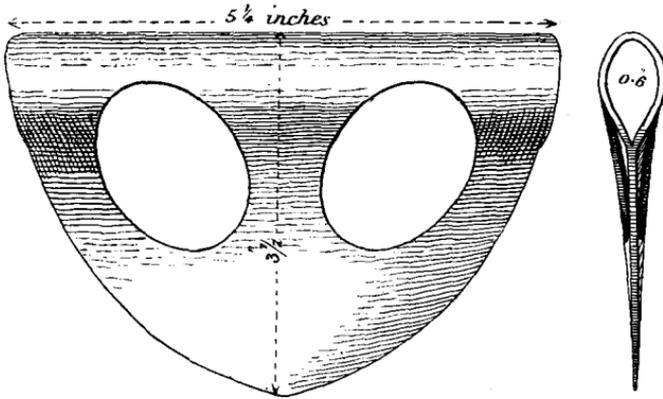


NOTE ON ANCIENT AXE-HEADS FOUND AT BEYROUT AND SIDON.

By REV. CANON GREENWELL, *in a Letter to Prof. Lewis.*

IN the *Quarterly Statement* for April, 1889, at p. 77, there is an engraving of a bronze axe discovered by Mr. Schumacher in a cave near Esh Shejara. It is evidently a Syrian type, based on a well-known Egyptian form. I have two out of four found near Beyrût, one similar and of the same



size as that engraved, and the other like the engraving above. The other two are smaller, but of the same forms. I have also another, found near Sidon, which is like the above figure, but not so large. Except these I do not know of any others, though such may possibly be found in some collection, public or private. These axes were certainly handled. The holes in the blade are, I believe, either for appearance or to lighten the handle. In one, the largest of mine found near Beyrût, portions of wood still remain in the socket; and the impression of the cloth in which it had been wrapped exists upon the oxidised surface of the metal.

JEWISH LAMPS.

SOME time ago I was in Dorchester—a friend offered to show me the local Museum. The collection is varied and rich. I only wish to note what especially interested me. In a corner of a case were some lamps, labelled “Supposed Early British Lamps;” a moment showed me they were old Jewish, exactly like those from the excavations at Jerusalem. My friend the Antiquary, who had himself dug up many of the objects

of interest, told me these lamps came from "Maiden Castle," a grand specimen of a Roman camp, which I afterwards visited; it is quite close to Dorchester. History tells us that three Legions were camped here; and tradition has it that Jews—captives at Jerusalem, were sold by Titus to Phœnicians, and that these slaves made the fortifications. We know history tells that captive Jews worked in the tin mines of Cornwall; and as I looked on these lamps it did seem to me that the traditions were true, and that some poor Jews, slaves and exiles from their own land, had at one time worked here in this our England, and among their poor possessions they had clung to the old lamps.

H. A. HARPER.

"THE WAY OF THE PHILISTINES."

I SHOULD like to call attention to a portion of the land between Palestine and Egypt, which would, I think, well repay skilful exploration. I mean the coast road, called in the Bible "The Way of the Philistines," across which that great wall of Egypt, with its towers and gates, must have stretched. While preparing notes for my book, "The Bible and Modern Discoveries," I was struck with the importance of this road, and also struck with the scanty information we have respecting it. Mr. Armstrong kindly showed me some large sectional maps of a portion of this road, and I was much interested in observing what a number of wells had been found in the portion surveyed. That there are "Tells," which mark ruined cities I know; and not many years ago the Archduke of Austria saw, in the street of the frontier town El Arish, an old Egyptian sarcophagus of black granite, covered within and without with very small hieroglyphics. It was there used as a water trough! On this very road the great armies from Egypt must have passed when they went on their way to invade Palestine. On this road Nebuchadnezzar and the other great invaders must have passed on their way to Egypt, and there must have been towns and settlements on the route—a fact proved by the wells I spoke of. True, I know, sand has driven in from the sea—but sand preserves ruins, and, it seems to me, that it only needs a skilful explorer, like M. Flinders Petrie, to have his attention directed to this "road," when I feel sure he would make many discoveries of interest, at very little cost both of time or money. We ought to know more of that land of Philistia, that we may get a clearer view of those people who were ever such bitter enemies to the Israelites.

HENRY H. HARPER.
