

FIG. 1.



FIG. 3.

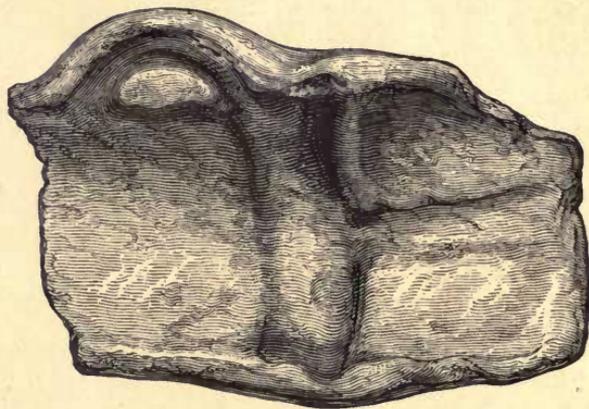
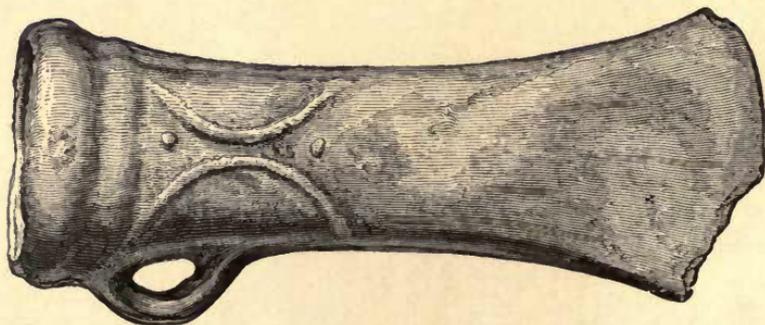


FIG. 2.



NOTICE OF A HOARD OF BRONZE IMPLEMENTS FOUND AT BEDDINGTON,  
SURREY.

By JOHN WICKHAM FLOWER, Esq., F.G.S.

---

THE objects in bronze, of which figures are given in the accompanying plate, are part of a small collection which was discovered three or four years since in Beddington Park, in preparing the ground for the foundation of a house nearly opposite the school-room: they are now in the possession of Dr. Strong, of Croydon.

The total number of pieces found was thirteen; viz., three ingots or lumps of bronze, one gouge, two broken spear-heads, one half of a mould for casting bronze celts, and six celts. They probably formed part of the stock in trade of some manufacturer of such implements, as, from the battered and broken condition of most of the pieces, it is clear that they, as well as the ingots, were intended for the melting-pot.

The gouge (fig. 1) is socketed to receive a haft, or handle, of wood or bone. These implements are not very common, and the one here figured is a remarkably fine specimen, as perfect, indeed, as could be made at the present day from the same material. The celt, No. 2, is one of the usual types; it is figured here, as being the most perfect that was found. The celt-mould is somewhat broken, but it is perfect enough to show its design and character. It is evident, from these samples of their handiwork, that our remote predecessors—possibly our ancestors—were not quite so rude as we sometimes fancy.

These implements were obviously of home manufacture, and those who made them must have been tolerably well skilled in the working of metals, bronze being compounded from two such different metals as copper and tin, which in the composition of all implements of this kind appear to have been mixed in due proportions. It is also evident that a certain amount of commercial enterprise and activity must have been exhibited, as the implements are frequently found in localities very far distant from those in which the metals in question are obtainable.

The discovery of these objects is locally interesting, as showing that the district was inhabited before the Roman invasion by those who had not yet learned the use of iron. As the clear waters of the Wandle probably induced some British tribe or family to settle on its banks, so probably the Romans found here a pleasant and convenient habitation, and after they had taken their departure the Saxon invaders took possession, and gave the place, probably for the first time, a distinctive name. *Beddington* is evidently the town or dwelling-place of the *Beedings*,—the tribe or family of *Bede*; a name which is illustrious in English history as having been borne by our earliest, and learned historian, justly termed “the Venerable.”