

Golden Lunette found near Padstow.

Scale, half original size; weight 4 oz. 9 dwts.

The Archaeological Journal.

DECEMBER, 1865.

NOTICE OF TWO GOLDEN ORNAMENTS FOUND NEAR PADSTOW,
AND COMMUNICATED TO THE INSTITUTE BY FAVOR OF
H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.

By EDWARD SMIRKE, Esq., M.A., Vice-Warden of the Stannaries.

THE objects to which the following observations relate were found on a farm at Harlyn, in the parish of Merryn, near Padstow, in the course of lowering the surface, or cutting away some ground, at the depth of about 6 ft. from the surface. With them were found two other articles; one of which, a bronze celt, has been preserved; another was thrown away before any particular notice had been taken of it: it was described by the man at work on the spot, as "like a bit of a buckle." The discovery was made in the course of last year.

The earth in immediate contact with these articles is described to have been of an artificial character, consisting of stones unlike the rest of the ground, so as to suggest to the finder, Mr. Helyar, the notion of a deposit designed for concealment. In fact, the case was clearly a case of treasure-trove, in which the law of England, in the absence of any other legal owner, assigns the ownership to the Crown. In the present case the Treasury disclaims title to the articles, and considers them as belonging to the Duke of Cornwall in right of those general franchises originally claimed by the Earls of Cornwall, and afterwards vested in the predecessors of his Royal Highness, Dukes of Cornwall, by the charters, royal and parliamentary, of Edward III. They were submitted to the meeting of the Institute in July 7 ult., by the favor of the Prince of Wales.

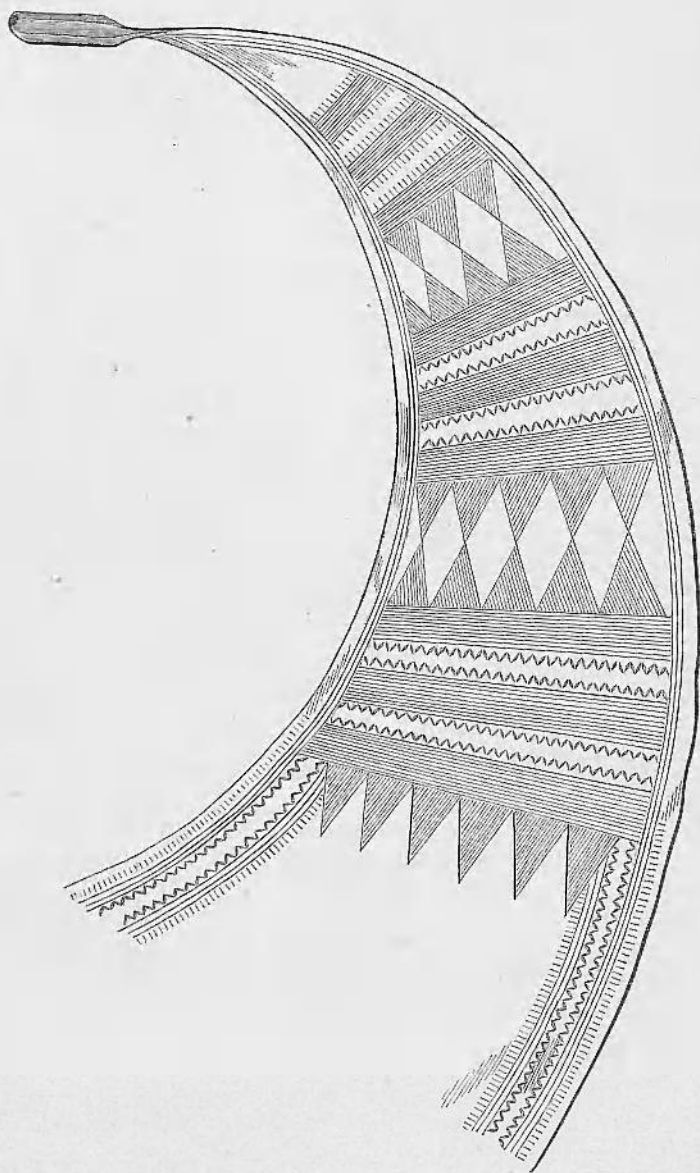
They are presumed to be personal ornaments of the kind which have been variously called "Lunettes," "Gorgetts," Diadems, &c., according to the conjectural uses to which archæologists have supposed them to have been originally applied.

One of the like ornaments, of a character and form so nearly resembling the larger of the present lunettes as to be almost identical with it, is preserved in the British Museum, and is, doubtless, the one found near Penzance, formerly in the possession of the family of Price, of Trengwainton, and accurately figured in the *Magna Britannia* of Mr. Samuel Lysons. Another of a similar character and form is known to have been found in the parish of St. Juliot, in the Hundred of Lesnewth, in the same county ; so that we now know of four distinct instances of the discovery of such articles, all in Cornwall, and all at no great distance from the north coast. At present no such discovery is known to have been made elsewhere in England, Wales, or Scotland. In Ireland these objects are more numerous ; they may be said to be of almost familiar occurrence there. In the Royal Academy of Ireland alone there are fifteen, and in that island the name of "*mind*" or *diadem*, has been suggested as a proper designation of them. Hitherto ornaments of this kind have been considered to belong to the Keltic period of our insular occupation, whether in England or in Ireland, and are so classed by our antiquaries ; whether they were of home manufacture, or were imported through the medium of early commerce, is at present an open question. Meantime it is to be borne in mind that evidence of the use of golden articles nearly resembling these, has been found in French Bretagne,¹ in 1832, (of which there is an engraving in Akerman's *Archæological Index*, pl. vii.) ; and also in Denmark, referred to in Worsaae's *Northern Antiquities*, and described as a *haarsmikke*, or *haarschmuck*, in the archæological publications of that country.

The weights of those before us are respectively, 4oz. 9dwts. and 2oz. 2dwts. They are of very pure gold. The surface ornament appears to have been formed both by punching and by graving.

The occurrence of the bronze celt (here figured) in connection with them, is, I think, an important fact, and is some evidence of the concurrent, or contemporaneous, use of both articles. It is a rare and (at present) a solitary instance ; though I believe it was never doubtful that both metals were in early, simultaneous, use. This celt is of simple fashion,

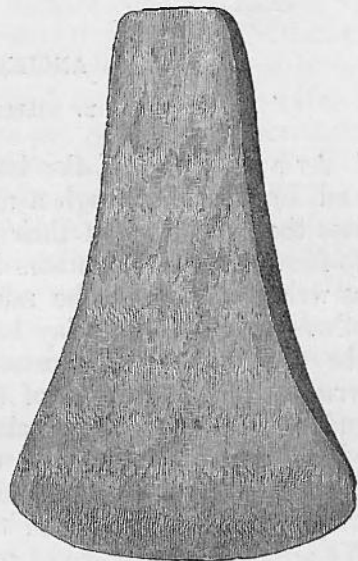
¹ *Archæologia*, vol. xxvii., p. 14.



Portion of a Golden Lunette found near Padstow.
Original size.

and probably of a very early type. It measures $4\frac{3}{8}$ in. in length; breadth of the cutting edge, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The name of *torc*, or *torque*, cannot be correctly applied to these gorgets, if gorgets they be. That extremely ancient article of personal decoration makes a very early figure, as well in historical writings as in Eastern sculpture. On this subject the instructive and exhaustive papers of Mr. Birch, in the 2nd and 3rd vols. of the *Archaeological Journal of the Institute*, supply ample information.² It is, however, observable that we have no delineation or description of early date that indicates the manner in which these golden, semi-lunar laminæ were worn on the person. On this, as on the question of their original place of



Bronze Celt, found, with Golden Ornaments, near Padstow. (Two-thirds orig. size.)

actual manufacture, we have nothing that throws any clear light; we can only resort to conjecture. Some of the same form as those before us have been found so small as to be unfit for ordinary use, either round the neck or the head. There are one or two of this kind in the British Museum.

It is difficult to refrain from connecting the occurrence of these Cornish specimens with the ancient intercourse, both friendly and hostile, religious and secular, between that county and Ireland. The old churches had many saints in common; as Petrock, Piran, Senan, Hia (St. Ives), Columb, and even Patrick. More detailed references to this connection will be found in a paper read to the Royal Cornwall Institution, in 1861, upon the Ogham Stone found at Fardel, in the parish of Cornwood in Devonshire.

Since the above meeting, his Royal Highness has kindly been pleased to direct that the lunettes should be deposited in the Museum of the Royal Institution at Truro.

² There seems to be some error in the author's reference to the two Cornish ex-

amples, there supposed to be in the British Museum.