

IV.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF STONE IMPLEMENTS IN BANDA,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, INDIA, IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY.
By J. H. RIVETT-CARNAC, M.A., C.I.E., F.S.A. SCOT.

During the past few years, Mr J. Cockburn and myself have been fortunate enough to find stone implements in large quantities in Banda, a hilly district of the North-Western Provinces of India. These implements consist chiefly of stone axes, or celts of types well known in Europe. We have also found stone-hammers, ring-stones, and a variety of other implements, some of cosmopolitan types and others unique.

The celts found are upwards of 400 in number, and are of two distinct types, polished and chipped, the former of diorite and the latter of basalt.

We are of opinion that both types were in use at the same time. Implements of true palæolithic types made of quartzite occur scantily in the Banda district, but are more numerous further south.

The celts vary from $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length and 8 lbs. 3 oz. in weight, to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz. in weight.

The unique specimens of hammers, &c., and the largest and most remarkable of the celts, have been presented by me to the British Museum. Sir P. Cunliffe-Owen, the well-known director of the Kensington Museum, has, however, been good enough to cast the best specimens, and I hope later to send a complete series of coloured facsimiles for your acceptance.

In the meantime, groups representing the classes of celts found have been made up for presentation to the principal Museums and scientific Societies of Europe and the United States, and I do myself the honour of intimating that a case containing celts, &c., has been sent to your

address, in the hope that they may be considered of sufficient interest to find a place in your Museum.

A few specimens of spalls or waste chips, flakes, and cores of chert may be of value for comparison with similar objects from other countries. The chert was procured in nodules and bands in the Tirhowan limestone—the agate from the beds of streams which cut through the Rawah conglomerate, south of Banda.

A larger collection of chert implements than has hitherto been made in India has been brought together by Mr Cockburn, who will describe them more fully later. The ethnic affinities of the collection are, he points out, curious. On one hand, the scrapers and knives are of European types, as are also the mass of the celts. Then there are certain types which clearly resemble Silices hitherto only found in Egypt by Jukes Brown.—*Jour. Anthropol. Inst.*, vol. vii.

A third type, apparently not common elsewhere, he designates the saw-backed knife, has recently been found in the island of Melos. The coarser description of stone knives of quartz, sandstone, and basalt are not far removed from those used by the modern Australian savages.

The arrow-heads, as far as can be judged, come nearer the multitudinous American forms than any other, but the resemblance may rather be due to the comparatively larger number of these implements which are known from America and their comparative rarity in other countries. Some of the chert implements are of recent origin, and we have come to the conclusion that stone implements were probably in general use among the Kolairian or Dravidian aborigines of this part of Bundelkhand, about 500 B.C., and that the use of stone among these people was not quite abandoned as late as 600 A.D.

A piece of sculpture, representing an aborigine armed with a stone axe, recently discovered at Kalinjar, is assigned to the seventh century after Christ. How far antecedent the use of stone may have been in this part of the country no one will venture to guess in the present state of our knowledge, but the majority of the implements have been found on the borders of the great Gangetic alluvial plain, itself of

no great antiquity. The alluvium in this part of Bundelkhand is largely made up of decomposed basaltic rocks, which crop up here and there to the very margin of the Jumna. No doubt this river has had much to do with the level and adjustment of this alluvium.

Some of the chert implements, which are much weathered, are no doubt of vast antiquity, but the evidence, so far as it has been sifted, is in favour of the theory that the people corresponding to the palæolithic men of Europe used excessively rude implements of jasper, quartzite, and basalt, rather than chert, which is by no means abundant.