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Cranborne 25. Nov. '91

Dear General,

I quite omitted to mention that I have also several bits of pottery which are said to have been found with the other things - each of them shows strong signs of common yellowish colour. I made particular request to be favoured with further details of the find, but I have received no other than the things were found in an excavation 10 or 12 ft. deep on the site of the old Town Mill.

It would give me much pleasure if you favoured me with a call, but it is a long drive and the days are short, and I could send a parcel to you by our Post cart to Long Crichel if you can get it from thence.

I have sent you a copy of
my Paper in the forthcoming
Vol: of the Field Club, recently
received from the Printer, if
you will kindly accept it,
I think you will say that
Mr Knowle's drawings of the
Eggs are remarkably well done.

I must trouble you with
a Postscript to this note in
reference to yr. ~~note~~ mention of
Boeckler, and am, dear General

Yours very truly

J. W. W. Smart

The Green drove N of Pentridge village to the Down, where it seems to terminate near Bockerley. Mr. Warne thought that its line on the E. side is continued up the hill to Peak Corner, running parallel with the Dyke but not conformable with its angular course. At Peak corner it becomes identified with a more strongly marked vid that runs to Whitsbury Camp and on towards the river near Downton. Mr. Warne thought that its line on the W. side pursued a N. direction, which I could not see. I cannot but think that the wide expanse of Pasture and Forest, the Avenue of approach to the great Settlement on Gussage Down, and the Settlement itself were intentionally defended by the Rampart of Bockerley.

It is futile to theorize on insufficient data, yet we cannot help using the imagination in the absence of fact, although quite aware that this has ever been the bane of archaeology. Posterity will be greatly indebted to you for the lights let in upon the mind by your judicious and extensive Explorations.

Wm. Pitt Rivers.

Wm. Pitt Rivers. Nov. 25. 1891.

P. J. I have carefully read & thought over the ingenious suggestions in your note about Bockerley Dyke, but cannot think that so great a work could have been undertaken for the purpose of entrapping a herd of deer or other animals. In this view must it not be altogether Saxon? On the other hand I am quite of your opinion that it must have been a defensive work, I am still impressed with the idea that in its original state it is of Celtic construction. Undoubtedly your excavations have proved that those parts of it N.W. of the 'Epaulement' were utilized and modified by the Romans and Roman-British to serve their own ends, and very probably by the Saxons also. I believe you

have without doubt discovered
the true site of Vinidogladia.
Within the last few years I have
rode over that ground several times,
chiefly with the view of examining the
course of Bockerley Dyke and Grim's Ditch.
I found Cobley to lie between them, and
could trace B-, only much diminished
in proportions to its apparent termination
in West Woodgates Cow Leaze. I could
trace Grim's ditch plainly enough up to
the E. end of the field in which Middle
Chase Farm stands, but beyond this I could
not satisfactorily perceive any traces of it
except, perhaps, for a short distance before
crossing the road in Aston (Alvediston) Bottom.
I failed to find it again on Handley Common,
though I still think that its course is towards
the Settlement at Woodcuts. It is noteworthy
that Bockerley changes its character at
both ends as it approaches the woods.

Please excuse me if I state to you
the theory I have long held, viz, that
the Dyke must be taken in connection

with that remarkable series of earth-
works on Gypsage Down, which 50
years ago were much more manifest,
and impressive than they are now.
Here was, what I may call, the
Celtic Metropolis of this extensive
Forest district, Bockerley Dyke
being one of its defences and the
principal one too. I think that
the Celts, who were a more powerful,
if less numerous people than the
long headed people of the long Barrows,
forced them continually Northwards
to the natural boundary of this district
the river Avon; the dyke was raised
to keep them within the territory
allotted to them. You remember
I dare say, the Cursus or Avenue
creeping over our Downs from the
E. end of Gypsage Down to the Pentridge
enclosures, and crossed by the Roman
Road, I have traced, in former years
as far as Pentridge Church, and
thought its further course is marked by