

ATTERMIRE CAVE AND GIGGLESWICK SCARS.

In "Local Scraps" I gave a description of Settle, written by Mr. Housman more than a hundred years ago. The following account of Attermire Cave and Giggleswick Scars is from the same work.

"Attermire Cave is a remarkable cavern, on the high moors, near two miles east from Settle. The approach to it is not without some danger, the only path leading along a ledge of a rocky precipice, which turns into the cave by an opening of about two yards by four. It then continues to vary its dimensions for near 20 yards, where the roof drops at once from 12 yards high to 18 inches, and rises but little for near 20 yards further, when it suddenly opens into a spacious apartment of about 15 yards high. This gloomy mansion contains numberless chinks and recesses, fluted pillars and hanging petrifications. Sometimes you may ascend several yards, and sometimes descend a few paces. Frequently this subterranean passage turns suddenly at right angles; and then shuts close, so as scarcely to admit of a person to creep along; and afterwards enlarges again to a great extent. —About 20 yards within this cavern a well of fine water springs up, and issues out of its mouth. At the farthest end a deep hole drops down with an irregular inclination, which may be descended a little way without much danger. A stone thrown down is heard for some time with a rumbling noise.

In a field, near the town of Settle, we are told a noise is always heard, like the distant clacking of a mill. No orifice in the ground, nor any external cause, appears: it is, however, supposed to be occasioned by a waterfall in one of those natural subterraneous perforations in the limestone so common in this rocky country.

The mountains in this neighbourhood afford many curious petrifications.

In our proposed route from Settle to Clapham, we leave Giggleswick on the left, and soon have a piece of shallow water on one side, and a high ridge of prominent limestone rocks on the other. The hoary fronts of these precipices are softened towards the south with a covering of trees, which spread considerably up their sides; but afterwards, for upwards of a mile, the grizzly naked rock increases in height and grandeur, till its top is near 200 feet perpendicular upon the large sloping base. —Ivy and yew spring out of its crevices: the former creeps up and ornaments its aged brows with continual verdure, while the nodding plumes of the latter add still more beauty to the scene. This rock accompanies the road for some miles, like an immense wall, and contains different chasms which are seen from thence: one of these exactly resembles a large gateway, but does not penetrate above seven or eight yards into the rock: in another, called Kalecow Hole, the opening extends a considerable way, but so low and narrow, that it is not explored without some difficulty."

(From T. Brayshaw's "Local Clippings.")

1928

BOYS' DISCOVERY IN A CAVE. RELIC OF ANCIENT BRITAIN FOUND AT SETTLE.

Two boys in their early teens who went to the Attermire Cave, near Settle, on an exploration expedition, made a discovery which has aroused the interest of antiquaries. The lads, John Knowles and Fred Clayton, were out hoping to find "something," as they told Mr. H. Crowther, of the Leeds City Museum, but they never anticipated the luck that was theirs.

In the ground about two feet deep, and

been definitely identified by the British Museum authorities as being of the Roman period. The brooch has been sent to London to the Museum and to the Society of Antiquaries. It has been photographed, and the following note written on it for the Journal of the Society of Antiquaries:—

This peculiar variety of the S-shaped brooch is constructed in one piece (apart from the pin) of stout bronze wire, and is 1.8 in. long. The ends are conical, and the body, instead of forming an S curve, is doubled into loops which are strengthened by two ribbed collars, deeply



Attermire Rocks.

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Attermire

Local Clippings

POT-HOLERS BREAK NEW GROUND.

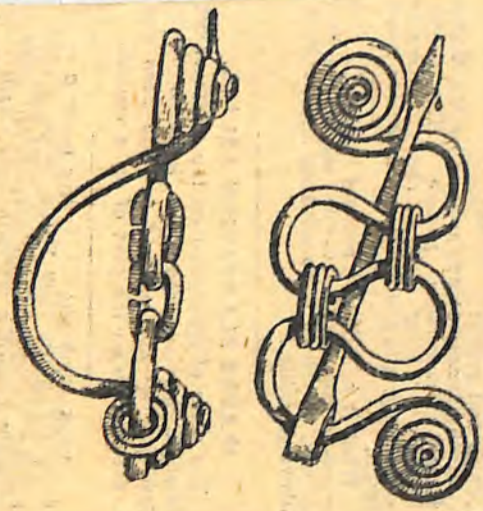
Attermire Rocks

BRAIDA GARTH, INGLETON.
 For further information apply to:—
 Mr. H. H. Pettiford, Botham, Bentham, Lancashire.
 Mr. R. T. Redmayne, and Lot 4 is in the occupation of Mr. H. H. Pettiford.
 Lot 1, 2 and 3 are in the occupation of Mr. H. H. Pettiford.
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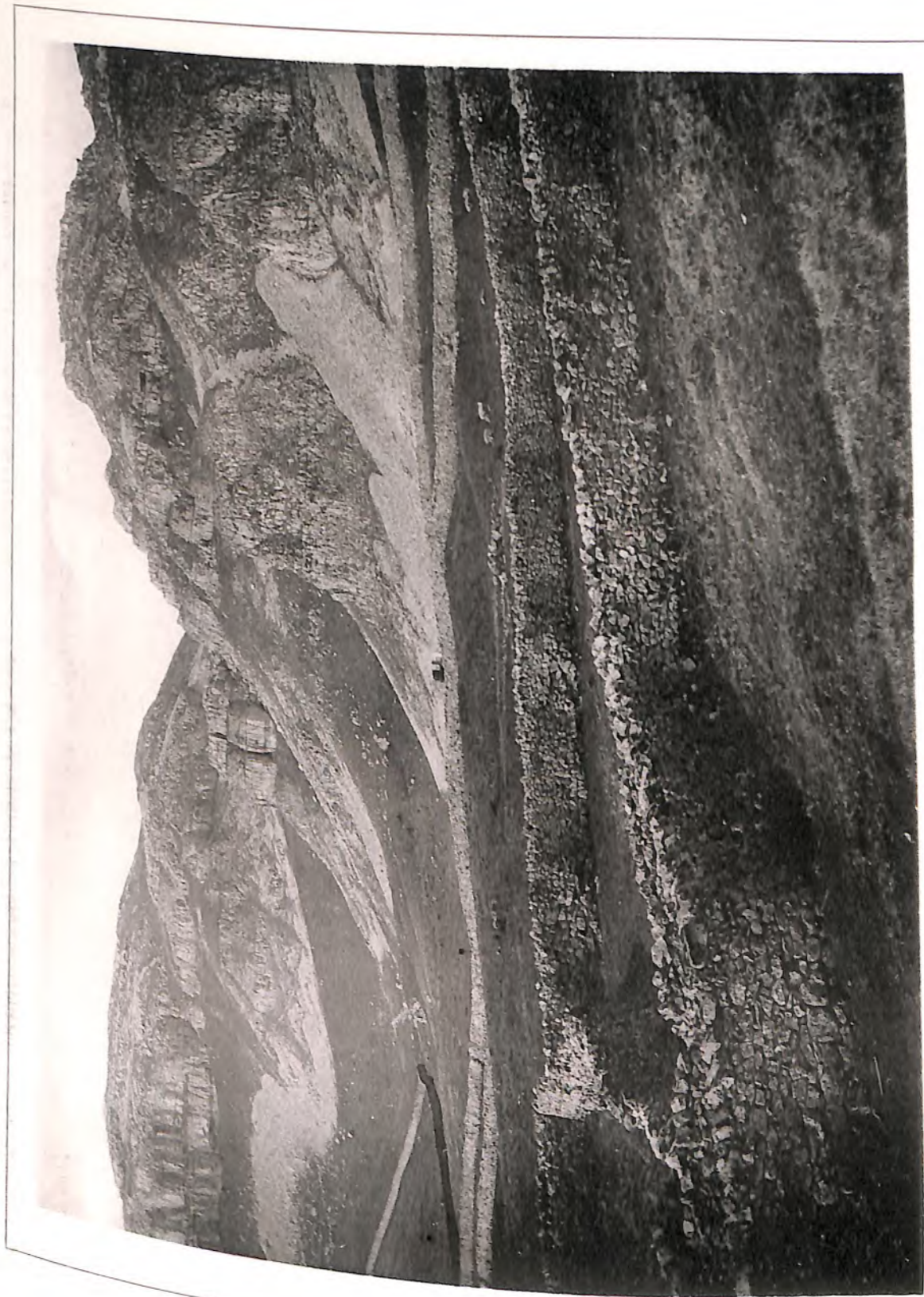
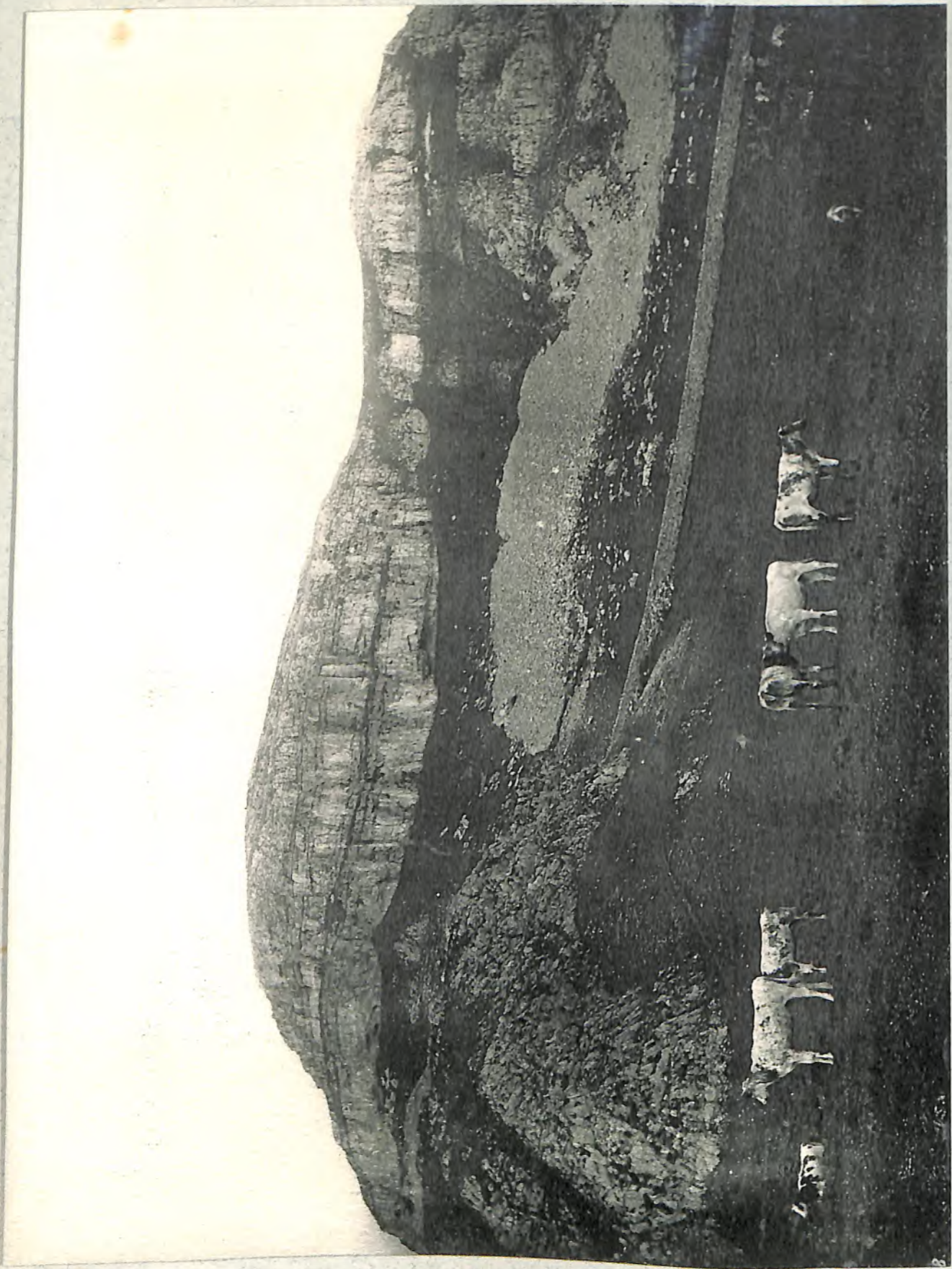
Two boys in their early teens who went to the Attermire Cave, near Settle, on an exploration expedition, made a discovery which has aroused the interest of antiquaries. The lads, John Knowles and Fred Clayton, were out hopping to find "something," as they told Mr. H. Crowther, of the Leeds City Museum, but they never anticipated the luck that was theirs. In the ground about two feet deep, and



Five yards from the entrance of the cave, they came across a wire brooch, which has

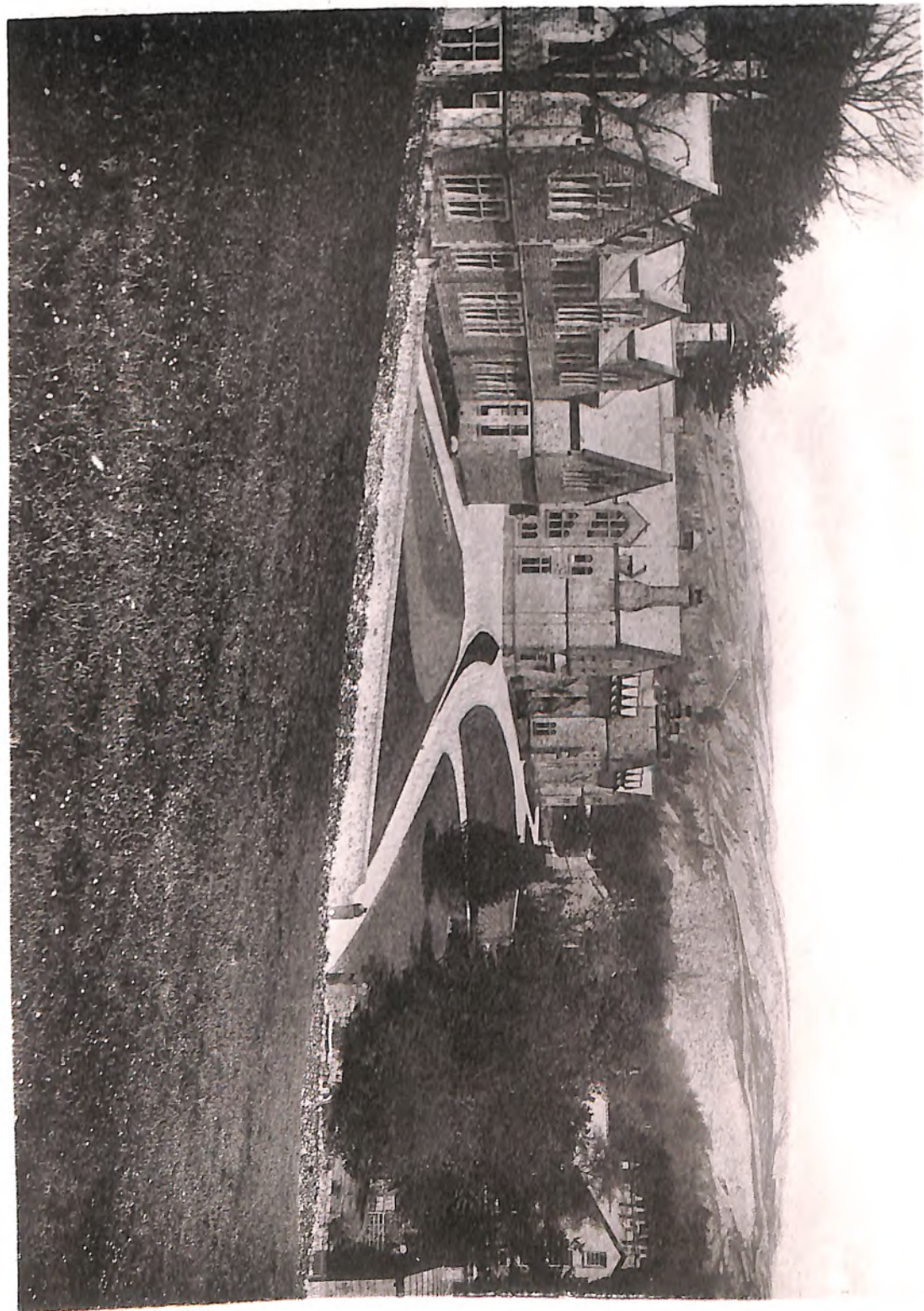
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This peculiar variety of the S-shaped brooch is constructed in one piece (apart from the pin) of stout bronze wire, and is 1.5 in. long. The ends are conical, and the body, instead of forming an S curve, is doubled into loops which are strengthened by two ribbed collars. The pin is coiled at the head, and deeply curved to pass through the clothing. The S or dragon-shaped type of brooch, which is normally enamelled in different colours, and is almost confined to Britain. The simpler specimens of wire (such as this) are found in each case loosely associated with one of the enamel types. That from the Roman fort at Newstead was found at a depth of 3 ft. outside the west gate; and the other was from Victoria Cave, Settle, Yorkshire. All the available evidence points to the same date for these varieties of the S brooch; and associated finds, as well as the enamel technique, are in favour of the first half of the second century. The brooch has been acquired by Mr. Crowther for the Leeds City Museum. He rightly regards it as an important acquisition. When the brooch was first brought to Leeds it was thought to be of Saxon origin, and now it is regarded as of British workmanship in Roman times.



ATTERMIRE ROCKS, SETTLE

GIGLESWICK HOSTEL FROM THE MAINS



for an hour in the Stockdale lane and look upon the rocks. The lights and shadows give a weirdness to the scene that makes it most fascinating. The hour soon passes, but the memory of that moonlit picture abides.

But to resume our day's rambles, let us again make for the targets. There is no danger that we may *ourselves* become targets, or be hit by a ricochet-shot, unless the red flag is hoisted. If the red flag is up we must give the targets a wide berth. In the field-corner past the flag-staff there is a small gate through which we now pass; then turn to the left up the hollow. Along this hollow we have constant evidence of the effect of weather on the cliffs. The heaps of screes over which we walk are the fragments that have, during countless centuries, been chipped from the face of the scars. Of what long ages of time these heaps of screes speak! The writer has spent very many hours amongst these rocks, and now and then, but very rarely, has he seen or heard a fragment fall from the cliff and come rattling down amongst the loose stones below. Of course it is under the frosts and storms of winter that most of this weathering takes place, and it is then that we least often visit the rocks. But, taking full account of this, how slight must be the destructive work wrought upon the cliff by a century of winters; and how many centuries of centuries of winters must it have needed to chip off and pile up these innumerable fragments.

We walk up the hollow until we see on our right a mass of *débris*, and above this a large opening in the scar. This is the Victoria Cave.

VICTORIA CAVE. The feeling of one who for the first time visits the Cave, and stands within its wide mouth, is that of disappointment. What is there about this rough cavern to give it fame? For this is one of the few noted Caves that are known in scientific circles in both Continents. What is the secret of its fame? We must first of all remind ourselves that it is not for what the Cave *is*, but for what it *was*, that it is famous. It has a very different appearance now from what it had when it was discovered. Let us try, in thought, to re-make the Cave—to put it back to what it was when it was opened and entered fifty-seven years ago. The heap of *débris* was not here. This is the stuff that was wheeled out of the Cave during the explorations. There was not this wide, gaping mouth; but two small entrances through which, with some struggle, a man could creep. There was not the height from floor to roof that there now is. If we had been walking along this hollow at that time there would have been nothing to attract our notice. The Cave was hidden by the heap of scree that the frosts and storms of successive ages had piled up at the foot of the cliff. Shepherds had for centuries passed this way; lads had scrambled up these rocks in search of Jackdaws' nests; tourists had climbed the cliffs, without any suspicion that a great Cave was hidden here, which held within its narrow gates treasures that would make it famous and historic.

By whom discovered. A story of the discovery of the Cave was given, many years ago, in *Wildman's Almanack*, and has been copied by one writer and another; but, so far as we are aware, the true account, well-known to many of the older inhabitants of Settle,

SETTLE CAVE EXPLORATION.

At a Meeting of the Committee held at Settle, on the 13th December, 1869, it was unanimously resolved:

I. That a thorough and systematic exploration of the Caves in the neighbourhood of Settle shall be made.

II. That the following Scheme proposed by Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth (Chairman) be adopted.

Viz. 1.—To examine the ground around the mouth of the caves for signs of fires, implements, utensils, remnants of food, or traces of sepulture.

2.—To make a survey of the Caves in order to provide a plan of the interior drawn to scale and of sufficient size to enable a record to be made on it of the situation in which each thing is found.

3.—To ascertain by one or more vertical excavations of limited extent what are the deposits chronologically arranged.

4.—Then to proceed to examine these strata from the mouth of the cave inwards so as to secure the discovery of all remains throwing any light on the history of each stratum.

5.—To keep a record of the things discovered in the following form.

(a)

To keep a diary in which shall be inserted the numbers of each thing found—its superficial position in the plan—and its vertical position, i. e., in which stratum it was found

(b)

To enter on the Plan in the exact superficial position the number of each thing found and the number of the stratum in which it was discovered.

(c)

To procure a cabinet with drawers and to place in separate drawers the things found in the several different strata after they are duly numbered with the superficial number and that of the stratum in which each was found.

(d)

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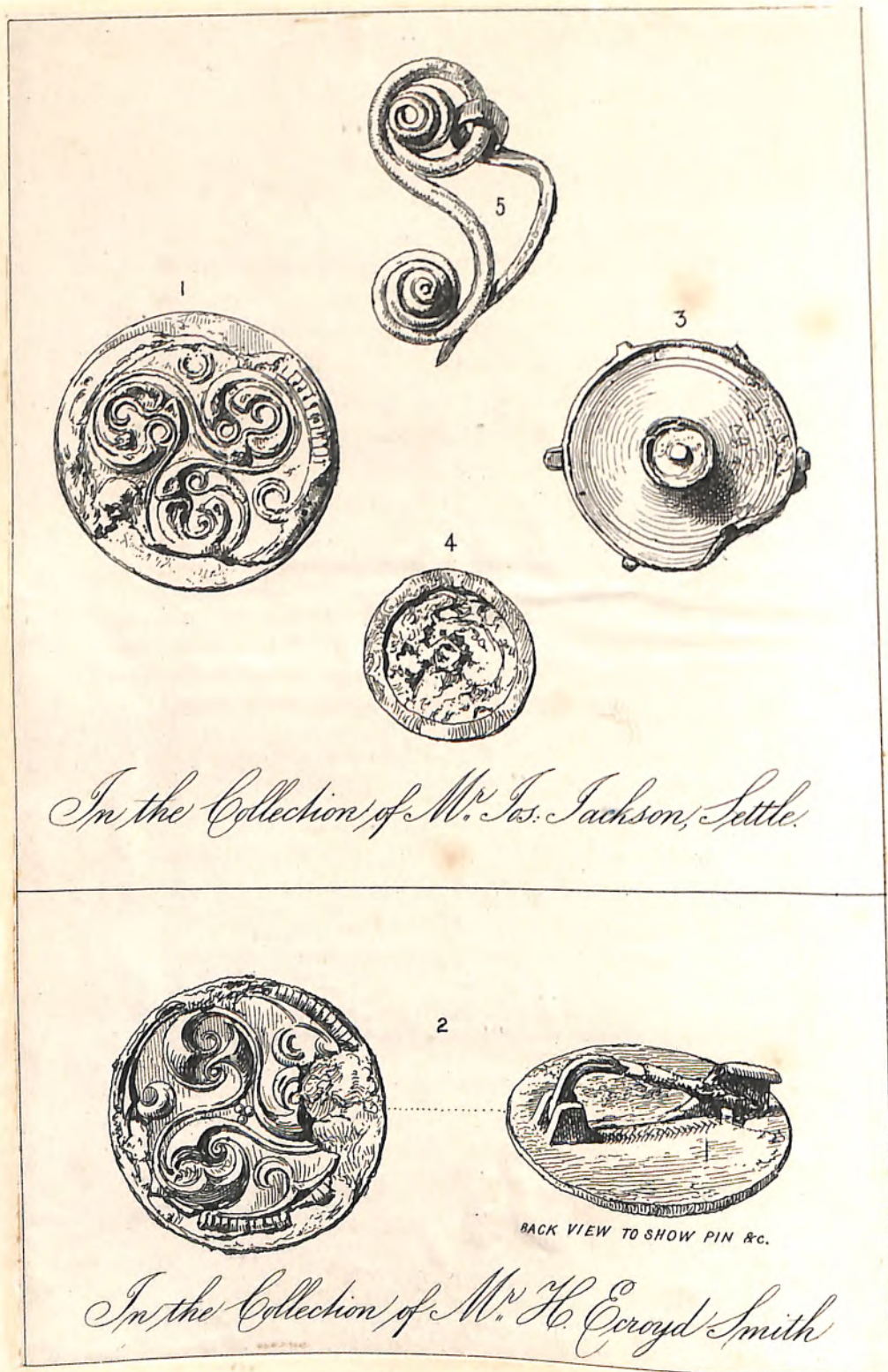
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has not yet been published. From an old and authentic writing in our possession we are able to give the correct particulars. The discoverer of the Cave was not Mr. Joseph Jackson, but Mr. Michael Horner, who then lived at Langcliffe. In 1838, in the month of May, he and two other young men from Langcliffe were rambling about the hills, when they met with one John Jennings, of Settle. Jennings had with him two terrier dogs, which had worried a hedge-hog on the flat field below the cliff. Jennings said, "Let us go up to the Fox Holes"—two holes that were thought to be the dens of foxes, and near which traps had been set. One of the dogs was put into the lower hole, and after awhile came out from the higher. A week afterwards the same parties again visited the place. A large stone was dragged away, and an opening was made by which Michael Horner was able to enter. The other two remained outside. This was three weeks before Mr. Joseph Jackson, the reputed discoverer of the Cave, even knew of its existence. Michael Horner was at that time working for him. He told Mr. Jackson of what he had found, and offered to show him the place and the way into the Cave. The two went up together, and paid many a nocturnal visit to the Cave before the fact of its discovery became generally known. The discoverer of the *Cave itself* was Michael Horner: the discoverer of its *archæological importance* was Joseph Jackson.

The Cave We have from an esteemed inhabitant of when found. Settle an account of the Cave as he himself remembers it. They had to creep through a narrow entrance and passage; then turning to the right



In the Collection of Mr. Jos. Jackson, Settle.



In the Collection of Mr. H. Croft Smith

Articles found in Victoria Cave.

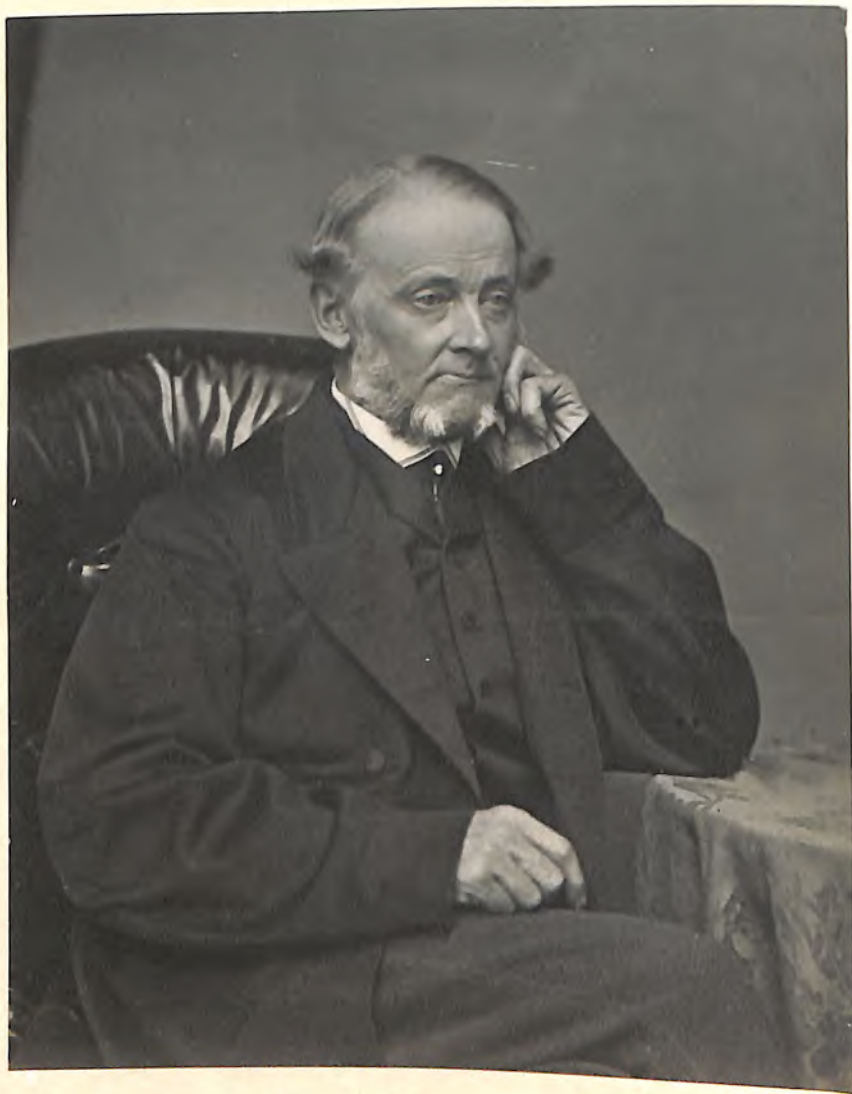
they entered the main chamber, which was some nine feet from floor to roof. Beyond this was a narrow passage which could be followed a considerable distance. The large chamber was a place of great beauty—probably not surpassed, in this sense, by anything in Clapham Cave. The roof was thickly hung with stalactites; wavy stalagmite covered the walls, and was wrought into larger and smaller blocks, of varied shapes, and like white marble, upon the floor. The Cave, as it became known, was soon denuded of its charm. There were many destructives who thought that a stalactite was worth more on their mantel-shelf than in the place of its birth; and the Cave was soon stripped of its beauty. Mr. Anthony Stackhouse, the owner of the Scar, said to Michael Horner, "Why did you not inform me about it? and I would have had a gate hung, and the Cave preserved." It was well that this was not done, for the Cave must needs part with its beauty in order to yield up its wealth.

Mr. Joseph Jackson. It is now that the important part played by Mr. Joseph Jackson comes in. He was keen, shrewd, enquiring; and whilst others were attracted by the beauty of the Cave, he smelt treasure of another kind. He carried on a course of private exploration, and found many things of rare value, and built up a choice museum of his own.

Hidden From the time when Michael Horner entered the Cave it had probably been unvisited and unknown for eleven or twelve hundred years. That length of time would take us back to the Saxon Invasion. The Cave was then the dwelling-place or refuge of some British family or clan. There-



*Enamelled articles found in
Victoria Cave.*



Joseph Jackson.

SETTLE.
DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN INHABITANT.—On Thursday morning, while Mr Joseph Jackson, of Settle, a retired plumber, was on the highway leading from Settle to the village of Langcliffe, accompanied by Miss Jackson, his daughter, he died suddenly. Dr Edgar, who happened to be in the vicinity, was present at his death. The deceased gentleman had lived a quiet, unobtrusive life, and by his death Settle loses one of its most highly respected inhabitants. Mr Jackson was the discover of the Victoria Caves, near Settle. The immediate cause of death was heart disease.

Dec. 1886



VICTORIA CAVE. SETTLE. No 1

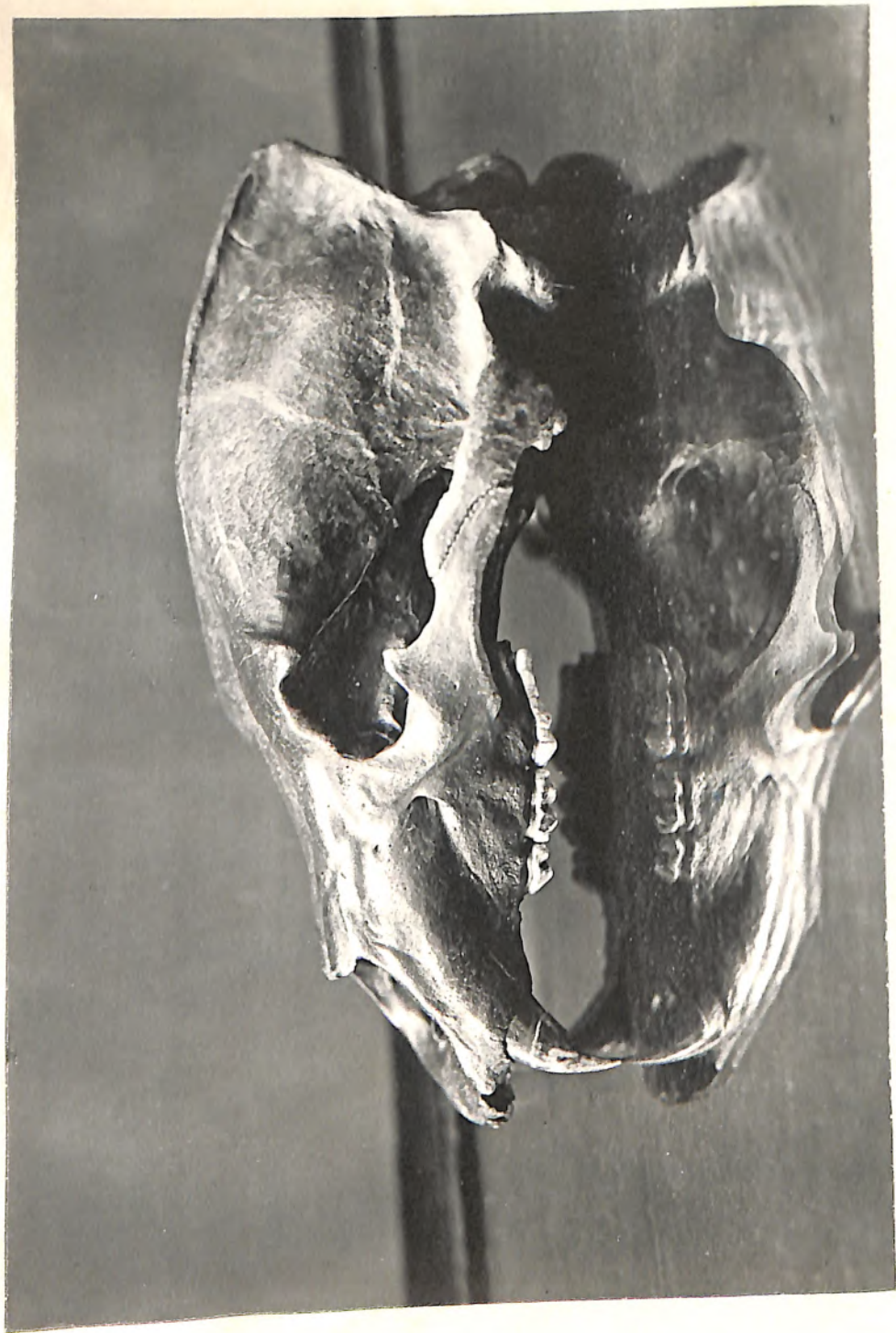


*Riley Series
Warrendale Knotts. Settle.*



Riley Series

Warrendale Knotts. Settle.



*Bear's Skull, from Victoria Cave,
now in Giggseswick School Museum.*

in they had kept their treasure, and cooked and eaten their meals. This we know from the remains found by Mr. Jackson—of pottery, of the fires with which they had cooked their food, of the very bones that they had picked. In 756 Edwin of Northumbria conquered Strathclyde, and what is now Craven fell under the Saxon power. Perhaps it was at that period that the Cave was closed and sealed. The Britons that had made the Cave their place of refuge had shut it up, thinking of coming back to it again; but the times were troubled, and they never got back. Probably Michael Horner's was the first human foot that had touched the floor of the Cave since the last Briton left and closed and sealed it from the sight and touch of man for more than a thousand years.

Systematic Exploration. The fruits of Mr. Jackson's work were of so much importance that a thorough exploration of the Cave was resolved upon, and was carried out under the auspices and with the aid of the British Association. This was begun in 1870, and was continued until 1878. A committee was appointed consisting of Sir J. Lubbock, Professors Hughes and Boyd Dawkins, and Messrs. Miall and Tiddeman. Mr. J. Birkbeck, jun., acted as local Treasurer and Secretary, and Mr. Jackson as Superintendent of the work.

Contents of the Cave. Let us now see what were the contents of the Cave. At from 50 to 55 feet from the entrance a perpendicular shaft was sunk, and although no organic remains were found in this, yet it will help us to understand the nature and order of the deposits that almost filled the Cave. The shaft was worked down to a depth of 25 feet. It first

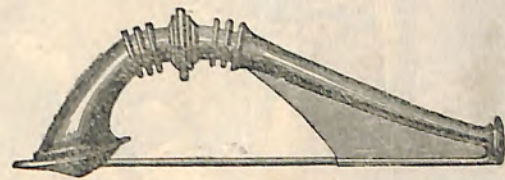
passed through a bed, six feet deep, of cave-earth; then through a bed, whose depth was twelve feet, of fine brown and yellow laminated clay; then through another bed, some seven feet in depth, of cave-earth. The uppermost and the undermost beds were composed of similar material. So that we may say that the stuff within the Cave consisted of two beds of cave-earth with an intermediate bed of laminated clay.

Still keeping our eye on this 25-foot shaft, let us ask how these deposits had got there? Through what agencies had they been formed?

Beds of Cave Earth. First, as to the two beds of cave-earth, the name indicates its supposed origin. These two beds were formed not from without, but from within the Cave itself. The cave-earth consisted of large and small pieces of limestone embedded in sandy clay and impure stalagmite. Farther within the Cave the stalagmite was hard as rock and had to be blasted, but in the 25-foot shaft it was impure and soft. There can be no doubt as to the whence and why of the fragments of limestone. They could not have come from a brook or river-bed, or from a sea-beach, because they were *not rounded* as they would then have been, but sharp-edged and cornered; nor had they been brought by the action of ice, because they were *rough*, and altogether free from glacial polish and striæ. They were the *débris* of the Cave itself, the fragments that had parted and fallen from the roof during the course of long ages; and the matrix in which they were embedded was the deposit formed of substances carried by water through the crevices of the rock, of decayed stone from the roof, and of the carbonate left by the almost ceaseless drip

1855

ROMAN COINS, &c.—On the 23rd of last month, we were favoured with an inspection of articles of antiquity discovered by Mr. Joseph Jackson, Plumber and Glazier, Settle, in the Victoria Cave. They consist of broken pieces of antique pottery with raised figures upon them. On one was the head of a wolf, another an eagle, and another something like the fabled Phoenix. They seem to be broken jars or vases. There were a series of bones, some rudely carved, others exactly like gimlet handles of various sizes, a bone comb with teeth on both sides, like a small tooth comb but stronger. Three of the bones were like dessert spoons in size, but flat, and cut out. Roman, and ancient British coins. Broaches or Fibulæ in great variety in brass and copper, and in a remarkable state of preservation; this cut is very like one of them.



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View from Victoria Cave.