

DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT BRONZE IMPLEMENTS
NEAR WALLINGTON.

“ WALLINGTON,

“ *August 23rd, 1880.*

“ DEAR DR. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE,

“ It seems right that the circumstances of the remarkable find of Bronze Weapons and Female Ornaments, near this place, on the 14th May in last year, should be communicated through you to our Newcastle Antiquarian Society.

“ At the evening roll-call of the ewes and lambs at Prior Hall Farm, about a mile north-east of this place, a lamb was missing, and a young shepherd, named Ephraim Hedley, was sent to look for it. He found it sitting on a patch of turf in a water-course, and, stepping down to lift it out, he observed something shining in the water. This was a bronze axe-head; and, looking at the bank, he saw several others sticking out from it. He collected all he saw; and, when I heard what had happened, I went to the spot with three stout labourers, and thoroughly searched the ground, turning up the bed of the water-course for some distance down stream. Altogether fifteen axe-heads, four spear-heads, three sword-blades (two with handles), and three female armlets, were found; and later in the year, you, Sir, and the Rev. Canon Greenwell, were so good as to examine the ground with me, when we had another still more extensive search, with the result that only a fragment of another spear-head was found in the soil which had been already excavated.

“ It thus became apparent that all these objects were deposited in a single place, in one pocket, so to speak. The locality used to be known as ‘Middleton Moss,’ an ancient swamp underneath Middleton Hill. A straight cut was made for the stream through the swamp more than thirty years ago in order to drain it. This cut almost hit the pocket, which the abrasion of the bank by the action of the water ultimately disclosed. On the top of the adjoining hill are the nearly obliterated lines of what appears to have been a fortified village of the primæval



BRONZE TO USE IMPLEMENTS - WASHINGTON





ARROWHEADS AND IMPLEMENTS—WASHINGTON.



inhabitants. On a further ridge of the same hill is a distinctly-marked Roman Camp of no great size; and further still are North Middleton, remarkable for the pure Arian form of village-community, precisely as it is in Russia and India, having survived there until A.D. 1806, and the ruins of South Middleton. It may reasonably be conjectured that these weapons and ornaments were hidden in some time of trouble, and that the hiders died without having had an opportunity of recovering them. As for the age to which they belong, all, I suppose, that can be safely predicated, is that they are older than the Roman Period, when iron was in general use, and not so old as the Stone Period. They are not all equal in execution, but most of them are highly-finished castings which would do credit to any workman of the present day, and they may, therefore, be presumed to belong to the later period of the Bronze Age—probably after the partial introduction of iron. They are all deposited in a glass case in the hall at Wallington, where they may be inspected at any time.

“Believe me,

“Dear Dr. Bruce,

“Sincerely yours,

“C. E. TREVELYAN.

“The Rev. J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE, LL.D.,

“Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries
of Newcastle-on-Tyne.”

THE BLACK GATE.

READ BY ROBERT JAMES JOHNSON.

In referring to the Black Gate I cannot do better than quote in the first instance from Mr. Longstaffe's valuable paper on “The New Castle,” printed in Vol. IV. of the New Series of the “Archæologia Æliana.”

The 18th section of that document is devoted to the Black Gate, the second Gate, and their appendages; and the text is as follows:—