

## NOTES ON THE FORMATIONS OF BARROWS.

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IN the 18th Vol. of this journal, p. 69, there is an account of a barrow, which I opened at Bradley, near Ashbourne in Derbyshire, and which appeared to be formed of layers of soil extending from one side to the other, and being 3 or 4 inches thick; the earth of which the barrow was composed was so rich that the tenant spread it over the farm as manure. The laud on which the barrow had been raised was clayey, and there was no hollow out of which the earth of the barrow could have been taken; I was led to conjecture that the mound had been formed of thick parings of the adjacent surface, which possibly had ling or heather growing upon it. I have recently met with the following statements, which seem completely to explain the matter. Tacitus (*Annal. Lib. i. c. 61*) narrates how Germanicus found the camp of Varus, where his three legions had perished, and thus describes the burial of their bones. Romanus, qui aderat, exercitus, sextum post cladis annum, trium legionum ossa, nullo noscente alienos reliquias an suorum humo tegeret, omnes, ut conjunctos, ut consanguineos, aucta in hostem irā, mœsti simul et infensi condebant. Primum exstruendo tumulo cœspitem Cæsar posuit, gratissimo munere in defunctos, et præsentibus doloris socius. On which Dugdale (*Warw. 3*) remarks, "these last words implying that every soldier brought his turf or turves to the raising of a tumulus, according as his respect was to the defunct, and that Germanicus himself laid the first, as eminent persons have used to do the first stone in the foundation of some notable building." And he adds that this course was very anciently used by the Danes and other northern nations, as is shown by Olaus Wormius (*Monum. Dan. 43*); and, after contending that this mode of burial was adopted to prevent enemies from insulting the dead, Dugdale adds, "they did moreover hinder them to scatter the very bones, when the whole army congested upon them pure grassy turves, cut from the surface of the ground, which is the reason why it doth not appear by any hollowness whence the earth was taken that raised the tumulus" (p. 6).

This seems very satisfactorily to explain the whole matter, and I have thought it well to make a note of it, as this mode of making barrows does not seem to have been generally known.

It would seem to be a reasonable inference from such facts that these sort of barrows were the works of an army, and that, where only one interment was found in a barrow, it was that of some chieftain.