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

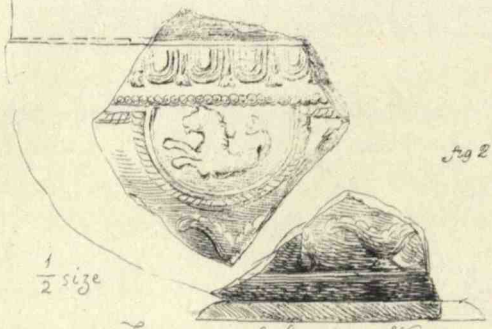

Fig 2

½ size

Fragments of Samian Ware.

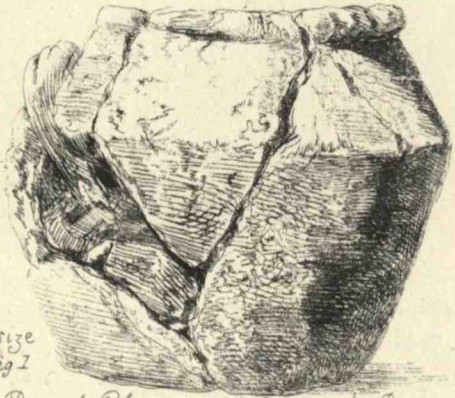

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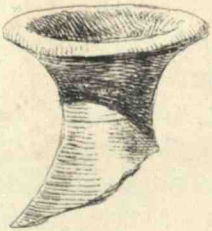
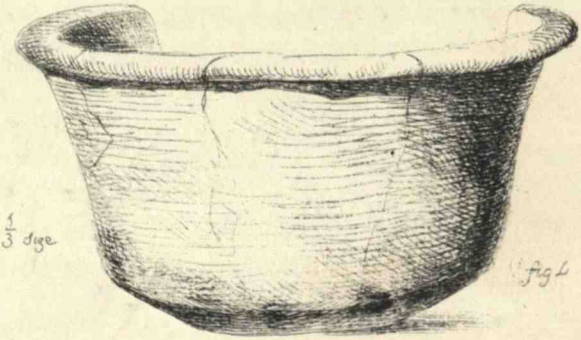
Fig 1

Burial Urn, with Cremated Bones.

Fig 3

½ size





⅓ size

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.