

ROMAN VILLA AT HADSTOCK, DISCOVERED BY THE HON. R. NEVILLE.



Arch, over the drain from the Baths.



View of Steps into the Bath, North-West angle.

COLLECTIONS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ROMAN OCCUPATION.

ROMAN VILLA AT HADSTOCK, ESSEX.

DISCOVERED BY THE HON. RICHARD NEVILLE, F.S.A.

DURING the autumn of the past year, the unwearied zeal, with which Mr. Neville has pursued the investigation of British and Roman vestiges in the neighbourhood of Audley End, was again crowned with success. His constant kindness and liberality have given us the gratification of bringing the results before the members of the Institute.

The discoveries made by Mr. Neville, with which our readers are already conversant, through the communications given in the *Journal*, were connected with the neighbourhood of the Roman station at Chesterford, on the borders of Cambridgeshire and Essex. The present notices relate to a locality in the county last named, of singular interest, on account of its vicinity to the remarkable range of hill-sepulchres in the parish of Ashdown. The solution by the late Mr. Rokewode of the long-mooted question regarding the age of the Bartlow Hills, and the purpose with which they were raised, must be numbered amongst the most interesting discoveries of recent years in England.¹ The field in which the villa lately excavated by Mr. Neville is situate, lies about half a mile northward of those tumuli, which are plainly seen from the spot, and about a mile from Hadstock Church. At the lower end of the field runs the boundary line between the parishes of Linton, in Cambridgeshire, and Hadstock, in Essex. In the summer of 1846 an excavation was there commenced by Mr. Neville, and a small tessellated pavement, now in his museum at Audley End, was found. During the summer of the last year he determined to ascertain whether any foundations or further vestiges still remained, and he recommenced operations on August 6th, 1850.

During that and the succeeding month, the site of an extensive villa was brought to light, with various interesting

¹ See the Memoirs on the Bartlow Hills, *Archæologia*, vols. xxv. p. 1; xxvi. pp. 300, 462; xxviii. p. 1.

details of ancient construction, of which admirable drawings and a plan were preserved by Mr. J. C. Buckler, as also a valuable descriptive report. Mr. Neville has not only placed all these at our disposal, but he has generously presented the accompanying illustrations.

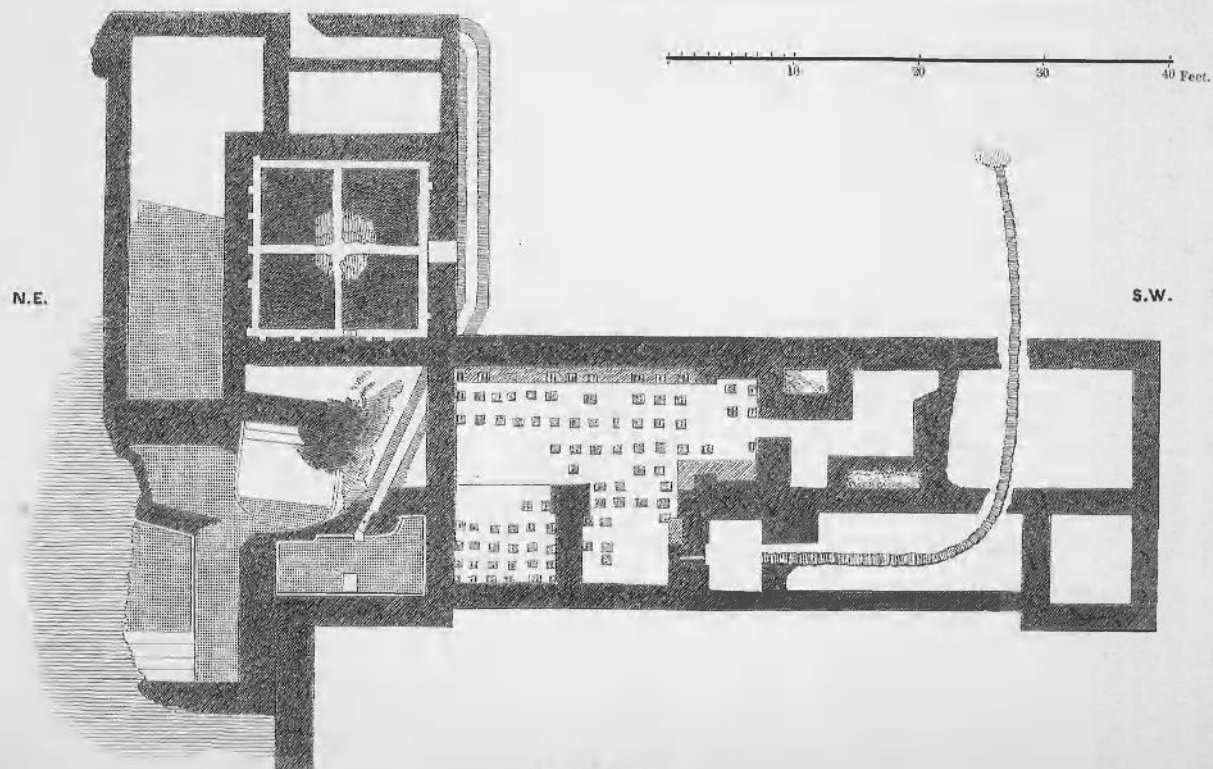
A great part of the foundations had, unfortunately, been taken up some years since, for the purpose of repairing the highways. There are several persons in the neighbourhood who state their recollection that, some twenty years ago, a great quantity of stones were obtained from what appeared to be very thick and solid walls. The line was indeed perceived, during the late operations, where the earth had been formerly moved, and the foundations broken up. It afforded indications, with the vestiges actually brought to light, that this villa must have been unusually extensive.

The following memorials, by Mr. Buckler, will enable the reader to appreciate the interest and importance of these remains :—

“At the distance of about 150 yards, in a south-easterly direction, from the isolated fragment of a massive wall of Roman workmanship, formerly noticed, have recently been brought to light the foundations of a villa, with which have been preserved a greater variety of interesting features than appeared in the remains of other examples of similar buildings discovered at Ickleton and Chesterford, and described in the *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. vi., p. 14. In those instances, the walls, wherever any portions of them remained, had been destroyed, to within about two feet of their foundation ; but, in the present instance, the destruction which seems to have commenced at one angle, extending even to the uprooting of the foundations, was stayed ere the buildings were uniformly demolished to the level of the ground or principal floor ; and in this example it is evident that the subterranean chambers suffered greater injury from the descent of the materials of the superincumbent walls, at the time of their overthrow, than from violence offered to them in any other way.

“The severity, with which the work of mischief commenced, precludes the possibility of knowing either the utmost extent or complete figure of the building ; whilst the sparing hand, with which the sentence of destruction was finally carried out, has left so many intelligible remains in addition to a connected series of walls, that a considerable variety of

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Ground Plan.

interesting particulars may be gathered therefrom, perhaps sufficient to justify the supposition that this had been a residence of superior character, indicated by the manner in which provision was made for the comfort and even luxury of the inhabitants.

“Spacious apartments, requiring an ample extent in the outer walls, were not indispensable, at least there is no reason to believe that magnificence was ever contemplated in forming the plans of the different villas, of which frequent discoveries have been made in this district.

“The building, in its present condition, exhibits considerable regularity, consisting of two parts, the one of greater length extending from north-east to south-west ; the other, joining it at right angles, and exceeding it in width, stretches towards the south-east, in which direction its termination is complete ; but at the north angle, the remains present so confused an appearance, owing to the obliteration of some of the walls, and the dismemberment of others, that it would seem as if their final destruction, which had been commenced, was suddenly relinquished for the less laborious employment of covering up the remains with earth and rubbish.

“The site was singularly ill chosen, at least if an opinion may be hazarded without knowing the nature and appropriation of the ground around. It was built on a slope, the transverse member, containing the baths and superior apartments, having a considerable ascent from its base, the ground descending from the other extremity of the building. The serious inconvenience of this choice of position seems to have been early felt ; it was provided against by an alteration in the baths, and a more ready means of drawing away the water, which has never ceased to flow through the trenches, and was found in former times to be so seriously detrimental to the comfort of the residence, as to lead to changes involving considerable trouble. The full merit of these alterations cannot now be appreciated : they may have answered the purpose intended, but, judging from the appearances presented by the nature of the position and the means adopted by art to counteract the defect for which they were undertaken, it is not too much to declare that the utmost advantage of the site was not taken, and that by directing the course of the drains to the south-east, instead of towards the south-west, or the lowest level, the channel was deepened

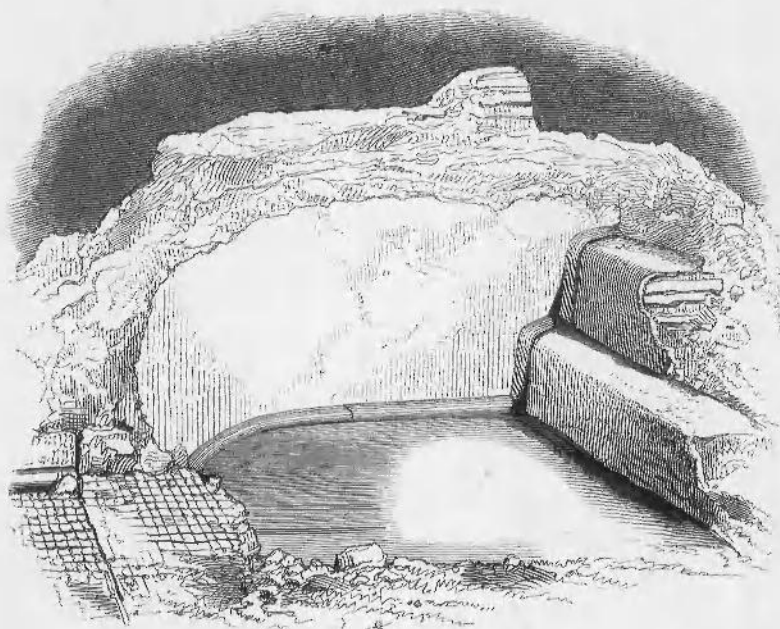
and widened to its outlet to little purpose. It seems likely that, after having been carried a few yards beyond the walls, the water dispersed itself underground.

“The material and the mode of construction are the same in this as in the examples before alluded to. The bulk of nearly all the walls is brick, but the south-western extremity of the building has nothing of the kind ; and flint, with here and there an admixture of block-chalk and clunch, has been employed. The walls were not all carried up at one and the same time, those of stone, at the south-west extremity, having been inserted between cross walls, or added in extension of others of finished brick-work. There was no tie between the materials thus brought together ; the junctions noticed were effected by sound workmanship, and were not concealed from view on the exterior. In connexion with this part of the subject, it may be well to remark that the quoins of several of the apertures and other portions of the walls were composed of large flanged tiles of a tapering form, and notched to fit together as a covering or coping. The abundance of this kind of material employed in the manner shown (see the accompanying illustrations), and also promiscuously in different parts of the building, besides the quantity mingled with the heaps of rubbish, cannot escape observation ; neither may the fact that the flue-bricks, another description of material at hand for common purposes, were employed in the absence of plain tile-bricks ; and in one of the drains, the inlet from the room was formed of a brick of this kind, as the most ready means of contracting the aperture. With these exceptions, there is nothing to remark with respect to the construction of the walls, or of the materials of which they are composed, that has not been noticed and described as occurring in other similar remains.

“The hypocaust was placed in the centre of the building ; the baths occupied that portion of the north-east wing contiguous thereto ; the remainder of this wing, with the entire length and breadth of the other member of the house over the hypocaust, furnace, and other underground spaces, having been occupied by the lodging-rooms.

“The level of the floors was not the same throughout ; those over the hypocaust beyond the baths, embracing the greater portion of the interior, agree in this respect, as appears by the tessellated pavement, and the corresponding height of

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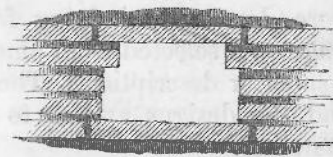


Bath, with steps for descent.

the brick piers ; but the rooms pertaining to the baths, which were once separated by solid walls, have their tessellated floors more or less sunk in the ground, as best suited the range of apartments to which they belonged. The floor of the bath-room, at the north-west angle, is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the common level of the interior ; the depth of the bath is 3 feet 9 inches ; there being five steps of brick for descent to the same, and the walls of both being finished with a skirting of cement upon a core of brick. The floor of each is tessellated, formed of a hard white stone in small pieces, irregularly shapen, and laid, without attention to regularity or neatness, in a durable bed of concrete mortar, similar in composition to that with which all the interior walls, and also the unpaved floors, were covered. The chief ingredient is pulverised brick, overlaid with a thin lime-wash ; and, in this instance, the adornment of painting was superadded, but it consists of nothing more than diagonal lines in spaces formed by vertical lines, a coarse performance by way of ornament. But the painted decorations of the walls which were destroyed, judging from the numerous well-finished fragments selected from among the ruins, must have been of a superior description. The colours retain their brilliancy, and the designs appear to have been of a highly enriched character.

“The plan of one of the baths resembles the letter **D** ; it is 9 feet wide, 6 feet 10 inches in length, to the lower step ; the entire length, inside, having been 8 feet 5 inches, when the wall at the entrance was perfect. The three steps appear to have extended from side to side ; these, with the walls, exhibit the same neat style of finish with cement already observed, the skirting being carried upon the ends of the steps up to the level of the floor over. The covering of the floor resembles that of the walls ; but the whole was no sooner completed, as described, than an alteration in the arrangement of this underground part of the house was made, which well nigh destroyed its utility ; indeed, it would seem to have been superseded by the adjoining bath, which encroached 27 inches upon its length, concealing, beneath a mass of rubble work, overlaid with a tessellated pavement, the original figure and dimensions, which were only ascertained by the removal of the intruding portion of the new bath, in pursuance of Mr. Neville’s directions.

"The two baths, which entered into the arrangement as at first designed, are easily distinguishable from the subsequent work in this interesting portion of the remains, by their depth, and the steps for descent to them, the newer constructions having been raised to the level, or nearly so, of the principal floor. The whole of the tessellated work is of the same common kind, and perhaps there was not much difference of time in the construction, the necessity for superseding one of the baths appearing, it may have been, before the completion of the house. The provision made for the quick riddance of the waste water from the floor of the new bath is plainly seen, the greater portion of the floor being slightly lower than the rest, and so laid, as to conduct the water to the centre on one side, at which appears the aperture or drain, with the skirting well-formed and rounded off in order to facilitate the passage of the water. As the tesserae would be more susceptible of injury at this place, a tile, 8 inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$, was laid in front of the aperture, the communication with the drain being a flue-brick, 19 inches in length, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square on the inside; the drain itself being $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, with sides, bottom, and cover formed of tiles of the common kind. Against the opposite wall, and nearly facing the drain, a stone was inserted in the floor, 24 in. by $15\frac{1}{2}$ in., but its use is by no means certain.



Section of drain.

"That the bath first described was superseded by the one just noticed, becomes evident by the destruction of the drain connected therewith, in order to form the new branch, and to unite it with the main line on the outside of the wall, as shown in the accompanying plan. This is an excellent piece of construction, wholly of brick, and for some reason now unknown, instead of being carried in a straight line past the corner of the building, was returned at right angles just within the end wall, where its width is 23 inches, and the outlet 20 inches, the boundary wall being sloped away to avoid impediment. At the point, where the drain re-enters the building, the wall over was carried upon an arch, which is one of the most curious features among the ruins, and remains in perfect preservation.

“A room beyond the baths, measuring between the walls 14 feet 10 inches by 13 feet, received the heated air in a connected line of flue on the four sides, and across the centre, in each direction, 1 foot 6 inches in depth from the floor, and 12 inches wide, floored and evenly coated on the sides with cement, like the walls, in which are formed vertical flues, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ deep, arranged as if designed to contribute heat to adjoining apartments. The means by which the supply was communicated from the chamber of the hypocaust do not appear, and the same observation applies to the mode in which the water was conducted to the interior.

It has been remarked that, excepting the baths which were sunk in the ground, a level line was observed in the floor throughout the house : from the deepest sinking in the capacious chamber of the hypocaust, the height is 2 feet 7 inches, shown by the pillars of brick, the greater number of which are still standing ; they are 8 inches square, raised in fourteen courses, with basements either of one or two courses 11 inches square. The pillars are thickly set, in order to sustain the tile floor of the room over, but of this only the ruins are to be found at the base. The furnace is at the outer end, the aperture between it and the heating chamber, passing through a solid wall, is $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width.

A more extended description would throw no light upon the perfect economy of the interior arrangement. It will be noticed on reference to the accompanying plan, that simply arranged apartments, in one portion of the building, now present a complicated and irregular appearance, owing to the exposure of foundations once concealed by tessellated floors ; and no account can be given of the extensive wall, 3 feet 6 inches in thickness, adjoining one of nearly the same bulk at the angle of the outermost bath.”

The miscellaneous relics brought to light during the examination of the extensive remains described in the foregoing narrative, were of a less interesting and valuable character than those, which on previous occasions had repaid Mr. Neville's well-directed investigation of the sites occupied by the Roman colonists of ICIANI, and its vicinity. Mr. J. Lane Oldham, who has fully participated on such occasions in the zealous interest with which these researches have been prosecuted by Mr. Neville, and who closely watched the progress and details of the late excavation, has supplied

the following account of the relics and coins found amongst the *debris* of the Hadstock villa.

Of *fectilia*, the customary assemblage of fragments of the various kinds of ware, "Samian," and Romano-British, were disinterred; two urns were found in a perfect state; they were *ollæ* of dark-coloured ware, and of forms frequently occurring amongst remains of the Roman period. One fragment of the finer ware bore the potter's impress,—ROPPVS. FE. In the list of marks occurring on "Samian" ware found on the site of the Royal Exchange, London, and now preserved in the Museum of the Corporation of London, as described by Mr. Thompson in his interesting "Descriptive Catalogue," two specimens are noticed, marked—ROIPVS F. and there is also this impress—OF RO . . .¹ The reading *Roipus* may possibly be attributed to the stamp being indistinctly impressed. Mr. Roach Smith, in his "Collectanea Antiqua," has given—ROPPVS. FE. from Samian discovered in London, as on the fragment at Hadstock. He gives likewise ROPVSI. FE.²

Several flue-tiles were found, some having square, and others circular apertures at the sides for the diffusion of heat. Examples with the circular perforation have been noticed, found at Kaer Sws, co. Montgomery,³ and amongst Roman remains in East Cheap, London, described by the late Mr. Kempe.⁴ In the last instance there are two such lateral apertures on each of the opposite sides of the tile.

Of objects formed of metal may be enumerated,—a plain bronze ring, a portion of a chain, a pair of tweezers, or *rolsellæ*, with a ring passed through the end of them, probably for the attachment of some other little implements, as in another pair, in Mr. Neville's museum, found at Chesterford, the same purpose is effected by a loop of small wire. (See woodcuts given in the *Journal*, vol. v., p. 236.) There was also found a bronze key, and a large bronze buckle, which, although discovered so nearly connected with relics of Roman times, may be of questionable date.

Of iron, the only objects deserving of mention are a

¹ Descriptive Catalogue of Antiquities found in the Excavations at the New Royal Exchange, preserved in the Museum of the Corporation of London. With Introductory Observations by William Tite, Esq., F.S.A. 8vo. Lond., 1848.

² Collectanea Antiqua, Vol. I., p. 154. 1848.

³ Camden's Brit. ed. Gough, 1804, Vol. III., pl. ix., p. 164.

⁴ Archaeologia, Vol. XXIV., pl. xlv.

knife and a key. A comb was found, formed of bone, and resembling those previously in Mr. Neville's collection, found at Chesterford. Three pins of bone, in a perfect state, and several broken pins. A profuse variety of examples of the bone *acus*, of all sizes and fashions, have been repeatedly found in the excavations directed by Mr. Neville.

Numerous fragments of Roman glass were produced. The remains of animals were met with, as usually the case in such excavations, in large quantities.

The coins discovered, about twenty in number, comprised a third brass of Gallienus (A.D. 253 to 268) Obv. a galeated head to the R.—GALLIENVS AVG. Rev. a centaur,—APPOLINI CONS. AVG. In the exergue, Z.

Third brass of Constantine the Great, struck at Treves. Rev. Two Victories holding a flag, inscribed—VOT. P. R. Legend, VICTORIA LÆTÆ . PRINC . PERP. In the exergue, S. T. R. Amongst the others, generally in bad condition, are coins of Victorinus, Allectus, Constantine, and Valentinian.

NOTICES OF A REMARKABLE COLLECTION OF ORNAMENTS OF
THE ROMAN PERIOD, CONNECTED WITH THE WORSHIP
OF THE DEÆ MATRES, AND RECENTLY PURCHASED FOR
THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE objects to which the following observations relate compose a small collection of antiquities discovered, about the beginning of this century, in the county of Durham, or in some adjoining district. The exact locality was cautiously concealed, that they might not be claimed from the discoverer by the lord of the manor, or perhaps from the lord himself by the Lords of the Treasury, under the provisions of the law of treasure trove.¹ They are said to have been hawked about privately, till they were ultimately purchased by a silversmith in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who unfortunately parted with some portion of them before they were seen by Mr. Brumell, who immediately purchased all that remained in the silversmith's possession; and archaeologists are much indebted to that gentleman for keeping

¹ It is stated in Hodgson's Hist. of Northumberland, vol. iii., App., p. 440, that they were found somewhere in that county, N.E. of Backworth, and brought to Newcastle in 1811.