In my paper, No. 1, on British Antiquities* an opinion was expressed, founded on observation made upon the circumstances under which the various objects of a remote period were found in Ireland, that articles of stone were more recent than those of bronze, iron, and glass, which many suppose to be quite modern in comparison. As a farther illustration of this matter, nothing is more surprising than the accounts I have frequently received of the discovery of glass beads. These articles are found under such circumstances as would lead one to infer that they belonged to an age so distant as to seem quite incredible;—in those localities, indeed, in which are discovered those great fossil teeth, said to have been of an extinct horse. These extraordinary teeth are scattered over the county of Antrim, for instance, in considerable numbers, and their history and origin are to me quite inexplicable. I do not mean to assert that the teeth have been found in absolute connection with the beads, but both have been discovered at the same depth in the subsoil and in the alluvial soil, as I have taken pains to ascertain. Some of these beads exhibit a considerable degree of skill, but indeed to make glass of any kind proves that a people have advanced far beyond the savage state. The question is, were these beads fabricated in Ireland? That some of them were, we must believe, till it is shewn that similar productions are met with in other countries, and many of them are so remarkable and have such a curious appearance, that if discovered in the ground elsewhere, the circumstance would, it is most probable, be generally known. Till such shall prove the fact they must, therefore, be classed as Irish.

There is, however, it must be confessed, a great liability to error in an inquiry of this kind. We know that beads have been used at the most remote period, and that they are also in use at the present day; and it therefore requires much caution in assigning a great age to what may be found comparatively modern. Keeping this fact in view, therefore, I will confine myself to descriptions and exhibitions of beads actually found in the earth in a given locality, hoping that those who are

* Volume vi. p. 102.
in possession of facts confirming what is stated or otherwise, will make their information known, as it is only by such co-operation that the truth can be reached, and it is also highly important to compare the productions of one locality with those of another.

With these preliminary observations I exhibit a bead, No. 1, which is not glass, nor of British manufacture. It is found commonly in Antrim, under circumstances corresponding with those of the other beads referred to; also in England, and I believe generally over the Continent. A necklace of beads of this kind was discovered, I think, in making the foundation for London Bridge, in connection with Roman remains as old as about the commencement of our era. We will not probably err in assigning to them, therefore, an age of about 2000 years. They are of Terra Cotta and have been of a beautiful ultramarine colour. I have never seen them of any other colour, except one, which was a brilliant carmine red, and which was found four feet deep in alluvial soil near Belfast. These beads were of different sizes. That which I exhibit is very large and was probably the centre of the necklace, being gradually smaller as they receded to each extremity. If I am rightly informed, what I may call Irish beads have been found, indicating, from their depth in the ground or otherwise, a much higher degree of antiquity than the red one to which I have referred.

There is a remarkable circumstance connected with the foreign beads. Their form is what the world calls graceful or classic, their type being an orange or melon. The colours have also been very beautiful, but they have not stood the test of time, as it is only from remaining spots we can judge of their original brightness, nor have I ever seen any attempt at variety of form. On the other hand, those which I consider to be British have such variety of form and ornament that it is difficult to find two of the same pattern. There is scarcely any shape that a bead could be made to assume, of which examples could not be found among them. There are also a great many shades of colour; dark blue, however, is the most prevalent; they are generally not brilliant, but seem to be extremely durable, and having retained their original appearance for so many centuries, we might almost conclude them to be indestructible by the agency of time alone. Does this singular difference between the Continental and British workman in glass appear to have continued almost to our own time? When I call these beads "glass" I do so on good authority, though some of them are so opaque as to transmit
BEADS FOUND IN IRELAND.
no light. When held before the flame of a candle several of them prove a considerable amount of chemical knowledge, as when three or four colours are put on, one over the other, each fusing at a different temperature. Much skill also must have been employed in manipulating the glass, in those cases in which very fine strings or threads have been introduced.

A very difficult part of this inquiry is now reached. In paper No. 1 I stated that what are called celts of stone and bronze, one a fac-simile of the other,* had been found, and the question was to determine whether the stone had been made in imitation of the brass, or had preceded it. The same difficulty arises in our present inquiry. Beads of stone are frequently found which seem no older, so far as can be judged from the circumstances connected with their discovery, than those of glass. Were these the originals of the new handsome bead? I think not. They were more probably the ornaments of persons too poor to procure the more costly material. This of course is only an opinion for which I have no reason to offer.

ON THE MATERIALS FOR THE HISTORY OF THE TWO COUNTIES, AND THE MODE OF USING THEM,—PART II.

By John Robson, Esq.

(Read 29th March, 1855.)

In the paper which I had the honor of reading to the Society two years ago, on the Materials for the History of the two Counties,† we came down to the commencement of the fifth century, and I ventured to express an opinion that there was no real ground for the common belief that the inhabitants of Lancashire and Cheshire had been at any time Welsh or Celtic; that in fact the Celtic tribes, at the earliest historic period, were confined to the western parts of the island; that the extent of their dominions may be traced by the Celtic names of places, both in Wales and Cornwall; and that the rest of England was occupied by a Teutonic race, as it is at the present time. We have now to ascertain how far our subsequent materials confirm or invalidate this statement, and whether in following out the tracks left us, few and indistinct enough, we may not get a more trustworthy survey than we had before.

* See also Volume v. p. 129.  + Volume v. p. 199.