

ON THE ROMAN OCCUPATION OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND,  
PARTICULARLY THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.<sup>1</sup>

By the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH, M.A.

The careful collection of Roman inscriptions found in Britain, and the arrangement and classification of these which have been made in recent times, render it a simpler task now than formerly to give a distinct and clear idea of the Roman occupation of this island.

In recent times also attention has been paid to ancient vestiges of Roman roads, and some care has been taken to trace them out, and accurate surveys have been made, camps and earthworks have been examined and their measurements taken, coins have been collected and classified, and many villas have been uncovered, and the elegant pavements laid open have been drawn to scale, so that a more correct idea can now be formed of the extent and manner of Roman life in Britain.

This has been a very important work, especially in the West of England, as the classical notices of the Roman conquest of Britain shed little light upon the subjugation of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, or of Wilts and Dorset. All that we can gather is that it took place in the time of the Emperor Claudius, and that Vespasian and his son Titus were engaged in the work, under Aulus Plautius the Roman Legate.

We are obliged therefore to trust to the evidence of lapidary records, traces of occupation, remnants of works of art, and coins which have been found in past or recent times. Happily these are not wanting, though too many have perished, and many gaps remain yet to be filled up. From these we are to endeavour to recover the history of Roman Somerset; and this is more particularly the office

<sup>1</sup> Read in the Historical Section at the Annual Meeting at Taunton, August 7th, 1879.

of archæology, to construct or confirm history from ancient monuments.

Before, however, proceeding to dwell upon these records, something ought to be said about the physical features of the county of Somerset, for although this paper necessarily touches upon the Roman occupation of the western portion of Britain, yet at a meeting of the Archæological Institute in Somerset, it ought more particularly to treat of the existing remains of the county.

Few counties in England can boast a greater variety of surface, or more advantages in mineral and vegetable produce; corn land, pasturage, fruit trees and woodland, besides a fine extent of coast, extending for seventy miles along the shores of the Bristol Channel, with ports and anchorage well suited for commerce, all conduce to its importance. To such advantages the Roman was never blind. He was not a conqueror merely, but a colonizer as well; he was a settler, and one who sought, wherever he went, to develop the resources of the country. Wherever he settled, art and refinement followed in his train, and industry and commerce flourished.

The river Avon and the shores of the Bristol Channel form the northern boundary of the county. Here on the extreme limit two cities have grown up, one renowned for commerce, and one for refinement, art, and healing. Bristol, indeed, is not in Somerset (though the city has extended into it), yet one of the great fortresses that protected the navigation of the river Avon is on the Somerset side of the river, and the Roman province of Britannia Prima included both sides of the Avon. A Roman road connects these two cities, and is prolonged to Sea Mills, where undoubted Roman remains have been found, and a station and anchorage for vessels existed. But undoubted Roman remains have been found at Bristol also; two pigs of lead, bearing the Roman stamp, and coins as well.

This, probably, was one point from which the "Trajectus" was made into Britannia Secunda, our modern Wales, which retains such striking monuments of Roman occupation.

The claims of Bath to be a Roman city, and a city of early date, are undoubted. No British city has been

more fertile in Roman monuments of the best ages. It stands unrivalled for remains of art, and from the date of Vespasian downwards can shew signs of being a city of no mean repute. Its mineral springs had made it so, as well as the extreme beauty of its situation. The ancient baths have been discovered and opened at different times in various places, so as to admit of their being drawn and planned. The site of the forum is known. Remains of temples are still preserved; altars and a variety of monumental remains may still be seen; pavements, and the lines of the ancient walls, and latterly the drains by which the superfluous waters of the mineral spring were conveyed to the river.<sup>1</sup> Roman coins of every date, from Claudius to Gratian, have been catalogued.

Aquæ Solis, or Bath, may therefore be regarded as the centre of Roman refinement and of art in Somerset. Those who are interested in the inscribed stones found, may see them all brought together in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vol. vii, edited by Professor Hübner, where all the authorities who have written on Bath are referred to, and the probable date of the inscriptions are given.

But this city was surrounded by elegant villas, the remains of many of which have been found both in Somerset and Gloucestershire. These are all mentioned in *Aquæ Solis*, p. 112.

There are no less than five altars dedicated to the goddess Sul, or Sul Minerva, who presided over the mineral springs, and at the sources of these springs votive offerings have been found, also remains of an inscription bearing her name, apparently belonging to a small temple dedicated to her, and the tomb of a priest of the same goddess Sul.

These inscribed stones confirm the statement of Solinus. But the worship of Sul, or Sul Minerva, seems to have been confined to the neighbourhood of the hot springs; no traces of it have been found elsewhere in Somerset, and across the estuary of the Severn the worship of another local divinity prevailed. There we have the god *Nodens*, the remains of whose temple have been

<sup>1</sup> See *Journal of British Archæological Association*, xxxii, 246, and xxxv, 190.

excavated at Lydney, and the pavements drawn and well described in a volume just published.<sup>1</sup>

The Deus Nodens seems to have been the God of the Abyss, or God of the Deeps, and his temple stood upon a hill just above the estuary of the Severn, at its junction with the Wye, commanding a most extensive view of it. Little was known of these remarkable remains until recently. When the Institute met at Gloucester the plans of the pavements, and a catalogue of the coins, as well as a written description, were placed in the hands of the Secretaries, to be seen by the members, but these have not been published until the present year. They certainly throw additional light upon the Roman occupation, and add greatly to our archæological knowledge of Western Britain. Mariners sailing up the Severn estuary seem to have made their votive offerings at this temple. The coins found on the site of the villa and temple begin with Augustus and end with Honorius. Like the goddess Sul, or Sul Minerva, no trace of the worship of Nodens has been found in other parts of Britain. At *Caer Leon* and *Caer Went*, the quarters of the Second Legion, both not far distant from Lydney, we have as yet found no indication of this worship.

At *Aquæ Solis* two main roads met, one coming out of Wales, from near the mouth of the Wye, and going on through Bath to *Marlbro'* and *Silchester*; the other, the Foss, coming from Lincoln, and running direct to *Ilchester*. Both Bath and *Ilchester* are mentioned by Ptolemy the Geographer, and *Ilchester* (*Ischalis*) is again the point of junction of two Roman roads, the Foss going on to the ancient *Muridunum* (*Seaton*), and the other to *Durnovaria* (*Dorchester*). *Ilchester* was a station of some importance, as the remains found there testify, and more might be discovered if diligent search were made.<sup>2</sup> The Foss road cut through the district of Mendip, and near *Shepton Mallet* (where Roman pottery kilns have been found) intersected the Roman road which traversed the mining district of Mendip, and united the ancient Roman port at *Brean Down* with *Sorbiodunum*, or *Old Sarum* in

<sup>1</sup> *Roman Antiquities at Lydney Park, Gloucestershire*: a posthumous work by the Rev. W. H. Bathurst, M.A., with Notes by C. W. King, M.A., Fellow of Trin. Coll. Camb.

<sup>2</sup> See Phelps' *Somerset*, i, 166.

Wilts. Stations occur along the whole line of this latter road, but the most interesting is at Charterhouse-on-Mendip, where so many remains have been found, especially pigs and laminæ of lead bearing the Roman imperial stamp.<sup>1</sup>

There is proof that this district of Somerset was brought very early under Roman rule. The earliest remains date A.D. 49.

At Wookey, on the southern slope of the Mendip Hills, and near the cavern called Wookey-hole, was discovered a plate of lead, bearing the name of Claudius Cæsar, and giving the date TRIB. P. VIII. IMP. XVI. and also DE BRITAN, indicating that it was from the British mines, and no doubt intended for exportation. This was for some time supposed to be a trophy of the victories of

<sup>1</sup> A very interesting paper has appeared in the last number of the *Som. Archæol. and Nat. Hist. Society's Proceedings* (1878) by the Rt. Hon. and Rev. Bishop Clifford, in which it is attempted to prove that a portion of the XII Iter passed through Somerset, and that less violence is done to the original text of the Itinera of Antonine, by bringing the route from Muridunum (Seaton) to Isca Damnoniorum (Exeter), then to the camp at Hembury Fort, Devon (on a spur of the Blackdown Hills), then to Taunton, and from thence to Combwich, near Cannington Park, where the passage across the estuary of the Severn is supposed to have been made into Wales and to Caerleon.

He would thus connect Isca Damnoniorum with Isca Silurum. The Iter is thus described.—

"Iter XII. a Caleva per Muridunum Vericonium, M.P. CCLXXXVI.

"It is a long and circuitous route, 283 miles, starting from Caleva (Silchester) and going through Venta Belgarum (Winchester), Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum) Durnovaria (Dorchester), Moridunum (near Sidmouth), Isca Damnoniorum (Exeter), Isca Silurum, Caer Leon—till it reaches the final station of Uriconium (Wroxeter).

"The strategic value of this route was to connect together all the great forts on the south and west of Britain—that portion of the Island which was more especially under the protection of the Second Legion, whose principal station was at Caerleon."

The stations which he supposes to be in Somerset are—

Leucarum	-	-	M.P. xv.
Nidum	-	-	" xv.
Bomium	-	-	" xv.

And he fixes these at Hembury Fort, at a point near Taunton, and at Combwich, near Cannington Park.

The idea is very ingenious, but unfortunately no remains have yet been found at any of the places mentioned, to prove that the Second Legion ever occupied these positions. No traces of this Legion are found at Exeter, none at Hembury Fort, as far as that position has been examined, and although Dr. Pring, in his paper in the same volume of the *Som. Arch. Soc. Proc.* seems to have shown clearly that a Roman road passed through Taunton and the neighbourhood to Castle Neroche, where Roman remains have been found, yet nothing has been discovered to fix Hembury or Taunton as Roman military stations, and but very slight indications of Roman occupation at the other stations, nothing in fact to prove their military occupation.

The case is very different at Caerleon, where the Second Legion has left undoubted marks of its location (See Lee's *Caerleon*.)

Until, therefore, some more certain indicia of the Roman occupation of these points have been discovered, and the line of road more distinctly traced, we must be content to let the question remain unsettled.

The attempt, however, to open out a new solution of the difficulties of this Iter, may not be without fruit, if it lead to a more careful investigation of the places pointed out by Bishop Clifford.

Claudius in Britain, and preserved as such, but more recent discoveries at the Charterhouse mine have shown it to be only one of the many laminæ that were smelted there, and of which an account will be found in the *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries for 1873 and 1876, and in the *Journal* of the British Archæological Association, June, 1875. (See also Hübner's *Inscrip. Brit. Lat.*, No. 1201). Near the village of Blagdon, on the northern flank of the Mendip, a pig of Roman lead of this early date has also been found. It is inscribed on the upper surface BRITANNICI. AVG. FI., and on another surface are the letters v et p, smaller in size. These probably are the initials of the consuls Veronius and Pompeius, and fix the date to A.D. 49. The Emperor Claudius returned from Britain A.D. 43, and commemorated his victories by a triumphal arch in Rome. The inscription placed over that arch still remains; one half only is perfect, but the rest has been conjecturally restored. It is placed now in the garden of the Barbarini Palace at Rome, and a good photograph of it has been made under Mr. Parker's direction. It speaks of

“Reges Brit [anniae absque]  
Ulla jactu[ra domuerit,]<sup>1</sup>

And we see from the early date of these masses of lead, how soon the Mendip mines had been brought under tribute. Five or six years had settled the Roman grasp

<sup>1</sup>Suetonius records that Claudius restored the arches of the Aqua Virgo; and in the seventeenth century, near the Church of St. Ignatius, the ruins of an archway were discovered, which carried that aqueduct. Another arch was found about 1650 near the Palazzo Sciarra, where the aqueduct must have passed the Via Lata. Upon this was the inscription, which is as follows:

TI · CLAV[DIO · CÆS]  
AVG[VSTO]  
PONTIFIC · [MAX · TR · P · IX]  
COS · V · IM[P · XVI · P · P]  
SENATVS · P[OPVL · Q · R · QVOD]  
REGES · BRIT[ANNIÆ · ABSQ]  
VILLA · IACTV[RA · DOMVERIT]  
GENTES · QVE · R[ARBARAS]  
PRIMVS · INDICI[O · SVBEGERIT]

The right hand portion, between brackets, has been supplied; but I

prefer this restoration to that given by Donati, p. 385, and which is also in Mr. Burn's *Rome and the Campagna*, where a detailed account will be found, p. 323.

Another inscription commemorative of the victory of Claudius in Britain is also said to have been found at Rome, and is given in the note to Camden's *Brit.*, i, (1806) lxxix, Gough's Edition, and said by Donati to have been dug up, 1641, near the Arco di Portogallo, since taken away, in the Via Flaminia. The lettering which remains of this has been taken to supply the wanting portion of the first mentioned. See Orelli, vol. i, p. 176, *Turici*, 1828, where the two inscriptions are put together into one, but the restoration of the Barbarini Garden is quite different.

I do not know what has become of the last-mentioned stone.

firm upon the wealth of this part of Britain. The mines, no doubt, had been in work before the coming of the Roman, and the barrows and circles on Mendip seem to bear testimony to a very ancient occupation of that district, and point to long organized industries. That this firm grasp of Rome on the mineral produce of the mines was not relaxed, is evident from still further discoveries, made not only at Charterhouse (where two pigs of lead were found bearing the imperial stamp of Vespasian, A.D. 70, one in 1873 and the other in 1876), but also in Bath, where one pig of the Emperor Hadrian, A.D. 117-138, was found in 1822.<sup>1</sup>

Two pigs of lead, most probably from the Mendip mines, were found at Bristol, in Wade street, on the bank of the Frome river. These bear the stamp of the Emperor Antoninus, and are probably of the date (A.D. 139-161). The finding of these leaden records leads to the supposition that Bristol may in Roman times have been one of the ports from whence the imperial tribute was shipped to Rome. Lead bearing the stamp of Antoninus and Verus,

IMP. DVOR. AVG. ANTONINI  
ET VERI ARMENIACORVM,

A.D. 164-169, has been found both at Bruton and at the Charterhouse mine, where a collection has been made of a variety of objects and some fragments of inscribed stones, apparently of the date of Septimius Severus.

These relics of Roman mining operations in Somerset have a deep historical interest, especially as the pig of lead bearing the stamp of Vespasian alone, without the name of Titus added, fixes the date nearly to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem.

But Somerset was not rich only in lead, iron was worked by the Romans in the Brendon Hills, as well as in the Forest of Dean beyond the Severn. Traces of these workings remain at Luxborough and Treborough,<sup>2</sup> though I am not aware of any pigs of iron having been found there. They have, however, been found at Chedworth Villa in Gloucestershire, whither the iron was

<sup>1</sup> See *Aquæ Solis*.

<sup>2</sup> See *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archaeological and Nat. Hist. Soc., vi, 144.

brought after the ore had been dug and smelted in the Forest of Dean.

The ore obtained in the Brendon Hills was probably shipped at Minehead, as a Roman camp remains on the hill above Dunster, as if to protect the road from the mines to the estuary of the Severn.

If the hills in this neighbourhood were carefully examined, it is not improbable that they might yield further indication of Roman mining. Traces of a road would probably be found suited for mineral traffic such as still exists in the Forest of Dean.

The contiguity of the iron workings to the estuary leads me to speak now of the ports used in Roman times. The course of the river Avon yields indications of Roman traffic at Bristol, at Sea Mills (on the Gloucestershire side), and there are some indications at Portbury,<sup>1</sup> and in the neighbourhood of Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare. But these indications become much more distinct on Brean Down and at the mouth of the Axe river, where unmistakable Roman remains exist. The neighbourhood of Bridgewater (supposed to be the ancient Uxella from whence the estuary took its name) has also yielded some indications of Roman occupation, but no inscribed stone has yet turned up to confirm the supposition. The low land and alluvial character of the soil, as well as the shifting of the course of the river, is much against any traces being discovered. But at Huntspill remains of Roman pottery kilns have been found, and at Chilton and Polden; and at the Burtles, mounds containing hundreds of loads of Roman pottery<sup>2</sup> are found in the Turbaries. At Catcot Roman remains have been found, and at Shapwick, while a Roman road appears to have passed along the ridge of the Polden Hill from Bridgewater to Street and Glastonbury, communicating with the Foss. At Shepton Mallet a number of Roman pottery kilns were found, an account of which is given in the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archæological Society, vol. xiii, pt. 1, p. 1.

We see therefore that the low land reaching from the mouth of the Parrot to Glastonbury, and from Glaston-

<sup>1</sup> See Phelps' *Hist. of Som.*, i, 177.

<sup>2</sup> See *Somerset Archæolog. and Nat. Hist. Proc.*, 1849, p. 59.



bury to Shepton Mallet, has vestiges of Roman kilns and the manufacture of pottery, and if more careful search were made it might be shewn that there was the same trade established here as in the New Forest in Hampshire, and at the mouth of the Medway.

Passing from Roman industries we come to Roman refinements, and the remains of villas are very frequent in Somerset, and the pavements will bear comparison with any found in Britain, and even on the continent in provincial cities. Not to mention those found in Bath, pavements have been found at Wellow, and described by the Rev. John Skinner (drawings of which are still extant), and at Newton St. Loe, one of which was first placed in the station at Keynsham, and then carried to Bristol, where it is still supposed to remain, locked up in a cellar. Pavements have been found at Whatley near Frome, at Bathford, at Edington, on the Polden Hill between Glastonbury and Bridgewater, at East Coker near Yeovil, at Pitney near Somerton, at Wadeford near Chard. The designs of these pavements, most of which have been drawn and coloured, would form a very interesting and useful volume, but they do not represent all the villas the sites of which are known. These I have given in the Paper on Roman Somerset, printed in the last number of the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archaeological Society.<sup>1</sup> The list there, however, is imperfect, as many that have been discovered have been left unrecorded. I have in my own neighbourhood at Wrington lately discovered one, which had been known and uncovered in past times, but no record of it is known to exist. The floors had been carried away; the pilæ that supported them alone remained. Enough, however, have been noticed to show that Roman refinement had spread into every part of Somerset, as well as Roman industry.

Camps and points of military occupation are very numerous. In most earthworks Roman coins have been found, even where it can be shown that the work is pre-Roman. Thus the Worle hill camp, over Weston-super-Mare, which is undoubtedly British and of very ancient date, has yielded Roman coins and other signs of

<sup>1</sup> See also Wright's *Celt, Roman and Saxon*, pp. 187-8.

Roman occupation,' as if it had been a point used by the Romans to protect the commerce entering Uphill bay. Again, Roman coins have been found in the camp near Clevedon, as if it had been occupied for a similar purpose; and along the line of Roman road from the great headland called Brean Down to the limit of the county at Maiden Bradley, was a series of camps, some of which appear to be of older date than Roman times (as Dolebury, and perhaps Maesbury, near the point where that road cuts the Foss), where Roman remains are found. Norton Fitzwarren has signs of Roman occupation, and Roman remains have been found near, but this ancient representative of the flourishing town of Taunton appears to have existed before Roman times.

Stoke-sub-Hamdon is another more ancient fortress held by the Romans, and their entrenchment occupied the north-west portion. Very interesting remains of the Roman period have been found here, and there is a small camp amphitheatre within the Roman camp. This seems to have been one of the stations protecting the Foss road, running at a short distance from it, and a branch from it is here carried on to Castle Neroche, another instance of a British fortress adapted to Roman purposes.<sup>2</sup>

Another very remarkable camp, not originally Roman, is situated at South Cadbury near Wincanton. Roman remains have been found within the enclosure, and at the base of the entrenchment coins, pottery, querns, &c. There are three fortresses in Somerset which bear this name—one near Wincanton, another above Yatton (where Roman coins and interments have also been found), and a third over Tickenham near Clevedon, on the Channel.

These strongholds no doubt found work for the Roman forces under Aulus Plautius, the legate of Claudius, under whom Vespasian served in command of the Second Legion, and of whom Suetonius states, "Tricies cum hoste conflixit, duas validissimas gentes, superque viginti oppida, et insulam vectem Britanniae proximam in dicionem redegit." Such fortresses as Cadbury near Wincanton,

<sup>1</sup> See *Proceedings of Somerset Archaeolog. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, vol. ii, pt. II, 64, 83; viii, pt. II, 68; x, pt. I, 14.

<sup>2</sup> See *Somerset Archaeolog. and Nat. Hist. Proc.*, vol. iv, pt. II, 90; vol. v, pt. II, 43; vol. viii, pt. II, 74.

Castle Neroche and Hamden Hill, could only have been formed by a gens valida, such as the Belgæ of Britain were.

It is to be regretted that no Roman milliaries, or mile-stones, have yet been found in Somerset. They have been found in most other parts of England, but none have been recorded of Somerset, if any have been found. Yet the line of the fossway remains clearly and distinctly marked, and the line along Mendip is hardly less so; again, only very few lettered stones have been discovered out of Bath, whether altars or monumental records.

At Compton Dando an altar to Apollo<sup>1</sup> has been found, and is now walled into a buttress of the church; at West Coker an altar to Mars Rigisimus;<sup>2</sup> at Camerton an inscription bearing the name of two consuls;<sup>3</sup> and at Pitney two fragments.<sup>4</sup> Part of an inscribed stone<sup>5</sup> was lately found at Charterhouse in Mendip,<sup>6</sup> also two small fragments.<sup>7</sup> No doubt, the early Christianization of this part of Britain, and the foundation of religious houses, led to the destruction of the many Roman monuments which must have existed in the stations and villas. Few remnants of sculpture have been preserved, one at Wellow, but they are found elsewhere, as at Chedworth in Gloucestershire, which shows that such decorations once prevailed as much in Britain as on the continent. Mr. King has remarked,<sup>8</sup> "Although heathen images are now of such unfrequent occurrence amongst Romano-

<sup>1</sup> See *Aqua Solis*, 41.

<sup>2</sup> *Inscrip. Brit. Lat.*, vol. vii, No. 61.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 63.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 64.

<sup>5</sup> The Orchard Wyndham stone, mentioned in Phelps's *Somerset*, i, 164 (Roman period), and of which he gives a drawing, p. 179, is not noticed by Collinson in his *History of Somerset*, and is totally ignored by Professor Hübner in his enumeration of Roman inscriptions found in *Somerset*, though in mentioning the Roman inscriptions found in Cumberland he observes, "In silva quadam prope Orchard Wyndham, Somersetshire, male Phelps," and he gives the genuine Cumbrian inscription found at Ellenborough (No. 408). *Inscrip. Brit. Lat.*

This stone has now been very clearly shewn to be a forgery, and the origin of the inaccuracy of the lettering on the stone well pointed out in a pamphlet

published by Mr. George of Bristol (July 1879), who gives a careful drawing, p. 18, of the original-stone, now at Netherhall, Maryport, Cumberland, and also of the spurious stone. See p. 12.

The stone seems to have been put up at Orchard Wyndham, as an attempt to test the acuteness of antiquaries, and though Phelps supposed it to be genuine, and to have been brought from Cumberland, yet it has never been accepted as a genuine Roman inscription. Mr. George has well exposed the counterfeit, and shewn how an inaccurate copy of the true stone made by Gordon has been followed by the forger, p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> *Inscrip. Brit. Lat.*, vol. vii, Addit. No. 73.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Nos. 74 and 75.

<sup>8</sup> See *Roman Antiquities at Lydney Park, Gloucestershire*, p. 127, Appendix.

British remains, there is every reason to believe that our island was as well furnished with these primitive aids to devotion as were the other provinces of the empire. At any rate, Gildas, writing shortly after the final departure of the Romans, in a most valuable but hitherto unnoticed passage, alludes to the multitude of heathen idols still existing, and grinning with their ugly faces from the insides and outsides of ruined edifices." (*De Excidio Britannie*, cap. iv).

The Early Christian teachers, as this passage shews, regarded with peculiar abhorrence all remnants of sculpture, as only incentives to idolatry, and as such they were universally destroyed or buried. After a lapse of 1500 years, these, when brought to light, serve as memorials of the former benighted condition of the people, and also to shew the state of the arts in this island under the Roman rule.

There are in the county of Somerset 488 parishes, and the number of places in them where Roman remains have been found is 108. This includes coins, pottery, urns, interments, inscriptions, foundations of buildings known to be Roman, pavements, and fortifications known to be Roman or occupied by the Romans. But the Roman roads which traversed the county are not included.

The late Mr. Leman in his MS. notes now in the library of the Literary and Scientific Institution, Bath, left a rough list of places noted by him in which Roman remains had been discovered. Mr. Reynolds, in his *Itinerary of Antonine*, has also given a list of places in Britain, which includes many "finds" in Somerset, and many more are noticed in the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society. It is from these sources, as well as personal research, that the list is drawn which I have given in a paper read to that Society, and published in their proceedings. This list is not complete, as many records may have perished, and many "finds" never been recorded, but it is sufficient to shew how complete was the occupation of this part of England, and how completely Roman influence must have pervaded the county, if so many remnants can be discovered after the lapse of so many centuries.

It would be too long a work to attempt to trace what

other indications there are of Roman occupation in the West of England, such as divisions of land, modifications of the language, formation of corporate bodies, laws and modes of government ; and as these do not belong to one county or district alone, the work may be omitted here, more especially as it has lately been carried out by Mr. Coote in his book entitled *The Romans in Britain*, a work which opens out subjects of very interesting enquiry, and brings new light to bear upon the history of our island after the departure of the Romans.

It is only by carefully collecting from ancient remains, and from incidental notices contained in charters, grants, and agreements, which existed formerly, and by the study of the growth of the language, and by considering the ancient customs and manners of the people, that we can form a correct idea of the condition of Roman-Britain and of the lasting influence exerted by that people.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF PLACES IN SOMERSET WHERE  
ROMAN REMAINS HAVE BEEN FOUND.<sup>1</sup>

- Badialton, near Milverton. See Collinson's *Hist. Somerset*, iii, 23.  
 Bagborough, R. C.  
 Banwell, camp, &c. ; Hamlet of Winthill, R. C.  
 Bathampton, R. R.  
 Bathford, R. V.  
 Bathwick Hill, R. C. and interment, R. Cp.  
 Bicknoller, near to, R. C.  
 Blackford, near Wedmore, R. C.  
 Blagdon, R. pig of lead.  
 Brean Down, R. C. and earthworks.  
 Brent Knoll, R. C. Collinson's *Hist. Som.*, i, 196.  
 Bridgewater, R. R.  
 Bruton, R. pig of lead.  
 Burnham, R. C.  
 Burrington Combe, R. C. and other remains.  
 Burtle Moor, R. P.  
 Butleigh Wootton, R. V., and R. C. Phelp's *Somerset*, p. 189. Wright's *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, 188.

<sup>1</sup> R. Cp. denotes Roman Camp.  
 R. V. " " Villa.  
 R. C. " " Coins.  
 R. P. K. " " Pottery Kiln.

R R. denotes Roman Remains.  
 R. P. " " Pottery.  
 R. H. S. " " Horse Shoes.

- Cadbury, North, R. C. and remains.
- Camerton, buildings, coins. Three villas, on the way leading to Chewton and Wells, and near the Foss Road nineteen houses. See Phelps, i, 179.
- Castle Carey, R. V. in a field called Saverns, near Ansford turnpike gate, and half a mile from Castle Carey station. It was unearthed by Dr. Woodford.<sup>1</sup>
- Castle Neroche, R. R.
- Chard; at South Chard, near St. Margaret's Chapel, coins and foundations. Coin of Emperor Claudius found in a field called Foxmore Hill. (See Hull's *Hist. of Chard*.) Also coins of Emperor Constantine.
- Charlton Mackrel, R. V. See *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, p. 187.
- Charterhouse on Mendip, coins, pottery, inscribed stones, lead, workings, &c.
- Chedzoy, R. C. and urns.
- Chidley Mount, near Bridgewater, R. C.
- Chilton Polden, moulds for casting coins, also pottery kilns.
- Clevedon, Hangstone Hill, in clearing ground for building-sites, coins of Hadrian, Vespasian II, Tetricus, a fibula, sword, human bones. See *Bristol Times and Mirror*, 15 Sept. 1879; also *Clevedon Gazette*, September, 1879.
- Coker, West, R. V. and inscribed stone.
- Comb Down, near Bath, R. V.
- Compton Dando Parish, R. C. and altar.
- Coombe Farm, near Crewkerne, R. C.
- Conquest, three miles from Taunton, R. C.
- Copley, near Littleton, R. C.
- Corston, R. C. and burials.
- Corton, near Sherborne, urn.
- Cothelstone, R. C.
- Curry Rivel, R. C.
- Disheove, near Bruton, R. V.
- Dolebury, R. R.
- Douseborough camp, near to, R. C.
- Drayton R. C.
- Dunpole, near Ilminster, R. C.
- Edlington, near Glastonbury, R. C., moulds for coins. Gough's Camden, p. 99.
- Elm, R. C.
- Emberrow, R. C.
- Exmoor, R. C. at source of the Axe River.
- Farley Hungerford, R. V. Phelps, i, 179.
- Hamdon Hill, R. R. Camp and amphitheatre.
- High Ham, R. R.
- Holway, Road, near Taunton, R. C.

<sup>1</sup> One of the roads near is called Portway, the old line of road from the Foss way to Bruton.

Honey Hall, near Churchill, R. C. See Phelps, i, 178.  
 Huntspill, R. P. K. Scorise of iron, &c.  
 Hurcot (two villas in parish).

Ilchester, R. C.  
 Isle Brewers, R. P.

Ken Moor, R. C.  
 Kingsdon, near Ilchester, R. R.

Langport, R. R.  
 Lillesdon, near N. Curry, R. C.  
 Littleton, villas, several. See Wright's *Celt, Roman and Saxon*, 187.  
 Long Ashton, R. C. at spot called Old Fort. See Phelps, i, 177.  
 Luxborough, iron mines.  
 Lydeard St. Lawrence, R. C.  
 Lytes Carey, R. V. (See *Celt, Roman and Saxon*, p. 187.)

Milverton, near to camp, R. C.

Nailsca, R. C.  
 North Perret, R. C.  
 Norton Fitz Warren, pottery and brick.  
 North Curry, R. C.  
 Newton St. Loe, R. V., coins, burials.

Peart Wood, near Wolverton, R. C.  
 Petherton South, near Bridge, R. C., &c.  
 Pen Pits, horse shoe.  
 Pitney, R. V. and inscribed stones.  
 Polden Hill, R. C. and foundations.  
 Portbury, R. C. and foundations.  
 Putcombe in par. of Kilve, R. C.  
 Putsham, parish of Kilve, near Douseborough R. Cp., &c., and R. C.  
 Pylle, C. and urns. Phelps, i, 179,

Seavington, R. C. and foundations.  
 Shapwick, R. C.  
 Shepton Mallet, R. P. K.  
 Shutshelve, between this and Winscombe, in making new road, was found  
     hearth stone and metal, also ashes, lead, fibulae, bone, 2 skeletons,  
     and cinerary urns, horses' teeth, and tusks of wild boar.  
 Somerton, 2 R. V. near to, See *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, p. 187.  
 Sparkford, R. R.  
 Staple Fitzpaine, R. II. S.  
 Steanchester, nr. Langport, R. R.,  
 Stogumber, R. C.  
 Sutton, R. C. patera, &c.  
 Stoke sub Hamdon, R. C. and remains.

Taunton, R. C. and pottery.  
 Temple Field, near Farley Castle, R. V. and C. See Phelps, i, 179.

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Tickenham, half a mile from Cadbury Camp, R. V. and C. See Phelps, i, 177.

Treborough, Rom. mining refuse.

Uphill, Rom. camp. and rem.

Wadeford, R. V., tessellated pavement, coins, in parish of Combe St. Nicholas, (A.D. 1810), near Chard. See *Hist. of Chard*, by A. Hull.

Watergore, R. V.

Weare, near Axbridge, R. C.

Wedmore, R. C. and interments.

Wellow, R. V.

Whateley, nr. Frome, R. V.

Whitchurch, R. C.

Wick, on Lansdown, near Bath, R. R.

Wigmore, foundations.

Wiltown, R. C.

Wincanton, villa, and R. C.

Winsham, near Chard, R. C.

Wiveliscomb, R. C., and lead coffin.

Wookey, R. C. and pig of lead.

Wraxall, R. C. See Phelps, i, 177.

Wrington, at Lyehole, villa; and Havyatt Green, interments.

Yanley, foundations.

Yatton, Cadbury, R. C. and interments.

For account of Roman villas and pavements in and around Bath, see *Aquæ Solis*, p. 113.