

XV.

BRITISH STATER FOUND NEAR DERBY.

In January of last year the secretary and curator of the Mechanics' Institute, Derby, forwarded to me a coin for decipherment, which had been found by a man when digging his allotment garden on the Osmaston Park Road estate. The coin in question proved to be a gold un-inscribed British stater weighing 96 grains, exactly similar to the one figured on Plate A., No. II in "*The Coins of the Ancient Britons*," by John Evans F.S.A., F.G.S., which was found near Loughborough, Leicestershire in 1844, and acquired by the late T. Bateman Esq., of Youlgrave. The description of the coin is as follows:

Obverse:—Portion of a laureated head to the right (profile of face not shown): curls of hair down side of face represented by three solid crescents; a wreath across the head formed by parallel oblong blocks pointing diagonally upwards, and, at right angle to the wreath, a band terminating in a curve which forms a lobe of the ear.

Reverse:—Disjointed horse to the left; forelegs formed by straight lines ending in pellets. Above, various pellets, etc. (? some remains of a figure of Victory). Below the body of the horse a crescent and pellets, and a zig-zag exergual line with ornaments below.

The workmanship is of a very crude character and it requires some imagination to determine the forms intended to be depicted. The various strokes, curves and dots, to form the design, were apparently punched, each detail by a separate iron, into the moulds of the die. The period of such "home-struck" coins, it has been said, may be fixed at about 150 to 200 B.C. No particular type of coin of the Ancient Britons has, up to the present, been assigned to the Midland Counties; however, it may fairly be assumed that the Derby and Loughborough

coins circulated in the territory covered by the Coritani tribe, which included Derbyshire and Leicestershire. It may be hoped that authentic information of coins recovered from the ground, such as given above, if accumulated, may establish a series of vital facts anent the Ancient Britons in and adjacent to Derbyshire.

J. O. Manton.

XVI.

PORTRAITS OF WALTON AND COTTON.

Mr. John Beresford, in two articles recently printed in *Notes and Queries* (13 S. i. 203 and 243), recounts the discovery of supposed portraits of Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton. Mr. Beresford's researches leave little room for doubt that the portraits are actually those of the joint authors of the *Compleat Angler*. Hitherto the writers are known only by their portraits by Huysmans and Lely respectively, both of which have often been published. It will be interesting to our readers to be able to compare the newly discovered portrait with one of Charles Cotton which appeared in Vol. xxxix of the *Journal* and is here reproduced.

XVII.

MAIDENS HILLOCK: MILKING HILLOCK.

The first of these field-names was recorded at Dore in 1807, the second at Wormhill in 1774. (Reginald D. Bennett in T. Walter Hall's *Descriptive Catalogue*, Sheffield, 1924, pp. 202, 214). Both are in this county. The meaning seems clear. They were pieces of rising ground or little hills, on which milkmaids milked cows, or possibly sheep in the open air. Why was this done on a hillock? And why drive cows up a hill to be milked when their udders were full? It is easier to ask such questions than