

them) and the narratives from which the abstract of St. Adalbert's life, given above, is taken—as, for instance, that in the panels containing subjects relating to his journey into Prussia, three, and not two, companions are always represented. This may have been caused either by a certain carelessness, not uncommon in such cases, or by the artist's having followed some later writer, who had narrated these events in a rather different manner.

The wide borders which surround each valve contain within the scrolls of foliage, figures of lions, stags, nondescript monsters; birds and dragons, peacocks, cranes, centaurs, dogs; men hunting with bows and arrows and horns, a man killing a lion, &c., designed with much spirit and life, and very fairly modelled, except as regards the human figures.

The whole effect is extremely rich and good, and much invention is shown in the varied forms of the foliage: this is in part imitative of the vine, but more generally of an entirely conventional character.

In a subsequent number of the Journal the subject will be completed by a review of the opinions put forth by native writers as to the origin of these doors, and by an attempt to arrive at a correct conclusion on that point.

ALEX. NESBITT.

ACCOUNT OF EXCAVATIONS NEAR THE FLEAM DYKE,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, APRIL, 1852.

MATLOW, or Muttlow Hill, as it is more frequently called in the neighbourhood, although it is marked on the County Maps by the former appellation, is a large and well known tumulus in Cambridgeshire, which in its close vicinity to the remarkable earthwork, Fleam Dyke, has attracted considerable notice in that locality, especially from the tradition belonging to it, that it contained a *gold coach*, which is, or I should rather *now* say *has*, been implicitly believed, among the labouring classes thereabouts for many years; for the examination, of which I now detail the results, made under my own superintendence, has for ever extinguished the interesting legend.

It is hardly to be supposed that with such unusual

allurements to whet their curiosity, former antiquaries should have suffered this barrow to remain undisturbed, although its having been covered with Scotch firs of many years, but stunted growth, must have in some measure protected it from the encroachments of the treasure seeker; and, as the subjoined account will show, shafts have been driven horizontally on the eastern side, and sunk perpendicularly on the top, but to judge from the remaining contents, without any, or with but partial success. As the trees on and around the hill are completely worthless, and the strip of land on which it stands in conjunction with the dyke is waste, I received early this spring through the medium of Mr. John Teverson, in whose occupation the adjacent farm is, the kind permission of the owner of the site, Mr. Capel, to make whatever excavations I deemed advisable to ascertain its nature. Judging from my experience in opening other barrows in this neighbourhood, and the uncertainty of its having been previously explored, that cutting to the centre would be unsatisfactory, I commenced on the 12th of April with six labourers turning it over regularly from end to end, advancing from the southern extremity. The tumulus we found to be composed principally of the soil of the vicinity; light, chalky, intersected with two or three bands of darker earth running across horizontally, which satisfied us at once that this part at least had never been disturbed since its original formation. The first object met with, at the depth of one foot, was a very small and rude illegible coin, similar to others obtained from tombs in the same neighbourhood, which have been pronounced to be imitations of the coins of the later emperors, struck by the tribes of Roman Britons, probably during the latter part of the occupation, or directly subsequent to the departure, of the Romans. Shortly afterwards, eight feet from the southern end, and three from the surface, lay a small heap of burnt human bones, apparently but of one person, intensely white from cremation; among them were several of the chipped flints so common in these interments, part of a bronze pin for fastening the cloth in which the bones had been probably wrapped, six long beads of pottery (Comp. Anc. Wilts., pl. ix.) each consisting of five smaller ones united, and a bone pin made from the leg bone of a fowl. Within a foot of these, but lower on the floor of the barrow, lay URN

No. 1. ; a small and exceedingly rude specimen of the sunbaked pottery, resembling those frequently taken from the large Wiltshire tumuli ; when found it was full of burnt ashes, apparently of some plant ; it was removed entire, and is now in my collection ; by the assistance of the faithful pencil of Mr. J. M. Youngman of Saffron Walden, I am enabled to lay before the Society representations of it, and of the others from the same site, which will supply a most accurate notion of the originals.

*April 13.*—URN No. 2. Fifteen feet from the western exterior, and two from the surface of the mound of the same material, but larger than preceding, finished with shelving rims. Contents : burnt human bones enveloped in a cloth, which, on looking into the vessel, gave them the appearance of being viewed through a yellow gauze veil, but which upon being touched dissolved into fine powder. This, as well as No. 1., was not inverted ; they were interred upright on their bottoms. No. 3. Same day.—Thirteen feet from western exterior, three from the surface, had apparently been crushed at interment. Contents : burnt human bones, with similar vestiges of cloth as before ; the rim only could be restored, which however proves it to have been of extraordinary size, being two feet in diameter. This is not drawn. No. 4. Same day ; two feet from the surface, sixteen from the western exterior ; of similar form and material, and smaller than Nos. 2 and 3, though larger than No. 1. Removed entire. Contents : a few bones, apparently of a very young person, without any traces of cloth. This day the cutting at the centre of the hill was more than six feet.

*April 14.*—URN No. 5. Two feet from the surface, and six from the south-west extremity, without any contents. No. 6. Same day. Sixteen feet deep, ten from the outside, in fragments. Contents : burnt human bones ; cutting this day exceeded eight feet, and three feet from the west side a large heap of burnt human bones was exposed, with palpable vestiges of cloth as before ; after this, on the top, we broke into evident traces of a shaft, which seemed to have been sunk perpendicularly, but proved to be of small extent.

*April 15.*—About six feet from the western exterior, and two from the surface, we laid bare another heap of bones, without any relic. This day the workmen broke into

SEPULCHRAL URNS, FOUND IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.



Urn discovered April, 1852, in excavations at Matlow Hill, near the Fleam Dyke, by the Hon. Richard C. Neville.

No. 2. Height,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  in.; Diameter, 14 in.

SEPULCHRAL URNS FOUND IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.



No. 5.  
Height,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. Diam., 4 in.

No. 1.  
Height, 3 in. Diam., 4 in.

No. 8.  
Height,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. Diam.,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .



No. 4.  
Height,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. Diam.  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

Urns discovered, April, 1852, in Excavations at Matlow Hill, near the Flcam Dyke,  
by the Hon. Richard C. Neville.

another shaft of considerable size, which had been driven horizontally towards the centre from the eastern side, accommodating its course to avoid injuring the trees growing on the tumulus. As no deposit was discovered in the whole examination in the eastern side of the mound, though with the exception of this cutting undisturbed, I should imagine that no relics were obtained at the time of its being made.

*April 16.*—No. 7. A small broken vase, in shape as Nos. 1 and 5, three feet from the surface, and eight from western exterior. Contents: burnt human bones. No. 8. Same day. Four feet four inches from surface, ten from western side, a small perfect urn standing upright, without contents. With the exception of another small rude brass coin similar to that mentioned above, and supposed to be of the late Roman period, this closes the list of relics obtained from this remarkable tumulus, of which the following were the dimensions previous to commencing; sixty-seven feet in diameter by one hundred and ninety in circumference. Depth, at greatest elevation, from ten to twelve feet.

#### EXAMINATION OF FOUNDATIONS AT THE BASE OF THE BARROW.

On the termination of the works in the mound I proceeded to test the truth of another rumour current in the vicinity, relative to the existence of a foundation contiguous to the base of the tumulus, which evidently arose from portions of mortar and chalk bricks visible in a rabbit-hole adjoining, which held out sufficient hopes of success to induce me to direct my workmen to proceed under the surveillance of Mr. Oldham, to ascertain the direction and extent of the building, if any such existed. This they accomplished in eight days, and although I consider the remains to be entirely independent of the mound, I am induced to record them in this place. The foundation was composed of large bricks shaped from chalk, and appeared to be that of a circular building measuring thirty-five feet across, and three feet in thickness of wall. In the course of digging, the following remains were obtained, chiefly Roman. (See woodcuts here given.) One thick bit of embossed Samian ware; fragment of granite celt; one flint ditto; one bead of green glass; one skeleton with one ring of bronze; two bronze

styli ; one bronze needle ; three bow-shaped bronze fibulæ, one of which has been gilt ; two bronze armlets ; one iron buckle ; one ditto bronze. Besides these, seventy-nine coins, as follow.

1 Early British.

1 Silver Antoninus Pius.

1 Romano-British.

1 Imitation made as a counter.

18 1st brass, *viz.* 1 Domitian ; 3 Trajan ; 7 Hadrian ; 2 Antoninus Pius ; 1 *Aurelius* ; 3 *Commodus* ; 1 Caracalla.

7 2d brass, *viz.* 2 Vespasian ; 1 Titus ; 1 Hadrian ;

2 Antoninus Pius ; 1 *Lucius Verus*.

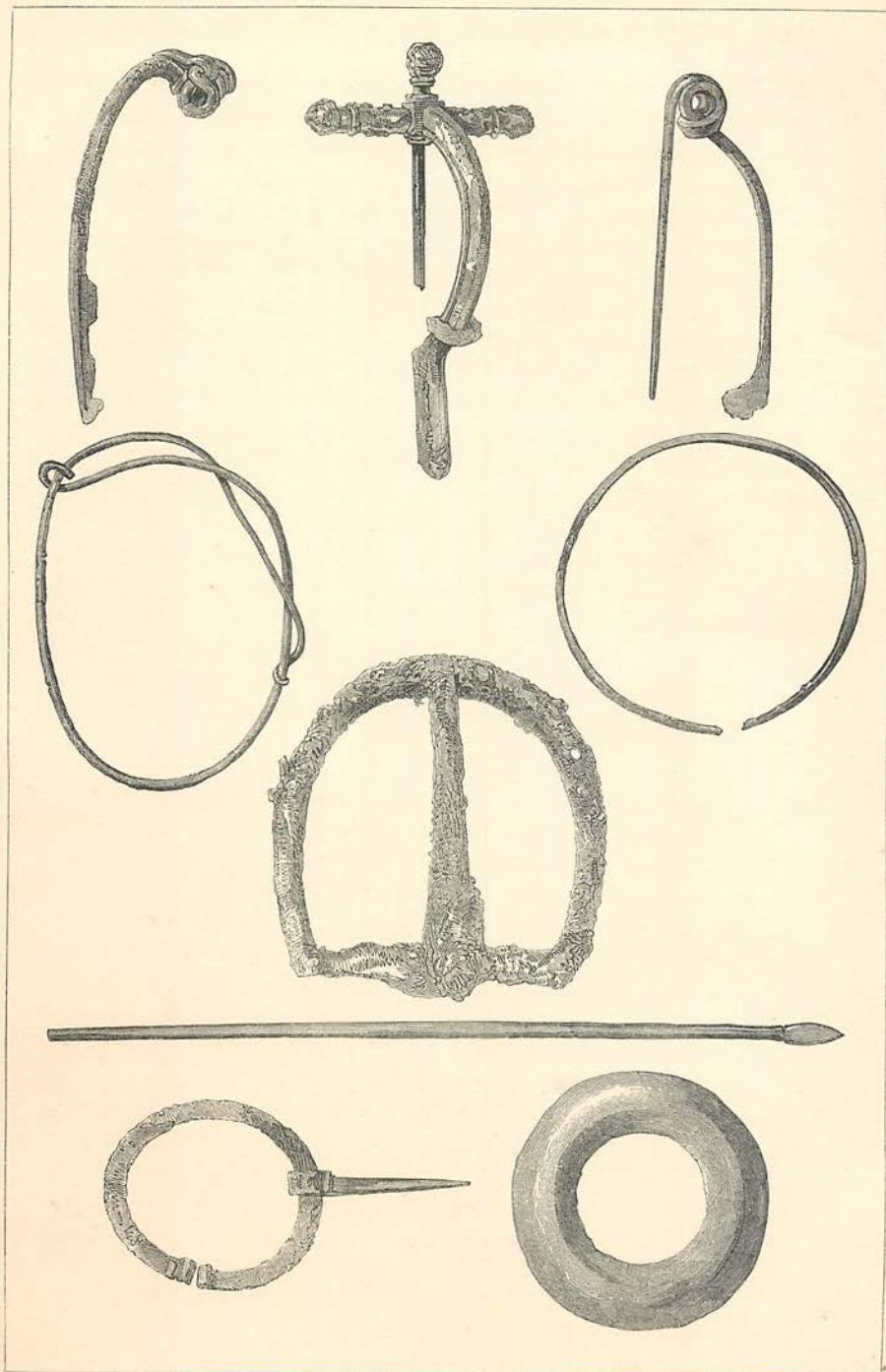
24 3d brass, *viz.* 14 Constantine ; 1 Licinius ; 1 Gratian ; 1 Victorinus ; 1 Postumus ; 1 Allectus ; 1 Claudius Gothicus ; 3 Tetricus ; 1 Valentinian ; which, with 27 second and third brass illegible, completes the catalogue.

The ground having been thoroughly examined, and the foundations removed at the request of Mr. Teverson, the work was concluded on May 7th, 1852.

R. C. NEVILLE.

*June 27th.*

ANTIQUITIES FOUND IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.



Bronze Fibulae, Armillae, and other relics found, April, 1852, in excavations made by the Hon. Richard C. Neville, near the Fleam Dyke.