

Answer

21 Sept 1889

(L642)

54, HICHBURY HILL.

N.

the stone chambers &c of an earlier age we more generally find a south-east direction connected with sepulture & death, and which may perhaps symbolize winter, not as the time at which the death occurred, but as suggestive of death generally.

With best wishes, I remain,

Yours Truly,

*Alfred Russel Wallace*

Dear General Pitt Rivers,  
I am glad you found something at London Wall worth the trouble of the journey, and I am also glad to hear that correct plans &c are being made of the circles near Aberdeen, as time and weather prevented my taking detailed measurements. Of the circle near Dyce I was able to take sufficient particulars to construct a good model.

I have now read the second volume of your explorations in Wiltshire which you were so kind as to send me.

I have not observed in your account anything to show whether the inhabitants of these villages were Pagans or Christians, and I suppose the continuity of habitation in this district was too completely broken to make it likely that the nearest church (wherever that may be) would occupy the site of a church or temple contemporary with your villages, but it would be a good point to clear up.

The discovery of the bronze fibula on the shoulder and of the iron fibula on the hip of the same skeleton, showing the position in which they were worn, is very interesting, and also demonstrates the value of the care you take in noting the exact position in which everything is found.

With regard to the orientation of the Saxon graves it might be inferred from your remarks that the sun never appeared to rise more than  $23.26$  degrees north of east on the Wiltshire horizon, but this is opposed to the experience of those who go to Stonehenge to see it rise  $45$  degrees or so north of east. In