



Notes on the Archæology of Oxford and its Neighbourhood.

By Percy Manning, F.S.A.

THESSE notes are an attempt to place on record certain facts that, as far as I know, have not hitherto appeared in print, and also to supplement the printed accounts of various discoveries made in past years. They are the result of work undertaken with a view to compiling an archæological survey of Oxfordshire ; and as in this task I have been much troubled by the vagueness with which the exact site of many finds is described, I have tried, as far as possible, to enable anyone reading my notes to mark the places mentioned on the six-inch ordnance map with a fair degree of accuracy.

I need hardly say that I shall be most grateful for any additional information as to discoveries of Pre-Roman, Roman or Saxon remains in Oxfordshire. I must express my obligation to T. J. Carter, geologist, of St. Clement's, Oxford, who has been indefatigable in collecting information for me, to the Rev. E. R. Massey, and to Mr. C. W. C. Oman, who kindly identified the Roman coins.

The name of each place is followed by the number [in brackets] of the quarter-sheet of the six-inch ordnance map of the county, on which the site is to be found. Then comes the description of the find, followed by the reference to the source of my information.

The following notes on the "Port Ways" in Oxfordshire are of some interest, They were written in the first half of last century.

"A Roman Military Bye-way passed through part of this place [Stokenchurch], and led (as I conceive) from Wycombe to Watlington and Wallingford. It is called Port-Lane, and coming from West Wycombe Church, about Chawley it is very visible, and soon after gets the name of Port-Lane. As it passes by Stoken Church it is called Colliers Lane, and going down the Hill, it joyns with the Ickinild Way. . . .

"Near this Place [Stokenchurch] there are two Roads that retain this Title, viz., This Port-Lane and the Portway, that crosses the Chiltern between Thame and Henley. . . .

"The Highway between Swinbrooke and Witney Com. Oxon was of old called Portway, and there is now a furlong shooting south on that way, at this day called Portway Furlong."

[Delafield's MS. *History of Stokenchurch* p. 244.]*

OXON.

ADWELL.

[XLVII. N.E.]

Delafield says that an urn [probably British] was found "near the Windmill on Adwell Cop., as I have heard."

[*MS. Hist. of Stokenchurch*, p. 241.]†

ARDLEY.

[XVI. S.E.]

Roman coins have been found in a garden in Ardley village, south of the point where the road from Bucknell enters the Oxford and Brackley road.

Many years ago several barbed and socketed iron spear heads were found between Ardley and Fewcot by a man digging a ditch.

[Information from Rich. Coles, of Ardley, 1895.]

ASTHAL.

[XXXI. N.W.]

I have a Roman bronze buckle, and the following coins dug up in a garden in the village, on the line of Akeman Street:—1st brass Nerva (the rare reverse 'Vehiculatione Italiae remissa'), 2nd brass Trajan, small brasses of Constantine (2), Constantine Jun., Constantius II., Theodosius I.

Roman coins are also found in the fields on either side of the road from the village to Asthal Barrow. I have a bronze fibula found here, and the following coins:—2nd brass Trajan (Greek coin of Asia Minor), small brasses of Carausius (2), Constantinopolis (3), Theodora (1), Constans (1), Constantine, Jun. (1), illegible Constantine family (4).

STEEPLE ASTON.

[XXII. N.W.]

About the year 1870, during some digging for gravel in the field immediately east of Hopcroft's Holt Inn, and north of the road from the Inn to Lower Heyford, several human skeletons were found, together with a quantity of very rude pottery of a dark clay, and bones of animals, among which was the deer.

[Information from Mr. Dewe, of Lower Heyford, 1895.]

* Gough MS., Oxon. 47 (Bodleian).

† Gough MS., Oxon. 47 (Bodleian).

BAMPTON.

[XXXVII. N.E.]

At the east end of Bampton, on the left hand side of the road from Bampton to Aston, and immediately opposite to Calais Farm, is a small field in which is a gravel pit. During digging here in 1893 and 1894, hollows were noticed sunk into the gravel and filled with dark earth. In them were bones, some human, others of animals, and numerous pieces of broken pottery, some of it seemingly British in character. Some pieces in my possession, which contain pounded shells in their paste, and are hand moulded, seem to have belonged to a plain straight-sided drinking cup, such as is figured in *British Barrows*, fig. 81. Another piece has a polished black surface, and has formed part of a shallow vessel, perhaps a food vessel, with an upright lip and a body projecting out and returning at a sharp angle. The upper part of the body has two incised lines running round it, between which are zig-zag lines at intervals of about an inch, the intervening spaces being alternately plain and filled with large punctures made with a pointed instrument. In one of the hollows two bone pins were found, which are now in possession of Mr. Bullen, the occupier of Calais Farm. On the surface of the adjoining field is much broken Roman pottery, including many *mortaria*, and numerous Roman coins have been here picked up. The soil too is much darker, so I am told, than that in the surrounding fields. The evidence at my disposal does not enable me to decide whether there are two periods of occupation here—Pre-Roman succeeded by Roman,—or whether there is only one period—Romano-British.

[Information from Bampton, 1894.]

BECKLEY.

[XXXIV. N.W.]

I have a small bronze ring, perhaps a spindle-whorl, inlaid with four circles of red enamel, of Late Celtic date, found in 1895 on the allotments close to the Roman road from Alchester. In the Ashmolean Museum is a unique Late Celtic fibula found near the same place.

A gold coin of Cunobeline, now in the possession of Mr. C. W. C. Oman, was found here a few years ago.

BLACKTHORN.

[XXIII. S.E.]

In a field about 300 yards south of the second milestone on the road from Bicester to Aylesbury (Akeman Street), stone has been quarried extensively for some time past. The excavations have uncovered quantities of holes in the rock filled with broken Roman pottery and bones. The pottery includes pieces of *mortaria*, of the

pseudo "Samian" ware, and the coarse "smother-kiln" ware, probably made in the district. I have a large quartzite pounder from here, about 6in. in diameter.

From a garden in Blackthorn village, between the Weir and the Manor Farm, I have got a bronze fragment resembling the lower part of a stirrup, and apparently Roman.

BLACK BOURTON. XXXVII. N.W.]

Three fields on the east side of the road from Black Bourton to Clanfield, half way between the villages, are known by the name of 'Black Lands.' Roman coins have been picked up in them. I have a small brass of Corausius. It is highly probable that other Roman remains may be found here, as they have been found abundantly at three other sites, all known by the same name, 'Black Land,' in Oxfordshire and its borders, viz., Madmarston Camp, Oxon, King's Sutton Lodge, and Chipping Warden, Northants [v. Beesley's *Hist. of Banbury*, pp. 17, 26, 33, 35]. Three adjoining fields immediately east of the cross roads at Rock Farm in this parish bear the suggestive names of "Frenchester," "Black Mould Ground" and "Round Hill Ground." The latter name is constantly applied to barrows in this part of the country, e.g., at Hook Norton, north of the village, at Tusmore, west of the Park, and at Sidstone and Chalford, near Enstone [v. Jordan's *Hist. of Enstone*, pp. 22, 29]. I have just commented on the name "Black." Although it is unsafe to put too much emphasis on 'chester' as indicating a Roman site, yet the fact of these three significant names occurring together cannot be ignored. I am keeping a look-out for any discoveries at this place.

BRIGHTAMPTON. [XXXVIII. N.W.]

Mr. Hemmings, the occupier of Malt House Farm, found in 1892 several complete skeletons whilst digging gravel in the rick-yard behind the barn.

It was on this site that the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was excavated by Mr. Ackerman in 1857-8 (*Archæologia* xxxviii., 84, and *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, 1st ser., iv., 217, 231, 233, 329.) The malt-house mentioned in *Archæologia*, which gave its name to the farm, has lately been pulled down.

[Information from Mr. Hemmings, 1895.]

BRITWELL SALOME. [XLVII. S.W.]

About the year 1849, in a field on the west side of the road from Britwell Prior to Watlington, and immediately east of Britwell

Church, some men digging gravel found four Roman urns.

[Information from Mr. Neighbour, 1895.]

BRIZE NORTON.

[xxx. s.w.]

Many years ago a number of human skeletons were found in digging stone in the field which lies in the angle where the road from Minster Lovel to Brize Norton meets the 'Abingdon Lane.' With them were "swords and armour" and some of them wore "helmets." One skeleton, as I was told, lay on or in a large earthen bowl.

About 1881, a labourer was digging stone by the side of 'Abingdon Lane,' about 10 chains from Astrop Farm towards Brize Norton, when he found, about 18 inches below the surface, a human skeleton lying at full length on its back. Under it was an iron knife about a foot long.

Both these interments would seem to be Anglo-Saxon.

[Information from John Slade of Brize Worton, 1894.]

CASSINGTON.

[xxxiii. nw.]

I have small brasses of Constantine the younger, found in a field called the "Akeries," between Norton and Cassington, 1896.

CHIMNEY.

[xxxvii. s.e.]

For some years past, up to the present time, skeletons with "swords and armour," as my informant describes them, have been found in the garden of the farm house. The late Mr. Stephen Stone, who excavated the British settlement near Brighthampton, used to obtain most of what was found. Anything now turned up is immediately buried again by order of the farmer who occupies the house.

[Information from Cote, 1895.]

I suppose that these remains are Anglo-Saxon, but I have seen nothing to enable me to speak positively.

CHIPPING NORTON.

[xiv. s.e.]

I have the following Roman coins dug up, in 1895, in the Market Place at Chipping Norton :—1st brass Trajan, small brasses of Constantinopolis, Valens and an illegible Constantine.

Plot [*Nat. Hist. Oxfordshire*, 1705, p. 341] speaks of Roman coins being found here.

Roman coins are found at three other places in this parish on the surface of the fields.

1. Chipping Norton Common [xiv. S.W.], or Prime Down, as it is also called, adjoining the Railway Station on the west side.

2. The Poor's Allotments [xiv. S.E.], on the S.E. of the town, at the back of Burford Terrace. I have the following all in small brass :—Tetricus and Postumus (8), Theodora (1), Constantine (1), Constantinopolis (1), Constantine, Jun., (1), Constantius II. (1), Valens (2), Valentinian (2), Gratian (1), and some 20 illegible coins of the Constantine family.

3. Oldner Farm [xiv. S.E.], S.E. of the last mentioned, in a field called the Hoe. I have the following in small brass :—Victorinus (1), Theodora (1), Valens (1), Valentinian I. (1), and five illegible coins of the Constantine family.

CHURCHILL. [XX. N.W.]

Roman coins have been found in a field adjoining Sars Brook on the N. side, due N. of Sarsden Rectory.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN. [XLV. S.E.]

In the field adjoining the high road, immediately E. of Fullamoor Farm, and in the next field towards Clifton Hampden, are a series of lines, clearly marked in the growing corn by their specially luxuriant growth, and apparently analogous to those which appear yearly at North Field Farm, Long Wittenham.

In the field S. of Fullamoor Farm are two circles about 6 yards in diameter also marked in the growing corn. They lie close to the field-road which runs due S. from the farm, on the E. side of the road. One, which touches the road, is about 65 yards N. of the solitary barn, which stands by the road-side. The other is about 15 yards from the road and about 50 yards from the barn.

[Personal observation, July, 1895.]

[XLV. E.]

About 1865, during drainage work in the fields called "Long Hadden" and "Yards"; several human skeletons with "battle axes, swords," and other similar articles of iron were found. The site is just N. of the village and W. of the footpath leading thence to the Coppice House.

[Information from Clifton Hampden by T. Carter], 1895.

The frequency with which remains of the Civil War period have been found round Oxford, makes it necessary to be cautious in pronouncing on the date of the above find, as the information is so vague. The "battle-axes," however, do not sound like Civil War remains.

COWLEY. [XXXIX. N.E.]

Some Roman coins were dug up in 1895 in making additions to the stables of the Oxford Tramways Co., in Leopold Street, Cowley.

I have the following:—2nd brass Nerva, silver Philip I., small brasses of Victorinus, Constantine jun., Valentinian I., Arcadius.

CRAWLEY.

[XXXI. N.E.]

Human bones are and have been frequently turned up in the fields immediately south and east of Maggotsgrove, closely adjoining the tumulus excavated in 1857 by Mr. Ackerman, and in 1864 by Messrs. Thurnam and Rolleston (v. *Archæologia*, xxxvii., 431, xlii. 175). This tumulus was pronounced to be of Romano-British date. Coins are found with the bones. The latest find of bones was in May, 1897.

[Information from George Souch, of Crawley, 1897.]

DEDDINGTON.

[X. S.W.]

About 20 years ago there was found in the "Parish Pit" a number of holes filled with broken pottery, ashes and charred bones. A few coins were also found. A human skeleton was discovered in the same pit. It is probable that these holes were Romano-British rubbish pits, as similar finds of that period have been made at several other places in the county.

The site of the "Parish Pit" is on the north side of the road from Deddington to Clifton, about a quarter of a mile east of the gas works at Deddington.

During draining operations about thirty years ago at Hazelhedge Farm, the foundations of a large building were found in the rick-yard and the field adjoining. The soil round them was very black and was full of broken pottery and charred bones, &c.

[Information from William Parish, of Clifton, 1897.]

DORCHESTER.

[XLVI. S.W.]

In digging holes for gate posts in the farm yard of the Manor Farm, at Dorchester, a cemented cistern about 2ft. square was found, and round it the pieces of several Roman urns; the only one at all perfect was of grey "smother-kiln" ware, and had a zig-zag ornament incised round its belly below the rim. This is now in the possession of Mr. Major, of the Grammar School, Wallingford.

[Information from Mr. Rich. Hatt, Dorchester, 1895.]

Several human skeletons were found, about twenty years ago, sticking out of the river bank, just below Little Wittenham Bridge, on the east bank of the river Thames.

[Information from Mr. H. Hewett, July, 1895.]

"Mr. Barrington exhibited . . . a jewel of singular form; being the frustrum or base of a pyramid, composed of gold and inlaid with garnets on each side and one in the centre at the top. It is

about an inch square at the bottom and three-tenths of an inch at the top, and its height somewhat above seven-tenths of an inch. In the base are two apertures for receiving a catch or spring in order to the adapting it to, or detaching it from, the other ornamental parts to which it may have belonged, whether a necklace or bracelet; for to some such use it seems most probable to have appertained. It was found by digging under a hedge at Dorchester, in Oxfordshire."

[MSS. *Min. of Soc. of Antiq.*, xv., 40-1, 28 Nov., 1776.]

A rough sketch, which accompanies the above description, shews one side of the object, which it is elaborately decorated with cloisonnée work. It is obviously Anglo-Saxon.

DRAYTON.

[XLVI. N.W.]

In a gravel pit in the north-east corner of the parish, just west of the bridge over the River Thame, which carries the field road from Drayton to Brookhampton, about seven years ago, the workmen found two "flower-pots" and several human bones. One of the "flower-pots" was broken and the other one, which was whole, was taken away by a farmer. He is since dead, and nothing can be heard of the urn. No more urns have been found since, but last year [1893] some bones were dug up.

[Information from T. Carter, 29/1/94.]

Close to this place a British drinking vessel was found with a human skeleton in 1862 (v. *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd ser., ii. 204, iii. 21; *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Journal*, ii. 101).

Two human skeletons were found, in 1896, in the village of Drayton, close to the River Thame, in digging gravel.

EMINGTON.

[XLI. N.E.]

About 1875, some labourers in digging out a rabbit in 'Down Covert' between Emington and Towersey found several Roman coins. 'Down Covert' is on the parish boundary between the two places, and just east of the footpath which joins them.

Roman coins have been found some years ago between Emington and Sydenham, but exactly where, I could not find out.

[Information from James Davies, of Emington, 1895.]

EWELME.

[XLIX. N.E.]

Many Roman coins have been found in and near Ewelme. In 1722, a hoard of between three and four hundred, ranging from Domitian to Claudius Tacitus, was found between the village and the Icknield Way [v. Pointer's *Britannia Romana*, pp. 12-30]. The six-inch Ordnance Map marks sites in the grounds of the Rectory and of the Manor House, where coins have been found.

Coins are also found in the field north of the main street between Eyre's Lane and Cat Lane, and again in the field east of Tidmarsh Lane and north of Cottesmore Farm. From the former of these last-mentioned sites I have the following :—2nd brasses of Claudius (barbarous imitation), Vespasian, Constantius Chlorus, small brasses of Allectus and Magnentius.

From the latter site the following :—1st brass Hadrian, small brasses of Quintillus, Probus and Constantinopolis.

From the Manor House site, a small Alexandrian brass of Claudius Gothicus.

EYNSHAM.

[XXXII. S.E.]

The growing corn between Foxley Farm and Limb Brook, between Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt, shews dark lines similar to those which mark the Romano-British remains at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham, Berks.

[Information from F. Haverfield, Esq., July, 1895.]

FAWLER.

[XXVI. N.W.]

About 60 years ago, the grubbing up of a tree in Ashey Close brought to light a quantity of Roman coins, mostly silver, together with some broken pottery. Most of the coins were dispersed, but the then Duke of Marlborough got a quantity.

About 30 years ago, during the digging of a drain to dry a piece of swampy land in Bury Close, the labourers found a Roman tessellated pavement beneath which was a hypocaust. At the same time a number of small silver coins and a quantity of broken pottery were found. The pavement was covered up again by order of the Duke of Marlborough, and still remains untouched.

The site is at the south end of Fawler village, between the southernmost cottages and the railway, close to the bank of the Evenlode, and to the railway bridge which here crosses the river.

[Information from Thomas Eden, of Fawler, 1895.]

For other Roman finds at Fawler see *Archæologia*, xxxvii. 433 ; *Proc. Oxf. Arch. and Hist. Soc.*, New Ser., ii. 348, iii. 39.

FORDWELLS, ASTHAL LEIGH.

[XXV. S.W.]

I have the following Roman coins found here :—Silver Caracalla, small brasses of Tetricus Jun., Constantine and Constantine Jun.

GARSINGTON.

[XL. S.W.]

During draining operations about 1887, a stone-pitched road was found at a depth of about five feet, stretching in a north-westerly direction across a market garden which lies between two green lanes known as Crook's Lane and Hillsdon Lane, on the north side of the

upper road from Garsington to Oxford, and opposite to Kiln Farm. Some of the stones were large flagstones. This piece of road seems to point towards the Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester, which passes about three-quarters of a mile to the west. A number of Roman coins have been found at Northfield Farm, which lies between this point and the Roman road.

[Information from Mr. Yeates, of Garsington, May, 1897.]

[XL. N.W.]

A quantity of Roman coins have been found in the field between Northfield Farm and Northfield Brook. I have specimens of the following:—Vespasian, 2nd brass (1); Trajan, silver denarius (1); Lucius Verus, large brass (2); Salonina (1); Tetricus the younger (2); Claudius Gothicus (3); Constantine (2); Crispus (2); Constans (1); Populus Romanus (1); Urbs Roma (1); Valens (2); illegible Constantine family (2); all small brass.

HANWELL.

[V. N.E.]

About three years ago, a man, when draining in a field called Camp Spinney, which lies immediately north of Spring Farm at Hanwell, found at a depth of about 18 ins. what he described as "an oven" with several pieces of rough pottery in it, which were "marked in squares" *i.e.* probably with a wicker-work pattern. Round the "oven" the soil was burnt red. The pottery was put back into the hole and covered over.

[Information from Jesse Gunn, of Hanwell. 1895.]

For other Roman remains at Hanwell, v. A. Beesley's *Hist. of Banbury*, pp. 44-45.

GREAT HASELEY.

[XL. S.E. XLI. S.W.]

Delafield (in his *MS. History of Stokenchurch*, p. 241*) mentions an urn [probably British], "found by the plough in the common field of Great Haseley."

HEADINGTON.

[XXXIV. S.W.]

I have a bronze spear-head, found on the surface in 1892 at Sandhill, by the side of the old quarry which lies about 250 yards N.W. of Shotover Lodge. It is of the socketed type, with an incurved leaf shaped blade, resembling in outline fig. 390 in Evan's *Anc. Bronze Impts.* The socket is rather wide in proportion to the blade, and is continued down to the point as a heavy midrib. It has two large rivet-holes on either side. Total length $4\frac{7}{8}$ in., width of blade $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., diameter of socket 1 in.

* Gough MS. Oxon 47 (Bodleian).

[xxxiv. s.w.]

In 1892 some labourers digging a turnip clamp close to Wick Farm, found a skeleton at a depth of 18in. It lay full length on its back, with the head pointing west. The place was about 400 yards N. of Wick Farm, and 100 yards west of the footpath leading from Barton to the E. end of Stow Wood. The police heard of the find, and called in Dr. Robert Hitchings, of Oxford, who pronounced the remains to be probably those of a female, a full-grown adult, and from the very decayed condition of the bones to be of great antiquity.

[Information from Dr. Kitchings and Rich. Morris, of Headington. 1895.]

The site is about half way between the Roman villa discovered here in 1849 (v. *Arch. Journal* vi. 183, *Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vi. 52) and the Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester.

[xxxiii. s.e. xxxix. n.e.]

About 250 yards south of the place where the road from Headington village to Cowley Barracks crosses the old road over Shotover Hill is a quarry known as "Harry Bears's Pit." A few years ago the workmen found several circular hollows sunk in the rock, about 2ft. 6ins. deep, and about the same in diameter. Leading into these were shallow flues also sunk in the rock to a dept of about gins. The circular hollows were lined with a thick coating of clay, in some cases burnt almost to whiteness, but in others only slightly burnt, and still retaining marks of fingers and of the tool used in spreading it over the sides of the hollows. These kilns—for such I suppose them to be—were filled with broken pottery, bones and dark coloured mould, contrasting with the natural brown mould found here. They had all been destroyed when I examined the place in 1894, but I found pieces of the clay linings still lying about. They are certainly of Roman origin. Some of the pieces retained the prints of nailed boot-soles.

Running in a southerly direction from this quarry is a shallow valley, down which goes a footpath to Cowley Marsh. At three other places along this valley Roman remains are found. On the western side of the valley, between the footpath and Warren Cottages, the ground is covered with fragments of Roman pottery, chiefly the ordinary buff-coloured mortaria and coarse grey ware. There were, however, two or three pieces of that rare fine smooth black ware which resembles Wedgwood's "basalt" ware; and one piece of a light buff, painted with a pattern in red, and similar to the

were found at Headington Wick in 1849, figured in the *Journal of the Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, vi. 64.

There were also many pieces of burnt or half-burnt clay bearing finger and tool marks, just like the pieces of lining from the kilns described above, probably shewing the presence of kilns here too. I found also part of a Roman roofing tile. Scattered over the same area were numerous flint flakes, and among them several scrapers.

Further down the valley, on the east side, where the footpath leaves it and turns sharp to the south west, I had heard of the discovery of Roman pottery. On digging here I found a hole excavated in the Calcareous Grit, which crops out on the surface, about two feet deep, filled with dark mould, in which were pieces of Roman pottery, clay bearing finger and straw marks, stones reddened and even calcined by the action of fire, and animal bones. Among the latter were pieces of antlers of the red deer. The pottery is mostly very heavy and rude, of the black or red ware having in its substance the pounded shell supposed to characterise British-made ware. One piece of a nearly straight-sided vessel is ornamented with rude parallel horizontal scorings, exactly similar to those on the drinking cup, fig. 85 in Greenwell and Rolleston's *British Barrows*. There were, however, pieces of ordinary Romano-British types, so that the find must be of the latter period. A small brass of Constantius II. was found here on the surface in 1895.

On the opposite side of the valley, along the course of the footpath to Cowley Marsh is an area which seems to have been a flint factory, for about the surface are scattered numerous flint flakes, cores and chips, with a few finished scrapers and occasionally an arrow-head.

On the eastern side of the valley in Cowley Parish, in the quarry immediately north of the play-ground of the Military College, there were found some years ago human skeletons, with pottery which is described as Roman. From the same place, Mr. Jas. Parker obtained part of one of those small bronze spiked 'mace-heads,' which Sir John Evans classes as medieval (v. *Anc. Bronze Implements*, p. 271-2.) This specimen, however, was found with a skeleton and pottery which is almost certainly Romano-British.

Traces of pottery works were found in 1849 near the Roman villa at Headington Wick (v. *Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vi. 60) about one and a half miles to the north, and at the Mynchery, near Littlemore, in 1879 (v. Rolleston's *Scientific Papers and Addresses*. ii. 937) about two miles to the south. I have given reasons (v.

supra under Littlemore) for thinking that there was another kiln at Mount Pleasant, between Littlemore and Iffley. The Rev. E. Marshall (*Hist. of Iffley*, 1874, p. 156) notices several small kilns, which may belong to the site which I have described.

We have, then, a group of pottery kilns stretching over a line of about four miles in length, parallel to and within a short distance of the Roman road from Alchester to Dorchester.

From the evidence here collected it is clear that this district was the centre of a considerable potting industry. It is close to the out-crop of the Kimmeridge and Oxford clays, which are to be found, the one at Shotover Hill on the east, the other towards Oxford on the west. Both of these clays are now extensively used for brick making, and in the 17th pottery was made from the Kimmeridge clay at March Baldon, some four miles to the south [Plot's *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, 1705, p. 255]. For the finer wares there was available the pipe clay of the Portland Beds which crops out on Shotover Hill, and was used in the 17th century for making tobacco pipes [*Ibid.*]

HOLTON.

[xxxiv. s.e.]

A small bronze socketed celt, with side loop, and quite plain, was found in 1856 in a pond in Holton Park, known as "Copse Head Pond," about 270 yards west of Holton Church. It is preserved at Holton House.

[xxxiv. s.w.]

In 1871 the grubbing up of a tree in "Cockshoot Field," brought to light the skeleton of a woman. With it was found a small blue glass bead, variegated with irregular streaks of white, which is now preserved at Holton House. Cockshoot Field lies between the southern end of Holton Wood and Warren Farm.

[xxxiv. s.w.]

In a field called "The Racks," situated between Holton Park and Lye Hill Quarry, Roman remains have been found from time to time. Many years ago (c. 1830, if I remember rightly) some broken cinerary urns were found, full of ashes, and the bottom of one is still preserved at Holton House. At a later date was found a wide-mouthed urn with short neck and large globular body, of coarse grey "smother-kiln" ware. Roman coins are and have been found in the field; I have seen coins of Julia Mœsa, Gordian, Gallienus, and Constans. A small iron arrowhead was found here in 1882, which is probably not Roman.

A plain bronze pin, probably of Roman date, was found in the quarry at Lyehill in 1869.

All the above-mentioned articles were shewn me at Holton House in November, 1894, by the late W. E. Biscoe, Esq., from whom I derive my information. For a further discovery of Roman pottery, see *Arch. Journal*, iv. 74.

HORSEPATH.

[XL. N.W.]

In Horsepath parish stone pit, two human skeletons were found a few years ago, lying in the soil on the top of the rock. They were on their back, with the head pointing West. This stone pit is on the East side of the Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester, where it crosses the modern road from Horsepath to Temple Cowley.

[Information from T. Carter, 1895.]

KIRTLINGTON.

[XXII. S.W.]

Roman coins have been found in the allotments immediately West of Crow Castle. I have large brasses of Domitian and Marcus Aurelius found in 1895. The allotments are just South of the line of Akeman Street.

I do not think attention has been called to the fact that the copse on the Eastern edge of the Avesditch, where it crosses the Port Way in this parish, bears the name "Hoar Stone Spinney." This name occurs twice in Oxfordshire, at Enstone, and at Barton Abbey, and in both cases is applied to the remains of a Cromlech. It seems likely that here, too, we have the survival in a field-name, of an ancient monument that has disappeared, perhaps in the same way in which the Barton Cromlech was demolished in 1843. [v. Wing's *Antiquities of Steeple Aston*, p. 2.]

LITTLEMORE.

[XXXIX. N.E.]

In a field to the West of the row of houses on the Oxford road known as Mount Pleasant, is a disused quarry, in which I was told pottery and human bones had been found. On examining the place in 1893, I found at a depth of about a foot below the surface a layer of fragments of Roman pottery, mixed with pieces of clay, unbaked or only slightly baked, and bearing the impression of fingers, and of straw, grass, etc., made evidently while the clay was still soft. They must have been the refuse from a potter's kiln, which still remains to be discovered. In the same layer were several flint flakes, and one scraper, all of them much whitened by exposure to the atmosphere. I found no human bones. The place is distant about a mile from the pottery kilns found in 1879 at the Minchery Farm. [v. G. Rolleston's *Scientific Papers and Addresses*, Vol. ii. p. 937.]

LYNEHAM.

[xx. s.w.]

In 1842 several human skeletons were found in quarrying stone in the pit on the South side of Lyneham Camp. Nothing was found with them. Human bones were also found about 1875 close to the Camp (which is known as "The Roundabout"); they were collected and buried in Milton Churchyard.

[Information from Will. West, of Lyneham, 1895.]

MERTON. [xxiii. s.w., xxviii. n.w.]

In making alterations on the site of the Manor House in 1888, 2nd brasses of Commodus and Julia Sabina were dug up. This is just east of the Roman road from Alchester to Dorchester. In several fields along the lane which leads from Langford (just east of Alchester) to Astley Bridge on the River Ray, Roman coins have been found. In "Goldspender" (the first field west of the lane on entering Merton parish at Langford) a small brass of Constantine and two small brasses undecipherable. In 'Bushey Mead' (the next field south) a 2nd brass of Constantine, silver denarii of Vespasian and Hadrian, and small brasses of Crispus and Valens. In 'Mill Ground' (the next south), a small brass undecipherable. In 'Second Lawn' (west of the lane where it crosses the road from Ambrosden to Merton) a 2nd brass (consecrationary) of Augustus.

Mr. Hussey (*Roman Road from Allchester to Dorchester*, p. 25) regarded this lane as a Roman road, and he was followed in this by the late Mr. Bloomfield (*Hist. of Deanery of Bicester*, pt. i., p. 12), who suggested that it may have led to the square intrenchment on Muswell Hill.

NORTHMOOR.

[xxxviii. s.e.]

During the works on the new lock on the Thames in 1895, an iron spear head was found. It is described as being socketed with a pointed lance shaped blade with central ridge. At the junction of blade and socket was a narrow raised band. It was about 15 ins. in length, the blade being about 9 ins. From a rough sketch shewn to me it may be of the Late Celtic period.

[Information from T. Carter, 1895.]

I have the following Roman coins found in 1895 during excavations for the new lock :—Nero, a finely preserved large brass; Titus, silver denarius and 2nd brass; Vespasian 1st brass; Constantine, small brass.

In the British Museum is a small Roman pot found in the bed of the Thames not far from this place [v. *Register of Antiquities*, 1893, April 9, No. 9].

Roman coins have been found in a field through which runs the foot-path from Northmoor to Ramsey Farm, about a quarter of a mile N.W. of the Farm. I have the following from here :—Tetricus (2), Constantine (1), Constantinopolis (1), all small brass.

OXFORD.

To Mr. J. Park-Harrison's admirable Index of British and Romano-British articles found in Oxford [*Archæologia Oxoniensis*, pp. 49-52, 111], I have the following additions to make.

ST. THOMAS'S.

[XXXIX. N.W.]

During the winter of 1894-5, and at intervals since, dredging has been going on in the backwater of the Thames between North Hinksey and the Great Western Railway bridge over the Thames at Osney, at a place about 500 yards due West of the bridge, and at the mouth of what is called "Minster Ditch."

The following articles found in the bed of the stream are in my possession :—

1. Bronze socketed celt with plain cylindrical body and side loop. The cutting edge returns sharply on itself where it meets the body of the celt, and is of a complete crescent shape. Length $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. ; diam. of cutting edge, $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. ; of socket, $1\frac{1}{8}$ in.

2. Point of a bronze leaf-shaped spear-head, of a fine golden colour, with flat blade and strong sharp-edged midrib. Length (to fracture) $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. ; width, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.

3. A bronze object of cylindrical section, flattened out at one end into a chisel form with curved edge, at the other end having a simple flat top. Both ends shew the marks of hammering, which has caused the edges of the metal to spread considerably. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ; diam. at top, $\frac{5}{8}$ in.

I express no opinion as to the date or object of this article, except to surmise that it may be connected with the following—

4. A shapeless mass of bronze or copper bearing hammer-marks on one surface. Weight 17 ozs.

5. The Late Celtic bronze dagger-sheath, containing an iron blade, described and figured in *Archæologia*, LIV. 497-8.

6. A bronze fibula, probably of Late Celtic date, described by the dredgers as a "safety-pin," which was lost.

7. An iron spear-head, probably Anglo-Saxon. Of the socket, only the neck remains ; and round it, at its narrowest point, are two sets of three narrow fillets, separated by a space of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. The blade, whose widest point is at its junction with the socket, where it has sharp shoulders, tapers with a slight incurve to its point. It is

nearly flat, but has a slight central ridge. Length $19\frac{1}{4}$ ins. ; width of blade, 2 ins.

8. An iron spear-head, probably also Anglo-Saxon. The socket is complete and has a long V shaped opening on one side, reaching from its mouth to its neck. It has two rivet-holes on one side, and one on the other, which still retain two rivets in place. Round the neck of the socket are two sets of three fillets, similar to those in the specimen described above. The neck of the socket slopes gradually till it forms the shoulders of the blade, which is straight sided. It is, like the preceding, nearly flat, with a slight central ridge. Length, $11\frac{1}{8}$ in. ; width of blade, $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. ; diameter of socket, 1 in.

9. Pointed object of iron, possibly a lance-head, with a round socket narrowing to a neck, from which proceeds a slender four-sided blade of rhombic section, tapering to a point. The whole is bent into a curve, whether intentionally or not is hard to say. Length, 9 in. ; diameter of socket, $\frac{5}{8}$ in. ; width of blade, $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

Although it is unsafe to draw any certain conclusions from the association of articles found in this manner—for the conditions of dredging make it impossible to say exactly at what depth and in what position they were lying—I would draw attention to a coincidence which has struck me. Here, at Oxford, we have a group of finds, partly of the Bronze Age, partly of the Early Iron Age, found closely associated in the bed of the Thames.

In the year 1837 at Day's Lock on the Thames at Dorchester, there were dredged out of the river-bed a fine Bronze Age buckler, together with a characteristic Late Celtic bronze dagger-sheath. There are figured respectively in *Archæologia*, xxvii., 298, and in the *Arch. Journal*, x., 259. [See also Evan's *Anc. Bronze Impts.*, p. 303, fig. 366 ; p. 343, fig. 428. *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 1st ser., iii., 118.] Is it not possible that these two finds represent an overlap of the Bronze and the Iron Ages in Oxfordshire? Such an overlap must have taken place, and although the evidence is in neither case conclusive, yet it at least offers a fair ground for speculation.

[XXXIX. N.E.]

I have a ring of pale amber-coloured glass, 1 in. in diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in thickness. The inner side of it is straight, the outer side semicircular. It was found in drainage work in 1894 at a depth of 11 ft. 6 in. on the surface of a stone-pitched roadway, opposite the Town Hall in St. Aldates. A section of this roadway is to be seen in the wine vaults of Mr. W. Sotham, on the west side

of St. Aldates. The ring may be of Anglo-Saxon date.

[XXXIII. S.E.]

I have a 2nd brass of Faustina the younger found in 1892 in the foundations of a house in Polestead Road, with Roman pottery and a skeleton (v. *Archæologia Oxonensis*, p. 32).

[XXXIII. S.W.]

About twelve months before this date, a human skeleton was found in making a culvert in the Heyfield Road. It lay about a foot below the surface, at full length on its back with the head pointing eastwards.

[Information from T. Carter, Dec., 1895.]

I have small brasses of Victorinus and Carausius dug up in drainage work in 1896 in this road.

[XXXIII. S.E.]

I have large brasses of Antoninus Pius and M. Aurelius found in 1888 while digging foundations for the new buildings of Brazenose College.

[XXXIII. S.E.]

I have a large brass of Claudius, said to have been found in 1884 during the excavations for the new Examination Schools, High Street.

[XXXIII. S.E.]

I have a small brass of Valentinian I. found in 1896 in drainage work in Cat Street, by St. Mary's Church.

[XXXIII. S.E.]

I have a 2nd brass of Nero found in the spring of 1896 during drainage work at Messrs. Hanley's Brewery in St. Ebbe's.

[XXXIX. N.W.]

I have the following Roman coins found in May last in drainage work at Osney Mill :—Maximianus Herculus, Constans, Valens ; all small brass.

Hearne in his *Collections* [iii. 401] says that in 1712 a large brass of Trajan was found at the same place ; and a small brass of Pustumus found near here is noted in *Archæologia Oxoniensis*, p. 50.

RAMSDEN.

[XXV. N.E.]

Roman coins were found many years ago in ploughing up what was then Ramsden Heath, which lies about half a mile north of Akeman Street.

[Information from Ramsden, 1895.]

I have just heard that numerous coins are still found here, Oct., 1897.

SHOTOVER. [XXXIV. S.W., XL. N.W.]

About three years ago, some labourers digging sand on the Western brow of Shotover Hill, overlooking the brickfields, found two small holes sunk in the sand, about 18 ins. deep, filled with flint flakes, chips, and cores, with a few scrapers. These evidently represent the workshop of some flint-knapper, probably of the Neolithic period. The date, however, of flint flakes in this part of the country is apt to be uncertain, as there is some reason for supposing that the use of flint survived to a very late period, perhaps even to the Roman occupation. Flint flakes and scrapers are found on the surface at different places on Shotover Hill, in the fields on its Western brow, about Westhill Farm near Horsepath, and about the Windmill at Littleworth.

[XXIIV. S.W.]

Roman pottery is often found in the brickfield on the north side of the old road over Shotover Hill, just at the western end of the hill. It consists chiefly of pieces of buff *mortaria* and of the common grey or black ware. A more uncommon object is a cullender of pale grey ware, circular, with flat bottom and verticle sides. In the middle of the bottom is a knob, and surrounding it two concentric sharp ridges, the hollows between them being pierced each with three holes. It measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. in depth. A few pieces of 'Samian' ware have been found, one of which bears the potter's stamp PVCINI M. I have two coins from here, a large brass of Antoninus Pius and a small brass of Tetricus the younger.

In the bank on the north side of the brickyard, is a section cut through a bed of stones some twenty feet in width, diminishing from a thickness of about one foot in the middle to almost nothing at the edges. It is evidently a road. It lies over 100 yards east of the line shown in the ordnance map as that of the Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester. The course of this road is by no means clear at this point, and it is possible that the surveyors have made a mistake in their line, and laid down the road too far to the west. If, however, the ordnance map is correct, we must assume that the road shown in the section is a branch road leading up Shotover Hill, possibly to a villa, which yet remains to be discovered. A similar branch road at Beckley, Oxon, about four miles north on the Alchester road, was noticed and described some years before it received an explanation, in the discovery of a villa to which it led some half-mile from the main road.

In the fields immediately east of the brickfield, Roman coins have been picked up. I have the following in small brass :—1 of Tetricus, 4 illegible of the Constantine family.

About 600 yards east of the brickfield, on the northern slope of the hill, more Roman pottery was found about two years ago by some men digging sand.

(*To be continued.*)

THE GYPSIES.—I was interested in reading a report of a speech by "Gipsy Smith" in the *Reading Mercury*, wherein he stated "There was no scholar in England, on the Continent, or in America who could say who the gipsies were." Now, without pretending to know more than other people, I may mention that the Egyptians, or Gypsies, are said in our old histories or law books to have been a people of Egypt who in A.D. 1517, refusing to submit to the Turkish yoke, were banished, and established themselves in Europe. Bringing with them a knowledge of the occult sciences, or Black Art, as it was called, they gained a number of idle proselytes, who imitated their language and complexion and betook themselves to the same practices of jugglery and vagabondism, so as to become troublesome. They were expelled from France in 1560, and from Spain in 1591. But in England the alarm had been taken much earlier, for about 1530, several statutes were passed against them; upon which (as Sir Matthew Hale informs us) no fewer than thirteen were executed at one Suffolk Assizes. only a few years before the Restoration of King Charles II. I remember when writing a little "History of Hungerford," a few years ago, meeting with an entry in the "Constable's Accounts," under the year 1667, of the payment of a certain sum for "lodging a company of JIPSONS"—the latter a local rendering of Egyptians, or Gypsies; the representatives of some of the oldest "tribes," as they are called, of this nomadic race are still to be found in the neighbourhood. The Stanleys, Lees, Blacks, Williamsses, amongst others. The first-named claim to be descended in the pure blood from those ancient wanderers who many centuries ago dispersed in small parties all over the world; and only the other day I saw a tombstone to one of this family who was described as "King of the Gypsies." They were a very handsome race, and I also recollect some fine types among the Blacks of feminine and manly beauty.—WALTER MONEY, F.S.A., Snelsmore, Newbury.