

III.

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF VERY MINUTE FLINT IMPLEMENTS FROM
SCUNTHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE. BY REV. REGINALD A. GATTY,
LL.B.

Before describing these minute tools, it may be well to give a general statement regarding their discovery in various places. Five and twenty years ago, when living on the moors at Bradfield, near Sheffield, I found these small implements associated with neolithic flints on the ploughed fields, at an altitude of a thousand feet above sea level. In this place were several earthworks and dykes, and tools of flint were common, though in no instance out of a collection of several thousand flints did I find an axe-head, or any polished weapon. As the ground had been broken up from moorland in quite recent times, it was not probable that the larger tools had been gathered previously by others. I collected there for twenty years. There was one peculiarity about the flints of this high district, which was that they rarely showed any sign of patination. My next experience of finding these minute flint implements was at Hooton Roberts, near Rotherham, eighteen miles from Bradfield, and in the valley of the Don. Here they were more plentiful, and again associated with neolithic tools, and the same absence of axe-heads and polished flints. I may mention that there is no chalk in South Yorkshire, so that the flint itself must have been brought about eighty miles from the Wold district. It is surprising that no large tool should have been discovered either at Hooton Roberts or Bradfield. The race of flint folk seems to have been of the most primitive character, though only in East Yorkshire, from where they probably got their flint, the people were making axe-heads and weapons large enough for defence or attack. I lay stress upon this fact, as so far as I can ascertain these exceedingly small flint tools have only

been found associated with such implements as I have described. I have been collecting at Hooton Roberts twelve years, and have perhaps twenty thousand flints.

It was a paper published by Dr Colley March of Rochdale which first drew my attention to these very small flints, and I saw afterwards some specimens of his collecting in the Cambridge Museum. These were minute tools for cutting, or graving, Dr March suggested, and shaped, as M. Pierpont described similar ones from Namur, like a small tattooing implement from the Congo. They are identical with what I found at Bradfield and Hooton Roberts, but were got from the floor of a peat bog, ten feet thick, at an altitude of thirteen hundred feet on the moors of the Pennine range of hills. Here again the flints were associated with arrow-heads, thumb scrapers, etc.; but there were no large tools or axe-heads.

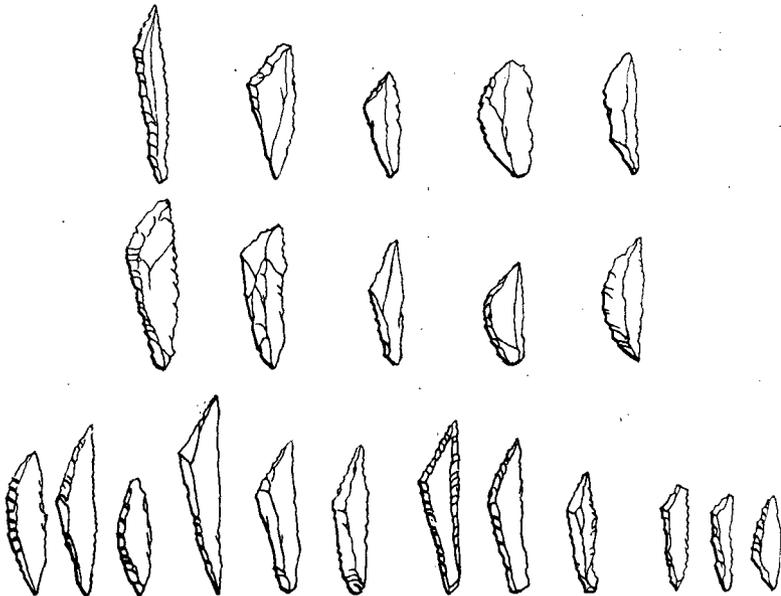
M. Pierpont,¹ describing certain stations, as he calls them, in Belgium and France, states that in some these flints were found by themselves with no other weapons near them. In other stations the ordinary neolithic tools were present with them.

Mr Carlyle, when out in India up in the Vindhya Hills, found in caves and rock shelters a great quantity of these minute flints, identical with English types, and with no other implements with them.

The same types of flints were found at Scunthorpe in the first instance by Mr Edgar E. Brown, and his careful investigations have been well rewarded. For years past flints have been found in this locality, but he was the first to draw attention to these minute forms. My experience at Scunthorpe leads me to believe it more nearly approaches the finds of Mr Carlyle and M. Pierpont, as the proportion of pigmy flints in comparison with ordinary neolithic forms is quite astonishing. With regard to the ground itself, Scunthorpe may be described as a sandy district,

¹ "Observations sur de très petit Instruments en Silex provenant de plusieurs Stations Neolithiques de la region de la Meuse," par É. de Pierpont, *Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie de Bruxelles*, xiii. 1894-95.

where a few feet down under the sand, a rich bed of ironstone has been discovered. The ground rises rather abruptly, and a low range of hills begins which extends thirty miles to Lincoln. The ground is covered with heather and bracken, and where a sand mound has been, so to speak, broken, and acted upon by weather, and dispersed by wind, you may find among the sand the very small flints in some quantity. There



Minute Flint Implements found in India and at Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. Those in the upper row are from India, the rest from Scunthorpe. (Actual size.)

are two other spots, each two miles distant from the hill, where they are found. Again, they occur six miles away in a similar locality. It is premature to say more about this place until further investigation has been made. It is interesting to observe, again, the absence of large tools. The arrow-heads and knives found there are of a superior workmanship to those at Bradfield or Hooton.

With regard to these minute flints, and their special characteristics, I find some difficulty in saying to what purpose they were applied. The common type of India, Belgium, and Scunthorpe, appears to be the cutting or graving tool, with a sloping shoulder, and worked sometimes on one and sometimes on both sides. This tool varies in size, the smallest being so minute as to need a magnifying glass to show the working.

There are found also minute scrapers, small circular tools, sixty-four of which were lately weighed and found to scale less than half an ounce. Small knives, borers, and triangles also occur, the latter being specially mentioned by M. Pierpont.

Mr M. E. Peacock of Cadney, six miles distant from Scunthorpe, reports very similar discoveries, and has sent me an arrow-head which he found in the bottom of an urn among human ashes. This arrow-point is so remarkably small that it seems to suggest a sort of offering to the dead rather than a weapon to accompany the departed. It has established the fact that cremation was adopted by the makers of the small implements.

Without venturing to express any opinion about the makers of these small tools, I think their absence in so many parts where neolithic flints abound rather suggests that the makers were a distinct tribe. There are many variations in the characteristics of arrow-heads, etc., found in various localities; such, for instance, in East Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. But there is no deviation in the absolute similarity of these minute implements of special forms, whether found in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, France, Belgium, and India.

MONDAY, 11th February 1901.

SIR THOMAS GIBSON CARMICHAEL, BART.,
Vice-President, in the Chair.

Before proceeding to the ordinary business of the meeting, the Chairman proposed the adoption of an Address to His Majesty the King, expressing their sympathy and condolence on the irreparable loss which His Majesty and the whole nation and empire had sustained in the lamented decease of his beloved mother, their most gracious Sovereign and Patron, Queen Victoria; and offering their loyal and dutiful congratulations on His Majesty's accession to the throne.

The Address, a copy of which follows, was unanimously adopted:—

UNTO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty :

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the President and Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, incorporated by Royal Charter, beg leave to approach Your Majesty with the expression of our sincere sympathy and condolence on the irreparable loss which Your Majesty, your Royal House, and the whole Nation and Empire have sustained in the lamented decease of your beloved Mother, our most gracious Sovereign and Patron, Queen Victoria. Her illustrious reign will be always remembered for the unparalleled advancement of the social, industrial, and commercial progress of the Empire, and for the concurrent development of Literature, Science, and Art attained and fostered by the favouring conditions of her beneficent rule; and her memory will be ever cherished in the loving remembrance of her grateful people for her unceasing devotion to the interest and welfare of all classes and conditions of her subjects.

We desire also to offer to Your Majesty our loyal and dutiful congratulations on Your Majesty's accession to the Throne, and to tender to Your Majesty the sincere expression of our loyal attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Throne; and our earnest prayer is that Your Majesty may be long spared in a happy and prosperous reign to maintain and advance the best interests of this great Empire.

Signed in the name and by the authority of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in general meeting assembled, and sealed with the Common Seal of the Incorporation, this eleventh day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one.

HERBERT EUSTACE MAXWELL, President.

THOMAS GIBSON CARMICHAEL, Vice-President.

DAVID CHRISTISON, Secretary.

The following reply to the Address was received from the Secretary of State for Scotland :—

SCOTTISH OFFICE, WHITEHALL, 27th March 1901.

SIR,

I am commanded by the King to convey to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, His Majesty's thanks for the expressions of sympathy with His Majesty and the Royal Family on the occasion of the lamented death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and also for the loyal and dutiful assurances on the occasion of His Majesty's accession to the Throne contained in their Address, which I have had the honour to lay before His Majesty.

I am, etc.

BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

The Right Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows :—

His Grace the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., LL.D.

His Grace the DUKE OF PORTLAND, K.G.

His Grace the DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.

The Most Hon. the MARQUIS OF BUTE.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.G.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF LEVEN AND MELVILLE.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF MANSFIELD.

The Right Hon. EARL CAWDOR.

The Right Hon. LORD HAMILTON of Dalzell.

The Right Hon. LORD HERRIES.

The Right Hon. LORD TWEEDMOUTH.

Sir MARK J. M'TAGGART STEWART, Bart., M.P.

JOHN HENRY GILCHRIST CLARK, of Speddoch.

MATTHEW LIVINGSTONE, Deputy Keeper of the Records, 32 Hermitage Gardens.

ALAN REID, F.E.I.S., 4 Harrison Road.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1) By H. W. SETON KARR.

Sixty-two rude Flint Implements from the East Desert, Egypt. These implements are from the flint mines discovered by the donor in the eastern desert, some at a distance of thirty miles from the Nile, some nearer in the Wady-el-Sheik district, the workings being in some cases

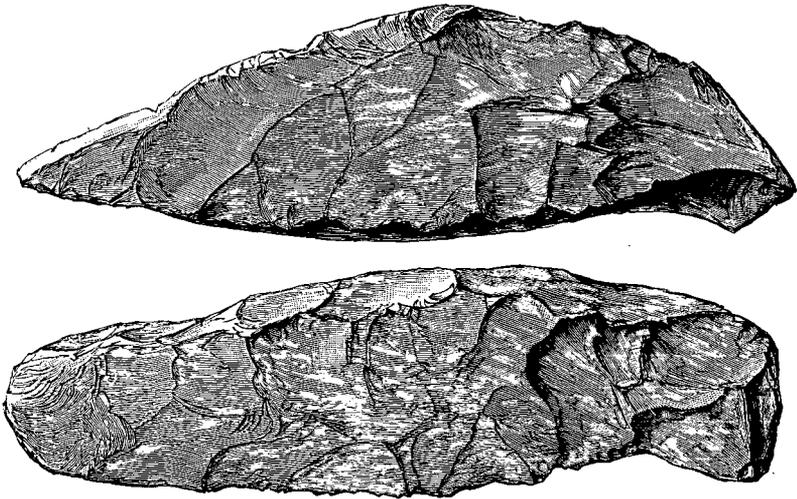


Fig. 1. Base and side view of core-like Implement of Flint from Eastern Desert, Egypt. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

along ledges on the faces of cliffs, in other cases on level ground on the plateaus which descend step-like from the high table-topped mountains to the dry sandy bed of the Wady-el-Sheik. The bulk of Mr Seton Karr's collection went to the Liverpool Museum, and a detailed description of them has been published by Dr H. O. Forbes in the *Bulletin of the Liverpool Museum*, vol. ii. Nos. 3 and 4. Those now presented to this Museum consist for the most part of four varieties.

A core-like variety (fig. 1) roughly triangular in section, tapering to one

end and having at the other end a projection from the flat side, as shown in the accompanying figure. They vary in size from $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by 2 inches in width of the side to about 7 inches in length.

A triangular variety worked along the sides and with the shortest side or base of the triangle worked to a roughly rounded edge, resembling a very roughly-made flat axe of stone. They also vary in size from about 9 inches in length by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest breadth near the base, and 1 inch in thickness, to about 7 inches in length.

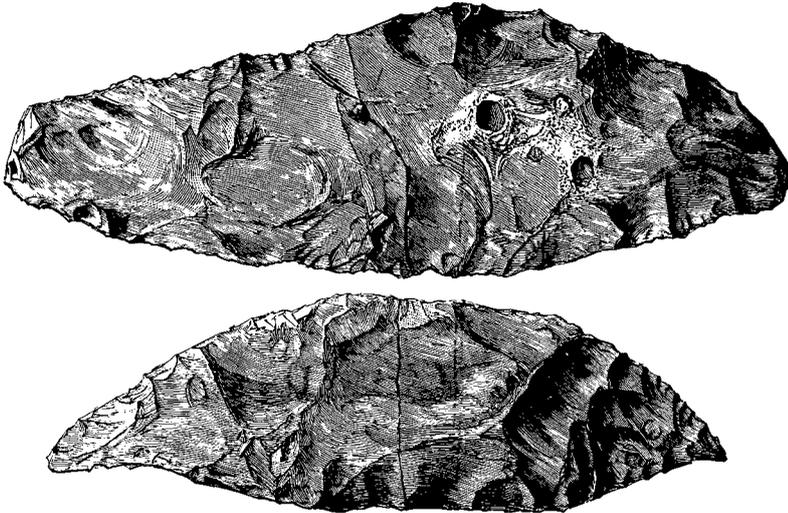


Fig. 2. Two Flint Implements from the Eastern Desert, Egypt. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

A double triangular variety, having its greatest breadth in the middle of its length and tapering thence to both ends. They vary in size also from about 9 inches in length by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest breadth, but most of the smaller sizes are only fragments.

A variety with a slightly curved edge on one side and a crescentic back, sometimes inclining to be angular, also varying in size from 9 inches in length by 3 inches in greatest breadth, to less than 7 inches in length. Two of them are shown in the accompanying woodcut (fig. 2).

Twenty-four portions of vessels of coarse pottery found in or around the flint mines where the implements occurred. Some of the vessels are straight-sided and have loop handles.

Fifty-five Palæolithic Implements of Flint from Somaliland.

These implements are for the most part identical in form with implements of palæolithic type found in the drift gravels of Europe. They are much whitened and superficially decomposed by exposure, having been washed out of sandy or loamy deposits by the action of rain and exposed on the surface.

(2) By Rev. J. E. FRASER, DORES.

Small fragment of a Sculptured Stone, with a fretwork pattern, found on the shore of Loch Ness, near Dore.



Fig. 3. Fragment of Sculptured Slab found near Dore. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

The fragment measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in thickness, but the back shows the natural lamination of the stone as if it had split off from a slab of greater thickness. Judging from the large scale of the pattern and the boldness of the incised sculpture it must have formed part of a monument, probably a cross-slab, of considerable size. The pattern is part of a design in fretwork not un-

common on the cross-slabs of the period of the Celtic Church, but apparently differing in its details from most of them, and therefore of special interest. The fragment is also interesting as indicating that a monument of this class and period must have stood somewhere in the neighbourhood, though no record of it exists.

(3) By ANDREW W. LYONS, Architect, Edinburgh.

Pencil Drawing to scale of the Painted Ceiling in the Montgomery Aisle, Old Church of Largs, Ayrshire, framed and glazed. [See the subsequent Communication by Mr A. W. Lyons.]

(4) By Mrs CARFRAE, Montraive Villa, Murrayfield.

Manuscript Book of Accounts of Maries Chapell (Burgh of Barony of Portsburgh, Edinburgh), 1725-26.

Thirty Finger Rings of Bronze, Greek, Roman, and Mediaeval.

(5) By ALEX. J. S. BROOK, F.S.A. Scot.

Facsimile of the Seal of the Burgh of Barony of Portsburgh, Edinburgh.

(6) By Sir JAMES BALFOUR PAUL, Lord Lyon King-of-Arms, the Author.

Heraldry in relation to Scottish History and Art. The Rhind Lectures for 1898. 8vo; 1900.

(7) By RALPH RICHARDSON, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Coutts & Co., Bankers, Edinburgh and London. 8vo; 1900.

River Terminology (extract from *Scottish Geographical Magazine*), pp. 7.

(8) By T. WATSON GREIG, of Glencarse, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Ladies' Dress Shoes of the Nineteenth Century. Folio; 1900.

(9) By DAVID BRYCE & SON, Publishers, Glasgow.

M'Ian's Costumes of the Clans of Scotland. 8vo ; 1899.

M'Ian's Highlanders at Home. 8vo ; 1900.

(10) By ALEX. INGLIS, Photographer, Rock House, Calton Hill.

Album of Photographs of Old Chairs, etc., in the Collection of the late Sir William Fraser, K.C.B., LL.D.

(11) By C. W. DYMOND, Hon. F.S.A. Scot.

The Amra Choluim Chilli of Dallan Forgaill. Printed from the original Irish, and Translated by J. O'Beirne Crowe. 8vo ; Dublin, 1871.

(12) By GEORGE F. BLACK, Public Library, New York.

A Selected Biography of the Anthropology and Ethnology of Europe. By Wm. Z. Ripley.

The Directories for Worship and Form of Church Government of the Church of Scotland. Printed by Benjamin Franklin, 1745. (Reprint.)

(13) By the TRUSTEES of the late Mr JOHN HAXTON, Markinch.

First Edition of the Bishops' Bible. Folio ; 1568. (Completing the Haxton Bequest of Bibles printed in English.)

The following Communications were read :—