ON RECENT DISCOVERIES AT THE ROMAN SITE AT WILDERSPOOL, NEAR WARRINGTON.

By James Kendrick, M.D.

(Read 28th March, 1871.)

A highly-valued contributor to the early volumes of our Society's Transactions, and one who still takes a lively interest in its proceedings, (my fellow-townsman, Dr. Robson,) a few months ago contributed a paper "On the Roman Roads and Roman Occupation of North Cheshire," to the Chester Archaeological Society; and, had his health been spared, would doubtless have favoured us also with his matured opinion upon the second and tenth British Itinera of Antonine, a corrected reading of which he first brought before the public in the second* and third† volumes of our own Transactions. The chief purpose of my appearance here this evening is to lay before the Historic Society an account of the later discoveries at the Roman site at Wilderspool, near Warrington; but I feel that Dr. Robson's successful efforts to identify this particular spot with the Condate of Antonine render it necessary that I should prelude my remarks by a brief, and, as I feel, inadequate epitome of his communication to the Chester Society. With a little indulgence, however, on the part of my hearers, and by the aid of a small map of the Roman Roads in our neighbourhood, which, under Dr. Robson's guidance, I have been enabled to construct, I hope to shew that those archæological puzzles, the second and tenth Itinera of Antonine, are amongst the most clearly defined routes in this undisputed Roman Itinerary of Britain.

* p. 30. † p. 70.
I hope, at the same time, to shew that the *Condate*, which occurs on both these *Itinera*, *must* have been at Wilderspool, and neither at Congleton, Northwich, nor Middlewich, as by turns supposed; the last-named being, with equal certainty, the still more important station of *Mediolanum*. I say more important than *Condate*, though it has as yet produced fewer Roman remains; but it is supposed that all the *Itinera* began and ended at an important station, and *Mediolanum* was at the southern extremity of the tenth Iter. If we may judge from our discoveries at Wilderspool, a still richer harvest of Roman remains awaits the Cheshire archaeologists at Middlewich.

As the second British Iter of Antoninus ran from the east to the west of our island, and the tenth Iter from the north southwards, the Roman station *Condate* occurring on both these routes, it follows that it must have been precisely at their junction and crossing, and Wilderspool, near Warrington, has been clearly shewn by Dr. Robson* to occupy this position. Taking the second Iter (at least that portion of it which runs from York to Chester) for our guide, and following it backwards, (*Deva* being fully identified with Chester,) we find that *Deva* was twenty miles from *Condate*, whilst *Condate* was eighteen miles from *Mamucium*, (Manchester, now Manchester.) These admeasurements at the present time precisely fix *Condate* at Wilderspool, whilst they in no way correspond with the distances from Chester to Middlewich, and from Middlewich to Manchester, which was the course taken by the second Iter, according to Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, and by many other archaeologists. It is true there is another route from Chester to Manchester, with distinct traces of a Roman road throughout, viz., that by the way of Northwich; but if we consider Northwich to be *Condate*, we shall find it to be only five miles from *Medio-

* Trans. of the Hist. Soc. of Lanc., and Chesh., vol. ii, p. 34.
The Roman Roads of South Lancashire and North Cheshire.
lanum, instead of eighteen miles, as given by Antonine, and the tenth Iter, which ought to touch it, does not come nearer to it than two miles. Moreover, the route through Northwich from Chester to Manchester is four miles in excess of the distance as given in the Roman Iter, and, as remarked by Mr. Hughes of Chester, in the discussion which followed the reading of Dr. Robson’s paper, “the difference of four miles in forty is a very serious one, especially when the other route by Wilderspool is absolutely correct.” Lastly, as remarked by Dr. Robson, the distance from Deva to Condate, as given in the Iter, was greater than the distance from Condate to Mamucium; but if we adopt Northwich as Condate, the actual distances are completely reversed. Still, many unquestionably Roman remains have been met with at Northwich, amongst which may be named the curious leaden salt-pans found there in 1864, one of which is now in the Warrington museum, and a portion of another, upon which the word “Deva” appears in raised Roman characters, is in my own collection. Both these relics are described and engraved in volume VI, (N.S.) of our Transactions, forming subjects for notice by our zealous friend, Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith, in his “Report on the Archaeology of the Mersey District for the years 1864-66.” As I have ventured to append the name Salinae to Northwich, in the map which I have laid before the Society this evening, you must allow me to quote a few words from a paper by Dr. Robson,* which have been my chief authority for this apparently groundless assumption. “There is only one thing more to notice,” he says, “and that is, that in the Anonymous Ravennas we have “Condate following immediately Salinae. The Romans had “their Salinae at Droitwich, Worcestershire, which is named in “another part of this author; and we may naturally suppose “that the Salinae next Condate would be in Cheshire. That

"the Romans were acquainted with the brine-springs in "Cheshire, and made use of them, is highly probable; and till "some place, where more numerous and definite remains "turn up, is discovered, it will perhaps be safest to leave the "honour of the Cheshire Salina to Northwich." Archdeacon
Wood, also, in the Journal of the Chester Society, urges the
claims of Northwich to be the Roman Salina.

It will not be necessary to dwell so long upon the con­sideration of the relation of the tenth Iter to Wilderspool, as
I have bestowed upon the second; for instead of three sug­gested routes, there is here only one, and upon more than
one-half of that included in my map, the Roman road has
been actually traced beyond the possibility of doubt or denial.
For this valuable contribution to the early history of the two
counties of Lancaster and Chester, we are chiefly indebted to
the late Rev. Edmund Sibson, incumbent of Ashton-in-
Makerfield; and a detailed account of all we know and have
seen of the Roman road of the tenth Iter is given from his
pen, in the third vol. of the 4to edition of Baines' History
of Lancashire, pp. 573 to 587. All that it will be necessary
for me here to say is, that if we trace the tenth Iter of Anto­nine backwards, in like manner as we traced the second, taking
Middlewich (Mediolanum) as the starting-point, we find, as
Antonine describes it, Wilderspool (Condate) xviii miles to
the north of it, Wigan (Mancunium) xviii miles to the north
of Condate, and Walton, near Preston (Coccium) xviii miles
to the north of Mancunium.* At all these points sufficient
Roman remains have been discovered to establish a belief
that they are the veritable sites of the above stations, as given
in the Itinera. For an account of the Roman remains found
at Middlewich, I may refer to the contributions of the late

* The difficulty which has hitherto been experienced in reconciling the 2nd and 10th Itinera of Antonine, is entirely overcome by Dr. Robson's shewing that the Mancium of the 2nd Iter is not identical with the Mancunium of the 10th.
Archdeacon Wood and of Mr. Vawdrey to the volumes of the Chester Archaeological Society. I am here this evening to tell of our discoveries at Wilderspool. Mr. Sibson, in the work above referred to, has given us the Roman discoveries at Wigan; and Mr. Hardwick has enriched our own volumes of Transactions* with notes of researches of similar interest at Walton-le-Dale. Let it be remembered, however, that we have no reason to believe that any of the stations on this Iter, south of Lancaster, were to any extent fortified places; but that, like Condate, at Wilderspool, they were merely "mutationes" or stations, for the convenience and relays of the imperial posts.

To close this division of my subject, it may be useful to epitomise the whole, by throwing into a tabular form those portions of the second and tenth Iteres of Antonine which affect the district of South Lancashire and North Cheshire:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iter II.</th>
<th>Antonine.</th>
<th>Actual Distance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camboduno, Slack</td>
<td>M.P. XVIII</td>
<td>XVIII miles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamucio, Manchester</td>
<td>&quot; X VIII</td>
<td>XX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condate, Wilderspool</td>
<td>&quot; XX</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deva, leg. xx victrix, Chester.</td>
<td>XVIII</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iter X.</th>
<th>Antonine.</th>
<th>Actual Distance.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bremetonace, Lancaster</td>
<td>M.P. XX</td>
<td>XXI miles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coccio, Walton-le-Dale</td>
<td>&quot; XVII</td>
<td>XVI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mancunio, Standish, Wigan...</td>
<td>&quot; XVIII</td>
<td>XV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condate, Wilderspool</td>
<td>&quot; XVIII</td>
<td>XVIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediolano, Middlewich.......</td>
<td>&quot; XVIII</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In Gaul there were certainly no fewer than five Roman towns designated Condate—(Dr. Smith in his Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography enumerates eight)—and the derivation of the name is considered to imply that each was situated at the confluence of two streams. Now, it so happens, that within forty yards of the point where the Roman remains are found at Wilderspool, we have the opening into the Mersey.

of an ancient and, to all appearance, large stream, known as the Wilderspool, whence the name of the hamlet. It is a tidal stream, and runs inland and southwards for upwards of two miles. The first portion of its name is of unknown or unascertained meaning, but there can be no doubt that it derives the latter portion from the same source or circumstance as many other streams opening into the Mersey, e.g. Wallasey Pool, Tranmere Pool, Bromboro' Pool, Stanlaw Pool, Pool Mouth, Otters' Pool, and your own Liver Pool. This stream is known as the Wilderspool, in a charter of 1158, and was even then crossed by a bridge, likewise named in the charter, the stone foundations of which were probably laid bare some years ago, and were considered by Dr. Robson to afford grounds for believing them to be of Roman construction.

For a distance of half a mile from its outlet into the Mersey, the Wilderspool, or, as it is now termed, the Wilderspool brook, flows inland through a flat and low district known as "the Ackers." An intelligent farmer, the occupant of the land, told me that this term was applied in Cheshire to a large sheet of water; and I then found, upon referring to the Promptorium Parvulorum, circa 1440, as edited by Mr. Albert Way, that as well as "akyr of londe, Acra," we had "Akyr of the see flownyge. Impetus maris." In a very learned note, Mr. Way says—"This word is still of local use, "to denote the commotion caused in some tidal rivers, at the "flow of the tide." The whole note, like everything else from the pen of Mr. Way, is full of learning and interest, but it is too long to introduce here. I have quoted sufficient to shew that the estuary of the Wilderspool was quite sufficient to justify the name of Condate to a Roman station placed at its junction with the Mersey.

The Roman site at Wilderspool, and the Roman roads diverging from it, have already formed the subjects of papers read before this Society, and printed in its very earliest
The Hamlet of WILDERSPPOOL, near Warrington,
the Sutte Condane of Antonine.
volumes. Our honoured president, Dr. Hume, contributed an account of two very pleasant days, in October and November, 1849, spent in investigating the site and tracing the Roman road southward from thence, by a small party of our Liverpool and Warrington members. This will be found in our second volume; and to the second, third, and fourth volumes Dr. Robson has contributed a series of papers communicating his altered, and certainly amended, reading of the second and tenth *Itinera* of Antonine. But nearly twenty years passed by without adding any fresh materials to the history of *Condate*, or Wilderspool, until, in 1867, the excavation and removal of that portion of the Roman site which lies on the south side of the *Old Quay Canal* was commenced, with the view of procuring the underlying sand for the purposes of building and manufactures. This excavation is still going on; and few sights are more interesting to the archaeologist than the clear and characteristic sections of the ground which are frequently laid bare in the level and deep sides of the sandpit. As yet we have met with no vestiges of Roman buildings, nor even of walls, and therefore this ruthless destruction of the site is unattended with those feelings of reprobation and regret which would attend a similar removal of the Roman remains at Woodchester, Silchester, Housesteads, or Wroxeter. The stone walls of a circular Roman well, found at Wilderspool, have been built up again for preservation on a piece of ground attached to my own residence, where some few cart-loads of Roman pottery are also heaped, for I have made pecuniary arrangements with the labourers at the sandpit to secure my receiving every fragment of Roman remains, be it ever so small, and I have reason to believe that nothing is hitherto lost.

The extent of ground at Wilderspool over which Roman remains have hitherto, from time to time, been found, may be estimated at thirty-six statute acres. As will be seen by the
adjoining map, it occupies the south bank of the Mersey, at a loop or bend which that river forms about a quarter of a mile on the south side of the town of Warrington. I have not been able to discover any plan of the locality prior to the cutting of the Old Quay Canal through it in 1801-3, but it appears to me not unlikely that the "Town Field," shewn on the map, may have extended northwards to the river bank, forming a parallelogram of about sixteen acres, which would comprise that portion of this Roman site which has yielded most remains. Since we have no reason to believe Condate anything more than a post-station, without walls, it would probably comprise the whole of what we may consider the Roman station, properly so called. The adjoining fields, named respectively Stoney Lunt or Land, and Street Lunt, are also additional vestiges of former Roman occupation. Within a few hundred yards we have also Stoney Street, leading through Statham, Lymm, Altrincham, and Stretford to Manchester; and many pastures to the west of the Roman site are known by the designation of "Whitefields," which, according to the Rev. Edmund Sibson,* is always characteristic of a Roman site, in common with Burgh, Bury, Castle, Wall, &c.

Roman remains were found at Wilderspool in 1787, when a house was erected here by the late Edward Greenall, Esq., and again in 1801-3, when the Old Quay Canal was carried through the site of the Roman station. Upon this occasion the soil and sand excavated were heaped upon the right and left banks of the canal, and are now found to yield a fair quantity of Roman remains; but, in our present researches, we have not yet reached the point which is said to have been the most prolific, and even to have yielded bases, shafts, and capitals of architectural columns. From present observation it would appear that, prior to the cutting of the canal, the surface

* Baines' History of Lancashire, 4to, vol. iii, p. 574.
of the ground had never been much disturbed since its occupa-
tion by the Romans. Here we find the implements of iron,
bronze, and glass, which form a very interesting portion of
our museum collection, whilst the many fragments of pottery
which are turned up are mostly found at the bottom of
deep ditches or drains, which have traversed the station in
different directions. These drains have evidently been the
receptacles of rubbish of every kind, and the black mud which
lies at the bottom has very often an undeniably stercoraceous
odour. Hence they have no doubt been the ordinary rubbish
middens of the Roman station.

Roman interments are often met with at Wilderspool. They
consist of urns, of different descriptions of pottery, containing
burnt human bones, with fragments of wood-charcoal, and
now and then a small coin. A few have been recovered
entire, but the majority have been broken by the unavoidable
strokes of the pick-axe or spade.

The Roman road from Condate southwards to Mediolanum
(Middlewich) appears to have passed through the station
longitudinally, and the excavations now going on are probably
only a few yards distant from the eastern edge of the road.
In 1849, the construction of the road was so carefully ex-
amined, and is so fully described by Dr. Hume and Dr. Robson,
in the second volume of our Transactions, that it is unneces-
sary to treat of it here—the more so, as a few weeks may lay
it bare in its entirety, and afford material for a special notice
hereafter.

The extraordinary quantity of Roman earthenware found
at Wilderspool, with the local character assigned to it by
Mr. C. Roach Smith and Mr. Chaffers, have led us to believe
that here, at the eastern side of the station proper, was a
Roman pottery. On the level of the original surface of the
ground, now clearly defined in the upright sides of the sand-
pit, large quantities of tempered but unbaked clay, collected
in shallow pits, are found, of a nature analogous to the clay still used for the manufacture of draining-tiles on the waste land known as "the Ackers," through which we have seen that the Wilderspool brook flows.* Several large pits of ancient date still exist on "the Ackers," one of them at the present day forming a mill-dam, and the name of "Claypit Nook" has long been given to some adjoining property. The proximity of so large a bed of suitable clay may have first led to the establishment of a pottery by the Romans at Condace, whilst the carriage of the material, either by land or by the course of the Wilderspool, would in neither case exceed the distance of a quarter of a mile. We have no late discovery of kilns on the site, but in 1801, many "fire-places with "ashes in them," were found in cutting the canal, and these may perhaps have been originally potters' kilns. Fragments of iron spades, mattocks, knives, and probably other tools required by potters, are often found here, and the immense number of broken mortaria discovered is, in my opinion, also

*I make the above statement on the strength of the following comparative analyses, which have been kindly furnished by my young friend, Dr. A. E. Davies, of Warrington and Manchester:—

"ANALYSES OF THE CLAYS FOUND ON 'THE ACKERS,' AND AT THE ROMAN SITE AT WILDESPPOOL:—"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No. I</th>
<th>No. II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumina</td>
<td>40·68</td>
<td>40·62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>56·14</td>
<td>55·78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peroxide of Iron</td>
<td>2·43</td>
<td>2·15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lime</td>
<td>0·75</td>
<td>0·88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphoric Acid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbonic Acid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphuric Acid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss in Analysis</td>
<td>0·60</td>
<td>0·57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100·00</td>
<td>100·00</td>
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"The above analyses were made after the clays had been thoroughly dried; and the two samples are identical in composition.

"ARTHUR E. DAVIES."
corroborative evidence. They are found in like abundance at Upchurch and Castor, whilst they are few, or entirely wanting, on the sites of Roman villas. To this circumstance it is my intention to revert hereafter.

In my notice of the Roman remains found at Wilderspool I shall first bring forward the pottery, since it is found in quantity and variety far exceeding the other relics; and I cannot do better than follow the ordinary classification of Roman pottery, as common or red ware, including the brown; black ware, including the grey; white; and lastly, the Samian ware, both true and fictitious.

I. In point of quantity the common red, and brown Roman earthenware exceeds the other varieties found at Wilderspool, but it is almost invariably in a fragmentary state, and appears to be the refuse of the pottery, probably the result of accidental breakage in the process of manufacture, since the pieces, except those of mortaria, bear no stain or mark of former domestic use. We find many broken tiles for roofs, floors, wall-flues, and for small drains, but a still larger number of the fragments are of a finer material, being portions of urns or vases, amphorae, bottles, and circular dishes or patera. They have invariably been "thrown" or formed upon the wheel, and the exterior of many has been very tastefully ornamented by the process known as engine-turning. One of these is so elaborate as to surpass anything of the kind which I have hitherto seen delineated. To this description of ornamentation the name of "engine-turned" has been given by Mr. Artis and Mr. C. R. Smith, when it was first noticed by them at Castor, in Northamptonshire, the Durobrivis of Antonine.*

There is another very distinct variety of Roman pottery, which, though it has no doubt often been met with elsewhere, has never been thought worthy of a distinct notice or appel-

lation. At Wilderspool it is found in comparative abundance, and is deserving of a short description. The paste or body of the vessel, whilst in the soft state, and whilst still upon the potter's wheel, was more or less thickly sprinkled with dry powdered clay, so as to roughen its surface. The roughness was then removed at the upper part of the vessel, and often in horizontal bands or stripes likewise, and the lip or rim was very delicately finished, after which the whole vessel appears to have been dipped in a thin "slip" or clay-wash, to fix the roughness permanently. This process is so similar to that called "rough-casting," when applied to rustic edifices, that I venture to propose the distinctive name of "rough-cast ware" to these singular productions of the Romano-British potters. Fragments of this ware are well represented in the accompanying plate.

I have several specimens of the common red Roman ware found at Wilderspool, which it would have afforded me much pleasure to have brought here for exhibition, but their extreme brittleness, from long burial, rendered it hazardous to do so. Perhaps the most interesting of these are two tetine, or infants' feeding-bottles, which were found together in an apparent interment, in the month of August, 1869. Such tetine have been found in France, and have been figured by l'Abbe Cochet in his *Normandie Souterraine*, but I believe these to be the first discovered in Britain.

On the 20th of the last month (February, 1871), two curious little cups or vases, joined together by a connecting band, or perhaps hollow pipe, were found at Wilderspool, and my friend, Mr. Jewitt, tells me, as is very evident, that there has been a third cup similarly attached. He has one or two specimens from Roman sites in his own collection, but they appear to have been undescribed hitherto. Probably a "Jolly-Boys," of which Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith has favoured me with a sketch, is the modern representative.
ROMAN "ROUGH-CAST" POTTERY.
Amongst the other remains of Roman pottery we have found many circular discs, often formed out of the bases of urns or vases, but evidently brought to this circular form by rubbing or filing, and not by any accidental means. Some of them are made out of fragments of the black or grey ware, to be spoken of presently, and some are even made from the rarer Samian ware. I sent a number of them to my friend, Mr. H. Syer Cuming, for exhibition at the British Archaeological Association, on this very evening twelve months ago, and he accompanied their exhibition by an amusing paper on the ancient game of "Hop-Scotch," for which he believes they were intended. Mr. Thomas Wright, however, thought them quoits for pitching, and Mr. Grove considered that they were for some game resembling draughts. In my opinion, however, some of these discs are too large and others too small for any of these purposes, but their exhibition in London led to the production of others found on Roman sites at Chesterford, by the Rev. W. Sparrow Simpson, and at Stonham, Suffolk, by Mr. Watling.

There is yet one other variety of the common red Roman pottery found at Wilderspool, which I suspect is new to archaeologists, since Mr. Chaffers tells me that it is new to him, and doubtless of local origin. Mr. C. Roach Smith, too, thinks it an abortive attempt to imitate the true Samian; but I think it possesses a character of its own, which removes it from the accusation of an attempted forgery. It occurs chiefly, but not entirely, in the shape of paterae or dishes, and the peculiar form of the sides and lip, whilst they are of themselves elegant and graceful, do not, so far as I know, at all approximate to any vessels of Samian manufacture. The paste or body of which these specimens is formed is fine and compact, but not highly baked, and the finely polished surface is covered with streaks of a reddish-brown paint or colour, which is somewhat evanescent on exposure to light
and air. I consider it to possess a distinctive character, hitherto unnoticed, and as such to be not unworthy of a special name, though I myself have none to suggest.

II. We find at Wilderspool a large quantity of the black and grey Roman pottery, very like but not identical with that described by Mr. Artis and Mr. C. Roach Smith, as found at Upchurch in Kent, and hence commonly known as “Upchurch ware.” The mode of manufacture of each appears to have been the same; but whilst in the Upchurch specimens the ornamental pattern was formed by small raised dots, or by punctures, those found at Wilderspool exhibit nothing more than fine lines in the form of chevrons, lozenges, or spirals, drawn upon the soft surface with a slender point of iron, bone, or wood. Although it is difficult to account for, yet these linear ornaments are generally found not only on the sides of the vessels but on the bottom also, where of course they could be rarely seen.

From experiments made by my young friend, Dr. Arthur E. Davies, and by myself, we are led to believe that the mode of manufacture of this black or grey ware, as explained by Mr. Artis, is pretty certainly the correct one, namely, that the unbaked vessels were placed in a kiln with a quantity of vegetable matter, the smoke of which was deposited upon the vessels, (penetrating to a slight depth from the surface,) by closing the flues of the kilns, which have hence been named “smother-kilns.” Mr. Artis, in his exploration of the Roman potters’ kilns at Sibson, found that each tier of vessels was separated from the one below by a stratum of vegetable matter, apparently grass or sedge, a precaution which is probably explained by a fact observed by Dr. Arthur E. Davies, that the simple vaporized carbon or smoke was not sufficient to stain or coat the vessels in the kiln, but that actual contact between them and the vegetable matter was requisite to produce the effect described. No analogous process is
carried on by our potters of the present day, but the superior durability of the black ware over the other varieties of Roman pottery, as shewn at Wilderspool, leads me to think that some such plan of coating earthenware with carbon might with advantage be employed by ourselves, in the case of copings, cornices, and the edgings for flower borders, where the bricks or tiles are subjected to great alternations of dryness and moisture, heat and cold. Large quantities of this black Roman ware are found at Wilderspool, and, unlike the common red ware, it is apparently as tough and sound as when it was buried from sight at least fourteen centuries ago.

III. We find at Wilderspool, fewer specimens of the white than of any other variety of Roman pottery, and we meet with it as the material for large and small amphora, and especially for the utensils denominated mortaria. It has been found that large numbers of broken mortaria are exhumed on the sites of well-known Roman potteries; for example, by Mr. Artis at Castor, and Mr. Jewitt at Headington. At Wilderspool they occur in extraordinary numbers, probably imported from Staffordshire, and some of them, of large size, are covered on the inside with a crust of unbaked clay. Hence I am led to believe, that not only were mortaria used for the purposes of the kitchen in the preparation of gruels and salads, as generally supposed, but for the levigation or "blunging" of clay for the manufacture of the finer kinds of Roman pottery. For this purpose, the extremely shallow, but wide spout is especially adapted, since the superabundant fluid, with the finer portion of the clay, floats off to settle, without disturbing the grosser particles below. In the sixth vol. of the Journal of the British Archæological Association, page 59, Mr. Jewitt has given a plate of sections of the rims of some of the mortaria found at the Roman pottery at Headington, with sections of others from London, Caerleon,
Castor, Keston, and Hartlip, for the purpose of a curious and useful comparison. Each has a very distinctive form of rim, and those found at Wilderspool have a contour differing from all these, and from each other, thus rendering it easy to ascertain the precise number of mortaria found. During the three months preceding October, 1869, I sketched the rims of ninety-three distinct examples found here; and as there is no falling off in their numbers, they may be counted in hundreds, did it serve any useful purpose. For some weeks past, and not previously, we have found the mortaria furnished with nicely-balanced handles, a peculiarity which I have never seen noticed before.

IV. There are few forms of the beautiful Roman pottery, known as Samian ware, which have not their representatives at Wilderspool, though, unfortunately, almost always in a mutilated state. We find an immense quantity of fragments of vases, bowls, cups, dishes, and the so-called salt-cellarst (in the three months preceding October, 1869, no fewer than 283 fragments of distinct vessels were found)—and the number then began to be too great to record special note of. Unfortunately, they are almost always of that inferior kind of Samian ware which antiquaries have designated fictitious, since it appears to be in most cases a poor native imitation of the true or foreign variety. The coral redness of the exterior does not penetrate below the surface, but easily scales off, and betrays a very porous and fragile texture below. It has neither the compactness nor the clear ring of the true Samian, and, unlike this, it has so far perished by its long inhumation, that it is difficult to effect any safe restoration of its fragments with cement. Fragments often occur which have been pierced by leaden rivets in the Roman times, a circumstance which would seem to militate against any idea of its having been manufactured here, and yet there is nothing in its quality or finish which would call for the skill of a more
than ordinary workman. Indeed, the pattern is often found so blurred and disfigured whilst in the soft or unbaked state, that quantity of production, rather than quality, would seem to have been the aim of the careless potter who made them. As usual, upon the embossed pieces we find figures of animals, hunting-scenes, scrolls, pilasters, fruit, and flowers, the devices most frequently represented; but there are also figures of the more popular heathen deities, especially Hercules, Venus, and the Lycian Apollo.

Many of the specimens of this common Samian ware exhibit an unornamental blotch on the ground of the pattern, and as I have only once met with the same contrivance "to "fill up waste canvas," elsewhere, it may perhaps afford some slight ground to suppose that it had really been manufactured at Wilderspool. The instance to which I allude is a small fragment of Samian ware in the Cirencester museum, represented in Professor Buckman's *Roman Art in Ancien Corinium*, page 91.

The following, with the exception of a few which are illegible, is a list of the Roman *Potters' marks* found at Wilderspool:

**On Samian Ware.**

| ALBINI.M. | COCILLI. | FVSCI. | SACRAPO.F. |
| ANAILLI.M. | COCVRO.F. | OF.L.C.VIRIL(bis) | O.SORINI. |
| ATTICI.M. | CREM... | NICANII. | TITILLVS.FE. |
| CELSI.M. | DEC...... | PAVLLI. | TITVRI.M. |
| CINNAMI(ter). | DONATI.M. | PRI...... | O.TEBB.... |
| CIV...... | FELIC.... | REGINI.M. | VETERI.M. |
| CLA...... | OF.FLAVI.GER. | SEVERI.M. | VORANO. |

**On Amphoræ.**

| A.P.M. | C.S.I. | L.A.L. | R.AMZ. |

**On Mortaria.**

| A.R.B. | BRO. | HF.C.S. | VRILIM. |
| D.I.I.O. | DOCILIS. | ICO. |
Fragments of the *Durobrivian* ware, from the Roman kilns at Castor in Northamptonshire, are so rare at Wilderspool, that I should not have named them here, had it not been for a portion of a *wine-strainer* of this material, which was found a few months ago. An inch below the rim, and on the inside of the body of the vessel, the remains of a grating or perforated diaphragm are seen, and upon this grating my friend, Mr. H. Syer Cuming, informs me, the Romans were in the practice of placing a layer of snow, through which the wine was poured into the drinking-cups, acquiring in its passage a delicious coolness for the palate. Mr. Thomas Wright also speaks of wine-strainers (*cola nivaria*) used in a similar way, but his examples were of bronze.

I have dwelt so long on the single subject of the Roman pottery found at Wilderspool, that I shall have to dismiss other relics of equal interest with a very cursory notice. Fortunately, I have been able to bring many of the objects themselves for your inspection this evening, rendering a detailed description unnecessary; but there is one branch of Roman art-manufacture upon which I must say a few words. I allude to objects in *glass*, of which we find mutilated but interesting specimens in the Roman rubbish-drains at Wilderspool. It is supposed that the main seat of the Romano-British manufacture of glass was on the coast at Brighton, from whence it was sent into the provinces in shapeless masses, to be converted into the required forms by provincial artizans. Some of the fragments found at Wilderspool are of bottles, urns, or jars, evidently of large size, but so broken as to afford no certain idea of the original form. There are portions of others of smaller size, and of more brilliant colour, but none of them are entire. There are glass beads, also, of different colours, but the most curious specimens in this material are portions of two rings of white and green glass, probably bracelets, by which I set great store. All
the specimens exhibit, when closely examined, the distinctive character of Roman glass, namely, the prevalence throughout its substance of minute air-bubbles, from the deficient dryness of the crude materials, or from too brief fusion in the crucible.

Of Roman articles in bronze, I can only produce, as found at Wilderspool, several *fibulae*, both bow-shaped and pen-annular, and a few hair-pins. There are also, now and then, fragments of thin plates of bronze found, but in such a broken condition that I am unable to state the instruments of which they formed a part. One or two pieces of apparently fused bronze have been found on the Roman surface. Bronze coins are not unfrequent, ranging from Vespasian to Hadrian, a period of not much more than half a century. Some of the coins, however, are so illegible that they may be of earlier, and others of later date. It is possible that, as we approach nearer to the centre of the Roman station, we may find the coins more plentiful.

Of objects in iron we have very many specimens, the most curious of which is perhaps a Roman *brand-iron* or *fire-dog*, exhibited to this Society several years ago. As I have already said, many of the objects in iron found here appear to have relation to the digging of clay, and to its manipulation into pottery. A few good examples of the Roman key have been found; and iron fastenings of doors, staples, hooks, and similar articles are very plentiful. Of nails, many of them of large size, there is a very great quantity. In the majority of these iron relics it may be remarked, that whilst their entire surface is corroded by rust, one side is more especially blistered by heat before the corrosion took place, indicating, as I think, that a raging conflagration has at one time passed over them. That such a disaster has really occurred here is also shewn by the calcined appearance of the line of original Roman surface, and of the sand immediately below it; but of
the date of its occurrence we are wholly uncertain. The coins, as we have seen, range only from Vespasian to Hadrian, and yet Condare is twice mentioned in the Itinerary of Antonine, the date of which is usually placed two centuries later. I feel my inability to afford any explanation of such a discrepancy, and therefore leave the point as I found it, merely hoping that I have succeeded in laying before the Historic Society, An Account of the Recent Discoveries at Wilderspool, and hoping that the little Map of the Roman Roads in South Lancashire and North Cheshire may be of some use to future local archaeologists.