

## ANCIENT REMAINS FOUND IN THE ISLE OF PORTLAND.

From Notices and Drawings Communicated by Professor JAMES BUCKMAN, F.R.G.S.

UNTIL recent observations, there was a belief that the Isle of Portland contained scarcely any evidence of Roman occupation. It had been supposed, however, by some antiquaries that Portland may be the *Vindilis* of the Itinerary. In the treatise attributed to Richard of Cirencester, the promontory *Vindelia* is mentioned as part of the territory of the Durotriges, and *Vindilios* occurs as one of the islands adjacent to Britain. In the map, also, sent to Stukeley by Bertram, Portland appears as "*Vindelis prom.*;" at a short distance from the coast is also seen the unknown island "*Vindelia*." Baxter had proposed to identify the *Vindilis*, or *Vindelis*, of Antonine's Itinerary as Portland, suggesting *Vindenis* as a more correct reading, namely:—" *Vind enis, portuosa insula*." Gloss. Ant. Brit., p. 251. It is scarcely needful to observe, that the questionable authenticity of the so-called description of Britain by the monk of Westminster is now generally recognised. Mr. C. Warne, long known as a sagacious investigator of the antiquities of Dorset, marks Portland "*(Vindelia)*" amongst Roman sites, in his recently published map showing the Celtic, Roman, Saxon, and Danish vestiges in that county. In the Index, also, which accompanies that valuable chart of early remains, he includes Portland with the places where Roman relics have occurred.

The works connected with the defences now in progress at Portland have revealed many Roman relics; there seems, indeed, to be some ground for the conclusion that the site now occupied in the construction of the Verne Fort had been part of a Roman entrenched work, subsequently so far destroyed by quarrying that its form and exact position can with difficulty be traced. This ancient work, it must be observed, seems to have been regarded as Danish by the Dorset Antiquary whose works are above cited, and who has carefully examined the numerous earthworks and strongholds in the county. The position of the Verne Fort

would, in former times, even more than at present, have marked it as of importance in the line of Dorsetshire fortifications. In the course of excavations for the foundations of the Verne Fort, a burial-ground was found; the graves were mostly wrought with slabs placed edgeways, so as to form cists of sufficient size to enclose a human corpse; these depositories seem to have been either covered by a large slab, or filled in with earth. The position in which the interments had been placed was, for the most part, east and west, in some instances, however, in the contrary direction. The graves contained, not unfrequently, pottery, fibulæ, rings, and other relics of the Roman period. Many of these objects were exhibited in the Temporary Museum of the Institute, at the Dorchester meeting in 1865.

Through the kindness of Capt. Tyler, R.E., and of Capt. Mainguy, R.E., I was permitted to examine numerous antiquities of early British and Roman character that they had carefully preserved, and to make sketches of those relics. Representations of some of the most interesting objects found at various periods accompany the present notice.<sup>1</sup>

1. A celt of white flint, found at the Verne Fort; a portion of the broad or cutting end had been broken off; the implement, in its present imperfect state, measures  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, the breadth at the widest part is about 2 inches. The smaller end is more pointed and carefully formed than is commonly the case in objects of this description. Compare Kemble's *Horæ Ferales*, pl. 11, fig. 5; the specimen there given by Mr. Franks is preserved in the British Museum; it was found in Shetland.

2. A rudely-shaped ball of dark-coloured chert, likewise from the Verne Fort. Diameter 3 inches. Similar balls, but of true flint, are not uncommonly found in Dorset.<sup>2</sup> Objects of this description, formed of flint, grit, or sandstone, or other compact material, more or less spherical, being occasionally

<sup>1</sup> A short account of discoveries at Portland has been given, *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xxiii. p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. C. Warne exhibited at the Meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, May 7, 1863, a stone hammer-head and a flint ball, both found in Dorset. The former was the only specimen found in a barrow in that county which had come under his

notice. The ball was supposed to have been used in fashioning flint implements; it was similar to those found in the Lake dwellings in Switzerland, and used, as supposed, for that purpose. *Proceedings Soc. Ant.*, vol. ii., second series, p. 265. Several Irish specimens are in the British Museum.

flattened on two opposite sides, like an orange, and having, in some instances, a slight depression or cavity on these flattened surfaces, have occurred in various parts of England. The purpose for which they may have been intended has not been satisfactorily ascertained. Some antiquaries have considered them to be missiles, thrown either by a hand-sling or by some engine like the *balista*; such a stone may, moreover, have formed a formidable weapon, if adjusted as a "slung-shot."<sup>3</sup> It has also been supposed that these spherical stones may have served in pounding grain, or the like. It may deserve notice that they occur frequently on the sites of Pfahlbauten, the Lake-dwellings constructed on piles by a very ancient race in Switzerland. The examples there found, mostly of sandstone, and having their surfaces more smoothly dressed than in the specimen from the Isle of Portland, to which they are similar in size, have been described as "cornercrushers,"<sup>4</sup>

There is reason to suppose that weapons and implements of flint were made in the Isle of Portland, and, indeed, throughout a great part of Dorset. In the island and elsewhere have been found flakes of flint, and also cores or *nuclei*, from which flakes have been struck off, indicating sites where flint workings had been carried on. I picked up on the Nothe, the promontory adjacent to Weymouth, fragments sufficiently well-shaped to have served as knives and scrapers.

3. A Gaulish gold coin, found a few years since near the surface on the War Department land. This piece, which weighs 91 grains, is slightly "dished" or scyphate. It is in good preservation; an example of the "charioteer" type, but, as we are informed by the skilful numismatist, Mr. Evans, it is Gaulish rather than British. The type is figured by M. Lambert, from a coin found at Soissons. (*Numism. Gauloise du Nord-Ouest de la France*, pl. vi. No. 5 : *Rev. Numism.*, vol. ii. pl. iii. No. 2.) The nearest approach to this

<sup>3</sup> On the site of a Roman villa at East Coker, Somerset, described by Mr. Moore, *Journ. Brit. Arch. Ass.*, 1862, p. 393, there was found a ball of chert, diam. about 2½ in., weight 5 oz. It was supposed to have been "intended for the sling, or to be tied up in a leather thong attached to a staff, and employed as a sort of mace." Implements of flint, a

bead of Kimmeridge shale, part of a bronze spear, with other relics, chiefly Roman, were also brought to light.

<sup>4</sup> The Lake Dwellings of Switzerland, by Dr. Ferdinand Keller, translated by Mr. J. E. Lee, p. 25, pl. 2. The examples preserved in the Museum at Zurich, and in other collections, are exceedingly numerous.

peculiar type, among coins claimed by Mr. Evans as properly British, is that given in his *Coins of the Ancient Britons*, pl. B. No. 9.

4. Bronze spear-head, of rather large dimensions, unfortunately imperfect, the point and the socket being lost. It was found at a depth of four feet in debris of the Cliff at East Wear, between Verne Hill and the sea. In its present damaged state this weapon measures nearly 10 inches in length; it may, when perfect, have measured about 16 inches, and the leaf-shaped blade, at the widest part, 3 inches in breadth. Towards the lower part of the blade there are two small oblong perforations, or eyelets, one on each side of the central rib.<sup>5</sup>

5. A rudely-fashioned little one-handled cup, of pale brown-colored ware unbaked. This I should consider British, but no other pottery of that period has been found in Portland, so far as I am aware. It measures about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, by 4 inches in diameter at the mouth. The surface bears a few very irregular indented markings in three rows, that resemble the usual mode of ornamentation occurring on the pottery of the British period, from which, however, this cup differs materially in form; the handle, or ear, at one side, precisely resembling that of the modern teacup, is of unusual occurrence. The Rev. J. H. Austen disinterred in his investigations of barrows on Ballard Down, near Ulwell, Dorset, a one-handled cup of well-burned red ware, which is figured in the *Transactions of the Purbeck Society*, p. 159, pl. xv. That vessel, however, is of a very different form, and has no impressed ornament on its surface; it was found with a skeleton in a cist cut in the chalk, at a considerable depth, near another interment without cremation. Fragments of urns, horses' teeth, and various other relics were collected in cutting through the upper part of this remarkable grave-hill. Mr. Austen found also in a barrow near Wimborne, Dorset, adjacent to Badbury Camp, several interments accompanied by urns of various forms, which have been figured in this *Journal*.<sup>6</sup> Amongst these

<sup>5</sup> Compare a spear found in Scotland, and figured, *Horæ Ferales*, pl. vi. fig. 21. The form of the blade in that specimen is of somewhat different type; each of the two small openings having a flange on its outer side. See also a fine spear-head of unusual breadth, Wilde, *Catal. Mus. Roy.*

*Irish Acad.*, p. 496, fig. 365.

<sup>6</sup> *Arch. Journ.*, vol. iii. p. 350. The urns are more accurately figured in Mr. Warne's *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, pl. vii. p. 11. (London: J. Russell Smith, 1866, folio.)

sepulchral vessels are two small cups, ornamented with impressed and incised markings; one of the cups has two small handles near the rim; it was supposed, however, that there might have originally been four of these little pierced appendages, which have occurred repeatedly, as hereafter noticed, on cinerary urns of larger dimensions found in Dorset, and figured by Mr. Charles Warne, in his valuable work on the Celtic Tumuli of that county.

6. A well-formed vessel of light-brown or red ware, of somewhat unusual fashion, and in very perfect condition. It has four small handles around its mouth, and the dimensions are as follows;—height,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches; diameter, at the widest part, 8 inches; diameter, at the mouth,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It was found accompanying an interment, on the North Common below Verne Hill, and adjacent to Portland Castle.



Vase of red ware found on the North Common, Portland. Diam. 8 in., height  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.

It may deserve notice that small handles, more or less resembling those occurring in this instance, and which are comparatively rare in the *fictilia* of other localities, are to be found not unfrequently in those of Dorsetshire, and some adjacent parts of southern England. These appliances seem suited for the most part for use by a cord or other means of suspension passed through them.

Amongst urns found in barrows in Dorset, and figured by Mr. Warne in his valuable work on the Sepulchral Mounds of the Durotriges, previously cited, several specimens may be noticed that have two, four, or more small perforated projec-

tions, mostly around the upper part of the vessel, but not, as in the urn here figured, close to the mouth. These urns, however, with one exception, differ in form from that found in Portland, and in several instances they are ornamented with scored or impressed markings.<sup>7</sup>

In one of the barrows at Winterbourn Stoke, near Amesbury, examined by the late Sir R. Colt Hoare, and to which, from the rich character of its contents, he gave the title of "King Barrow," an urn was found, differing in shape and colour from any that he had disinterred in British sepulchres. This vessel bears, however, much general resemblance to that above described, found in Portland. It had been placed at the left side of the head of a skeleton deposited in the trunk of an elm, in an oblong cist. The colour of the surface of the urn resembled that of fine red Roman ware, and it appeared to have been made on the lathe, but the paste was only half-baked and black within; Sir Richard concluded that it was of British manufacture; the bronze weapons, moreover, and other relics that accompanied the interment, confirmed that supposition. The proportions of this curious urn differ from those of the Portland specimen: the mouth is narrower; the handles, five in number, are smaller, and placed somewhat more distant from the lip. It seems, however, probable that these two vessels may be assigned to the same early period, and that they were intended for the same purpose, whatever that may have been: the small handles or ears near the mouth seem to indicate a contrivance either for giving facility of transport and suspension, or, possibly, for attaching some covering by which the mouth of the vessel might be closed.<sup>8</sup>

It is remarkable that scarcely a trace of the use of a lid or of any covering has been noticed in the earliest fictile vessels found in the British Islands.<sup>9</sup> Although not found in Portland, to which the present notices chiefly relate, it may not be without interest to recall attention to a relic preserved in the Dorset County Museum, and which was

<sup>7</sup> Celtic Tumuli of Dorset, *ut supra*. The urn, fig. 6, plate of urns obtained by the late Mr. Sydenham, bears resemblance in form to that above figured, but it is without handles. It was found inverted, and filled with burnt bones, in a barrow near Dorchester, on the Bridport Road.

Personal Researches, no. xxvi. p. 41.

<sup>8</sup> Ancient Wilts, vol. i. p. 122, pl. xv.

<sup>9</sup> An urn, of the Anglo-Saxon period, with a singular cover, on which two little birds are seated, is figured by Mr. C. Roach Smith, Coll. Ant., vol. i. p. 232; Journ. Brit. Arch. Ass., vol. iii. p. 195.

placed amongst various Dorsetshire *fictilia* in the temporary Museum formed during the meeting of the Institute at Dorchester, in 1865. This object, here figured, is of coarse ware; it measures 5 inches in diameter, and has a handle projecting from its upper surface.



Cover of an earthen vessel; found in Dorset. Diam. 5 inches. Dorset County Museum.

7. A vase of the peculiar fashion and ware not uncommonly met with on Roman sites, and, as it is believed, chiefly, if not exclusively, manufactured at Castor, Northamptonshire (*Durobrivæ*). The color of this vessel is of a reddish brown; height about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.; diameter, at the mouth, 3 in.; the ware is thin, well-baked; the body of the vessel is formed with several oblong cavities produced by pressure with the hand whilst the clay was soft: drinking cups and other small vases thus fashioned occurred in considerable variety in the *ustrinum* at Litlington, and they are figured, *Archæologia*, vol. xxvi. pl. xlv. figs. 15, 17, 19, &c., p. 375.<sup>1</sup> The peculiar oblong cavities may have been intended to give a firmer hold when these vessels were grasped by the fingers in the *symposia*. Portions of these *fictilia* are of frequent occurrence on all Roman sites; at *Corinium*, however, they were comparatively rare; the singular shape must obviously have been conventional, but devised for some specific purpose.

8. A small one-handled vase of black ware, height about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. Found near the Verne Fort.

9. Portions of various vessels, one of them of somewhat peculiar fashion, having a tubular spout attached to its neck; also numerous fragments of "smother-kiln ware," of black and other pottery, such as commonly occur with Roman remains, and one example of imitative Samian, a kind of ware faced with a red coating, probably manufactured

<sup>1</sup> Compare also a specimen in the Museum of Economic Geology, Catalogue of Pottery, &c., p. 78, fig. 53.



in Britain. No specimen of the true Samian has been found so far as we are aware in Portland.

10. Bronze rings, of a size suited for the finger. One of them is of spiral fashion; it was found with or near the finger-bones of a skeleton on the south slope of Verne Hill.

11. A first brass coin of Hadrian, and one of Antoninus Pius, both found near the Verne Fort.

12. An enameled fibula of bronze, a flat disc about an inch in diameter, with a hinged *acus* and a catch on the reverse. It was found at a depth of 2 ft. on the North Common, near the coin of Antonine. It is ornamented with bright red and green color in alternate compartments, forming a wheel-shaped design; around the rim and in the centre the enamel has perished. This pretty little object is of a type not uncommon amongst Roman relics in this country; brooches of circular and other forms have repeatedly been noticed in this Journal, that present examples of the art of enameling by the *champlevé* process, whilst such relics appear to be comparatively rare on the Continent.



Enameled ornament found at Kirkby Thore.



Enameled fibula found at Leicester.

As specimens of this pleasing art in Roman times, two ornaments found in this country are here figured; one of them, of circular form, from Kirkby Thore, Westmoreland, was exhibited in the Museum of the Institute at the York Meeting; the other, in the elegant fashion of a *pelta*, is enriched with red, blue, and yellow enamels. This last was found at Leicester.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See notices of other fibulae and Roman enamels, Arch. Journ., vol. xxii. p. 69; vol. xxiv. p. 299; Catalogue of the Caerleon Museum, by Mr. J. E. Lee,

pl. xxviii.; Mr. Roach Smith's Antiquities of Richborough, pp. 83, 84; Journ. Brit. Arch. Ass., vol. i. p. 327; vol. iii. p. 251; and the volume for 1862, p. 224.



13. A hand-molar made of Portland oolite ; it was found at the Verne Fort, and seems to have been the runner or upper stone. Captain Tyler stated that these mill-stones occur not uncommonly ; one was found roughly cut, that may have been in the state as rudely fashioned at the quarry, ready to be taken elsewhere for the final dressing of its surface. The examples that have been preserved measured about 20 in. in diameter. I have not elsewhere met with examples formed of Portland stone, but the cherty nature of that material would give a sufficiently sharp "tooth" for the required purpose.<sup>3</sup>

14. A perforated object of chalk, that may have been a *discus* or quoit ; the material is very hard ; the induration, as I imagine, being due to long exposure possibly on the Chesil Beach, where it may have become flattened as a rolled pebble, in which a central perforation, about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, has been roughly cut. This disc measures about 5 in. in diameter, and it is of considerable weight and thickness.

Several perforated discs of baked clay, similar in their dimensions and general appearance to the object of chalk above described, have been found with Roman remains in England. The late Lord Braybrooke brought to light several examples in the course of his excavations in Cambridgeshire ; they are now preserved in the Museum formed by him at Audley End. A like annular object of terra-cotta was found near Castor, Northamptonshire, by the late Mr. Artis, and it has been figured by him as a weight.<sup>4</sup> The central perforation is of greater width than that in the disc found in Portland, and there are three roughly impressed markings at regular intervals around the rim, that may have been produced by the blunt end of a stick. It has been supposed that some of the massive rings of baked clay of this description may have served as stands for fictile vessels that were formed with a knob or blunt-ended extremity at the base, and on that account could not stand without some such appliance, as exemplified by a *lagena* found by Lord

<sup>3</sup> Hand-mill stones, of various materials, similar in form to that above described, occur frequently on sites of Roman occupation. Compare specimens found at Castor, Northamptonshire ; Artis' *Durobrivæ*, pl. xiv. The querns

there noticed were of bur, pudding-stone, and burnt clay.

<sup>4</sup> Durobrivæ of Antoninus Identified : by E. T. Artis, pl. xxix. fig. 6. This example measures about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter.

Braybrooke at Great Chesterford, Essex, with a thick ring of terra-cotta, and figured in this Journal.<sup>5</sup> The clay rings of similar fashion that occur in great numbers on the sites of Pfahlbauten in the Lakes of Switzerland, and vary in diameter from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in., have likewise been regarded as stands for earthen vessels; the fictilia there found having very commonly a pointed or round base, so as to require some such support.<sup>6</sup>

15. A small disc of red ware, apparently Roman, perforated in the centre. It may have served as a rude fastening of the dress, or more probably as a counter used for some kind of game, the holes in objects of this description being for the purpose of stringing them together. Diameter nearly  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in., thickness about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Such little discs, frequently of Samian or other Roman ware, and also of stone, occur commonly on Roman sites; they have been described as *verticilli* or spindle-whorls, fiat beads, buttons, *latrunculi* or pieces for some disport resembling the game of tables, the mediæval prototype of draughts, and the like.

16. A specimen of the so-called "Kimmeridge coal-money," that has been found abundantly in the Isle of Purbeck, at Tyneham, Povington, Encombe, Smedmore, and other places, especially near Kimmeridge Bay, and the localities where the beds of bituminous shale occur known as "Kimmeridge Coal." These singular relics were first described by Hutchins in 1768, as found in rudely formed cists and elsewhere, and called by the country people "Coal Money,"<sup>7</sup> A more full notice was given in 1825 by Mr. N. A. Miles, in his description of the Deverel Barrow, Dorset; several examples are there figured. In 1844 the late Mr. Sydenham, at the first Archæological Congress, at Canterbury, brought forward the solution, previously suggested by the Rev. W. Barnes, of the antiquarian enigma, "Coal Money," showing beyond controversy that it consists of waste pieces from the lathe, thrown aside in the manufacture of armlets, beads, and other objects, extensively carried on by the Romanized Britons in the Isle of Purbeck.<sup>8</sup> This

<sup>5</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. xviii. p. 123. The diameter of this ring is 3 in.; the central opening is much wider than in the relic found in the Isle of Portland.

<sup>6</sup> Keller, *Lake Dwellings of Switzerland*, translation by Mr. J. E. Lee, pp.

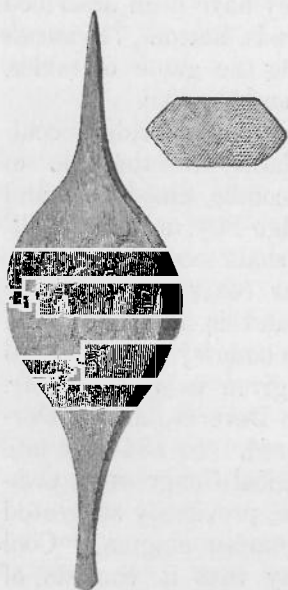
145, 177, pl. xxxviii. fig. 14.

<sup>7</sup> Gent. Mag., March, 1768, p. 111; Hutchins, *Hist. Dorset*, vol. i. p. 445. See Mr. Barnes' letter, *G. Mag.* XI., N.S., p. 114.

<sup>8</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. i. p. 347.

curious subject has been fully discussed also by the Rev. J. Austen, in the Transactions of the Purbeck Society, where numerous examples have been figured.<sup>9</sup> The specimen found near the Verne Fort, the only relic of this description hitherto noticed in the Isle of Portland, appeared on that account deserving of notice, although the "Coal Money" is familiar to us as found in many other parts of Dorset, and frequently in proximity to Roman remains. We are indebted to Capt. Mainguy, R.E., for information that within the old entrenchment on the upper portion of the west slope of Verne a grave was found that had pieces of Kimmeridge shale used as a lining of the cavity.

17. Two instruments of iron; their age and the purpose for which they were intended has not been ascertained. One of these objects is here figured. It measures 20 in. in length, 4 in. at the widest part, and 2 in. in thickness; one extremity formed with a point, the other resembling a small chisel. The edges are bevelled off towards each face, so that the section, at the widest part, is an oblong hexagon. Length of the second is 23 in. Weight 14lbs. and 15lbs. respectively. It has been thought that these objects may have been tools used at some ancient period in quarrying or in dressing the stone, a purpose, however, for which, considering their weight and the difficulty of holding such an implement in the hand, they appear little suited. It has, however, been suggested, and we believe that the supposition has been accepted by one of our most sagacious anti-



Iron object found in Portland. Length 20 inches. Weight 14 lbs.

quaries, Mr. A. W. Franks, that these ponderous objects may have been *massæ*, or blocks of metal, of a certain conventional form, in which possibly the iron of some particular

<sup>9</sup> Papers read before the Purbeck Society, p. 82, and a very interesting supplementary notice, p. 221. See also a

short memoir by Dr. Wake Smart, Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc., vol. i. p. 325, where several specimens are figured.

mines was sent forth in commerce. This notion, indeed, may appear in some degree confirmed by comparison of the singular blocks of iron, with pointed extremities, irregularly pyramidal in form, found chiefly in Switzerland, and described in this Journal by Dr. Keller.<sup>1</sup> The metal is stated to be of peculiar quality, produced, as supposed, by the metallurgical process termed Catalanian, and Dr. Keller considers these *massæ* to be blocks of iron imported from some foreign parts at a remote period in the peculiar form that, for some unknown cause, had been adopted in their manufacture. The objects, of which specimens are preserved in the museum at Zurich, vary in their dimensions; the weight is from 10 to 16 *livres*. It may deserve notice that the iron objects found in Portland were brought to light on the North Common, below the Verne Hill, near the enameled fibula, before described, and a coin of Antoninus, about 3 or 4 ft. below the surface, not far from some interments, believed to be of Roman date, in cists of stone.

It is scarcely necessary to invite attention to the interest connected with any object that may possibly throw light on the early manufacture or supply of iron in Britain. The only fact hitherto noticed, it is believed, is the discovery of three pigs of iron at the Roman villa on the estates of the Earl of Eldon at Chedworth Wood, Gloucestershire, as mentioned by Mr. Farrer in the Proceedings of the Antiquaries of Scotland, vol. vi. p. 282. The largest of these *massæ ferri* measures 5 ft. 4 in. in length, 10 in. in breadth, and about 4 in. in thickness. The weight of these three relics is 484 lbs., 356 lbs., and 256 lbs. respectively.

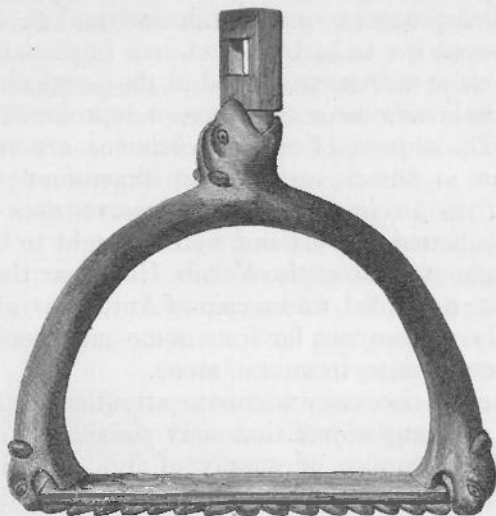
18. A bronze stirrup, found at a depth of four or five feet below the surface on the top of the Verne Hill. It is here figured. This is an object of uncommon occurrence, and an example of metal-work of very skilful workmanship. It may be assigned to the close of the twelfth, or commencement of the thirteenth, century.<sup>2</sup> The grotesque heads of animals are finished with considerable spirit, and characteristic of the period during which zoomorphic ornamentation was much in vogue. On the under side of the horizontal plate on which the sole of the foot rested, there is a narrow

<sup>1</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. xvi. p. 200.

<sup>2</sup> Beckmann, in his History of Inventions, has a dissertation on the antiquity of stirrups, with some notices of their

use in mediæval times. They do not appear to have become common as early as the twelfth century.

row of dentated projections, of which the edges only appear in the woodcut; the object of this dentation is not obvious, since that part of the work was almost concealed from view. Amongst the few ancient objects of this description may be noticed a stirrup-iron, found with an iron javelin head in the



Bronze stirrup found on the Verne Hill, Portland. Two-thirds orig. size.

bed of the Ouse near Lewes. It was preserved in the museum formed by the late Dr. Mantell, and has been regarded as a relic of the conflict between Henry III. and De Montfort in 1264, when a large number of the king's followers perished in the river.<sup>3</sup>

An interesting example of metal-work of early Norman character, in brass, may be cited for comparison with the remarkable relic above described. It is a small prick spur found at Pakenham, Suffolk; the extremities of the shanks, formed to receive the leather straps, are fashioned like heads of animals, as is also the projection from which the

<sup>3</sup> In the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, vol. iii. p. 520, a brass stirrup, exhibited by Mr. J. D. Niblett, is described. It was found at Barber's Bridge, near Tibberton, Gloucestershire, and is "of highly pointed form, 9 in. high from the base to the attachment of the stirrup leather, and damascened with scroll work. Both in form and in the pattern of the

ornamentation, something of an oriental character appeared." Its date was considered to be the thirteenth century. A similar stirrup of brass, richly inlaid with scroll work of white metal, was presented to the Institute at the Lincoln Meeting. It had been found in the bed of the river Witham near that city, and may now be seen at the British Museum.

point of the spur issues. The design appears in this instance intended to represent the head of the horse, frequently to be noticed in Anglo-Saxon ornaments ; in the stirrup the head seems to be that of a lion or a dragon.

In addition to the relics that have been described may be mentioned a silver coin, a penny of Henry III. struck in London, as appears by the legend on the reverse—*TERRI ON LVND*—Terri le Chaunier being the moneyer ; he was, as we are informed by Mr. Evans, one of the Keepers of the Mint in 1222.

Capt. Mainguy has also reported the discovery of shot on the North Common, which commands Portland Castle. One of these is a small cannon-ball of iron cased in lead, a practice occasionally used in ancient artillery.

The objects thus enumerated as brought to light in Portland clearly indicate the traces of different peoples and periods, and beyond doubt the island was inhabited by a British tribe, in times when implements of stone were employed ; and, if not actually fortified by the Romans, it was unquestionably colonized or occupied by them. Careful investigation, especially in the progress of public works, may hereafter reveal more extensive evidence of such successive occupation. It is hoped that the foregoing notices of such remains as have been brought to light may stimulate further inquiry in a locality of considerable interest. Meanwhile the cordial thanks of antiquaries are due to the officers of the Royal Engineers stationed in the island for their courtesy in aiding our enquiries, and affording all desired information. It has been highly gratifying to witness that no fact escapes their vigilant observation, and every relic that may be disinterred in the extensive operations under their directions is carefully preserved.

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Whilst the foregoing memoir was in the press, we have received from an obliging correspondent in Portland, Capt. Ferguson, R.E., the suggestion that the remarkable objects (No. 17, *ante*), may be examples of a primitive form of "hand-jumper," the tool used for boring stone for blasting. The mode now used is to pierce a row of holes, the block being then split with the aid of "wedges and feathers." Capt. Ferguson observes, with great probability, that the rough edges of the implements above figured may have been bevelled to save the hand from injury.