

ANTIQUITIES OF BRONZE FOUND IN DEVONSHIRE.

Notices Supplementary to a Memoir by Mr. CHARLES TUCKER, F.S.A. (Archæological Journal, vol. xxiv.)

IN a former volume of this Journal, some account was given of certain weapons and relics of bronze that have been brought to light in Devon, including some types of comparatively rare occurrence, and stone moulds for their fabrication.¹ A few additional facts have subsequently been brought under our notice, that appear of sufficient interest to be deserving of record in connection with the earlier vestiges of the Danmonii.

It had appeared somewhat remarkable that in the district in question, presenting such abundant evidence of extensive early occupation in the very numerous entrenchments that crown the hills in all parts of the county, the traces also of ancient industry and primitive habitations, in Dartmoor and other places, so few examples should have occurred of those objects of bronze, most frequently obtained in almost every part of the British islands, the celt and the palstave. Of the various types that elsewhere have often been brought to light in such profusion, we were enabled only to enumerate in the previous memoir some twelve or fifteen specimens as having hitherto been found in Devonshire. The same observation applied to the adjacent county of Cornwall, in which likewise the strongholds upon the heights or elsewhere, the numerous megalithic monuments, the mysterious subterranean refuges and remains of very ancient habitations, the traces also of extensive metallurgical operations at a very remote period, with many minor relics of pre-historic times, present numerous traces of a very extensive and busy population. In Cornwall, however, as in Devon, so far as we are aware, the specimens of that "*cruz antiquariorum*," the celt of bronze, had been comparatively of uncommon occur-

¹ Arch. Journ., vol. xxiv. p. 119.

rence. It is probable that there were some relics of that class in the deposit noticed by Leland, who states that "there were found of late yeres syns Spere Heddes, Axis for Warre, and Swerdes of Coper wrappid up in lynid² scant perishid, nere the Mount in S. Hilaries Paroch in Tynne Works."³ There were also several socketed celts in the remarkable hoard at Karn-Brè, with which, as we are assured by Borlase, several Roman coins were found in 1744.⁴ Other Cornish examples might doubtless be enumerated.

The comparative rarity of these weapons or instruments in the two counties of the extreme south-western parts of Britain, the district with which relations of commercial intercourse were, as supposed, prevalent in early times, appeared deserving of consideration.

Since the publication, however, of the notices of antiquities of bronze in Devon, formerly given, the discovery of a large hoard of celts, palstaves, or other implements of that metal, has been made known to us through the courtesy of a local archæologist, Mr. Orlando Hutchinson, to whose researches in the neighbourhood of Sidmouth we have repeatedly been indebted. Some particulars relating to this find have also been made known by the Rev. Richard Kirwan of Gittisham, whose explorations of certain barrows on Broad Down near Honiton have revealed sepulchral relics of singular rarity and interest, especially an unique one-handled cup formed of bituminous shale, an object of special interest as having unquestionably been formed on the lathe.⁵ The neighbourhood abounds with objects of antiquarian interest, such as entrenched works and barrows: of the latter Mr. Kirwan has noticed more than forty, upon the tract of high ground where the burial-mounds that he has examined are situated. Many, however, it is believed, had been destroyed, and doubtless there are others concealed by the gorse and heather by which the high ground is covered. Near the south end of Broad Down, and about six miles north-east of

² *Sic*, probably for linen?

³ Leland, *Itin.*, vol. iii. p. 17. Camden states that the discovery occurred in digging for tin.

⁴ Borlase, *Antiqu. of Cornwall*, p. 28, and pl. xxiv., where two of the celts are figured. They appear to have been unusually fine specimens; the sockets perfectly square. One of these celts measured

six inches in length.

⁵ See Mr. Kirwan's memoir on barrows excavated by him near Honiton in 1868, with representations of some highly curious objects there discovered. *Trans. Devon. Association*, vol. ii. p. 619. It has been reproduced also, with some abridgment, in this *Journal*. See vol. xxv., p. 296.

Sidmouth, not far distant from the striking earthwork known as Blackbury Castle, there was a mound described as a "stone barrow," on a farm called Lovehayne, belonging to the feoffees of the poor's lands of Colyton, by whom, upwards of a century ago, permission was given to cut a trench through the mound. In the course of this operation, according to Mr. Hutchinson's statement, a large hoard of bronze relics were brought to light, on the south side, "enough to fill a wheelbarrow." They were conveyed to the neighbouring town of Honiton and sold as old metal; four appear to have been preserved by the late General Lee of Ebford, near Topsham, by whom the circumstance was entered at the time in his diary.⁶ These, however, have been scattered and lost; one of them remained at Ebford as recently as 1864, when it was seen there by a local antiquary, Mr. Heineken of Sidmouth, but it is no longer to be found. One of the relics thus brought to light at Lovehayne came into the possession of Mr. Snook of Colyton, one of the feoffees; it is now in the possession of his grandson, a surgeon, residing there. A cast in lead from this relic, which is a palstave of ordinary fashion, and without any side-loop, was made by Mr. Hutchinson, and sent, by his obliging permission, for the inspection of the Institute. It is here figured.⁷ (See woodcut, fig. 1.) It should be observed that the irregularities of surface and slight defects, and also rough seams at the sides produced by the original mould where the junction of its two moieties occurred, have been reproduced exactly in Mr. Hutchinson's casting. They seem to suggest that the implement had not been trimmed up or finished after casting, or that it may have been rejected as somewhat defective and laid aside, as in so many like deposits of broken or imperfect implements, to be melted again for subsequent uses. This supposition seems to be confirmed by General Lee's memoranda, above mentioned, at the time when the find occurred. He notes that about "a hundred Roman chisels for cutting stone" were found, "rough as they came from

⁶ This contemporary notice is as follows:—July, 1768, "The laborers on the new Turnpike to procure stones on Lovehayne farm, Colyton par., belonging to Colyton poor, found about 100 Roman chisels for cutting stone, of a metal between a copper and a brass color, rough as they came from the mould and unhardened. I procured four of them." For this information we are indebted to

the kindness of Mr. Heineken, of Sidmouth. The precise spot is to the west of Lovehayne, about midway between the farm house and Rakeway Bridge, immediately to the south of Broad Down.

⁷ A drawing of this palstave was sent to the Archæological Association by Mr. Hutchinson. Journ. Brit. Arch. Ass., 1862, pp. 57, 261.

the mould and unhardened," and observes that the Romans had a method of hardening their metal to a degree at least equal to steel.

The quantity of celts and palstaves, as doubtless the "Roman chisels" in question were, has been variously stated; after the lapse of a century local traditions are always subject to exaggeration. The find was mentioned by the late Mr. Davidson, who has left valuable contributions to West Country topography and archæology; he estimates the deposit of "bronze spear-heads" as amounting to half a wheelbarrow full.⁸ Whatever may have been the precise quantity, the hoard was unusually large, and I fully agree with Mr. Kirwan that it may have been most probably one of those remarkable deposits buried for temporary concealment by some manufacturer, perhaps an "itinerant," of bronze weapons and implements.

In 1861, the remains of the mound in the flank of which those large deposits of metal implements, unique so far as we are aware in the Western Counties, had been brought to light, were totally removed by the tenant of Lovehayne, for the sake of flints that were required for farm-buildings. The destruction was watched carefully by Mr. Hutchinson and by Mr. Heineken. The barrow measured 70 ft. in diameter; its height was about 6 ft.; it consisted of a heap of angular flints, covered by a considerable accumulation of earth, about 4 ft. in depth; in this the deposit of celts had been found. Under the flints, in the centre of the hillock, and on the natural surface of the ground, or rather sunk slightly beneath it, lay fragments of a very rude urn with a quantity of fragments of calcined bones; amongst these were two portions of the jaw of an adult, the moiety of the lower jaw of a child, fragments of a cranium, with other remains, and one or two flint chippings, possibly rude arrow-heads. Portions of three different urns were found in this remarkable burial-mound.⁹

⁸ Davidson, *Notes on the Antiquities of Devon*, p. 73.

⁹ See a more full account in Mr. Hutchinson's memoir on *Hill-fortresses and tumuli of Eastern Devon*, *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, 1862, p. 57. The mound is there described as situated in a field called "Stone-burrow Plot," three quarters of a mile west of Blackbury

Castle, a singular work of which a plan is given *ibid.*, pl. 4. Mr. Davidson, in his *Notes on the Antiquities of Devon*, p. 71, has noticed a barrow of unusual size on the lower part of Broad Down, opened Sept., 1859. It had been partly disturbed, a broken cinerary urn and some rude arrow-heads of flint were found on that occasion.

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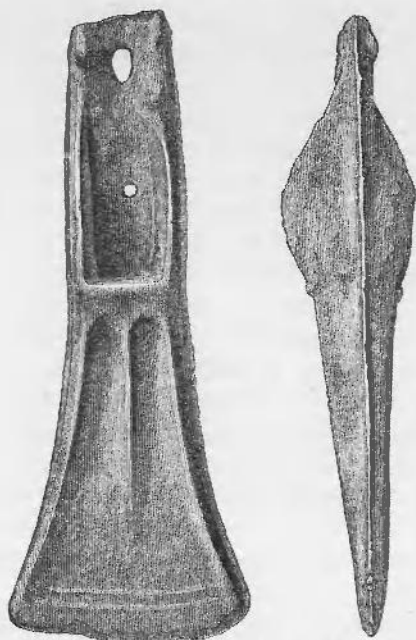


Fig. 1. Palstave found at Lovchayne, near Broad Down, Devon. Length, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

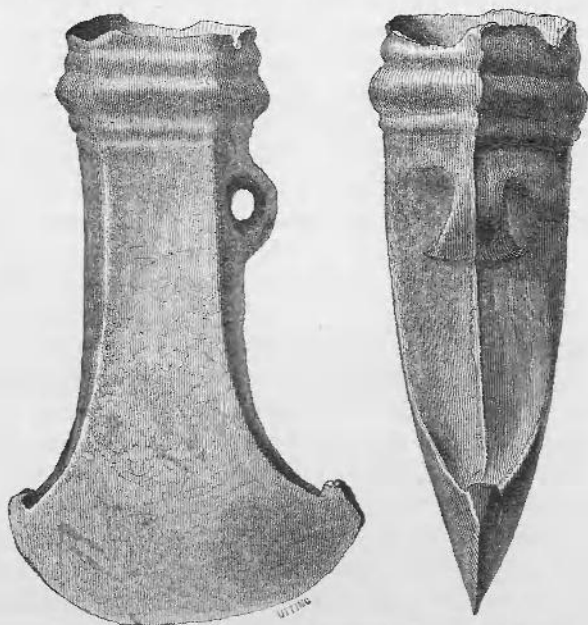


Fig. 2. Socketed Celt, obtained at Honiton. Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Early in the last year, whilst engaged in completing his account of the explorations on Broad Down, Mr. Kirwan chanced to mention to a bookseller at Honiton the hoard of celts found at Lovehayne, and the tradition that they had been brought into that town and melted as old metal. To his surprise, the person with whom he was conversing placed in his hands a bronze celt, enquiring whether the buried treasures were of that fashion? It had been purchased about ten years since at an auction in Honiton, and had belonged to a Mr. Farquharson, a collector of such objects. Although there is no evidence that would connect this object with the hoard above described, it is very possible that it may, as Mr. Kirwan is disposed to believe, have formed part of that find, and, having been rescued from the melting-pot, have remained in Honiton until given recently to him. In any case, the probability that it had been found in the neighbourhood of that town, surrounded as it is by hill-fortresses and other early vestiges, gives to this relic thus fortunately obtained by Mr. Kirwan, no slight interest. (See woodcut, fig. 2.) It is a socketed celt, of ordinary type, somewhat roughly fashioned, measuring $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length, and about 3 in. across the cutting edge, which has been much hammered. The surface is rough and oxydised; the socket is of square form; its mouth is ragged and irregular, not having been trimmed, the rough projecting seams at the sides also seem to show that the implement had been left in an unfinished state after it was taken from the mould.

On a subsequent occasion a bronze palstave was obtained by Mr. Kirwan, that had been picked up, as stated, on or near the road towards Farway, and at no great distance from Broad Down. It measures $6\frac{1}{8}$ in. in length; there is no side-loop; it has the usual stop-ridge, and slight projections at the sides where the loop frequently occurs. It is a fair example of a type that is by no means uncommon.

Very recently Mr. Kirwan saw, at Beer, near Seaton, a shapeless fragment of bronze, of about the size of the moiety of an egg. It had been found by a labouring man not much below the surface, whilst turning over his potatoe-ground. It appeared to be a fragment of some object cast in a mould, one end showing signs of fracture; the object was in too fragmentary a condition to justify any conjecture in regard to the use or form of the object in its perfect state.

Two bronze celts, as I was informed by Mr. Charles Tucker, were in the possession of Mr. J. C. Wilcocks, of Duryard Park House, on the road from Exeter to Crediton, who states that they had been bought, with armour and other relics, at Taunton by his agent, at the sale of the effects of Dr. Short, a collector of antiquities, and that they had been found in a barrow in that neighbourhood. Mr. Tucker, however, imagines that Taunton had by some inadvertent error been named instead of Honiton, and that the celts may have been obtained at the last-named town, having been probably part of the large find that had occurred at the Lovehayne barrow, as before related. They are, as he assures me, palstaves of the usual fashion, with the stop-ridge.

A few other finds of bronze relics in Devon may be cited. Mr. W. T. Shortt, in his notices of Druidical remains and ancient camps in that county, notices an entrenched work in Moreton called Morebarton, where a large cairn or barrow was opened about 1840, that inclosed a cist formed of six great stones, containing calcined bones, "a spear head of copper," two rivets by which it had been attached to its haft, a glass bead, and a small amulet of stone.¹ He mentions also a bronze celt found at Christow, and a spear of copper, double edged, 30 in. in length, near Crockernwell and the cromlech at Drewsteignton, on an estate called Honiford.² This last, if correctly described, must have been a remarkable specimen. In Ireland spears of unusual dimensions occur; one figured in the *Horæ Ferales*, measures as much as 26½ in. in length, but no spear of so great a length has occurred in England. It is by no means improbable that the "double-edged spear" described by Mr. Shortt may have been one of the long taper blades, such as were formerly noticed as found on the estates of Sir John Kennaway, Bart., near Talaton.³

At Ingsdon, in the parish of Ilsington, near Ashburton, where there are many barrows, also stream-works for tin and other ancient vestiges of occupation, a bronze celt was dug up, as stated by the late Mr. Davidson, in his notice on the Antiquities of Devon, p. 53.

¹ Collectanea Antiqua Dunmonia, p. 29. The relics were carefully preserved by the tenant, Mr. Wills. This camp seems to have been known as Wooston Castle, and is near the banks of the river Teign.

² Ibid., Additions. p. 97.

³ Arch. Journ., vol. xxiv. p. 110. The longest of the blades there figured had measured in its perfect state about 25 inches only in length.

In a cairn adjoining Sidbury Castle, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sidmouth, a remarkable entrenchment, supposed by Baxter to be the *Tidertis* of Ravennas, it is reported, as we learn from Mr. Orlando Hutchinson, an antiquary known through his indefatigable researches in that part of Devon, that some "golden swords" were formerly found. It is well known that bronze, under certain conditions of the soil, assumes a bright and almost golden appearance. The hillock has been known as the "Treasury," or "Money Heap."⁴ The tradition of a discovery of such precious treasure recalls the remarkable privilege granted by Edward II., in 1324, to Robert Beupel, authorising him to search and dig "in sex collibus," and elsewhere in Devon, where it had been alleged that treasure lay concealed. The condition was imposed that the search should be made in daylight, and in the presence of the sheriff and other officers.⁵ The result of this excavation has not been recorded, and we have sought in vain to ascertain the position of the Six Barrows.

Two palstaves, as I am informed, were also found in a field near Sub Hill, between Rockbeare and Clyst St. Lawrence, one of them some sixteen years since; it came into the hands of a person who used it for the purpose of curing wens and other affections of the neck. I learn that for some years he travelled about,—even beyond the limits of the county,—the efficacy of the object being held in great esteem, so much so, that it was sent for by sufferers from distant places in the West. It was known, according to popular belief, as a "thunderbolt." Mr. Kirwan obtained some particulars regarding this curious point of "folk lore" from Mr. Patten, of the Southbrook Farm, on which the holder of the talisman at one time lived. It is now, as alleged, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Honiton. Of the other, found about 1860 on the Southbrook estate, Mr. Kirwan has sent me a drawing: it is a palstave, without any side-loop, much oxydised, and presenting no unusual feature. Its length is $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. It has been presented by Mr. Patten to the Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter.

⁴ Memoir on Hill-fortresses, &c., of Eastern Devon, Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc. 1862, p. 59. Many notices of local antiquities are given in the Sidmouth Guide by Mr. Orlando Hutchinson, to whose

courtesy we have repeatedly been indebted for valuable information.

⁵ Pat. Roll. 17 Edw. II. This curious document is given by Mr. Kirwan, Trans. Devon Assoc., vol. ii. p. 621.

I am indebted to Mr. William Harris, of Plumley, Bovey Tracey, through the request of the Rev. Richard Kirwan, for a notice of a discovery, about 1830, near his residence. In blasting some granite boulders in a field adjoining the house,—supposed, as he states, to be the site of a Roman encampment,—the workmen found eight bronze celts, placed on their ends, under two of the rocks or boulders, four under each. The spot is about three miles higher up the valley than that where the stone moulds for taper blades of metal were found, as related in a former volume of this Journal.⁶ There existed at Plumley six adjacent stone circles, the remains possibly of a British village; they were, however, removed for building purposes. Mr. Harris sent one of the celts to the British Museum; he gave three others to particular friends, retaining four specimens, which appear, by sketches that he has sent to me, to be palstaves of usual types. One of them has no side-loop; in one specimen the loop has been broken off, but traces of it remain; the other two have the loops perfect. These palstaves measure about 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length.⁷

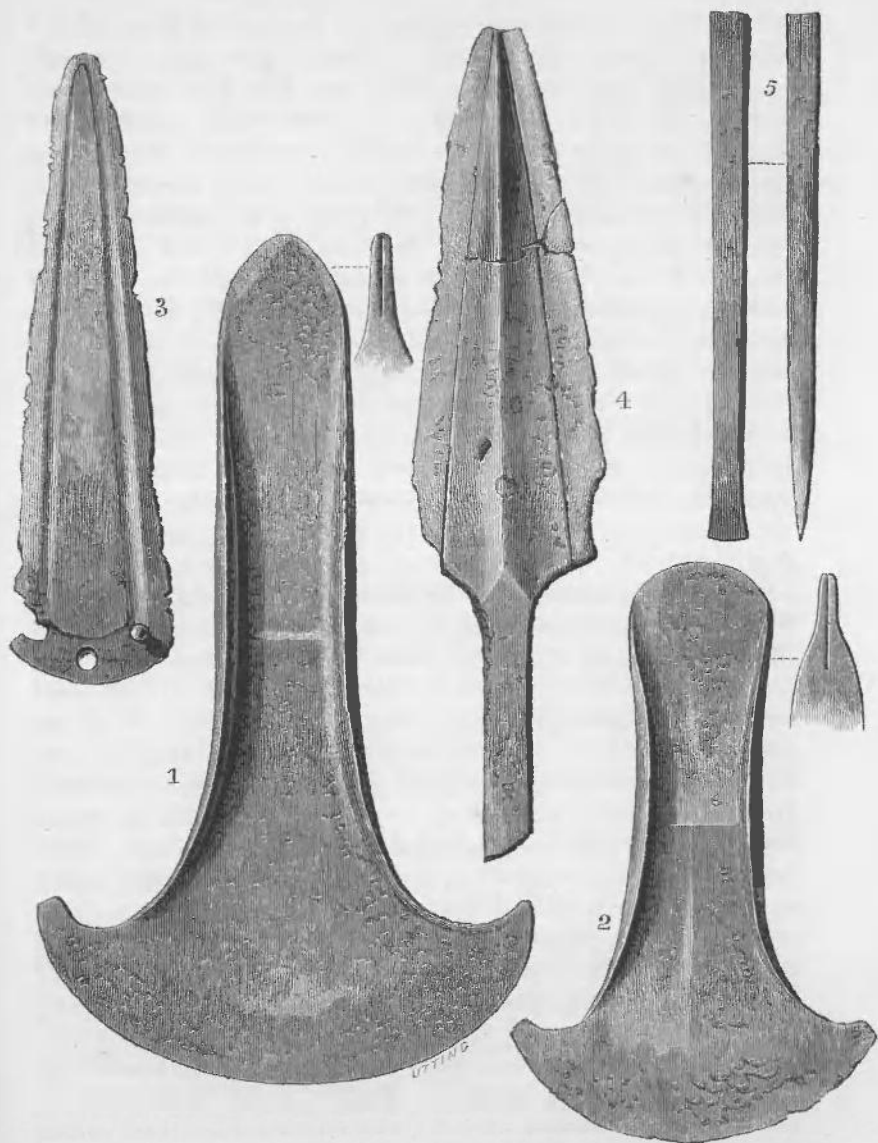
Of a more recent and remarkable discovery of implements of bronze in Devonshire, on the estates of the Duke of Bedford, I have been favored with particulars by Mr. Hastings Russell, M.P. My acknowledgments are also due to that gentleman for the friendly courtesy with which he permitted, on my request, the exhibition of that group of bronze relics, of unusual types, at the meeting of the British Association at Exeter, and also at one of the meetings of the Institute. By his kindness they are here published. They present the most valuable and instructive examples of relics of their class hitherto brought to light in Devonshire.

On October 24, 1868, a labourer engaged in removing rock from the base of a limestone ridge in the parish of Plymstock, about a mile east of Oreston, in the Catwater, Plymouth Sound, and in a field named "Rocky Parks," found a flat stone, at a depth of about 2 ft. below the surface. This slab weighing, as supposed, between three and four cwt., leaned against the natural rock, and when removed, there appeared, piled upon a ledge of the rock,

⁶ Arch. Journ., vol. ix. pp. 185, 186.

⁷ These objects were exhibited, as Mr. Harris observes, at the meeting of the

British Archæological Association at Exeter in 1861.



Bronze celts, weapons, and a chisel found near Preston, in the parish of Plymstock, on the estates of the Duke of Bedford, K.G.

(Scale, half original size.)

sixteen bronze celts, three daggers, a two-edged weapon of somewhat rare type, and a mortice-chisel.⁸

The celts are all of the same type, which is sufficiently shown by the two examples figured; it is comparatively uncommon, and had not, so far as I am aware, occurred in Devonshire. They vary in length from $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. to a little over $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; in every instance there are wings or flanges, that in some have a considerable projection, brought with great precision to a sharp edge; the central stop-ridge is in all extremely slight, in fact, scarcely perceptible, and indicating only the point where the thickest part of the celt occurs, from which the metal decreases gradually in thickness, wedge-like, towards either extremity, terminating at each in a sharp edge. The blade is semicircular at the cutting edge, and the other extremity is neatly rounded off. At this part a peculiarity occurs, to which attention has never been called, as I believe, in any notices of objects of this class. Around the edge of this semicircular end may be perceived, in the majority of the celts composing this interesting group, a slight groove, more or less regularly marked, extending only as far as the commencement of the lateral flanges. It might be imagined that this narrow end of the celt had originally, when produced from the mould, been slightly bifid, and that the little cleft had been closed up by the hammer, leaving, in most instances, the shallow-grooved line that I have endeavoured to describe. Mr. Franks is disposed to think that such may have been the cause of this peculiarity. I have thus minutely noticed it, because in our imperfect knowledge of the technical processes employed in casting celts and other objects of bronze, that mostly show considerable skill in the operation, it appears desirable to invite attention to details, however apparently trifling, that may suggest the clue to further information.⁹ The sides of the celts under consideration are shaped,

⁸ I may here take occasion to record a find of ancient remains, although not accompanied by any object of bronze, but of which Mr. Hastings Russell had the kindness to send me a note with the above particulars of the discovery at Plymstock. On Nov. 10, 1868, the Duke of Bedford's gardener at Endsleigh, Edward Cornelius, in clearing some rock in the "Dairy Dell," in ground disturbed by the fall of overhanging rock, found two human

skeletons lying "heads and tails," one on the back, the other on the side. No object accompanied the deposit. At a lower level of 8 ft the same person found on the floor of a supposed "rock-shelter" some bones and teeth of large animals, with a small flint implement.

⁹ This slight marginal groove occurs in two or three celts of this type in the British Museum, especially in one from the Isle of Wight. I recall only one

possibly by the hammer, to three longitudinal facets, occurring in the greater part of the specimens found at Plymstock; in a few of them, however, the sides are simply rounded. In all, the general symmetry of form and neat finish in every part indicate more than ordinary perfection in manufacture.

A few other celts of this type may be cited; it appears to have occurred mostly in the southern parts of England: some examples are elaborately ornamented with engraved chevron patterns, as in one found near Lewes, exhibited at our Chichester meeting by the late Sir Henry Shiffner.¹

In the series of bronze celts in the British Museum there are many varieties of the type with lateral flanges and slight stopridge; one, of small dimensions (length $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.) is marked —“Devon, 1832,” possibly that before-mentioned as found at Bovey Tracey and presented to the Museum by Mr. William Harris. See p. 346, *ante*. Four celts of this type were found in the Isle of Wight, at Arreton Down, of which two are in the National Collection.² There are also four found at Poslingford, Suffolk, as related in the *Archæologia*.³

With the sixteen celts there were found at Plymstock three thin bronze blades, of which one is here represented (Fig. 3). These objects, which occur in great variety of fashion and dimensions, especially in Ireland, are usually considered to have been daggers; the smaller varieties may have been used as knives for all ordinary purposes. Mr. Franks has given, in the *Horæ Ferales*, an ample series, in which the fashion of hafting, so far as it can be ascertained, is well illustrated.⁴ The examples, however, found in the British Islands, rarely present any remains of the handles, which were doubtless of perishable materials. Sir R. Colt

other instance of a similar feature in our bronze castings of Celtic date, namely, around the upper margin of some of the mysterious spoon-shaped objects described in this volume, p. 63, *ante*, and *Arch. Cambr.*, third series, vol. viii. p. 208.

¹ Figured *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xviii. p. 167, and *Transactions of the Chichester Meeting*, p. 62. Another like example, found at Liss, near Petersfield, is in the British Museum; the sides are formed with three facets, and striated with diagonal strokes apparently produced by the hammer; the stopridge is very slight.

² The Irish specimens of this type are mostly much decorated by the graver and by hammered work. See Sir W. R. Wilde's *Catalogue of the Museum of the R. I. Academy*, pp. 379, 390.

³ Vol. xxxi. p. 497, where some are figured.

⁴ *Horæ Ferales*, pl. vii. p. 155. See many notices of Irish relics of this description, *Catal. Mus. R. I. A.*, *ut supra*, pp. 462, 486; a large number also in Continental collections are figured by Lindenschmit, *Die Alterthümer uns. heidn. Vorzeit I.*, Heft. II., taf. 4; Heft VI., taf. 2, &c.

Hoare brought to light many daggers in barrows in Wiltshire; they have been figured in his *Ancient Wilts.*⁵ They are the most remarkable objects of bronze that have occurred in sepulchral deposits. The attachment to the handle was mostly by two or four strong broad-headed rivets passing through the edge of the broad extremity, where the plate is so thin and the rivet-holes mostly so close to the margin that it is difficult to comprehend how any secure attachment could be effected. The specimens found at Plymstock measure, in their present damaged condition, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, 5 inches, and 4 inches respectively; the breadth of the blade at the widest part is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. One specimen has a slightly raised mid-rib, skilfully finished, and giving considerable strength to the blade.⁶

With these was brought to light a bronze weapon of more rare occurrence (Fig. 4). It is unfortunately somewhat imperfect. The blade in this type terminated in a strong tang, in this instance partly broken off; the weapon in its present state measures $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The extremity of the tang in some instances was perforated for a rivet. It is somewhat doubtful whether such blades may have been attached by the tang to long hafts as spear-heads, or have served as dagger-blades. The handle was probably prevented from splitting by a ferule fitting round the blade. About 1735, ten specimens were found on Arreton Down, in the Isle of Wight, accompanied by celts of the same type as those at Plymstock, and also dagger-blades, of which three examples occurred there.⁷ Of the weapons with tangs six may be seen in the British Museum, from the Sloane Collection, of which five were found, as above stated, in the Isle of Wight, and one in the River Lea. There are also two from the collection of Mr. Whincopp, stated to have been found in Suffolk, one of them at Hintlesham. These specimens are rather larger than that found in Devon, and measure nearly

⁵ Vol. i., pl. xiv., xv., xxiii., and xxviii. See also Akerman's *Archæol. Index*, pl. iv., v. Two examples found on Arreton Down, Isle of Wight, are figured in Mr. Franks' *Memoir*, *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvi. p. 329.

⁶ A remarkable example of the dagger occurred with the instrument in a barrow at Hove, near Brighton, accompanied by a one-handed cup of amber, a stone axe

perforated for hafting, and a small hone. *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xiii. p. 183. The blade measured $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., greatest breadth $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. See in this volume, p. 246, *ante*, a small dagger found near Caernarvon, with a tang for hafting.

⁷ The particulars of the find were given by Mr. Lort, *Archæologia*, vol. v. p. 113; the various relics are figured by Mr. Franks, *ibid.*, vol. xxxvi. p. 326.

8 inches to $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. A single example is known with a socket in place of the tang.

The objects of this fashion seem to be peculiar to Southern England. No example has occurred, as I believe, on the Continent. The late Mr. Kemble found none in North German museums. They may have served for war, for the chase, or even domestic purposes; and may have served for all three. As Mr. Franks observes:—"They must belong to that vast and obscure portion of our history unrelieved by any written records, when wave after wave of different tribes and even races scattered their spent remains over these shores, and sought here their most distant scene of adventure, or their last refuge from continental oppression."⁸

With the relics that have been described, which may possibly be classed more properly with ancient weapons, there occurred one, so far as I am aware, unique—doubtless of purely mechanical use. This is a bronze mortice-chisel (Fig. 5). It measures 4 inches in length; the cutting edge is somewhat more than $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an inch in breadth. Of the few bronze objects of the period may be noticed gouges, which are comparatively common, formed with sockets;⁹ chisels also with a curved cutting-edge have repeatedly occurred, especially in Ireland.¹ Of those last named, many specimens are formed with a tang for hafting. The mortice-chisel, formed with a socket, has been found in England, although of considerable rarity; a specimen found at Romford, Essex, is figured in this Journal;² one, from the South of Italy, was obtained by Mr. Franks from Signor Castellani. It is of stouter dimensions than the implement of similar class from Devonshire; the length is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the socket is square, a double bead-moulding runs round that extremity, neatly formed, and giving solidity to the hafting.

It is scarcely needful to point out the interest of any relic that may throw light on the mechanical arts in the earlier

⁸ Ibid., p. 331.

⁹ See several examples, *Horæ Ferales*, pl. v.; Dunoyer, notice of Celts and Celt-moulds, *Arch. Journ.*, vol. iv., pl. iii.; and specimens of a large variety, vol. vi. p. 382.

¹ Ibid., pl. ii.; *Horæ Ferales*, *ut supra*; Wilde, *Catal. Roy. Irish Acad.*, p. 521.

See an unique chisel, with pierced lateral appendages, found at Piteur, in Scotland; *Arch. Journ.*, vol. vi. p. 377.

² *Arch. Journ.*, vol. ix. p. 303. Compare numerous socketed varieties, *Archæologia*, vol. v., pl. viii.; Lindenschmit, *Alterth. uns. heidn. Vorzeit II. Band v. taf. 1.*

periods. The discovery brought before us, through the kindness of Mr. Hastings Russell, is of special value on account of the combination that it presents of a rare object of that class with bronze weapons likewise of uncommon types. In closing these observations on vestiges of the early occupants of Devonshire, I may advert to the remarkable suggestion by the most sagacious of Northern archæologists, Worsaae, that certain large hoards of bronze implements, which have repeatedly been brought to light under masses of rock, in some instances deposited in regular arrangement, may have been an offertory homage to the deities, or votive, as is imagined to have been the intention of vast deposits of weapons and relics of every description that occur in lakes or in turbaries in Scandinavia. Many large deposits of bronze relics under ponderous stones have occurred in the British Islands, that may have been of the like votive character. It will suffice to notice the hoard of weapons found in 1688 under a rock in Bethgelert parish, Carnarvonshire; another like discovery of a quantity of celts placed heads and points, near Diganwy, or Gannoc, on the river Conway, Denbighshire; ³ and a third, near Alnwick, where, in quarrying stones for the Castle in 1726, a great hoard of celts, swords, and spear-heads was brought to light.⁴

It is with gratification that we are enabled to state that, through the liberality of the Duke of Bedford, the greater portion of the relics found on his property at Plymstock have been presented to the British Museum. This addition to the National Collection is regarded by Mr. Franks as of special importance and interest, because all the specimens, as he observes, are evidently finished, and the objects may have actually been in use. They are not, as most frequently to be noticed in similar deposits of bronze, rejected castings or unfinished pieces. A few of these curious implements have also been deposited, by desire of his Grace, in the Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter.

ALBERT WAY.

³ Camden's Brit. ed. Gough, vol. iii. pp. 185, 192.

⁴ Archæologia. vol. v. p. 113. Bibl. Topogr. Brit., vol. ii., part 3. This

find included 20 swords, 16 spears, and 42 celts; none of these unfortunately are now known to exist.