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HOOTON ROBERTS RECTORY,  
ROTHERHAM.

27. Oct: 1891.

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I once had the pleasure of showing you the "Bailey Hill" at Bradfield, and discussed the flint implements which I found around it. Since then I have changed my living, but I brought with me a large collection of flints, and among these was a fossil flint Echinus. I thought this had been brought from the Yorkshire Wolds with other flints for chipping purposes, and I

I have asked Mr. Freville Chester, who has now started for Egypt, to ascertain if these cidares are found among Egyptian flint flakes out there. He says he thinks they are. I am not by this suggesting Shepherd's Crowns have anything to do with Shepherd Kings, but the survival of any prehistoric "folk lore" would be very interesting, if true. I regret that I did not succeed before leaving Bradfield in getting the Bailey Hill put under the operation of the Act.

Believe me yours truly  
Reginald T. Gatty.

Thought no more about it. I have since found that the cottagers in Hampshire, and Norfolk, have a great veneration for fossil Echini, which they call "Shepherd's Crowns", and also "Fairingdoanes", and they keep them as charms for good luck. Evans in his book on Flints, page 421, speaks of finding Echini with burnt bones and flints in a tumulus. It has struck me as curious that I should find this fossil Echini on the moors, and coupling the possible veneration paid to such fossils in Prehistoric times, with the certain respect now paid

to them by the poor people, I have imagined a survival of a prehistoric tradition. I hope you will not think me presumptuous in asking you if you have met with Echini in prehistoric interments. No one better than yourself can answer my question. The Latin for these Echini is, as you know, cidaris, and the Latin Dictionary derives this from a Persian word, and gives a quotation from Leviticus describing the Jewish High Priest's crowns as showing the sort of head dress it illustrates.