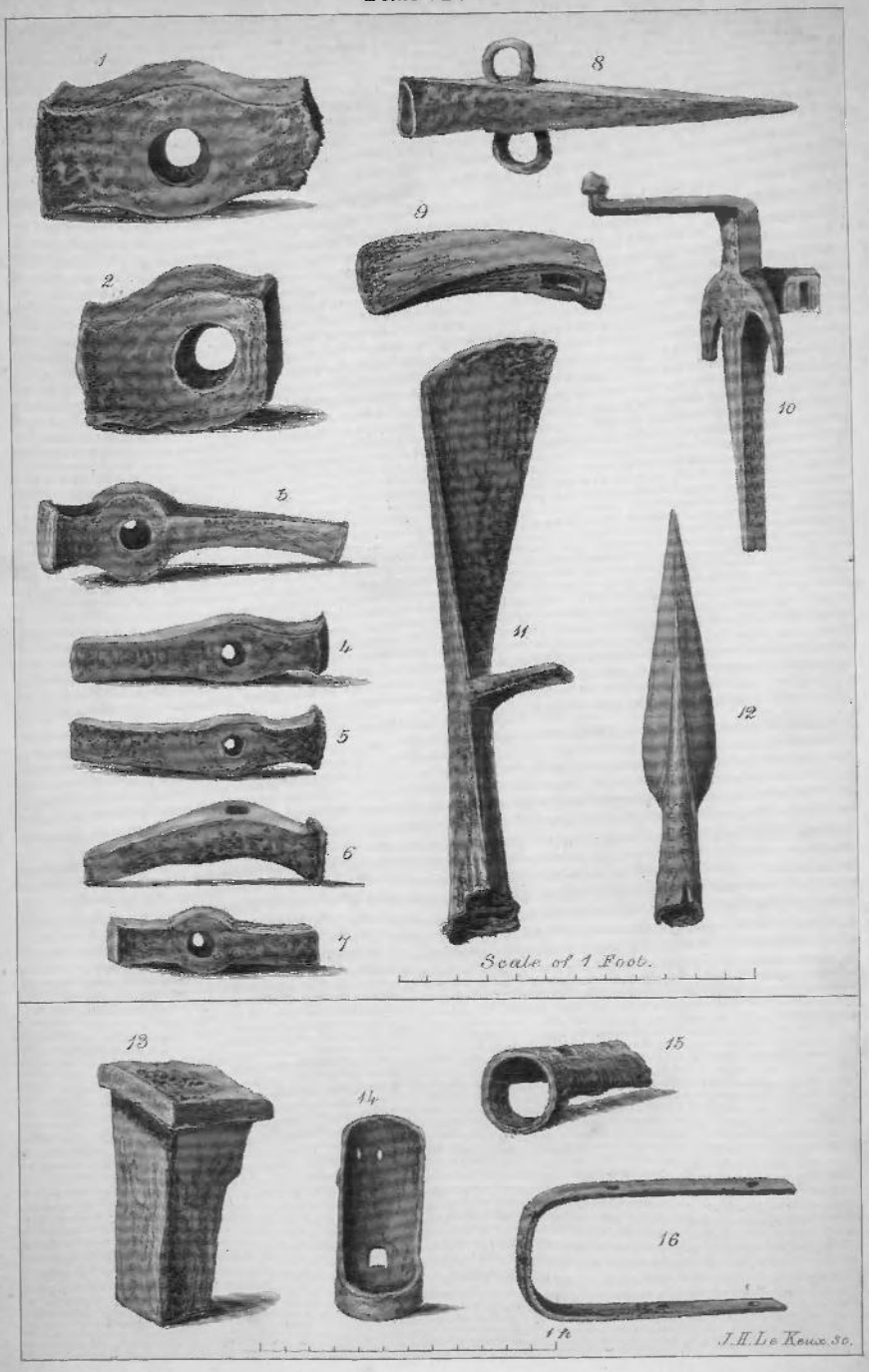
Plate . I .



ROMAN ANTIQUITIES OF IRON, FOUND AT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX.

The Archaeological Journal.

MARCH, 1856.

DESCRIPTION OF A REMARKABLE DEPOSIT OF ROMAN ANTIQUITIES OF IRON, DISCOVERED AT GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX, IN 1854.

BY THE HON. RICHARD CORNWALLIS NEVILLE, F.S.A., VICE-PRESIDENT.

THE discovery of a shaft or cavity filled with Roman implements and objects of iron, in most perfect preservation, has been noticed in a former volume of this Journal.[1] A detailed description was then given of the numerous deep pits at Chesterford, filled with black mould, and containing Roman reliques and débris in great variety. The nature of the receptacle which I now propose to describe would have entitled it to a place in that communication, had it been possible to do justice at that time to a discovery, which, from its importance and singular character, seemed worthy of a separate memoir.

In order to introduce the subject properly, it is necessary to describe some of the contents of the ground in close proximity to the pit which contained the iron, without reference to the numerous other shafts in the same locality. On the 3rd of January, 1854, a sort of square grave was opened by my labourers in the Rectory grounds at Great Chesterford; this contained four skeletons, three of them lying intermingled, the fourth at some little distance. Six armlets of bronze, plain and ornamented, of Roman type, a slight bronze finger ring, the neck and shoulders of an elegant two-handled glass bottle, an iron *falx*, a buckle, a ladle, and a dark coloured vase, broken, were found with the three first; with the fourth skeleton, was found a bronze ring upon the bone supposed to be that of the middle finger, and, besides a bronze bracelet, two iron knives, and a

[1] Archæological Journal, vol. xii. p. 117.

broken bronze box, resembling one found at Little Wilbraham (Grave, No. 141, "Saxon Obsequies," plate 15), a spoon of bronze with an oval bowl, and a pointed end to the handle, a circular metal plate, an iron spear, in remarkably perfect condition (See plate 1, fig. 12), a perfect urn of gray ware, with bosses on the sides and shoulders, and a small coin of Arcadius were also taken from this large grave. A space of between three and four yards intervened between it and the pit under consideration ; the soil continued deep and black, and from it were taken an iron key with a lute-shaped top of bronze to the handle, half an armlet like those before mentioned, and a perfect circular bronze box with its lid attached to the side by a small chain as before. The two last objects were found immediately above a layer of chalk, which proved to be nearly two inches thick, and spread carefully over the mouth of a deep pit. On penetrating the chalk, the point of the pick came in contact with some of the iron objects with which the cavity was filled ; the shaft was six feet deep, sunk like the neighbouring pits below the black soil, through the natural gravel of the locality. No difficulty was experienced in emptying it, and the following articles, ninety-six in number, were taken out :—one anvil, one bed of an anvil, five small anvil pegs, two axle or pole guards, one axe, five bars of iron, three flat bands, one beetle ring, two chains, five coulters of ploughs, ten felloe bands, seven hammers, four hoops, four holdfasts, seven hinges, three keys, four locks, one pivot of a millstone, one pail handle, two pail hoops, one pair of shears, eight shackles, one saw, twelve scythes, one square girder, one turf cutter, two wall pegs, one small wheel. These were laid one upon the other, in no particular order, the two large locks were among the first taken out, and the scythes lay at the bottom. The list conveys but an imperfect idea of the interest and variety of the objects, to say nothing of their marvellous state of preservation. The accompanying representations, prepared from faithful drawings of the principal objects, executed by Mr. Youngman, of Saffron Walden, may enable me to attempt a description, which, without their aid, I should have despaired of accomplishing.

The Anvil is 10 inches high, inclusive of the top ; the stem is 3 inches square at the base, and continues of the same size for 6 inches in height, it had been set thus far into a

wooden block; it then increases to 5 inches, and the marks of its setting are evident by the friction on its sides and shoulders; the top is flat, 2 inches thick, 7 long by 5 broad, projecting on two sides an inch beyond the stem which it is even with in breadth. Four inches of it would thus be raised above the wooden stand; but this mode of setting appears to have been unusual among the ancients, since their anvils are spoken of as *upon* rather than *in* the blocks, and there are representations of them with forked ends or feet to stand upon. One corner of the top is broken off, which prevents my asserting, positively, that there was no projecting peg or point, as was usually the case for forging the links of chains or hollow objects. The occurrence of five anvil-pegs among the rest of the find, which appear designed for this purpose, renders it improbable; besides, such a projection would be at the centre rather than at the corner of the top. (See plate 1, fig. 13.)

Anvil Bed.—This was a large lump of iron, 3 or 4 inches thick, of irregular shape, with a flat surface, and it was at once recognised by the labourers and others, as designed to be placed beneath the anvil block. Not being removed at first, on account of its weight, with the rest of the iron, it was laid aside, and probably appropriated by some Vulcan of the vicinity, since it was afterwards missing.

Anvils.—Five small anvils or anvil-pegs; these appear to have been used for forging the links of chains, &c.; they are of different sizes and form, like a large peg with pointed end and broad, flat, circular top. Three of them measure 9, two 11 inches in length; all have loops, one on each side, projecting from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches horizontally; these are 5 inches from the points of the three first, and 7 from those of the other two, and would prevent them from penetrating too far into the block when hammered upon. Their tops would then be elevated 4 inches above the surface of the wood, and correspond with that of the larger anvil. The tops measure from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and have all been much battered. (See plate 1, fig. 8.) A small anvil, of similar form, without the loops, was found some years since by my labourers, in the Boro' field, and then considered a "gate anvil" in modern phraseology.

Axe.—This is nearly a fac-simile, in shape and size, of one found in grave 83, in the Wilbraham cemetery, and im-

properly termed an adze in the "Saxon Obsequies," (plate 39). It is slightly curved, and resembles, also, others taken from Frank graves at Selzen as well as in Normandy. See Lindenschmidt's "Todtenlager," and the Abbé Cochet's "Normandie Souterraine." The blade is 6 inches long, $2\frac{3}{4}$ across near the edge, and 1 at the haft end, which has an oblong hole to receive the wooden handle. (See plate 1, fig. 9.)

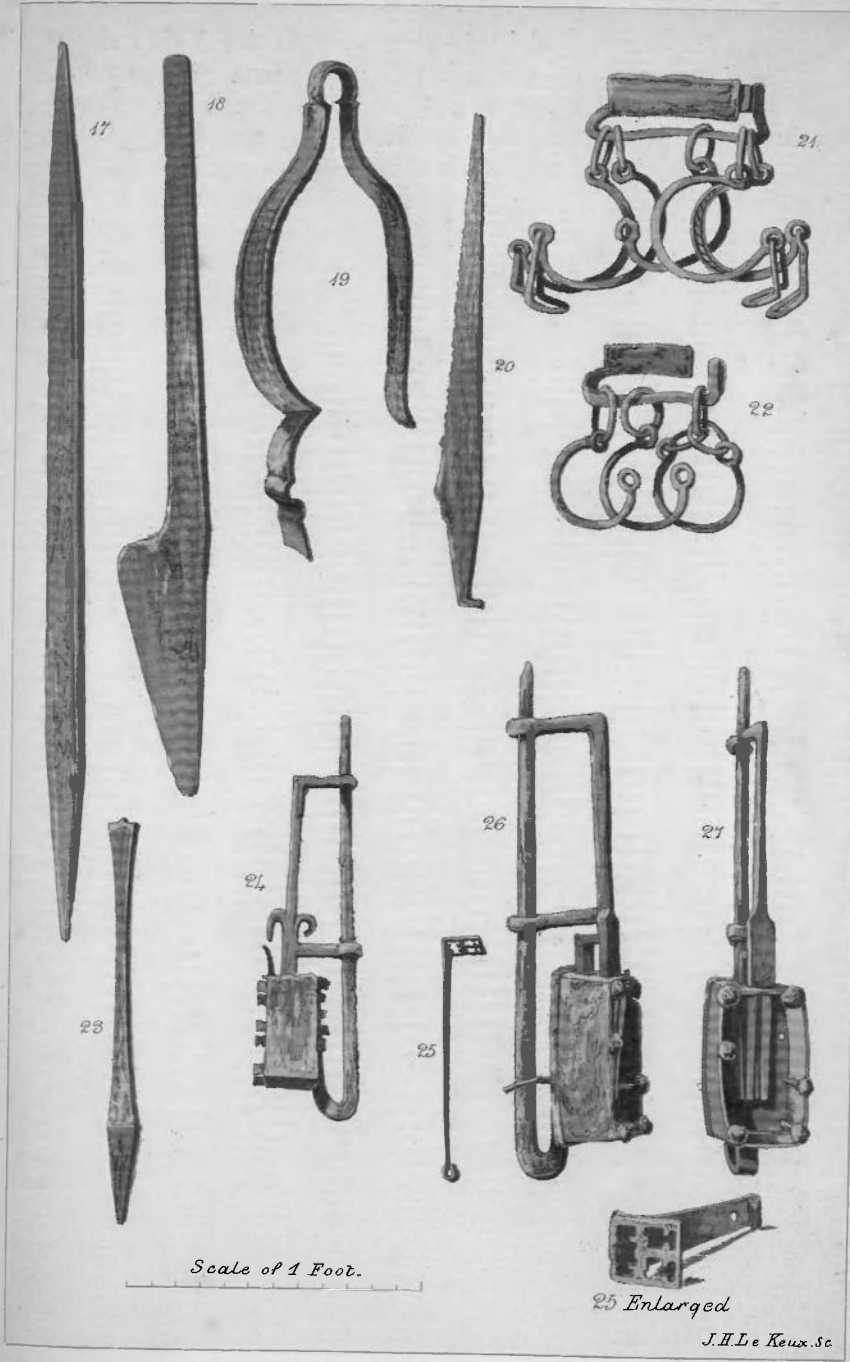
Axle Guards.—There are a pair of these precisely alike: a smith who has seen them informs me he makes the same now for strengthening axles. They consist of a ring $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, to go round the wood, with a sheath 7 inches long, extending from the upper side curved to fit it. There is a large nail hole through the end of this next the ring. (See plate 1, figs. 14, 15.)

Bars of Iron.—There are five of these, square sided, and pointed at both ends: they vary in length; two of them are 3 feet, and three from 2 to 2 feet 6 inches, but the sides of all are the same, 1 inch by $1\frac{1}{4}$ across. These bars are in wonderful preservation, and ring clear on being struck against each other. (See plate 2, fig. 17.)

Bands of Iron.—Three in number, and all flat; one measures $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, 21 inches long, 2 across at the broad end, and tapers to a point at the other. A long nail for fastening it to some object remains through it near the broad end. The other two are $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick, 21 and 22 long, and 1 across their whole length. They have likewise been fastened to something, and each of them has nail holes 6 and 7 inches apart. Another iron band affixed as blacksmiths suppose, to some wheeled vehicle, is figured, plate 2, fig. 19.

Beetle Ring.—A circular band, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick, $1\frac{3}{4}$ wide, and $4\frac{1}{4}$ diameter, without any nail holes.

Chain with Hooks.—The entire length is 7 feet 7 inches. At the top is a ring, a flat hoop $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick, 1 inch wide, and 5 inches in diameter inside. In the lower part of this is inserted a large ornamented swivel, 6 inches in circumference, 2 in length, to which are attached, by their hooked ends, five cords of iron, 15 inches long, skilfully wrought to imitate rope; these are festooned and brought together at their lower ends, which are also hooked; from two of them depends a single chain of twelve double links, each 3 inches long by 2 across; to the twelfth link a flat



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knot twisted like cord, 7 inches long, is attached; from this knot hang two chains of five double links of the same size, each of which has a large hook, 10 inches long, hanging to the end. These hooks terminate in a round knob instead of a point, their backs are 1 inch broad, and ornamented with a plain corded pattern. (See plate 3, fig. 32.)

The simple term chain is quite inadequate to convey a correct idea of this unique object, to the elaborate workmanship of which, my description, even with the powerful aid of Mr. Youngman's pencil, can scarcely do justice; nor is it easy to explain its purpose, for it must have been intended for use as well as ornament, though quite as much care seems to have been bestowed on the latter as the former, in the construction. Although they afford no clue to its use, my excavations enable me to offer two examples which indicate the people who used it. In 1848, the end of a chain consisting of three double links of similar shape and size, with a hook of similar form, 9 inches long, attached, was found in the Roman building, near Ickleton, and in October, 1854, among the Roman remains at Bartlow, my labourers met with another chain; two feet of this remain; it is constructed with a flat ring top, 5 inches in diameter, which has also a swivel inserted in it; from this, instead of a festoon, two plain ropes of iron, 9 inches long, depend, and are bound together in two places, by a flat band: to the ends of these are attached four double links of the same pattern, but rather under 3 inches in length. It is singularly fortunate that both these discoveries on Roman sites confirm the shape and size of the double links of the large chain under consideration, while each individually identifies a peculiar feature in its construction; viz. the flat ring and swivel at the top, and the round-ended hook dependent from the bottom.

A Second Chain.—This measures more than 14 feet in length, and is of a different construction from the first. The links are thirty-seven in number, long and flat, they are composed of two bars of iron, welded together in the centre, but looping at each end. Eleven of them measure more than 4 inches long, seventeen more than 5, six are 6, two 7, and one 8; all are 1 inch across their centre, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in girth, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across their loops. A hook, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with a blunt end, is fastened to the last link at one end;

in the last link at the other extremity, when found, there was, what is known in modern harness as a S hook, 4 inches long, which can shifted at pleasure. Blacksmiths, and other experienced persons, are of opinion that this chain was intended for some purposes of draught, but whether for carts, chariots, or ploughs, it is impossible to say, since its strength would adapt it for all these. (See plate 3, fig. 31.) A somewhat similar chain was found in the fens in Cambridgeshire, and is now in the Museum of the Antiquarian Society in the University.

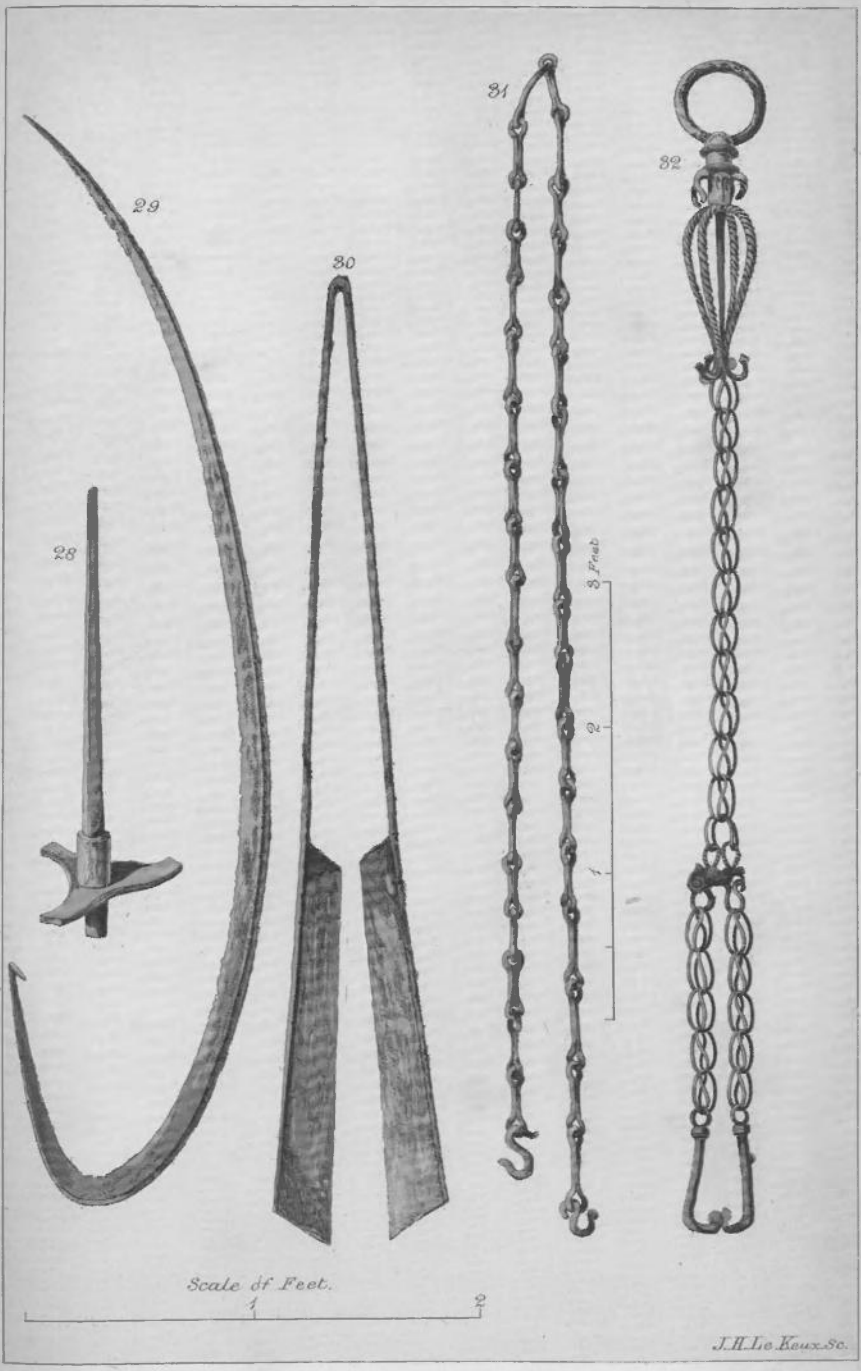
Coulters.—These ponderous implements are five in number, and the carriage of the plough to which they belonged, must have been a strong one, since the weight of the lightest is 14, that of the heaviest 16 lbs. Unlike those now in use, they are made with a stem, and measure from 2 ft. 3 in. to 2 ft. 11 in. long, inclusive of their blades; the length of the blades varies from 8 to 11 inches by 3½ and 4 inches at their tops; their points ¼ of an inch across, and all appear to have been much used. The stems of two are octagonal, 1¾ inches in diameter, the other three are 2 inches, and square. (See plate 2, fig. 18.)

Felloe Bands.—There are ten of these, five large and five smaller, which correspond as the outside and inside of as many wheels; they are very strongly made, and have projecting rims over the outer edges as the modern ones. The diameter of the large ones is 8 inches, that of the smaller 6¾ inches; breadth of the bands 1½ inches and 1¾ inches: their rims are ½ an inch across.

Hammers.—There are seven of these of different weights and shapes. All of them are flat, and all more or less curved, excepting one large and one small one, which are quite straight. The two largest answer to our sledge-hammers, weigh 8 lbs. and 5½, measuring 7 and 8 inches in length: the last is a straight one: the weight of the largest of the other five is 1¾ lb., that of the smallest ¾ of a lb. Two of them are 7 inches long, the remaining three 6 inches. The diameter of the heads is 2 and 2½ inches in the large ones, 1 inch in two, and ¾ in three of the small ones. The diameter of the perforation for the handle varies from 1¾ inch to ¾. They have been much used. (See plate 1. fig. 1 to 7.)

Hinges.—There are seven of these, but only one is perfect.

Plate . 3.



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It is made with two flat band sides, one 18 inches the other 6 inches long, and is very much like those now used on barn doors. Both sides have ornamental ends, are 2 inches at widest and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in thickness. The side of one of the broken ones is 20 inches long and $2\frac{1}{8}$ wide, and all of them seem to have varied in size. The rivets from side to side and long nails for fastening remain in several of them.

HOLDFASTS.—These exactly resemble the objects now used for the same purpose; they are made with strong flat sides, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, in form like a staple, to be affixed outside a beam or other object. There are four of different sizes, varying from 13 to 18 inches in length of their sides; the top which connects these is from 4 to 5 inches. In each of the sides, are two nail holes to fasten them on. The blacksmiths are of opinion that they belong to something like the shafts of a cart. (See plate 1, fig. 16.)

HOOPS.—Four large hoops of iron 3 feet 7 inches in diameter, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ across their bands, which are $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick. These appear to be intended for tires to large wheels, though the absence of nail holes through the bands, which are much worn on the inside, seems to contradict that supposition. They are much heavier and stouter than those used for casks, which is the only other purpose that suggests itself for them.

KEY.—A reference to the accompanying engraving (plate 2, fig. 25), will show this to be of very different form from what is usually known by that name. The shank is slight, flat, 1 inch broad, 10 inches long, and has a loop at the top. The wards are contained in a sort of frame $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches square, which projects at right angles with the end of the shank, and is pierced very much as the modern latch-keys, to fit the springs of the large locks found with it. To these it apparently belongs, and the manner in which it was used will be best understood by a comparison with the following description of them.

LOCKS OR PADLOCKS.—Two large padlocks were among the first objects taken out of the hole, and the plate of one being broken off affords a view of the construction of the interior, which is as follows:—A square shaped box or case, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad and 3 deep: into which the springs, eight in number, fixed on four square bars, are introduced perpendicularly through a small aperture

in one of the ends of the lock ; these bars are attached to a rod 8 inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in girth, corresponding with the hasp of a padlock ; this rod is connected at its top, and again two inches above its junction with the springs, by means of a horizontal bar with a ring at the end, with another rod of $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, which descends perpendicularly at 1 inch distance from the outside of the box to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches below it, then returns upward, forming a loop and is fastened to the lower edge. This rod serves for the other to work up and down on, by means of the horizontal bars with rings, which much must be taken off over its top in order to clear the springs of their case when they are released by the key. The loop at the bottom serves to hold anything locked upon it, which is clearly exemplified by one of the smaller locks upon which are several shackles secured in this manner. There is a narrow slit in the lower end of the spring box, close to the junction with the longest or guiding rod, through which the key, above described, is inserted ; in order to do this, it is necessary to turn the frame with the wards edgeways, and when they are introduced, there is sufficient space between the ends of the bars with the springs and the bottom of the case to allow of their being returned horizontally. It is then only necessary to push the key upwards to compress the springs by the passage of the wards along the bars containing them, sufficiently to allow them to pass through the small aperture at the top of the box. The construction of these locks is very strong, and the boxes are further secured by six rivets, with massive heads, passing through them from side to side. They are both, as nearly as possible, alike in shape and size, the only difference being, that the head above the springs is plain and single in one, while in the other, it has a double end to go into the box, with two recurved projections above. (See plate 2, figs. 24-27.)

KEYS.—Two of the same shape but much smaller than the first, belonging to the small locks next to be described. Length of their shanks, 6 inches ; breadth, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ; the wards are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch square, and by their form, indicate the locks to which they belong to have had only two bars with four springs. The shanks have loops at the top ; in general form these keys much resemble what are usually described as "lamp-holders," amongst objects found on Roman sites,

and I have often confounded them at Chesterford with objects of that nature.

Locks.—Two small locks on precisely the same principles, but slightly differing in construction from those described above. There is only one horizontal bar, which is fastened to the top of the outside longest rod, and has a hole at the opposite end; through this hole, the short rod with the springs is drawn out perpendicularly and detached when the lock is opened; when it is shut down, the two rods have the appearance of being firmly united by the horizontal bar. These two locks are exactly alike, but one of them has lost the short rod and springs; the other has them shut down, and on the loop at the end of the long rod, are locked five shackles or fetters. (Plate 2, fig. 21.) A lock of similar construction, but rather larger, was found in 1849, in the Boro' field among Roman remains by my labourers. It is now in my collection, with a mediæval one on the same principle, but of more finished workmanship, presented to me by Augustus Franks, Esq., of the British Museum.

Shackles.—There are eight of these; five of them are locked upon the small entire padlock, the other three were lying with the broken one. Seven of them are plain round bars, with a ring or eye at each end; in each of these is a link 2 inches in diameter to fasten them on the loop of the padlock. The eighth is of like form, with two links, but made of a flat band, 1 inch across, slightly raised at the edges and ornamented along the centre with a cord beautifully wrought to imitate the strands. This is one of those attached to the first padlock; another of the same form and ornament was found by my labourers in August, 1854, in the Boro' field, with Roman remains. (See plate 2, figs. 21, 22.) Several shackles may be found in the museum of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society; and two found with Roman remains in Bedfordshire are in the British Museum.

Pivot for a Millstone.—This is a bar 21 inches long. There are three horizontal flat spokes, 4 inches long by 2 broad, which project near the base of the iron bar, at right angles with it, serving to rest the stone upon. The top of the bar tapers to a point. (See plate 3, fig. 28.) Millers and blacksmiths at once declared they had no doubt of the purpose for which this object was intended, and I find, on comparing it with some Roman querns in my collection,

that there is every reason to regard the supposition as probable.

Pail Hoops.—Two, round on the outside, flattened on the inside, for close contact with the wood. They are 11 and 9 inches in diameter, but there must have been a third still smaller, if the handle found with them belonged to the same pail, since it is only 7 inches from end to end. The missing hoop would then have been of that diameter, and the pail broader at its bottom than top. In an account of a remarkable pit discovered, near Preston in Dorsetshire, which seems to have been of the same nature with those at Chesterford, a handle of a pail is mentioned among the contents. This discovery is described by Mr. Waines, by whom the examination was made (Gent. Mag. vol. xxi., N. S., p. 185).

Pail Handle.—This is like modern objects of the same kind, and suited to a small-topped bucket, being only 7 inches between the hooks to fit the ears.

Saw.—This is only a fragment; the portion found measures 14 inches by $3\frac{1}{4}$ across, through its whole length; it is part of a cross-cut saw, which has had a large handle; a long nail for fastening it on remains through the end of the blade. The teeth commence at 2 inches from it, are triangular, and not very large, there being forty-two of them in 12 inches. Two other saws were found in the Rectory grounds in the vicinity of the iron pit; both these have very small teeth, and one of them is very narrow, long, and tapers to an acute point. (See plate 2, fig. 20.)

Shears.—One enormous pair, with broad blades. Their total length, inclusive of these, is 4 feet $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; the handles are plain round bars, 2 inches in circumference, the blades are $19\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, 4 broad at their ends, and 3 at the tops. They have a round rim at their backs, probably for the hands to rest on, or to give strength to the blade, but it is difficult to imagine how they could have been used in cutting, on account of the great length of their handles. (See plate 3, fig. 30.)

Scythes.—There are twelve of these extraordinary implements. Five of them are a little broken, but seven are perfect. The blades are 2 inches wide in the broadest part. They have a ridge along their backs, on the upper surface, a means of giving strength to the blade, still adopted in the construction of modern scythes. The blades are regularly

curved, measuring across the span (from the point to the extremity of the cutting edge), about 5 feet 4 inches; and they are formed, as shown by the accompanying representation, with a recurved piece of about 17 inches in length, gradually decreasing in breadth towards its termination, and there is a little point or tang, turned up at right angles, where the blade was affixed to the handle. Their great length would render these scythes inconvenient, even if they were made to be fixed on the sneed in the modern fashion; but the recurved portion at the end of the blade, makes it difficult to understand how the handles could be attached so as render them available for mowing in the ordinary method. Great excitement was caused by the appearance of these singular objects among those who came to see the contents of the pit, and the prevailing impression was, that they, at least, belonged to the celebrated war-chariots of old, an idea which at first was encouraged by the felloe bands, wheel tire, and axle-guards, also found with them. So unusual is their shape, and so incredible did it appear that they could have been employed in simple harvest-work. (See plate 3, fig. 29.) Compare a broken scythe, in some respects similar, found with Roman remains in the station at Neuwied on the Rhine, and figured amongst numerous Roman implements and mechanical tools, in the "Römische Alterthümer in Neuwied," by Dr. W. Dorow, Berlin, 1827.

Turf Cutter.—This is 14 inches in length, has a triangular blade, 7 long by 4 wide at the bottom, or broadest part, and 1 across the neck which terminates in a long hollow socket for a wooden handle. There is a foot iron, 2 inches long, which projects from the flat side of the blade at right angles with the bottom of the socket. From the position of this foot-rest, the blade could not have been used for paring turf, but must have been intended for cutting borders. (See plate 1, fig. 11.)

Wheel.—This is a fragment, and small, 6 inches in diameter, with tire 2 wide, from the outer surface of which the broken extremities of three flat spokes project, and present the appearance of cogs.

Wall Pegs (?)—These are objects of very uncertain use, the form of which has been correctly shown by Mr. Youngman. (See plate 1, fig. 10.)

These complete the list of this interesting assemblage of

ancient iron implements. I have confined myself to an accurate description of each object, without enlarging on their several uses, (which are, in the majority, self-evident, from their shape and construction,) in hopes that the account aided by the engravings which accompany it, may elicit some opinion regarding those objects which are obscure. With the objects found in the shaft, one, probably of mechanical use, found with a skeleton in an adjacent grave, is here figured, as a relique analogous in character. (See plate 2, fig. 23.) It is remarkable that in so large and varied a collection, in immediate proximity to a locality which we are accustomed to regard as a military position, no object of a warlike character should have been found. In the adjacent place of interment it will be remembered, as above described, that a spear-head of iron was discovered amongst personal ornaments and other Roman reliques. In the shaft, however, the objects so carefully protected consisted exclusively of implements used in agriculture, or for mechanical and domestic purposes, a fact which suggests the notion that this singular deposit was stored away in times comparatively of tranquil occupation, when the colonists of *Icianum* were free to prosecute the Arts of Peace, and devote themselves to the culture of the surrounding district. The discovery must be regarded as one of especial interest, since we possess few well characterised examples of such mechanical and rural appliances at the period to which these doubtless belong. Iron implements, moreover, are mostly found so decayed with rust, that their forms are very imperfectly defined. M. Grivaud de la Vincelle has supplied, in his "Arts et Métiers des Anciens," examples of the mechanical tools and implements of daily use amongst the Romans; and many other objects, highly curious as compared with those above described, have been figured by Dr. W. Dorow, in his "Römische Alterthümer in Neuwied," already cited, and are preserved in the curious museum at Neuwied on the Rhine. The greater part, however, of the reliques found at Chesterford are as peculiar in form as they are remarkable in their preservation, and the discovery may well claim the careful consideration of the archaeologist.

There are two features of this curious deposit which require notice before taking leave of the subject. These are its object and date. With regard to the first, it is evident

there must have been some special reason for burying so large a quantity of valuable metal; nor can there be much doubt that it was done for the purpose of concealment. The layer of chalk spread so carefully over the mouth of the pit, to preserve its contents from moisture and decay, is strong evidence of the intention of using them at a future period. Very few of the articles, however, are new; many, on the contrary, have been much worn, as the hammers and plough coulters; the hinges and holdfasts had been attached to doors and beams, as appears by the wood still adhering to them; but old iron has, in all ages, been of sufficient value to be preserved for some secondary uses. Assuming that concealment was the object therefore for the deposit, it is a subject for conjecture whether these things were buried on some emergency of war, or as a store by some smith, who never returned to take possession of his concealed hoard. The question must, however, occur, whether the deposit is to be considered as entirely independent of the graves so closely adjacent, and the numerous deep pits in the vicinity: it must be remembered that these latter have sometimes been regarded as depositories for grain and other stores. The graves, at all events, may furnish some clue to the date, by the small bronze box and armlets found in them, which correspond with similar objects of each description taken from the soil over the pit, as well as others from the Anglo-Saxon tombs at Wilbraham. At the last place, too, an axe was exhumed, precisely like the one described above. The chains from the Roman sites of Ickleton and Bartlow, the keys and small lock of the same construction, the ornamented fetter, and small anvil, all from the Boro' field, Chesterford, among Roman remains, must not be lost sight of, since all are of peculiar character. All these combine in testimony as to the Roman origin of the deposit; but the presence of several objects which may also be traced to a later people, induces me to fix its date at the Transition period, about the departure of the Romans and the first coming of the Saxons, in whose cemeteries so many of the coins and implements used by their predecessors are found. This is further confirmed by the numerous coins of Theodosius, Arcadius, Honorius, and the lowest Empire, found in the surrounding soil.