



BRONZE RELIC FROM LONGSTONE, NR. BAKEWELL.

A Bronze Relic from Longstone.

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IN the early part of the present year a man, digging in his garden at Longstone, near Bakewell, turned up a bronze implement of peculiar shape. It consists of a heavy tapering socket, which measures 3·1 ins. long outside, and 2·8 ins. inside, whilst the base is 1·1 in. in diameter outside. The thickness of the metal at the base is not uniform, but averages about ·1 in. At its narrower extremity the socket terminates internally, but the outer cone expands into two triangular plates, or holders, measuring from base to apex 2 ins., and across from angle to angle 1·9 ins. Each plate is bevelled on its outer edge. One of them is about ·13 in. thick; the other about ·09 in. They face one another, there being a space of ·1 in. between them near the socket, but rather more than that at the apex. Towards the apex are two rivet-holes, one ·3 in., and the other ·7 in. from it in line, and these pierce both plates. There is also a single rivet-hole ·25 in. from the base of the socket. All these holes are clean cut, but not quite uniform in character. The weight of the implement is slightly below 6½ oz. The general colour is very dark green; but a small portion of the socket has been scraped, and there the original bronze colour is shown.

It is evident that the triangular plates were intended to hold and support a larger sheet of metal; but there is nothing to show the purpose for which this sheet was originally used.

It must have been thin, owing to the narrow space between the two plates, and therefore it cannot have been used as a spade. Moreover, there is no evidence to show that spades of such a pattern were ever made; but, on the contrary, present-day spades can be traced back in unbroken sequence to their wooden prototypes of bygone ages. The weight and strength of the socket show that it was intended for a staff of considerable length, so that the holder could not have been used for a mirror or any other merely personal utensil.

At the last annual meeting of the Derbyshire Archæological Society this relic was examined by Mr. W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., who drew attention to a certain degree of similarity between it and the socket of a Roman ensign described by Mr. Seltman. Mr. Andrew consulted Mr. Sharp Ogden, who suggested the possibility of its having held the Danish Raven.