

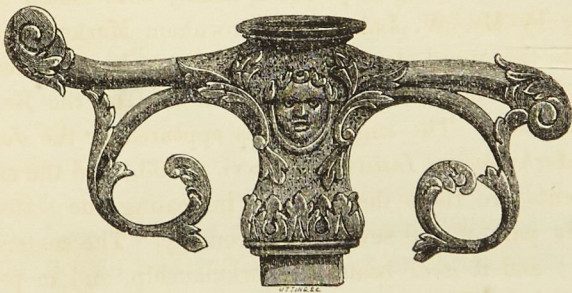
## Dagger-Guard,

FOUND NEAR DOWNHAM MARKET.

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THE accompanying wood-cut is kindly contributed to the Society by Mr. W. Lawrie, of Downham Market, and represents the guard of a dagger, or some such small weapon, in his possession. It was found in a field on the Bexwell road, in 1857. The engraving has appeared in the *Journal of the Archæological Institute* (vol. xvi. p. 303,) and the chased ornaments are there described as indicating the sixteenth, or early part of the seventeenth century. The material is bronze; and it is of beautiful workmanship, and in perfect preservation. The engraving is of the size of the original.

A singular little knife-guard of bronze, in a broken state, is in the possession of the Rev. C. R. Manning. It was found in 1849, in the parish of Terrington St John's, near Lynn. It has none of the ornamental work seen on the Downham example, but each side of the guard is engraved with subjects of the chase, and with an inscription. On one side are three hares or rabbits sitting, delicately engraved, with the fragmentary inscription [G]ASPER MELTESA BALTE[SA]: the well-known names, supposed to be the three wise men, or "three kings of Cologne," which were held to be preservatives from danger. On the other side are two little dogs, fighting over a bone, and the words PRENS EN GRE,—“take in good part.” Mr. Albert Way considers this curious little ornament to be the guard of a hunting-knife, and probably of French workmanship of the sixteenth century. The form of the letters might perhaps indicate a somewhat earlier date.



Dagger-Guard, found near Downham Market, in the possession  
of Mr. W. Laurie.