

Notice of a Burial by Cremation,
of the Bronze Period,
in the Parish of West Buckland.

BY W. A. SANFORD.

IN the last week in September of the year 1867, some men were digging a drain on Ash Farm, in the parish of West Buckland, and found the remains described below. The drain is cut through the flat alluvium of the River Tone, on the south bank. The soil is a somewhat incoherent mixture of gravel and clay, resting at the depth of about three feet six inches on a bed of hard compact gravel; the drain is sunk to the level of the gravel. At about one hundred and sixty yards from the river the men found that the earth had been previously moved, and at the depth of three feet came upon a very fine bronze torque, and close under it, upon two large bronze axes of the usual form, one of them having two rings for the binding thongs, and the other one ring, and under these again two pieces of a bronze armlet of very elegant pattern. I searched the stuff thrown out, and found another piece of the armlet, and a quantity of charcoal, and some fragments of burnt bone. The gravel bed had been disturbed to the

depth of six inches. The pattern of the armlet was a broad flat ring, one inch wide, with a lap, in order to enable it to enlarge and slip over the hand ; the edges were flattened and raised into ridges, other ridges were raised on the ring about three sixteenths of an inch from the edges, and the space between these was ornamented with a row of large bosses, much in the same way that carbuncles are frequently set in ladies' bracelets at present. Between each two bosses there are two raised triangular ornaments, and the narrow spaces between the ridges and the bosses are ornamented by four lines of minute indentations, the finish of the whole is quite equal to good goldsmiths' work. The torque is of the usual twisted form and is beautifully finished. The axes are all but perfect and have been very little used. I have no doubt that we have here an instance of a burial by cremation of the bronze period, in a low flat spot, without the slightest indication of a tumulus or external grave.
