HISTORIC SOCIETY

OF

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

SESSION II. DECEMBER 6th, 1849. **No. 2.**

The Second Meeting of the Society was held in the Board Room of the Collegiate Institution, Liverpool, on the 6th of December, 1849,

DAVID LAMB, Esq., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected members of the Society :—

Henry Kelsall Aspinall, of Camden Street, Birkenhead.
William Beamont, of Warrington.
William Casson, of Lodge Lane, Liverpool.
Henry Crosfield, of Edge Mount, Edge Lane, Liverpool.
Joshua Edwards, of Devonshire Road, Prince's Park, Liverpool.
Thomas Fleming, of 22, Sandon Street, Liverpool.
Samuel Holker Haslam, F.L.S., of Greenside Cottage, Milnethorpe.
Thomas Higgin, of 57, Bedford Street North, Liverpool.
Roger Lyon Jones, of 1, Great George Square, Liverpool.
Reuben Ledger, of Knotty Ash, West Derby, Liverpool.
Thomas Lyon, of Appleton Hall, Warrington.
Captain Thomas Lyon, of Appleton Hall, Warrington.
Duncan MacViccar, of Abercromby Square, Liverpool.
James Middleton, of Grecian Terrace, Everton.
Alfred North, of Falkner Square, Liverpool.
George Ormerod, D.C.L., F.R.S., F.S.A., &c., of Sedbury Park.
George Massie Pearce, of Linacre Marsh.
Samuel Perkes, of Tower Buildings, Liverpool.
John Poole, of Oxford Street, Liverpool.
William Preston, of Rock House, Walton.
Robert George Sillar, of 31, Canning Street, West, Liverpool.
Edward Turner, of High Street, Newcastle, Staffordshire.

The following presents were announced :—

1. BOOKS, &c.—Baines's History of Lancashire, 4 vols. 4to. Aikin's History of Manchester. Leigh's Natural History of Cheshire and Lancashire ;—from the Lord Albert Denison, President of the Archæological Association. Catalogue of the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries,

London. Catalogues of the Museums formed at the York and Winchester Congresses of the Archæological Institute, 1846-1847. Observations on Incised Sepulchral Slabs, by Albert Way. Architectural Notes of Churches in Norwich, and of the Church of Littleborough, Co. Norfolk;—from Albert Way, Esq., F.S.A., one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Archæological Institute. An enquiry into Changes of Level in Sea and Land, a Paper read before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, by J. A. Picton; and Ancient Liverpool, a Paper read before the Architectural and Archæological Society of Liverpool, by J. A. Picton;—from J. A. Picton, Esq., F.S.A. Report of Transactions, &c., 1846-7, of the Syro-Egyptian Society. The Interlude of the Four Elements, edited by J. O. Halliwell. Fools and Jesters, a reprint of Armin's Nest of Ninnies, 1608;—from T. Purland, Esq., London. A series of Articles on the feoffment of Gorton; from J. Harland, Esq., Manchester. The History of the Mediterranean, by the Rev. J. S. Howson; from the Rev. J. S. Howson, M.A., Principal of the Collegiate Institution.

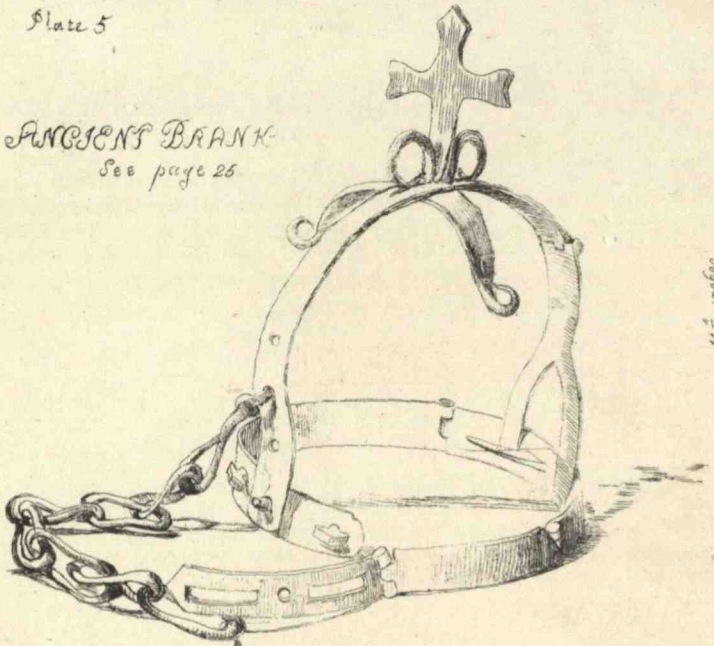
2. Prints, &c.—A coloured fac-simile of Roman Pavement, discovered at Thruxton, Hants. A coloured Print of the Pavement discovered at Aldborough, Yorkshire. Etching of a British Collar, of Bronze, found at Embsay, W. R. Yorkshire. Print of Tabula of Gold from Cathedral of Basle;—from Albert Way, Esq. A number of Old Newspapers; from T. Purland, Esq. Liverpool and Lancashire Weekly Herald, March 27, 1790; from Dr. Kendrick, Warrington. Fac-simile Engravings of Magna Charta, and of the Death Warrant of Charles I.; from David Lamb, Esq. Plan of the Appleton Hall Estate; from Thos. Lyon, Esq. Lithographed View of Promptuarium, in Cathedral of Chester; from Richard Sharpe, Esq.

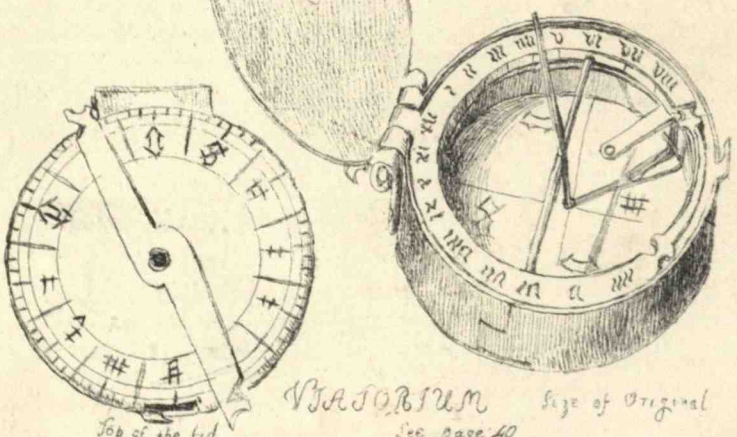
3. Antiquities, &c.—Two Egyptian Figures in Terra Cotta, and a Mutilated Figure in Bronze, an Egyptian Lamp, and a curious specimen of Moss; from J. H. Johnson, Esq. Specimens of Mummy Cloth; Egyptian Beads; Scarabeus; part of a Mummied Crocodile; an Egyptian Figure; Specimen of Asphaltine, from Gourna; piece of Papyrus Plant; a Coin of Ptolemy Soter; Casts of an Etruscan "Ess" and of a Roman "As"; Coins of Greek Cities, Syracuse, Agrigentum, Pontus and Corinth; Etruscan ring Money, Roman Silver and Brass Coins; Fragments of Samian Ware; Two small Vases; Pennies of William the Conqueror, Edward I, Edward II, George II, III, and IV; Specimens of Gun Money of James II, Crown, Half-Crown, Shilling, and Sixpence;—from T. Purland, Esq. A quantity of fragments of Roman pottery, found in the recent investigations of the Roman road at Wilderspool. Remains from a Roman Bath, at Whitcomb, near Cheltenham;—from Thomas Lyon, Esq, Appleton Hall. A Musket rest, from Hoylake; from C. B. Robinson, Esq. A real Irish Brogue; from Hugh Neill, Esq. A Tile from the Friary, Lancaster, a round Tile from Rievaulx Abbey, Handle of a Roman Amphora, found in the North road, Lancaster, and portion of a Roman Lamp, from the same locality; from Winfield Higgin, Esq. An extensive collection of Autographs, Seals, &c., from the papers of the Rev. William Norris, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries in the middle of the last century; from J. Caspar Colton, Esq.

Plate 5

ANCIENT BRANK

See page 25





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VIATORIUM

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See page 40

H.C. Pidgeon.

On the motion of Dr. Hume, seconded by Hugh Neill, Esq., the Lord Albert Denison, K.C.H., F.S.A., President of the Archæological Association, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

The following Antiquities were exhibited :—

By Dr. Kendrick, Warrington. I.—An Ancient MS. Survey of the Barony of Warrington, Burton Wood and Sankey, A.D. 1592. On a fly leaf at the end, containing various entries made at subsequent periods, James I. is twice spoken of as "Kinge James on Englande."

II.—"Human Passions delineated," by James Collins, alias "Tim Bobbin," author of the Lancashire Dialect, being a series of Humorous and Sarcastic Engravings, published in 1772-3.

III.—An Ancient Brank or Bridle, formerly used in the public exposure of scolds and other unquiet women.*

By Thomas Lyon, Esq., Appleton Hall, Roman Pottery found at Castle Northwich, Cheshire.

By the Hon. Sir E. Cust, Vice-President, A Volume of the Publications of the Record Commission; a Collection of Engraved Fac-similies of Autographs of Royal and Noble Personages; and a number of Coins found in digging the foundations for the French Protestant Chapel, Threadneedle Street, London.

By Dr. Hume, A Copper Signet Ring, of rude workmanship, with the motto ꝺꝺc, found in Lancashire, and a number of Brass Rubbings.

T. Avison, Esq., Treasurer, read the following extract from the Will of the Founder of the Grammar School at Great Crosby, on the subject of which information had been requested at the November Meeting :—

"*Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.*

"POOR,

"In the Will of John Harrison, Citizen and Merchant Tailor, of London, dated 15th May, 1618, amongst other things therein contained is as follows :—

"ITEM,—I give and bequeath unto the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Corporation or Fraternitie of St. John Baptist of the Mystery of Merchant Tailors in London, whereof I am a Brother, £30, to make a dinner on the day of my Funeral.

"ITEM,—I give and bequeath unto the said Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said Corporation or Fraternitie £500 in *Money*, to the end and intent that they or their successors, Master or Wardens and Assistants of the Company or Fraternitie for the time being, shall *erect* and *build up in Great Crosby, in the Parish of Sephton*, in the County of Lancaster, where my Father was born, within a convenient time after my death, one *Free Grammar School* for the *Teaching, Educating*, and *Instruction* of *Children* and *Youth*, in the *Grammar and Rules of Learning for Ever*, which shall be called by the name of the Merchant Tailors' School, founded

* See Illustration, Plate 5.

at the charge of John Harrison. And I will that the said School shall have *continuance for ever* of one Master and one Usher, and my will and meaning is that the said Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said Fraternitie for the time being, and their successors, shall be the Governors of the said *free School*, and shall from time to time *for Ever* nominate and appoint one sufficient, discreete, and learned man to be Master of the said School, and one sufficient and discreete learned man to be the Usher of the said School.

"ITEM,—For the maintenance and continuance of the said School, and of the said Master and Usher, and for the performance of other charitable payments hereafter mentioned, I do give and bequeath unto the said Master, &c., for *Ever*, all my Messuages, Houses, Grounds, and Tenements situate in Crane Court, in the Parish of St. Augustine aforesaid, and all my four Houses on the great side which lieth in the Parish of St. Augustine, and called the Old Change, in the Ward of Farrington within, in the City of London, and all those my two Houses lying in St. Swithin's Lane, near London Stone, with their and every of their appurtenances, and the reversion and reversions thereof, to the end and intent that the said Master, &c., of the Fraternitie for the time being, and their successors for *Ever*, shall with the neat issues and profits of the said Messuages, Houses, &c., Yearly for ever pay unto the Master of the said School for his *Stipend* and *Wages* £30, and to the Usher of the said School for his *Stipend* and *Wages* £20 per ann.; and that the said Master, &c., shall Yearly for ever, out of the said rents and profits, pay unto and amongst the poor for the time being, dwelling in Lane Alley aforesaid, by and with the consent of the Chiefest of the Parishioners of the Parish of St. Augustine, £20 per ann.; and that the remainder of the said rents and profits of the said tenements, reserving £5 per annum for Ever for repairing of the said School, shall be bestowed to, and amongst the Poor Brethren of the said Corporation, as far as it will extend by 20 shillings a quarter a piece."

July, 1619.
Proved.

By J. Robson, Esq., An Acknowledgement for debt from Thomas Butler, Esq., of Bewsey, near Warrington, to King Henry the 8th. Of this curious document the following is an abstract:—

Indenture made the last day of June, 1524—between Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor, Sir Henry Wyat, Treasurer of the Chamber, Sir Andrew Wyndesore, and Sir John Vaunce, on behalf of the King and Thomas Butteler, of Busey, and Lawrance Bonbixi, Merchant, of Luke—Witnesseth that Butteler and Bonbixi are indebted to the King, £3866 13s. 4d.—In payment of which the King agrees to take certain goods to be delivered to the above named parties before the Feast of All Saints, 1530, viz.:—For the King's Wardrobe,

300 *yards of Black Velvet of Jeane, at* 12 *shilllngs*
236¼ *yards Crymsyn Velvet in greym, at* 13/4
150 *yards of Black Sateyn and Tawney Sateyn, at* 9/
271½ *of Black Sateyn and Tawney Sateyn, at* 7/ *the yard,*

amounting to £500, and these payments to be made annually after 1530, for 6 years, the goods to be equal to sample. They are also to furnish in the same way *other Silk, Woollen Clothes, Lynen Clothes, Furres, and other wares as shall* amount to the sum of £1500, the last year allowed being 1560 in both instances. The Wardrobe of the King is to receive from Butteler and Bonbixi, in Silks, &c., £2000 for the first year of the six, and the Master of the Wardrobe will give them a *taile* or *tailes*, upon delivery of which to the Treasurer, they are to receive 200 marcs, and the rest of the £2000 to be rebated from the debt of £3866 13s. 4d. The next stipulations define these payments and receipts so as to discharge the whole sum owing, £3866 13s. 4d.

The parties are also allowed, if they cannot find the above articles or money, to deliver upon the King's Wharf, between the Tower of London and Billingsgate, yearly, as many *buttes of Malveseis, good and merchantable, and full gauge, free of all charges, at £3 6s. 8d. every butte*, as may make up the deficiencies.

The deed then states that Thomas Butteler and one George Colewyche, before John Port, one of the Justices, had acknowledged a sufficient warrant of recovery, to be had at the next Sessions, at Lancaster, of the Manors of Burton Wood, Laton, Sankey, and Warrington, with the appurtenants, 100 messuages, 200 cottages, 4000 acres of land, 1000 acres of meadow, 2000 acres pasture, 2000 acres moor, 1000 acres wood and £40 of rent, which Butteler warrants to be of the yearly value of £193 6s. 8d. clear—in assurance of the payment of £3866 13s. 4d.—to be seized in default of payment of any of the instalments.

At the corner of the last folio but one, is written in a different hand, "Ista recognicio una cum conditione ejusdem pretextu warranti manu regis signati ac dilecto et fideli consiliario suo Roberto Southwell militi custodi Rotulorum cancellario suo directo, ista recognicio una cum condicione ejusdem cancellant^{r} & damptnent^{r}."

The following Papers were read:—

I.—Notes on a Roman Road, near Warrington.

By the Rev. A. Hume, LL.D., F.S.A.

In a Society like this, it is evidently of great importance to record separate facts of various kinds; and thus to procure a supply of suitable materials for some superior workman, to group, arrange, and explain the whole. It was with this simple object that I made one of an exploring party on two occasions, to the Roman remains near Warrington, and that I consented to record the facts that have

been brought to light. But it is possible that the statements may at the same time be suggestive; that they may induce others to inquire under what circumstances and in what relations it would have been possible and likely for these facts to have first existed.

I may be permitted to remind the members, that on the 1st day of February last, a most interesting paper was read on Roman roads, by Mr. Just, of Bury, in which, by way of illustrating his general principles, he traced minutely from Manchester to Kirkby Lonsdale, one of the three which are recognised in the County of Lancaster. They will also recollect that at the meeting in January several Roman vases and fragments were presented by Ralph Thicknesse, Esq., M.P., which had been found near the Gas Works in the town of Wigan. We are therefore prepared to understand that Wigan was a point over which the masters of the world habitually passed, when sojourning within our local limits. But we have more than a point, we have the direction of a line passing through it: for the late Revd. Edward Sibson, Vicar of St. Thomas's, in Ashton-in-Makerfield, has traced a Roman road without intermission from Wigan to Warrington. A continuation of this line, which is nearly in the direction of N.E., and S.W., would pass through or near Northwich and Middlewich; and the question naturally arises, did the road continue in this direction, or did it not? In the latter case, it might diverge eastward to Manchester, or westward to Chester. The answer to the general question must depend, however, upon personal investigations or accidental discoveries; for nothing is said on the subject either in the Itinerary of Antoninus or in that of Richard of Cirencester. For several years, there has been a presumption that the road passed on through Cheshire, as it was distinctly traced in Lancashire to the avenue in Orford, about one mile from the fords of the Mersey near Latchford, by Mr. W. Beamont and Mr. John Robson, both of Warrington.

It had often been remarked that the place called Stretton, distant from the Mersey about three miles on the southern side, indicated

by its name the line of a Roman road: and this is nearly on the continuation of the line traced in Lancashire. But presumption assumed the form of certainty so early as 1787, when Mr. Greenall, in building a house at Wilderspool, discovered several Roman articles, in digging the foundations. Since that date, or during a period of 62 years, numerous other traces have been discovered at intervals; most of them by the enthusiasm and perseverance of Messrs. Beamont and Robson, who have also taken pains to record such as were accidentally discovered by others. On Saturday the 6th of October, and again on Monday the 12th of November of the present year, Mr. Mayer, Mr. Pidgeon, and myself accepted the invitation of some gentlemen at Warrington, to go over and submit the entire locality to a new examination. We were met and accompanied by Thos. Lyon, Esq., of Appleton Hall, Dr. Kendrick, Mr. Beamont, Mr. Robson, and on one occasion by Captain Lyon, all of whom are now members of this Society. The following are the general facts, given not in the order of time, but in the order of place.

At the hamlet called Wilderspool, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, and slightly to the west of Warrington, there is an area of three or four acres, situated immediately on the banks of the river Mersey, adjacent to what was formerly known as Stockton Heath. Nearly the whole of this space presents the most distinct evidences of Roman occupation. There is scarcely a square yard of ground in which the spade will not turn up a fragment of Roman pottery; and at various points, coins, fibulæ, vases, foundations of buildings, roads, &c., have been completely uncovered.

Commencing at the most eastern point, in the field adjoining Mr. Greenall's house, we find that the indications which his foundations and cellars presented are visible at other points. In cutting a sunk fence which separates his garden from the field, the workmen passed right through the gravel and ashlars of a Roman road *(via publica)* and found various pieces of pottery. In October

and November last, our party made two cuttings in this field, and turned up numerous fragments of ampollæ, amphoræ, &c., pieces of the commonest earthenware, and fragments of the more valuable kind called Samian. The fact that the principal road runs right on towards the bank of the Mersey, at a point where, although perhaps the river was passable, yet the swampy nature of the ground on the other side would hardly admit of a road, would seem to suggest, (even without other evidence,) that there had been a permanent location here. It may have been a winter encampment; it may have been a station of the ordinary kind.

In the next field westward, called the Stony Lunt, the indications of Roman occupation are still clearer. Its very name indicates that it has long been known as "the land filled with stones," though it is probable that our Saxon forefathers did not take the trouble to inquire why this was so. Numerous specimens of red and black pottery were turned up here with more fragments of amphoræ. There were also several coins found here in 1801, evidently Roman; but the workmen called them coins of King Arthur. In this field appears the first indication of a Roman road running south-easterly, or continuing, through Cheshire, that to which we have already alluded in Lancashire. The following is taken from Mr. Beamont's memoranda,* under date of February 22nd, 1831:—"Mr. Robson and I opened several trenches, in the second field on the Chester road. In each of these places, we found the gravel of the road at about one foot below the surface. There was nothing on the surface to indicate the existence of the road beneath. The middle seemed to be laid with a crown or elevation, and we thought there were inequalities at both sides, that looked like wheel tracks or ruts. The man whom we employed to dig the trenches, observed that the road appeared to be paved in some places, and on examination we thought there was such an appearance; but the stones seemed too

* Compared with similar memoranda made by Mr. Robson.

small to be used for such a purpose. The road had evidently been laid on the existing soil, which was one foot deep below the stones. The stratum underneath the soil was the natural sand. At four of the points opened, the breadth of the road was twelve yards, but at a fifth, apparently a branch pointing to the west, it was not more than four yards. At one point, more distant from the termination than the others, the composition seemed to be as follows, when broken up with a pick-axe. First, there was a depth of gravel of six inches, finer on the top than below; and mixed with the lower part of the gravel were some broken fragments of Roman pottery. Under the gravel was a regular layer of large ashlers, fifty, sixty, and eighty pounds in weight. Then was a layer of sand, and under this the natural soil."

In our own explorations a few weeks ago, these remarks were confirmed throughout; we also met with a large layer of stones the nature of which we could not explain, but which were supposed by some to be the foundations of buildings.

To the south of this field, we meet with the Old Quay Canal which was cut in 1803. On that occasion, bases shafts and capitals of Roman columns were found in the cuttings. Of the part of Stony Lunt which lies next to the canal, Mr. Beamont remarked the following on February 18th, 1831.

"Mr. Robson and I made an attempt to find the exact spot where the Roman road crossed the site of the canal at Wilderspool. On the south side of the Stony Lunt field is a hedge, at a short distance from the canal, and running parallel with it. This hedge, which is of considerable age, is evidently growing on a section of the Roman road which remains undisturbed, of the breadth of 12 or 14 yards beneath it. Its composition, like that before discovered at Wilderspool, is first a broad foundation of ashlars, and then a bed of gravel on the top. Exactly on the opposite or north side of the field, and running parallel with the highway to Chester, is another road from which the first appears to branch off."

Passing the canal, it was found again in the Town Field, and Dr. Kendrick and Mr. Robson found it recently in the next field called the Street Lunt Back. In the former there were found fibulæ, fire places with ashes in them, vases, coins, &c. In the latter was a branch pointing to the east, of which between twenty and thirty yards were removed by the tenant about four years ago.

Passing the toll bar, we reach a field called Dog Kennel Field. Here Mr. Lyon discovered and exposed a section in the begining of November. All our party saw it, and noticed that it possessed the characteristics of the road already described.

The Duke of Bridgewater's canal now intervenes, but the materials raised by dredging from the bottom of the canal, have so raised the surface of the field to the South of it, that the Roman road lies far below.

In the next field we reach Mr. Holbrook Gaskell's outbuildings, one of which is a shed for hay, technically called a "hay bay." Under the Western corner of this, the road was discovered, in sinking for the foundations of the walls.

In the next field there are two beautiful sections of the road made by Mr. Lyon in November. That towards the North is an excellent specimen, 20 feet wide; the other is only 15 feet wide. These, and indeed all the cuttings, still remain open, so that persons who are interested in the subject have still an excellent opportunity for seeing them. The field is called the Hull Carl Field, a name which has been translated to mean "the hill fort on the hill."

In the next field, called Gorse Hill, Mr. Sibson discovered the road; but our party did not happen on any decisive indication of it. Possibly it may have been disturbed at the time of Mr. Sibson's investigation.

The Southern boundary of Gorse Hill is a lane, lying several feet lower than the surface of the field. In making the lane, the workmen recollect cutting through the road, the traces of which may be found in the fences on both sides of it.

ANTIQUITIES from WARRINGTON &c

Plate 6

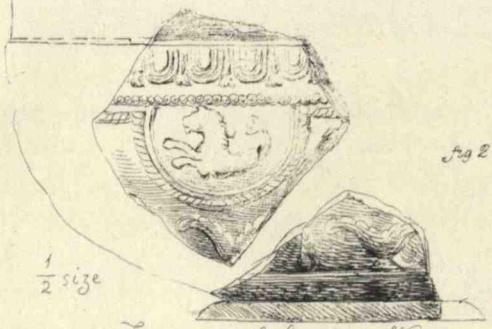

Fig 2

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Fragments of Samian Ware.

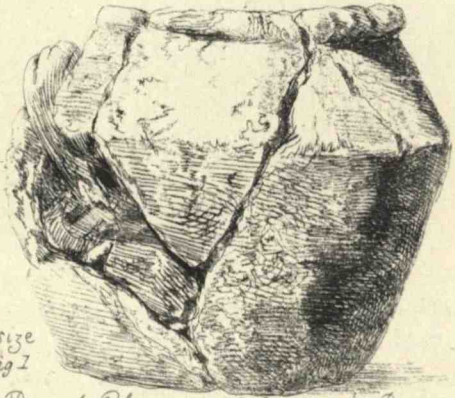

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Fig 1

Burial Urn, with Cremated Bones.

Fig 3

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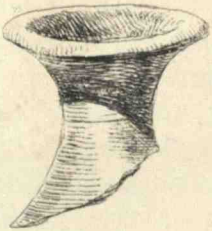

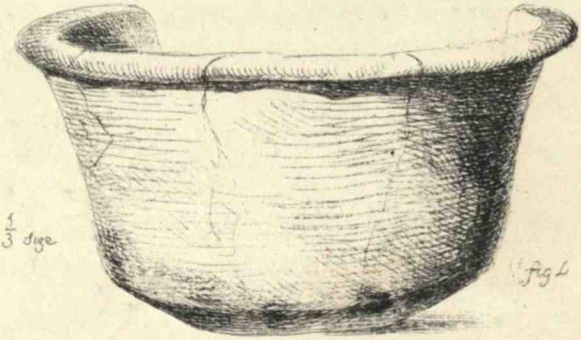

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Fig 4

H. P. Pidgeon.

Farther on in the same line it has been noticed at the top of a stone quarry, showing itself on the face of a deep cutting. It next appears in Mr. Lyon's grounds, at the distance of a few perches from Appleton Hall. Here that gentleman had uncovered a very interesting section for the party in November, its width was 19½ feet.

At the last point the cutting is not more than 10 yards from the high road, on the east side of it; but the modern road now turns slightly to the east, so as to throw the Roman road on the opposite or western side of it. But it is if possible more distinctly visible than before, partly in the footpath, partly in the hedge, and partly in the adjoining field. At this point it is 16½ feet wide. On the east side of the high road, and distant from the Roman road about 11 yards, Mr. Lyon found two burial urns containing human bones, in the summer of 1829. One of these is at present in the charge of our Curator, and was exhibited to the Society.* A third urn was found more recently, at a more northerly point, and on the opposite side of this line of investigation. The following is the account of the two former urns, compiled from Mr. Beamont's notes of August 12th, September 21st, September 25th, and December 5th, 1829. He records minutely the names of the workmen and others from whom the information was obtained; and Mr. Lyon's recollection of his personal observations confirms the account throughout.

There were two places in each of which a human body had been interred, about two feet distant from each other. The bodies appeared to have been laid upon sand, and each was surrounded with large ashlars placed at the sides and at the head and feet. The bones were about 16 inches below the surface. The stones were rounded at their interior angles, and presented other indications of having been subjected to the action of fire. The side stones were not placed perpendicularly, but inclining to each other over the bones, like the roof of a house. Amongst the bones were two small urns of rude baked clay, and of simple workmanship. They

* See plate 6, fig. 1. The fragments of Samian ware, (fig. 2,) and the necks of earthen vessels, (fig. 3,) were turned up during the late investigations.

were about four inches deep and three in diameter. Each contained a quantity of black ashes intermixed with charcoal. One had a sort of pinched ornament running round the neck. Dr. Kendrick said that some of the bones must have been those of a large man.

About three quarters of a mile further on, and in a direct line, the road re-appears at a point called Stretton New Barn; and half a mile further, near Mr. Okell's, in the Big Town Field of Stretton. How it reaches Stretton New Barn from the point near which the urns were found, is as yet undecided. Some think it was continued in a straight line to the westward of Stretton Church; but others maintain that it made a detour in the interval, crossing Pewter Spear Lane and passing over a bed of gravel, to avoid a series of undrained and low lying fields.

Here we leave the subject for the present; but on some future occasion it may be our pleasing duty to lay before the Society a record of further discoveries, either at Wilderspool or in continuation of the Roman road.

II.—On the Roman Station, Condate.

By J. Robson, Esq., Warrington.

The difficulties and doubts which have beset all attempts to make out the course of the Tenth Iter of Antonine, are by no means encouraging for a new essay; but perhaps the discoveries now laid before the Society will help us on a little in the inquiry.

In Antonine's Second Iter, we find a route from York to Chester, the part of which immediately connected with this neighbourhood runs thus:—

Mamucio.....
Condate ....M. P. XVIII.
Deva Leg, XX. Victrix.....M. P XX.

It may be mentioned that *Manutio* occurs as a different reading, but is not admitted in Petrie's text.

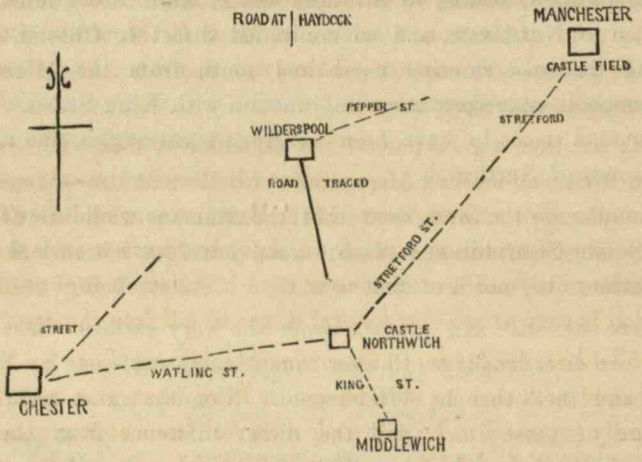
There has been no difference of opinion about Manchester and Chester being the first and third of these places; the situation of Condate has been much disputed. It will only be necessary to refer to Whitaker's opinion, who places it at Kinderton, near Middlewich, and who has been followed by most writers since. Whitaker had, of course, to alter all the numerals of the Iter to make it agree with this view—a very serious objection to it—and an examination of the Ordnance map will shew that the road which he considered the one in question, leading by Stretford and Holford Street, must have gone on to Northwich, and so continued direct to Chester, intersecting the road running north and south from the Mersey at Wilderspool, somewhere near its junction with King Street. This intersection seems to have been nearly at right angles, and a little to the east of Northwich.

The map will clearly shew that the Romans would never have gone round by Middlewich, as the road must have been laid down five miles to the north of that town.

There are still, and perhaps from the very earliest times have been, two direct roads to Chester from Manchester—one by Northwich and the other by Wilderspool. Condate must have been on one of these lines, and the direct inference from the distances is in favour of the Wilderspool route; it will be found that the distances are as near as possible 18 miles from Castlefield to Wilderspool, and 20 from thence to Chester—the latter place being rather farther from Wilderspool than the former, while Northwich is nearer Chester than to Castlefield; Northwich also is off the line of the south road, a circumstance to be referred to hereafter.

Roman remains, as urns and coins, have been found at Northwich, but in small quantities. It is, however, highly probable that Castle Northwich owes its origin to the Primæval age, that the salt springs were known before the Roman invasion, and would of course be a source of profit afterwards.

The remains at Wilderspool you have just heard described, and you will now have an opportunity of judging whether Condate may not have been at that spot. No positive remains of Roman work have been found (as far as I know) on these lines of road running east and west. The Ordnance map shews two roads from Chester (both named *street* and apparently Roman) one leading to Wilderspool, the other across Delamere Forest, and marked as Watling Street, to Northwich.



If then, for the present, we assume Condate to have been at Wilderspool, we may try what can be done with the Tenth Iter. It has been almost unanimously agreed that it ran north and south on this side of the island; as far as concerns this neighbourhood it is as follows :—

Coccio.....	
Mancunio	M.P.XVII
Condate	M.P.XVIII
Mediolano	M.P.XVIII

where it ends. The variæ lectiones, as given by Petrie, are Mancocunio for Mancunio, and XXVII for the first XVII. Now if we

commence at Wilderspool and go 17 miles south, we get to the end of King Street and of course to Mediolanum—leaving Northwich on the right—if we go 18 miles to the north, we get into the neighbourhood of Standish, and the actual remains of Roman work point out the course of the road, as traced and described by the Rev. Mr. Sibson. It will be for future inquirers to ascertain the precise localities farther north—and also the fragments of the road which may still exist, as at Haydock. At Stodday, near Lancaster, a Roman Milliarium is or was in existence, found some miles south of the town at Burrough, inscribed Imp. C. M. Julio Philippo Pio Fel. Aug., and another evidently in the same line of road at Ashton, also near Lancaster.

May not then a good part of the difficulty of these Itinera have arisen from confounding Mamucium with Mancunium—Mamucium is undoubtedly the Mamceastre of the Saxon Chronicle and Domesday Book—Mancunium a place on another Iter, not very far from the former one, and the distances from Condate being nearly the same, it is easy to see how natural it was to fall into the error.

It is always dangerous to trust much to etymologies, but it may be noticed as a curious coincidence at least, that Man or Maen is generally supposed to be a British word for Stone or Rock, and that we have the equivalent Saxon Stan in Standish—Mediolanum again is fairly represented in Middlewich.

A word or two with reference to Richard of Cirencester, the authenticity of whose description of Britain is not admitted by Petrie. His sixth Iter from York to Chester goes over the same route as Antonine's second—thus

	M. P.
Mancunio.....	XVIII
Finibus Maximæ et Flaviæ.	XVIII
Condate	XVIII
Deva.....	XVIII

As these figures neither agree with Antonine, nor with any known

route, it would seem the most easy and natural amendment to strike out the XVIII connected with Finibus Maximæ et Flaviæ, and to consider the last merely as the description of Mancunium—an analogous form of expression occurring in Richard several times, while he uses the form *ad fines* where there is an interval between the places.* Mancunio must be corrected by Antonine to Mamucio, and the remaining numerals require no great notice. Richard's tenth Iter, is, as far as this neighbourhood is concerned, the same as Antonine's tenth, except that Condate is placed XXIII miles from Mancunium instead of XVIII.

There is only one thing more to notice, and that is, that in the Anonymous Ravennas we have Condate following immediately Salinæ. The Romans had their Salinæ at Droitwich, which is named in another part of this author, and we may naturally suppose that the Salinæ 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 Salinæ to Northwich.

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* It would stand thus :—

	M. P.
Mancunio	XVIII
Finibus Maximæ et Flaviæ	
Condate	XVIII
Deva	XVIII

HISTORIC SOCIETY

OF

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

SESSION II. JANUARY 3rd, 1849. **No. 3.**

The Third Ordinary Meeting was held at the Collegiate Institution, on Thursday, January 3rd, 1850,

Rev. D. THOM, D.D., Ph. D., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected members of the Society :—

Henry Krebs Claypole, of 67, Kensington, Liverpool.
Caradoc Eyton, of James Street, Liverpool.
James Overend, of 45, Hope Street, Liverpool.
Charles Stewart Parker, of Devonshire Road, Prince's Park, Liverpool.
Robert Wilson Ronald, of Everton Brow, Liverpool.

Sir Edward Walker, ex Mayor of Chester, late official Vice-President, was enrolled a Member of the Society.

The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Manchester, on the nomination of the Worshipful the Mayor of Manchester, and in accordance with the bye-law of the Society, which entitles a Peer to have the ballot proceeded with immediately, was duly elected a member of the Society.

The following presents to the Society were announced :—

1. BOOKS, &c.—The History of Liverpool, by Thomas Baines, Part 1 ; from Thomas Baines, Esq. Catalogue of the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland ; from the Council of the Society. Proceedings of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, Part 1 ; from the Council of the Society. A Play called the Mountain Robbers, as performed in Liverpool in 1801 ; from John Mather, Esq. A MS. copy of the Auncient Statutes of ye towne of Warrington, 1592 ; from a MS. in the collection of the Rt. Hon. Lord Lilford ; copied and presented by James Kendrick, M.D., Warrington.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.—A Portrait of Prince Rupert, engraved by Faithorne ; from Dr. Kendrick. Autographs of King William III. and of the late Queen Dowager ; from Joshua Edwards, Esq. Copy of a curious Brass Plate in the Church of Tarporley, and a curious extract from the Parish Register of Tarporley ; from George Charles, Esq. A Skull, found in Flint Castle, with a fracture from the blow of a sword or