

allegation on the tomb at Radnage, co. Buckingham, I regard as utterly untrustworthy in the face of the livery to the co-heiresses of 1501-2. For the curious, I repeat it. "Here lieth William Tyer, Preacher of God's Worde, late Parson of Radnage, who took to wife Jane, daughter of George Dynham, son of Sir Thomas Dynham, Knt., son and heir of John Lord Dynham, and departed this life the 3rd day of August, A.D. 1605."

I presume that it was this or some other illegitimate line that used Lord Dynham's badge for a crest, described in the *Heraldic Dictionaries* thus: "*In a round top Or six spears, in the centre a pennon argent, thereon a crozlett.*"

Lord Dynham's own crest, *the animal called an ermine on a chapeau ermine*, is engraved from his garter plate by Boutell, but no flames are shewn at the ends of the upright objects at its sides. Hence they look more like horns than candles. The flames are distinct at Appleby.

The tapestry was a very agreeable surprise to the participators in the recent archæological excursion into Westmoreland.

W. HYLTON DYER L.

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#### NOTES ON TWO BRONZE SPEAR HEADS FOUND NEAR BIRTLEY, NORTH TYNE.

THE Bronze Spear-heads, now exhibited, were accidentally discovered by a mason in uncovering a new portion of the freestone quarry for building purposes near Park House, North Tynedale, about three quarters of a mile south of the village of Birtley, and on the property of Hugh Taylor, Esq., of Chipchase Castle. The quarry is situated within a beech wood of some extent, which covers the slopes and bottom of a deep glen through which runs a small tributary of the North Tyne. The stone was formerly used in the construction of the Border Counties Railway. The necessity of laying bare more of the upper portion of rock surface, led to the finding of the spear-heads. The exact site is where the ravine changes in its direction from the south-westerly to the south, and where a path must always have led down into the bottom of the glen, as the adjoining slopes on either side are more precipitous.

The spear-heads were not found lying down as if casually dropped by their possessor, but were fixed nearly upright with their points downwards in the soil, a little above the rock itself, and about eighteen

inches from the present surface. The growth of the soil from the fall of leaves and the decay of vegetable matter, has no doubt been considerable since they first occupied the position in which they were found, so that the depth of soil would not be nearly so great then. They were also found close together, separated only by a few inches; and the angle of inclination at which they were fixed corresponded very nearly with the downward slope of the ravine beneath. It may with probability be inferred from this that their ancient owner may have cast the spears—javelin-fashion—at some person or object, (according as he was engaged in fight or in the chase,) when just about to descend from the more level ground to the less accessible depths of the ravine beneath, where escape would be almost certain. The other supposition is that they were intentionally placed, that is, concealed, in that spot—for accident is apparently out of the question—by some primæval dalesman, who either never lived to return, or did not take the trouble to revisit the spot where he had left his weapons. It is not likely that he could forget the site, if he ever returned.

Mr. MacLauchlan, speaking, in his interesting "Notes on Camps in Northumberland," (pp. 79, 80, *notes*) of the local names in the district, remarks—

"It is probable that Chipchase was originally the name of the hunting-ground extending down the North Tyne from *Comogan*, by *Chipchase Strothers*, opposite Nunwick; *Chip*, or *Kip Hill*, near the School, and ancient stone; and thence by Barrasford, up the *Swin-Burn* to the castle.

*Swin-burn* requires little explanation; but it is possible that *Bar*, a *boar*, (in Barrasford), in Anglo-Saxon, may commemorate the existence of that formidable animal; and even *Co-Mogan*, (which is probably *Cwm-Mochyn*, the valley of the swine, in Celtic), be a rocky ravine where the hunters found their game, a little further up the Tyne, nearly opposite to Wark."

The "rocky ravine" here mentioned is the same which I have just described. For the farm-house of Cumogan (*Car-mogon*, in a tracing of a map in my possession, as if the *Caer* or fort of the god Mogon worshipped at Habitancum on the Rede,) stands on the other bank of the ravine or glen, on the east side of which the spear-heads were found, and within about 150 yards in a direct line from the exact spot.

The dimensions of the two ancient weapons are as follows—One is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. across the widest part, length  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in., and the diameter of the socket part  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. When the young ash-tree or other suitable shaft was inserted, it was secured by a rivet passing through two holes placed opposite to each other in the bronze socket.—The other spear-head is 7 in. in length, 2 in. in the greatest breadth, with the socket  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. in

diameter, the shaft in this case being, however, secured apparently without any perforation in the metal.<sup>1</sup> When found no trace was observed of the wooden shaft in either weapon, which I thought might have been noticeable to some slight extent, judging from the peculiar position in which they were found.

As to their approximate date, the Rev. Wm. Greenwell, of Durham, (one of our highest authorities in the North of England, to whom I sent a sketch—full-size) coincides in my opinion that they are *British*, or pre-Roman spear-heads, of the ordinary type, such as the late Mr. George Tate has figured in his "History of Alnwick," Vol. I., Plate II., fig. 5; and that they do not belong to any later race. It will be interesting to compare them with other similar weapons in our Museum. Though unfortunately rather scraped before coming into my possession (in order to find out of what metal they were composed), they are still in fair preservation—especially considering that no funereal cist has conserved them from the weather, and that an interval of perhaps 2000 years has elapsed since some pre-historic warrior, or hunter of the bronze age, in North Tynedale, may have hurled them against his foeman or the object of his chase.

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<sup>1</sup> On closer inspection, since writing the above, I have found that this second spear-head originally had rivet-holes also. The lower part of the socket had been fractured and broken off where the perforations had been made in the metal, so that both would be very nearly the same length; the difference in the width and form of the small wing or flange on each side being the chief distinctive mark between them. Both are of the long and narrow type described by Mr. Tate (*ibid.* p. 14) as having been discovered together with a great number of bronze swords and celts in the Old Park at Alnwick under similar circumstances to those which led to the present discovery; namely, by a mason employed in clearing away the earth, at a depth of 18 inches, from the sandstone rock, in order to obtain building stone. Other instances, where spear-heads have been found apparently placed designedly at the spot of finding, have occurred at Denwick and at Eslington, where two were discovered with swords, now in Lord Ravensworth's possession. Several were also found near Stanhope, and are described in *Arch. Æliana*, Vol. I. Mr. Greenwell informs me that he has in his possession seven out of eight spear-heads found in Heathery Burn Cave, which were "all placed together with the points down, and stuck into the sandy bottom of the cave."