

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.*)

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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.