

This somewhat corresponds with the late Prof. Rolleston's researches at Frilford, where Christian Britons were found buried underneath pagan Teutons.\* From the discoveries made of late years it is evident a Romano-British population occupied Reading and the surrounding districts. And there is no doubt that after Alfred's Danish wars the Saxons also became settlers wherever facilities in the shape of arable and pasture were favourable. These small communities must have had centres for the burial of their dead ; and we have seen that a small edifice of some kind, probably a small church, stood on the site of the cemetery. The orientation of the bodies is too general to admit of doubt but that the larger portion of the dead were interred with attention to Christian rites. In 742, Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, introduced the practice of burial in churchyards.† But pagan usages could only have been slowly relinquished ; indeed, they must have lingered indefinitely in places, inasmuch as in the time of Canute (1014) Mr. Thorpe states that laws were framed to forbid heathenism, and the practice of heathen rites.‡ It might, I think, be considered that we have here a Christian British cemetery, which was subsequently utilised by the Saxons at a time when the custom of placing pagan relics in the grave had not been wholly abandoned.

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\* Rolleston, Further researches in an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Frilford, pp. 657-8. Scientific Papers and Addresses, Vol. II.

† Weever, Funeral Monuments, p. 8.

‡ Ancient Laws and Institutes, edited by Thorpe, p. 379, c. 3 and 5.

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#### INTERESTING "FIND" AT THE READING MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.—

While searching the vaults beneath the Municipal Buildings for suitable storage for utensils, in connection with the new Dairy School of the University Extension College at Reading, Mr. G. W. Webb (Chairman of the Survey Committee of the Corporation), discovered some very interesting property. In one of the vaults were two old oak chests, about 5ft. by 3½ft., and in one of them were found several dozens of heavy pewter dishes and platters, the largest dish being about 2½ft. in diameter ; and a number of pewter spoons. Some of the articles have been partially cleaned, and reveal inscriptions, coats of arms, &c., proving them to be the property of the Corporation ; and a careful inspection of the "plate marks" has led Mr. J. E. Sydenham (of Messrs. Bracher and Sydenham) to fix their date *circa* 1680. In another part of the buildings, Mr. Webb discovered no less than 19½ dozen of old "Sheffield plate" (silver rolled on iron) table spoons, all stamped with the borough arms, which Mr. Sydenham considers to be about 60 years old.