

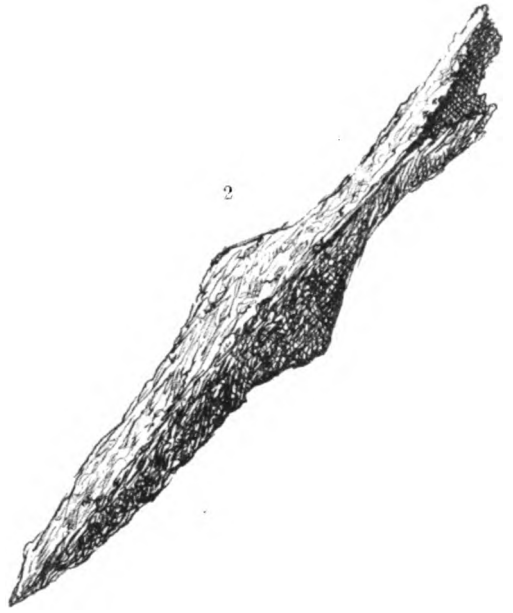
RELICS FOUND AT TYTHROP HOUSE.

THAME, Dec. 15, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR,

I send you Drawings of some Antiquities found in the grounds near Tythrop House, adjoining Thame Field. I request the Association to accept them, if thought worth having.

Last spring Herbert Wykeham, Esq., of Tythrop House, did me the favour to send for my inspection some relics which had been found in digging out some rabbits, at the extreme western end of Kingsey, in which locality I doubt not much now remains behind. They consisted of two funereal urns, containing portions of bones and skulls, which I did not see, as they had been deposited in the Churchyard previously to bide their time. There was a copper coin of the Emperor Hadrian, sent with them, which Mr. W. told me was in one of the urns—if so, it would most likely determine the bones, &c. to be of Roman or Anglo-Roman deposit, but I am not sure—a sight of the bones of the cranium might have settled the question. The urns were neatly made of dark burned clay, each worked in a different pattern (see the accompanying sketch), and as marked on the drawing, each six and a half inches high, and twenty inches round the swell. A spear-head of seven inches in length, much corroded, retaining a portion where the handle was inserted. A very curious and peculiar oval metal ornament, with a ring to suspend it, representing a winged cupid bearing a sheaf of corn on the left shoulder, and a reaping-hook in the right hand, apparently as returning from his labours—over the right shoulder a narrow belt. I do not recollect ever having seen a trophy of corn, borne by the little god. Perhaps some of our Members may enlighten us on the subject. It is greatly to be desired that Mr. W. would make more research, as doubtless it would repay the trouble. It is not at all improbable, that taking the character of the soil into consideration, and the running stream just below, dividing Thame Field from the Tythrop demesne, a Roman Villa might be dropt on, it being just the kind of spot often chosen by the Romans. The dagger was found in another part of



Kingsey Field ; it is now seventeen inches long, and much corroded—has been a very elegant piece of workmanship, highly decorated ; I presume about the period of Henry Fourth or Fifth.

I have in my collection a British Celt, found in Thame Field, close to the bank of Cuttle Brook, by Bates Leys. The labourer who found it was digging peat to burn into ash for manure, the ground around being boggy. I had also a gold coin of the Emperor Honorius, found on a piece of land of my own. Near it was a gold ring, of much later date, the armorial bearing marking it as having belonged to the Barrows' family, who possessed land in Thame, and still do in the adjoining parts of Sydenham. I do not know into whose hands this has fallen. I had also another gold coin of the Emperor Valentinian the First, found on Pegg's Farm, in the parish of Haseley, in equally good preservation, perfect as when coined. Not having any collection of Roman gold coins myself, I gave them to Lord Mark Kerr, who was a collector.

Very truly yours,

HARRY LUPTON.

To the Rev. CHARLES LOWNDES.
