

II.

ANCIENT BRITISH COINS FOUND IN
SURREY.

BY RICHARD WHITBOURN, ESQ., F.S.A., HONORARY LOCAL SECRETARY
FOR GODALMING.

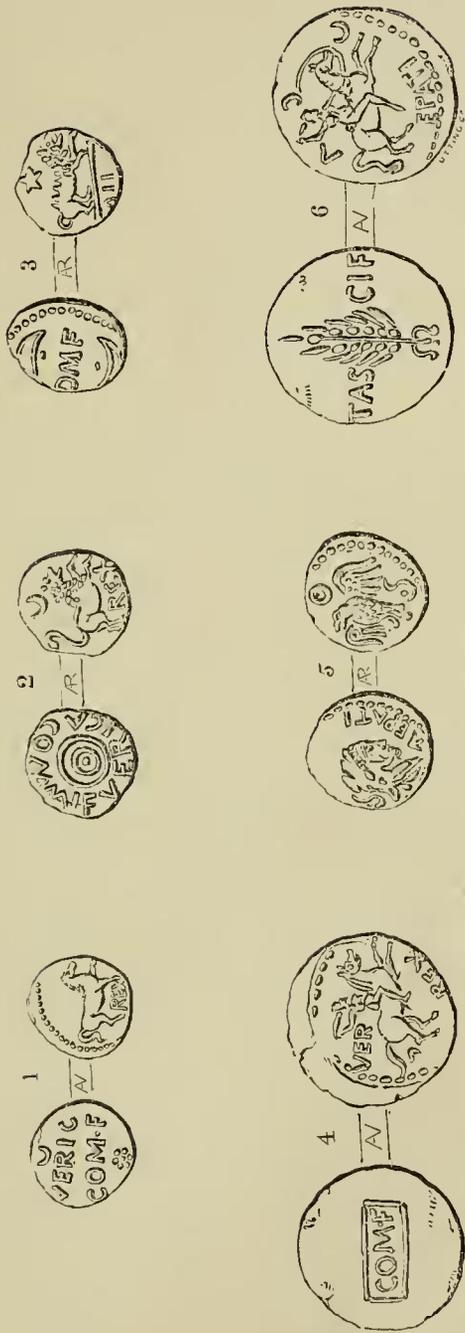
IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HENRY LAWES LONG, ESQ.

GODALMING, 1st July, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with your kind request, I forward herewith drawings of some ancient British coins found in Surrey, and on which, together with those published in the first volume of the Collections, and some discovered by Albert Way, Esq., F.S.A., I beg to submit a few brief observations.

The question of the circulation of stamped money in Britain previous to the invasion by Julius Cæsar, B.C. 55, is, and probably will remain, open for discussion. Mr. Hawkins, in his work on the English coinage, p. 8, states as follows:—"There is in the British Museum a beautiful MS. of Cæsar, of about the tenth century, which reads thus: 'Utuntur aut ære aut nummo aureo aut annulis ferreis ad certum pondus examinatis pro nummo.' They use either brass money or gold money, or, instead of money, iron rings adjusted to a certain weight." In later translations of Cæsar, the assertion is positive that the British did not use stamped money.

From the types of the most early coins of the series being evident copies of the stater of Philip of Macedon,



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I think the probability is, that a coinage of gold, silver, and brass was in circulation before the first Roman invasion. For specimens of these, see No. 10 and 11, p. 70, vol. i. "Surrey Archæological Collections," found respectively at Leatherhead and Godalming.

The next types in point of date, I think, are those stamped on one side only with the crude representation of a horse, see No. 9, in the plate above referred to. Specimens of this type are probably the most common of any of the series of ancient British coins. One was, some time since, found at Farnham Castle, and another (a remarkably fine one) at Lambeth—both in Surrey.

Farley Heath is particularly rich in these most interesting relics, and the best thanks of every lover of antiquity are due to M. F. Tupper, Esq., for his most interesting little work on them, although more recent discoveries have shown that he was mistaken as to "Mepati." Vericus was an undoubted son of Comius, as was also Epaticcus of Tascionanus, thus giving to two princes who held dominion in Surrey their proper places in the pages of the history of our island.

The coins of Vericus, found in Surrey, are Nos. 1, 2, and 3, in the accompanying drawing; No. 4 is from Sussex. The coins of Epaticcus are only known to have been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood of Farley Heath.

It is a remarkable circumstance that British and Roman coins are rarely found together, although there can be no doubt they had concurrent circulation. From the number of types of British coins, the amount of money in use, of this class, must have been very great, and may probably be, in some degree, accounted for in this manner:—Roman money was used by the soldiers and civilians of the Roman empire resident in Britain,

and the British stamped money for circulation among the native inhabitants. The Romans, to enslave and subdue the natives, appointed petty kings, for whom they (the Romans) coined money, some of much finer work than those struck by native artists.

Near Farley Heath, about ten years since, several gold coins were found, four of which are figured at p. 70, vol. i. "Surrey Archæological Collections," being Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, on plate. They are of fine work, differing from each other in minute particulars, yet according in weight and quality.

The coins of Epaticcus, Nos. 5 and 6 in the accompanying engraving, are of exquisite workmanship and finish, quite equal to the Roman coins of the same period.

Some very interesting and rare specimens have, within the last few years, been discovered in the neighbourhood of Reigate. The most so are two in gold; one similar to Ruding, plate 1, No. 7; the other, unpublished, weighing 83 grains, one side convex and plain; on the other side, which is in remarkable preservation, appears the horse galloping to the left, with certain symbols in the field. This coin is singular in two respects—as having so well-formed a horse in conjunction with a plain or nearly plain obverse, and in having above the horse a clenched hand, apparently holding a branch. A hand below the horse is not uncommon in Gaulish coins.

The class of gold coins to which this piece belongs was current both in Gaul and Britain. I am indebted to Mr. Way, by whom these two coins were obtained from the finders, for the notice of and information respecting them.

The numismatic world is greatly indebted to John

Evans, Esq., F.S.A., for his able and persevering researches in this branch of its study. He found the Ancient British Series a disjointed, neglected chaos; by his labour and intelligence he has reduced it almost into chronological order from the period of Tasciovanus and Comius.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

R. WHITBOURN.

TO HENRY LAWES LONG, ESQ.