

NOTICES OF ANTIQUITIES OF BRONZE FOUND IN  
DEVONSHIRE.

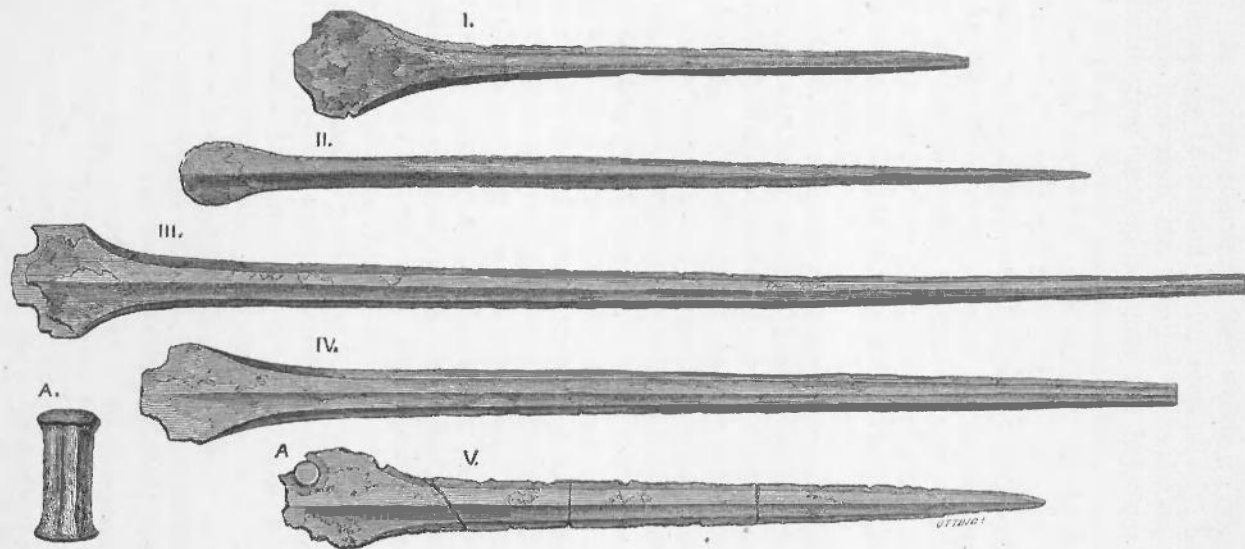
By CHARLES TUCKER, F.S.A.

IN January, 1867, a discovery of some bronze weapons of remarkable character occurred in Devonshire, which I had the pleasure of bringing under the notice of the Institute at the Monthly Meeting in London in April. On a former occasion I had been enabled to communicate from the same county an account of two curious stone moulds for casting blades of metal of a peculiar type, exactly similar to that of the weapons recently brought to light in Devon. An account of that discovery will be found in this Journal;<sup>1</sup> the representations of the moulds, here again given, cannot fail to be acceptable in illustration of the present notices.

The weapons lately found are six in number; they are of bronze of fine quality, and are examples of the comparatively rare type of long, regularly tapering blades, formed so as to be affixed to some kind of haft by means of rivets, and thus presenting a very distinctive variation from the bronze leaf-shaped swords, that are of frequent occurrence in the British Islands and also in many parts of Europe.

The dimensions of the blades, the recent discovery of which I proceed to relate, vary from 22 in. to 12 in. in length. Five of them are here figured, on a reduced scale, and also one of the strong rivets, the means by which the weapons of this description were affixed to their hafts. Three of the blades are, unfortunately, imperfect; they measure, in their present state, 22 in., 19 in., and 15 in., respectively, about two inches or somewhat more having been broken off, as shown in the accompanying woodcuts. Indications of rivet-holes may be noticed in each instance, but the edges of the broad end of the blade, that was intended to be adjusted to a haft of some description, are mostly very thin in the weapons of this class; here, as in other examples, the margin has decayed and partially broken away. Of the

<sup>1</sup> Arch. Journ. vol. ix. p. 185.



Bronze weapons found January 1867, in the parish of Talaton, Devon. Length of No. I., 12 inches; No. III., 22 inches.

A. Bronze rivet, same size as the original.

three other blades, one, that measures 14 in. in length, was found broken into three pieces, but the point is perfect and one of the rivets remained (see woodcut, orig. size), and two, measuring 16 in. and 12 in., respectively, have likewise their points unbroken, but decayed by oxidation, as are likewise their other extremities and the holes for the rivets. These weapons, it will be observed, have the usual sharp central rib that served to give strength to so thin a blade. Only one rivet was found in its place; several others that had fallen out and were overlooked by the workmen have been subsequently found. Three of the blades are coated with a peculiar brownish patina, on one it is almost of a golden colour; the others have the usual green incrustation; the variation, no doubt, arising from some peculiarity in the water or the soil.

The site of this discovery is a meadow, on the estates of Sir John Kennaway, Bart., called Ryland Field or Park, about three fields distant from Larkbeare House, in the parish of Talaton, and adjoining a parochial road leading from Larkbeare and Escot, by a spot called Holy-ball Springs near Larkbeare Pool, to the great highway known as Straightway Head, a portion of the great line of Roman road (on the course doubtless of the British Ikeneld)<sup>2</sup> leading from *Muridunum* to Exeter, the *Isca Dumnnuniorum* of Antoninus' Itinerary. The actual spot where the discovery occurred is about half a mile to the north of the Via Strata, and almost abuts on the line of an ancient British track-way leading to the great camp known as Hembury Fort, a vast earthwork with triple vallum, at the extremity of the Blackdown Range.

The weapons were found during some operations for draining the meadow; they lay  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. below the surface of the old pasture; three of them placed side by side in the line of the intended drain, and the other three a short distance off.

A circumstance which renders the finding so many examples of this long, taper type of blade in Devonshire peculiarly interesting, is their striking conformity to the weapons which the castings from the stone moulds above

<sup>2</sup> See in Lysons' *Magna Brit.*, Devonshire, vol. i. p. cccxii. the account given by the Bishop of Cloyne of this line of way, that followed for the most part that of an ancient British road, entering the county at Axminster, where it has preserved the British name of the Ikeneld

Way. This line appears to be distinctly traced across Devon towards the great marts of trade on the Cornish coast. The *Iter* from *Vindomis* to *Isca*, passing by Dorchester, Axminster and Honiton, may be seen in the Itinerary of Antoninus; edit. Parthey, 1843, p. 233.

alluded to, as occurring in the same county, would present. Of these, two, each formed of two equal moieties, were found in 1852, in a field adjacent to the village of Knighton, in the parish of Hennock near Chudleigh, in digging for the pottery clay, at a delta formed by the rivers Bovey and Teign; the longest mould (length  $24\frac{1}{2}$  in.), was placed vertically in contact with the fine white clay of commerce; the shorter (length  $21\frac{1}{2}$  in.) was in a horizontal position; the parts were in due apposition, but they separated when moved.

They were under six feet of sedimentary gravel, bouldered pebbles, &c., with two feet of earth over the pebbles. The stone of which these moulds are formed is a strong micaceous schist of a light greenish colour, similar to that found in Cornwall, and very heavy, the pair of moulds weighing about 12 lbs. These remarkable objects came into the possession of the late Mr. Davey, of Knighton, who was connected with the clay works, and they now remain with his family. It is most desirable that such highly curious relics should be deposited in the National Museum.<sup>3</sup>

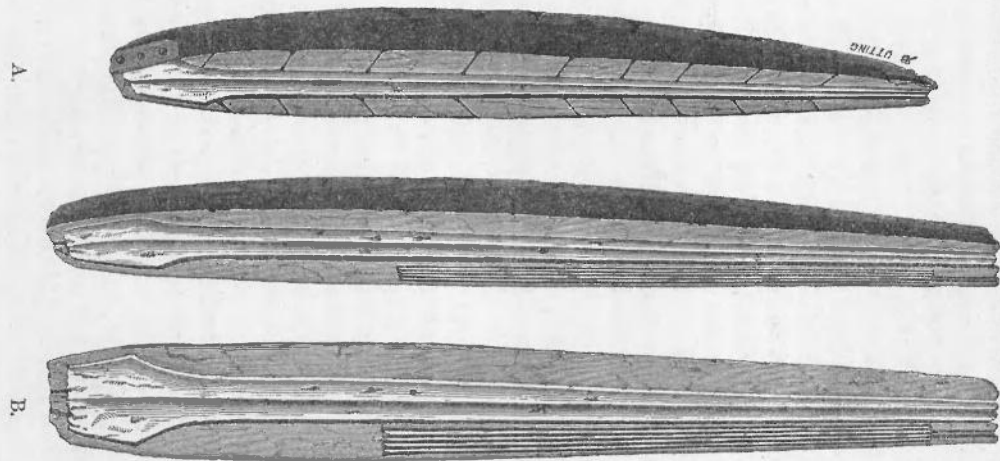
It may be worthy of remark that, although many moulds formed of stone and of bronze for casting spear-heads, celts and palstaves of various forms have been discovered, and that, since the discovery at Knighton in 1852, this evidence of the actual manufacture of bronze weapons and implements in Britain has repeatedly been brought under the notice of archæologists,<sup>4</sup> the occasional occurrence of objects of the like description on the Continent having also been recorded,<sup>5</sup> no other moulds for casting the long thin blades should have been brought to light. It is believed indeed that no moulds of a similar kind are known, and, moreover, that neither in the British Islands nor on the Continent has any similar

<sup>3</sup> Some further particulars may be found in this Journal, vol. ix. p. 185.

<sup>4</sup> A considerable number of moulds, of stone or bronze, for casting celts and other objects of metal, were described by Mr. G. V. Du Noyer, in 1847, and figured in this Journal, vol. iv. p. 335. A more ample enumeration of such moulds may be found vol. xviii. p. 166, in the account of the Special Exhibition of Antiquities of bronze, at one of the meetings of the Institute in London in 1861. Other notices of these remarkable relics may be found in Catal. Mus. Roy. Irish Acad., by Sir W. R. Wilde, p. 392, and in a

Memoir by Mr. Albert Way, *Archæologia Camb.*, vol. ii. third series, p. 120. See a notice of a bronze mould found in Sussex, in this Journal, vol. xx. p. 192; *Sussex Archæol. Coll.* vol. xiv. p. 171. A bronze mould for palstaves, found in the Lake of Geneva on the site of the Pfahlbauten at Morges, is figured in Mr. Lee's valuable translation of Dr. Keller's *Memoirs on the Lake Dwellings of Switzerland*, pl. xxxix. p. 195.

<sup>5</sup> In the *Universal Exposition* at Paris four moulds for celts were exhibited, one of them of Steachiste. Catalogue, *Histoire du Travail*, p. 40, nos. 355—358.



Stone Moulds for casting Bronze Weapons. Found in the parish of Hennock, Devon, 1852. Dimensions.—A, length  $24\frac{1}{2}$  inches; greatest width 3 inches. B, length  $21\frac{1}{2}$  inches; width 3 inches.

appliance been found for casting the "leaf-shaped" sword blades that occur in such ample variety in our own country and also in Germany, Denmark, and other foreign lands.<sup>6</sup>

In connection with the peculiar slender tapering blades, such as those recently found in Devonshire, and the stone moulds for casting weapons of this type likewise brought to light in that county, attention may again be invited to the occurrence of a shallow grooved cavity on the side of one of the moulds (see woodcut). This would produce a thin slip of bronze, about 14 in. in length, sharply ribbed on one side and flat on the other. Amongst numerous Irish antiquities in the collection formed by Mr. R. H. Brackstone, there is a narrow slip of bronze of similar fashion and dimensions, length 15 in., ribbed, however, on both of its sides. It has been conjectured that, in either case, such an object, whether ribbed on each side or on one only, may have served to sharpen weapons in like manner as the instrument called a "steel" now in use. It is hoped that renewed notice of so curious an object, associated apparently with the type of blades that form the principal subject of the present memoir, may call forth some further suggestions in regard to the purpose for which it was intended.

The weapons of this long taper fashion, although comparatively more rare than the "leaf-shaped" swords, and of more frequent occurrence in Ireland than in Great Britain, are to be found in several public and private collections. They vary considerably in dimensions. I may first notice, as more directly connected with the county from which the curious relics already described have been obtained, that a specimen in perfect preservation had been brought to light by the plough at Winkleigh, near Crediton, in North Devon, on the verge of a barrow adjacent to the old road from Exeter to Bideford. The length of this blade is 17 in. (See woodcuts, p. 120.)

The earliest discovery of bronze weapons of the peculiar type under consideration is, so far as I am aware, that recorded on the authority of the Welsh antiquary Llwyd. In 1688, about fifty bronze weapons were found deposited under a great stone in a place described as "Kareg Dhinin," in the parish of Beddgelart, Caernarvonshire. These relics

<sup>6</sup> A singular bronze mould and core for casting sword-handles may here deserve mention. It was found in Italy, and is preserved at Munich. See Linden-

schmit, die Alterth. uas. heidnischen Vorzeit, Heft i. taf. ii. figg. 10, 12. It is noticed in Sir W. Wilde's Catal. Mus. Roy. Irish Acad. p. 449.

consisted of short swords or daggers, 1 ft. to 2 ft. in length, some of them flat, some quadrangular; several, as it is stated, were gilt; the greater part, however, when found, were covered with a bluish rust. A few had two bronze nails riveted on each side through holes in the edges, as in many other objects of this class. Such, it is observed, had been found elsewhere in Wales. There was also a palstave; but, unfortunately, no precise notice of this deposit appears to have been preserved.<sup>7</sup> The large hoards of bronze objects and broken metal that have occurred in the Principality, and also in other parts of the British Isles, are very remarkable. The deposit disinterred at Guilsfield, Montgomeryshire, in 1862, consisted of not less than 56 celts, broken swords, scabbards, spears, &c., with about 50 other fragments and a lump of fused metal; a similar discovery, in 1859, at Pant-y-maen near Glancych, Cardiganshire, brought to light 27 bronze relics of the same description, besides numerous fragments.<sup>8</sup> No example, however, of the taper "rapier blade" occurred in either of these two large hoards of bronze. These facts, combined with the repeated discoveries of cakes or ingots of metal, and especially of moulds for casting celts, spear-heads, and other objects of types familiar to the English antiquary, present striking evidence of their actual manufacture in Britain.

I proceed to notice other examples, some of which have been exhibited at Meetings of our Society. In the National Collection there is amongst other specimens one that belonged to Mr. Roach Smith; it was found in the Thames at Maidenhead, and had been presented to him by Mr. Alderman Venables. This blade measures  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length, and it appears to have been perforated for two rivets, but the edges at that part are broken away and much damaged.<sup>9</sup>

In the Armoury at Goodrich Court a specimen may be seen, designated by the late Sir S. Meyrick "the earliest style of spear-blade, termed gwaew-fon." It measures 13 in. in length.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Camden's *Britannia*, edit. Gough, vol. iii. p. 185, pl. viii. It should appear by the engraving of a portion of one of the blades, there represented as broken, that it was an example of the taper weapon with two rivets, precisely similar in type to those found in Devon and elsewhere as above noticed.

Memoir by the Rev. E. L. Barnwell,

*Arch. Camb.*, vol. x. third series, pp. 212, 221.

<sup>9</sup> Catalogue of Mr. C. Roach Smith's Museum, subsequently purchased for the British Museum, p. 81, no. 361; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, vol. i. p. 311.

<sup>1</sup> Skelton, *Engraved Illustrations of the Goodrich Court Armoury*, vol. i. pl. 47, fig. 8.



The Fens of Cambridgeshire have preserved some of the most remarkable relics, both of stone and of bronze, the latter, for the most part, valuable on account of their perfect condition. In the Museum of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society there is a specimen of the taper blade found in Quy Fen in 1854: the rivet-holes have been broken away, the broad end where they occur is smaller in proportion than in some other instances, and more rounded off. In the same collection, two other like blades may be seen, one of them found at Mildenhall, on the borders of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, the other, presented by the Rev. Canon Venables, was found at Cookham, Berks, in the bed of the Thames.

In the Museum of the Bath Institution there is a specimen obtained near Midsomer Norton, Somerset; it has two rivets, and measures  $14\frac{7}{8}$  inches in length. It was found about 50 yards from the Foss Way.

The bronze relics of this fashion have, however, occurred in most parts of England. Two small specimens, found in Lincolnshire, are now in the Museum at Alnwick Castle. I may notice also one in possession of the late Rev. Hamilton Gray, that he brought to the Museum at one of our Annual Meetings. It was a long blade, with two rivets, and had been brought to light near Doncaster. Another, found at Fisher-ton Anger near Salisbury, was contributed to our Special Exhibition of Bronze Antiquities, in 1861, by Mr. E. T. Stevens, to whose exertions in the arrangement of the Blackmore Museum in that city archaeologists are so greatly indebted. It measures  $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length.<sup>2</sup> On the same occasion, a specimen dredged up from the bed of the Thames near Erith was exhibited by Mr. Fortnum, F.S.A.; a bronze sword of the usual "leaf-shaped" type and a large socketed celt were obtained with it. This blade measures  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length.<sup>3</sup>

In the Tower Armoury one of these blade-weapons is to be seen; it has one of the rivets perfect, and measures 18 inches in length. There are two, of medium size, each with two rivet-holes, that claim notice as having been

<sup>2</sup> Arch. Journ. vol. xviii. p. 160.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 158. The celt above noticed was a very choice specimen; it has on each side five raised ribs terminating in

small knobs like nail-heads. Compare one found in Derbyshire, figured in the Catalogue of Mr. Bateman's Museum at Youghgrave, p. 74.



accompanied by celts, a bronze ring, and other relics, found in the bed of the Thames between Hampton Court and Kingston. They were in possession of the late Dr. Roots, F.S.A., who was of opinion that the spot may have been that where Cæsar crossed the river in pursuit of Cassivelaunus, B.C. 54.<sup>4</sup> The curious antiquities collected by Dr. Roots were presented by his son to the Society of Antiquaries in 1860. A descriptive list is given in their Proceedings.

It has been remarked that these blade-weapons are comparatively common in Ireland, and numerous examples, varying much in their dimensions, have been laid before the Institute, especially from the extensive collection of Irish antiquities formed by our obliging friend, Mr. Brackstone. Mr. Franks has figured two good Irish examples in the *Horæ Ferales*.<sup>5</sup> One of these, measuring 18 inches in length, is in the British Museum; the other, found in the County Tipperary, was in the collection of the late Dr. Petrie; it measures  $21\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, and claims special attention, as having its bronze handle. The blade was attached by four rivets, and has only a slight central rib. The handle resembles those that often occur on the Continent, and occasionally in Ireland, attached to short blades of broader proportions, usually designated daggers; the end is, however, now open, like a socket, as Sir W. Wilde supposes, to receive a bone stud. It has been figured in his Catalogue of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy; several varieties of the taper blades are there also given, under the name of "long narrow rapier swords." One remarkable example measures not less than 19 inches in length by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide across the handle-plate, in which are two notches for catching the rivets. Sir William describes the weapons of this type as "tapering from the hilt to the point, with a thick central ridge, no large handle-plate, but, in lieu thereof, a thin sudden expansion of the blade, which was attached to a cast-metal handle, probably formed of one piece, and to which it was affixed by two or more strong rivets buried over it. In many instances the handle-plate was only notched for the passage of the rivets, and in some it was

<sup>4</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. xxx. p. 490; *Proceedings Soc. Ant.*, vol. i., second series, p. 83. Some of the relics found by the ballast heavers in 1843 at this place have been figured by Mr. Jesse in one of his

interesting volumes of "*Gleanings in Natural History*," p. 271; edit. 1832. The blade above noticed is there represented.

<sup>5</sup> *Horæ Ferales*, pl. vii. figs. 15, 23, p. 155.

both notched and perforated.”<sup>6</sup> Occasionally the outline of the blade seems to approach the leaf form, instead of the straight tapering type mostly to be noticed in the examples before enumerated. The most perfect example hitherto known was in possession of Lady Staples, and was found in a bog at Lissane, county of Derry ; it measures  $30\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches across the handle-plate, and five-eighths across the centre of the blade ; the mid-rib is of unusual strength. There were two rivets only. The proportions and great length of this weapon are highly remarkable. But Sir William points out a fragment of a rapier in the Museum at Dublin, supposed to have measured, when perfect, not less than 40 inches in length. It had been figured by Col. Vallancey.<sup>7</sup> It is most difficult to comprehend how a slender blade of such excessive length could be made available by means apparently so ill adapted to its purpose, as attachment to the haft merely by two rivets passing through the thin handle-plate at the very margin of its extremity ;—the strain on such a hefting must have been enormous.

There seems to be nothing to guide us in regard to the special use to which this kind of blade was destined. The absence of any normal type of length is perplexing ; these relics seem to merge gradually from the rapier of almost unmanageable length to the short weapon for close combat, and then pass into the most diminutive dirk or stiletto. It is difficult, as Sir W. Wilde has truly remarked, to draw any precise line of demarcation between the sword and the dagger. Still more difficult is it to comprehend that, with the single exception before noticed, the weapon formerly belonging to Dr. Petrie, no specimen of the handle of the rapier blades, whatever may have been its material, should have occurred.<sup>8</sup> Some of these haftings must have been nearly an inch in thickness where crossed by the rivets. It is, however, asserted on the authority of experts in such matters, that the form of the hammered-out burrs or ends of the massive rivets shows that they must have been produced over metal apertures, and not on any substance less resistible than

<sup>6</sup> Wilde, Catal. Mus. R. I. A., pp. 447, 448.

<sup>7</sup> Collectanea, vol. iv. pl. ii. fig. 10. Wilde, *ut supra*, p. 473 ; see also p. 442,

where the specimen belonging to Sir Thomas Staples is figured.

<sup>8</sup> See Sir W. R. Wilde's remarks on this perplexing question, Catalogue, *ut*

metal. At the same time we are wholly at a loss to explain why, at least in some instances, the handle and the blade might not have been advantageously cast in one piece, especially in times when the art of the founder in metal was unquestionably practised with such remarkable skill.

These notices of a remarkable type of weapon, the "taper rapier blade" of the distinguished archæologist in Ireland, whose valuable work throws so much light on our earlier antiquities, would be incomplete without reference to some of the examples that have occurred on the Continent.

During my recent visit to the International Exhibition at Paris, I visited the Museum of Antiquities lately formed by the Emperor at the Palace of St. Germain, and I examined with considerable interest the instructive collection there deposited. I found the following examples of this comparatively rare type—there designated "*Lames de Poignard*":—

1. From Auxonne, in the department of the Côte d'Or; it measures  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length, and has two rivets still in their original position.

2. Found in the department of the Somme; length about 15 in., with two rivets entire.

3. Found in the department of the Seine and Oise. This is a short example with four rivet-holes; this blade had a slight approach to the leaf shape about the middle.

4. Seine and Oise. A blade 15 in. long, regularly tapering, two rivet-holes; the midrib well fashioned. Width of the blade at the hafting edge  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in., across the angles or shoulders  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in.; the blade measures about 1 in. in width, and then tapers gradually towards the point.

Bronze weapons of this type have been found in other Continental countries, but they appear to be rare. Examples are given by Lindenschmit, the learned Conservator of the Museum at Mayence, in his instructive selection of antiquities from numerous public and private collections in Germany.<sup>9</sup> Amongst the bronze swords (*Schwerter*) he gives a good example of the taper blade from the Royal Museum at Munich. The place of discovery has not been recorded.

*supra*, p. 459. The various types of handles of the leaf-shaped swords, and also of daggers, claim especial observation. Many examples may be seen in the *Horæ Ferales*, plates vii. viii., and in Lindenschmit's *Alterthümer*.

<sup>9</sup> *Die Alterthümer unserer heidnischen*

*Vorzeit*; Mainz, 1853, 4to. The first volume of this useful work, which is published in numbers at a very moderate price, has been completed. See Heft iii.; *Weapons of the Bronze Period*, taf. 3 figs. 10, 11, 14, 15.

It measures about  $23\frac{1}{4}$  in. in length ; it has a single central ridge, and four rivets close to the edge of the broad or hafting end. Another, of somewhat smaller dimensions, may be seen in the Museum at Mayence ; it is described as found amongst remains of Roman buildings at Weisenau, near that city ; the length of this blade, which has a central ridge and two rivets only, is  $18\frac{3}{4}$  in. A third, figured in the same plate, appears to be perfectly flat without any central ridge ; it had four rivets, of which one is lost ; the length is a little more than 18 in. It was found near Baireuth, in Bavaria. A fragment of a similar blade is likewise figured, from the collection of Baron Estorff ; the place of discovery unknown. Two examples of somewhat different type, of smaller dimensions, and with some lines of engraved ornament on the lower parts of their blades, are likewise given.

Before bringing to a close these notices suggested by a recent discovery in Devon, I proceed to mention certain objects of bronze of various types that have been brought to light in the same county.

About twenty years since, eight celts of bronze were found at Plumley, in the parish of Bovey Tracey, near the spot where the moulds before noticed were discovered, but about three miles higher up the valley of the Teign. Four of these were placed carefully under a block of granite, the others lay in the adjacent soil.<sup>1</sup> Near Plumley there were formerly some stone circles in good preservation, probably the vestiges of a British village. The proprietor destroyed these curious remains in order to obtain material for the repair of the roads.

Polwhele mentions celts, mostly of brass, found singly in the parishes of Chudleigh, Ilsington, and Buckfastleigh ; also one brought to light north of Barnstaple. The Rev. Mr. Carrington found several celts in cairns between Bridford and Christow ; these, however, were possibly relics of stone, not of bronze. Mr. G. Drake, of Ipplepen, had a celt described as of copper, found 1820 in a wood on his property in that parish.<sup>2</sup>

I may here also record the discovery, a few years since, of a well-preserved looped palstave on the property of Edward Drewe, Esq., of the Grange, Broadhembury. It remains in his possession. The site where it was found, as I believe, at

<sup>1</sup> Arch. Journ. vol. ix. p. 186.

<sup>2</sup> Lysons, Magna Brit., Hist. of Devon ; vol. i. p. cccx.

Dulford, is situated about two miles from the great entrenched fortress known as Hembury Fort, before mentioned, where ancient relics of various periods have been brought to light. Three palstaves, found in Devon, are in the possession of Mr. Wilcocks, of Duryard.

Two spear-heads, in excellent preservation, beautiful examples of the "leaf-shaped" type, were found within an ancient entrenchment near a ford of the River Exe, at Worth, in the parish of Washfield. They are now in the possession of Mr. Worth, of Worth. One of these spear-heads measures nearly  $12\frac{3}{4}$  in. in length, the other  $8\frac{3}{4}$  in. The blade of the first measures  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. in breadth. With these was found a short sword, length in its present state 14 in.; there are notches or damaged perforations for rivets at the hafting end, which is broken, so that the precise fashion cannot now be ascertained; possibly this relic may be portion of a leaf-shaped sword of the ordinary type, the handle-plate of which had suffered injury.<sup>3</sup> Similar short weapons, however, have occurred, deposited with swords of the well-known fashion, spear-heads, &c. The three objects found at Worth, and here figured (see woodcuts), were accompanied by an irregularly rounded flat plate of bronze, measuring in diameter about 5 in. by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in., apparently hammered out, thickness about 18th of an inch.

In conclusion, I have to invite the attention of archæologists anew to certain bronze relics, of most remarkable character, found in Devon; their purpose has never been satisfactorily explained. I allude to the barbed spear-heads, the discovery of which was brought before the Institute by me in 1854, and related in this Journal.<sup>4</sup> They were found in decayed condition at a spot called "Bloody Pool," in the parish of South Brent, and on the verge of Dartmoor. The place is now a swampy hollow, but no longer a pool; no tradition has been found of any conflict that might explain the name assigned to it. With the spears, which were accidentally brought to light in digging, there were four pieces of tube, probably ferrules that may have been affixed to the lower extremities of the shafts. The strong rivets by which the spear-heads had been affixed remain perfect (see woodcuts). The length of the spear-heads, as nearly as

<sup>3</sup> Compare a similar blade found in this Journal, vol. v. p. 327.  
the Thames near Kingston, figured in

<sup>4</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. xii. p. 84.

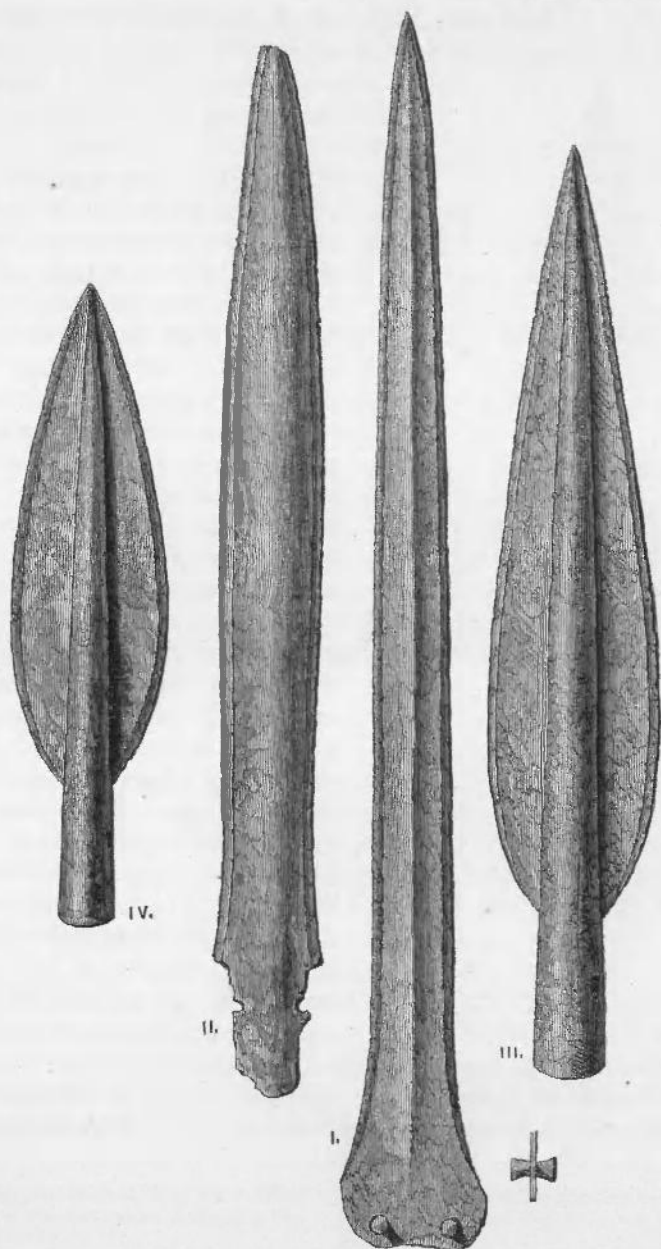
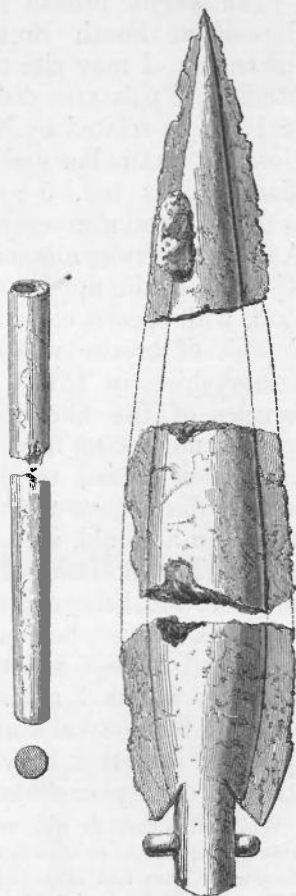


Fig. I.—Bronze blade, of the "taper rapier" type, found at Winkleigh, Devon ; length 17 inches (see p. 113).  
 Fig. II.—Sword found at Worth ; length, 14 inches. Figs. III. IV., Spear-heads, found ibid.

could be ascertained, had been 14 in., the breadth, at the widest part,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. The length of the tubes is about 7 in., diameter 7-10ths. ; they taper slightly towards the extremity, which is closed like the ferrule of a walking-cane. The spear-heads, with one exception, were barbed, and bear resemblance to that found in the Severn near Worcester, and supposed to have been a fishing-spear.<sup>5</sup> The blade, in that example, is shorter and of greater breadth ; in both the socket is very short. All the spears found at Bloody Pool were broken into three pieces ; within the blades there is a kind of core, apparently not metallic ; none was seen in the ferrules.

Another specimen of the barbed spear-head has been found at Pendoylan, Glamorgan-shire, in 1856 ; it was deeply embedded in sandy gravel under peaty soil, near a brook. Length, including a short socket pierced for a rivet, 7 in., breadth across the barbs  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in.<sup>6</sup> A similar relic, measuring in length about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in., was found in peat at Speen, Berkshire.<sup>7</sup> Some imperfect specimens have been found more recently in the Thames, and another, in Plaistow Marshes, Essex, length  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in.<sup>8</sup> Bronze rivets seem peculiar to this kind of spear ; the ordinary leaf-shaped spear-head



Bronze Spear-head and Ferrule found at South Brent, Devon. Length of the spear about 14 inches.

<sup>5</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. ii. p. 187; Allies' Antiq. of Worcestershire, 2nd edit. p. 30. Horæ Ferales, p. 154.

<sup>6</sup> The socket is peculiar, being oval, pierced for a rivet. This spear was exhibited by Mr. J. E. Rolls in the series specially illustrative of Antiquities of

Bronze, and formed by the Institute in 1861. Arch. Journ. xiv. 357 ; vol. xviii. p. 161.

<sup>7</sup> Figured Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc. vol. xvi., 1860, p. 322.

<sup>8</sup> Proceedings Soc. Ant. N. S. vol. i. p. 125 ; vol. iii. p. 166.



appears to have been affixed by a rivet of wood, one exception only being known to Mr. Franks.

The slight bronze ferrules, such as accompanied the deposit at South Brent, have occurred in a few other instances. I may cite especially the hoard of celts, spear-heads, and palstaves disinterred at Nettleham, near Lincoln, in 1860, as related by Mr. Arthur Trollope. A bronze tube, closed at its smaller end, was found with them; length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in., diameter, at top, 5-8ths, at the bottom  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch. It is figured, and also several of the other relics, in this Journal.<sup>9</sup> A similar ferrule, measuring  $9\frac{3}{8}$  in. in length, with a rivet-hole  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. from the upper end, was found in 1860, at Nottingham, with spears, celts, and broken weapons.<sup>1</sup> In the large deposit of bronze weapons, &c., found at Guilsfield, Montgomeryshire, in 1862, not less than twelve long tapering ferrules of the like description were found, six of them perfect, measuring from 10 to 16 in., they were supposed to have been affixed to the shafts of spears; each is drilled with a diminutive rivet-hole. These tubes had been cast hollow in a mould, and are very thin, especially at the lower end.<sup>2</sup> The intention of these slender tubes, which, in every instance, as I believe, are closed at their smaller or lower extremities, has not been satisfactorily explained. In regard to the broad barbed spears, of which no counterpart has been found, so far as I am aware, amongst Continental relics of bronze, it is remarkable as connected with their supposed use in spearing fish, that they have invariably occurred in or near streams, or in places where pools may formerly have existed.

Whilst this memoir was in the press, three taper blades have been obtained, with bronze celts and other relics found in Wales, for the British Museum. They had been found on Cwm Moeh, a mountain in the parish of Maentwrog, Merionethshire, and had been brought before the Society of Antiquaries, in 1809, by Mr. John Lloyd of Cefnfaes. These blades, which measure  $15\frac{3}{8}$  in., 14 in., and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in. respectively, are figured, *Archæologia*, vol. xvi. pl. lxx. We are indebted to the obliging curator of the Museum, Soc. Antiqu. Scot., Mr. McCulloch, for notices of specimens there preserved; one from Dumfriesshire may have measured, when perfect, about 13 in. in length; another, found at Buttergash, Perthshire, close to the Roman Camp at Ardoch,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in.; each had two rivets.

<sup>9</sup> Vol. xviii. p. 160.

<sup>1</sup> Figured *Proceedings Soc. Antiqu.*, vol. ii. second series, p. 250.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, vol. ii. second series, p. 250, *Archæologia Cambrensis*, vol. x., third series, pp. 214, 221, where one of these tubes is figured. Amongst the numerous

relics found in 1859 at Pant-y-Maen, Cardiganshire, and there likewise figured, there were ferrules of a different type, of short dimensions, and dilated at their closed extremities. In one of these part of the wooden shaft was to be seen.