

ON THE DISCOVERY OF ANGLO-SAXON RELICS IN STONE.

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IN the third volume of the "Records of Buckinghamshire," page 164, I gave a brief account of the discovery of some Anglo-Saxon relics in a field, called Causeway Field, situated on the east side of the road between Stone and the hamlet of Bishopstone, and near the latter place.

The field is part of an ancient common, the inclosure of which took place in the year 1776. On resuming the excavations, the workmen came upon a number of graves which contained human remains and relics, which appeared to indicate the character of the persons interred. The bodies were from two to two and a half feet from the surface, and were found in various positions, no order

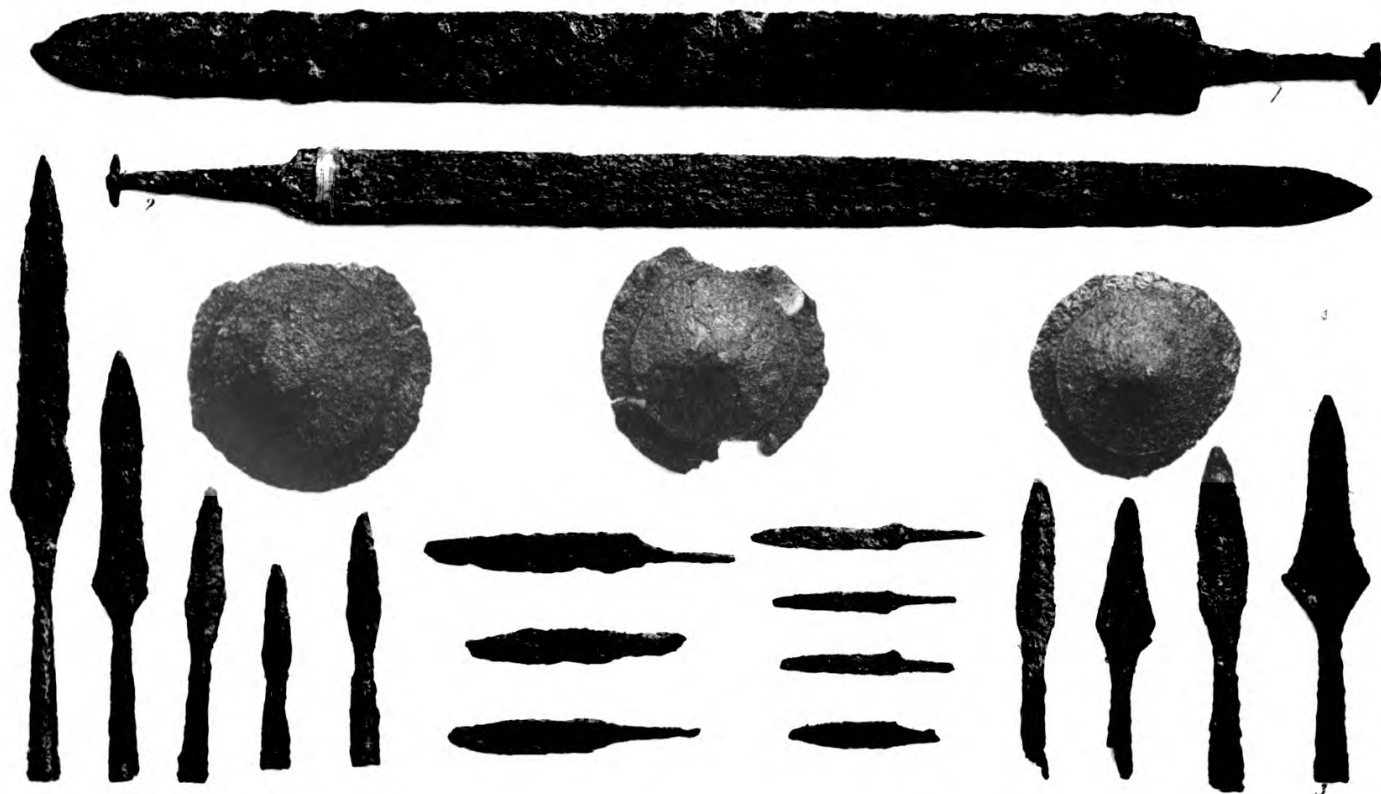
had apparently been pursued in the mode of interment. Most of them were lying north and south, at full length, but a few were doubled up. I was fortunate enough in being present at the exhumation of one of them, when we found the sword, pl. i., fig. 2, on the left, or east side; a spear-head and knife on the right, or west side; and the umbo of a shield and the glass ornament, pl. ii., fig. 12, between the thighs. This sword is two feet nine inches long and two inches broad. Close to the guard, and where the scabbard begins, is a band of thin bronze, three-quarters of an inch wide, ornamented with indented lines, which no doubt held the top of the scabbard together. The sword (pl. i., fig. 1) was found subsequently in another grave, and is three feet long, and two and three-quarters of an inch broad. The two swords are sharp on both edges, and have the remains of the wooden scabbards sticking to them. The other relics figured in the photographs, and some imperfect ones, which seem to have been partially destroyed by the nature of the soil, were found at different times in graves with human remains. The relics, which were discovered previous to February, 1866, were presented by J. Lee, Esq., the then owner of the property, to our Society's Museum. Those more recently discovered, numbered 1 to 7 in plate ii., and the long broadsword in plate i., are in the possession of Edward Dyke Lee, Esq., the present lord of the manor.

The umbones varied much in shape and size. Some were surmounted by a sharp spike, others had a round flat disc, or terminal, about an inch in diameter, and others were round. Several of them had the rivets which attached them to the "linden wood," of which the shield was made. And one of them had the handle inside the cavity, which was formed for the reception of the hand; for the shield was not worn on the arm, but was held by the hand at arm's length.

The bronze fibulæ, or brooches, were of different forms and sizes. The two small saucer-shaped fibulæ, gilded inside (plate ii., figs. 1 and 2) are in a remarkable good state of preservation.

The crystal bead (fig. 11), the large amber * bead

* Professor W. W. Smyth informs me that "although it is somewhat difficult and uncertain to distinguish amber from certain indurated gums,



Anglo-Saxon remains discovered at Bishopstone. One-sixth of the size of the original.



Anglo-Saxon remains discovered at Bishopstone. One-third of the size of the original.

(fig. 13), the strings of glass and amber beads, also the bronze ear-pick, pins, and tweezers, were found in different graves, and probably belonged to females. The bodies seem to have been buried with all their earthly possessions and personal ornaments, as badges of their several callings.

The large spear-head, six feet six inches long, was found by itself; and knives of various sizes were found in almost every grave.

In addition to the above the workmen found an urn of black pottery, and an axe, which they hid in the red sand; some boys found them on the Sunday, broke the former and threw the latter away.

One of the most perfect of the skulls I presented to Professor W. Flower, of the College of Surgeons, who has placed it in the Anatomical Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

All these relics are similar to those which have been described and illustrated in J. Y. Akerman's *Archæological Index*, in his *Remains of Pagan Saxondom*, and in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxv., page 276.
