

A design for the new Town Hall at Rugby by Mr. Millican was exhibited.

A ground plan of proposed alterations in the Church of Thedingworth, Leicestershire, was considered. The Committee suggested that some improvement might be made in the position of the lectern and seats against the Chancel Arch.

Mr. Goddard laid before the Committee plans of a new Church to be built at Kilby, Leicestershire, and drawings of the old one, which is falling to pieces. Several improvements were considered by the Committee to be very desirable; *e.g.* that all the best part of the Church should not be occupied by the appropriated pews, but that at least a portion there should be left free; and also that a row of seats immediately in front of the Chancel should be removed, and instead of them that the seats in the nave should be extended further eastward. If a little variety could be introduced into the tracery of the windows it would much improve the general appearance of the Church.

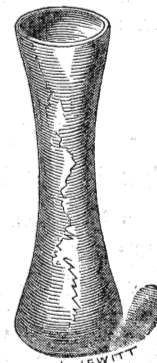
Mr. Gillett laid upon the table plans and elevations of cottages, and several very effective architectural drawings, by W. J. Gillett, Esq., which were much admired.

Mr. Thompson exhibited a collection of Roman antiquities recently discovered at Hallaton, Leicestershire; and also some Anglo-Saxon weapons and ornaments of a female found at North Luffenham, Rutlandshire. The description of these, read by Mr. Thompson, was as follows:—

#### ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON ANTIQUITIES.

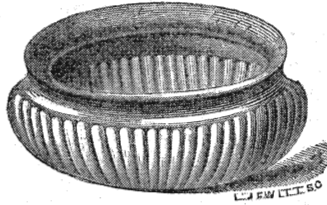
I HAVE to lay before the Committee two small collections of antiquities. The first consists of relics of the Roman inhabitants of Leicestershire, during the period when this island was under the sway of that people. The articles about to be exhibited were found in the neighbourhood of Hallaton, on land belonging to Mr. Simkin, and near to the property of Lord Berners, close to the "Ram's Head Spinney." They are varied in character, and their discovery is a novelty in our archæological experiences in Leicestershire. The relics may be classified according to the materials of which they are composed.

First, I will mention the vessels and fragments of glass. Of these three are lachrymatories—small bottles so called from the supposition that the tears of mourners were collected in them, at the burial of the dead in Roman times. One of these is complete—the other two are the bulbs only of the bottles. The Abbé Cochet, in his valuable work on *La Normandie*



Lachrymatory  
or Unguentaria, half size  
of original.

*Souterraine*, states that these vessels were formerly used as perfume bottles, and he mentions that one he discovered in a Roman cemetery at Cany was filled with an oily liquor: while another, of bronze, when brought to light still exhaled the odour of an ancient perfume. Next to the lachrymatories, I notice the fragments of ribbed glass. They form portions of a vessel which probably resembled in shape our modern basins, and were used for some domestic purpose.



Vessel of ribbed glass (restored).

The glass, after being washed, looks as sound and fresh as if made yesterday.\* A third description of glass is the fragment of a long-necked bottle of a deep blue colour, with a portion of its handle in the peculiarly Roman form. A similar vessel was found at Cany, still full of some liquid, among others designed for funereal libations. The lachrymatories are more common in interments of the Lower Empire than those of a previous date.

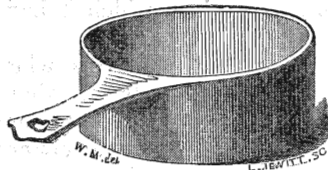
Next to the glass may be named the articles of clay. They are pateræ of various forms; but they are in a fragmentary condition, having been patched together from the broken bits. These, though generally known as pateræ, evidently divide themselves into two classes, nearly resembling our teacups and saucers. The polish is worn off in most cases. Enough remains, however to show the elegant outlines and fine character of the ware. No



Patera.

maker's names are discoverable. All resemble articles found in the Roman cemeteries of Normandy.

The novelties in this discovery are a patella of bronze, handles



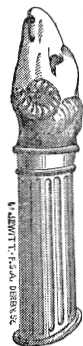
Patella of bronze.

of vessels of some kind, a three-mouthed fragment, and small portions of the rims and bottoms of other vessels. I cannot but think the patella was intended for sacrificial purposes—was used to pour libations on the sacrifices as they were burning on the altar. The three-mouthed vessel may have contained incense; but I must confess ignorance respecting its proper use.

\* The complete shape is here given in order to shew the form of the object when perfect.

One handle is heavy, owing to its internal rod of iron, which is cased in bronze. At the end will be found the figure of a ram's head. The other handle presents the figure of a youth dancing.

Mr. Charles Simkin has favoured me with the following account of the discovery:—



“Agreeably to your request, I send you a few particulars as to the finding of the Roman Earthenware, &c., and a short description of the country round the place where they were buried. They were discovered by some drainers in December last, on land belonging to Mr. Simkin, in the parish of Hallaton, at a point where the parishes of Hallaton, East Norton, and Keythorpe meet, about one mile east of the seat of Lord Berners; they were buried about two feet below the surface, about half way up a steep hill, facing to the south, on the summit of which hill the ground has evidently been disturbed, and two ancient roads appear to have crossed at that point. They appear to have been placed in the ground separately, and occupied a space of four feet by two, and had evidently been covered over by wood; in the skillet were the remains of bones, mixed with something of a dark colour. Before the enclosure of the parish of Hallaton, an ancient road passed close to the spot where the articles were found. This road appears to have been very much used, and would be the nearest way from Medbourn to Burrow, at both of which places there were Roman Stations; and on all the highest hills between those two places there are evidently traces of entrenchments, which from their form appear to be Roman; particularly those at Hallaton and Tilton, at the former, of which places Roman coins have been found, and at a distance from the village, adjoining the road which I have mentioned.

“On enquiry, I find that a few years ago some labourers, when digging on land belonging to Lord Berners, for a plantation, about four hundred yards from the place where these bronzes, &c., were found, discovered a quantity of curious articles, but I cannot ascertain in whose possession they now are; probably Lord Berners may have them.

“I intend to make further search on the spot, and will let you know the result.”

The various articles are so fragile that I have placed them on a separate table to remove the necessity of handling them. [Here the articles were exhibited.]

Very different from the Roman remains are the next which I have the pleasure of bringing under your notice. And here I may remark that we gather more vivid notions of the condition of the ancients from a contemplation of their material works, than we can from any amount of book reading. In the productions of Roman artists—in their elegant vases and fictile ware, their ornamented bronzes, and their ribbed and coloured glass—we feel we are brought into contact with a race as far advanced as ourselves in many of the arts, whose luxurious homes were adorned with all that confers grace and refinement on daily life. But how great is the transition from Roman to Anglo-Saxon antiquities! The various objects we have just examined create an impression of the peaceful, the tranquil, the regular enjoyment of existence and security—when secluded rural villas were the abodes of people familiar as we moderns are with much that imparts to life its charm and its comfort. In the remains of the early Anglo-Saxons we observe, on the contrary, an absence of the graceful and the beautiful; but the presence of all that is hard, stern, and savage. Their ornaments resemble the trinkets of the wandering gipsy—their jars the vessels on which he cooks his meal over his camp fire; while they are almost invariably accompanied in the graves of this people with the sword, the spear, the knife, and the shield of the warrior. From these remains we receive evidence unavoidable that the earlier Anglo-Saxon led a predatory life, lived with his arms in his hands, and died dreaming of the halls of Odin, where braves quaffed mead from the skulls of their foemen, at banquets ever renewed, and their joys were felt in the clash of swords and the rustle of spears. If there be a touch of taste, it is in the ornaments of the women; but nought else is lighted up with a spark of grace or enlivened by a gleam of beauty. Between the days when the former possessors of the articles just inspected were settled on the soil, and the days when the Anglo-Saxons came, we cannot fail from these remains to infer, that an interval of violent and bloody strife must have elapsed, during which the Roman villas were deserted, and their owners fled in dismay, a flood of darkness and barbarism meanwhile inundating the land.

I will now illustrate these observations by first describing and then producing the articles found at North Luffenham, and politely forwarded for exhibition to this Committee by Mrs. Morris. The articles are:

1. A sword blade, completely rusted, measuring two feet six inches in length. It was made for cutting and thrusting, and was double-edged.

2. A spear head, with a long shaft, and the ferule, both completely oxydized. The Saxon spear was usually seven or eight feet long.

3. A knife, also rusted. This was an invariable accompaniment of an Anglo-Saxon's spear.

4. The umbo of a shield. This part of the Saxon's armour was generally laid flat over the middle of the corpse.

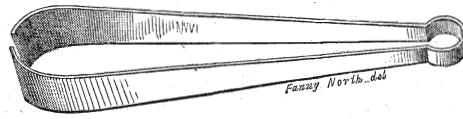
5. A skull, found with the weapons. It is of the elongated form of the Teutonic race, differing from the rounder shape of the Celtic cranium. Various teeth were found near the skull, and their state of wear and decay proves them to have been those of a person of advanced age.

6. A jar, blackened by exposure to the action of fire, and which seems to have been used for culinary purposes. Similar vessels are said to be commonly found at the feet of the skeletons disinterred.

7. A cinerary urn, of dark clay, rude in shape and badly baked.

8. Fibulæ of various shapes, all peculiar to the inhabitants of the Midland and part of the Northern counties.

9. Tweezers and ear-pick. These are supposed to have been



Tweezers, two-thirds of actual size.

suspended from the girdle of the Anglo-Saxon female, in the same way as the *chatelaine* of modern times is sometimes worn by ladies. These articles

seem to be of gold.

10. The necklace. This is not so fine a specimen as the necklace found at Beeby, and forwarded for exhibition by Mr. Marriott of that place, at our last autumnal meeting; but it is of the same class. The amber bead was supposed to have operated as a charm in protecting its wearer from the evil spirit.

There are other trifling articles not requiring special mention. All of them are very perishable, and will scarcely admit of being taken up for close examination.

I now have to read the account of the discovery, kindly furnished by Mrs. Morris.

“I have much pleasure in giving you all the information in my power, relative to the Anglo-Saxon antiquities found in our neighbourhood. The remains were discovered in the spring of 1855, on the right hand side of the road leading from North Luffenham to the village of Edith Weston (which is a mile distant), in a sand pit, on a piece of ground belonging to Mr. Morris. The road is rather lower than the field, which rises gradually on each side of it, and is open field land, ploughed and sown with a succession of crops; so that heavy implements, such as rollers and waggons, in harvest time have passed over it many hundreds of times. The surface is uniformly level for more than half a mile, and there is no inequality to mark the site of a burial ground. In the place where

the remains were found, is a fine bed of white sand, which a gentleman connected with a glass manufactory, who saw it a short time ago, told us was of excellent quality for that purpose, and far surpassed what was ordinarily used. It is dug by us for building purposes. Four or five skeletons, with the same number of fibulæ and a quantity of beads were found first, about one foot and a-half below the surface; also, two or three jars. I knew nothing about the discovery, till I accidentally met the cart going to the railway station, when one of the men told me they had found a quantity of bones, and had taken a great many, mixed with sand, in a former cart load. I stopped to examine it, and he picked out several pieces of jars, and he gave me three or four fibulæ, which I kept, and also some beads. They said that the jars and bones were all broken; their nearness to the surface, and the ploughs and heavy waggons having passed so closely over them, would account for their being in that state. The man who took up the jars said that two of them held skulls, but they broke to pieces as they were touched. I thought he must be mistaken. I told the men to be very careful in future, and bring me everything they found. I went there and stayed several hours one day, but nothing was then found. Afterwards, when digging further on to the eastward, about six yards from the spot where the first four were discovered, they found two more skeletons about six feet below the surface,—the skulls and some of the bones of which I send you; also, the sword, &c., which was found near one; the arrow heads and the spear head were found all together, and near the other, with one of the handsomest of the fibulæ. I think each skeleton had a fibula, and some beads were scattered about. A flat stone was placed over each; they were very near together. Stones were over the four first also, which were found near the surface, about sixteen inches square; one evidently bore marks of the action of fire—the little bit at the top of the box is part of it. The two jars were met with at the depth of six or seven feet; they were full of sand and *dark coloured earth*, of which there is nothing like near, as it is all sand. When the two lowest skeletons were disturbed, a strong ammoniacal smell proceeded from them; and when Mr. Morris went afterwards on horseback, the horse showed strong signs of disgust, and resolutely refused to go up to the sand pit, though he was in the habit at other times.

“The first skeletons found were about a foot, or a little more apart, but the men did not take exact notice. Probably there were more than four, as they took two cart loads with many bones, before I saw them; and they were quite ignorant of the nature of the place. The jars were not very near the last two skeletons; the fibulæ and beads were found with the skeletons both times, and I imagine each skeleton had its fibula and necklace of beads. Probably there were many more beads lost. I have sent you all

the remains; though, perhaps, you will think some hardly worth sending, but you will be able to judge of the state in which they were found. The skeletons crumbled to pieces, so that the men found it very difficult to preserve or carry them."

It seems exceedingly probable the two modes of interment—cremation and burial—were followed at the same time on the spot where the remains were met with; and I think many other graves may yet exist not far from those which have been opened. I may also notice that there is a marked resemblance in all these Anglo-Saxon antiquities to the antiquities discovered in the graves of the ancient Franks in Normandy; and this reference reminds me I may appropriately conclude with the Abbé Cochet's observations on the meaning associated with the burial of these objects with the dead. He says the people of pagan times discriminated with difficulty between the body and the soul. For example, the Gallo-Romans had such a faith in a second material life that they lent money to their friends on condition that the latter would return it to them in the other world!

"We may easily conceive, then," says the Abbé, "that under the dominion of this idea, pagans would be lavish towards their dead. But it is what the Christian of to-day, so far removed from the faith of the pagans, does not comprehend. So great a moral revolution has been accomplished in the course of eighteen centuries, that the ideas of the present no longer explain the actions of the past. The distance separating Paganism from Christianity is immeasurable: one doctrine is all sensual, the other all spiritual. \* \* \* To man spiritualized the body is nothing, the soul is everything. But the riches of the soul are not matter: the child of heaven requires here below only prayers and sacrifices. From this moment, no more funeral provision [mobilier funèbre]; no longer anything but the cold stone of the tomb."

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited the official seal (a brass matrix) of the Rev. Luke Cotes, Dean of the Collegiate Church of Middleham, Yorkshire, from 1719 to 1741, some account of whom may be found in the volume upon that establishment, published by the Camden Society in 1847.—*Introduction*, pp. 31-36. The legend upon the seal is ✠ LVCAS · COTES · A.M. · ECCLESIE · COLLEGIA : DE · MIDDLEHAM · DECANVS · In the centre is a cross with these words arranged about it—IN HAC VINCIT,—GLORIA MILITIS XIANI. This matrix was recently purchased in a Shoemaker's shop at Keswick, by C. Gresley, Esq.

A Vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thompson for his very interesting Paper, and to the persons who had kindly intrusted to him the Roman and Anglo-Saxon antiquities for exhibition.

*June 30th, 1856.*

THE Rev. R. Burnaby in the chair.

The Rev. J. H. Hill was elected a member of the Society.

A financial committee was appointed to prepare a statement of the accounts for the past year.

It was resolved that notice of future meetings of the committee should be given by advertisements in the Leicester Papers.

The neighbourhood of Melton Mowbray was fixed upon for the annual excursion of the Society in preference to Ashby de la Zouch: and a sub-committee (consisting of Messrs. W. Latham, G. H. Nev-  
inson, J. Thompson, V. Wing, and the Secretaries) was appointed for making the requisite arrangements for the annual meeting.

The Rev. J. Denton exhibited a sheet of drawings by the Rev. W. H. Coleman of third brass Roman coins of the Emperor Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, and Claudius, in the third century. They were discovered in 1818, about a mile north east of Ashby de la Zouch, upon a high point of ground in the Lawn Hills, by some labourers who were ploughing. The plough struck the brass rim of the larger of two urns which were filled with them. The field is now called "Money Hill." This discovery may indicate the route of the Roman Via Devana from Colchester to Chester, which has not yet been satisfactorily traced across the western part of Leicestershire and the adjacent parts of Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited some fragments of stained glass from Bottesford church: among them were the head of an ecclesiastic with a nimbus, and a hand of good execution.

Mr. Neale exhibited several crown pieces of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and present centuries, all in excellent preservation, some of them being proofs. The die of the crown piece of Oliver Cromwell, executed by the celebrated artist Thomas Simon, (the engraver of the valuable Petition-Crown of king Charles the Second) broke after a few had been struck; and by careful observation a line or crack may be seen across the neck. The art of coin engraving retrograded rather than advanced through several subsequent reigns; and probably but little improvement can be observed until the crown piece of George the Third, produced by that justly celebrated artist Pistrucci, whose name in small letters appears on its obverse and reverse. The crown piece of Anne and George the First were struck from silver found in Wales, and therefore bear on the reverse the Feathers, the cognizance of the Prince of Wales. The crown piece of queen Victoria may perhaps, from its richness of design and artistic skill, be pronounced a work of unrivalled beauty.

Mr. Gresley exhibited four signet rings. One of brass, found a

few weeks ago at the Short Heath, Over Seile, Leicestershire, had the arms of the Commonwealth rudely engraved upon it, the cross of S. George impaling the harp of Ireland. Two others of silver and one of brass, of the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries had the letters **a**, **F**, and **R**; the **F** and **R** being crowned. Examples of this kind of seal are engraved in Fisher's Antiquities at Stratford-upon-Avon.

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*July 21st, 1856.*

ADJOURNED Committee Meeting, the Rev. R. Burnaby in the chair.

Arrangements were made for the Annual Meeting and Excursion, viz., on Tuesday, 9th September, a Public Meeting in the New Hall, Leicester, at two o'clock; after which a temporary museum to be there opened; an ordinary at the Bell Hotel at six o'clock; an evening meeting at eight o'clock for the reading of papers.

On the following day an Excursion to be made from Leicester to Melton Mowbray, visiting Kirby Bellers, Great and Little Dalby, Burrow Hill, and Burton Lazars.

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*August 25th, 1856.*

THE Rev. J. M. Gresley in the chair.

The Rev. R. Burnaby, Mr. G. H. Nevinson, and Mr. G. C. Bellairs, were added to the Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Annual Meeting on the 9th and 10th of September, a programme of which has been sent to each member of the Society.

Some conversation took place respecting the rebuilding of the church of Humberstone, which is now in contemplation under the direction of Mr. Brandon, architect, in consequence of an opinion being expressed that this church might be *restored* instead of being rebuilt. The Committee were unanimous in thinking that the demolition of our ancient ecclesiastical buildings, unless positively unavoidable, is extremely to be regretted.

At the suggestion of the Rev. S. G. Bellairs, it was resolved that members of the Society be invited to contribute photographs, sketches, &c., in Leicestershire, and that a book be purchased for the purpose of preserving such contributions.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited some coins, among which was a scarce denarius of Antoninus found near the Foss Way at Narborough: obverse, the head of the emperor, circumscribed, ANTONINVS. AVG. PIVS. S.P.P.; reverse, a female, standing, holding a rudder, COS. IIII. Also several deeds of the thirteenth