

MR. J. H. PARKER, F.S.A., said from his experience in Rome he was inclined to think the structure was part of a gate house, or a kind of barbican, but not a gateway. In point of construction it was of the time of Constantine, or the fourth century; being late Roman work.

MR. M. H. BLOXAM, F.S.A., agreed with Mr. Parker in attributing the work to the 4th century.

ROMAN LEICESTER. At a Meeting of the Section of Antiquities held on the Morning of 27th July.

THE REV. J. G. JOYCE, said he had been requested to say a few words on the Roman town of Leicester. The first thing to which he would call attention was the formation of the town *Ratae*, which appeared to have been built in the form of a parallelogram. One could now trace in the formation of the streets pretty clearly what it was. It was alluded to the previous day by Mr. Thompson, when speaking of the Jewry Wall, and appeared to have ranged direct north to south and east to west. The fact that it was a parallelogram involved a circumstance of great antiquarian interest. The Romans were a people who generally located themselves in some settlement which would be advantageous for opposition to their enemies, and that was fully borne out by his experience at the excavations which had been carried on under his superintendence at Silchester. There they could not find two sides the same length. The wall on one side was twenty-one feet high, and a piece of superb, massive masonry, but still built in a curious irregular fashion. It was quite evident that the Romans occupied Silchester at a very early period, and that in measuring out their settlement there they got into an altogether irregular figure, other encampments being of a rectangular shape. In Leicester they found something very different. It was clear that here the ground was measured by soldiers, who took their own standard, and measured from that to form an encampment. He had not had time to ascertain the relative lengths of the sides of this parallelogram. The town *Ratae* was entered by gates on four sides, and yesterday they saw the Jewry Wall, about which there was great doubt as to whether it was one of the gates or not. With great submission to the opinion of the high authorities who were then present, he still held to the opinion that it was one of the gates. [The speaker here displayed a map of the town, and showed where there formerly stood an ancient bridge, and stated that a person entering the town from the Fosse Road would cross this bridge, and come up a main street leading direct to the Jewry Wall.] He had made enquiries as to the discovery of any pavement in that neighbourhood, and he found that there was some tessellated pavement not far from the

wall, but on a lower level, and he was of opinion that that pavement, now five feet below the surface, was on the level of the old Roman street at a very ancient time. There was a very great difference with regard to the levels. In some parts of Silchester they had Roman remains at only about six inches below the present surface, while in other parts they were as much as twenty feet below. Supposing that to be one of the gates, the centre of the Roman town would be where Highcross-street now stood. Now Highcross-street had a thoroughfare called Blue Boar-lane running into it. That street—Highcross-street—ran from the south or the north to the middle of the Roman town, and he was astonished to hear, in answer to his inquiries, that all along this unbroken line from the North bridge, there had been found, and there still existed underground, the front wall of the houses of the Roman town. The next question was, how they were to ascertain where the Market-place or Forum was, and the public buildings where the magistrates and ministers of justice met. Whenever the Romans settled in a place, they always retained and reproduced their municipal character and institutions. At Silchester, they had discovered the most interesting Roman remains, perhaps, that had been found anywhere, clearly indicating the position of the building used as a Court of Justice, as a market, and for other public purposes. In Blue Boar Lane [*? Shambles Lane*]\* had been discovered ranges of pillars, of which he produced a drawing. These pillars were found at equal distances from each other, and were of equal size—being each 21 inches in diameter. These Roman Forums were generally erected at the intersecting point of the main streets of the town, and it was just in such a position that these pillars were discovered a few years ago, and he thought it was extremely likely that they had been the pillars of the Forum of the ancient town *Ratae*, as they were found in the exact position in which the Romans were accustomed to erect that building. He was told that they were found in the exact position in which they were shown in the drawing, and they would see that between two of the pillars—exactly in the centre—was a large stone, and from its appearance it was evident that that stone had delivered a stream of water from these pillars into the streets of the town. He had also found that these pillars were coated with lead. Strange as it might seem, it was nevertheless true; it was lead, and nothing else. He had that morning very carefully examined it, and weighed it, and found that it really was lead; and the only conclusion that he could arrive at was that the Romans covered the bottom of the pillars with some pigment, such as white lead, and that it had remained upon them ever since. He hardly liked to guess at such things, but he might tell them for a fact that from the western corner of the street to where these pillars were found,

\* Now called S. Nicolas Street.

was 370 feet; it was hardly likely that the Forum would be so large as that, but he thought they might venture to say that 320 feet of that distance was occupied by the ancient building. With regard to the period when the city of Ratae was occupied, he might say that, in general, coins were not altogether reliable authority, since they might have been brought into the place and dropped by soldiers centuries after they were coined. But they would find that a coin had been discovered in a villa in the Cherry Orchard, which was well embedded in the mortar of one of its walls; and when they found a coin in that position—one which had not been in use very long, and had the appearance of not having been much in circulation—it was reliable authority; and he found from this that it was dated in the reign of Vespasian. This town had been very prolific in pavements, but generally of an inferior quality, and of a late date. There was in the Museum a piece of piping, which was supposed to have been used as a water-pipe by the Romans; but after having carefully examined it, he was of opinion that it had been used for a totally different purpose, viz., that it had been used as a conveyance of heat or air in one of the hypocausts of those days. He hoped if any more of those things were found, some local antiquary would have a drawing taken of the precise position in which they were found. There was one circumstance which rendered the study of the past history of this town very interesting to them. It was recorded that two Christians were martyred in Leicester, and their names were given; and he had no doubt that on the spot where those pillars had been found, others had had to stand before a Roman judge, and had laid down their lives for the faith they now professed. That circumstance would give a deeper interest in the discovery of Roman relics here, would show them how completely their civilization had outgrown that of Roman, and would lead them to thank God that they lived in Christian times.

The Ven. ARCHDEACON TROLLOPE said, before they expressed their heartfelt thanks to Mr. Joyce for his most interesting address, he wished to make one remark with regard to the supply of water to Roman towns. The opinion generally prevailed that the early Romans were not acquainted with the force pump, but he was convinced, from discoveries that had come under his notice, that they were not only acquainted with the principle of the force-pump, but that they put the principle into practice.

MR. CLARK alluded to the peculiar formation of some Roman and British encampments near Gloucester.

MR. JAS. THOMPSON said he had listened with the greatest possible pleasure to the very able and interesting address delivered by Mr. Joyce, who had for years superintended excavations in an ancient Roman city in Hampshire, near to Silchester. But there was this difference between Silchester and Leicester: Silchester

was a city which had never been occupied since the Roman times, while Leicester had been occupied by the Saxons, the Danes, and the Normans, and lastly by the busy, enterprising population of the present day. In the one place they had only to open the earth and find an ancient city in the same position as it was built, while in the other they had to search for the remains of Roman erections under the foundations of modern or mediæval buildings. Fortunately, since enquiries had been instituted in an earnest scientific spirit, a greater interest had been created in these things in Leicester than was experienced before. He felt that after the address of Mr. Joyce, they were much nearer to a solution of two difficulties than they were before. One was with regard to the site of the Forum of ancient Leicester, and the other with regard to the Jewry Wall. He thought it was now pretty generally admitted that the facts elicited went to strengthen the belief that that wall was the western gate to the old Roman city. With regard to the Forum, he saw the columns to which Mr. Joyce had alluded, and they were found in exactly the position in which they were represented by Mr. Joyce, who had done much to clear away the obscurity which had surrounded the subject. These pillars were found just in that position in which *à priori* they would have expected to find them, had they been looking for the ancient Forum of the Romans. It was a curious fact also, which Mr. Joyce omitted to mention, that there had also been found a Roman tank or water trough, and he had some conversation with the late Mr. Fairhold shortly after his visit to Pompeii; and he assured him that during his investigations there it was by no means uncommon to find, at the intersections of main streets, public tanks or water troughs. There was another fact to which he would call attention, and that was the large quantity of made-earth which was to be met with in various parts of Leicester. This he accounted for by the fact that the Danes who occupied this town were a very destructive people, always burning the towns they captured, and the same thing having occurred over and over again, the *debris* was thrown about, and thus arose the large quantity of made-earth that was to be found now. He would also mention the milestone that was at the present time in the Museum. This milestone distinctly indicated that its position was three miles from Ratae, and the date, that of Hadrian, was most distinctly inscribed on it. This was a most interesting object to antiquaries, and if any member of the Institute left Leicester without calling at the Museum to see it, he thought they would be making a very great mistake. About 80 years ago, there was another object of great interest to Roman antiquaries found in Leicester—a portion of a common sewer. This was filled with broken earthenware and other Roman relics, and it exactly resembled one still in existence at Lincoln.

The Ven. ARCHDEACON TROLLOPE mentioned the fact that in

the discoveries which were made of ancient Roman castles and convents, it was generally found that there was a subterranean passage, which was said to be a means of communication between one and the other. The fact was that it was nothing more than a large drain to carry off the sewerage from the various buildings. He simply mentioned this that in the future they might hear the stories about subterranean passages leading to conventual institutions not far off with a good-natured smile.]

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*September 26th, 1870.*

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. Job Foster, Leicester; and Mr. Tait, architect, Leicester.

MR. JOHN HUNT, of Thurnby, produced a large series of photographs, drawings, rubbings, and etchings, illustrative of the ancient parish church of Thurnby, lately in great part taken down previous to its re-erection. Mr. Hunt also read detailed notes upon the old structure, carefully noting the various objects of interest uncovered during its demolition. These showed traces of the Roman and the Saxon, as well as the more recent mediæval occupancy of the spot.\*

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*November 28th, 1870.*

THE REV. J. H. HILL, F.S.A., in the chair.

The following gentlemen were admitted members:—Clifford Chaplin, Esq., Asfordby Hall; Mr. William Barber and Mr. G. Nattress, both of Leicester, architects; and Mr. Samuel Barfield, of Leicester, sculptor. The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By Mr. FLETCHER, of Belvoir Castle, a photograph of an ancient carved stone, now inserted in the porch of Knipton Church. Judging from the character of the sculpture (which was not very distinctly given in the photograph), it was thought to belong to the late Norman period.

By Mr. BARNARD, a fine gold Portuguese coin, lately found in excavating near Wellingborough. Mr. North said few numismatists had noticed or written upon the coins of Portugal. He believed the coin shown was a half Ioe—value in English currency

\* These will be found hereafter incorporated in Mr. Hunt's Paper on Thurnby Church.

about 35s. 6d. It was issued by John V., of Portugal (styled by himself "His Faithful Majesty"), in the year 1734, and bore for mint mark the letter M. Obverse—Ioannes V., D.G. Port. et Alg. Rex. Reverse—The arms of Portugal, surmounted by a crown.

The Rev. J. H. HILL, F.S.A., communicated the following Paper:—

#### THE BISHOPRIC OF PETERBOROUGH AND ITS PRELATES.

WHEN cities were at first converted to Christianity, the Bishops were first elected by the clergy and people, but as the number of Christians increased, this was found to be inconvenient, for great tumults were raised, and sometimes murders were committed at such popular elections. To prevent such disorders, the emperors being then Christians, reserved the election of Bishops to themselves, but the Bishop of Rome, who, in course of time, became head of the church, did not wish the Bishops to be dependent upon princes, and therefore managed that the canons in Cathedral Churches should have the election of their Bishops, which elections were usually confirmed at Rome. In England, in the Saxon times, all ecclesiastical dignities were conferred by the king in parliament.

Pope Hildebrand (temp. William the Conqueror) was the first that opposed this way of making Bishops in England, and called a council of one hundred and ten Bishops, and excommunicated not only the emperor, Henry IV., but all prelates whatsoever that received investiture at the hands of the emperor, or of any layman, by the delivery of the ring and staff. Malmesbury says that Lanfranc was made Archbishop of Canterbury by the before-mentioned means, but the Saxon Annals state that he was chosen by the senior monks of that church, together with the laity and clergy of England, in the king's great council.

But Anselm did not scruple to accept the Archbishopric by the delivery of the ring and staff, at the hands of William II., although he was never chosen by the monks of Canterbury. Yet Anselm was the man who afterwards contested the matter with Henry I., who yielded to him in this matter. King John granted, by common consent of the barons, that the Bishops should be elected by the chapter, which election by the chapter was to be a free election, but founded on the king's *congè d'elire* and afterwards to have the royal assent, and that confirmation and consecration should be in the power of the Pope.

By 26th Edward III., sec. 6, it was enacted that "The free elections of Archbishops, Bishops, and all other dignities and benefices elected in England, shall hold from henceforth in the manner as they were granted by the king's progenitors and the