



ROMAN MANCHESTER.

By W. Thompson Watkin, Esq.

(Read February 6th, 1879.)

SITUATED at the junction of a number of Roman roads, the Roman station of *Mancunium*, as it is called in the tenth Iter of Antoninus, or *Mamucium*, as it is called in the second Iter of the same author, must have been a place of considerable importance. But unlike the other two *castra* in the county which I have described to the Society (Lancaster and Ribchester), it has been, with the exception of a jealously-guarded small fragment of its wall, entirely obliterated from view. Warehouses, streets, and a canal occupy its site. It has been to antiquarians the key town to the Roman stations of the neighbourhood; no doubt as to its identity, unless that which has arisen from the difference in the orthography of the second and tenth Iters, having occurred. But this difference is more apparent than real, for the same thing occurs in the Antonine Itinerary with regard to other Romano-British towns. Thus, in the fifth Iter, we have a town between Lincoln and Doncaster called *Segelocum*; in the eighth Iter, the same place is distinctly called *Agelocum*. In the sixth Iter, we have a place between *Ratae* and *Margidunum* called *Verometum*; in the eighth Iter, the same place is called *Vernemetum*. In the same manner the *Legeolium* of the fifth Iter is the *Lagecium* of the eighth. There is no greater difference between the *Mamucium* of the second Iter and the *Mancunium* of the tenth, than in the examples I have quoted; and the distance from *Condate* being in each Iter the same, together with other evidence, there can be no doubt of their being one and the same place.

As to the position and dimensions of the *castrum*, we are obliged to rely upon earlier writers. In addition to the *castrum* proper, situate at Castle Field, there appears to have been a supporting and smaller outpost, on what is now called Camp Field. The former is described by Camden thus :—" In a neighbouring park, belonging to the Earls of Derby, called *Alparc*, " I saw the foundation of an old square fort, which they call "*Mancastle*, where the river *Medloc* joins the Irwell. I will not " say that this was the ancient *Mancunium*, the compass of it is " so little ; but rather that it was some Roman station." He then describes an inscribed centurial stone which he saw there, and which I shall notice hereafter. (Gibson's Camden, p. 965.)

Dr. Stukeley, who visited Manchester about 160 years ago, says—" A Roman *castrum* was on the west side, going for Chester " by Stretford, and on the northern bank of the river Medlock. " It is a small piece of level ground, somewhat higher than that " around it. It does not cover the whole piece, but is a square, " five hundred feet one way, four hundred the other ; nor can it " be said to be ditched about, but the ground beside it for some " distance is manifestly removed into the castle and spread along " its verge, not as a regular *vallum*, but sloping inwards ; by this " means the area of it is higher on the sides than in the middle, " and the exterior ground is lowered around to the foot of the " castle, which is steep like the side of the *vallum*. Upon this " edge there has been a wall quite round ; the foundations of it " are to be discovered almost everywhere, in some places large " parcels of it are left, but not above ground. Now they call it " the Castle Croft." He further adds that the Medlock ran near it, but not close enough for defence, and that the Irwell coming, the town ran on the west side of it, and there joined the Medlock. He says that it was a quarter of a mile from the then town of Manchester.

Horsley, in his *Britannia Romana*, also says that it was a quarter of a mile from the town.

But it is to the Rev. J. Whitaker, in his *History of Manchester*, that we are indebted for the first clear account of the state of the

Roman *castrum* during the latter half of the last century. In the second edition of this work, (1773) vol. i, p. 45, he tells us that the wall of the *castrum* had a foundation of paving stones, (he evidently means boulders) bedded in clay. "This I ascertained on opening the stationary wall in two parts of it. I cut it down from the surface to the center (*sic*) and from the center to the base, in order to see the curious construction of it within and below, and found all the lime-laid parts in both, rising from two layers of stones cemented with clay." At p. 46, he says—"But the Roman walls at Manchester were not uniformly founded on the same sort of cement. The western was laid on two beds of blue clay, the lower nearly a foot in depth, and remarkably stiff and solid. But the southern was laid in two courses, not of actual clay, but of clay and sand incorporated together." On the same page, he says that the wall was seven or eight feet wide at the base, while at p. 49, he tells us that "the whole station was an irregular parallelogram. The parallel sides were equally right lines and equally long, but the corners were rounded." (This last feature occurs at most of the Roman stations in Britain.) He further says, that the Roman station had been built within a previous British entrenchment, and was much smaller. "And while this contained nearly thirteen acres of our statute measure, that included only about five acres and ten perches, or 24,500 square yards." I am inclined to think that what Whitaker considered a British camp, was in reality only the suburban buildings of the Roman *castrum*, which had eventually an earthen entrenchment thrown up around them, or possibly a wall.

Mr. Whitaker then gives us the following interesting account of the then state of the *castrum* :—"The eastern side, like the western, is an hundred and forty" [yards, w. t. w.] "in length, and for eighty yards from the northern termination the nearly perpendicular rampart still carries a crest of more than two in height. It is then lowered to form the great entrance, the *porta practoria* of the camp; the earth there running in a ridge, and mounting up to the top of the bank about ten in breadth. Then rising gradually as the wall falls away, it carries an height

“ of more than three for as many at the south-eastern angle.
“ And the whole of this wall bears a broken line of thorns above,
“ shews the mortar (*sic*) peeping here and there under the coat of
“ turf, and, near the south-eastern corner, has a large buttress of
“ earth continued for several yards along it.

“ The southern side, like the northern, is an hundred and
“ seventy-five in length. And the rampart sinking immediately
“ from its elevation at the eastern end successively declines till,
“ about fifty yards off, it is reduced to the inconsiderable height
“ of less than one. And about seventeen farther there appears
“ to have been a second gateway, the ground rising up to the
“ crest of the bank for four or five at the point. * * * One
“ on the south was particularly requisite * * in order to afford
“ a passage to the river. But about fifty-three yards beyond the
“ gate the ground betwixt both falling away briskly to the west,
“ the rampart, which continues in a right line along the ridge,
“ necessarily rises till it has a sharp slope of twenty in length at
“ the south-western angle. And all this side of the wall, which
“ was from the beginning probably not much higher than it is at
“ present, as it was sufficiently secured by the river and its banks
“ before it, appears crested at first with an hedge of thorns, a
“ young oak rising from the ridge and rearing its head consider-
“ ably over the rest, and runs afterwards in a smooth line nearly
“ level for several yards with the ground about it, and just per-
“ ceptible to the eye, in a rounded eminence of turf.

“ At the south-western point of the camp the ground slopes
“ away on the west towards the south, as well as on the south
“ towards the west. And the third side still runs from it nearly
“ as at first, having an even crest about seven feet in height, an
“ even slope of turf for its whole extent, and the wall in all its
“ original condition below. About an hundred yards beyond the
“ angle was the *Porta Decumana* of the station, the ground visibly
“ rising up the ascent of the bank, in a large shelve of gravel,
“ and running in a slight but perceivable ridge from it.

“ And beyond a level of forty-five yards, that still stretches on
“ for the whole length of the side, it was bounded by the western

“boundary of the British city, the sharp slope of fifty to the
“morass below it.

“On the northern and remaining side are several chasms in
“the original course of the rampart. And in one of them, about
“an hundred and twenty-seven yards from its commencement,
“was another gateway, opening into the station directly from the
“road to Ribchester. The rest of the wall still rises about five
“and four feet in height, planted all the way with thorns above,
“and exhibiting a curious view of the rampart below. Various
“parts of it have been fleeced of their facing of turf and stone,
“and now shew the inner structure of the whole, presenting to
“the eye the undressed stones of the quarry, the angular pieces
“of rock and the round boulders of the river all bedded in the
“mortar and compacted by it into one. And the white and
“brown patches of mortar and stone, on a general view of the
“wall, stand strikingly contrasted with the green turf that entirely
“conceals the level line, and with the green moss that half reveals
“the projecting points of the rampart.

“The great foss of the British city the Romans preserved along
“their northern side, for more than thirty yards beyond the
“eastern end of it, and for the whole beyond the western. And
“as the present appearances of the ground intimate, they closed
“the eastern point of it with an high bank, which was raised
“upon one part of the ditch, and sloped away into the other.”

The smaller fort or outpost was situate at the junction of the
Irk, about a mile to the north of the *castrum*.

Dr. Stukeley mentions a gold coin of Otho having been found
near the station, and a large Roman ring of gold found in Castle
Field. (*Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 55.) In Baines' *History of
Lancashire*, (2nd edit. vol. i, p. 268,) we find an abridged version
from Whitaker of other discoveries, as follows:—“On the bank
“of the *castrum* were found, about 1765, a number of Roman
“urns, wrought earthen vessels, a fibula, and several coins, and
“a Roman lachrymatory of black glass, half filled with liquid;
“without the vallum, several urns and vessels, one inscribed
“ADVOCISI” (a well known potter's mark) “on its outer limb,

“were found, and other coins and urns have since been discovered.”

“As late as the year 1769,” says Whitaker, “there was an arch appearing in the rampart of the Castle Field, a little to the west of the north-eastern angle, and the crown of it just rose above the ground.”

Mr. Whitaker says, at p. 63, vol. i:—“But that large projection of the bank of the Medlock, which commences near the south-eastern and south-western points of the station, appears to have been applied to the most capital uses. Lying within the two angles of the camp, and forming an agreeable addition to it, it was naturally the site of all the offices. And in 1771 were here found some remains of buildings, which the nature of the construction and the discovery of coins equally marked to be Roman.

“A little to the west of the south-eastern angle, and directly opposite to the small bridge on the other side of the river, as the workmen were levelling the bank for a wharf, and proceeding to the east, they came to a large stone like the pedestal of a pillar, but all plane on the surface. It was about two feet nine inches across at the base, and gradually decreased upwards by four stages, as it were, of eight inches, three and a half, one and three quarters, and one and an half in length, to two feet three inches, two feet, and one foot nine. It was placed on a flooring seven or eight inches thick, which was made with pieces of soft red rock and bedded in clay. And it was nearly twenty-five yards distant from the present edge of the water.

“Eight feet immediately to the east of this was a building, equally with the stone about two below the surface of the ground, and floored with a Roman cement of mortar and pounded brick. This was nine inches in thickness, and rested on a body of marle, about as many in depth. And the whole building was about twenty feet long and ten broad. Nine to the east of this was another flooring, two or three lower in the ground, and a cake of the same cement and thickness. It lay upon loose earth and was covered with flags. And the whole

“ was about ten feet broad and thirty long. The exterior wall of
“ both buildings was discovered on the northern side, running
“ parallel with the river. That of the former was about two feet
“ three inches in thickness, and that of the latter about four. This
“ rose about three high, and was formed of stones regularly drest,
“ the upper shallow and the lower deep. And, having extended
“ nearly in a right line about thirty feet, it then turned in a fair
“ angle and pointed towards the river. In the former building
“ was dug up only one flooring ; but in the latter three. Below
“ the pavement described above, and in the loose earth on which
“ it lay, were found as the pillars of it large blocks of a mill-
“ stone grit and square tubes of strong tile. And the first floor-
“ ing lay on all these ; the intervals between the tubes and blocks
“ being entirely filled up with earth. The latter were such as we
“ have noticed before in the British foundation at another end of
“ the field, and like them, I suppose, brought down by the floods
“ of the Medlock. And the former were about sixteen inches in
“ height and five in diameter, and filled up with mortar that had
“ once been fluid. Three of these were found together, standing
“ erect, and two of them so formed with projections, as to make
“ a third by their union. And these and the earth all rested upon
“ a second flooring, another cake of the same cement, near two
“ feet in thickness, and lying upon a second bed of rubbish about
“ three in depth. In the body of this earth, which was covered
“ with the second flooring all unbroken and entire, were discovered
“ three or four regular pillars of flag and tile. The first was placed
“ about six feet to the south of the northerly wall, and the second
“ about seventeen inches to the south of that. Six feet eastward
“ was another ; and about seventeen inches north of this were
“ some remains of a fourth. They were composed of a square
“ flag, then two layers of tile, each tile being about two inches
“ thick and eight square, and afterwards of flag and tile in four
“ layers alternately, all laid in mortar and pounded brick. And
“ they rose from twenty-two to thirty-two inches in height, closely
“ surrounded on every side with loose earth ; and lay as it lay
“ upon a third flooring made of pure and unmixed mortar three

“inches in thickness, and having a layer of red sand below on
“the natural ground.

“About a yard to the east of the more easterly building was
“discovered a third, but all a mere mass of confusion. And in
“the broken ruins of it were dug up, a couple of Roman coins,
“and three round tubes of tile. These were found in the ground,
“with their mortar adhering to the outside of them, and each
“about sixteen inches in length. They had plainly been formed
“in molds, were hooped as it were with circles on the outside,
“and narrowed from a diameter about four inches at one end, to
“two at the other. And by this means they were calculated to
“be, as they were found, each inserted into each and forming
“one long pipe.”

Whitaker thought that these buildings had formed the *cowstall*,
slaughter house, and *larder* of the garrison! He apparently based
this opinion upon the fact, that in one of them were found a
quantity of bones of oxen and sheep in a heap. In another was
found a knife of iron with a stag's horn handle; and in the most
westerly room was the beam of a balance of brass, with a hook
at one end. The beam was very slight, being only “capable of
“weighing half-a-pound.” There was found at the same time an
iron chisel, fitted for a handle, which was in Mr. Whitaker's
possession; and a number of tiles with round holes in them, and
others with a bend for channels.

I take the beam he mentions to have been a steelyard, of which
many examples have been found at Roman stations.

In the Watson MSS., preserved in the Bodleian Library at
Oxford, the discovery of these buildings is alluded to. The
passage is in fol. 57 of the MSS., and occurs in a letter from
Dr. John Haysgarth, “a physician at Chester,” to the Rev. J.
Watson, dated Chester, August 12th, 1771, in which, after
describing the discovery of a fine hypocaust at Chester, in Bridge
Street, it is said:—“From this account you will, I doubt not,
“agree with me that was found lately at Castlefield, Manchester,
“is the *dejecta (sic) membra* of a Roman hypocaust. For 1st,
“the floor is composed of exactly the same materials. Would it

“not be right to perforate the floor, in order to measure the thickness, and see whether it is not laid on the solid rock ? 2nd, The pillars were placed in rows, and are nearly of the same length, shape, and thickness. 3rd, There are several square tiles remaining, similar to those which are placed upon the top of the pillars. 4th, The fragments of broken tile collected from the rubbish, resemble entirely the roof of the Chester hypocaust in thickness, especially in being perforated with small round holes.”

From this account it would seem that it was some suburban building, provided with a hypocaust in at least one of the rooms that had been laid bare.

Whitaker tells us that about the same time, “at the southwestern projection,” a large heap of round stones, as if collected in readiness for being discharged from *ballistae*, had been found.

The next discovery in the neighbourhood was that of a gold *bullæ*, which was found in May, 1772, close to the second lock of the Irwell, and about two miles from Castle Field, in deepening the channel for the passage of the boats. It was buried about a foot deep in a ridge of gravel. In form it represented a segment of a circle, and was highly ornamented. A hollow tube ran along its upper border, for the purpose of holding a cord for suspension round the neck. Its intrinsic value was about twenty-three shillings. According to Whitaker, it found its way to the Leverian Museum, that unfortunate receptacle for so many Lancashire antiquities, which have never been heard of since its dispersion in 1806.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, December, 1789, p. 1185, Mr. G. Perry, in a letter dated from Manchester, December 12th, 1789, sends an account and drawings of some other relics found here. The two which are engraved (Pl. II, figs. 4 and 5) are of brass. One is the bust of a man apparently helmeted ; it was “hollow in the inside, the workmanship and execution pretty tolerable ; the nails had probably been to fasten it to something, and were of copper.” Mr. Perry suggested that it was a sword handle. The other was “the head and neck of a horse ;”

from the bottom of the neck two paws project (as in a sphinx), and from the back of the neck are two wings outstretched. "They were found six feet below the ground, between two large stones placed horizontally, with several large flat-bottomed brass dishes, jammed into one another; but were most of them mere rust. An urn was also found here some time ago, plain, without any inscription, containing a silver coin of Trajan. Several Roman ovens also now lie open, cut in the rock; and near them were found mill stones, the bottoms made of burnt clay, paterae, black, white, and red. The following coins were separate, found at different places, Tiberius, in copper; Augustus, Antoninus Pius, in silver. The urn is now in the possession of Mr. Barret of this town, an ingenious antiquary."

What has become of the articles named above is unknown. They are probably in some private collection. With the exception of some inscriptions hereafter to be noticed, a long interval elapses before we hear of any further discoveries.

In 1808, there were found by some labourers, when digging, four large pewter dishes, circular in shape. One was $17\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and had an ornamented centre. It is engraved by Mr. Lysons in his *Reliquiae Britannico Romanae*, vol. ii, pl. 5. He tells us, that this with two others were presented to him "by Mr. Ford, bookseller, of Manchester, and by him deposited in the British Museum. A small bit having been taken from one of them a good deal mutilated, was analyzed by Dr. Wollaston, and found to consist of nearly three parts of tin to one of lead. Neither of the other two dishes had any ornament; one of them was $14\frac{7}{8}$ inches, the other 20 inches in diameter." From Mr. Lysons' engraving, they would appear to much resemble in appearance a modern soup plate.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for October, 1830, there is an account of an ancient well, found in Castle Field. It is there thought to be British, but is evidently one of a class which have previously been discovered at Roman stations. It was four yards below the level of the field, near the canal, was square in form, had four upright posts at the angles, closed in with other logs

placed one upon another, floored in the same manner. The logs were rudely hewn and not sawn, five or six inches in diameter, The foundations of the Roman wall, were found a few yards to the west. A quantity of stones, called "bowlers" locally, were found at the bottom of the well.

Between the years 1829-36, the Castle Field was gradually absorbed for building purposes, and in the excavations necessary for the erection of warehouses, &c., a large number of antiquities were discovered, and afterwards deposited at Worsley Old Hall, at that time the residence of R. H. Bradshaw, Esq., M.P., and many of them are engraved and described in the first volume of Baines's *History of Lancashire* (edit. 1836), p. 158 *et seq.* Among them were a portion of an inscribed altar, a portion of an inscribed tile, and a fragment of a large and elegant inscription, all of which I shall describe hereafter. Portions of two Samian bowls, highly ornamented; three perfect vessels of Upchurch pottery, also a small cup of red pottery; a small leaden bust of a female four inches high, the features much corroded, the hair very distinct, the back of the image flat; a sort of hook rises from the right shoulder, which may represent a sickle. I think the image a steelyard weight. There were also found two iron spear heads, and an iron axe head, ten inches long, two and a-half inches thick at the head, and very heavy; it was much corroded. In addition, there were coins of Vitellius, Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Constantius (it is not said of what metal). Several were in good preservation, but the greater part were much corroded. An iron stylus, seven and a-half inches long, with a spiral twist; a bronze (or copper) fibula, two inches long, without the pin; "a circular metallic brooch (or fibula) inlaid with seven stones as a kind of mosaic work" (which I doubt is of Roman origin); a small copper or bronze hinge, a brass hair pin, with square head; a bronze ornament, shaped like a bell, two inches in diameter, and nearly the same height, including the ring by which it was suspended; another and smaller ornament of the same shape, said to be of copper, but probably bronze; a bronze ladle, an inch and

a-half long; bronze figures of a horse, an inch and a-half long, and of the head of an antelope, also occur, with a number of metallic circular rings and plates, broken pieces of metal and pottery, several beads of paste, coloured blue, &c., &c.

Baines says, p. 160—"About a month before the discovery of this altar, a coffin was found, on digging on the opposite side of the Medlock to Castle Field. The coffin was enclosed within a casing of red earthenware, and appeared to have been made of oak, as the grain of the wood might be distinctly seen, though it was all reduced to a pulpy mass, which soon fell to dust. Bones were seen in the coffin when it was first opened, but they crumbled on exposure to the air. The coffin was about six feet long. The earthenware plates which enclosed the coffin were twenty inches long, sixteen inches broad, and two and a-half inches thick, including the rim."

In the year 1839 there was found in Tonman Street (in the neighbourhood of *Camp* Field), when excavating for the foundations of the Hall of Science (lately the Free Library, and now pulled down), a very beautiful statuette in bronze of Jupiter Stator, only five and a-quarter inches in height, and standing upon a bronze pedestal. "When found, one hand contained the thunderbolts of Jove; in the other was extended a rod. (Pl. II.) These, together with the pedestal, were unfortunately soon lost." (Proctor's *Memorials of Manchester Streets*, p. 128). It is in the most perfect preservation, and now in the possession of Mr. Leigh, the Medical Officer of Health for the city of Manchester. During the same excavations were found a small silver coin of Trajan, also in Mr. Leigh's possession; and "a massive gold signet ring, having on a bloodstone a figure of Mercury in intaglio." The latter was formerly in the possession of the late Mr. Charles Bradbury, of the Crescent, Salford; but of its present whereabouts I am not cognisant.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* for October, 1840, gives an account by Mr. Howarth (p. 415) of some further discoveries made in that year. Mr. Howarth says that "all traces of ancient Mancunium will shortly disappear, from the excavations and



BRONZE STATUETTE OF JUPITER STATOR. (*Actual size.*)



“alterations that are daily taking place.” The discoveries, he says, consisted, in addition to an inscribed tile, “of numerous fragments of Samian ware, being portions of vases, urns, and very large circular bowls, the rims on which they stood measuring four and five inches in diameter. They are ornamented in bold relief with figures of the vine, dolphins, the hound, the stag, and lions. On one was stamped the word CVPPA.” (Dr. Hübner suggests that this was LVPPA, a well known potter’s mark.) “There was discovered at the same time a Roman brick, with fragments of others, and several tiles 12 or 14 inches square, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. * * There was found a mill stone at the same place, 15 inches in diameter, and 8 inches deep; weight 58lbs. : this was the upper stone. Another was found in the same place a short time ago. Both are in my possession.”

Mr. Baines, in his *History of Lancashire*, says—“All that now (1832) remains of the ancient castle of Manchester is the fragment of an inner wall, about 7 yards long, 2 feet wide, and 27 inches above the surface. This ancient relic consists of unhewn stone, grouted with a rough kind of mortar as hard as the stone itself.” The mortar was analyzed in 1828, by the celebrated Dr. Dalton, and was found, “on being coarsely pulverised and sifted, to form itself into three parts,—first a fine powder, second a coarser powder, and third round small pieces like shot of various sizes. The finer powder was found to contain from 15 to 20 per cent. of carbonate of lime with some clay and iron, and about 80 per cent. of sand. The other two parts contained stony particles and lumps, less soluble in acids, and yielding an inferior proportion of lime. The wall is in rear of Bridgewater Street, within a foot of the division wall of a pile of cottages, and in the open space used as a timber yard, adjoining the Bridgewater canal, from which it is about the same distance as from the old station of the Manchester and Liverpool Railway.”

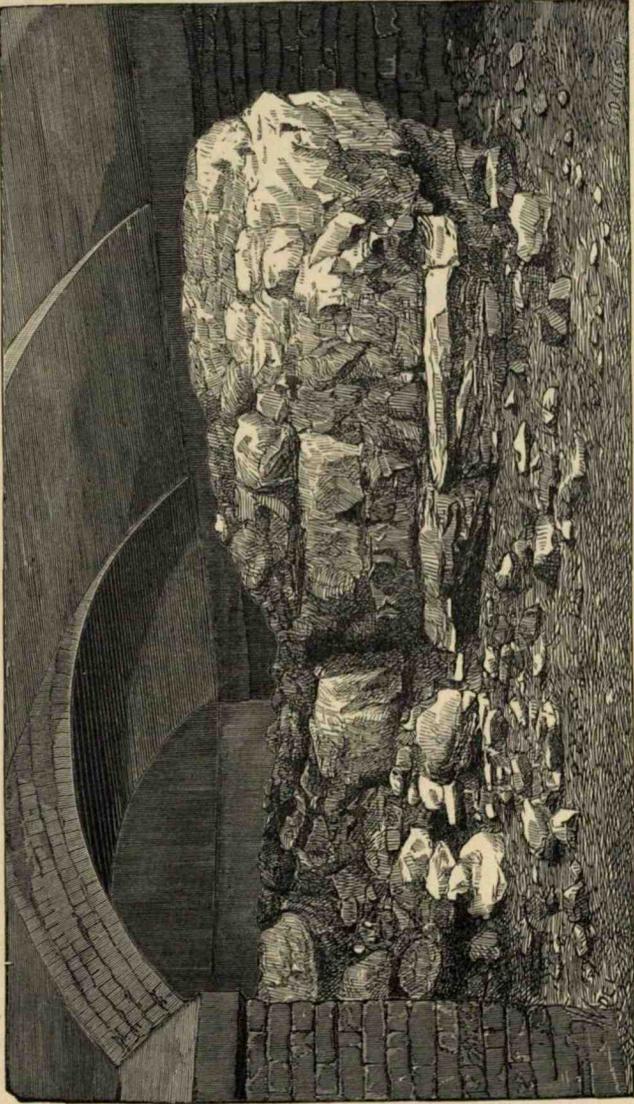
Fortunately, this fragment of Roman Manchester still exists. Mr. Procter tells us (p. 100) how the late Lord Francis Egerton, afterwards Earl of Ellesmere, watched its safety during the exca-

uations. "He caused this fragment of the castle wall to be supported by brickwork, and then legally secured it from future molestation. * * We have purposely omitted to name the exact location of the foundation wall, because it stands within private business premises, and too many curious visitors would interfere with trade. Another reason may be recorded. If every thoughtless or over sanguine person were to bring away a piece of the mortar as a proof of his discovery, the praiseworthy design of Lord Francis would be defeated, and Manchester would soon be deprived of its oldest historical relic. It has been suggested in print that the rare antique should be immediately surrounded by a substantial iron railing, and surely it well deserveth such cheap preservation."

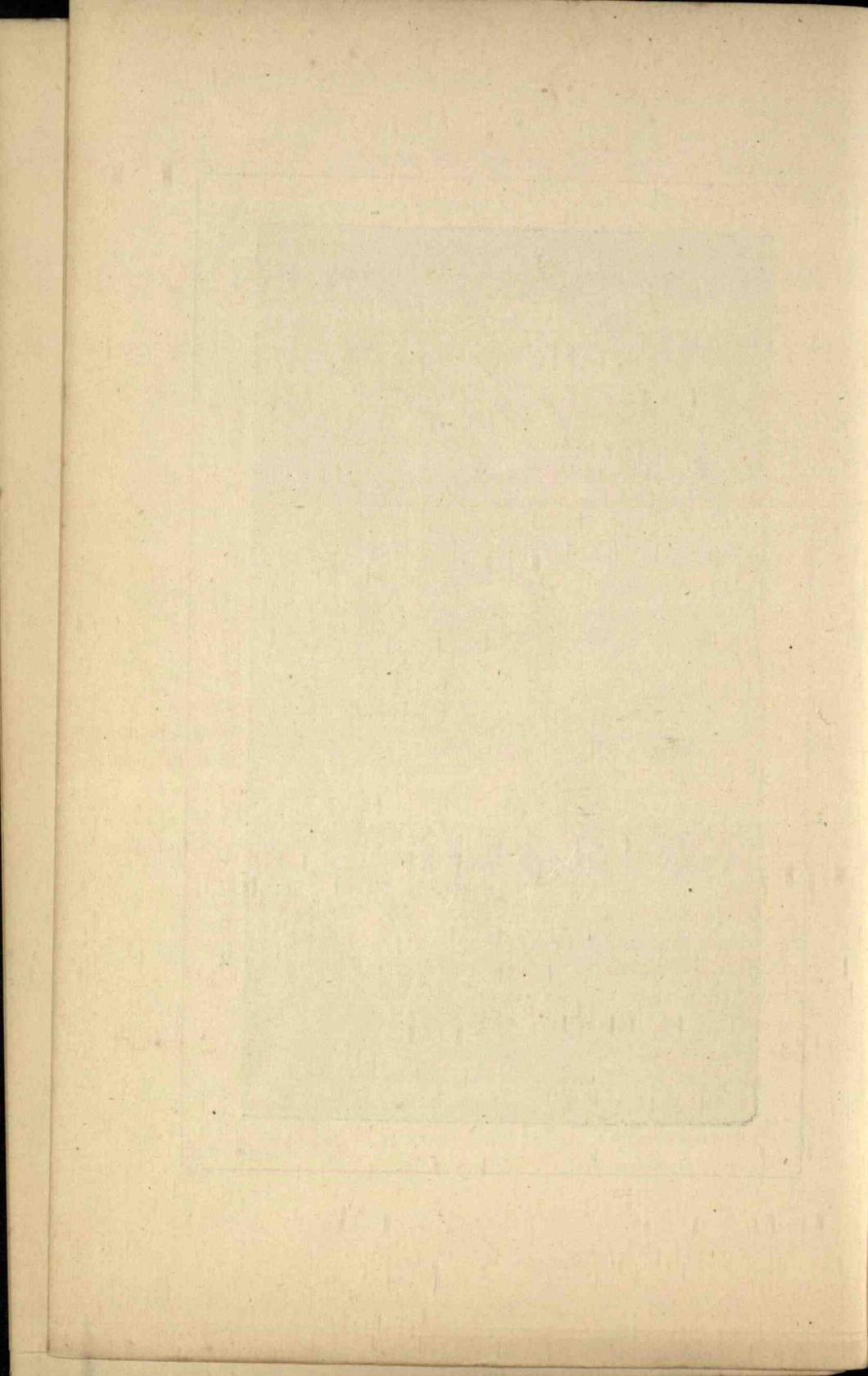
Mr. Procter gives an engraving of this fragment, as it appeared in 1873.

As to the date of the erection of the station, nothing can be said with certainty. Mr. Whitaker's assertion, copied by subsequent writers, that it was founded by Agricola, A.D. 79, is entirely conjecture. The first time that we hear of it is in the Antonine Itinerary, compiled, as I have endeavoured to prove (*Archæological Journal*, vol. xxviii, p. 112,) circa A.D. 138-144. It is apparently mentioned in the Chorography of Ravennas as *Mantio*. The inscriptions found bear no date, though one must have been posterior to the year A.D. 120, for it was erected by a centurion of the 6th legion, which came over to Britain in that year with the Emperor Hadrian. We have also, I think, a fragment of the reign of Septimius Severus.

But though we cannot tell *when* the *castrum* was erected, I think we can get a glimpse of *who* were its builders. We certainly can tell some of the regiments that were in garrison. Amongst the tiles found, there is one of the twentieth legion, the head quarters of which were at Chester. From this fact we can gather, that the twentieth legion were employed in tile making here for building purposes, and thus that they probably erected the fortress. Amongst their successors were the first cohort of the Frisiavones, a people whom Pliny mentions twice as dwelling in Belgic Gaul,



FRAGMENT OF WALL OF THE ANCIENT CASTLE OF MANCHESTER.



and inhabitants of an island at the mouth of the Rhine, between the Maese and Zuyder Zee. The modern "Friesland" still preserves their name. From the Sydenham *tabula*, we find they were in Britain in A.D. 105, in the reign of Trajan; from the Rivingling *tabula*, we gather that they were still in our island in A.D. 124, in the reign of Hadrian. Three of the Manchester inscriptions were erected by them, and they have left another at Melandra castle.

Another corps, which we find was stationed at Manchester, was the third cohort of the Breuci, for such I take to be the expansion of the inscription upon the two tiles found stamped C. III, BR., although at Slack, near Halifax, the fourth cohort of the same people use the abbreviation BRE. The only other expansions which can be given, would point to the third cohort of the *Bracarae*, or the third cohort of the Brittones. The first of these, we know from the *tabulae*, was in Britain, though no traces of it have yet been found; but as the cohort bore the additional title of *Augustanorum*, if it were meant to be commemorated on the tiles found, I should expect to find the abbreviation AVG. after the BR. They were a Portuguese people—the modern Braga representing their chief city. The *Brittones* were from the modern French province of Brittany, but it is doubtful whether any cohort of that tribe ever served in Britain.

The inscriptions found on the site of *Mancunium* are, considering the importance of the station, few in number. The first recorded was an altar, found "by the river Medlock" in 1612, and is said by Whitaker to have been $27\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, and $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, and nearly 11 inches thick. Horsley, Stukeley, and Whitaker all describe it as being preserved in the garden at Hulme Hall, which would account for its existence until *circa* 1770. Since then, nothing certain has been known as to it, but there is a memorandum in pencil upon the copy of it, in the Chetham Library at Manchester, saying that—"It was afterwards "in the Leverian Museum." This museum was sold and dispersed in London in 1806. Whitaker says that the altar had no focus, and "it has neither capital nor base, and only a large plane in

“front, bordered on either side by a molding (*sic.*) It is charged
“with a common *praefericulum* on the left edge and with a
“common *patera* on the right.” The inscription was—

FORTVNAE
CONSERVA
TRICI
L. SENE CIA
NIVS. MAR
TIVS.) LEG
VI. VICT.

This shews that it was dedicated to *Fortuna Conservatrix* by
Lucius Senecianus Martius, a centurion of the sixth legion (sur-
named the) *Victorious*.

Camden tells us that he saw this inscription here—

) . CANDIDI
FIDES. XX.
IIII

but he evidently misread the commencement of the second line
of it, which should be *P E D E S*; the whole reading “*Centuria*
“*Candidi, pedes xxiiii* ;” or, translated, “the century of *Can-*
didus [made] twenty-four feet.” This refers to building the wall
of the *castrum*, and the inscription is one of a numerous class.
He also tells us that he had a copy of a similar inscription given
to him by the celebrated *Dr. Dee*, Warden of *Manchester*
College.

COHO. I. FRISIN
) . MASAVONIS
P. XXIII

This reads—“*Coho*(rtis) *I. Frisiav*(orium) *centuria Masavonis*,
“*pedes xiii*.” “The century of *Masavo* of the 1st cohort of the
“*Frasiavones* [made] twenty-three feet.” At the end of the first
line the *A* and *V* have been *liguate*, thus, *AV*, as in the *Melandra*
Castle inscription; and *Camden* has read them as *N*. Both of
these stones have long been lost. Very strangely, and quite at
variance with his usual sagacity, *Horsley* took them for *sepulchral*
monuments of centurions!

In 1760 there was found on "the south side of the Medlock, "near Knott Mill," on the left hand from Manchester to Stretford, another stone which appears to be of the same class. The letters, however, are of a most barbarous character, and besides the words "Chor I. Fris," nothing can be made out. This, however, is sufficient to shew that the first cohort of the Frisians executed it. The letters are, as far as can be made out—

. * * Q P O B
 X V A R * * * C H O R . I .
 . R I S . P . S H V V V .

The dots shew where letters are missing, the asterisks where they are on the stone, but of doubtful reading.

This stone is engraved in Gough's Camden, (1789 edition), vol. iii, pl. vi, fig. 15, and in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Nov., 1807. Mr. Whitaker rejected it on account of its barbarity and uncertainty, but it is doubtless a genuine stone. Its present whereabouts is unknown. Gough says that under the letters the stone is hollowed as a basin.

In 1795 or 1796 (for authorities are disagreed as to the exact date), another puzzling stone, erected by the same cohort, was found. From vol. lxxviii of the Chetham Society's Proceedings, p. 46, we obtain the best copy of the inscription; but the stone had been previously engraved and described in the Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, vol. v, pl. vii, pp. 527 and 534. The former copy, taken from Mr. Barritt's original drawing, gives

COHR.I
 FRISIAVO
 VOVIV.VVV.
 S.P.XXIII.

I think the third line has been very wrongly given, and I would read the inscription as

COHR.I
 FRISIAVO
 >QVINTIANI
 *P.XXIII



i.e., “*Cohor(tis) I. Frisia-vo(num) centuria Quintiani P(edes)* “*xxiii.*” In the original all the letters in the third line, after the first I, are given in a ligulate and confused form. This stone is also lost or hidden. It is said to have been fifteen inches by eleven. In vol. v of the above-named *Transactions*, p. 675, it is said of it—“It appears likely the stone was fixed over the centre of “the arched gateway of the castle, it being found in the ground “where the principal entrance into the fortress was situated.” From a note by Dr. Edward Holme, given in vol. lxxviii of the Chetham Society’s Proceedings, p. 46, we gather also—“The “stone on which the following inscription is traced was found on “removing the rubbish that obstructed the Praetorian gateway “of the Roman camp in Castle Field.” The stone was formerly in the possession of Charles White, M.D., F.R.S., who died 20th Feb., 1813; since then it is unknown what became of it.

Barritt made a copy of the inscription upon the handle of an amphora, which is now in the Peel Park Museum, Salford (and long thought by some to be genuine). A cast of this is in this Society’s Museum.

It was not until the extensive excavations in the year 1832 that any further inscriptions were found. On 6th December of that year, at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries (*Gentleman’s Magazine*, Dec., 1832, p. 561,) Mr. Howarth said—“Near the “same place as the altar” (hereafter to be described) “was found “a fragment of a brick or tile, impressed with this inscription “entire”—

C . I I I . B R .

which, as I have previously said, I would expand—“*Cohors. III. “Breucorum.*” In the *Gentleman’s Magazine*, October, 1840, Mr. Howarth says that another tile, bearing the same inscription, was found (apparently entire). It was from 12 to 14 inches square and 1½ inch thick.

A portion of a tile, bearing the stamp of the twentieth legion, occurred also—

. E G . X X . V . V .

Another fragment of stone bore, in finely-executed letters—

┆ I N V ┆

E T A C

I take the first line of this to be part of the word *Invictus*, in one of its plural cases, and as referring to Severus and Caracalla, for there is little doubt that the second line has been (G)ETAC(AES) and refers to the Emperor Geta as Caesar. As he took this title in A.D. 198, and changed it for that of Augustus in A.D. 209, it would be between those years that the inscription was executed.

Lastly, there was found, during these excavations, the lower half of a fine inscribed altar, formed of the red sandstone of the neighbourhood, 2 feet 4 inches in height, and the base measuring 1 foot 11 inches from side to side, and 1 foot 2 inches front to back. It was found in May, 1832, and the remainder of the inscription upon its front was:—

..... * V S
 P O S I
 ... V E X I L
 * A E T O R E T
 N O R I C O R
 V . S . L . L . M

The second line has been much written upon, and apparently misunderstood by the various readings given of it. It has been made to end with L instead of I, and a stop after the P has been asserted to be upon the stone. If so, no reading could be attempted. Dr. Hübner's reading is the best, and I believe the correct one. It is (*prae*) *posi(tus) vexil(lationi) (R)actor(um) et Noricor(um)*, with the usual concluding formula, *V(otum) S(olvit) L(actus) L(ibens) M(erito)*.

These last three inscriptions were removed to Worsley Old Hall, where, the Hon. Algernon Egerton, M.P., informs me, the first and third now are, but neither he nor Lord Ellesmere could find the second, although they searched for it.

Dr. Hübner gives, under the head of Manchester, a fragmentary inscription, bequeathed by the late Dr. Edward Holme, of that city, to the Manchester Natural History Society, and which is now in the British Museum. Its history, and the place of its discovery, are unknown, but from various circumstances I am inclined to think that, instead of being found at Manchester, it

came from the Roman station at Ambleside, an inscription found at the latter having been long missing. It is

.... DIVI . SEP . SEVERI . AN
 MAX . FILIO . DIVI . ANT
 POTI . DIVI . ANTON
 ABNEP . DIVI . TR

and is entirely occupied with the titles and descent of Caracalla.

Of the potters' marks, which cannot fail to have been discovered at Manchester the same as at other Roman stations, no record has, unfortunately, been kept, with the exception of the two examples (ADVOCISI and CVPPA) which I have given.

There remain now only the roads to be noticed. Of these there were a number issuing from the station. A fine one, fourteen yards in breadth, connected it directly with Wigan (*Coccium*.) From this, at Hope Hall, another paved road, but only three yards broad, led to Blackrode. Another road, very variable in its character, in some places being well made, led direct to Ribchester. Another to Slack (*Cambodunum*) in Yorkshire. Another ran along Blackstone Edge. Another fine one went directly to the station at Kinderton (*Condate*.) Another road ran through Barton, and proceeded to the station at Wilderspool. Another ran eastward to Melandra Castle—whilst another, passing through Stockport and by the Roman camp at Toot Hill, near Forest Chapel, connected Manchester with Buxton. But as these roads require separate treatment, and as I hope eventually to communicate a paper upon the roads of the county to the Society, I will at present leave the subject in abeyance.

I have endeavoured, though I fear imperfectly, to bring into the compass of this paper, all that is known of Roman Manchester. There is still a possibility that, in casual excavations, many things may still be found within its area which will serve to throw extra light upon its history. Let us hope that, in that event, they will be well cared for, and preserved as memorials of a grand and historical past.

