

Bronze Frame, supposed to have been attached to a head-piece of felt or leather.

FOUND WITH AN INTERMENT NEAR THE CAMP ON LECKHAMPTON HILL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Scale, two-thirds of the original.

NOTICE OF A BRONZE RELIQUE, ASSIGNED TO THE LATER  
ROMAN OR THE SAXON AGE, DISCOVERED AT LECKHAMPTON,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

DURING the autumn of the year 1844 a discovery occurred at Leckhampton, Gloucestershire, in a district full of vestiges of early occupation, which excited considerable interest. A short statement, communicated at that time, was published in the first volume of this Journal, and the subject was noticed in other archaeological publications. The novel feature of the discovery consisted in a bronze frame, supposed to have been attached to a head-piece of leather or felt, a purpose to which, by the dimensions and general fashion it appeared to be adapted. It was considered by the late Sir Samuel Meyrick to have been the British "Penffestyn," possibly from the position of the skeleton being described as "doubled up," as frequently noticed in interments of the earliest age, or from its having been found near a supposed British fortress.

Other antiquaries have regarded it, however, as an Anglo-Saxon relique, a supposition to which Mr. Roach Smith, in his "Collectanea Antiqua," seems inclined to assent, although conclusive evidence may be wanting.<sup>1</sup> The Abbé Cochet, also, in the second edition of his valuable "Normandie Souterraine," has, without hesitation, admitted this object as a *coiffure* or *casque Saxon*.<sup>2</sup>

The attention of archaeologists has recently been directed to this singular relique, through the kindness of Capt. Henry Bell, of Cheltenham, in whose possession it has been preserved. At the request of Mr. Allies, he sent it for exhibition at the meeting of the Institute in December last. No detailed investigation of its age and character having been

<sup>1</sup> Collect. Antiqua, vol. ii. p. 238, where a representation of the bronze frame is given.

<sup>2</sup> Normandie Souterraine, 2nd edit. 1855, pp. 17, 393; it is remarkable that in his extensive researches the Abbe

Cochet has found no example of any head-piece of the Frankish period. He notices at some length the remains of *situlae*, which certain antiquaries have erroneously described as the remains of some protection for the head.

given, I have availed myself of the obliging permission of Capt. Bell, to offer a more accurate representation than hitherto published. In the advanced state of information regarding vestiges of the later Roman period and of that immediately succeeding, upon which valuable light has been thrown by the exertions of the Hon. Richard Neville, Mr. Wylie, Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. Bateman, and other antiquaries, it appears desirable to invite attention anew to this unique relique, and that its real age and purpose should be ascertained.

To those who are acquainted with the picturesque and undulated flank of the Cotswold Hills, to the south of Cheltenham, overlooking the broad fertile plains of Gloucestershire, it can be no matter of surprise to find abundant traces indicating that the locality had been successively occupied by a considerable population in British, Roman, and Saxon times. Of the earlier period, vestiges present themselves in numerous barrows along the margin of the higher ground, of which some have been examined by Lysons, and more recently by Mr. Gomonde and other members of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society ; in the encampments also on Crickley Hill and the height above Leckhampton. Near the former of these, at Dry Hill Farm, distant about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Cheltenham, a Roman villa of considerable extent was excavated about 1849, by Capt. Bell and Mr. W. H. Gomonde, by whom an account was printed for presentation to his friends. South-east of that spot, near the Ermine Street, is the site of the villa at Witcomb, explored by Lysons ; similar remains occur between the Ermine Street and Cubberley, and other traces of Roman occupation might be noticed. Interments have been found on Wistley Hill, near the road to Cubberley, on Crickley Hill, and at several other places. At Cubberley there are vestiges, it is believed, of a Saxon village.

The extensive camp on Leckhampton Hill occupies a commanding position in the chain of ancient encampments which extended through the south-western parts of Gloucestershire from the Avon to Bredon Hill, the frontier fortresses, as it has been supposed, of the *Dobuni*.<sup>3</sup> It was just

<sup>3</sup> See a notice of the camps on Leckhampton Hill and Crickley Hill in the Memoir by Mr. Lloyd Baker on the chain

of ancient hill-fortresses in Gloucestershire above mentioned. *Archæologia*, vol. xix. p. 171.

below that camp, near the road leading over the higher ground towards Stroud, that the discovery which is the subject of this notice occurred, as related in the following statement received in October, 1844, from the Rev. Lambert B. Larking :—

“A few weeks since, some labourers, in digging for gravel on the hill above the Manor-house of Leckhampton, about two miles from Cheltenham, suddenly came upon a skeleton, in a bank at the side of the high road leading from Cheltenham to Bath. It was lying doubled up, about 3 feet under the surface ; it was quite perfect, not even a tooth wanting. On the skull, fitting as closely as if moulded to it, was the frame of a cap, consisting of a circular hoop with two curved bars crossing each other in a knob at the top of the head. This knob, finishing in a ring, seems to have been intended for a feather or some such military ensign. The rim at the base is nearly a perfect circle, and the bars are curved, so that the entire framework is itself [semi] globular. The bars are made apparently of some mixed metal, brass fused with a purer one ; they are thin and pliable, and grooved ; the knob and ring are brass, covered with verdigris, while the bars are smooth and free from rust. When first found, there was a complete chin-chain—of this only three links remain, those next the cap are very much worn. The skull is tinged at the top with green, from the pressure of the metal, and in other parts blackened, as though the main material of the cap had been felt, and the bars added to stiffen it. They are hardly calculated, from their slowness, to resist a sword cut, but the furrowed surface gives them a finish, and proves that they must have been outside the felt. Nothing else, whatever, was found. A black tinge was distinctly traceable all round the earth in which the body lay.”<sup>4</sup>

A sketch of this bronze frame-work was kindly sent to me at a later time by Mr. Gomonde, and engraved in this Journal.<sup>5</sup> It was described by him as found near a Roman burying-ground ; Sir S. Meyrick, however, to whom it had been shown by Mr. Gomonde, considered it, as has been already mentioned, to be the British “Penffestyn,”<sup>6</sup> or skull-cap, mentioned in the Laws of Howel Dda.

<sup>4</sup> Communication from Mr. Larking to Mr. T. Wright, *Archaeol. Journal*, vol. i., p. 386.

<sup>5</sup> Vol. iii., p. 352.

<sup>6</sup> In the Glossary of terms of British Dress and Armour, by the Rev. John

Excavations were made on the adjacent part of Leckhampton Hill, and part of an iron bridle-bit, with a ring for attaching the rein,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter (figured in Mr. Gomonde's "Notes on Cheltenham," pl. xi.), an iron spear-head, and a curved implement of singular fashion were found, with fragments of urns of glossy black ware, formed with small perforated handles as if for suspension. These reliques were disinterred between the quarry where the bronze skull-cap was found, and the road to Birdlip.<sup>7</sup>

Coins of Constantine and broken pottery, assigned to the Roman age, were discovered in the immediate vicinity. Another remarkable interment was found near the spot where the skeleton with the bronze frame had been brought to light. In this instance, the body had been deposited in clay, and the remains were much decayed by moisture; the clay surrounding the skull was full of iron studs, sufficiently indicating, as Mr. Gomonde believed, that the head had been protected by a cap of singular construction, covered over with these iron studs.<sup>8</sup> A bronze spear-head, finely patinated, now in Capt. Bell's possession, may deserve mention, having been found, as stated, on Leckhampton Hill.

The rare occurrences of any object of armour amongst the antiquities of the earlier periods found in our country, whilst weapons, personal ornaments and domestic appliances are found in profusion, may, I would hope, justify the detailed character of the present notices. With the exception of the bronze helmet discovered in forming the canal near Northcote Hill, Herts, and represented in the "Vetusta Monumenta," and another remarkable head-piece of bronze, consisting of a skull-cap with a perforated tube of considerable length on its apex, found in 1843, at King's Arms Yard, Moorgate Street, London, no reliques of the like description have fallen under my notice. The last named

Williams, of which part appeared in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, the Penffestin is explained to be a helmet. "Frollo struck Arthur on his forehead, so that the sword was blunted on the rings of his penffestin." Gr. ab Arthur. Under the word Helm it is shown that the Penffestyn and the helm were distinct.

<sup>7</sup> *Journal of the Archaeological Association*, vol. i., p. 43. Mr. Gomonde has given a map of the ancient sites and representations of the bronze frame with

other antiquities discovered, in his "Notes on Cheltenham, Ancient and Medieval," 8vo, 1849. Privately printed.

<sup>8</sup> *Archæol. Journal*, vol. iii., p. 353. An account of the examination of three barrows in this locality by Mr. Gomonde and Capt. Bell, in December, 1844, is given in the *Journal of the Archaeological Association*, vol. i. pp. 152, 154. In one of these four perfect skeletons were found, placed side by side, the heads to the east, the legs drawn up to the chin.

remarkable object remains, as I believe, in the possession of Mr. Kirkman; it was regarded by some antiquaries as a form of the "Penffestyn." It bears resemblance to the *apex* or cap worn by the *Flamines* and the *Salii*, and still more closely to the head-gear seen on a votive monument found in Styria, and given by Montfaucon.<sup>9</sup>

The bronze relique to which I would now specially invite attention, has been already described in the account given by Mr. Larking. I may add the following observations. The hoop or rim is perfectly round, measuring  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in each direction. This fact has been regarded by some antiquaries as a conclusive argument against the supposition that this frame of metal could have formed part of any kind of head-piece. Others, however, having carefully considered the details of its construction, and the pliable nature of the frame, formed of metal about one-twenty-fourth of an inch only in thickness, are disposed to conclude that this round form of the rim, in its actual condition, presents no such difficulty. As, indeed, one of the plates forming this rim had become unsoldered, and has been re-united since the discovery, it is possible that a slight modification of the contour may have occurred, giving the perfectly round form which we now observe. On the other hand, it should be borne in mind, that many head-pieces, such as are worn by nations in the East, as also some of mediæval date in Europe, are of perfectly circular form, and not shaped to the skull.<sup>1</sup> The Roman bronze helmet found near Tring, a skull-cap, with a wide brim behind (?) like a coal-heaver's hat, is likewise perfectly round.<sup>2</sup> The constructive peculiarities, obvious on close examination of the bronze frame found at Leckhampton appear sufficiently to confirm the belief that it was a head-piece, and not as has been affirmed the upper portion of some kind of vessel or coffer. The transverse bands would, in the latter case, have been adjusted so as to cross each other precisely at right angles, and divide the little dome into four equal portions, the central knob and ring being its centre.

<sup>9</sup> Antiqu. Expl. Supp. tome ii. p. 123, pl. 33, *bis*. This singular head-covering here appears to be worn by females.

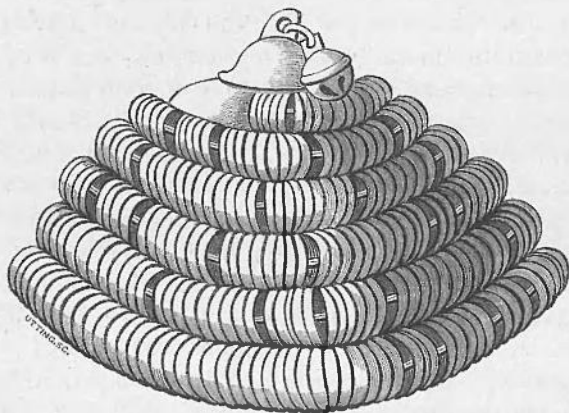
<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mr. Hewitt's kindness for the confirmation of this statement. On examination of the examples in the Tower Armory, he assures me that "nearly all the eastern casques are abso-

lutely round, and some of the mediæval very nearly so. The bronze frame, being so light in construction, may very well have assumed, when fitted with its lining, a somewhat ovalised form."

<sup>2</sup> *Vetusta Monumenta*, vol. v., pl. 26. It is not quite clear whether the projecting plate in front or behind is deficient.



This, however, is not the case ; the bands are placed so that the moiety of the frame, which would probably form the fore-part of the cap, is considerably larger than the hind-part, the effect being to throw the apex with its knob and ring backwards ; the knob itself is likewise so shaped as to incline slightly in the same direction. These details can scarcely be indicated in a drawing, but they are very perceptible in the examination of the original. The objection has also been made, that if the frame were a cap, what was the intention of the ring at the top ? Here it may suffice to point out the precise analogy of this knob and ring with the fashion of the curious cap represented in Bahr's work on the Sepulchral Antiquities of Livonia.<sup>3</sup> (See woodcut.)



Cap found at Ascheraden, in Livonia. One-third of the original size.

This cap is formed of spiral bronze rings, described as strung upon wool, and on the crown is a knob from which is suspended a small bell, like a hawk's bell, attached by a ring. The Livonian tombs in question, are assigned, as I believe, to the IXth or Xth century.

It has been stated that when the relique sent for our examination by Capt. Bell was found, there was a perfect chain serving the purpose of a chin-strap. A single ring now remains, which may have been part of this : the loops are to be seen also, to which such a chain might conve-

<sup>3</sup> Die Gräber der Liven ; Dresden, 1850, pl. v., p. 3. The author compares these head-pieces with those of the Assyrians who served in the expedition of

Xerxes, described by Herodotus as helmets of brass, twisted in a barbarous fashion. Book vii. c. 63.

niently be adjusted, and they are worn away by friction in a manner which seems to corroborate the statement.

The object of the present notice is to invite further inquiry, in the hope that the true intention and date of a unique type, amongst the antiquities of bronze found in this country, may be ascertained. No sufficient argument can be drawn from the existing vestiges of the early inhabitants of the locality, which, as it has been shown, was occupied by the *Dobuni*, by the Roman colonists, and doubtless by the South Mercian Saxons. The notion has, as I believe, been commonly adopted, that this relique belongs to the Saxon period, and this supposition is countenanced by two discoveries in this country of objects, apparently analogous in their character, accompanied by remains which may confidently be assigned to the Saxon age. The first discovery to which I allude has been recorded by Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., as having occurred near the Portway at Souldern, Oxfordshire. A skeleton was found there in 1844, laid in a cavity in the rock prepared for the deposit, and extended at full length, the head W. by S. On the right side of the head lay a pair of ornaments of bone, and about the skull were many fragments of thin brass, which, when placed together formed parts of two bands, the first measuring 7 in. long, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide. This, Sir Henry supposed, had encircled the lower part of a leathern skull cap. The edges of the leather and of this brass band were held together by a thin concave brass binding, in the hollow of which fragments of leather were still to be seen. On each side of the helmet, attached to the brass band, was an ornamental hinge for a leathern chin-strap. Of the other band about 17 in. remained, in width one-eighth narrower than the first. It was probably the binding of the edge where there would be a seam, or intended to encircle the helmet close above the other binding. On both these bands were rivets, showing that the leather riveted was three-sixteenths thick. Nothing else was found with the skeleton, but several urns were disinterred near it of the black pottery, showing the peculiar scored and impressed ornament which characterises the fictile ware of the Saxon age.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See the account of Sepulchral remains found at Souldern, accompanied by representations of three urns, from Sir Henry

Dryden's drawings, in Mr. Wing's *Antiquities of Steeple Aston*, p. 72.



To one of our most intelligent and zealous labourers in the archaeological field, Mr. Bateman of Yolgrave, we are indebted for the second discovery, which may aid this enquiry as regards the date of the relique from Leckhampton. In this instance, however, the frame-work, precisely similar in fashion, was of iron. It was disinterred in a tumulus near Monyash, in Derbyshire. The frame was formed of ribs of iron radiating from the crown of the head, and covered with narrow plates of horn, running in a diagonal direction from the ribs, so as to form a herring-bone pattern; the ends were secured by strips of horn, radiating in like manner as the iron ribs, to which they were riveted at intervals of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch. All the rivets had ornamented heads of silver on the outside, and on the front rib is a small cross of the same metal. Upon the crown of this helmet is the figure of a boar, of iron with bronze eyes; and various remains, supposed to be of defensive armour, were found with this head-piece. These reliques, there can be little doubt, were of the Saxon age, and they are recognised as such by Mr. C. Roach Smith, who has given a full account with illustrations, in his *Collectanea Antiqua*.<sup>5</sup>

These facts may seem to corroborate the notion that this relique under consideration should be placed amongst Saxon antiquities, and examples of head-coverings analogous in their fashion may be noticed on coins and in drawings in the MSS. of that period. It may be objected that these are properly to be regarded as crowns, such as occur for instance on coins of the Confessor, although very early instances of the arched form of the regal diadem. In some instances the cynehealm of the Anglo-Saxon king has the aspect rather of an helmet than a crown, and appears as a conical cap formed like that from Leckhampton with transverse bands or ribs, and a knob or other prominent ornament on its apex. With these royal helms may be compared that worn by the warrior, apparently a principal officer, portrayed in the Cotton MS. Tiberius, B. V., and given by Strutt in his *Horda* as an example of military costume in the XIth

<sup>5</sup> This discovery, which occurred in May, 1848, was first published in the *Journal of the Archaeological Association*, vol. iv., p. 276. See also *Collectanea*

*Antiqua*, vol. ii., p. 238. The citations from *Beowulf*, given by Mr. Roach Smith, regarding the Saxon crest of the boar, are exceedingly curious.

century.<sup>6</sup> Amongst the singular delineations in the MS. of Cædmon's Paraphrase, preserved in the Bodleian, and written about the year 1000, certain head-coverings may be seen, to be regarded probably rather as insignia of dignity than regal, but sufficing to show that there existed at that period ornaments for the head in no slight degree analogous in fashion to that found in Gloucestershire.

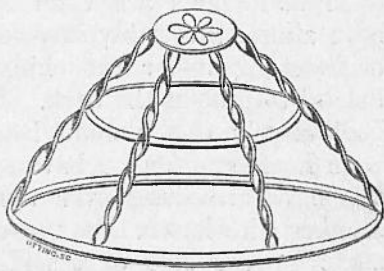
(See woodcut.) One of those here represented is worn by Lucifer.<sup>7</sup> It must be noticed that these are not open arched crowns, like the royal insignia of a much later age, but caps surrounded by a frame, to which they seem closely fitted.



Arched Saxon crowns  
from Cædmon MS Xth  
century.

In addition to the examples supplied by the discoveries in our own country, which have been noticed in Oxfordshire and Derbyshire, I have found one object only, apparently of analogous fashion, described by foreign archaeologists. In a tumulus at Aufsee in Bavaria, in a burial-place assigned to the early Germanic inhabitants of the vallies near the sources of the Maine, a skeleton was disinterred, with a frame upon the skull, described as a kind of helm, of polished metal like gold, and free from oxidation. On the crown of the head, instead of any *apex* or means of attachment for a crest, there was a flat round plate of the size of a *thaler*, on which was engraved an ornament like a rose. This plate formed the centre of a conical frame-work composed of spirally-twisted bands, united by two or more horizontal hoops, placed at some distance apart. (See woodcut). With

this interment were deposited heads of arrows and spears, and a singular kind of horse-shoe, the space within which was plated over with iron, as in modern times a tender foot is sometimes protected by a layer of felt within the rim of the shoe. Unfortunately the finder sold the bright metal frame for a trifle to a Jew, and no



<sup>6</sup> Strutt's *Horda*, vol. i., pl. iv. Although the form is conical, and the apex is not furnished with the knob, this head-piece

well deserves attention, in connexion with that found at Leckhampton.

<sup>7</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. xxiv., plate 55.

accurate representation has been preserved. It is not stated whether any trace of a chin-strap or of *bucculæ* was found.<sup>8</sup>

There is no sufficient evidence to determine whether the Leckhampton head-piece was intended to serve as a defence, or merely as an ornament. We might indeed more readily accept the former supposition, after the examination, for which we are indebted to Mr. Hewitt, of the latest production of modern ingenuity in the improved head-piece devised during the last year for the artillery. One of these was recently shown by him at a meeting of the Institute; the skeleton frame-work of thin brass, with the ornament on the apex, is strikingly similar, even in the mouldings of its ribs, to the ancient relique which is in the possession of Capt. Bell. This slight frame had been considered a sufficient support to the defensive cap of felt to which it is fitted.<sup>9</sup>

Helmets of a similar fashion have been worn at various periods: and first, I would invite attention to those which appear on Trajan's column. We there find two kinds of longitudinally ribbed helmets, the close-fitting skull-cap with a knob on its crown, usually represented as pierced, and occasionally with a short plume affixed to it. Such a pierced *apex* would present a convenient attachment for a pendant of horse-hair, the *hirsuta juba* which appears to have frequently formed an ornament of the Roman helm.

These helmets are worn by the Roman legionaries, they have almost invariably *bucculæ*, or cheek-pieces, with a *spira* or fastening under the chin, and usually the falling piece behind to protect the neck. The examples here given show how closely this Roman head-piece resembles the relique from Leckhampton; I have selected one, a simple skull-cap, which occurs slung over the shoulder of a legionary, and another with its *bucculæ*, represented as placed on an upright stake by the side of a soldier engaged in building some

<sup>8</sup> Wagener, Handbuch der Alterthümer, &c. pl. 9, fig. 92. This remarkable discovery was first recorded by Hagen and Dorfmueller, Archiv für Alterthümer, Baireuth, 1831, 8vo.

<sup>9</sup> The "New pattern Artillery Helmet,"

produced by Mr. Hewitt, in illustration of the relique from Leckhampton, has since been considered not satisfactory, and it has been withdrawn. It was an officer's head-piece, the design apparently derived from those shown on Trajan's column.

military defence.<sup>1</sup> This helm very probably was the *cudo* of leather used, as we learn from Polybius, by the light-armed troops, and originally the hunting-cap, strengthened externally by ribs of metal. Another helm appears in the remarkable sculptures on the Trajan column which claims notice. This is the pointed head-piece worn by the barbarian cavalry and infantry—Sarmatians or Dacians, with ribs diverging from the spiked or knobbed *apex*, and occasionally with several parallel hoops, a remarkable feature of resemblance to the curious frame-work found in Bavaria, before noticed. A sculpture preserved at Rome in the Giustiniani Palace, represents barbarians with ribbed helms, and a knob on the top of the head.<sup>2</sup>



Ribbed Helmets, worn by the Sarmatians. Trajan's column.

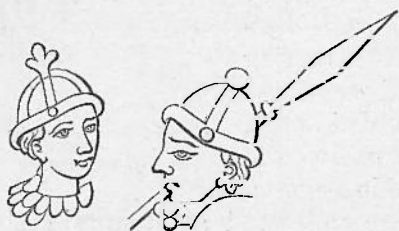
From a comparison of these facts I am inclined to think that the interment at Leckhampton, in a locality surrounded by vestiges of the Romans, may be assigned with greater probability to the times of their dominion in Britain, than to the Saxon age. The well-polished and finely patinated appearance of the metal, would moreover suggest the notion that it is Roman bronze rather than the mixed metal of any later period. In the examination of any novel type amongst antiquities presumed to be of the Roman period, the English archaeologist should never lose sight of the probability that anomalous forms should occur, not conformable to those with which we are familiar in Italy and the dominions more closely adjacent to Imperial Rome. Auxiliaries from many remote countries subject to her sway were, it is well known, sent to Britain, and they doubtless brought with them the fashions and customs, the armour, the personal and domestic appliances with which they were familiar. At the time of the *Notitia*, one of the chief Roman cities nearest to Leckhampton, namely *Corinium*, was occupied by Thracians and Indians.

<sup>1</sup> The accompanying representations of helmets from Trajan's column have been taken from the carefully executed plates by Nicola Moneta, after the drawings by Salvatore Busuttil, in the valuable publication "La Colonna Trajana, illustrata da

Erasmus Pistoles." Roma: 1846. Folio. I am indebted to the learned historian of the Roman Wall, the Rev. Dr. Bruce, for the opportunity of consulting this work.

<sup>2</sup> Encycl. Method. Division of Antiquities, pl. 38.

It must, however, be admitted that framed helmets of similar forms occur long subsequent to the Roman age, in which the fashions of earlier times may have been preserved. A good example is supplied by Hefner in the subjects which he has selected from a MS. Psalter in the Royal Library at Stuttgart. He assigns its date to the tenth century, but the costume and general character of the objects portrayed



might place it as early as the eighth century. Of the two subjects here given (see woodcuts), the figure bearing the long-headed *framea* is a mounted warrior, in a tunic of scale armour. The other is a bowman on foot, armed

likewise with a scaly defence, with short sleeves; the armour and the helmets are coloured as if to represent iron.<sup>3</sup>

Headpieces of this description must have proved very preferable to the ponderous helm of metal plate. As late as the XIIIth century, in the reign of Henry III., we find a remarkable illustration of their use in the subjects from the Painted Chamber at Westminster. The framework in these examples is mostly coloured yellow, the intervening spaces being red or purple, as if representing a cap of cloth or leather strengthened externally by ribs of gilded metal. In some instances a band appears to be laced through the lower part of the frame, probably for the purpose of attaching it to the cap, or of connecting the entire helm to the coil of mail. (See woodcuts.)<sup>4</sup>



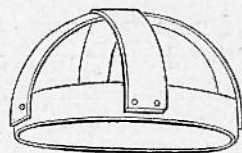
In all the examples hitherto cited, the metal framework was obviously an external defence and ornament, placed upon a cap of cloth, felt, leather, or other suitable material, such as

<sup>3</sup> Costume du Moyen Age Chretien, par J. de Hefner. Division 1, pl. 51.

<sup>4</sup> See other examples in the careful representations by Charles Stothard, pub-

lished by the Society of Antiquaries, with a Memoir by the late Mr. Rokewode, Vetusta Monumenta, vol. vi., pl. 35, 36.

the Roman *cudo* or *galerus* of skin, the "lether-helm" of the Saxons,<sup>5</sup> the *pelluris* or the palet of cuirbouilli in mediæval times. The ingenuity of a later age devised a framework to be worn concealed within the cap for the purposes of defence. Of this Hefner gives a good illustration amongst the varied types which he has selected from a hundred helms of iron found in 1841 in a cistern at the citadel of Chalcis, in the Isle of Negropont. They have been assigned to the XIIIth and XIVth centuries. This simple and effective defence is given with those of the earlier date.<sup>6</sup> (See woodcut.) An iron



Iron head-piece found in the Isle of Negropont.

scull-cap of open or framed work was worn within the hat in the times of the civil wars, and examples exist in the Tower Armory, in the collections at Goodrich Court and other places.<sup>7</sup> Carré, in his "*Panoplie*," gives a representation of a "*calotte échancrée*" of this description fitted to such a form of hat as is now worn, and he describes a very light and effectual substitute as used by the French cavaliers, formed "*d'une mèche tortillée excellente contre le tranchant*." This recalls the singular head-piece used by the ancient Livonians, previously noticed in these observations. (See page 14.) The most effective and ingenious defence was undoubtedly the *secrete*, or privy cap of fence, brought under the notice of the Institute by Mr. W. J. Bernhard Smith, and described in a former volume of this Journal. It is of steel, so skilfully fashioned and hinged together as to be readily folded up and carried about the person, and on any sudden alarm expanded in a few seconds and adjusted by a little bolt, forming a perfect defence against a cut from any weapon.<sup>8</sup> I saw at Rouen another of these skilful productions of the armourers in the XVIth and XVIIth centuries. The late M. Langlois, also of Rouen, had one, and I have seen a fourth in Paris.

ALBERT WAY.

<sup>5</sup> In Ælfric's Glossary, under Nomina Armorum, we find "*Galea*, lether-helm, *cassis*, iron helm, *corona*, cyne-helm, *apex*, helmes top, *crista*, helmes camb, *conus*, helmes byje."

<sup>6</sup> J. de Hefner, *Costume du Moyen Age* Chretien, Division 1., pl. 63.

<sup>7</sup> This concealed defence was in use as early as the reign of Elizabeth. Sir John Smythe, in his *Discourses*, 1589, f. 46, says, "The Archers on horsebacke I would have—with deepe steele skulles in very narrowe brimmd hats."

<sup>8</sup> *Archæol. Journal*, vol. vii. p. 305.