

## COINS FOUND AT SOLDIERS' MOUNT,

IN THE PARISH OF PRINCE'S RISBOROUGH.

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The following is a short account of some coins recently found on a hill called Soldiers' Mount near to Prince's Risborough in this county. They are interesting memorials of that Colossal Empire, which, when they were first issued, held under its dominion the British Isles, and all countries Eastward to the borders of Persia. In all these lands Rome left durable vestiges of her power and achievements.

1. One of these coins is of the reign of Constantine the younger, who succeeded Constantine the Great in the Western Provinces, A.D. 337. The head is a clear but not very highly finished representation of Constantine. The legend contains only the latter part of the name "NUS JUN." The reverse a Roman standard between two soldiers who are armed with spear and shield. In the exergue T. R. P., *i. e.*, the place where the coin was struck, *viz.*, Treves. The piece of metal forming the coin has been cut so small as not to exhibit the full inscription intended.

2. A coin of Constantine the Great, A. D. 325, containing the head with helmet and wreath, and the legend "Constantinus Max.:" In the reverse are two Victories winged over an altar, with the legend "Victoria læ et princeps;" a victory joyful and most important. Might not this have been the victory gained by the Emperor, when, as related, the vision of the Cross appeared to him with the precept  $\epsilon\nu\ \tau\omicron\upsilon\tau\omega\ \nu\iota\kappa\eta$  "sub hoc signo vinces."

3. The accompanying coin is also one of Constantine's of very good workmanship. The head is helmeted, and in good relief. It may be worth notice, that coins of Constantine are those most commonly met with in this neighbourhood.

4. A coin of Claudius, but not of the Claudius first known in British history. The head is a radiated head of Claudius Gothicus, A.D. 268, with the legend J. M. P. CLAUDIUS AUG. The impression is in fine preservation, and represents the personal likeness of a monarch of very sharp distinctive features and expression. The reverse contains a singular emblem. It is the figure of Security leaning on a column and holding a sceptre. Legend SECURIT. AUG. "securitas Augusti" in the field, the Roman numeral XI.

The following address of the Roman Senate to the Emperor Claudius seems to illustrate the legend on the coin:—"Claudi Auguste, tu frater, tu pater, tu amicus, tu bonus Senator, tu vere princeps."

The cause of this flattering eulogy was the great success attained by this Emperor in his battles with the Gothic invaders of the Empire, and hence his title "Gothicus."

The place in which these coins were found is a hill overlooking the town of Prince's Risborough, and near to the well known Cross on White Leaf Hill. How far the cross, which is of Roman form, may be connected with Roman remains, and the Constantine coins in its neighbourhood, may be a fair subject for conjecture. The hill, on which these and other Roman relics have been found, is called the Soldiers' Mount, and furnishes an instance that local traditions have generally some basis of fact to rest upon; for the site in question is too bleak and inconvenient, and remote from water, to be the site of a residence, and is indicated, by its commanding position, as the *site* of an outpost, or summer camp of a Roman detachment. The coins themselves are of a military type, and might be the property of soldiers of the Roman Empire, occupying that post of observation, who had probably taken part in the victories described on the coins. It is also situated near the ancient Icknell way. There have been found here various other coins, and a portion of a Roman Bulla of glass, also a bronze clasp and pin of bone.

Lower down in the valley have been discovered the remains of Roman habitation, in a spot where a supply of water for the bath, a more genial air, and sheltered aspect gave the promise of a home of greater luxury and comfort than the adjoining heights.

Every discovery here made tends to show that it was during the latter period of the Roman occupation of Britain that its citizens or retired veterans settled themselves as colonists in this more retired portion of the Island.

Allow me to suggest, that if, when relics of any kind are discovered, notes be made of the site, the circumstances, and old associations of their locality, those hints may be collected and preserved, which will not only vastly increase the interest attached to such relics of the past, but tend to throw increased light upon ancient periods of our history, not the least *attractive* because the most involved in obscurity. In fact it is by such notices that the researches of history have been assisted. And while light has been thrown upon the important facts and dates of the historian, more accurate knowledge has been obtained of the condition and habits of the people described by him.

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