

Correspondence.

NOTES FROM WALLINGFORD.

Overthorpe House, Wallingford,

September 5th, 1891.

DEAR SIR,—As promised I now send you an account of finds of all kinds of antiques, &c., which have come into my hands the last three months. As to pre-historic implements, I have had brought me in this district within a three-mile radius, 81 arrow heads barbed and leaf shaped, many very fine specimens, all with the exception of four are bleached quite white, the four coming from the lower grounds or valley between the hills and the Thames; also 117 scrapers, several hundred flakes, 10 flint and four stone celts or chisels, two from the Thames by dredging, one stone celt from the sewage and one iron axe, (Anglo-Saxon, no doubt), and a large number of stone and flint knives, borers, rot boilers, mealers, &c., &c., and an Echinus in iron pyrites, very rare.

In the coin way I have a small gold one, ancient British, found just outside the town, unfortunately pierced, of uninscribed type, see Evans Plate D, No. 3, weight $27\frac{1}{2}$ grains, a silver penny of Alfred the Great close to the town, with the head inscription AELFRED REX, reverse in two lines VVLFRED, eleven copper or bronze Roman three 2nd and eight 3rd brass; they call for no special mention except that they were found close to and in the town. Two of them are Constantine the Great and both of the London mint, also one silver denarius of Geta, A.D. 211, reverse is Felicitas Publica, found at the village of Brightwell, about two miles from Wallingford. Speaking of Roman coins found in Wallingford and the district of two miles radius, it has been said that the Romans did not reside here and that it was not a Roman station. What say you, when five to six thousand Roman coins have gone through my hands within the last 25 years, and are now in my possession; and how can you account for the finding of over 30 ancient British gold coins found in the same radius besides silver and copper of Eppillus, Comius, Vericus, Cunobeline, &c., and there is not a single instance of one being found at Silchester, which some folk claim as the Calleva (I doubt it), and coins are the greatest proof if found on the spot?

I beg, dear Sir, to remain,

Faithfully yours,

W. R. DAVIES.

Rev. P. H. Ditchfield.

P.S.—Within the previous three months over 80 arrow heads have been found near here, besides large quantities of flakes, scrapers, &c., and 2 polished celts or axes, a beautiful collection of Athelred 2nd silver penny of the Wallingford mint and many other coins, 2 ancient British, 1 gold and 1 copper and about 30 Roman, one extra fine 2nd brass of Claudius Cæsar, though of common reverse and a silver medalet (small) very interesting, obverse St. George and the Dragon, inscription—St. George Equitump Tru; reverse Christ in a vessel asleep and one figure trying to awake him and the other appears frightened with the storm raging, inscription—intempte securitas, and many other articles of the Roman and Saxon period.