

XIX.—ON A LEADEN TOBACCO STOPPER, FOUND AT
CASTLE EDEN.

BY ROBERT MORTON MIDDLETON, JUN.

READ ON WEDNESDAY, THE 30TH OF JULY, 1884.

THE object which I have the honour to exhibit is a leaden tobacco stopper of the 17th century. It is in shape like a Runic or Scandinavian cross, with an included ring, which is somewhat large and flat. The foot of the cross was used for pressing the tobacco into the pipe. The head and arms bear seals or ornaments in relief. The seal at the head represents a cock, while those at the sides have upon them respectively, an obscure inscription and a king's bust crowned. One side of the central ring is adorned with raised alternate balls and bars, the other with raised transverse lines. The shaft of the cross is decorated with balls and concentric bars.

This tobacco stopper was found about 1820, by Miss Mary Burdon, in cultivated ground just outside the walled kitchen garden of the Castle, at Castle Eden. It is the property of Mrs. Rowland Burdon, of Parklands.

The use of fancy tobacco stoppers appears to have been at one time general amongst smokers. Many of these relics are in existence, and the Guildhall Museum, in London, contains one example bearing as a handle a Queen Anne's farthing, and others with signet-rings, heads, busts, a cock, a group of Saint George and the Dragon, and figures of *pierrots* or clowns of the old French stage.