

ROMAN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

By W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

Comparatively little has been written or known about the Roman remains in the county of Nottingham. I therefore propose in the present paper to reproduce the accounts of former writers (so far as they are of value) with comments upon them and to add a synopsis of such discoveries as have been made of late years. Owing to the obliteration of everything above ground on the sites of the stations it is a necessity that remains existing in the last century should be fully described.

The first station to be noticed is at Littleborough on the western bank of the Trent. In the 5th Iter of Antoninus it occurs under the name of *Segelocum* between *Lindum* (Lincoln) and *Danum* (Doncaster) at fourteen miles from the former, and twenty-one from the latter. It is also similarly placed in the 8th Iter of Antoninus but under the name of *Agelocum*. This Roman road from Lincoln to Doncaster is still, especially on the Lincolnshire side of the river, very perfect, being called in the last named county, (where it branches from the Ermin Street) "Till Bridge Lane."

It was carried across the Trent by a ford, and its descent to the river was very entire on each side in the last century, when it was described by Dr. Gale, Dr. Stukeley, and others. The bank was purposely cut away and sloped, and a causeway 18 feet wide, held up by strong piles and paved with large stones, was raised in the bed of the river. This was probably made in the reign of the Emperor Hadrian, a coin of whom was found in the cleft of one of the piles. The causeway remained entire until A.D. 1820, when it was removed, on the ground that when the river was low it impeded naviga-

tion. On the Nottinghamshire side a portion of the descending road still remains, with its paving. A number of large loose stones, the remains of the causeway, may be seen in the river at low water, and at that time also numerous coins have been picked up at the river's edge. There is no doubt that on each side of the causeway, in the bed of the river, many thousands of coins, besides *fibulæ* (brooches), rings, &c., lie buried, being votive offerings to the presiding goddess of the stream, thrown in by travellers as they crossed the river. This was an invariable custom, many examples of which have been discovered in England.

In 1877 I obtained (through the medium of Mr. G. Freeth, Clifton Hall, near Newark) the evidence of Frank Lambert, an old and trusted servant of the Trent Navigation Company, who had assisted at the removal of this ford, which, he says, was paved with rough square stones, and on each side of the road piles 10 or 12 feet long were driven into the bed of the river, and pieces of timber ran from one to the other, giving support to the whole. The timber was all black oak, and used for gate posts, but soon rotted when exposed to the air. The greater part of the stones were used to fill up a hole in the river at "Dunham Dubbs."

There still exist some traces of the wall and fosse surrounding the station, but its exact extent has not been ascertained. It has been prolific of coins. In 1736, when the fields between the station and river were first ploughed, an immense quantity were found. Archdeacon Trollope enumerates coins of Nero, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, Faustina, Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, Carausius, Allectus, Constantinus, (Magnus), Constantius, Constantinus II., and Crispus, besides a number of the VRBS ROMA and CONSTANTINOPOLIS type, as having been found here. From being frequently turned up by swine they obtained the name of "Swine Pennies."

The Trent has occasionally washed away a small portion of the station, or of its suburban buildings. In the last century Dr. Stukeley saw foundations of buildings and portions of pavements in and projecting from the river's bank. Dr. Gale, in crossing the river, observed

an urn of Samian ware in the bank ; he pulled it out, and found it broken, but containing burnt bones and a coin of Domitian. This was apparently an interment, of course outside the walls. These accounts show that if the area of the station were thoroughly excavated, much would be found—foundations, tessellated pavements, coins, inscribed stones, &c. No doubt, even now, after high floods, much is laid bare, but no one in the neighbourhood seems to record it. Many valuable inscriptions on altars and tombstones, &c., must have perished for want of proper looking after. The first one recorded as found here, is named by Dr. Stukeley (*Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 29), and was on an altar discovered in a sandpit in 1718. The altar was in good condition, the *focus* for the offering and all its carvings being quite fresh, the inscription on the front, however, had been all cut away (as if to prepare a face for a new one), with the exception of the last line, which read—

LIS. ARAM. D.D.

Possibly, as in the case of an altar found at Dorchester (Oxfordshire) LIS. is part of the word CANCELLIS. Another wrought stone, uninscribed, was found with it, and is described as being of a sepulchral character. These two stones, according to Stukeley, were “set as peers (*sic*) in a wall on the side of the steps that lead from the water side to the inn,” but they have been removed.

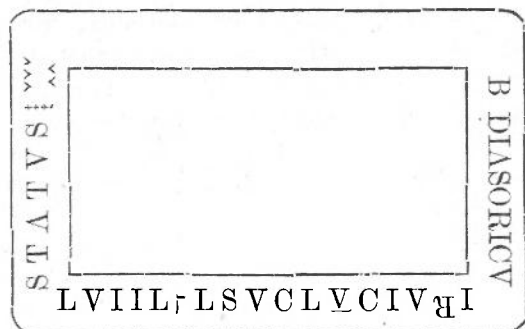
Another altar found at the station many years since, has been removed to the seat of Mr. F. J. S. Foljambe, at Osberton Hall, near Worksop. It is 3 feet 2 inches high, 22 inches broad at the head, and 16½ in the centre. It has borne an inscription, now all but obliterated, within a sunken panel, on the face of its shaft, and of which all that is legible is—

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I I R A T
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I also thought I could detect I.O.M. (for *Iovi Optimo Maximo*) on the capital. It occurred to me that IIRAT. might possibly (R being a misreading of B) refer to the COHORS II. BATAVORVM, which we know was in Britain, but the R seemed plain when I inspected the altar in 1877.

The only other inspection recorded as found at Little-

borough was on a Roman oculist's stamp. A correspondent of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, who signed C.D., and who wrote from Southwell on the 20th August. 1772, to that periodical, with a description of the stamp, stated that it had been found "lately by casting up the ground," in the vicinity of Littleborough. He sent the following sketch of it, the centre representing the actual size, and the inscription being on the edges.



ACTUAL SIZE.

It is evident that C. D. has made errors in copying the inscription. Professor Grotefend is no doubt right when he reads the inversed (longest) line as STACT. A. CLARI. standing for STAC(TVM) A(D) CLARI(TATEM), *i.e.* *Stactum* for clearness of the eye, and that it has been preceded by the name of the oculist in an abbreviated form, possibly as suggested by Dr. Hübner IVL. TIT. for *Jul(ius) Tit(ianus)*. On the left hand edge we seem to have STACTVM again, incorrectly copied, and on the right, in spite of miscopying DIAPSORICVM another medicine for the eye, seems to be clearly indicated. Some fourteen or fifteen of these stamps have been found in Britain.

The pottery found seems to have been mostly the bright red "Samian" ware, very little of the black or grey having been observed, yet no potter's stamps have been recorded. The walls of the ancient church contain great numbers of Roman tiles, and some of the masonry in the building is of the herring bone style frequently adopted by the Romans. There is an interesting letter on this station from the Rev. Wm. Ella, vicar of Rampton, Notts, dated April 3rd, 1723, at p. 126, vol. iii. of the

Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica (i.e. in No. 2, Part II. of the *Reliquiæ Galeanæ*.)

The sixth Iter of Antonine is from *Londinium* (London) to *Lindum* (Lincoln), *via Ratae* (Leicester). These three cities have each yielded inscriptions confirming their Roman names. The part of the Iter which we have now to deal with is, therefore, that between Leicester and Lincoln, on the line of the Roman Fosseway. Between these two cities the following stations are named, with their distances from each other in Roman miles:—From *Ratae* to *Verometum* 12 miles, to *Margidunum* 12 miles, to *Ad Pontem* 7 miles, to *Crococolana* 7 miles, to *Lindum* 12 miles. Omitting for the present the consideration of the site of *Ad Pontem*, we find that if we trace the Fosseway from Leicester to Lincoln that there are a succession of stations, the sites of which agree in distance from each other with those named by Antonine. The first is near Willoughby, just inside the border of the county of Notts, and has always been considered as *Verometum*. The next is at East Bridgeford (*Margidunum*), and the next at Brough, near Collingham (*Crococolana*). In the eighth Iter of Antonine (from York to London, *via* Lincoln and Leicester), the distance of *Crococolana* from *Lindum* is given as 14 miles, instead of 12 as in the sixth Iter. *Ad Pontem* is also omitted, but the distance from *Crococolana* to *Margidunum* is made the same (14 miles), and *Verometum* is spelt *Vernemetum*. These are, however, but trifling differences. I propose first to deal with the station nearest to Littleborough, *Crococolana* (Brough), and then to proceed southwards along the Fosseway.

As Littleborough has yielded the most remains, so probably Brough has yielded the least, amongst the identified stations. The first to notice the site publicly appears to have been the Rev. J. Pointer, who in his *Britannia Romana*, published at Oxford, 1724, says at pp. 41 and 53, that “in a large field near Long Collingham” there was a Roman camp, and that “there have been several of Constantine’s coins found.” Dr. Stukeley, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, published in the same year, gives a more particular account. He says at p. 98:—“At Brough no Roman token visible, but the remarkable straightness of all the roads and by-lanes thereabouts. The

city has been most perfectly levelled by the plough, so that the mark of ridge and furrow remains in the very road; the hedgerows were planted since. . . . There have been many Roman coins dug up here, and all the way between it and Newark. I bought a large brass Faustina junior, lately found in the cornfield over against the alehouse. In digging, too, they find great foundations for half a mile together, on each side of the road, with much rusty iron, iron ore, and iron cinders, so that it's probable here was an eminent Roman forge. Across the road was a vast foundation of a wall, and part still remains. Out of one hole they showed me, has been dug up 10 or 15 load of stone, so that it should seem to have been a gate. The stones at the foundations are observed to be placed edgewise, and very large ones, but not of a good sort. This was the method the Romans thought was most convenient in this springy soil, for the springs rise here all about within two foot of the surface. They told me some very large copper coins have been found here, and silver too, and many pots, urns, bricks, &c. They call the money 'Brough Pennies.'

Horsley in his *Britannia Romana*, published in 1732, says:—"Since the whole distance between Bridgeford and Brough, which must be ten computed miles in all, answers with so much exactness to the distance of fourteen miles in the Itinerary between *Margidunum* and *Crococolana*, as it is both in this and the eighth Iter; I think it a strong confirmation of the scheme I have advanced, though there may be some difficulty with respect to the intermediate station of *Ad Pontem*. Affinity of sound made some settle *Crococolana* (or, as some have it, *Crocolana*) at *Colingham*, but it is fixed at a surer foundation when placed at Brugh, a short mile south-east of it. The ramparts at Brugh are levelled by the plow, but many Roman coins have been found here. I purchased one which I take to be Philip, of an old man who had lived here many years, and gave me an account of several things relating to this station. He told me they often struck upon ruins in plowing or digging, and had a tradition of an old town's standing formerly there. This is very consistent with the account Dr. Stukeley gives of this station."

Dr. E. G. Wake in his *History of Collingham*, (1867)

says in a note at p. 3, referring to Stukeley's remark that the stones at the station were not of a good sort; "A description which proves them to have been portions of the limestone still quarried in the neighbourhood. Nevertheless I have seen some large blocks of excellent freestone, which have evidently formed part of the buildings once standing at Brough." At p. 4, Dr. Wake says, "Roman coins occasionally come to the surface in our day and most of them are of the Constantine period. . . . Fragments of Roman pottery are still met with, in abundance, but the writer cannot learn that a perfect specimen has ever been seen. Several years ago an old man while working on the glebe farm is said to have found a figure in gold, a discovery which afterwards enabled him to obtain his livelihood by means less arduous than field labour. . . . In the field mentioned by Stukeley, the husbandman oftens finds his operations interfered with by large stones."

There is no doubt that excavations would reveal much at this station. Owing to obliteration, its site cannot be ascertained, neither inscription nor potter's mark is *recorded* as having been found, but that many of these *must* have been brought to light in the past three centuries is certain. Perhaps some of them lie hidden in the neighbourhood. Roman remains have also been found at Potter's Hill, about two miles to the N.E.

As was the case with regard to Brough, the Rev. J. Pointer, in his *Britannia Romana*, p. 53, gives us the earliest information we possess about East Bridgeford. He says "in East Bridge Ford Field, called Burrow Field, is a camp near a spring called the Old Wark Spring."

Dr. Stukeley, who visited the site on the 7th of September, 1722, gives in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* a view of it. At p. 99 he says, speaking of proceeding southward along the Fosse road, "East Bridgeford lies a mile to the right upon the river Trent. Doubtless there was a bridge over the river which created the denomination in the Roman times, as being the passage from the eastern parts to those beyond the Trent. And as to this particular station upon the road perhaps a bridge was the sign of the inn, that travellers might know where to turn out for that purpose, for I can't suppose here was a bridge at the

road. At Bridgeford they told us there were formerly great buildings and cellars on the right as you descend to the Trent, and a key (quay) upon the river for vessels to unlade at. The Roman station upon the Foss I found to be called *Borough field*, west of the road. Here a spring arises under the hedge called *Oldwork* spring, very quick running over a fine gravel, the only one hereabouts that falls eastward, not directly into the neighbouring Trent, towards Newton. Hereabouts I saw the Roman foundations of walls and floors of houses, composed after the manner before spoken of; stones set edgewise in clay and liquid mortar run upon them. There are likewise short oaken posts or piles at proper intervals, some whereof I pulled up with my own hands.

"The earth all around looks very black. They told us that frequently the stones were laid upon a bed of pease straw and rush rope or twisted hay, which remained very perfect. Houses stood all along upon the *Foss*, whose foundations have been dug up and carried to the neighbouring villages. They told us too of a most famous pavement near the Foss way. Close by in a pasture 'Castle Hill Close' has been a great building which they say was carried all to Newark. John Green of Bridgeford, aged 80, told me that he has taken up large foundations there, much antient coin and small earthen pipes for water. His father aged near 100 took up many pipes four score yards off the castle, and much fine free stone, some well cut and carved. There had been found many urns, pots, and Roman bricks, but the people preserved none of them, and some that had coins would by no means let us see them, for fear we were come from the lord of the manor."

From the etymology of the place Stukeley considered this station *Ad Pontem*, and Dr. Gale does the same, but Horsley correctly says, "the numbers and distances ought to preponderate." He adds that "the proofs of the station are strong and convincing" (*Brit. Rom.* p. 438). Both he and Bishop Gibson, in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, give almost exactly the same account as to Oldwark Spring, Borough Field, &c., but the latter adds that a silver coin of Vespasian had been found. Horsley places *Margidunum* here without the least hesitation.

Matters remained in much the same state for the next

130 years, but in 1857-8 a lady whose archæological tastes led her to investigation on this site, made some further discoveries of remains, though of a comparatively unimportant nature. I allude to Mrs. Miles, the wife of the Rector of East Bridgeford, who had long noticed fragments of pottery, &c., on the surface of the ground in several of the fields. A small hole was dug in the "Castle Field," when fragments of pottery in great abundance were found. This field, being pasture land, has not within memory been disturbed, but in the recollection of an old person who only died in 1872, a considerable portion of wall was to be seen. The Fosse way appears to run through the centre of the station. Mrs. Miles informs me that the circumvallation may still be most clearly traced. The N.E. angle of the station is most distinctly marked. Three or four fields on each side of the Fosse are full of remains. On the Ordnance map there is a road (Roman) from the camp to the river marked as "Bridgeford-street." In the neighbourhood it is known as "Newton-street," and is used as a bridle path. Mrs. Miles says that it "passes through a ploughed field, in which we gather every year numbers of specimens of pottery lying on the surface, besides deer horns, bones, arrow heads, coins, Samian ware, plaster off walls, still coloured; and in the adjacent field near the spring, and apparently used to hold the refuse of the camp, old iron, leather, oyster shells, bones, horns, balls of lead, flue tiles, stone tiles, tesserae, and thousands of pieces of pottery of different colours, qualities, and materials. Many of these are worked in patterns, and the pieces of Samian have hunting subjects, leaves, &c., on the ground, and we have a considerable number of potters' marks." Several of the fragments of Samian ware show that they have been rivetted by their former owners with lead, for the purpose of mending fractures; one bore the representation of a Pegasus, another an eagle with thunderbolts.

It is a common thing for the residents to dig for stones for building purposes—quantities of which are found—the remains of Roman dwellings. After heavy rain, fragments of various remains are found on the surface of the ploughed land. On one occasion Mrs. Miles found two perforated six-sided cylinders, of red Cornelian, with

the polish quite unhurt; one was two inches long, and the other smaller. Many "runnings" of lead have also been found. Mrs. Miles possesses most of the above named articles, and also coins of Vespasian, Carausius, and Julian, found on the site. That lady further says of the soil, that "it is I imagine quite full of the remains of a gradually disused dwelling-place, that is to say nothing whole or hidden with care, but just the *debris* that would be left, by long years of occupation."

Amongst the other objects found are broken flanged tiles, Roman mortar, and a knife handle. The cemetery, from various signs, appears to be at the S.E. angle, outside the circumvallation. The potters' marks are unfortunately much worn, but by Mrs. Miles's courtesy I have sketches of three fragments, which appear to be:—I. Part of the rim of a *mortarium*; the extant letters are . . GVDV, evidently a portion of F.LVGVDV, of which several examples occur in London, and probably an abbreviation of *Luguduni factu* or *factu Luguduni*. No. 2 is only visible at the commencement, and is FLO, probably *Florentinus*: it occurs on a fragment of Samian ware. III. is still more obscure. All that is visible seems to be NDE. Many other of these marks are in Mrs. Miles's possession, but too obscure by wear to be made out.

It will thus be seen that much remains to be discovered by excavation at East Bridgeford. It is to be hoped that the digging for stones will be supervised, and that no interesting inscriptions or foundations of buildings will be surreptitiously removed. From *tesserae* having been found, it is evident that some tessellated pavements lie buried on this site.

Willoughby, the most southerly station on the Fosseway, is just inside the boundary of the county, and although in past times many interesting remains have been found there, a complete silence as to discoveries seems to have prevailed for the last century. That the station is the *Verometum* of the Itinerary there can be no doubt. Its distance from Leicester on the way to Lincoln is conclusive evidence on the point.

At p. 41 of his *Britannia Romana*, the Rev. J. Pointer says, "At Willoughby on the Would, on the south edge of this county, near the Fosseway, in the field where are the

ruins of a town called Long Billington, the ploughmen and shepherds commonly gather up great numbers of Roman coins."

On the 8th September, 1722, Dr. Stukeley visited the site, of which he gives a drawing in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 100. He says at p. 101, "After some time I perceived I was upon the spot, being a field called *Henings*, by which I suppose is meant the ancient meadows. This is upon the brow of the hill overlooking *Willoughby Brook* Here they said had been an old city called *Long Billington*. 'Tis often called the *Black Field* in common discourse, from the colour and excessive richness of the soil, so that they never lay any manure upon it. Here is a place called *Thieves* and on the other side of the valley a place called *Wells*, near where a barn now stands, and all this length they say the city reached. but the city mostly was on *Willoughby* side, for the land on the other side in Broughton is poor, whilst this is luxuriant to the last degree. . . . The soil is perfectly black, though all the circumjacent land be red, especially north of the valley upon the edge of the hill, and where most antiquities are found, which certainly was the true place. Richard Cooper, aged 72, has found many brass and silver coins here. There have been some of gold. They have a notion of great riches being under ground. but people have been frightened from digging it by spirits. . . . They have likewise a tradition that the city was destroyed by thieves, perhaps from the place so called. Many mosaic pavements have been dug up. My landlord, Gee of Willoughby, says he has on plowing met with such for five yards together, as likewise coins, pot hooks, fire shovels, and the like utensils, and many large brass coins which they took for weights, ounces and half ounces, but upon trial found them somewhat less. Broad stones and foundations are frequent upon the side of the Fosse. Several (were) found at Wells. The ground naturally is so stiff a marl that at Willoughby town they pave their yards with stones fetched from the Foss way, even to the slope of their pits for the cattle to drink at. At Over and Nether Broughton, and at *Willoughby*, too, the coins are so frequent that you hear of them all the country round."

Dr. Stukeley thought the station to be *Margidunum*, and is therefore at a loss where to place *Verometum*. But Horsley, in his *Britannia Romana*, p. 437, at once corrects this error, by clearly showing that *Verometum* is the name of the station. In this he is followed by the Bishop of Cloyne and the Rev. T. Leman, of Bath, who visited the site in 1788, in tracing the Fosse road from Lincolnshire into Devonshire, *vide* Nicholl's Leicestershire, vol. 1., p. cxlix. From the fact of tessellated pavements having been discovered this station seems to have been a richer one than some of the others in the county, having probably some large buildings within it, but whatever remains is completely buried. The site is a bleak moorland.

We have now arrived at a very interesting stage in considering the Roman Stations in the county. The question to be considered is, where was *Ad Pontem*? That it was between *Crococolana* and *Margidunum* seems certain from the sixth Iter of Antonine; that it was between Brough and East Bridgeford has been often asserted and as often denied.

Now, there are one or two points in the Itinerary which to my mind have not been attended to sufficiently. In the first place, from the omission of this station in the eighth Iter, it seems clear that it was not an important place, probably merely a mere *mansio* or *mutatio*, if indeed that, for the words indicate "to the bridge,"¹ as if it were the point where to branch off to cross the river. This must, in any case, have been actually the fact, for it is impossible that the bridge itself was on the Fosse way. It seems to have been this which induced Stukeley to place *Ad Pontem* at East Bridgeford, as the Roman road thence to the river side is very distinct, but the distances on each side from Lincoln to Leicester prove that he is in error.

Salmon, in his "New Survey of England," p. 294, speaking of this place, says:—"As to the name of the place, *Ad Pontem*, it is observable that it is not in the ablative case, as the rest are; if it had been at a bridge it would have been *Ponte*, as we see near Dorking, in

¹ It is also possible it may mean, "At the bridge."

Surrey where two bridges are, it is *Pontibus*. The name that is most like it is *Ad Ansam*. It is evident there could be no bridge here upon the Fosse, for there is no water except at the Trent, that can have any pretence to one. Fords there are several upon the river, as appears by the names of the neighbouring villages Wilford and Shelford. Nor can a reason be guessed at for naming this village upon the hill *Bridgeford*, but as it hath relation to the other Bridgeford upon Trent. A bridge, I presume, was over the Trent to Nottingham. The road leading to it was called *via ad Pontem* or *Agger ad Pontem* by way of eminence."

Horsley, commenting on this passage in his *Britannia Romana*, pp. 438-9, says, "If this be admitted, why may not we as well suppose that the bridge referred to in the name was at Southwell or Newark, and remove the station called *Ad Pontem* nearer to that town, which I shall presently show to be very reasonable on other accounts." Further on, Horsley says, "The station *Ad Pontem* is only seven Itinerary miles from *Margidunum*, which distance is not sufficient to bring us from Bridgeford quite up to Newark. . . . This, therefore, obliges us to look for *Ad Pontem* two or three miles from the middle of Newark. I make, no doubt, but that this large town has risen out of the ruins of *Ad Pontem* on the one side and *Crococolana* on the other. The name *Newark*, which implies some prior building of greater antiquity, may, perhaps, refer to these Roman stations on each side of it. I have heard of some Roman coins found in the town, and Dr. Stukeley, not without reason, conjectures that one of the gates of Newark is somewhat like Roman, or, however, has Roman stones in it. . . . I find that when the distance of *Ad Pontem* from *Margidunum* is set off from the station near East Bridgeford, it brings us as near as I can judge to Farndon over against Southwell. Some think Newark, but more generally Southwell is thought to be the place which Bede calls *Tiovul-Fingacester*. This termination seems to imply a Roman settlement somewhere in the neighbourhood, and Southwell is an ancient place, but on the wrong side of the river. Possibly there may have been a station on the south side of the Trent, or on the *lingula* formed by this river, and a smaller one

which in Camden is called the Snite, and perhaps there has been a bridge here over the Trent, which has occasioned the name *Ad Pontem*. I went to view the ground when last at Newark, and did not think the situation or appearance very unpromising."

In the summers of 1788 and 1789 two great antiquaries, Dr. Bennett, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross (generally known as the Bishop of Cloyne), and his friend, the Rev. T. Leman, of Bath, walked along the Fosse way, and traced it from Sudford, at the head of the Bain, in Lincolnshire, through Lincoln, and thence into Devonshire. Their remarks are embodied in papers by themselves in Nicholl's History of Leicestershire, vol. i., p. 147, &c. The latter gentleman says: "At twelve miles from Lincoln is Brugh (*Crococolana*), seven miles thence at the great passage of the Trent where the western branch of the Ermine street (which quitted the Eastern in its way to Ancaster between the present 95th and 96th milestones, in the great North road between Stamford and Newark) passed the river not far distant from the present turnpike gate at Thorpe, was *Ad Pontem*; seven miles further was *Margidunum*, at East Bridgeford."

(A note after the word "*Ad Pontem*" says, "Tumuli appearances of the corners of a camp and the remarkable circumstance of the bending of the road on leaving it.")

The Bishop of Cloyne says at p. 149: "The next station is *Ad Pontem*, 7 miles, and passing through Newark to Thorpe Bar is a situation very like one. The Trent comes close to the road, which makes a bend (one of the marks of a station) to that point; the distance answers exactly, and directly opposite to the other side of the river four miles off is Southwell, where Roman antiquities have been found, and which was called by the Saxons *Tiovulfingacester*, a termination given almost exclusively to Roman cities. At Southwell then might be the Roman town, a bridge near the Trent connected it with the Fosse, and Newark not then existing it was a great pass into Nottinghamshire. At the southern end of the bridge on the high bank of the river was, perhaps, a small station or fort to protect it, which would be called the *statio Ad Pontem*. . . . When the castle at Newark was built in King Stephen's time, both *Crococolana* and *Ad Pontem*

would be robbed of their materials, both lying so near and convenient for water carriage, which will account for there being no remains distinguishable at either of them."

"Our next station is at *Margidunum*, 12 miles. East Bridgeford, where abundant remains have been found, answers exactly, another proof that *Ad Pontem* is where we place it."

Horsley's idea of Farndon or its neighbourhood is, it will be seen by reference to a map, much the same as the more accurate observations of the Bishop of Cloyne and Mr. Leman. There seem to have been some discoveries made at Thorpe since the Bishop's time. Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary of England*, says of this place that a fine tessellated pavement has been found, besides Roman coins and other relics. But where was the bridge? Is there any trace of it visible on the Trent bank or in its bed? From being called so plainly in the *Itinerary*, "The Bridge," it is evident that it must have been of some size and well-known, even though there was no large station adjoining it.

Thus much for Thorpe being the neighbourhood of *Ad Pontem*, but, on the other hand, whilst there is no known bridge at Thorpe, there is evidence of two some distance lower down the stream.

Mr. Dickinson, in his "History of Southwell" (pub. 1801), at p. 92, says, "The summer months of 1792 and 1793 being extremely dry, the foundations of an immense bridge appeared in the Trent (rendered shallow by the drought) near to the little village of Winthorpe by Newark. On examination, there was every reason to think them as old as the time of the Romans, and a sort of negative confirmation of that opinion arises from there not being even the vestige of a tradition that any such bridge has been situated on this part of the river Trent, since the time of the Norman conquest." In a note on the same page Mr. Dickinson further remarks that it was "a bridge of stone, executed with the most perfect masonry," not one of wood, and he says that he traced the remains of a Roman road to Southwell, leading from the direction of this bridge and from Brough. He notices the discovery at Southwell of a coin of Constantius, another of Maxentius, and two illegible. Major Rooke,

in the *Archæologia*, vol. ix., p. 199, records the discovery also in November, 1787, (at which he was present) of "some stones, which appeared to have been part of a wall; near these were found some bits of painted stucco, two or three tesserae of a pavement, and pieces of Roman tiles, the sides raised, exactly resembling those found in the Roman villa near Woodhouse. The Rev. Mr. Bristow, one of the worthy vicars of Southwell, who has a taste for antiquities, first made this discovery in digging to make a foundation for a building in his garden. The stones lay five feet below the surface." To this Mr. Dickinson adds:—"In breaking up a piece of ground under the eastern side of the Archbishop's palace in the year 1793, to make a garden" (for the same Mr. Bristow) "a tessellated Roman floor was discovered of considerable extent, accompanied by several fragments of urns. In laying down a part of the flat pavement on the north side of the church, a little anterior to the time above mentioned, the workmen accidentally broke into a small vault, which on the most scrupulous examination was found to have been constructed almost entirely of Roman bricks. In the year 1794 one of the oldest prebendal houses in this town, situated on the north side of the church, was pulled down. In the wall, especially near the foundations, were many Roman bricks, mixed with other materials, and I am informed that scarce any of the more ancient buildings of the place have shared a similar fate, but in the foundations at least many Roman remains have been discovered."

In 1877 the same old man (Frank Lambert) who helped to remove the ford at Littleborough, informed me (through Mr. Freeth) that he had worked many years previously, at the removal of what had been the piers of a bridge across the Trent, between two and three hundred yards below "The Oven," a bank or island in the river marked in the Ordnance Survey, about a mile south of Cromwell, which is opposite South Collingham. He described the piers as being of lozenge shape, formed by "trees" laid on the bed of the river, and the enclosed space filled in with Coddington stone laid edgeways in. Boats used to ground upon these stones, so the whole was cleared out for improving the navigation.

These particulars I published (February 20th, 1877) in

the *Nottingham Daily Guardian*, in one of a series of articles on the Roman remains of the county, adding that the lozenge shape of the piers (*i.e.* a cutwater up and down stream) was the same as at the Roman bridges at *Cilurnum* and *Corstopitum*, in Northumberland.

I was therefore somewhat surprised, seven and a half years afterwards (October and November, 1884), to see in an account of further researches on the site of this bridge, the idea propagated that an entirely new discovery had been made. This idea seems also further developed in a paper by Mr. C. H. Compton in *The Journal of the British Archaeological Association* for March, 1885, in spite of my letter in the *Standard* (the paper which originally reported the later "discovery") for Nov. 5th, 1884. Mr. Compton gives a plan of the piers of the bridge, which seems to have crossed the river diagonally. Only two of the piers were come upon by the late dredging operations, and they were removed by blasting with dynamite. It is said "From observations made previous to the blasting, it appears that the foundations were formed of wood set in Ancaster, or a somewhat similar stone; the oak walings and balks were black and hard, but mostly in good condition, the mortar was still quite hard and adhesive; the walings were tied across through a large centre balk by tie pieces of wood having octagonal heads through which wedges had evidently been driven to keep the structure together." Numerous human skulls and bones were dredged up at the same place.

This account seems clearly to show that a bridge made in the usual Roman fashion in Britain (*i.e.* stone piers with a roadway of wood), crossed the river at this point. In fact from one account, which says "we found upon one side of a central longitudinal sleeper, a balk of blackened oak twenty to thirty feet long, the numerals CLII" I should be inclined to think that part of the roadway still lies embedded in the mud of the river. The writer of this passage sagely remarks that CLII stood for the year A.D. 152 when he considered the bridge to have been constructed! The letters no doubt marked the number of the beam.

But with the existence of these two bridges being a certainty, unless we alter the whole of the numerals and

positions of the stations in the Iter, we are no nearer the truth as to the site of *Ad Pontem*.

That there was a small Roman post at Southwell there can be no doubt; but the distance from Brough to Southwell, and thence to East Bridgeford would far exceed the distance between *Crococolana* and *Margidunum*, in the Itinerary, besides the divergence from the straight route and the fact of crossing and then re-crossing the river. On these grounds, therefore, Southwell must be rejected as the site of *Ad Pontem*. But again, the views of Mr. Leman and the Bishop of Cloyne, fixing the station at Thorpe, agree exactly with the distances on each side, and at least as much Roman masonry has been discovered there as at Southwell. The only link wanting to complete the chain of evidence in its favour is the foundation of a bridge in the bed of the stream, or the remains of its abutments buried in the soil of the bank, as in the case of the Roman bridges at *Cilurnum* and *Corstopitum*, on the Tyne. It would also be desirable to know whether any appearances of the angles of a square camp now exist at Thorpe, as stated by Mr. Leman. I can find none.

Having considered the sites of the large *castra* or stations in Notts., I now proceed to the villas erected by the Romans during their occupation of this part of England. There have been but few discoveries of this nature *recorded*, but no doubt many of these fine residences have been found in the Middle Ages, and at once destroyed. The first notice of any discovery of this nature published was by Major Rooke, in the 8th volume of the *Archæologia*, pp. 363-376. It was made at Mansfield Woodhouse, in May, 1786. Major Rooke having seen some of the small *tesserae* of a tessellated pavement which had been found in the "North Fields," and which the country people called "fairy pavements," and hearing that many stones and bricks had been taken up there, finding the latter to be Roman, set three men to work excavating. They soon came to the foundations of walls about a foot beneath the surface, and tracing them, laid bare the ground plan of a large villa, containing eight rooms, a long entrance passage, and a hypocaust. In the centre of the central room was the greater part of a beautiful tessellated pavement, of red, yellow, white and

grey *tesserae*, and of an elaborate geometrical design. The stucco was remaining on the lower portions of the walls of this room, and was painted in stripes of purple, red, yellow, green, &c. Much of the same stucco was lying in fragments on the pavement, having fallen from the upper portion of the walls. This room was 20 feet 5 inches by 19 feet. The entrance passage, or *crypto porticus*, was 54 feet long and 8 wide, and had a tessellated pavement of an inferior nature. Its walls were also painted. None of the other rooms had pavements, but stucco floors. Some of the outer walls were five feet thick. The total length of this villa was about 130 feet, its breadth 40 feet. At nearly right angles with the front of the villa, and only ten yards from its north-east end, was another villa, facing the south (the first-named faced the east) 142 feet in length by 42 feet in width. Several of the rooms were painted, and they had stucco floors. A hypocaust was also in this villa, and a large central courtyard, round which were 17 rooms. Baths were found in both of the villas, also many roofing tiles and slates. Twenty-five small copper coins were discovered, of which one was of the Empress Salonina, one of Claudius Gothicus, three of the Constantine family, and the remainder Major Rooke says were illegible, but from the form of diadem on the heads, I take some of them to be of Postumus, Victorinus, and Carausius. The bases of two pillars were also found. About 100 yards S.E. of the first villa the foundations of two well-built sepulchres were found, which had probably been roofed with tiles, from the number of the latter which covered the foundations and which were lying loosely. In one of the sepulchres an urn containing ashes remained; between them was a pavement 7 feet square, having a pedestal in its centre on which had probably been placed a stone with a sepulchral inscription, of which fragments were discovered, but owing to its dilapidated state, and being also apparently much worn, all that could be made out of it was:—

IMI	IM
IDPATE	
VIXITAN	
IAELCARM	RINI

Of this all that can with certainty be said is that the word

"*Pater*" seems to be in the second line, whilst in the third we have plainly "*Vixit an (nos)*."

The usual *debris* of a Roman villa were found here—portions of hand-mills, a lamp, an ivory pin, stags' horns, and many fragments of pottery, both Samian and other wares; one of the former bore the potter's name, ALBVS. In 1774 an urn filled with Roman silver coins (*denarii*) had been found about half a mile to the east of the site, on the other side of Pleasley Brook. Major Rooke had seen two of them very perfect of Antoninus and Faustina.

Mr. John Knight, of Langold, the owner of the site, erected over the remains, a building for their protection, which lasted some years; but Mr. F. C. Laird, in "*The Beauties of England and Wales*," vol. xii., p. 400, says that in 1811 the building was dilapidated, the pavement ruined, and its tesserae strewn about, whilst a mare and a foal were the only occupants. I should much like to know if any Nottinghamshire antiquary can inform me where (if it is still in existence) the inscribed portion of the tombstone is preserved. At the time of its discovery I presume it would go into the possession of Major Rooke or Mr. Knight. Mr. Knight left no direct descendant, and his property was divided. The Langold estate went to the family of the present Sir Thomas White, of Walling Wells, near Worksop, and the furniture and curiosities in the house formed a portion of the property left to the ancestor of Sir W. Fitzherbert, of Tissington. To both of these gentlemen I have applied, but no trace can be found of the stone.

From the account in "*Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of England*," previously referred to it would appear that a handsome villa stood at one time at Thorpe, having a tessellated pavement. I should much like to have some further information about this.

The next noticeable discovery took place at Barton-upon-Trent. It had long been known—I believe as far back as the close of the last century—that underneath the farm-yard attached to the vicarage, handsome tessellated pavements existed, which had frequently been come upon in digging. In the field immediately adjoining this yard on the east, it had for a long time been noticed that at intervals on its surface there were square patches which

either failed to produce crops or else the crops were stunted—in contrast to the rest of the field, which forms part of the glebe lands. Large stones and traces of walls had also been occasionally discovered in the field, but on the 14th April, 1856, the parish clerk, when ploughing, struck against the edge of a tessellated pavement. The Rev. Mr. Wintour, at that time rector, immediately set several men to work excavating the site, and at a depth of a foot they soon laid bare one-fourth diagonally of a splendid pavement in red, white, and blue *tessera*, as fresh and brilliant as the day it was laid down. The space opened was an oblong rectangle, 15 feet by 10 feet, due E. and W. The outer border of this rectangle was occupied by small red half-inch tiles, and was three feet broad on the W. and one and a half feet on the S. It was succeeded by an inner border of blue tiles of the same dimensions, nine inches broad. To these succeeded delicate double lines of small white tiles, inclosing a magnificent scroll border, six inches broad, of interlacing red, white, and blue tiles, succeeded by another double delicate white line. The centre part within this brilliant bordering (and separated from it by a double line of blue tiles), is occupied with a great variety of geometrical figures, such as squares inserted diagonally within squares, others of the chequered pattern, others trapezial, and all centred in a large ellipse. The whole had a most brilliant effect. This floor of *tesserae* was laid down on a bed of cement, which had a great depth of black artificial soil beneath it, distinguishing it from the red clay of the locality. The villa appeared from this partial excavation to have fronted the south. Much charred wood was found around the site. The whole of this pavement appears never to have been excavated, nor do I know (though I should be glad of the information) whether the excavation made has been left open or again filled up. Certainly the other pavements of the villa still lie buried, as evidenced by the square patches before named, and a rich treat awaits the archæologist who will undertake their excavation. Reynolds, in his *Iter Britanniarum* (1799), p. 422, says “Barton, Notts. On the top of a hill near this town is a Roman camp where many coins have been found.” Gough, in his edition (1789) of Camden,

says that at Barton, on the summit of a hill called Brent's hill, there were formerly traces of a camp, which had, however, been levelled. Coins had been found in it. I consider this must have been Roman, especially as Gough says that on the *side* of the hill there appeared to be terraces, "like waves or ploughed lands, one above another, in number 14 or 15, about half a mile long. These works cross from the bottom of the hill." This was, no doubt, a series of terraces of land which the Romans placed under cultivation. We find similar terraces in the neighbourhood of Roman camps in various parts of England, especially on the line of the Wall of Hadrian, in Northumberland. This "Brent's hill" is marked with the words "Ancient fortifications" on the Ordnance map.

In May, 1870, an interesting discovery was made at Oldcotes, about two miles N.W. of Blyth, and close on the Yorkshire border. For three years previously a new Roman Catholic Church had been in course of erection in a field called the "Manor Field," and numerous Roman roofing tiles, with bones of animals, &c., had been occasionally turned up. This led to the digging of several trial pits, and resulted in the discovery of a villa. I will give the particulars in the words of the architect, Mr. S. J. Nicholls, as reported in the *Archæological Journal* (vol. 28, p. 66):—"The principal room excavated was 20 feet in length from N. to S. by 17 feet in width. Close to the south end on the west side was the entrance, marked by a step down and a threshold; at this end appears to have been the gangway across the room, the pattern of the floor being a chequer of 12 in. squares, red and grey alternately . . . 7 feet in width; to this succeeds a band, 14 inches wide, of smaller tesserae, arranged in a very graceful design of scrolls and squares. The centre portion of this band is imperfect, and was not a mere repetition of the design; perhaps a column may have stood here, forming part of the construction of the roof. The remainder of the design consists of a labyrinth almost identical with that discovered at Caerleon . . . The labyrinth, 9 feet 6 inches square, had on two sides a margin, seven inches wide, of very white limestone tesserae . . . and the whole is surrounded by a border

of triangles, alternately red and grey, leaving a broad margin of coarser grey to fill out to the side of the room. The centre of the labyrinth, 2ft. 7in. square, was unfortunately much injured, but the lower portion of a human figure remained, in an attitude of attack; one arm had been extended, with a short broad sword pointed downwards, the lower part of the blade remaining; and over the shoulder the outline of an oval shield was evident. The tesserae were very small, of the same materials as the rest of the work, with the addition of some of a greenish tint. The watershed was towards this centre, which may account for its being so much more damaged than the rest of the work. At the south end, towards the west, there is a projection with rounded corners, perhaps an altar. This and the sides of the room had been finished by a plaster moulding a quarter round, to form a plinth, coloured red. The whole of this pavement rested on a solid bed of concrete. Parallel with this room we discovered another paved room, the tesserae being all grey . . . and 2ft. 6in. lower than the floor of the labyrinth . . . ; the soil here showed abundant traces of charred wood and fragments of coloured plaster, roofing tiles, &c. Other walls were discovered, and partly traced, but probably much more remains yet to be excavated. One singular discovery was that of a rough trough formed of slabs of stone filled with a hardened mass of lime. . . . A large quantity of fragments of decorative paintings on plaster were discovered in various places, including portions of a human figure. The plastered ground of a large part of these paintings was laid on concrete of irregular thickness attached to tiles; these tiles resembled the roofing tiles in being turned up at the sides, but the projecting part or flange had been cut away whilst the clay was wet, so that the tile rested on four points only—an evident arrangement to prevent the absorption of moisture, and suggesting the probability of a painted floor—an idea which has also the negative evidence of a third room being discovered without any existing pavement. We found also a plaster plinth moulding, which has apparently had two painted plaster continuations. The roof tiles were flanged and had a very ingenious

section, with water grooves and a covering tile. The pavement soon began to suffer from exposure and the depredations of visitors, and the whole area of the excavations has been covered up, and it is hoped preserved for future explorations." The general opinion is that the design of the pavement represents Theseus in the Cretan labyrinth. In the "trial" pits which were dug, large quantities of broken pottery and tiles were discovered at a considerable distance from the site of the excavated rooms, showing that the buildings covered a large extent of ground. With regard also to the supposed painted floor, a *floor tile* was found covered with plaster and painted. This is the first example found in England, and confirms Mr. Nicholl's supposition.

Like most of the other Roman villas found in England, these at Barton and Oldcotes seem to have been destroyed by fire, from the quantity of charred wood found.

These, as far as I am aware, are the only Roman villas discovered in Notts., which is, however, more fortunate in this respect than the neighbouring county of Derby, where not a trace of a Roman villa has been found.

In addition to villas we have in various parts of the county evidences of the presence of the Roman settlers in the shape of sepulchral remains, deposits of coin hidden away in hoards, pottery, and smaller articles besides temporary camps &c.; of these, it will probably be best to first take the coins.

In the Harleian MSS. 6824 fo. 51, there is "An account of a Roman urn transcribed from a letter wrote by y^e Reverend M^r Lamb of Southwell Ap. 15 1709" as follows:

"At Upton nigh Southwell in Nottinghamshire in y^e furrow of a land lying on y^e side of a hill much washed away by sudden rains and some^w steep was found a true urn by y^e grating of y^e plough. In it were several round balls w^{ch} fell to dust upon y^e touch, and a great many round things w^{ch} seem to be Romish beads, of blew and speckled colours and of a sort of glass, a bridle curiously enamelled, y^e ground brass, no reins but only bit chain and bosses but all so small y^t they seem to have been made for some less creature yⁿ a horse, lower still was found an

entire egg covered with a hard mummy as also was y^e top of y^e urn, blackish, some^{wt} pitchy, and partly like Spanish juice, w^{ch} being broke open there were found 20 silver coins perhaps scarce to be equalled in England. I have seen but 9 of them (3 of Domitian's) on w^{ch} are these inscriptions :

"Caesar. Aug. F. Domitianus; only reverse a man on horseback Coss (*sic*) V, another Cos II, another August Ceres.

"Caesar Vespasian Aug. Reverse August. Ceres. Nero Caesar Cl. Reverse a man with a branch subscribed Salus Roma, reverse" (apparently of another coin of Nero. W. T. W.) "a man fighting with a Lyon circumscribed Publici P.R.F.

"Vitellius German, Reverse, Pontifex Maximus.

"Ti. Caes. Div. Aug. F. Augustus, Reverse, Pontifex Max.

"*Flac.* with a head upon it. Reverse—a charioteer like one of y^e Olympicks. (This is a family coin W.T.W.)

"In the rest which I have not seen are Augustus Cæsar and 'tis said Julius, Claudius, and Caligula, 2 scarce discernible, but by all taken for Galba and Otho, and a piece or two before y^e Emperours in y^e Consul's time, they are scarce so broad as a sixpence but three times as thick. I have part of y^e pot and mummy by me and part of y^e jaw of a man buried under it. There were so many bones y^t many men must have been buried there. The coins are pretty legible, and the faces very fine."

In this extract, which I believe has never before been published, there are as will be seen by any numismatist, several errors in Mr. Lamb's description of the coins.

Lewis, in his Topographical Dictionary of England, says that at Harworth, 2½ miles W.S.W. from Bawtry, in a part of the parish adjoining the latter town "is the site of a Roman station, where, in 1828, were found silver coins, a portion of a vase, and some fragments of pottery." From Bailey's "Annals of Notts.," vol. iv, p. 362, we learn that the coins were three in number, and were of Antoninus, Hadrian, and Faustina. The exact place of their discovery is called Martin or Merton, and it is added, "The form of the fort or station may still be distinctly traced, and even when the field is covered with full-grown corn an octagon figure is perceptible, from the

stems being shorter on the site of the buildings than in other places." Dickinson, "Hist. of Southwell." p. 2 of Introduction says under the head of Bawtry. "The remains of an ancient camp after the Roman fashion point out this station." This octagon is probably similar to the Roman building of that figure excavated by the late Lord Braybrooke at Weycock in Berkshire.

From Lewis also, we gather the information that at Scaftworth, 1½ mile S.E. from Bawtry, "during the enclosure of the common several Roman antiquities were found;" also, that at Everton, three miles S.E. from Bawtry, "at the time of the enclosure of the parish in 1760 some antiquities were found, and more recently some Roman coins; it has been thought that the vestiges of some fortifications in the parish are the remains of a Roman fort or station, by which passed a Roman road."

In the "Beauties of England and Wales," vol. xii, part I., (Nottingham Division,) p. 302, Mr. F. C. Laird says that in cutting a tunnel for the Chesterfield Canal at Drakelow near Mattersey, many coins of Constantine and human bones were found. He adds, "There is no doubt but that this has been a Roman station, for here ran a Roman road, which, though nearly obliterated, has yet some faint traces, and was evidently connected with the neighbouring station at *Agelocum* or Littleborough." Mr. Laird also says, at p. 309, of Tilne (near Clarborough), "Many Roman antiquities, particularly a *stylus* and several agates and cornelians, with inscriptions and engravings, have been dug up here some years ago." I should be glad if any one in the locality can tell me where these are preserved, or favour me with a copy of the above-named inscriptions. The discovery is no doubt identical with that mentioned by Gough in his (1789) edition of Camden, vol. ii., p. 293, as follows:—"At Tylney, in Hayton Parish, near the market town of E. Retford, was found a Druid amulet of an aqueous transparent colour with yellow streaks, and many Roman seals or cornelians." The above-named "Druid" amulet is undoubtedly of Roman make, and used by Roman hands. At p. 294 Gough also says of Blyth, "Roman coins were found here in 1692."

Coming to the neighbourhood of Worksop, Lewis (*Top. Dict of England*, 7th edit. *sub voce* Worksop,) says that

several coins of Nero and Domitian were found in 1826, near the ruins of the old manor house of Gateford.

From Mr. Bailey's work, vol. iv, p. 196, and from Mr. White's "History of Worksop," p. 98, we gather that at Morton, about five miles E.N.E. of Worksop, there were found in December, 1802, 62 copper and 29 silver Roman coins. A square stone was afterwards set up to mark the spot. Mr. White also says that "a similar find was also made at Shireoaks some years back of small brass coins of the Lower Empire." The same gentleman says that while the grounds were being trenched at Osberton, by the late Mr. J. S. Foljambe, for the purpose of planting a belt of trees in order to screen the house from view from the Retford-road, close to the "third milestone from Worksop, a pot of Roman coins was found. These were small brass ones of the Constantine family." These are now preserved with the Roman altar, found at Littleborough, and numerous other curiosities in Mr. Foljambe's museum at Osberton.

In cutting a portion of the Great Northern Railway near Askham a number of silver and brass coins were found in an urn. Human bones were found with them. Fourteen of the silver coins shewn to the Society of Antiquaries ranged from Julius Cæsar to Domitian. Those of the latter emperor were in very good preservation. (*Pro. Soc. of Antiq.* vol. ii. 1st series, p. 100.)

On the line of the Fosse way, or in its vicinity, in addition to the stations, urns and coins have been found at Flintham (Gough, *Camden*, vol. ii. edit. 1789, p. 288). At Cotgrave, in 1836, some labourers repairing the Fosse way, came upon three skeletons and some Roman coins. Each skeleton had a spear or dagger lying near it. The weapons, &c., passed into the hands of the Rev. J. H. Brown, Archdeacon of Ely, and rector of Cotgrave (Bailey vol. iv, p. 397).

In 1771, a farmer ploughing one of his fields at Hickling, struck upon an urn containing about 200 silver *denarii*. Some of them were of Vespasian. (Bailey, vol. iv, p. 30.) Lewis says this discovery took place on Standard Hill. Somewhere in this neighbourhood occurred the following discovery: "Several Roman coins have lately been discovered in a field near Belvoir, in Nottinghamshire, some

with the head of Adrian, and others with that of Vespasian." (*Gent. Mag.*, January, 1787, p. 83.)

At Widmerpool several Roman coins have also been discovered, including a silver one of Hadrian, and a copper one of Claudius. (Lewis, *Top. Dict. Eng.*) Dr. Stukeley in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 101, says, "Richard Cooper" (of Willoughby) "told me likewise of a pot of Roman money found at Wilford, near Nottingham." This was in 1722, whilst Mr. Laird, writing in 1813, says at p. 182, speaking of Wilford, "Many Roman coins were dug up here a few years ago, most of which which were of the later emperors."

A number of Roman coins and urns were found in 1825 at Kirk Hill, near Zouch-bridge, in the parish of Sutton Bonnington. The whole were in a high state of preservation, and some of the urns were sold for as much as five guineas each. (Bailey, vol. iv, p. 339.)

Reynolds *Iter Brit.*, p. 463, says "*Stanford*, Notts, at the extreme southern point of this county, on the river Soar, has been noted for many Roman coins and other antiquities." This place is only about a mile from Loughborough.

Major Rooke also states (*Archæologia*, vol. ix., p. 203), that several Roman coins had been found at Mansfield, four of which, of Vespasian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, and Constantine, were in his possession.¹ He thinks Mansfield a Roman site, and that a Roman road connected it with Southwell. Traces of such a road are still to be seen, but another discovery of coins at the town took place in 1849. When slightly altering the course of the railway from Mansfield to Pinxton, near the "King's Mill," there was found in a field belonging to the Duke of Portland, at a depth of about two feet, an urn containing between 300 and 400 Roman silver coins, in excellent preservation. They were of Augustus, Vespasian, Lucius Ælius, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Aurelius, Commodus, Septimius Severus, Geta, Julia Augusta, and others. Those of Severus seemed quite new. Sir O. Mosley (*Journal British Archæological Asso-*

¹ Mr. Laird, p. 375, says "many coins" had been found there, some of the Lower Empire.

ciation, vol vii, p. 184), adds Pertinax to this list of emperors.

In vol. iii., p. 1,277, of his "Annals of Nottinghamshire," Mr. Bailey says, under the date of 1765, "A vessel filled with Roman coins was, during the summer of this year, dug up at a place called 'Robin Hood's Pot,' on the road to Rufford. Many of these coins, some of which were of a scarce class, were purchased by John Newton, Esq., of Bulwell Hall." This spot is very near the encampment called "Oldox," named by Major Rooke.

Mr. Lewis tells us that at Selston, nine miles S.W. from Mansfield, about the year 1830, an earthen vase containing silver coins was found in a field in the parish, 18 inches below the surface. It was found whilst ploughing. The coins were in good preservation, and were of Nero, Galba, Vitellius, Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva, and Trajan, besides family coins. Amongst them was a counterfeit of Vespasian.

Mr. Dickinson, in his History of Southwell (1801), p. 97, says that at Thurgarton Priory "more Roman coins than would fill a peck basket were found a few years since on removing a very ancient part of that fabric."

In the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxviii, p. 427, Mr. W. Gain, in describing some irregular earthworks at Laxton and Egmanton, says that several Roman coins had been found at the former place. A *denarius* of Trajan and a second brass were in his possession. At Egmanton a few third brass, principally of Constantine the Great, had been found.

The temporary camps in the county, earthworks, are much obliterated, both those purely Roman, and such British works as the Romans subsequently occupied. Those at Barton and Everton, now quite obliterated, have already been named, also the tower at Harworth. A few others have yet to be named, in some of which it will also be seen that coins and other antiquities have been found.

At Hexgrave Park, four miles N.W. of Southwell, there are the imperfect remains of a large camp. It is noticed by Mr. Dickinson in his History of Southwell, by Major Rooke, in the *Archæologia*, vol. ix, p. 200, and by other writers. It includes an area of 40 acres, and commands extensive prospects. Military weapons have occasionally

been found, and Mr. Laird says, at p. 271, that Roman coins also have occurred. The ditch and vallum were perfect in places some years ago, and probably still remain so. In 1848 there was discovered, either in or near this encampment, a Roman pig of lead of the usual shape, weighing 184lbs. The length of the inscribed surface is $19\frac{3}{4}$ inches, the width $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The letters are an inch in length. It is now preserved at Thurgarton Priory. The incscription is—

C.IVL.PROTI.BRIT.LVT.EX.ARG.

The expansion of which is no doubt *C(aii) Julii Proti Brit (annicum) Lut(udense) ex arg(entaria)*, and signify that it belonged to Caius Julius Protus, that it was British lead from which the silver had been extracted, and that it was from the mines of *Lutudae*. The latter station we know from the number of pigs found bearing its name, and from the Chorography of Ravennas was near Wirksworth in Derbyshire (See my paper on the "Identification of *Navio*, &c.," *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 50). At a place called the "Combes," four miles W.N.W. of Southwell, Major Rooke says, in the *Archæologia*, vol. ix, p. 200, that there are the remains of a Roman camp, where he found several portions of Roman bricks and tiles, "which the farmer told me they frequently turn up in ploughing." At p. 380 of vol. x of the *Archæologia* the same gentleman says that Dr. Pegge had a "first brass" Roman coin from this camp, but it was much defaced. On the same page he says that he had three "middle brass" coins in his possession, found near a camp about one mile south of the "Coombes," and about a mile from the village of Oxon or Oxtan, which he had discovered. It went by the name of "Oldox," which he thinks a contraction for "Old Works." Major Rooke thought it Roman, but as it seems of a very irregular shape in his plan of it (*Archæologia*, vol. 9), I think it is more probably a British camp, though perhaps afterwards occupied by the Romans.

Mr. Dickinson, at p. 7 of his "Explanatory Observations," says that at Epperstone Park are the remains of a Roman camp, very little obliterated, which is called "Holy Hill," whilst Mr. Laird says, p. 273, that a number of Roman coins were found at Epperstone in 1776. This is the camp on "Solly Hill," near Arnold, mentioned by

Dr. Gale, and which he very erroneously considered to be the *Causennæ* of the Itinerary. And Major Rooke, *Archæologia*, vol. x. p. 378, says that at the S.E. end of Sherwood Forest, two miles N.W. of the village of Arnold, there are the remains of a very extensive camp. Part of one end of it had been obliterated. It was 240 yards in breadth, and what remained of its length was 417 yards. The *prætorium* was very visible, and was 17 yards square. He gives a plan of this camp with his account of it, and says that several Roman coins have been found. Mr. Laird, p. 4, also gives an account of this camp, considering it to have been the central depôt of the Roman forces in the district. Its remains are still visible.

Near Mansfield Woodhouse there was a small post thus described by Mr. Laird, p. 399. "At one end of the town (or village properly speaking) there is a small eminence called *Winnyhill*; on this there are some remains of a Roman exploratory camp, of which the double ditch and vallum are still plainly to be seen on the right hand side of the road going to Warsop." And Mr. Dickinson's, p. 3 of Introduction, adds a few further particulars. "Part of a Roman exploratory camp near Mansfield Woodhouse, which, from its great elevation, commands a view of all the neighbouring camps, stations, and roads, especially the great camp in Pleasley Park (co. Derby)."

There appears to have been a Roman settlement of some nature between Dunham and Darlton, where a stone coffin containing a skeleton, and another skeleton beside it, was found in 1834, under a large cedar tree, uprooted by a storm of Jan. 7 in that year. Considerable traces of foundations of buildings still exist in the neighbourhood, which is called Wympton Moor. A village called Wymington or Wymeston formerly existed on this site.

There seem to have been many discoveries of funeral urns in the neighbourhood of Newark. Gough in his 1789 edition of Camden, Vol. ii, p. 291 says "Urn have been found near the Foss at Newark. In 1826 six urns were found in that town in digging the foundation of a house, and Mr. Andrew in his "Manners and Customs of the Romans" p. 94 says "on the Fosse road side, four

¹ London : Simpkin & Marshall, 1848.

urns, in a straight line at equal distances" were found "in one of which was a brass lar or household god, an inch and a half long."

The other minor remains found in the county may be summed up in Mr. Laird's remarks (p. 4). "In various parts of the county also have been found spears, fibulae, and keys of brass and evidently of Roman workmanship. These have more particularly been dug up about Newstead, and between Mansfield and Harlow Wood."

It now only remains for me to endeavour to point out the roads by which the stations, villas, &c., were connected, and this though not perhaps lengthy, is probably the most difficult part of my task.

The principal Roman road is the Fosse way, which enters the county from Lincolnshire at Potter's Hill, about two miles to the N.E. of *Crococolana* (Brough) and bearing in a S.W. direction connects that station with those at East Bridgeford, and Willoughby, close to the latter place entering Leicestershire after a course of about twenty seven and a half English miles. It is still much in the same state as when described by Mr. Laird (p. 5) "easily traced for many miles along the wolds, and is literally a fosse dug so deep that an army might march along it even now, without being seen except by those on the edge of the bank. Several of the roads through the wolds cross it in different places, particularly about Owthorpe and in many parts the remains of the old pitching with stones set on edge, may be found by clearing away the grass and weeds." The road though at present in places used as a means of conveyance especially where it passes through Newark, is grass grown, and its pavement full of deep ruts.

Dr. Gale, thought that a branch of the Ermin street left that road near Greetham Mill in Rutlandshire, bearing for Nottinghamshire, through part of the county of Lincoln. The Bishop of Cloyne and Rev. T. Leman, as we have seen, make this road lead to the bridge at Thorpe. The present Bishop of Nottingham (Dr. Trollope) in the *Proceeding of the Associated Archæological Societies* for 1868 p. 160 says that "there are no traces of such a road now."

It appears certain however that this road led through

Thistleton, and thence N.W. Whether it joined the Fosse way at Thorpe however, is difficult to say, but that a road went from that place or East Stoke to the S.E., on or near the site of the present road through Cotham is more than probable. It would fall into the straight portion of Borobridge Lane, which, from various *indicia*, the name of "Staunton," &c., seems also to have originally had a Roman origin; near their junction there is a "Cold Harbour."

The road from Littleborough to Doncaster forming part of the 5th and 8th Itinera of Antonine, may also be very plainly traced. It passes though Sturton le Steeple, North and South Wheatley, Clayworth, by Drakeholes, the southern part of Everton, and by Plumtree Cottage, near which it enters Yorkshire, proceeding to Tickhill, where it is known as "Sunderland street." At many of these places Roman remains have been found. To the south of Bawtry it is crossed by another Roman road in parts still used, which bears the name in one part of "Long Bank Lane," and further south of "Blyth Road."

From the camp at Arnold a road seems to have gone to the north-north-east, at first called "Hollinwood Lane," (or that lane is on its site). It was continued northwards through Ollerton, and fell into the before-named "Blyth road."

Major Rooke says that a road "goes from Newark to the Forest of Shirewood, through part of Southwell, leaving Norwood Park on the left hand and Kirklington on the right. It then enters the forest, where great part of it has been destroyed, but it seems to appear again near Rainworth Water; this was the old Mansfield Road, and it has formerly been called *the Street*, which appellation proves it to have been a Roman road." Mr. Laird, quoting this (p. 6), adds that near Rainworth Water "it shews itself in an elevated ridge." The extant portions of this road have now a modern one superimposed upon them." It passes the encampment at Hexgrave, and seems to have been continued through Mansfield to the camp at Pleasley in Derbyshire. Dickinson (p. 3), says that it was paved. On his map he makes its eastern end point to the bridge at Winthorpe instead of Southwell.

Another Roman road proceeding to the S.E. from the

Roman station Derventio at Little Chester near Derby, crossed the Trent near the present "Trent Junction" railway station, but though visible and used, on the Derbyshire side, at Sawley, is totally obliterated on the Notts side. It seems however where last visible, to be undoubtedly pointing to the station at Willoughby (*Verometum*).

There are numerous other roads in the county which I am convinced are of Roman origin. Many are now modernised, and so altered that their origin is not at first suspected, and others have been much destroyed for agricultural purposes. Mr. Laird says, p. 6. "The forest tracts also contain many vestiges of those military ways which are invariably in a north west direction, that seeming to have been their line of march through this district, and these are in many places accompanied by exploratory camps." Would that modern improvements had spared more of them. At present little can be detected, but accurate survey might elicit much information. Let us hope this may be accomplished.