

DISCOVERY OF A GOLD TORQUE,
At Ashill, Norfolk.

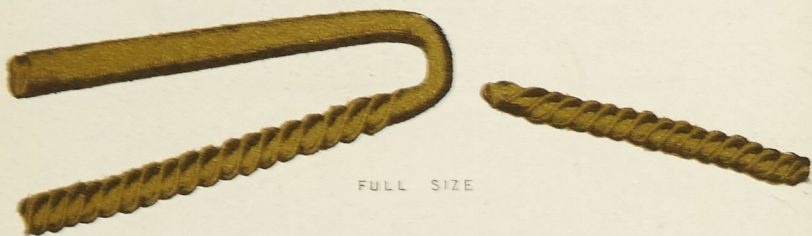
COMMUNICATED

BY MR. GODDARD JOHNSON.

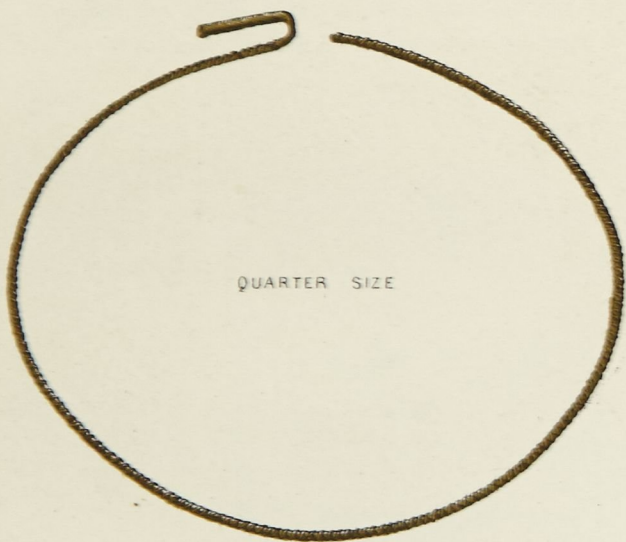
I beg to lay before the Society an account of the discovery of a fine gold Torque, brought to light by a slip or fall of the soil in the gravel-pit of the parish of Ashill, near Watton, in this county.

Three or four men were at work in the pit in the course of last year, when a portion of the soil came down, and with it the Torque in question. It was coiled in a spiral-like form, and the men in endeavouring to pull it straight broke off the only *hook* that was attached to it; the other was not found.

The weight of it is 4 oz. 12 dwts., its length thirty-three inches, and its form and fabrication are very similar to that found at Foulsham in 1846, which is now in the possession of Lord Hastings, at Melton Constable, and is represented in our first volume, p. 231. Such ornaments were frequently worn by British chiefs, and given for some valorous act or deed, by way of reward and token of approbation, as we now give medals for similar acts of heroic courage. Dion Cassius informs us that Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, wore one round her neck; and the above-mentioned Torques



FULL SIZE



QUARTER SIZE

GOLD TOROUÉ , DISCOVERED AT ASHILL, NORFOLK. 1856

IN THE POSSESSION OF J. H. GURNEY, ESQ. M. P.

BY WHOM THIS PLATE IS PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY .

being found within the *territory of the Iceni*, makes it very probable that these two belonged to two of the generals or chiefs of that people.

We learn from Scripture, that golden girdles were given as rewards for discoveries: witness that given by Belshazzar to Daniel for interpreting the writing on the wall. In the first chapter of Revelation, verse 13, a golden girdle is mentioned, and many other instances could be adduced. A question may be appropriately asked,—How did the early Britons become possessed of so much gold, as they had no *pecuniary means of obtaining it*? was it by barter with their cattle, corn, and tin, the only articles they had to trade with?

There are intrenchments in Ashill which on examination would prove to be vestiges of early occupation. Many articles of archæological interest have been found in the adjoining parishes of Saham Toney and Cressingham. Our worthy member, Thomas Barton, Esq., of Threxton, possesses many antiquities found upon his estate there, which are now deposited in his cabinet.

MARCH, 1857.

