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miscellanea

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MISCELLANEA.

"Item debent de quolibet jugo colligere unum bussellum de blakeberyen, et deferre ad Curiam domini Episcopi. Et habebunt pro quolibet bussello de blakeberyen unum bussellum mundi frumenti."

"Item invenire debent de qualibet domo unum hominem ad vinum domini Episcopi colligendum, si necesse fuerit. Et dominus Episcopus cibabit eosdem collectores ter in die, ut dictum est supra.

"Item Magister hospitalis de Strodes debet facere totum murum inter vineam domini et Cimiterium."

It would seem that, in making wine, blackberries were mixed with the grapes,—probably to enrich the colour and to sweeten the taste.

Of this latter vineyard Lambard tells us, that in the year 1325, Hamo de Heth, Bishop of Rochester and Confessor to Edward II., sent a present of wine and grapes from it to the King. He adds that it was a plain meadow in his own time. The entry above shows that it must have adjoined the churchyard of Halling.

An earlier vineyard, situated outside the walls of Canterbury, near where the barracks now stand, and belonging perhaps to the Monks of Christ Church, is given in the well-known map of that monastery, between 1230 and 1274, from the MS. "Tripartitum Psalterium Eadwyni" in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. (More than one engraving of this curious plan has been published,—one by Hasted, vol. iv. p. 529.) And a little later, their great Prior, Henry de Estria, during his long priorate from 1285 to 1331, planted vineyards for the monks on their manors of Copton, Barton, St. Martin's, Chart-ham, Brookland, and Hollingbourne. (*Id.* p. 551, from Lib. Eccles. Cant.)

The neighbouring Abbey of St. Augustine had also its vineyards. Thorn, its chronicler, tells us of one planted by its Abbot, Ralph de Bourne, a contemporary and perhaps imitator of De Estria. This abbot was remarkable for his appreciation of good living, and for his "celebre convivium" at his installation, the bill of fare at which Thorn gives us in *extenso* (Twysd. Dec. Script. 2010); and we may surmise that he had possibly other designs in turning the Northolme, outside Canterbury, into a vineyard than the following pious considerations mentioned by his chronicler:—

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"Istis temporibus (1320) abbas Radulfus vineas juxta NoRDHOME fecit plantari. Erat enim perante idem locus spelunca latronum, habitaculum immundiciæ . . . ad quam erat quædam via communis per LE KENILE, cujus subterfugio . . . cætera talia facilius agebantur. Et hæc omnia dictus abbas pie considerans, et qua via ista scandalosa in melius posset commutare excogitans, dictam communem viam regia auctoritate et licentia præcludit, latibula umbrosa et convalles explanavit, spinas et tribulos extirpavit, arbusta truncavit, muro ex omni parte circumcinxit, et inibi vineam electam, ut impræsentiarum cernitur, ad commodum et magnum honorem honorifice plantavit." (Thorn, *ut supra*, 2036.)

Hasted mentions vineyards of much later date at Quekes Court in Thanet, at Tunbridge Castle, and at Hall-place in Barming. There was also one planted by the Tokes at Godinton, whence tradition declares good wine to have been produced.

When we regard, however, the shortcomings of our climate, as well as the admixture of blackberries which seems to have been thought necessary, we may well congratulate ourselves that the acres of Kent are now applied to the production of a liquor more in harmony with our national character, and certainly better and wholesomer, both in immediate and permanent effect, than can possibly have been gained from all the arpendis ever devoted to vine-culture.

T. G. F.

It is gratifying to be able to announce to our Society the recent discovery of another Saxon cemetery, hitherto unsuspected, in East Kent, in the centre of the district already known as so fertile in records of our Jutish ancestors. At the latter end of March last, as ground was being prepared for planting in the part of Bifrons Park known as Patribourne Hill, and lying to the east of the road from Bridge to Patribourne, the workmen lighted upon some eighteen or twenty graves, within a space of about thirty feet square. Several characteristic relics were taken from these, as follows:—

Two fine swords, measuring, with the handles, 3 ft. and 2 ft.

8 in. respectively. The wood of their scabbards still adheres to both.

A long spear-head, and another shorter; measuring, with their sockets, 1 ft. 8 in. and 11½ in. respectively.

An umbo, with two of the iron braces which radiated from it to the edge of the circular shield.

A large iron buckle, with the plate to which the strap was attached; found among the ribs of a skeleton.

A smaller buckle of bronze, of common type; and a few beads of clay and porcelain.

Three little knives, one of dagger-shape; a large iron ringle, and a few other iron fragments.

The foregoing relics were from promiscuous graves. From the richest, evidently a lady's grave, were taken,—

A fine necklace of beads, principally of amber and glass. Of the latter are several of the double and treble head shape, and a few bugles, one of which is of an ultramarine-blue colour. Also one remarkable bead of crystal, cut into five little bosses or knobs.

Two small fibulæ, exactly alike, of bronze gilt, and of the common circular type, each with a centre of ivory and three garnets surrounding it.

A large iron key: and a ring of iron linked into another of bronze, each about an inch in diameter. Three little bronze tags, with fronts of an usual triangular shape.

A spiral ring, composed of a thin band of silver; found still encircling the finger-bone, which is preserved with it. It is imperfect, and may have consisted of many more spiral circles than those engraved below. (Fig. 1.)

A bronze buckle, with ornamented bronze strap-plate, the upper part of which is overlaid with a thin plate of silver. (Fig. 2.)

A small bronze stud or rivet, with flat circular head, incised in a rude pattern. (Fig. 3.)

The three last-mentioned specimens are engraved below.

The graves—with, it is supposed, one exception—lay east and west: all were on the brow of the hill, slightly down the western slope.

The high ground, of which this hill forms the western edge,

has always been remarkable for its ancient remains, especially of the Saxon period. The great Roman road to Dover runs over it, within two hundred yards of these Patribourne graves; and but a little further lay the Bourne cemetery, partially explored by Bryan Faussett, and completed, a century later, by the late Lord Londesborough. On the same spur of hill are Barham and Adisham Downs, and at no great distance eastward lie Barfriston and Sibertswold—all spots which yielded rich materials to the earlier of those two explorers. Within the last few weeks, on another part of this western brow, almost directly above Patribourne Church, have been found other graves, with iron fragments accompanying the skeletons. I can gather nothing further from the workmen to indicate the probable date of these.

The Marquess Conyngham, with a kindness not now for the first time shewn to the Society, has most liberally permitted us to excavate the spot near the Saxon graves, when the season shall be convenient. It is hoped, therefore, that before long the Council may find itself able to make further search in this very interesting direction.

T. G. F.

May 15, 1866.



Fig. 1.

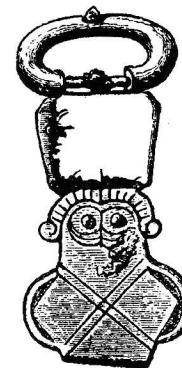


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.