

that millions of our race are now supported by lands situated where deep seas prevailed in earlier ages. In many districts not yet occupied by man, land animals and forests now abound, where ships once sailed; and on the other hand we shall find on inquiry, that inroads of the ocean have been no less considerable. When, to these revolutions produced by aqueous causes, we add analogous changes wrought by igneous agency, we shall perhaps acknowledge the justice of the conclusion of Aristotle, who declared (*Meteoric*, chapter 12,) "That the whole land and sea on our globe periodically changed places."

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A BRITISH DAGGER FOUND
AT WOODNOOK, NEAR WAKEFIELD.

T. WILSON, Esq., Vice-President of the Society, read a "Notice of the discovery of an ancient British Dagger at Woodnook, near Wakefield." The dagger was found in the year 1842, in the valley of the Calder, about five miles north-east of Wakefield, in the township of Altofts. Not far from the point where the Midland Railway crosses the river Calder, and on the west side, may be seen a lock, by which the new line of navigation re-enters the river. While the workmen were excavating this lock, at a depth of twenty-four feet from the surface, they came to the shale which forms the upper portion of the original rock of the district. Over this they had passed through alluvial matter; the alternations of which the author described. A section of the spot gives the following:—

Soil	} 24 feet.
Sand	
Gravel	
Silt and Sand with Black Oak	
Red Gravel.....	
Black Bind.....	

The circumstances detailed imparted to the relic a geological, as well as an antiquarian interest. It was found lying flat, and covered by a layer of sand, in which there were pieces of black oak, lying right above it, precluding the notion that it could have sunk into that position, and indicating rather that the whole of the alluvial matter found above it must have been deposited since. It is of a beautiful yellowish bronze colour; and its elegant form and workmanship indicate a very high state of the arts necessary to the manufacture of weapons of this kind. Three rivets, by which it was attached to the handle, still remain. The interest that attaches to this relic is enhanced by the fact that, in the year 1818, at Stanley Ferry, a few miles above the place where it was found, the remains of a canoe formed from the solid oak, also of this period, were discovered. It was similarly embedded in the detritus of the country, and was eighteen feet six inches below the present surface of the ground, and about six feet below the bed of the river, and measured in length seventeen feet nine inches, and its greatest breadth is three feet ten inches. A number of oak trees, quite sound and black, were found near to the canoe, which is now deposited in the museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical and Literary Society, at York.

Mr. BRIGGS inquired whether the spot where the dagger was found was not very near to the hill called *Fairies Hill*?

Mr. WILSON said it was a very short distance from the hill.

Mr. BRIGGS remarked that the origin of the *Fairies Hill* was no doubt artificial. The question was, by whom was it formed? It was generally supposed to have been formed by the Romans, for at Castleford, distant about three-quarters of a mile, there was a Roman encampment, and it was thought that this hill was a sort of outpost of that encampment. In forming a dock within three hundred yards of the place where this dagger was found, the workmen

came to two large logs of oak. They were put across, as if to dam up the water and make a fosse round the Fairies Hill; they were about twenty feet below the surface, perfectly sound, and quite black.

Mr. JEBSON asked if the dagger had been minutely examined to see whether there was any inscription upon it?

Mr. WILSON said it had not been examined by a powerful magnifier that he was aware of. There were some marks, but he thought it would be difficult to say that they were anything more than accidental scratches, except the ornamentation.

The Rev. Mr. TROLLOPE said he had paid particular attention to articles of this sort, and he was quite satisfied, without examining the dagger now exhibited with a magnifying glass, that it had no letters upon it. They occasionally found Runic inscriptions, but the punctures upon this dagger were simply ornamentation, certainly not letters. The question of—Who made this weapon? was well worthy of consideration, and particularly so as it was not an easy one to answer. He believed, and he was strengthened in that belief by the best authorities in England, that these daggers, of which they had there a specimen, belonged to the same period as the leaf saws, also made of the same metal, and it was not positively pretended by any authority to what nation they belonged; but they believed they were justified in saying that they belonged to nations long prior to the time of the first Roman invasion in this country.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN also took part in the discussion, and mentioned the curious and amusing circumstance that four brass plates, which were deposited in the museum at Florence in the fifteenth century, had remained there until 1848 without anybody knowing to what nation they belonged, when a gentleman who visited the museum

found, from the inscriptions upon the plates, that they were advertisements, in Irish, of a skipper wanting a cargo to go to the Western Islands. They were placards put up to encourage emigration to those islands.

The Rev. Mr. TROLLOPE remarked that in his own county (Lincolnshire) a large bone comb was found in a case, with a good deal of ornamentation upon it. There was also an inscription, in Danish, to this effect—"Tastig makes a good comb." That was the only instance he knew of in England of a Danish inscription being found upon a Danish comb. He mentioned this to show that it was well worth while examining, with a magnifying glass, articles of this kind, to see whether there was any inscription.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND remarked that the "Dagger" appeared to him like a spear head, and it looked very modern.

ON THE LEAD MINING DISTRICTS OF YORKSHIRE. BY
STEPHEN EDDY, ESQ., OF CARLETON GRANGE, SKIPTON.

(Abstract of a Paper read before the British Association, at Leeds, 1858, and published in their Report.)

In comparison with the vast coal-fields and ironstone beds of Yorkshire, the lead producing districts of this county seem trifling; yet, in consideration of the large population dependent upon the mining and manufacture of lead, they necessarily claim our attention.

That lead mines in Yorkshire were prosecuted by the Romans, is fully proved by the discovery of two pigs of lead near Pateley Bridge, inscribed with the name of the Emperor Domitian, and bearing date A.D. 82; but it is very probable that they were worked at even a more remote period by the ancient Britons. Generally speaking, lead mines are situate on rugged and barren elevations; and in this respect the Yorkshire mines are not excep-