



THE BRONZE
HEAD

FOUND IN THE ALDE

*Fragment about
12 inches high*

FOUND AT RENDHAM, SUFFOLK.

Pen and Ink Sketch by J. S. Corder, Esq., by permission of the owner, E. R. Holland, Esq., of Benhall Lodge, Suffolk.

Vide Proceedings, Vol. xiii, pt. 2, pp. 225-6; Roman Finds at Sweffling, Vol. xiv, p. 367.

ROMAN FINDS AT SWEFFLING.

BY PERCY CLARK.

Although of no startling importance, yet the excavations carried on during July, 1909, at Castle Hill Field, Sweffling, by the Aldeburgh Literary Society, have been productive of some local interest. The finds, though they were few, help to prove that the spot was undoubtedly once in the occupation of the Romans, used probably as a small station on the road from Stratford St. Andrew, leading north.

Castle Hill Field, a suggestive name, the property of Colonel Bloomfield of Glemham Grove, lies in a swampy meadow bordered by the river Alde, about a mile south-east from Sweffling Church.

In the middle of the marsh, surrounded by two streams and a deep artificial ditch, rises a low mound, barely a quarter of an acre in extent, composed mostly of heaps of large and small flints and loose sandy soil, the surface of which is now honeycombed by a colony of rabbits. Digging was undertaken at this spot on July 21st and 22nd by two energetic labourers.

A trench 3 ft. deep was driven across the *highest part* of the mound, or castle hill, where the flints were thickest, and excavation difficult, and very little was found here; but on proceeding to open another trench on the slope, at right angles to the above, where the soil was more sandy, a fair quantity of pottery was unearthed, together with a few oyster shells, and some large animal bones.

The collection thus formed comprises about a score of fragmentary vase-rims, and bottoms of pots and shallow bowls, made of a very coarse ware, though

the rims are sharp and well moulded. In colour they are brown, black, or reddish, and one is ornamented with a series of finger marks ; the rest of the fifty or so odd bits of pottery show little or no trace of decoration, one piece on the outside is indented with concentric lines.

Not a very notable discovery perhaps, but sufficient to prove that this small hill-mound was once held and tenanted by the Romans, and as such to be noted down in the county maps. A mile upstream from this point and lying in the muddy bed, was found in 1907 a fine bronze head, now in possession of Mr. Hollond of Benhall, fragment may be of a statue ornamenting the garden of some Roman villa situated within call of the small outpost in the valley.

In dry summer weather when the grass has been mown, an ancient corduroy road is still distinctly traceable, running through the level meadows, from the earth works described above, in a northerly direction. Colonel Bloomfield is now in possession of the finds.