

legacies being paid, I giue to my saied kinnesman Thomas Selman, and my welbeloued wief Anne Forster, whom I make my executours of this my last will and testamet; charging them, and either of them, as they will answere in the terrible daie of the most dreadfull judgement, trulie and iustlie to execute and pforme this my last will and testament in all points. And I make and ordeine Doctor Renall and Adam Squier of Oxford, overseers of this my last will and testamet. And I doe giue to either of them for their paynes, to Doctour Renall my yonger stoned horse; and I giue to Adam Squyer the stoned horse that I was wont to ride on my selfe. In witness whereof, and of all the premisses, I the saied Anthonie Forstr haue putto my hande, and to this my last will and testamet, in the presence of Robert Bellam, Phisition; Anthonie Forster, Ada Squier, Henry Greams, Nicholas Staverton, France Noble, John Ellis, Thomas Forster.

On the Date of the White Horse

By G. W. B. HUNTINGFORD.

THE honour of having cut the White Horse on the down above Uffington is traditionally assigned to King Alfred; there can be no doubt, however, that it had been in existence at least a thousand years when the battle of Ashdown was fought. Alfred is said to have cut the horse as a memorial of his great victory over the Danes in 871. But this assertion is based upon no firmer authority than: 1. Popular tradition, embodied in the verse—

'A was maad a lang lang time ago

Wi a good deal o' labour and pains

By King Alfred the Great when he spwiled their consate

And caddled thaay wosberds the Danes.'

2. The fancy of the Rev. Francis Wise, B.D., who published in 1738 'A letter to Mr. Mead concerning some antiquities in Berkshire, particularly showing that the White Horse which gives name to the great Vale or Valley it overlooks, is a monument of the West Saxons, made in memory of a great Victory obtained over the Danes, A.D. 871.'

All the evidence we possess proves that Alfred cannot have made the Uffington Horse; but on the other hand, it is possible that the White Horse at Westbury, Wiltshire, was made by Alfred in memory of his victory of Ethandun, 878, which, since we have no decisive evidence to the contrary, must have been fought in the neighbourhood of Westbury; while, although Alfred did not make the Uffington Horse, he may have found it very much overgrown with weeds, and cleaned or 'scoured' it, thus giving rise to the traditional view which sees in him its originator.

In the British Museum is preserved a coin of the Early Iron Age (date about 60 B.C.), inscribed on one side BODVO, bearing on the reverse a representation of a horse very similar in appearance to the Uffington Horse. The name Bodno or Bodnoc occurs several times: 1, on a coin from Wallingford, in the form BODVOC¹; 2, on a stone near Marqam,² Glamorgam, apparently Christian, dated 600-650 A.D., inscribed—

BODVOC—HIC IACIT



FILIVS CATOTISIRNI

PRONEPVS ETERNALI

VE OMAV . . .

3, in Cæsar, *De Bello Gallico*, ii. 23: 'Omnes Nerrii confertissimo agmine, duce Bodnoquato . . . ad eum locum contenderunt.' The British Museum preserves also a gold coin (date 100-80 B.C.) from the cemetery at Aylesford, Kent; it is uninscribed, but bears on one side a horse very similar to the White Horse. In 1776 a Keltic shield boss and spear-head were found on White Horse Hill by a labourer digging for chalk.³ These may be assigned to the period 250-200 B.C. A Keltic button, enamelled green and red, found near the White Horse, is preserved in the Ashmolean Museum; it is of the same date as the boss and spear-head. Since these objects have been found near the Horse, it seems reasonable, in the absence of testimony to the contrary, to assign on their evidence the date 250-200 B.C. to the White Horse.

¹ V.C.H. Berks, vol. i., art. s. 'Early Man,' s.v. 'Wallingford.'

² *Archæol. Cambrens.* N.S. iv. 78.

³ *Proceedings of the Archæological Institute at Winchester*, 1849.