

## ANCIENT SEAL, FOUND AT NANTWICH.

*Communicated by Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith.*

The accompanying drawing represents a *secretum*, in pewter, found in May, 1855, some six feet below the level of the yard of the Crown Inn, Nantwich, Cheshire, an impression of which was exhibited at a meeting of the Society in December of that year, but, as yet, nothing explanatory of the family of its original owner has been elicited. The seal has unfortunately been lost, and as only a single impression remains in possession of the writer, he deems it desirable that the seal should be at once engraved for future reference, and this drawing has been kindly made, of actual size, in furtherance of this object, by Jos. Clarke, F.S.A. The face bears the following circumscription: SIGILL. SIMONIS. FILII. RAD. (The Seal of Simon the son of Radulphus.)



In pewter.  
Date 11th or 12th century.

In the field is a device, which has provoked some discussion. The writer assumed it to represent *the Crown of Thorns*; but in the opinion of a far more experienced sigillarist, the late Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, the object was designed for a *St. Catharine Wheel*. There can be little doubt but that the seal is religious in character, and was made for an ecclesiastic, probably some younger son of a Norman family. Examples of this early date are very rare.