ones with expanding ends. The present instance is I suggest, with hesitation, Romano-British. The place where it was found is about three miles from the great Roman camp at Brough-under-Stainmore (*Verteræ*).

* Dr. Evans, P.S.A., said it was evident from the rough ends that the armlet had been cut from the middle of a large torque.