

## NOTICE OF A GOLD CROSS

FOUND AT

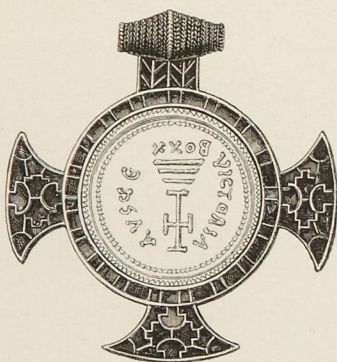
**Wilton, Norfolk.**

BY GREVILLE J. CHESTER, ESQ.

THE archæologists of Norfolk may congratulate themselves on the discovery within the county of a specimen of Byzantine art of equal interest with the medallion found some time since at Bacton. The beautiful cross, of which a representation is given on the opposite page, was detected in a pit at Wilton, near Methwold, by some boys who were digging gravel. As far as I can learn, no other relics were discovered at the same time or place: at all events, no others have been preserved. Soon after it was brought to light, this rare object was purchased by Mr. W. Eagle, of Lakenheath, near Brandon, in whose possession it still remains. The cross is gold; and in its centre is set a medallion, which may possibly be a cast, but I should rather incline to the belief that it is a genuine coin. The obverse of this coin, which is on the reverse or under side of the cross, bears the effigies of the Emperor Heraclius the First, and of his son, Heraclius Constantinus. The reverse, which forms the centre of the upper and most highly adorned surface of the ornament, displays a cross upon a flight of four steps, with the legend

VICTORIA AVGV €;

the final € being a Greek numeral, which varies upon different coins. In the exergue are the letters BOXX. Mr. E.



GOLD CROSS

Found in the neighbourhood of Brandon, Suffolk.  
The Coin is of Heraclius I. and his son Heraclius Constantinus.  
Date: 613—641.



Hawkins, Keeper of Antiquities in the British Museum, informs me that these last letters are of very unusual occurrence, and their meaning is at present unexplained. Three limbs of the cross, and the parts immediately surrounding the central coin, are filled up with pieces of brilliant red glass, elegantly disposed in a sort of Mosaic pattern, and placed on a diapered or hatched ground. The upper limb, which is of exquisite workmanship, is pierced; and the whole is doubtless an ornament designed for suspension about the person. The Emperor Heraclius, to whom the central coin belongs, was son of a Prefect of Africa of the same name, and was born about A.D. 575. He dethroned and caused the execution of the Emperor Phocas in 610; and, after seizing on the vacant throne, died in the year 641. The discovery of this cross cannot but be regarded with great interest; when the singular rarity of such objects in this country, and the great beauty of the ornament itself, are taken into consideration. It is also a remarkable circumstance, that medallions of two emperors, who followed one another so closely as did Mauricius and Heraclius (only one intervening,) should be discovered in such contiguous localities as Bacton and Wilton; both being within the bounds of a single county.

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