

massive ; its parapet is embattled ; the belfry windows are plain pointed ones without foliation. There is a bold north-western turret to the tower, wholly disengaged ; that is, its eastern wall being a continuation of the western wall, and its southern of the northern wall, of the tower. This arrangement always gives great effect to the outline, though it involves somewhat narrow passages in obtaining access to the belfry. The porch to the nave is on the north side. There is no chancel door. The orientation is east-south-east magnetically. On the north side of the church-yard is a lichgate ; picturesque, but of no special architectural character. On the south side of the church, parallel with the nave, is a barn, (or building now used as such,) with a decorated window of three lights at the east end ; and a little to the south-west, its walls being inclined in a south-westerly direction, is another barn with a decorated window of two lights in its north-east end, and the remains of a good finial on the gable. I had not time to give sufficient attention to these buildings ; but the mere mention of them will tend to establish the conventual character of the church. Supposing it to have retained its Norman work unmixed, it perhaps would not have differed very much either in magnitude or general appearance, from the conventual church within the walls of Porchester Castle in Hampshire.

I. L. PETIT.

*(To be continued.)*

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#### ANCIENT SEPULCHRAL STONE CISTS DISCOVERED IN YORKSHIRE.

At the monthly meeting of the Institute in December last, there were exhibited drawings of two remarkable Stone Cists or Coffins, of considerable antiquity, now preserved in the pleasure grounds at Swinton Park, Yorkshire. No. 1 was discovered in the year 1835 by workmen who were digging gravel from an extensive ridge or hill of that material, lying about 200 yards distant from the right bank of the present course of the stream of the river Eure, in the parish of Masham, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. The ridge is raised ten or twelve feet above the level of the adjacent soil, in an extensive open field called the Mar or Mere Field, and is now grown over with brush-wood, forming

a kind of shaw. There is no historical tradition connected with the actual spot, but about two miles lower down the stream is a rocky ford known as "Mowbray Wath," and near this, it is said, a great battle was fought with the Danes. The stone of this Cist is not that of the neighbouring quarries of Ellington Firth, but apparently the coarse-grained sandstone of Agra Moor and Colsterdale, about seven miles distant to the westward. The lid was unfortunately split across the centre, by the work-people, before they were aware of its nature ; it was placed about two feet from the surface of the ridge, and contained the greater portion of the bones of a human skeleton, but no remains of any other kind ; many of the bones crumbled to dust on exposure to the atmosphere ; others, with the skull, were less decayed, and were stated by a surgeon who examined them, to be apparently those of a female. The workmanship of the Cist is rude, and totally devoid of any kind of ornament or inscription. The measurements are as follow :—Length at the bottom or ground line, 6 feet 3 inches ; length at junction with the lid, 6 feet 9 inches ; width at the bottom, 2 feet ; width at junction with lid, 2 feet 6 inches ; thickness of lid at centre, 1 foot 4 inches ; thickness of lid at the edge,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches ; thickness of sides of Cist, 6 inches ; height of Cist from ground (without lid), 2 feet ; depth of cavity, 1 foot 6 inches.

In the following year, 1836, the Cist, No. 2, was discovered by the labourers, whilst pursuing their occupation of digging gravel in the same ridge, and a few yards further northward than the position of the former. It is formed of the same kind of stone, but is more rude in shape and workmanship, and was entirely empty. The dimensions nearly correspond with those of the Cist already described :—Length, 6 feet 6 inches ; width, 2 feet 3 inches ; height, 1 foot 8 inches ; thickness of the lid, 7 inches. The lid of this is a flat stone, with a chamfered edge, and it projects slightly over the sides of the Cist, and rather more over the ends. For their better care and preservation, both Cists were removed to the pleasure-grounds at Swinton Park. Similar Stone Cists, some of which are ornamented, or bear inscriptions, discovered in the neighbourhood of York, are preserved in the Museum of the Philosophical Society in that city.

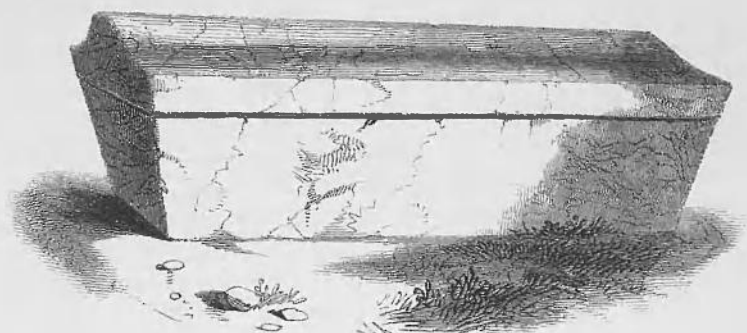
The discovery of the second coffin in the same ridge or hill of gravel, leads rather to the supposition that, instead of its

# SEPULCHRAL CISTS, YORKSHIRE.

## STONE CISTS

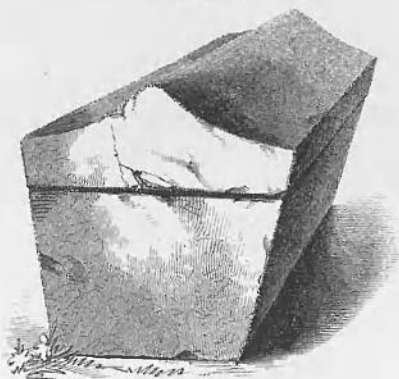
Swinton Park, Yorkshire.

No. 1.



Front.

No. 1.



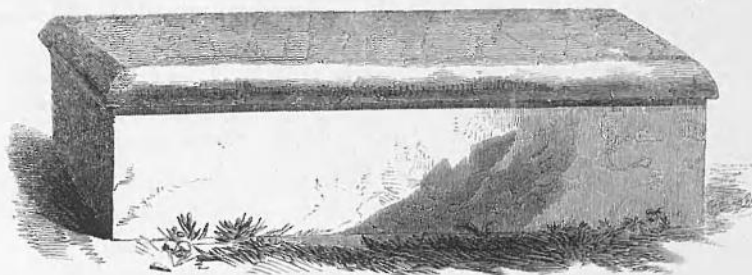
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No. 2.



End.

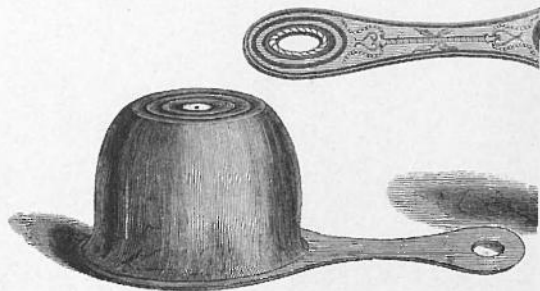
No. 2.



Front.

Patellæ of Bronze.

Found near Swinton Park, Yorkshire.



One-quarter size of the original.



having been a bank of gravel formed by the subsidence of the stream, as had been generally supposed, the mound, although in the lapse of ages it has lost its shape, may have been originally raised by man as a tumulus, in which to entomb the coffins, the adjacent bed of the river affording an abundant supply of materials.

It is evident from the shape of the cavities in these Cists, and from the bones found in one of them, that cremation of the dead was not the practice of the people who formed these interesting relics ; they seem, however, to belong to a period about coeval with the Roman occupation of Britain, or immediately subsequent to the departure of that people. The rudeness of formation clearly proves that they do not belong to a time when it was the practice to ornament with sculpture the depositories of the dead.

An ancient road which enters the county of York at Piers Bridge over the *Tees*, has been distinctly traced to Cataractonium (now Thornborough), near the present Catterick Bridge over the *Swale*, and from thence to Kilgram Bridge over the *Eure* or *Yore*, from whence to a place called "*Roman Ridge*," near Ripon, the line passes by the boundaries of the Mar or Mere Field before mentioned, to the westward of the town of Masham, and to the eastward of the small oval camp in Swinton Park, and of the neighbouring larger square camp adjoining Nutwith Common. From the Roman ridge the line becomes less distinct, but seems to take the direction of the camp on the How Hill, about four Roman miles from Ripon, and nine from Isurium (Aldborough), and after crossing the river *Nidd*, to the westward of Ripley, joins the Watling Street about midway in its course from Isurium to Olicana (Ilkley), situate on the *Wharfe*.

It may be observed that British remains have been discovered at Swinton Park : a representation of a very remarkable gold ornament, there found, is given in this number of the Journal, Plate 60. Roman vessels of bronze were found in 1845, at Roundhill, in Arnagill, about six miles to the westward, immediately under the great range of the western high moors. Two of these vessels, patellæ of bronze, from the Swinton Museum, were exhibited at York, in the museum formed during the meeting of the Institute in that city ; and we are now enabled to give representations of them. The metal is of a superior kind, and the workman-

ship sharp and good. The large number of similar patellæ found at Pompeii, and now in the Museo Borbonico, at Naples, favours the opinion that they were probably used for culinary purposes, rather than sacrificial, as had been suggested, from the fact of a *thyrsus* being engraved on the handle of the larger vessel, as shown by the accompanying representations of these ancient vessels.

CHARLES TUCKER.

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ANCIENT ARMILLÆ OF GOLD RECENTLY FOUND IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND IN NORTH BRITAIN: WITH NOTICES OF ORNAMENTS OF GOLD DISCOVERED IN THE BRITISH ISLANDS.

DURING the early part of the last year a remarkable golden ornament, of a type, as far as I am aware, hitherto unpublished, was found on the Chiltern Hills, on the estates of Robert Fox, Esq., in the parish of Wendover. By the kind permission of that gentleman this relic of antiquity was exhibited at one of the meetings of the Institute: and my thanks are now due to him for enabling me to record the following particulars regarding the discovery.

It is an *armilla*, which, as shown by the representation here given (No. 1.), is of the class of ornaments bearing resemblance to certain forms of the *torc*, composed of one or more bars or wires of metal wreathed or twisted together. The name *torc* has, however, been generally used to designate collars and ornaments for the neck, the varieties of which have been so ably classified by Mr. Birch in previous volumes of this Journal.<sup>1</sup>

This curious torc-armilla, if I may be permitted to use the term, now under consideration, is a wreath of four threads, composed of two rounded bars of considerable thickness, with two twisted wires, of much slighter dimensions, wound spirally between them. The whole is very skilfully wreathed together, and welded into one piece at the extremities, which taper towards a point, and are cut off obtusely without any indication of a hook or fastening. The weight of the bracelet is 4 oz. 12 dwts.

<sup>1</sup> Archæol. Journal, vol. ii. p. 368; vol. iii. p. 27.