

## A LEADEN VESSEL FOUND IN THE MEDWAY.

FROM a drawing made by the possessor of this vessel, Mr. E. A. Bernays, of Chatham Dockyard, who courteously placed it at our disposal, the annexed plate has been prepared. It represents a circular leaden vessel, found in the Medway, the inside of which is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. A rim, half-an-inch wide, surrounds the mouth or upper portion. This rim evidently played an important part in the use of the vessel, as it is supported by flanges, twelve in number, which are affixed to the exterior of the vessel. These flanges are, at their summits, as wide as the rim, but they gradually taper downwards to a point. At each of two, opposite, points in the rim, there are two flanges which meet at right angles, thus strengthening the rim, to give holdfast to an arched handle, of iron, which was inserted at those points. The spaces between the flanges are all decorated in low relief with an ornament, of graceful foliage. The vessel now weighs 14 lbs., but was formerly much heavier. The bottom seems to be a circular plate soldered, around the edge, inside the vessel. Some think that, in this, it resembles work of the sixteenth century.

Mr. C. Roach Smith, at whose suggestion Mr. Bernays gave us the drawing, thinks that this vessel is not of Roman workmanship, but that it may be of early mediæval date. He possesses a drawing made from a somewhat similar leaden vessel found at Felixstowe, which he ascribes to the tenth century, or earlier. It had lost its rim, but seems to have retained some traces of two or three flanges. It was 6 inches high, 31 inches in circumference, and had an iron handle. There were but four ornaments upon its exterior, each of which represented a stiff-stalked plant with leaves and flowers at its base, having also two branches, each, like the central stem, ending in three leaves.

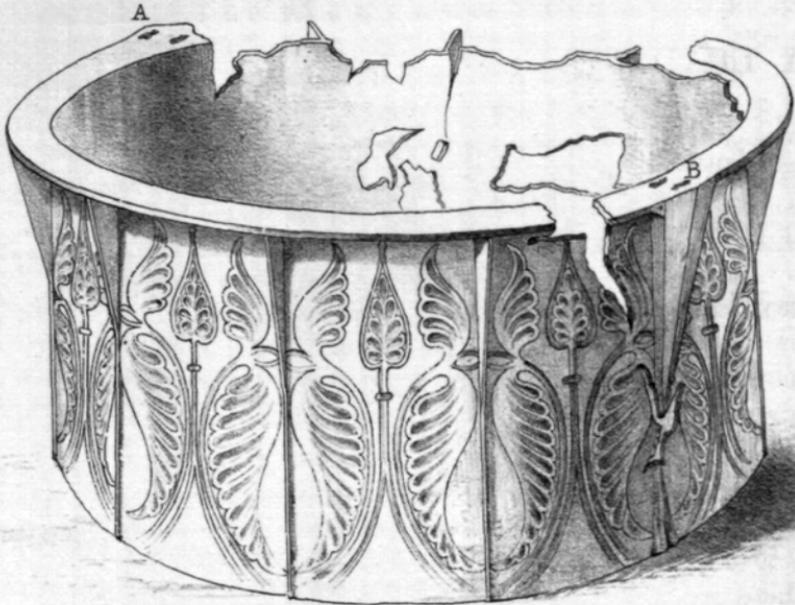


Fig. 1.

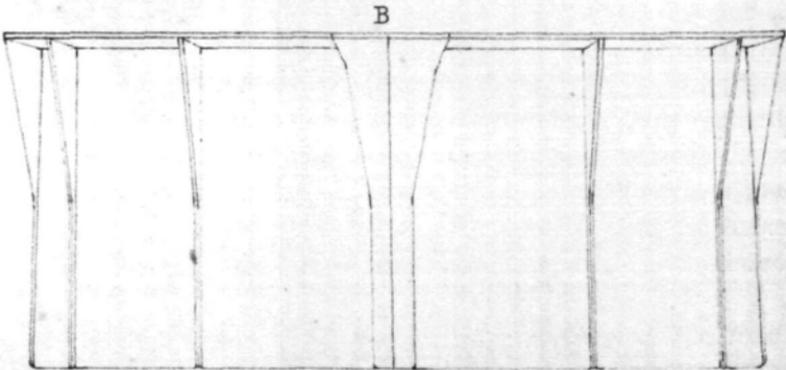


Fig. 2.

E.A. Bernays del.

VESSEL OF PEWTER, OR OF LEAD, DREDGED UP FROM THE BED OF  
THE RIVER MEDWAY, AT ROCHESTER, OFF GAS-HOUSE POINT, IN 1878.

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