

## III.

## NOTICE OF THE OPENING OF A BURIAL CAIRN AT SHAWS, SELKIRK-SHIRE. By JAMES BRYDON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

The farm of Shaws is in the Vale of the Ettrick, about nine miles above Selkirk. To the south of the farm-house, and separating it from the Shaws Lochs, from which flows a tributary of the Aik, there stretches from east to west a ridge of pasture land, which attains an elevation above the sea of between eleven and twelve hundred feet. Nearly at its highest part there stood a little hillock, which from time immemorial has borne the name of "the Sleepy Knowe." The name is suggestive, but its origin is shrouded in mystery. It may have been translated from one language to another, and handed down by succeeding generations, from that period of remote antiquity when it was piled up around the body of the mighty chief who was there sleeping the sleep of death; or it may merely be derived from a certain alleged habit of the shepherds of the present day.

It was allowed to remain undisturbed till about four years ago, when stones being required for a neighbouring march-dyke, it was fixed upon as a likely spot to furnish them. The stones lay very loosely together, but that they formed an artificial structure was never suspected till the workmen exposed a stone coffin containing a quantity of human bones. Mr Gibson, the farmer, learning this, at once stopped further proceedings, and it was allowed to remain further undisturbed till July last, when I had it thoroughly explored. Except where it had been broken into, it was covered by a thick sward of short fine grass, quite different from that growing on the surrounding soil. Its general outline was circular; its circumference measured 108 feet, and the summit was between 5 and 6 feet high. The part removed was on the west side, and might be about one-sixth of its whole bulk. On the bottom of this, 12 feet from the margin, on the natural soil, stood the cist already mentioned; with the end furthest from the centre awanting, as was also the cover. It measured  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot in breadth, 1 foot 9 inches in depth, and its length, as ascertained from the extent of the floor, was 2 feet. The floor was regu-

larly paved with flat stones, some of which were partially coated with charcoal. The only parts of the skeleton it had contained that were preserved, were a portion of the frontal and of the right occipital bones. These, however, were sufficient to show that they belonged to the skeleton of a man, whose skull had been of large size.

Below the thin covering of turf, which most likely formed no part of the original structure, over the whole extent of the cairn, there was a layer of small shingly stones, which rested upon large irregularly placed and shaped stones, of which the great bulk of the hillock consisted. About two feet from its margin, three or four tiers of large stones lay upon each other, slanting inwards and downwards, forming the semblance of a wall all round. Throughout its whole extent the natural surface was covered with rounded water-worn stones.

Near the centre, a foot and a half from the surface, a heap of small broken bones and mould was discovered, which, as nearly as could be made out, represented the remains of a dog. Immediately to the south of this the stones, which were very large, assumed the appearance of a rudely constructed arch. Lying on the surface of this, imbedded in a quantity of finely powdered earth, we found, among other particles of bone, portions of a human skull. This arch-like layer rested on a number of large stones, with wide crevices between them, several of which were filled with damp, dark, tenacious mould. Below these we came upon a large flat stone, with several artificial markings on its different surfaces. Like those composing the rest of the cairn, it was an unhewn, irregular whinstone. It lay 3 feet to the east of the cist, and 4 feet from the surface. Its greatest length is 3 feet 3 inches; breadth, 1 foot 9 inches; and thickness, 10 inches. On its upper surface there are several depressed lines, evidently the product of design. Three of them are nearly parallel, and about 4 inches long. The two eastmost are joined together by an oblique line, which leaves the top of the middle one and runs into the other; which is also joined near its north end by another running in the same direction, but not reaching the middle line. From between these two interrupted lines proceed in the same direction. On the same surface there are several superficial pittings evidently made by the same instrument. The under side presents on that half of it which lay to the south five oval-shaped superficial depressions. Around its

edge-sides there are a series of circular pits or cups, from a half to three quarters of an inch deep, and generally about an inch across. Leaning against it, on the east side, was another large oval stone, which, although it had evidently been chipped into shape, presented no traces of design. Below this, with its apex stretching in below the sculptured stone, we found another of a pyramidal shape, with two cups on its base, which lay towards the east. Immediately to the east of these lay several fragments of bones. The objects described were separated from the natural soil, in addition to the water-worn stones, by a layer of whitish substance, evidently peat ashes.

Four feet to the north-east,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the east margin, 18 from the west, 22 from the south, and 14 from the north, we next discovered a regularly built cavity, containing the debris of a piece of pottery and fragments of bones. It measured 24 inches in depth, 20 in length, and 15 in breadth. Its floor and cover were each formed by one flat stone. The urn has been of very rude construction, made of coarse clay, and without the aid of the potter's wheel. Its fragments lay in a confused heap at the bottom of the cavity, but above the bones, so that most likely it had been inverted over them. On some of them are straight depressed lines with pittings at regular intervals, running parallel to, but never crossing each other. A bead had projected around the brim, a large fragment of which indicates a diameter of 20 inches. The bones were in a state of extreme decomposition, but one fragment was clearly a part of the frontal bone of a dog.

Between this cavity and the sculptured stone, in a large crevice, there was a quantity of animal mould and a piece of the tibia of one of the larger quadrupeds.

About three feet to the north-east of the urn-cist there was another cavity of nearly similar dimensions. Although it had been built, the mason-work was of the roughest. It was quite empty; but on the outside of its eastern wall, lying on the floor of the cairn, there was a heap of finely powdered clay mixed up with fragments of pottery and bones. Two feet east from this, but quite distinct from it, there was a similar deposit. These pieces of pottery were thinner, and made of finer clay than those of the urn already described; but they were so small that no satisfactory opinion as to the size or shape of the original vessels could be formed.

Nearly west from this, three feet to the north of the urn-cist, below two large slabs of whinstone leaning against each other roof-wise, we came upon a large flat upright stone, standing nearly east and west. On its north side another large stone lay up against it in a slanting position, covering a heap of animal mould, bones, and portions of palmated deer horns.

In the south-east quarter of the cairn there were other three nests of bones, one of which lay against the east side of a large flat stone standing on edge; but all of them were so much decayed as to render identification impossible.

The whole of the cairn was turned over; and although a keen look-out was kept, nothing else—no weapons, ornaments, or implements, not even a flint chip—was discovered.

MONDAY, 11th April 1870.

The Rev. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D., in the Chair.

A ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society:—

THOMAS HARVEY, M.A., Esq., Rector of the Edinburgh Academy.

MAJOR WILLIAM EDWARD WILLIAMS, Bexley, Kent.

CAPTAIN F. W. L. THOMAS, R.N., Rosepark, Trinity, Edinburgh.

Mr Laing, Foreign Secretary, read the following letters, which he had received from the recently elected Honorary Members, acknowledging the honour done them by the Society:—

PARIS, RUE SAINT ANDRÉ DES ARCS, No. 60,  
15 December 1869.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Chairman and Foreign Secretary inform me that at a general meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, held at the end of last month, I was elected an Honorary Member of the Society. I beg to acknowledge the intimation I received, and to thank you for the unexpected honour you conferred upon me.

If a most decided partiality to your *bonnie* country and a relentless labour to illustrate its history and antiquities, are sufficient titles to such a favour, I daresay I deserve it; but when I consider that the number of Honorary members of the Society is limited to twenty-five, and that, even in France, there are more literary characters anxious to elucidate the annals of Scotland, I must own that I am indebted for the distinction you have bestowed upon me, to the hope you entertain of future labours in the same field. It is a promise I made to myself, and which I beg to renew to you.

You know how zealously I devoted myself to elucidate the history of Scotland in its relations with France; but I consider that my task is not at an end, and that I have to add to my two volumes a sort of history of the rise and progress of civilisation in your country by its language.—I am, Gentlemen, with much respect and gratefulness, your obedient and devoted brother,

FRANCISQUE-MICHEL.

To the Secretary and Fellows of the Society  
of Antiquaries of Scotland.

27 VIA FELICE, ROME,  
Feb'y. 24, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—By some accident your letter, dated on the 6th of December last, has only just reached my hands, or I should certainly have acknowledged the receipt of it at once, and have thanked you for it. I now request you to return my best thanks to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for the honour they have done me in electing me one of their Honorary Members. I have often regretted that I have not had more opportunity of studying the Antiquities of Scotland, which I have always found extremely interesting, so far as I have been able to investigate them. Of late years it seems to have been the will of Providence that I should be chiefly occupied with the antiquities of Rome, which go so far back, that it seems almost impossible to arrive at the starting point. It seems clear to me that the Rome of the Empire and of the Republic was built upon the Rome of the Kings; and that the fortifications in the times of the kings were chiefly earthworks, with scarped cliffs and great *fossæ* in which the streets of the Republic were made. These were altered in the time of the early Empire, by raising them up to the banks on the level

of the soil, instead of being at the bottom of the great trenches. I find pavements at three levels continually; (1.) six or seven yards below the surface; (2.) about half that depth; (3.) on the present surface, the level of which in many parts of Rome has not been altered since the time that the gateways of Honorius were built A.D. 400. One of these interesting gateways (the inner one at the Horto S. Lorenze) was destroyed in the summer of 1869, by order of the Baron Visconti (the Pope's inspector of monuments), in order that he might use the travertine stones as a quarry for the base of the marble column on the Janiculum, to commemorate the present Council. . . . I will send you, by book-post, some pamphlets relative to the Antiquities of Rome, that I have lately issued for the use of my countrymen here.—Yours sincerely,

J. H. PARKER.

DAVID LAING, Esq., For. Sec. Soc. Ant., Scot.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1.) By J. W. LAIDLAY of Seacliff, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

A Collection of manufactured objects and animal remains, from a kitchen-midden on the top of an isolated rock, named "The Ghegan," near Seacliff, East Lothian. The collection comprises:—

Two Pins or Awls of Bone,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length respectively, rudely squared at the heft as if for fixing in a wooden handle. They are polished by use towards the points. (See woodcut, fig. 5, p. 375.)

Two fragments of similar bone instruments.

Two Bodkins of Bone, one  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and the other 2 inches in length, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in greatest width, where it is perforated for the eye. The eye-hole is circular, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the wider end of the bodkin, which tapers both ways, to a blunt point at the short end, and a sharper point at the longer end. (See woodcut, fig. 4, p. 375.)

A Comb of Bone, having a flat semi-circular back or top, highly ornamented on one side with incised figures or patterns. These consist of a crescent, surmounting three ellipses very regularly cut. The central

ellipse has two nearly circular figures of half its diameter, touching each other in the centre, and the remainder is filled up with punctulations. The two ellipses on either side of it have each an inner ellipse concentric with the outer, and the space between filled up with punctulated markings. The crescent is also filled in with punctulated markings. An inch and a quarter from the upper margin of the comb, an incised line is drawn across below the elliptical figures at the base of the teeth. The teeth are not quite straight, but incline slightly towards the centre from both sides. They appear to have been originally about an inch in length, the longest now remaining being fully  $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch. A hole bored in the back of the comb was probably used for suspension. (See woodcut, fig. 3, p. 375.)

Two fragments of a double-sided Comb, bearing marks of a central band of bone and iron rivets, which joined them together.

An Ornament of blackened and polished Bone,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length, consisting of a plain cylindrical central part, with a raised ridge and a rounded knob at each extremity. (See woodcut, fig. 6, p. 375.)

A slightly convex and circular disc of polished Serpentine, 1 inch in diameter, and  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch thick at the edges.

A portion of a circular ring of Black Shale,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch in diameter, and  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch in thickness.

A rude Bone Pin or Awl, 5 inches in length, formed of the leg bone of a small animal.

A Cylinder of Bone, hollowed by a tool. It is 1 inch in length, and the same in diameter, and has been sawn across at both ends, and half sawn across by a thin-edged saw, a quarter of an inch from one end, and half of the cylindrical part removed.

A small rude rounded Vessel or Crucible of Clay,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide at the mouth, and the same in height.

Twelve splinters of Bone of various lengths, probably either broken or unfinished implements.

A large portion of a large coarse Vessel of Yellowish Clay, or Amphora, of Roman type, in fragments.

A quantity of rude, black-coloured Pottery, in fragments.

Two Hand Bricks, that is, masses of clay simply squeezed in the hand, and used probably to support clay vessels while being fired in the kiln.

Similar Hand Bricks have been found in Lincolnshire and the Channel Islands.

Two rounded Pebbles, or "Boiling Stones," of trap rock, about 3 inches diameter, which exhibit the cracked appearance characteristic of stones that have been made red-hot, and suddenly cooled by being plunged into water. The practice of cooking by means of heated stones has been used by many races of men, and is still practised among the Assinneboins, or modern "stone-boilers of North America." The custom is thus described by Mr Tylor, in his work on the "Early History of Mankind" (pp. 262-9):—"A hole is dug in the ground about the size of a common pot, and a piece of the raw hide of the animal is put over the hole, and then pressed down with the hands close around the sides, and filled with water. The meat to be boiled is then put into the pot of water; and in a fire which is made close by several large stones are heated to a red heat; these are successively dipped, and held in the water until the meat is boiled. From this custom the Ojibbeways have given them the name of Assinneboins or Stone-boilers." Heated stones have been and are also used for baking purposes by the New Zealanders. A paper by the Rev. J. Brodie, Monimail, "On the Food of Man in Prehistoric Times" (Proceedings of the Society, vol. viii. p. 177), refers to the use of stones in cooking.

Lower stone of a Quern of a hard, bluish-coloured rock. It is oval, has a spindle hole in the centre, and measures 20 inches in longest diameter.

Upper stone of a Quern, of the same kind of stone, and 14 inches diameter. It has the usual wide hopper-like hole in the centre, and two holes close together near the circumference. These holes are for the insertion of the fingers to turn it round, and are worn perfectly smooth, and highly polished by long use.

A large collection of Animal Bones, for a description of which, and figures of several of the objects described above, see subsequent communication by J. W. Laidlay, Esq.

(2.) By ADOLPH ROBINOW, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Electrotype Copy, in copper, of a Marble Bas-relief, "The Apotheosis of Homer," found near Rome in the middle of the 17th century.



(3.) By Miss JANE MILNE JAMESON, Glen Rose, St. Heliers, Jersey.

Silver Teaspoon, stated to have been used by Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Holyrood.

The following memorandum accompanied the donation :—" This spoon was given by Mr Buchanan, one of the gentlemen who went to France for his Royal Highness, to his nephew, Duncan Graham, whose daughter left it by will to my father, the Rev N. Jameson."

Four Indian Coins, of silver, used as Counters by the ex-King James at St Germain's.

(4.) By Sir ARCHIBALD WARDLAW, Bart., of Pitrevie, through GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Letters and other Documents of Duncan Forbes of Culloden (Lord President.)

(5.) By FRANCIS LIGHTBODY, Esq., through JAMES WILSON, Esq., Chief Clerk, Board of Manufactures.

Burmese Sacred Manuscript, painted on Palm Leaves, and Case of gilt wood, with Wrapper of coloured cloth, taken from a Temple at Rangoon during the first Burmese War.

(6.) By Mrs PETER MACLAURIN, through Dr JOHN ALEX. SMITH, Sec. S.A. Scot.

Portion of Marble Moulding, and small portion of the Sandstone Coffin from the Supposed Tomb of Robert the Bruce at Dunfermline. Discovered 1818.

(7.) By Rev. GEO. M'GUFFIE, F.S.A. Scot.

Lead Communion Tokens of Etal Church, of different dates.  
The Priests of Etal. 8vo.

There were also exhibited—

(1.) By JAMES T. IRVINE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

A Pair of Bronze Spoons, found at Weston, near Bath. (See Plate XVIII., where one of the spoons is figured full size.)

The following description of these curious and interesting objects is taken from an important paper in the "Archæological Journal" for March 1869 (No. 101), entitled,

"Notices of certain Bronze Relics of a peculiar type, assigned to the late Celtic Period," by Albert Way, Esq., Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot., &c.

"This pair of spoon-like objects was found in 1866 in Somersetshire, about a mile to the north-west of Bath, and near the road towards Bristol. Unfortunately the precise circumstances connected with their discovery have not been recorded; for the following particulars, and also for the kind permission to publish these highly interesting relics with the series of examples that I have now brought together, I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr James T. Irvine, F.S.A. Scot., of Coomb Down, near Bath.

"A new road having been made from Weston Lane to the village of Weston, near Bath, a lias quarry was opened for the purpose of obtaining stone. The spot is on the south side of the new road, and on the western brow of a small hollow, down which a little rivulet flows towards the Avon, into which it falls nearly opposite Tiverton. The new road shortly after joins the *Via Julia*, the great Roman line from *Aquæ Solis* into Wales. In removing the 'heading' for quarrying the lias rock, at a depth of 7 feet or thereabouts, as stated, the bronze relics were brought to light by one of the labourers, who gave them to the foreman, William Smith, from whom I received them.<sup>1</sup> I made careful inquiry whether any other object was found, or any trace of wood, as of a box or the like, but I was assured that nothing else was discovered. The situation is so similar to the sites where remains of Roman villas occur, on gently sloping banks open towards the south and south-east, and adjoining some stream of pure water, that I am disposed to imagine that the vestiges of a Roman dwelling must exist not far from the spot.

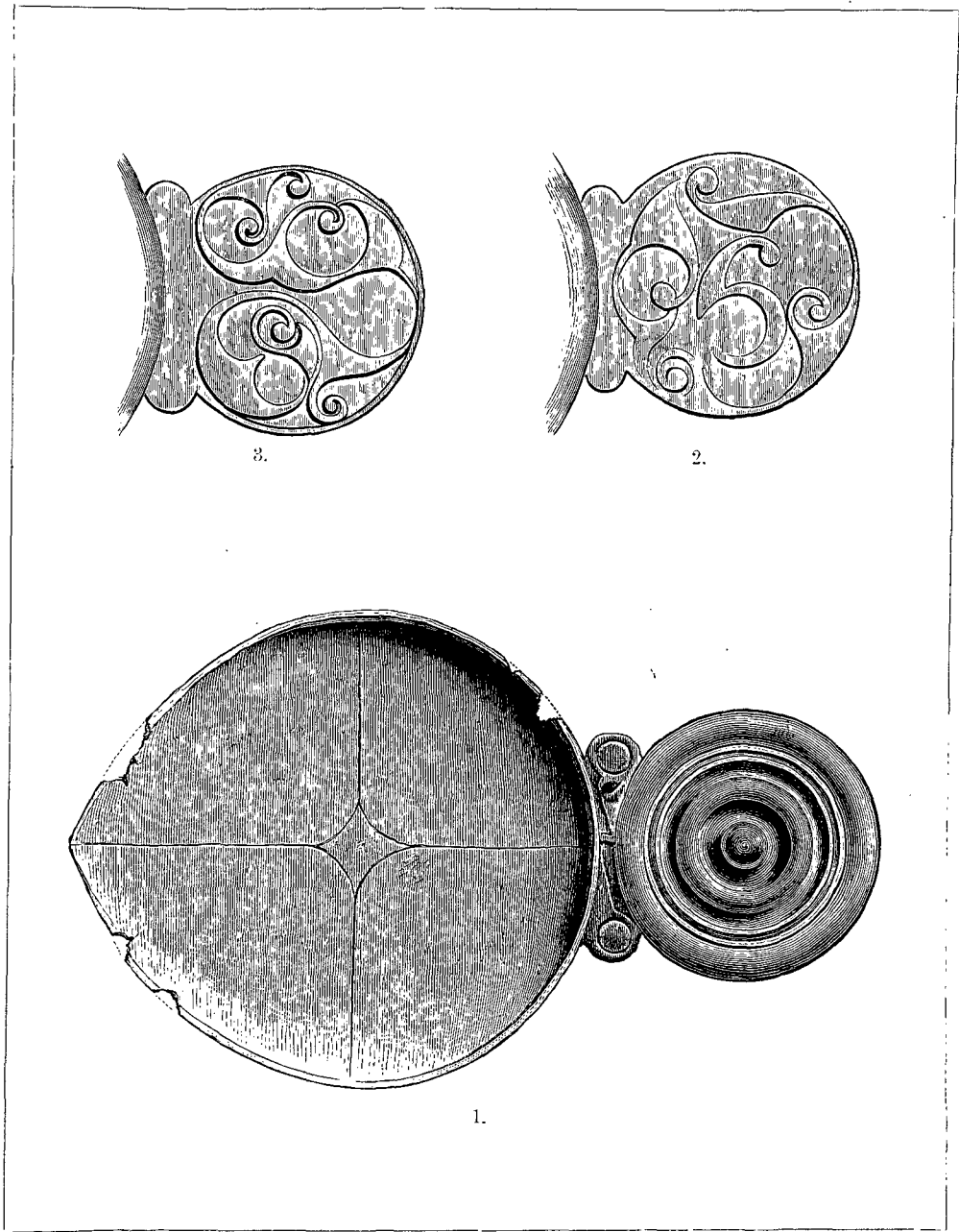
"In the great difficulty that has been found in regard to the intention

<sup>1</sup> In a subsequent communication Mr Irvine informed Mr Way that, in regard to the great depth (7 feet) at which these bronze objects were stated to have been found, he had made fresh inquiries of the foreman before mentioned, who stated that they lay near the stream, in the ancient hollow course of which the earth had doubtless gradually slipped down the sloping cultivated bank, at the upper part of which there was only a layer of 12 or 18 inches in depth covering the lias rock.

of these objects, Mr Irvine suggests that they may have served for some culinary or gastronomic purpose in Roman times. The frequent occurrence of villas, and of vestiges of every description that abound near *Aquæ Solis*, and have been carefully described by our friend Canon Scarth, could not fail to suggest to so observant and sagacious an archæologist as Mr Irvine the probability that these objects, found not far distant from a great Roman way, might be assigned to the Roman period. It must, however, be considered that in no instance, as I believe, has any specimen been discovered in immediate proximity to relics of that age, or even to any site of Roman occupation.

“The specimens from Somerset, unfortunately damaged at the edges, are of special interest for the perfection in their workmanship. The bronze also has assumed the highly-polished, dark-coloured patina, resembling that of objects of classical antiquity, and rarely if ever equalled on the other relics under consideration. The dimensions are as follows:—length,  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches; diameter of the handle, nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch; of the bowl, rather over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The ornament presents slight variations, which seem to prove that the two objects, if, as I believe, they were castings, were not produced from the same mould, although they closely resemble each other. The curiously-involved designs on the reverses of the handles (see Plate XVIII., figs. 2 and 3) are not identical, although at the first glance it might be supposed that they are repetitions. In execution they are peculiar; there is only a very slight degree of relief in the ornament, in some parts only the field is slightly depressed, in others the effect is assisted by a certain slight rounding off of the edges of the design, a process frequently made available by artificers of a much later period and wholly distinct school of metallurgical manipulation, namely in the mediæval enamels, on the surfaces to which vitrified colour was not applied; this has been termed by some French writers on the art as practised at Limoges and elsewhere about the twelfth century, *sous-relief*.

“It may deserve notice, that the circular concentric mouldings on the obverse of the handle (see Plate XVIII. and woodcut, fig. 1), as also the handles of four other specimens previously described, bear much resemblance to work on certain Roman or Gallo-Roman objects, for instance on bronze saucepans (*trullæ* ?), of which examples found at Arnagill, near



BRONZE SPOONS FOUND AT WESTON, NEAR BATH.

1. One of a Pair of Bronze Spoons found at Weston (full size).    2. Ornamentation on the reverse of the handle of fig. 1 (full size).  
3. Reverse of handle of the other Spoon (figured in the text).

Swinton Park, Yorkshire, were published by Mr Charles Tucker in this Journal ;<sup>1</sup> one, found in the Isle of Ely, was exhibited by Mr Goddard Johnson at the meeting of the Institute at Norwich in 1847 ; and five,

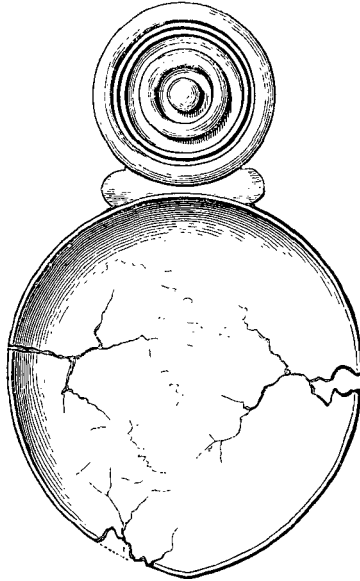


Fig. 1.

One of a pair of Bronze Spoons found at Weston, near Bath.  
(Scale two-thirds original size.)

brought to light on the Castle Howard estate in Yorkshire, have presented to Mr Oldfield the subject of a very valuable memoir, published in the *Archæologia*.<sup>2</sup>

“ In these Roman vessels, and also in other objects of the same period,

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Journal*, vol. vi. p. 47.

<sup>2</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. xli., pl. xv. p. 325, where notices of other specimens may be found. Mr Eroyd Smith has described examples found near Abergele, N. Wales, *Trans. Lanc. and Chest. Hist. Soc.*, 1868.

the circular mouldings seem undoubtedly to have been produced on the lathe. On the Celtic objects under consideration, they do not appear to have been thus worked; these concentric ornaments were doubtless produced in the mould, with the admirable precision that characterises the works of the skilful artificers of the period. It has, however, been suggested that the model, of wood possibly, from which that part of the concave mould was formed, must apparently have been turned on the lathe. The use of that mechanical appliance amongst the Celtic peoples presents a subject of considerable interest.<sup>1</sup>

(2.) The following Coins and Medals purchased for the Museum were exhibited :—

1. Aureus of Valentian II.
2. Aureus of Honorius.
3. Silver Medallion—William III. of England on the Peace at Ryswick, *rare*.
4. Another of William III. on his Landing at Torbay, *also rare*.
5. Medal of Charles II.
6. Tin Coin of Bombay, George II.

The following Communications were read :—