

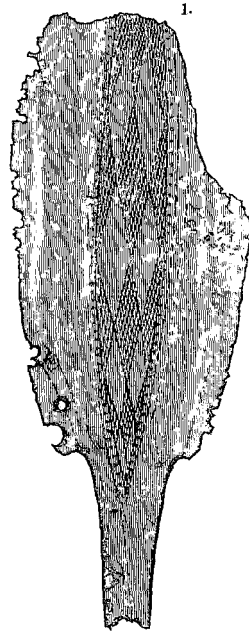
IV.

NOTICE OF A SMALL BRONZE BLADE FOUND IN A SEPULCHRAL TUMULUS OR CAIRN AT ROGART, SUTHERLAND, AND OF SIMILAR BRONZE IMPLEMENTS FOUND IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF SCOTLAND. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

The Rev. J. M. Joass has kindly sent to me this bronze blade (now exhibited), which was recently found in a cabinet at Dunrobin, where it had been laid carefully aside and forgotten. From a note attached to it, however, Mr Joass has no doubt it is the "*dagger*" blade described by the Rev. John Mackenzie, in his account of the parish of Rogart, Sutherland, in 1834, which was published in the "New Statistical Account of Scotland," vol. xv., Edinburgh, 1845.

The Rev. Mr Mackenzie refers to it as follows:—

"Tradition accords with the rude but certain monuments of battles, in showing that Rogart was in past times the scene of violent contests, and of much bloodshed. A ridge of hills crossing the eastern extremity of the parish from north to south, and extending from Strathbrora to Strathfleet, is covered with tumuli, which appear to have been thrown over the slain where they fell. One of these was opened lately by dykers erecting a fence around the glebe, having no idea that they invaded the resting-place of a warrior, probably of an ancestor. They found in the centre of it a stone coffin, containing mouldered bones, and the blade of a dirk or short dagger, which seemed to have been wielded by the hand of some leader, being of a more costly description than the common



1. Bronze Blade found in a tumulus at Rogart, Sutherland. (Actual size.)
2. Section across blade.

dirk, coated with gold, and marked with lines crossing one another at acute angles, and terminating in the point. It is likely that this bloody instrument was broken and covered in the wound it inflicted, and was thus retained in the body of the victim."—P. 50.

In this detailed description we have probably an account of a cairn covering a stone sepulchral cist, with its not unusual accompanying bronze implement, the presence of which we do not now think it necessary to account for, by supposing it to have been buried in the body of the dead. This blade is formed of a yellow bronze, showing a fine patinated surface, of a mixed yellow and green colour. It is leaf-shaped in form, having a narrow tang or stalk at one extremity, from which it gradually expands into the broad body of the leaf, and then probably tapered to a sharp-pointed extremity in front, which, however, is unfortunately broken off. The tang measures nearly an inch in length, and what remains of the blade, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Its total length being $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in its greatest breadth across the blade. The blade is thickest along its centre, and becomes thinner towards each edge, which is sharp; along the thicker middle part of the blade there is cut an oval-shaped pattern of fine lines, crossing one another diagonally, so as to form a series of sharp-pointed, lozenge-shaped figures, which are alternately plain and covered with fine lines, and a series of small dots run round the outer margin of the whole oval figure. The blade is slightly grooved longitudinally on each side of this central figure, as if with a gouge, and becomes much thinner beyond this towards its edges. It weighs about two-thirds of an ounce.

Another instance of the discovery of a bronze blade, of almost exactly similar character, occurred at Balblair, Parish of Creich, in the same county of Sutherland. It was found in a cairn of stones, along with what appeared to be the remains of burnt bones, covered over by a coarse clay sepulchral urn, and is now also preserved in the museum of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, at Dunrobin Castle.

I had the pleasure, through the Rev. Mr Joass, of exhibiting it to the Society in May 1868; and an account of it, with a figure, is published in vol. viii. of our Proceedings. (I repeat the woodcut here, to show its great similarity to this bronze blade found at Rogart.)

These bronze blades correspond very closely in size; they have the

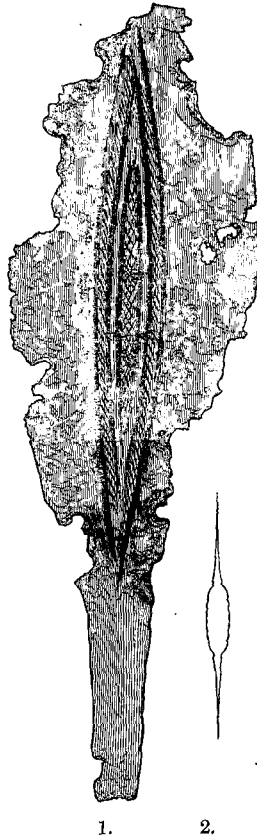
same leaf-like shape, tapering point, and the thin edges, which are sharp all round, except at the slender tang. The Balblair blade is, however, rather thicker in the middle, its ornamentation being that of a long, pointed, and projecting oval rib, open along the middle; it is, however, also covered with incised patterns of oblique and crossing lines; in this respect at least resembling the bronze blade found at Rogart. It weighs about half an ounce.

Another small blade of bronze, of a more regularly oval shape, and perhaps more worn than those now described, is now also exhibited.

It is closely allied to the bronzes just described, having a thicker portion along the middle of the blade, and one extremity, where the tang has been apparently broken off, being thicker than the other extremity, which, as well as the edges, are much thinner in character. The edges, however, have been much worn away, so that little more than its thicker or central portion remains; of a somewhat oval shape. It measures about 2 inches in length, by $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in greatest breadth, and is covered by a beautiful green patina, and weighs $\frac{1}{4}$ of an ounce. It was found at Lieraboll, Kildonan, further to the north than that previously described, in the same county of Sutherland.

Like the other instances described, it was found along with incinerated bones, and under an inverted clay sepulchral urn, about 3 feet below the surface of the ground, near the outer margin of a tumulus.

This tumulus was the largest of a great group of tumuli, among which



1. Bronze Blade found in a cairn at Balblair, Creich, Sutherland. (Actual size.)
2. Section across blade.

were various parallel lines of standing-stones, about 6 feet apart. The tumulus itself had been surrounded by a series of stone slabs, some of which are just seen above the present surface of the ground, and others rise to about 2 feet above it. The urn was found about 3 feet deep, at the east side of one of these stone slabs, which measured 3 feet broad by 4 feet long. Mr Joass was inclined to think it might have been a secondary interment.

Mr Joass says, this field of graves is surrounded by traces of a stone fence, enclosing about 10 acres of ground. There are signs of small enclosures, some circular, and others more oval in form, about 30 feet in diameter, in the line of this fence; outside, there are scattered tumuli, extending for a mile westward. To the north-west, on the slope of a hill, about a quarter of a mile off, are to be seen two hut-circles, and many more tumuli.

From the number and variety of these ancient remains, the Rev. Mr Joass intends getting a careful survey and plan made of the locality, and will give to the Society a detailed account of the antiquities of the whole neighbourhood.

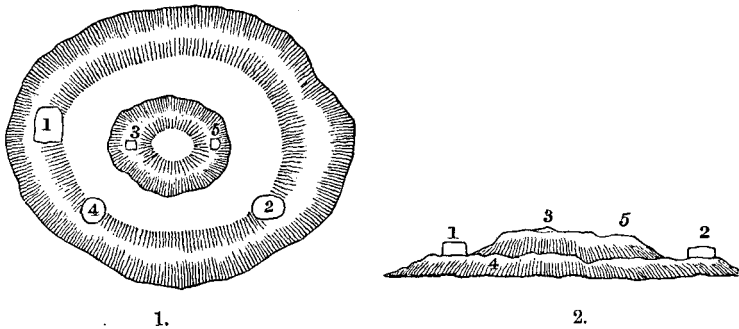
In March 1862 a "Notice of Remains, found under a Cairn surrounded by upright stones, on the Farm of Burreldales, Parish of Auchterless, Aberdeenshire," by James Hay Chalmers, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., was read before the Society, and an abstract of it is published in our Proceedings, vol. iv. p. 429.

Some slight diagrams, in illustration of the paper, were also sent. One of these is a rough plan of the cairn, or tumulus of stones and earth, which seemed to consist of a central portion, some 30 feet across, and rather hollow in the middle, with an outer border of lower elevation surrounding the whole, measuring altogether some 50 feet in diameter. (I subjoin a copy of this diagram).



1. Bronze Blade found in a tumulus at Lieraboll, Kildonan, Sutherland.
2. Section across blade. (Actual size.)

There are two standing-stones—(see figs. 1 and 2), a larger (No. 1), and a smaller (No. 2)—still remaining, on the opposite sides of the tumulus, which, along with several others, are probably the remains of a stone circle. Several small stone cists were found in the tumulus—one (No. 3), about 3 feet deep, 20 inches long, and 16 inches wide, contained the remains of a clay urn with incinerated ashes; another (No. 4), on the outer circle, contained also ashes, but did not appear to be regularly enclosed with stones. On the other side of the tumulus another cist (No. 5)



(1.) Plan, and (2.) Elevation of Cairn or Tumulus at Burreldaes,
Aberdeenshire.

was discovered; it contained the remains of an urn, with burnt bone ashes, and a small blade of bronze; from a sketch, also sent, this blade had been evidently similar in character to those now described. It was much corroded, but enough remained to show it had been of a long oval or pointed shape, with a narrow tang at one extremity. It measured nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in greatest breadth, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in greatest thickness in the middle part of the blade. The portion of one of the urns presented to the Museum shows a very peculiar character of ornamentation, consisting of a numerous series of shallow, round indentations, as if made with the blunt extremity of a

small stick, and there are here and there small, smooth, short bars of clay, projecting boldly, as ornaments, from its surface.

Dr John Stuart, in his important work on "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. ii., devotes a chapter to describe "The Early Modes of Burial." He there refers to the discovery at Lawhead, near St Andrews, Fifeshire, of a series of sepulchral urns, containing incinerated bones. Dr Stuart first describes a similar discovery of a large group of sepulchral long cists, containing human remains, at Haly Hill. He then says :—"On the platform at the opposite side of the valley, near Lawpark Nurseries, where stone coffins have occasionally been found, a group of urns was discovered. They were all near to a large stone, which, being in the way of the plough, was dug up by the farmer. There were no cists, but in four instances triangular holes were found, formed of pieces of flagstone, within which were urns filled with calcined bones. Eighteen large urns were found, besides two discovered by the farmer in removing the large stone referred to, in one of which were two thin bronze knives, about 3 inches in length. Beside the urns a flint-flake was picked up, and large quantities of the teeth of oxen and sheep, and cores of their horns. The urns varied in height from 10 to 16 inches, and in diameter from 8 to 11 inches. Some of the urns were inverted, while those which stood on end were covered by flat stones. All the urns contained calcined bones. In one case an inverted urn had another larger urn just above it. The outer urn was broken, and portions of it were found among the bones in the entire urn. In the progress of agricultural operations quantities of stones and boulders have been carried away from the spot, so that a cairn may have originally covered the spot; and in a tumulus, which seemed to have been surrounded by a circle of stones, at a distance of about 100 yards from the spot, a rude stone cist containing a human skeleton was found."—P. lix.

I applied to the keeper of the Museum of St Andrews University, where these relics are now preserved, for some more details of the bronze knives and urns referred to by Dr Stuart, and, in the absence of Professor Heddle, the Curator, had a polite reply from Mr A. P. Hodge, with outlines of the bronzes. These show oval-shaped blades, terminating in a narrow tang at one extremity, they resemble generally the blades I have already described, though apparently a good deal weathered, and now

measure about 3 inches in total length, one blade being rather less than 1 inch in breadth, and the other a little more. The urns, Mr Hodge tells me, generally resemble the ordinary clay sepulchral urn; many have a narrow projecting band round the urn, rather below the middle of its height, and they have a broad ornamented collar or border round the top of the urn, the rest being unornamented. The ornamentation is generally made up of various straight, oblique, or crossing lines, in some cases marked as if by the impression of a twisted cord. In some we have vandyked and in others a series of arched or rounded patterns. In one, about 11 inches in height, the pattern consists of alternate rows of round, indented depressions, as if made with the blunt extremity of a small stick (reminding me of the one found at Burreldales, already referred to), and also a series of short, oblique lines, indented by a sharper instrument, or by the finger nail, resembling thus the patterns on some of the vessels found in the Swiss Lake-houses, as well as those found in some of the brochs, as pointed out by the Keeper of our Museum, Mr Joseph Anderson.

Dr John Stuart refers also to early interments beside stone circles, and otherwise, where small portions of bronze have been discovered; but the details given are generally of so slight a character, that we cannot say whether they belong to the same style of implement or not. Indeed, the remains themselves appear to have been in many cases so very brittle, and so imperfect, that their original character could not be easily determined.

In April 1864 the Rev. J. M. Joass, then of Eddertoun, Ross-shire, presented to the Museum of the Society a greenish coloured glass bead, ornamented with spiral patterns of white enamel, and also a small bronze blade. In a communication read at the time, which accompanied this donation, ("Notice of a Cist and its contents at Eddertoun, Ross-shire, recently opened," with Plate, Proc. Soc. Antiq., vol. v. p. 311), Mr Joass states, this tumulus was one of several tumuli, associated with hut-circles, and was cut through in the course of making the Ross-shire Railway, about three miles west of the Eddertoun Station. The tumulus contained a central short stone cist, with remains of what seemed to be burnt bones, and the glass bead and small blade of bronze. This blade of bronze is much corroded, but is somewhat oval in form, measuring now $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches

in-length, by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in greatest breadth, and seems—from its shape and thinness of blade towards its edges—much to resemble those previously described. A trench had apparently been dug around the margin of the tumulus, and in it, on one side of the tumulus, a large cinerary urn, containing burnt bones, was found, and also some small fragments of oxidised bronze.

In a valuable memoir on “Ancient British Barrows,” communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of London, by the late lamented John Thurnam, M.D., F.S.A., and since published in the “Archæologia” (vols. xlii. p. 161, and xliii. p. 285, 1873), he gives, under the designation of “*Razor Blades*,” an account of various small bronze blades found in England—one of a delicate oval form, like the leaf of the ribwort, *Plantago media*, ornamented with parallel flutings down its centre, was found in an urn of burnt bones, with amber beads or studs, in a barrow at Winterslow, and is now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. It weighs half an ounce. A second oval blade, with a hole pierced in the tang, and little more than a quarter of an ounce in weight, and grooved somewhat like the last, was found in a barrow at Priddy, Somerset, and is now in the British Museum. Dr Thurnam refers to the Balblair blade described by me, as belonging to the same class, and repeats my figure of it. He also gives figures of the others he has described.

In a previous paper read before the Society in 1866, “On Three Small Bronze Blades, or Instruments believed to be Razors, and a Bronze Socketed Celt in the Museum of the Society; with Remarks on other small Bronze Blades,” I described other bronze blades of a somewhat different shape, to which I shall again shortly refer.

Small, thin double-edged bronze blades of a somewhat corresponding character, though not of exactly the same shape as those first described, have been discovered in a very few instances in Ireland; and in February 1866, I called the attention of the Society to three small bronze blades, somewhat corresponding to these, found with a bronze socketed celt, which were in the Museum of the Society. As this paper is published in vol. vi. of the Proceedings, p. 357, I need not refer to it further than to say, that, at that time, I could not find anything to show where, or under what conditions, these curious bronze relics

had been actually discovered, though I believed they had been, in all probability, found in Scotland. Since that date I have had Mr Joseph Anderson's able assistance in my search, and he has called my attention to a short notice published in the "Archæologia Scotica," which, I have little doubt, supplies the much-desired information. It occurs in vol. iii., 1831, and is included in a "Summary of various Communications made to the Society since the publication of the last volume (1822), of early Sepulchral Remains having been discovered." It is as follows:—

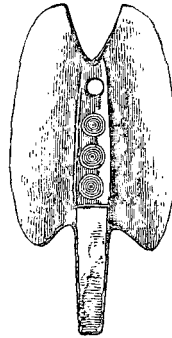
"Notice by A. Seton, Esq., of Tumuli which were discovered at Bowerhouses, near Dunbar, in a letter communicated to the Secretary."

"The accompanying remains, said to have been taken from a tumulus, consist of copper implements (the weapons usually named celts), and apparently plates of copper armour. They were found in two urns—one of which was of considerable dimensions, being nearly a foot and a half in height; the other was of small size. Burnt bones, portions of skulls, charcoal, &c., were mixed with them. These relics were discovered during the course of levelling some ground at Bowerhouses, near Dunbar. I have not seen the place. The foundations of forts or buildings are said to have been traced there. Stone coffins have likewise been dug up, along with whet-stones, a drinking cup," &c.

These small blades weigh respectively,—the largest, slightly under an ounce and a quarter; the second, about half an ounce; and the third, rather under half an ounce. (See the annexed woodcuts.)

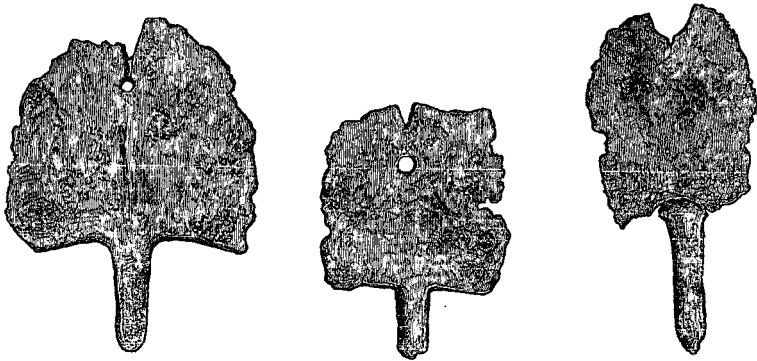
In the "List of Communications to the Society of Antiquaries," published in vol. iii. of the "Archæologia Scotica," this notice is combined with other notices by Mr A. Seton, as having been read under the date of 25th April 1825, which probably gives us an approximation to the date of the discovery.

From the details given we may suppose that this was also a tumulus or cairn, like those in Sutherland, with an interment by cremation, along



Bronze Blade found in Ireland. (One-half of actual size.)

with its usual large urn; and we know the old fancy, that any pieces of metal found were generally supposed to be the remains of armour. Perhaps the shape of these thin bronze blades, somewhat leaf-like, pierced with a small hole at one extremity, might suggest to the describer the idea of leaf-shaped portions of plate armour; the celt being, however, the only weapon found along with them.

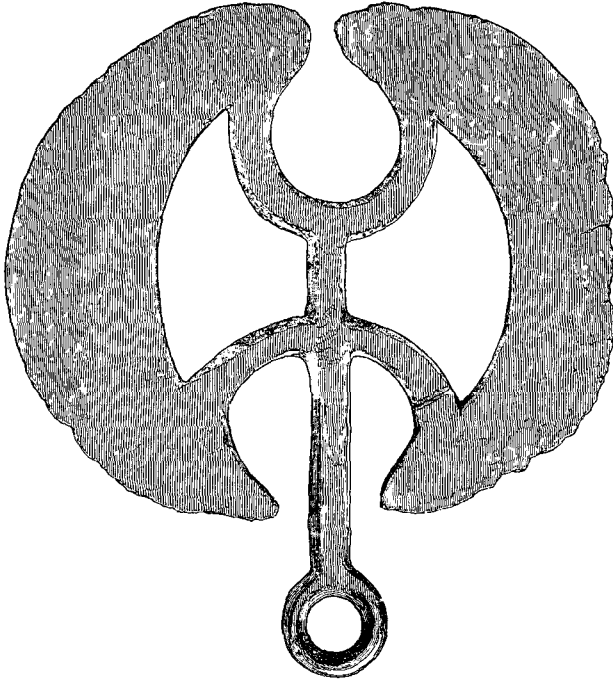


Three Bronze Blades in the Museum of the Society, believed to have been found in a Tumulus near Dunbar, Haddingtonshire. (One-half of actual size.)

Dr Thurnam, in the memoir already referred to, gives a figure of a small tanged bronze blade, partially broken, which seems to resemble these blades much more than the oval ones described. It was found at Stourhead, and is placed by him in the same class as the others referred to. Alongside of it he also figures the small bronze blade found in Anglesey, described by Mr Albert Way, in the "*Archæologia Cambrensis*" (xii. 10), which I have also referred to in my previous papers.

In April 1863 I presented to the Society a small double-bladed implement of bronze, of a peculiar circular form, which was found in an undisturbed bed of gravel in the valley of the Water of Leith, at Kinleith, near Currie. Its weight is a little over three quarters of an ounce, and

an account of it is published in vol. v. of the "Proceedings."¹ Though not of exactly the same shape as the other blades described, it seems allied to them in general character, and probably also in use.

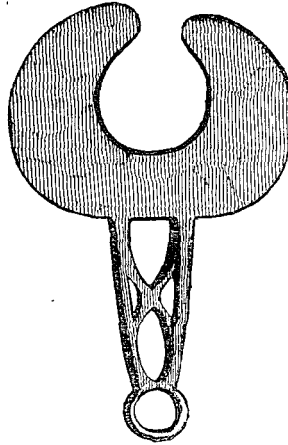


Bronze Blade found at Kinleith, near Edinburgh. (Actual size.)

In my previous papers on these bronze blades, already referred to, I showed its apparent relation to the other small bronze blades found in

¹ "Remarks on a Bronze Implement and Bones of the Ox and Dog found in a Bed of Undisturbed Gravel at Kinleith, near Currie, Mid-Lothian," Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., vol. v. p. 84, 1863.

Britain and Ireland, as well as to others of a corresponding character found in the Swiss Lake-dwellings, and I have there entered somewhat into their supposed age and use. I shall not return to the subject further than to say, that they appear all to be of great antiquity.



Bronze Crescent-shaped Blade found in Swiss Lake-dwellings.
(One-half of actual size.)

The pointed leaf-shaped or oval bronze blades first described have now been shown to be generally found along with sepulchral remains, under small rounded cairns or tumuli, associated with lines or circles of standing-stones, and frequently containing, in large urns, the incinerated bones of the burned dead. They have been apparently widely spread over the British Islands, the remains probably of some early Celtic or British tribes, who formerly occupied the greater part of our island.

I have already noticed the rounded or crescentic forms of the bronze blades found in the Swiss Lake-dwellings, which seemed at one time to be specially confined to them; now, however, I have recorded the occurrence of a bronze blade of a closely analogous character found in Scotland,

to which I have already referred. Since that date a bronze of a character closely corresponding to those of the Swiss Lake-dwellings, and indeed almost exactly to the distinctive one I have figured above, has been recorded as "a razor of bronze," and figured by M. G. de Mortillet in his interesting "*Materiaux pour L'Histoire Primitive et Philosophique de L'Homme.*" (vol. iv. 1868, p. 328), as having been found in the river Seine at Paris. M. Mortillet says, "C'est un rasoir de bronze, trouvé aussi dans la Seine, à Paris. Il rappelle tout à fait ceux trouvés dans les terramares de l'Émilie. Pourtant M. Leguay doute encore de l'exactitude de cette détermination."¹

We know that Lake-dwellings, apparently of a similar character to those in Switzerland, were inhabited in Thrace in the time of Herodotus (B.C. 459), as I have already noticed in my former paper,² and from the comparative isolation of many of these Lake-dwellings among the Alps in ancient days, they might possibly be also occupied to a comparatively recent date, having little or no communication, it may be, with the more civilised and advanced communities of the neighbouring low countries. These are questions, however, that we are not able as yet to determine. Lake-dwellings, more or less analogous to those of Switzerland, have been observed in many parts of the world, and belong to various periods, down even to our own times. In our own country, indeed, the first instances of a corresponding kind of dwelling were noticed and described by a member of our Society as long ago as 1812-13.³ Sir John Lubbock, Bart., in his valuable work on "*Pre-Historic Times,*" gives details both of ancient and modern classes of these peculiar dwellings. He tells an interesting fact in reference to those described by Herodotus,—“I have been informed by a friend who lives at Salonica, that the fishermen of Lake Prasias still inhabit wooden cottages built over the water, as in the time of Herodotus.”—P. 169. 2d ed. 1869. Meantime it is interesting to find bronzes similar to those of the Swiss Pile-dwellings at such a distance from them. I do not refer now to the correspondence of many

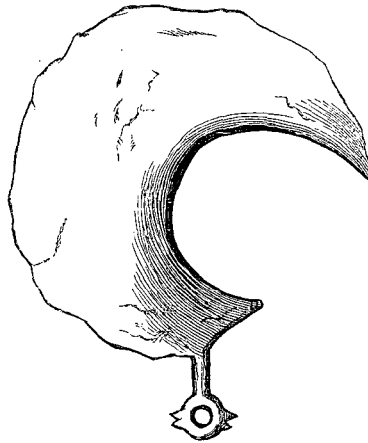
¹ Louis Leguay, "*Antiquités anté-historiques et Gauloises des Parisii, dans Bull. Soc. Parisienne arch. et hist.*" Paris 1867, p. 59-68, 6 fig.

² Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. vol. v. p. 96.

³ Notice of Two "*Crannoges*" or Palisaded Islands in Bute, with Plans. By John Mackinlay. Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot., vol. iii. p. 43, 1866.

of the relics of these same Swiss Lake-dwellings to others found elsewhere. Bronze "razors" with a single-edged blade are also found, along with other varieties, at the Lake-dwellings of Neuchâtel.

Rounded bronze blades of at least a somewhat corresponding character and size to those of the Swiss Lake-Dwellings, being crescentic in shape, but the handle fixed towards one extremity of the crescent, have been found, in early Etruscan tombs, as in that near Bologna described



Bronze Crescent-shaped Blade found in the Necropolis of Villanova.
(Half of actual size.)

by Count Gozzadini in 1855, a note of which I have given in my paper ("On the Bronze Blades and Celt in the Museum of the Society, &c.," Proc. vol. vi. p. 357, 1866), for which I was indebted to Dr Keller of Zurich, Hon. Mem. S.A. Scot., &c. Since that time Count Jean Gozzadini has published an account of the Necropolis of Villanova, near Bologna, Italy, which was brought by him before the International Congress of Archæology at Brussels in 1870. The necropolis was believed by Count Gozzadini and other eminent archæologists to be undoubtedly

Etruscan in character, and here again were discovered no less than twelve of these crescentic shaped bronze blades exactly similar in character and size to that already referred to, and described by him as found in an Etruscan tomb in 1855. As the Count gives an interesting summary of the whole question of the supposed use of these bronze blades, I have taken the liberty of quoting it from his paper,¹ and also give a copy of his illustrative figure of one of the bronze blades (see woodcut):—

“ Mais les plus extraordinaires des *cultri* en bronze, caractéristiques de cette époque-là dans notre territoire, rares ou inconnus ailleurs, sont au nombre de douze, en forme de croissant, très-minces, tranchants seulement dans la périclité convexe, avec un rebord dans la cavité opposée et un tout petit manche (fig.) La finesse de ces instruments et l'impossibilité de les serrer fort, nous montrent qu'ils étaient destinés à couper des choses peu résistantes et on dirait presque à raser. Si on voulait leur attribuer un usage dans les cérémonies religieuses on pourrait croire que les parents du défunt s'en servaient pour raser leurs cheveux en signe de deuil et pour lui en faire un dernier don.² Ceux qui préféreraient attribuer à ces ustensiles un usage de ménage, pourraient les supposer avec plus d'audace les rasoirs des anciens habitants de ces pays-ci, car il n'est pas à croire que les Italiens aient commencé à se raser seulement au milieu du cinquième siècle de Rome, comme on l'a cru d'après un passage de Varron;³ l'illustre professeur Rocchi a démontré dans une savante dissertation, que j'ai publiée,⁴ que les Étrusques se rasèrent bien avant cette époque.

Si on voulait objecter que ces *cultri* sont trop différents, dans la forme, des rasoirs dont on se sert aujourd'hui, on pourrait aussi répondre qu'ils seraient tout de même très-propres à raser, soit en les prenant par le manche pour raser de bas en haut, soit en les prenant avec l'index et le médium au de là de la cavité et avec le pouce en deça pour raser de haut en bas. On pourrait ajouter que les arguments ne manquent pas pour faire croire que le rasoir ou la *novacula* des Romains, encore inconnue, fût en forme de croissant; car Martial nous en donne presque la forme, en disant qu'on conservait la *novacula* dans un étui *recourbé*.⁵ L'autorité de Columella n'est pas à négliger non plus, lorsque, en-

¹ La Nécropole de Villanova Découverte et Décrite par Le Comte et Sénateur Jean Gozzadini, &c. Bologne, 1870. 8vo. pp. 80.

² Kirchm. De funer. p. 183.

³ De R. R. lib. ii. c. 11.

⁴ Voy. Di un Sepolcreto Etrusco scoperto presso Bologna, 1855. 4to.

⁵ “Sed fuerit *curva* cum tuta *novacula theca*
Frangam tonsori crura manusque simul.”

Mart. lib. ii. ep. 58.

seignant la manière d'apprêter les navets, il prescrit qu'on les pèle avec la *novacula* et tout de suite il ajoute, qu'on les coupe avec le fer en *croissant*.¹ Car si, comme vraiment il paraît, Columella voulait indiquer le même instrument pour l'une et pour l'autre opération, on aura en lui aussi un témoignage que la *novacula* était non seulement recourbée, mais en forme de croissant, particularité qui cadre de plus en plus avec la forme de ces *cultri*. Il faut peut-être attribuer à la ressemblance de cette forme le nom d'un poisson, qui, au dire de Pline,² s'appelle non seulement *novacula*, mais, à ce qu'il paraît, aussi *Orbis*,³ ou roud selon la signification du mot et selon la description faite par ce naturaliste." Pp. 59-61.

Count Gozzadini also details the discovery of similar crescentic-shaped bronzes at various other Etruscan sites in the north of Italy.

Bronze blades of a corresponding character are preserved among the Etruscan and early Roman bronzes of the British Museum. These include several varieties in shape—some rounded in outline, others double-edged and rather square shaped, with small handles, somewhat like those found at Dunbar, and some also pierced with holes, as if for suspension; but all correspond somewhat in character and size to some of those I have described. It would therefore seem to be the fact that sharp-edged curved blades were used by the Etruscans, as well as by the inhabitants of the Swiss Lake-dwellings, that a similar blade has been got near Paris, and an analogous one in Scotland, and that other rounded, as well as somewhat square shaped blades, a few specimens of which have been found in Ireland and Britain, seem also to correspond closely in character and size to bronzes found in Italy of early Roman manufacture.

Lastly, though belonging probably to a somewhat later date, we have

¹ *ferramento lunato*. Colum. de R. R. lib. xii. p. 56.

² H. N. lib. xxxii. c. 5.

³ Il paraît que les commentateurs font de la *novacula* et de l'*orbe* deux espèces de poisson; mais si on lit avec attention le passage cité de Pline, on voit qu'il se propose de parler de la nature des poissons et il le fait quant au Scare, au Loup, aux Murènes, au Polype, au Muge, et à l'*Antio*, parlant uniquement de la *novacula* pour dire l'effet que son attouchement produit sur les Murènes. Il ne fait pas mention de l'*Orbe* ni pour sa nature particulière, ni pour ses rapports avec les poissons dont il nous décrit les mœurs, et il n'aurait pas eu motif d'en parler si ce poisson n'était pas tout un avec la *novacula* et si la définition qu'il donne de celle-ci ne devait pas se rapporter à ce qu'il dit de l'*Orbe*.

the numerous small single-edged or bladed bronze "razor-knives," as they have been designated, almost like modern razor blades in shape, of the Norsemen of the north of Europe. They are generally cut square across at one extremity, vary in breadth, and taper towards the other extremity, to terminate there in a curved and ornamented handle; the blade itself being often ornamented with a galley, or other rude engraving.

From the slender character, delicacy of finish, and extreme thinness and sharpness of these small oval shaped bronze blades first described, they do not seem well fitted for weapons of offence; it has been supposed as darts, or mere arrow-heads. It has seemed to me more likely that they were used, as well as the other rounded bronze blades referred to, for depilatory or other toilet purposes, and I find that Dr Thurnam, in the valuable memoir referred to before, where he arranges the bronzes found, under various groups and designations, has also given to these small oval blades a similar attribution and designation.