

ARCHÆOLOGY OF THE MERSEY DISTRICT, 1866.

By Henry Ecroyd Smith.

(READ 7TH MARCH, 1867.)

OUR antiquarian notes of the past twelve months are of a more varied character than usual, comprising an early stone "celt" from the outskirts of Liverpool,—Roman coins from Neston,—Roman Pottery &c. at Wilderspool (*Condote*),—Mediæval Seals and Coin, and lastly, but far from least in importance, an assortment of objects of every age from the Cheshire sea-board, so miscellaneous and peculiar that no general terms can correctly be applied, and as usual they are presented in catalogue form under their respective dates so far as such can be arrived at, for it may be honestly confessed that numerous articles of unquestioned genuineness have here occurred of most perplexing conformation. In nearly every year's finds, however, something turns up throwing light upon use and intention previously unsuspected.

Occurrence of an early Stone Celt in Parliament Fields.

Mr. Forrest, who has for some years had charge of the Egyptian Museum in Colquitt Street, reports that, during last summer, he was passing across the open ground here, where workmen had been removing soil in levelling, when he detected a celt lying alone near a heap evidently lately carted. Such a very unusual occurrence caused him to visit the place repeatedly afterwards, but nothing else of an antiquarian nature appeared. This early instrument is formed of a light-coloured limestone and measures 4 inches in length by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth at the smaller, to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the broader end.

Discovery of Roman Coins near Neston.

In the month of April, as I am informed through Mr. R. Reynolds and Mr. John Crisp of Knowsley, a number of silver and copper coins of the Roman period were found near Neston whilst some men were employed in stubbing up an old oak tree, in fact were picked out from beneath its roots. Only two out of this little "find" reached the writer, both proving to be of late Roman fabrication. One was struck by Constantine the Great and bears the common reverse, "*Gloria Exercitus*," two soldiers standing, armed with spears and shields, between them two standards; in the exergue SMNS. or SMLS. The other is much oxydized but also belongs to the Constantine family, reverse, "*Securit Pop. Romani*," the genius of the Roman people seated upon a shield, holding a victory in her right and a cornucopia in her left hand.

One cannot fail to be struck with the similarity, both of mode of discovery and its produce, between this find and those recorded by the writer as occurring at or near Otterspool in 1863, which at a first glance seems suspicious. There is, however, nothing incongruous in the pieces detailed, and when we reflect how very long these Roman coins and imitations of them must have remained the main money circulation of Britain, from the fourth to the eighth century, a sense is induced of the likelihood of small deposits being made in the earth for security in the continuously perturbed condition of the country.

Remains at Wilderspool near Warrington—the Roman Condate.

After a discussion, carried on among antiquaries for nearly a couple of centuries, relative to the local identity of the Roman post-station of *Condate*, the discoveries of late years and the more clearly ascertained routes of the ancient roads in the neighbourhood, conclusively point out the hamlet of

Wilderspool, in the suburbs of the thriving town of Warrington, situate by the Mersey and upon the confines of the sister counties of Lancaster and Chester, as the actual position. It conforms, in respect of distances from the several adjacent stations, with those published in the Roman Itinera, whilst every one of the other places whose claims have from time to time been advocated, prove most unsatisfactorily wide of the mark. We are indebted to Dr. Robson of Warrington, who has thoroughly investigated the subject, for the following remarks confirmatory of his previously published views. Appended to these some observations will be found upon the present state of the excavation at Wilderspool, shewing satisfactory reason for the late scanty yield of Roman remains at this usually fertile source. They are communicated by our fellow-member Dr. Kendrick, with an assurance that the year 1867 is affording a much better harvest of relics.

“Up to a very late period one of the great puzzles in the Roman geography of Britain was the tenth *Iter* of Antoninus. It travelled over one hundred and fifty miles and included nine post-stations of which two are named elsewhere, and one of these (*Mediolanum*) could not have been the *Mediolanum* of this route. Not a single name had been satisfactorily identified, both names and distances were altered at the will of every one who chose to discuss the matter, and the greatest confusion and discrepancies prevailed amongst those who took up the subject.

“In the fifth volume of the *Transactions of the Historic Society* (page 293) it was shewn that this *Iter* had its southern terminus at Middlewich (*Mediolanum*) and that it proceeded direct north, following the track of the great north road into Cumberland. *Condate* occurs in the second *Iter* as the post-station before Chester on the road from York, cutting the former *Iter* at Wilderspool near Warrington.

"One cause of the obscurity which had so long baffled
 "our antiquaries was the appropriation of Manchester to
 "*Mamucium* and *Mancunium*, the latter name being preferred
 "because it corresponds with the first syllable of the modern
 "name. We are now beginning to see that Manchester is a
 "modern name, and that before the 16th century it was
 "written *Mamchester*. The road from this town to Chester
 "ran on the south side of the Mersey (eighteen Roman
 "miles), and from Wilderspool to Chester twenty Roman
 "miles: distances which are precise and evident; while in
 "the tenth *Iter Mediolanum* (Middlewich) is seventeen miles
 "from *Condote*, the exact distance of Wilderspool. The
 "route is by Warrington, Wigan and Preston, the two last
 "being the *Mancunium* and *Coccium* of Antoninus. Thus
 "without altering either names or distances, we get direct
 "proof of the course of the Itinera, and a correspondence
 "which we can hardly find in any of these post-routes.

"These post-stations do not appear to have been fortified.
 "Extensive meadow and pasture land, a river affording a
 "constant supply of water, and the other requisites for a
 "large *messengerie* or carrying establishment were at hand,
 "and here, as at other stations, the river was on the north
 "side.

"But, beside the post-station, there can be little doubt
 "that a *Pottery* was also established at Wilderspool, from the
 "occurrence here of great quantities of broken red ware (the
 "so-called Samian) and an elegant salt-cellar, in an unfinished
 "state, but not broken, which was in the form of a shallow
 "cup with a scalloped edge, on a moulded foot. It and
 "various other relics were found thirty or forty years ago, but
 "it has been, unfortunately, lost. It may be remarked that in
 "all the fragments that have been found here, not one has
 "turned up with the potter's mark. It is only necessary to
 "refer to the early volumes of the *Transactions* of the Society

“for more particulars of the roads, the ground, and the remains that have been from time to time discovered.

“JOHN ROBSON.”

Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, reports:—“*The Excavation at Wilderspool* near here, (a site which has been satisfactorily identified by Dr. Robson with the Roman station *Condate* of the tenth *Iter* of Antoninus,) has not been prolific of many relics during the year 1866. A slackness in the building-trade has induced less demand for the sand of the locality, and as the excavation can only be urged on in a corresponding ratio with the sale of the sand, it necessarily follows that our archæological discoveries have been fewer than usual. During the present year (1867) an increased call for the sand has produced a better harvest of Roman remains, but an enumeration and description of these must in strict propriety be deferred to the next volume of the Historic Society's *Transactions*. As the workmen are at present only digging at the outskirts of the Roman station, but gradually approaching its centre, we may on this account also hope for a more interesting yield to the antiquary. In the year 1866 the only object found at Wilderspool, which I consider deserving of special mention, is the base of an incense-cup of whiter pottery than is usually found at Wilderspool. It was exhibited to the Archæological Association on the evening of Nov. 28th, 1866, and a short notice of it was inserted in the account of the Proceedings of the Society.

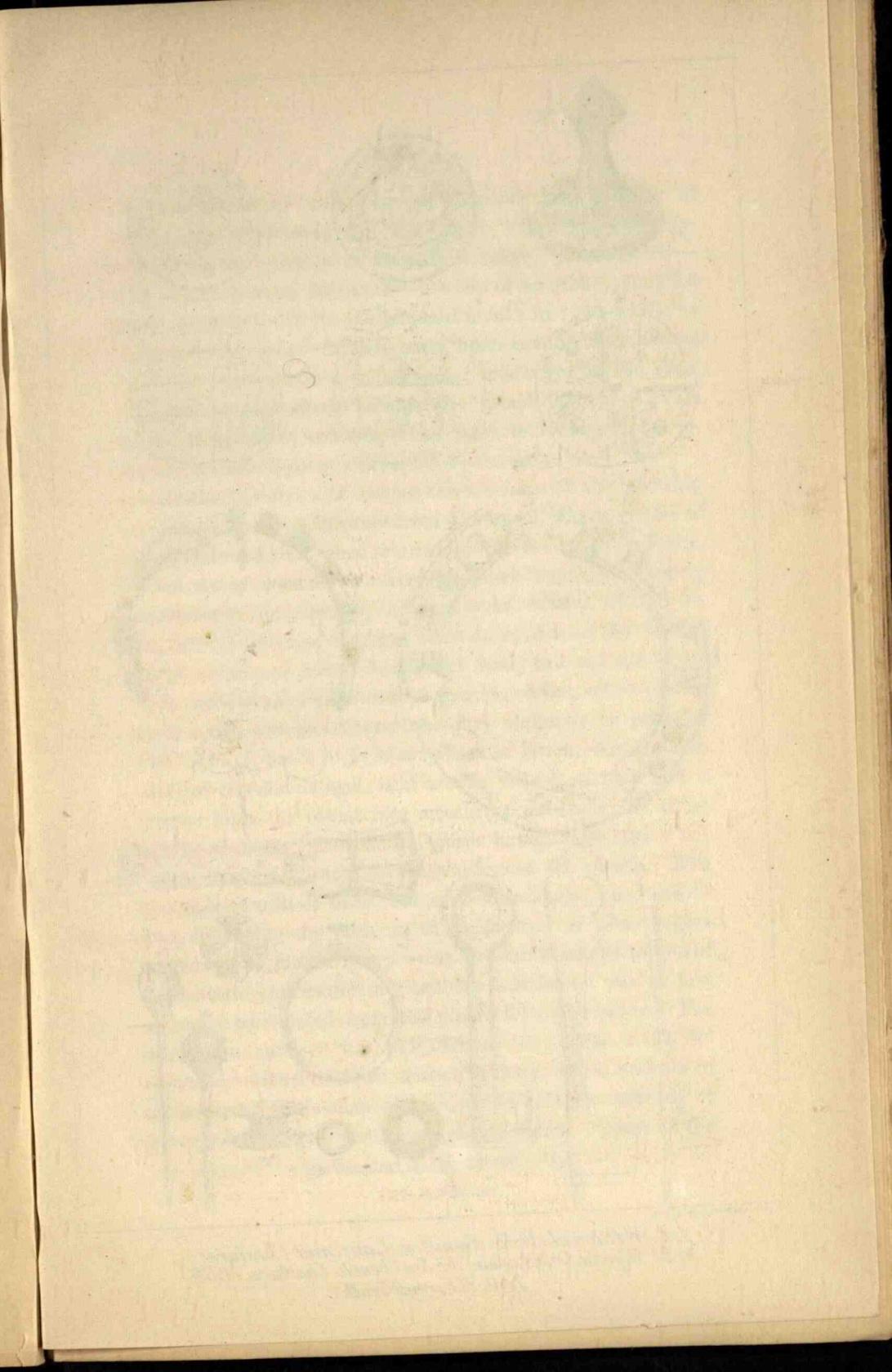
“JAMES KENDRICK.”

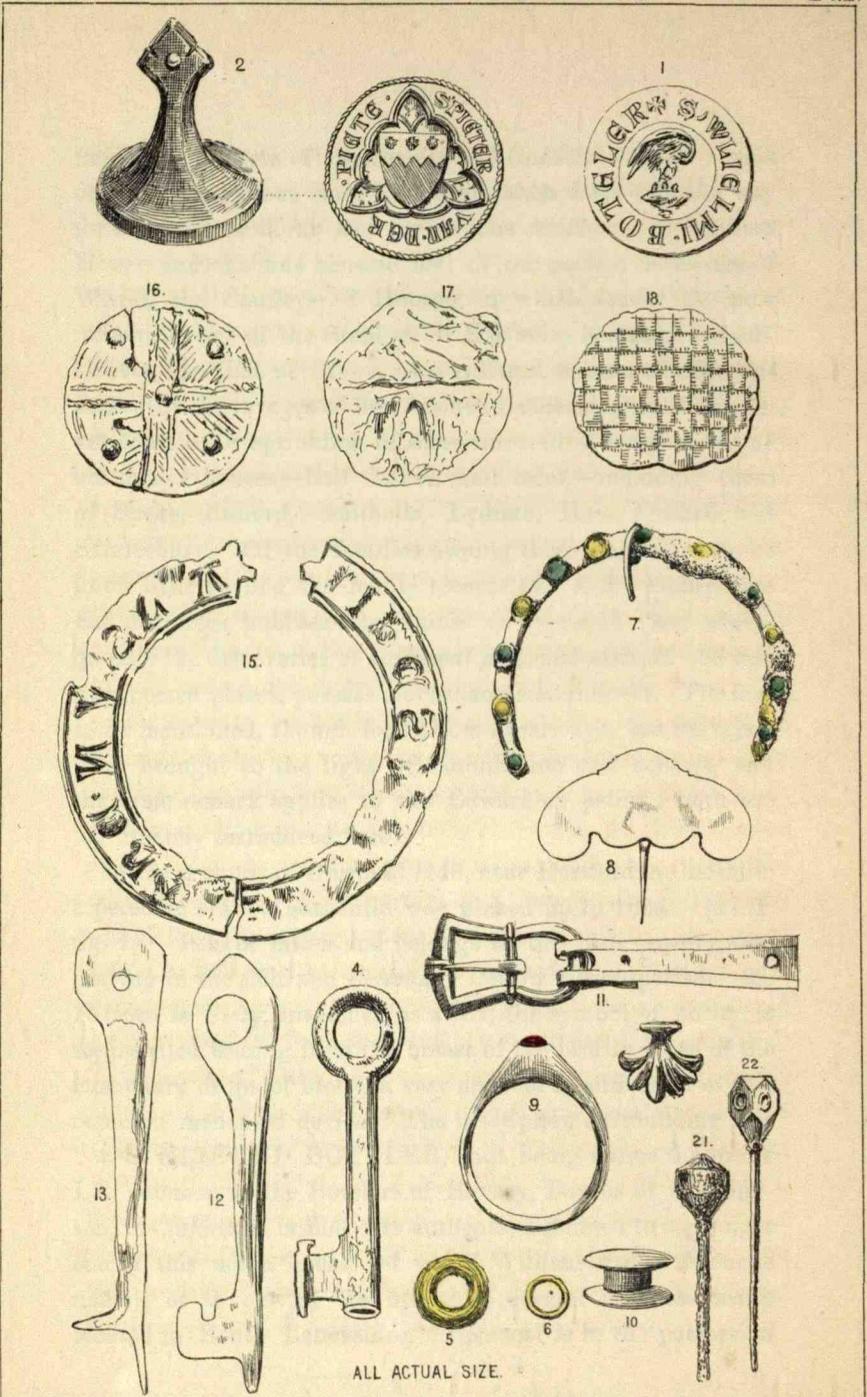
Mediæval Seals at Darnhall and Crosby.

In the last paper of the present writer upon the Archæology of the Mersey District (1863-5), allusion was made to the few remaining mansions, even of Tudor times, of the great

landed proprietors of Lancashire and Cheshire. Some of this once very numerous class have been taken down to make way for more commodious and pretentious residences, as Lathom House and the fine historic hall of the ancient Foresters of Wirral, the Stanleys of Hooton, of which family the now influential one of the Stanleys of Knowsley is a mere branch. Others, like that of Crewe, have suffered or been wholly consumed by the ravages of fire. South Lancashire can, however, yet boast a fair sprinkling of these interesting and picturesque old manor houses—half timber, half brick—including those of Speke, Rufford, Smithells, Lydiate, Hale, Ordsall and Samlesbury. Of the families owning these ancient seats we know little beyond the family records and a few monuments and pedigrees published by Baines or Ormerod; and consequently the discoveries of *mediæval personal seals*, in odd and unexpected places, possess more than usual interest. The first to be mentioned, though found some years ago, has only just been brought to the light of examination and science, and the same remark applies to the Edwardian penny; both are legitimately introduced here.

In the grounds of Darnhall Hall, near Hartford in Cheshire, a personal seal or authentic was picked up in 1864. (Pl. I fig. 1). It is of latten and belongs to the 14th century, displaying in the field the *Pelicanus Dei*, or rather, perhaps, the *Pelican in Piety*, inasmuch as a lily, the symbol of purity, is represented issuing from the breast of the bird in place of the customary drops of blood, a very unusual modification of this common mediæval device. The inscription surrounding it is “+ S' WLIELMI . BOTELER,” but being minus the prefix LE, common to the Botelers of Bewsey, Barons of Warrington, the inference is that this authentic belonged to a younger son of this noble house (of which William was a favourite name), or to one of its branches, several of these being located in South Lancashire. The seal is in the possession





ALL ACTUAL SIZE.

J. LAWSON, 26 NORTH JOHN ST. L'POOL.

1, 2. Medieval Seals found in Lanc. and Cheshire;
4-22. Objects found upon the Sea-beach, Cheshire, 1866,
Coll. H. Ecroyd Smith.

of A. B. Walker Esq. now of Gateacre but formerly of Darnhall and Warrington. The estate, which was not copyhold, known recently as Darnhill Grange, was formerly—under the name of *Darnhale*—the site of an Abbey, founded by King Edward I for one hundred monks in 1266, whilst he was merely Prince. Subsequently, upon coming to the throne he resolved to found a still grander monastery in the same neighbourhood, which became the proud Abbey of Vale Royal, but as this took fifty-three years to build and fit up, Darnhale was mediately occupied by the religious.*

During the winter of 1865-6 the sewerage of the township of Great Crosby, northward from Liverpool, was in course of being effected and when carried to the sea-beach opposite, a culvert of considerable size was here required. During construction, in January of last year, it was visited by Mr. Henry Green of Everton, who detected near the bottom of the cutting, *i.e.* below the primary sandy soil and secondary clay, and upon the sand-stone, a metallic object, which proved to be a well-wrought fifteenth century authentic or personal seal. (Pl. I, fig. 2.) It is composed of latten, the common brass of the middle ages, and stands nearly an inch and a quarter high, the round face measuring seven-eighths of an inch in diameter; the handle tapers hexagonally into a trifoliate head, perforated for suspension to the person. The face bears a coat of arms and superscription of good execution, enhancing the value of this relic and in some degree compensating for its not proving to have belonged to one of our historic Lancashire or Cheshire families, as was at first naturally anticipated from the place of its occurrence. The inscription runs—“ + S' PIETER . VAN . DER . PIETE,” around a variously cusped triangular form, which encloses in the centre a spade-shaped shield *vert*; a chief indented *or* (or *argent*) charged with three *flaming stars*. Each of the

* See Gough's Camden, Vol. III, p. 57.

small remaining angular compartments of this trifoliated figure contains a plain cross in relief, forming likewise a "cross of four fussels," or lozenges *incuse*. The writer has not had time as yet to consult many heraldic works, but he has hunted vainly through old Randle Holme's *Academie of Armory and Blazon* for any representation or even description of this particular coat, and consequently concludes that it is a rare if not a unique one. The surname Piete has probably been the Flemish or Dutch original of numerous more or less corrupted ones, as Vanderpant, Vanderpoorten and a French form Van De Pette, all which may be found in the London Directory of the current year. As, however, we find the Dutch painters Van De Eycke and Van Der Meer become reduced in ordinary parlance to *Vandyke* and *Vermeer*, it is palpable that our name may have branched into a numerous variety of *Vans*, whilst assuming the owner of the seal to have settled permanently in this country and for convenience dropped the prefixes Van and Der, the plain *Peter* alone may long ere this have taken half a dozen forms, as *Petty*, which, though the patronymic of one of our highest aristocratic families, is self-evidently a most villainous, despicable and *petty* English corruption.

Whilst ringing the changes upon these surnames, the writer called to remembrance his boyish amusement at the title bestowed by Miss Martineau upon one of her admirable *Illustrations of Political Economy*, published about 1830-34, "Vanderput and Snoek," and hoping this marvellously gifted authoress by such selection might have known Dutch merchants of these names, he addressed an enquiry to her upon the subject, which was at once most courteously responded to. Political economists are, however, notoriously more utilitarian than imaginative, and Miss Martineau ingenuously confesses to having had recourse to the *London Directory* of the day for the Dutch patronymics of the chief actors in her story.

The present *Directory* unfortunately contains no such name, the nearest forms being those already quoted.

Thus foiled as yet upon every hand, the writer can only hope for better results to accrue from the exhibition of an impression of the seal among the first heraldic genealogists of Holland, the Netherlands and North Germany, and from a description of it to be published among the many descendants of old Dutch colonists of New York State. From the number of stars—the heraldic “flames” of which any uninitiated person would suppose to be what they actually are, *trefoils*—this authentic in all probability belonged to the *second son* of some good family in the Low Countries. Whether, however, the original owner was a Dutch supercargo, shipwrecked upon what in those days was a dangerous sand-shoaled coast; or a skilful Fleming introduced by King Edward III to perfect our ancestors in his country’s textile arts, will probably ever remain matter of opinion.

The seal is now in the writer’s possession, but he regrets that it came under his notice too lately for the ascertaining of its paternity in time for mention here.

Since the above remarks were in type he has been kindly furnished by a friend with the following extract, which serves to confirm the impression of the seal having belonged to a member of a good old Flemish family:—

“VII. Raphael Van Der Sacre, Avocat au Conseil de Flandres en
 “1641, mari de de Hellie, dont Jacqueline épouse
 “de *Jean Van Der Piet*.”

Vide—“Recueil Genealogique de Familles Orig. des Pays
 “Bas en y etablies.” Amsterdam MDCCLXXV
 p. 152.*

* Information has likewise just been received that descendants of this family are still living near *Bruges* and engaged in agricultural pursuits, implying a considerable decadence from the position held by at least some of its members four centuries ago. It is, however, interesting to note that these apparently lineal descendants of the early Van Der Pietes continue to use the identical orthography of their patronymic, although the final letter is dropped in the above extract. The origin and early history of the family and its connection, accidental or otherwise, with this part of the country yet remain to be traced out.

Occurrence of an Edwardian Penny in Liverpool.

About three years ago, whilst foundations were being dug for a house at the back of Islington in Liverpool, a silver coin was picked up by a person whose husband is engaged at the Free Public Museum and who lately handed it to the writer. It proves to be a Dublin-minted penny of King Edward I or II, and by no means one of frequent occurrence, although two or three examples of the type have been found upon the sea beach of Cheshire. Considering that since its discovery this piece has been worn upon a watch chain, it is in excellent preservation.

Medieval Crock at Bold.

The following notice is extracted from the Proceedings of the British Archæological Association, January 9th, 1867. (See their *Journal* for March, page 87.)

“Dr. Kendrick exhibited an *ampulla*-shaped jar or bottle, “about three inches and three-quarters high, of well-baked “earthenware, overspread in great part by a brownish-black “plumbiferous glaze. This vessel was found in the remains “of the moat at Cranshaw Hall, Bold, near Warrington, in “November, 1866, and was probably designed to hold some “balsamic substance or viscid essence. Its date cannot be “later than the sixteenth century.”

PRODUCE OF THE SEA-BEACH OF CHESHIRE.

The local archæological discoveries of the past year are, as usual, chiefly confined to the sea-beach of Wirral; and, in point of numbers, a more than average yield has been secured of the class of minor objects of interest here occurring for at least half a century, and in all probability from an infinitely earlier period. Before proceeding to description, the writer feels bound to notice the attack made by Mr. Joseph Boulton upon the position held by Dr. Hume and other writers,

including himself, respecting several important points assented to by perhaps all earnest enquirers save this assailant. He has undoubtedly played the part of sceptic most admirably; and though many suppose them to have been adduced more as a basis of argument and theory than aught else, we are compelled to consider his suppositions and deductions as *bona fide*.

LIGHTHOUSE &c.—The endeavours to prove the non-existence of a former lighthouse at Leasowe, upon the shore to westward of the present one, are anything but aided by the remembrances of several aged people who in their youth saw the remains of the *foundations* or what were said to be such by others old enough to have seen the building existing in the middle of the last century.* This is confirmed by the dredging up of bricks and mortar in the identical position, by the anchors of vessels occasionally moored here; as the writer has repeatedly heard from the late Captain Powell, of Seacombe, as occurring in his own experience and that of others. There are likewise many who remember the *well* of excellent fresh water, walled round for security, situate between the site just mentioned and the bank, but yet some distance from the latter; and the question may well arise in any unprejudiced mind—Why should such care have been taken to keep the water of this well untainted if no one lived within half-a-mile to use it? In all human probability it supplied the wants of the lighthouse keepers, as it may have done long previously for part of a village on or near the “*Kirkway*” Dr. Hume has found mention of in connection with “*Lees Kirk*,” which, rightly or wrongly, is supposed to have stood to seaward of the present shore and below any

* Mrs. Peter Ledsham of Wallasey, a native of this immediate neighbourhood, testifies to remembering her father carting old bricks from this spot, known to all as the ruins of the *old lighthouse*. Probably the lower portion of this earliest known lighthouse of the district, was built of brick, supporting a superstructure of wood.

point now dry at other than the lowest ebbs during spring tides. The mere fact of no historical or traditional proof *being known* as extant is no criterion of former non-existence; and we have not far to trace for an example. Upon the neighbouring Hilbre Island, it will be remembered, the writer recently discovered a cemetery wholly unrecorded and unknown, though used probably for many centuries, and which might with as good reason have been repudiated as that suspected to have been extant upon the Leasowe beach, until its very *site* would appear to have been completely swept away by the encroaching and wasteful element. Even in our own times and district, as at Overchurch, ancient burial places are fast falling from the knowledge and even traditions of neighbouring residents.

GROWTH IN SITU OF THE TREES.—Mr. Boulton here mistakes his ground in several important particulars. He remarks upon the depth at which trunks of trees and animal remains have been found in the upper end of old Wallasey Pool, proceeding to occupy several pages of argument based upon a similar deposition of marine sand, peat &c. occurring upon the Hoylake beach—a supposition wholly devoid of foundation. The former locality was a deeply worn gully and marine creek into which trees, animals &c. have often been engulfed, and to compare this spot with a series of comparatively regular and level strata, implying undisturbed deposition, is to expose a want of personal acquaintance with the main fact of his subject—the plainly developed physical conformation of the beach. In point of fact there is *no trace of marine intrusion* prior to that of the present day, every alluvial sediment, whether clayey or fibrous, containing *fresh water* shells and vegetable matter, alone. It is only when we come to the “*mediæval stratum*” and the still more recent drift sand above it that *marine* shells—*all of comestible crustaceæ*—occur. Below, we find a thin stratum of blue clay (of

necessity deposited in a quiescent condition of fresh water) overlying the upper bed of vegetable formation, so often denominated *peat*, that Mr. Boulton and others have apparently concluded, without any thorough inspection, its composition to be analogous to that of the Lancashire and Cheshire mosses, or a combination of decayed heather and ling, with a basis of sphagnum and other marsh plants. A personal scrutiny would soon explode this assumption; and a knowledge of the truth would have spared Mr. Boulton a world of writing and specious reasoning. In the greater portion of many scores of fragments of this substance, taken from different reaches of the shore, the writer has been unable to detect either heath or ling, the mass being composed almost exclusively of the remains of trees—chiefly larch, birch, beech and a few oaks—the exception being the fibre of marsh plants occurring here and there in the upper portion of the stratum only. This all but thoroughly *arboreal* composite, perfectly black in colour (until dried), usually bears the name of submarine *forest*, containing, as it still does, a vast number of stumps of the old trees erect in the spots where they grew, with here and there a prostrated trunk, lying, as it had fallen, in a horizontal position.* Few stumps are found rising above a foot higher than the level of the consolidated stratum, evidencing in most cases a decay previous to the fall of the trunk. Between this arboreal bed—often measuring two feet in thickness—and the underlying one of similar composition, is a second bed of blue clay or silt, which Mr. Boulton denies to be permeated by the roots of the trees above, as he insists

* Several local geologists having affirmed that some of these lie atop of others, therein finding additional evidence of their common growth elsewhere, the writer has examined the so-called most remarkable instances and is enabled virtually to ignore this assumed fact. The roots of some fine oaks and beeches have certainly spread their arms over fallen and decayed larch-trunks in a few instances, but inasmuch as no single *upright* stump or trunk can be found upon another, the supposition and hasty deduction therefrom are alike valueless.

would certainly prove the case had they *grown* where found. Here, again, he is in error; for their rootlets do permeate the clay in great number, but not there meeting with adequate nourishment, have naturally become weakly and decayed. The roots proper have strengthened and flourished laterally as is natural where they had a chance, viz., the surrounding soil—one ever gaining in depth, being composed of the leaves long accumulating from the trees and *earlier shrubs of the old wood*, which at this remote period would lie at some little distance inland, possibly even a couple of miles, and consequently be less exposed to marine blasts.

As has been repeatedly mentioned, the Roman objects all occur where these stumps are most numerous and upon or just below the surface of the upper stratum of this arboreal soil, thus pointing unmistakably to it as having been the surface in Roman times and *possibly* whilst the wood was still in growth. They are all objects likely to be lost from the person in this public locality, for such it probably was, as in approaching the elevated promontory existing to seaward the roads from various parts of the peninsula would here converge. The site mentioned in all probability was that of a small settlement from Roman until Tudor times, when the last houses on and near the Dove Spit (still rapidly diminishing) were without doubt abandoned for a safer location at the new village. Again, the Roman objects are never found commingled with primeval or aboriginal remains—a further proof, if such were needed, of the absurd belief professed by Mr. Boulton of these relics having been stolen from the persons of their invaders by the ancient Britons. Such objects were not necessarily made in Rome, or even in Italy or Gaul; for the Romans occupying this country nearly four hundred years, during the greater part of this time *taught native workmen* and thoroughly impressed their

arts upon the country—hence the term Romano-British, as applied to most remains of the era found throughout this island.*

The lower bed of woody growth is of much earlier and *truly pre-historic* date. It is nowhere so thick as the upper one, and contains probably only one third the number of tree-stumps; it rests upon the great bed of unbottomed boulder clay which fills the lower part of this large natural basin in the new red sandstone.

In the above remarks, which by no means supply all that may be advanced in refutation of Mr. Boulton's theories, the writer—in the absence of opportunities for discussion—simply justifies his own published convictions. He has no desire to fight Dr. Hume's battles—this gentleman having unfortunately taken his stand, to some extent, upon points which are wholly untenable, although these are minor errors of detail unaffecting the present writer's position. The following are items of his creed which he holds to be impregnable:—

Firstly, the existence, from Roman times downward, probably with little if any interruption, and upon an elevated promontory—the remains of which, known as the Dove Spit, have all but disappeared—of a *small settlement or village*, adjacent to the sea (the whole site being now covered by it), nearly opposite to the present village of Great Meols.

Secondly, the growth *in situ* of the trees whose stumps and occasional trunks stud the black vegetable soil in two distinct strata, of very extensive area.

Thirdly, the higher of these having been the surface soil during at least a part of the Roman occupation of this country.

* Can Mr. Boulton be serious in his extraordinary assumption that because no mention of the Wirral shore occurs in their "Itineraries," the Romans were unacquainted with it? The *writer* would rather opine it difficult to prove that any corner of the land, however inconvenient of access, was unknown to or unvisited by this energetic people.

Fourthly, the very probable existence in mediæval times of a *church and burial ground* to the north-westward of Leasowe, and the certainty of a *lighthouse* and a *well* (walled round) being located yet later upon the beach and continuing for many years surrounded by the sea at flood tide.

The chronicle of the past year's finds is appended below.

Primeval.

No. of Objects.

21 STONE.—Rudely fashioned *implements* of flint and limestone.

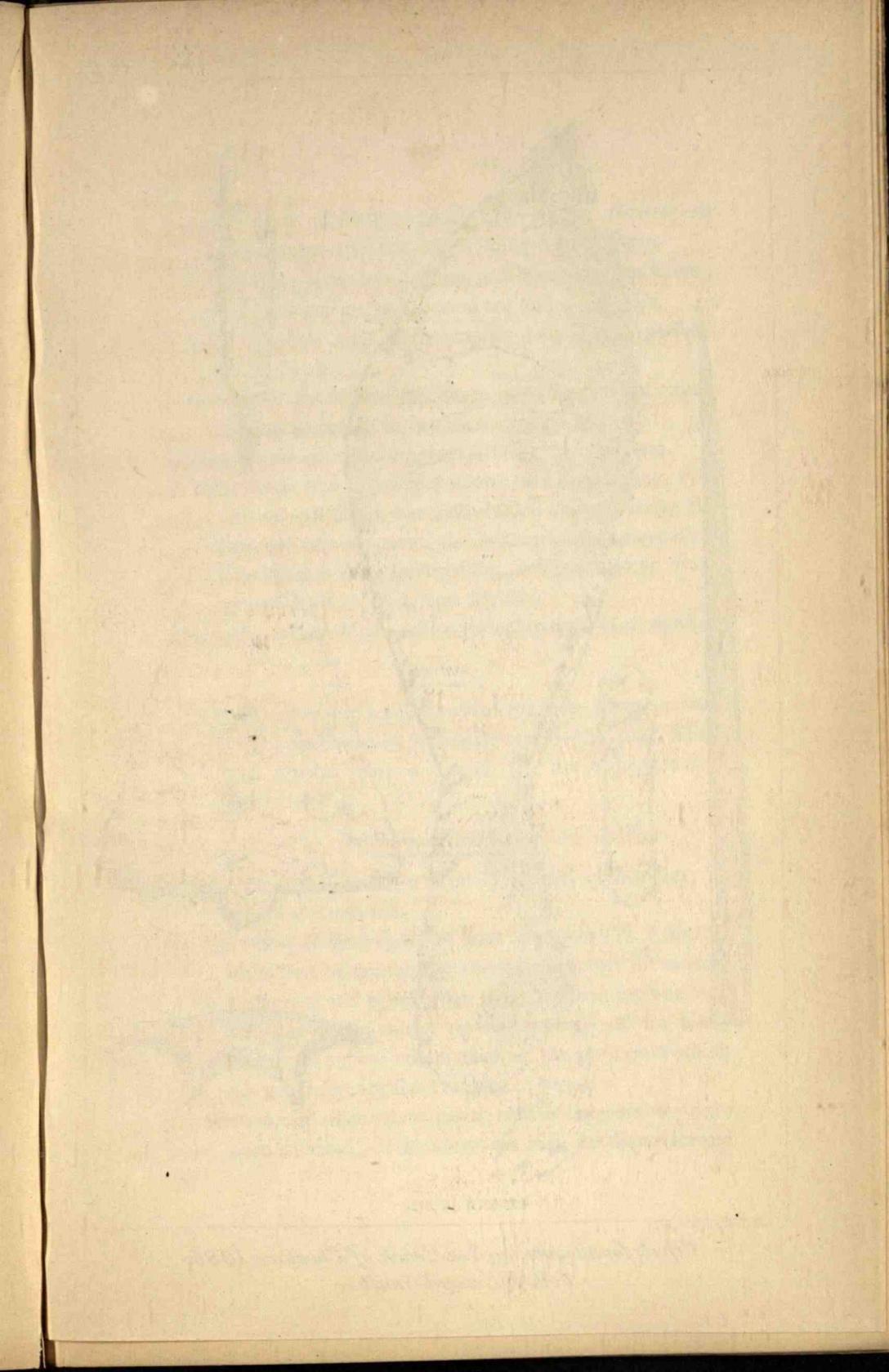
1 BONE.—*Arrow head.*

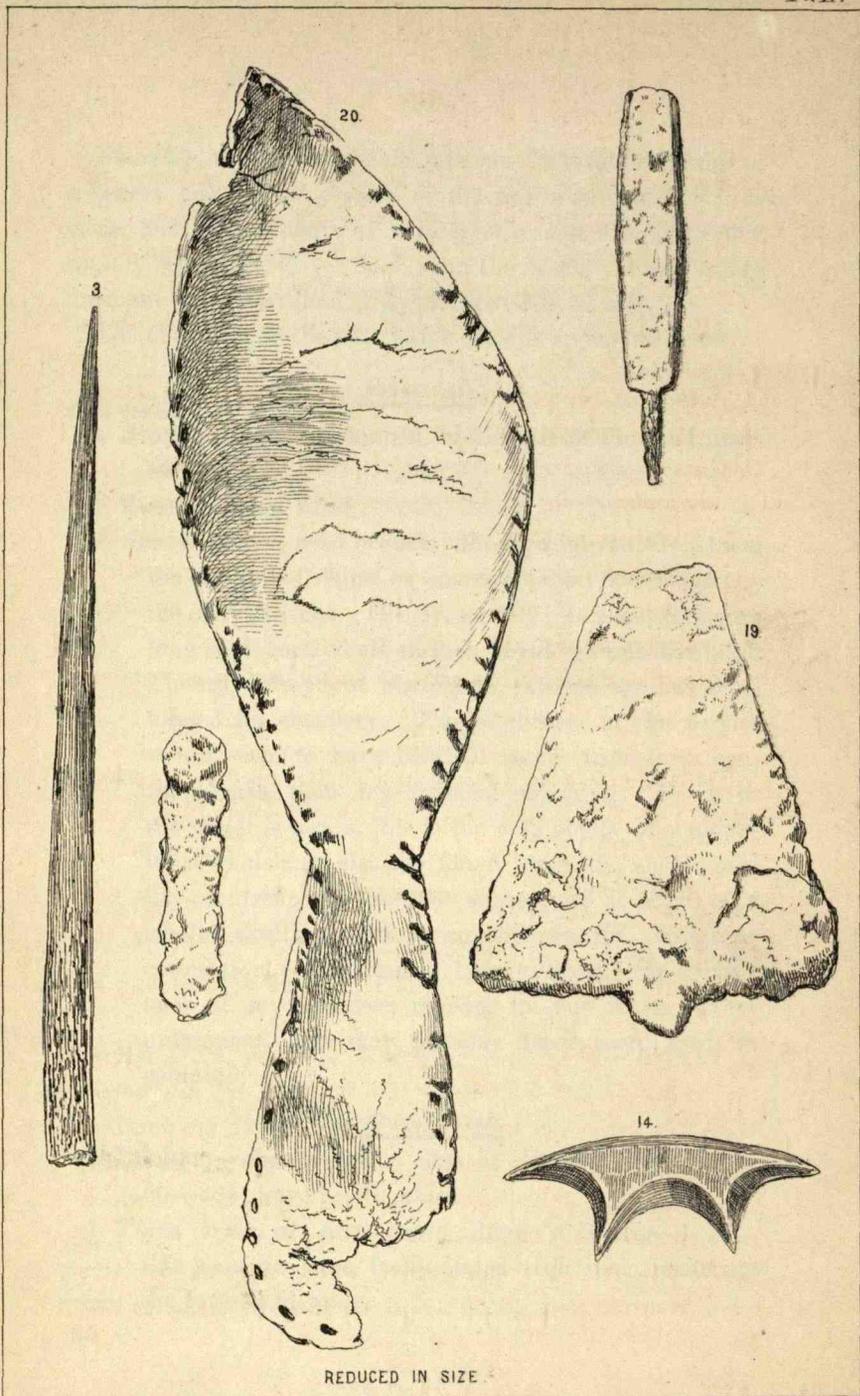
1 *Skewer* or pin, used probably for securing to the person the mantle of skins or coarse woollen fabric worn by the early Britons. (Pl. II, fig. 3.) It is seven inches long and barely half-an-inch broad towards the head. Though formed of whalebone, extreme age has annihilated its elasticity. The brightness of the surface would seem to have resulted rather from long continued use, than any artificial polishing. So far as the writer is aware, this is the only object of manipulated whalebone hitherto found upon the shore; and its occurrence so shortly subsequent to that of a whale's skull is a curious coincidence, for, though no connection can be traced between them, the appearance of any cetaceous remains on our coasts is very unfrequent. It may possibly have been used in spinning.

Romano-British.

1 BRONZE.—*Second brass coin* of NERO CÆSAR (A.D. 50—68); reverse illegible.

1 *Third brass* of ANTONINUS PIUS (A.D. 138—161); this piece has been badly plated with silver, rendering the reverse illegible.





J. LAWSON, 26 NORTH JOHN ST. L'POOL.

*Objects found upon the Sea Beach of Cheshire, 1866,
Coll. H. E. Croyd Smith.*

- 1 *Third brass* of PROBUS (A.D. 276—282). *Reverse*—a female figure standing and holding a cornucopia.
- 1 *Third brass* of the late Empire, or fabricated in imitation; both inscriptions and reverse are undecipherable.
- 1 *Key*, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, with circular handle and perfect. (Pl. I, fig. 4.)
- 1 *Fibula*, of the bow shape, sharp in outline and in excellent condition; it is two inches long.
- 1 *Acus* or *pin* of a similar sized brooch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long.
- 2 *Dress pins*; one originally about two inches long, with multangular head, the four lateral facets bearing the ring and cup ornament, the latter probably enamelled. The other is three inches long, and has also an ornamented head. (Pl. I, figs. 21, 22.)
- 1 *STONE*.—*Piece of Hæmatite*, probably used as an amulet.

Saxon.

- 2 *GLASS*.—*Beads* of a pale straw colour; one, three-quarters of an inch diameter, is stoutly made—the other, being little thicker than a thread, yet the orifices are of equal diameter. (Pl. I, figs. 5, 6.)

Early English.

- 1 *SILVER*.—*Penny* of EDWARD II, minted at London; in excellent condition.
- 1 *LATTEN*.—*Ring-brooch*, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter (Pl. I, fig. 7) when perfect, containing sixteen cusps, set alternately with green and yellow *glass*, four of which are wanting, but this is the most perfect example of its class, fragments only of others existing, the settings of which are generally oxydized or broken out.
- 1 *Brooch*, of thin sheet-metal, which appears to have
— been silvered; it is about an inch in diameter and

- of crenated trifoliate form, with a small sharp pin (Pl. I, fig. 8.)
- 1 *Pin* of a large brooch or buckle.
- 1 *Pin*, two inches long, slenderly made, with solid globular head.
- 1 *Finger Ring*, well formed; in a thickened portion containing an uncut but polished *ruby*, clear and bright as ever. This interesting example Mr. Mayer refers to the thirteenth century from ornaments on sculpture of this date. (Pl. I, fig. 9.)
- 10 *Finger and Ear Rings*, all plainly constructed.
- 1 *Stud*, of similar shape to those now in use for the collar and wrist-band. (Pl. I, fig. 10.)
- 14 *Buckles* of Straps, some retaining the tongue, of various types: one, found by the writer, being a novel one (Pl. I, fig. 11); another, from a belt, has foliaceous ornamentation.
- 22 Other attachments of Straps, as buckle-shanks, hasps, tags and small ornaments.
- 10 Fragments of sheathing, pans, &c.
- 1 Handle of drawer from a cofferet.
- 2 *Keys*, of simplest construction but different type (Pl. I, figs. 12, 13.) These were found a quarter of a mile from the beach, but yet upon or in the artificial "mediæval" "stratum," which must have been of great extent, for abraded as it has been by the sea for a long course of years, it is yet proved to underlie the meadows to some distance inland.
- 1 *Tray-shaped object*, of uncertain use: it has four sharp projections on one side, and is very strongly made. (Pl. II, fig. 14.)
- 1 LEAD AND PEWTER.—*Ring Brooch*, a flat disk, two

- inches diameter, inscribed in large characters IHESVS. NAZARENUS. LA. (Pl. II, fig. 15.) The meaning of the two final letters, supplying the place of the usual REX, is unascertained. The letters are incuse and were probably designed for the reception of coloured pastes.
- 3 Fragment of Ring Brooch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, ornamented with beaded and lozenge shaped facets, and two pins of similar sized brooches.
- 3 *Bullæ or Seals* and a merchant's cloth mark.
- 2 *Counters*, with chequered and other designs. (Pl. I, figs. 16, 17, 18.)
- 5 *Studs*, some ornamented.
- 3 *Net sinkers* (?)
- 14 *Buckles, Hasps* and fragments of attachments to leather straps.
- 1 IRON.—*Key*, 5 inches long, nearly perfect in the wards, but badly oxydized.
- 12 *Clench-bolts*, of various sizes.
- 6 *Nails*, of curious forms.
- 1 Fragment of Norman Prych Spur.
- 1 *Rowel* of Spur, fifteenth century, with eight spikes.
- 2 *Hooks*; a large and a fish-hook.
- 2 Large buckle and hasp.
- 6 *Knives*, one with shaft in handle of bone.
- 9 Washer and miscellaneous objects.
- 1 Flat trowel or digger. (Pl. II, fig. 19.)
- 1 LEATHER.—Sole of shoe, fifteenth century, ten inches long, three inches broad. (Pl. II, fig. 20.)
- 38 CLAY.—Fragments of Pottery, twelfth to sixteenth century, four of which show ornamentation on the body and two upon handles.

Later English.

- 1 SILVER.—*Quarter-shilling* of Elizabeth, bearing date 1572.
 - 1 COPPER.—*Half-farthing* of James I.
 - 2 *Half-pence* of Charles II—"Carolus a Carolo."
 - 4 BRASS.—*Shoe and Knee buckles*, mostly fragmentary.
 - 4 IRON.—*Nails* from the old "Curing House" of the past two centuries, remains of which are visible in the sand hills north of Hoylake.
 - 4 CLAY.—*Heads of Pipes*, sixteenth century, without potters' names.
 - 4 Ditto, seventeenth century, one bearing G. A. on the rest, another D. B.
 - 5 Ditto, eighteenth century, one with A. D. on the rest.
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- 238 Total number of objects of archæological interest, irrespective of animal remains, found on or near the sea-beach of Cheshire in 1866.