

# PROCEEDINGS

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WITH

**Communications**

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXVI.

BEING No. 3 OF THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

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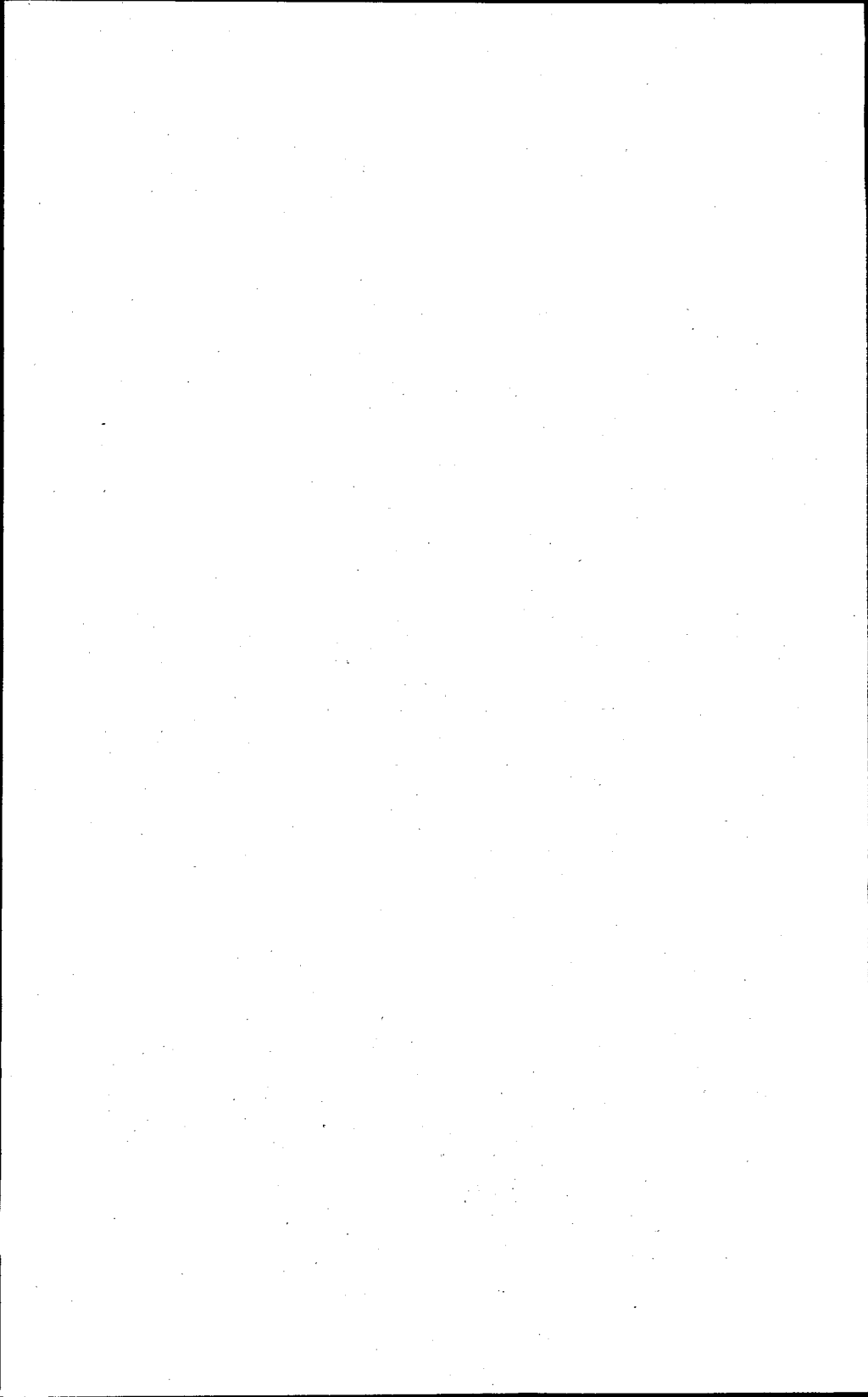
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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

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OF THE  
**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**  
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VOL. VIII.



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VOL. II.

1891—1894.

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Professor HUGHES made the following communication :

ON SOME ANCIENT DITCHES AND MEDIEVAL  
REMAINS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF RECENT EXCA-  
VATIONS NEAR THE PITT PRESS.

INTRODUCTION.

I have already (25 January, 1892) laid before the Society the results of some excavations carried on near the Barnwell Gate<sup>1</sup>, from which I inferred that there were traces of earlier ditches than that dug by order of Henry III., and commonly referred to as the King's Ditch. Owing to the want of any museum in this country in which specimens of medieval date are arranged and labelled so as to be available for comparative study, I had great difficulty in determining the age of many of the objects there found, but, nevertheless, I offered a tentative classification, founded upon the relative position of the remains found in Cambridge, and supplemented by such small scraps of evidence as I could collect elsewhere.

One principal point on which I laid stress on the former occasion was that several pits and trenches were found near the line along which Henry III. is supposed to have carried his great fosse. Had one only been observed it would undoubtedly have been referred to him, and we should have had to explain away the occurrence of older relics in it by supposing that they were turned up in the surface-soil of adjoining gardens, and thrown in with weeds, stones, &c. This may be true in many cases, but we have now the fact to face that there are, not only here but at other points, several ditches along the strip of land adjoining the King's Ditch, and that at different horizons in them, and in the surrounding made ground, different groups of relics were found. It seemed that there were long periods of neglect during which the ditches got silted up, or choked with rubbish, and perhaps even purposely filled and built over; and that then there occurred times of beating the boundaries, contesting encroachments, and cleaning out the ditches.

<sup>1</sup> *Camb. Ant. Soc. Proc. and Comm.* Vol. VIII. p. 32.

It will be understood that a description of the contents of the ditches necessarily tells the story of their infilling only, and not of their excavation, and, as this infilling was not done all at once, their contents belong to different ages. Some parts of the King's Ditch have been filled up within the memory of man. As a rule a ditch cannot be newer than the oldest objects found in it; but there are sources of error in this. Rubbish of much greater antiquity than the digging of the ditch may be gathered off the surrounding ground and thrown in, or, more commonly, when a ditch is being filled, the soil used for the purpose may be full of ancient remains. In this way, for instance, we account for Roman pottery in the soil covering the much later interments on the hill above Cherryhinton. The period of excavation of a ditch may be indicated in somewhat the same way. If the material dug out be of a well-marked character, as gravel or clay, it can be readily distinguished from the old surface-soil alongside the ditch, and the ditch cannot be older than the newest objects so covered, which were lying on the surface of the ground when the material was thrown out from the ditch on to that surface.

#### SUPPLEMENT TO FORMER PAPER.

I have already begun to profit by my boldness in publishing the very incomplete records derived from the excavations along the ditches near Barnwell Gate, in the assistance and information I am getting from friends to whom my former paper explained the line of enquiry I was endeavouring to follow. For instance, I figured (Pl. IX. fig. 76) a curious bone ratchet, for which I could not suggest any use<sup>1</sup>. It was found with a jug which I was inclined to refer to the 13th century. My friend Mr Arthur G. Wright, the able superintendent of the Guildhall Museum in London, having seen this figure and remark, pointed out at once that it was the ratchet of a cross-bow. Now in 1485 Henry VII. instituted the Yeomen of the Guard, who all used the long bow, and a few years later (19th Henry VII.) the use of the cross-bow was forbidden by Act of Parliament.

<sup>1</sup> *Camb. Ant. Soc. Proc. and Comm.* Vol. VIII. p. 50.



My friend Mr J. W. Clark, in the course of his researches into the history of medieval libraries<sup>1</sup>, came upon the description of two waxed tablets containing an account of the travels of Philippe le Bel, and of the expenses incurred.

In Franklin's<sup>2</sup> history of the Library of Saint-Germain-des-Prés he mentions among the treasures once to be seen there :

"Des tablettes de bois, enduites de cire. 'Il y a,' dit Dubreul<sup>3</sup>, 'huit tablettes de bois, longues chacune de treize pouces et larges de cinq, cirées des deux costez. Et sur la cire, de l'écriture faite avec le poinçon ou burin proprement dit *graphium*. De laquelle une partie se peut encore lire. Qui nous monstre *quomodo veteres scribebant in ceratis tabulis*.' Ces précieuses tablettes renferment l'itinéraire de Philippe le Bel depuis le mois de janvier jusqu'en juillet 1307; elles ont été publiées par M. Natalis de Wailly, et le *fac-simile* de l'une d'elles a été reproduit dans le *Nouveau traité de diplomatique*."

In the account of the Abbaye de Saint Victor<sup>4</sup> also, Franklin describes another similar volume of waxed tablets :

"Mentionnons enfin des tablettes de bois enduites de cire et mieux conservées que celles qui existaient à la bibliothèque de l'Abbaye de Saint-Germain-des-Prés. 'Ces tablettes,' dit Leprince<sup>5</sup>, 'sont composées de quatorze gros feuillets, y compris la couverture, dont la partie intérieure fait le commencement et la fin. Elles sont plus longues et plus larges que celles que l'on voit ailleurs. L'on n'y rencontre presque point de lacunes. Elles contiennent les dépenses faites par Philippe le Bel pendant une partie de ses voyages, depuis le 28 Avril 1301 jusqu'au 31 mars 1302.'"

These descriptions agree very closely with that of the waxed tablets from the excavations in Sidney Street<sup>7</sup>, and the facsimile of a page by M. de Wailly has a wonderful resemblance

<sup>1</sup> *Libraries in the Medieval and Renaissance Periods*. The Rede Lecture delivered June 13, 1894. 8vo. Camb. 1894.

<sup>2</sup> *Les Anciennes Bibliothèques de Paris*, par Alfred Franklin, i. 131, part of the *Histoire Générale de Paris*, 4to. Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1867.

<sup>3</sup> J. Dubreul, *Théâtre des Antiquités de Paris*, p. 289.

<sup>4</sup> Tom. I. p. 468. Voyez encore une dissertation de l'abbé Le Beuf dans les *Mémoires de l'Académie des inscriptions*, tom. xxxiii. de l'édition in-12.

<sup>5</sup> *Les Anciennes Bibliothèques*, ut supra, p. 169.

<sup>6</sup> Leprince, *Essai historique sur la bibliothèque du roi*, p. 338. Voyez encore Jordan, *Histoire d'un voyage littéraire*, p. 72, et le *Nouveau traité de diplomatique*, i. 458.

<sup>7</sup> *Camb. Ant. Soc. Proc. and Comm.* Vol. VIII. p. 50.

in the form of the writing and all other details to the undeciphered page which Mr Dew Smith has so skilfully reproduced for me<sup>1</sup>.

I saw no reason for questioning the accuracy of the information I got from the workmen, and offered an explanation of the preservation of such perishable material as wood and wax. The associated remains I referred to the 13th and 14th centuries. It is very satisfactory therefore to find these French examples dated 1301 to 1307.

#### THE TOWN DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES.

The view that there was a ditch round Cambridge long before the time of Henry III. is amply confirmed by documentary evidence, and also by the further discoveries now described, as is, by inference, the suggestion that the gates, such as they were, stood within the ditch. On the 6th, of November, 1215, about half-a-century before the date of Henry III.'s ditch, King John commanded the Barons of the Exchequer to allow to the Bailiffs of Cambridge the costs they had incurred in enclosing the town, and making pickaxes, spades, and iron hooks<sup>2</sup>—implements which indicate digging only.

In the letters patent issued by Henry III. 22 February, 1268, among other provisions intended to promote concord between the University and Town, we find the following :

Further, we will that the Town of Cambridge be cleaned of mud and filth, and be kept clean ; and that the watercourses be opened as they used to be formerly, and when opened be watched, in order that filth may flow freely through them, unless necessity or convenience stand in the way ; and further that all obstacles to traffic be got rid of ; and especially that the Great Ditch of the Town be cleaned<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Camb. Ant. Soc. Proc. and Comm.* VIII. 50. Plate ix. fig. 74. Plate x.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Claus. 17 John. membr. 19, ed. Hardy, p. 234 b. Rex baronibus de scaccario salutem. Computate Ballivis Cantabrigie custum quod posuerunt per visum et testimonium legalium hominum in clastura ville Cant', et in pikosiis et beschis et crokis ferreis faciendis et in cariagio armorum, scalarum, targiarum, et cordarum. Teste me ipso apud Roffam, vj. die Novembris, anno regni nostri xvij<sup>mo</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Pat. 52 Hen. III. membr. 26. Preterea volumus quod villa Canteburggie a fimis et sordibus mundetur et munda teneatur, et quod

In these directions the *watercourses* are spoken of as distinct from the *Great Ditch*; yet both, apparently, had to do with the drainage.

I will next quote a passage from the *Architectural History of the University and Colleges*. Professor Willis is describing the ancient condition of Garret Ostell Greene, now part of the site of Trinity College, but then an island.

This was a piece of common land.....separated from the site of Michael House by a ditch called the Town Ditch.....But from the expressions used in the deeds of the fourteenth century it is plain that the ditch in question had at that period not only a free current of water through it from the river, but was navigable for barges. We have found it described as "running water (*aquam currentem*)," "stream of water (*filum aque*)," "King's Stream (*aquam Domini Regis*)" etc.; and it had the landing-place called Flaxhythe near its southern extremity....But when the hithes had become [private] property...the canal fell into disuse for navigation, and became merely a boundary ditch, called "Kyngs Dyche" (*fossatum Regis*), or "common ditch," names employed for the ordinary ditches by which the commons were fenced in, as well as for the great ditch which King Henry the Third made for the defence of the town<sup>1</sup>.

In a deed dated 1423 this same boundary ditch is called *fossatum commune*. It is evident that from these traditional names we cannot infer much respecting the age or origin of any particular ditch to which they may have been from time to time applied. As the ditch got filled the idea of boundary rather than of fosse was attached to the name, and at last it would be applied to all the unenclosed area through which the ditch ran. This, being no man's land, was claimed by the Crown, and, as it became a kind of common, would be pastured by riparian owners, and rubbish freely shot on to it. We can easily understand how such an area would be encroached upon by buildings, how tributary ditches, having no outfall when the main ditch was choked, would become a nuisance and be filled up, and how at last there would be complaints, and an

*aqueductus aperiantur sicuti antiquitus esse solebant, ac aperti custodian-  
tur, vt per eos sordes effluere possint, nisi alia necessitas aut vtilitas obste-  
terit; et quod alia obstacula transitum impediencia amoueantur, et pre-  
cipue ut magnum fossatum ville mundetur.*

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Hist.* ii. 405.

order made to re-open the outer main ditch. When this was done it would often have been found easier to divert it a little from its original course, to straighten it here, and extend it there, to avoid stopping roads and pathways which had become established, or undermining buildings which had advanced beyond the original boundary. This is the history which is suggested by the scattered notices of the Cambridge ditches which we find in early documents, and which best explains the results of recent excavations.

In the right-hand upper corner of Lyne's plan of Cambridge, dated 1574, a short account of the town is printed, from which I will translate the following passage :

Henry the Third, King of England, fortified Cambridge with a ditch and gates about 1265. At that time he defended himself there against the wrongdoing and the attacks of certain outlaws who held the Isle of Ely. Moreover he would have surrounded it with a wall as well, had not London been occupied in his absence by Gilbert Earl of Clare, so that he was obliged to confront a fresh danger. Some trace of this ditch, which from that time was called the King's Ditch, is to be seen on this plan. But that which in the first instance was set out with very deep and very wide excavations for the circumvallation and defence of the town, now provides fairly well for the cleansing of filth from the streets, and for washing dirt into the River Granta. If the men of Cambridge would cooperate and cause the rivulet (*amniculus*) which is now at Trumpington Ford to flush this ditch, no town would be more charming than Cambridge, and the memory of so great a benefit would not be more gratifying to posterity, than agreeable and profitable to themselves.

The above account is too short to enable us to gather from it whether the fosse was made instead of the wall, or whether the plan was to build a wall round the town inside the fosse. If this was proposed previous to the digging of the fosse, we must infer that a sufficient space for a great town wall was left between the fosse and the houses. Again, what was the 'rivulet (*amniculus*) which was at Trumpington Ford'? Was it the Vicar's Brook which had to be forded on the way to Trumpington, or an artificially banked stream along the line of Hobson's Conduit, or a leet coming off near the traditional ford between Trumpington and Grantchester, and running along the west flank of Dam Hill (so called from the bank for ponding

back the water) across Vicar's Brook west of the Leys and of Peterhouse, and into the King's Ditch near the King's Mill which it would serve en route? This water would flow along the whole length of the King's Ditch, and out opposite Magdalene College. Hobson seems to have taken the hint given by Lyne at the end of his description, and turned a body of water into Cambridge—but he took it from the Shelford springs, as had been previously partly done by Dr Perne.

Dr Perne, when Vice-Chancellor, writing to Lord Burghley about the plague, 21 November, 1574, says:

I do send to your honor a brief note of such as have died of the plage in Cambridge hitherto, with a mappe of Cambridge, the which I did first make principally for this cause, to shewe how the water that cometh from Shelford to Trumpingtonford and from thence nowe doth passe to y<sup>e</sup> Mylles in Cambridge, as appearith by a blewe line drawne in the said mappe from Trumpingtonford, (withowte any comoditie) might be conveighed from the said Trumpingtonford into the King's ditch, the which waie as appearith by a red lyne drawne from the said Trumpingtonford to the King's Ditch, for the perpetual scouringe of the same, the which would be a singular benefite for the healthsomes both of the Universitie and of the Towne, besides other comodities that might arise thereby. I do trust in Almighty God, and I do greatly desire to see this thinge once brought to passe which hath been of longe tyme wished for of many<sup>1</sup>.

The question as to whether or not Cambridge was fortified at any time, arose out of an examination of the ground close to the Barnwell Gate, and I could not find that there were any traces of a strong defence at that point. All the relics I procured were objects of domestic use. No stones, or bolted beams, or instruments of war, were, as far as I saw, turned out of the ditches anywhere. The position was, probably, important more from its being on a great thoroughfare than from its being just within a fortified entrance. But I cannot find any reason for

<sup>1</sup> Cooper, *Annals*, ii. 323. When a supply of water was brought into the town from Shelford in 1610 (*Ibid.* iii. 37) it is described as a "current of water arising or running from the...Nine Wells...down to the ford commonly called Trumpington Ford, and from thence by a watercourse...newly...made, partly in the fields, and partly in the Town of Cambridge, and through the said common drain or sewer called the King's Ditch, into the river and high stream there."

placing the Barnwell gate where indicated on the 10 foot ordnance map. On the contrary, in the account of the destruction of the gate by the Islanders, i.e., the disaffected inhabitants of the Isle of Ely, it is said that the enemy forded the ditch and destroyed the gate. There would be little use in putting a gate on the outside of the ditch where the enemy could destroy it under cover of the gate itself, with little chance of support for the defenders.

If now we turn to the south entrance, near the Trumpington gate, we find similar doubts and difficulties. Trumpington gate is supposed to have stood somewhere on the road which runs between Pembroke College and the church of S. Mary the Less, but, if the ditch which runs along Mill Lane be the equivalent or continuation of that which runs down Hobson Street, which, however, is not certain, the gate would here also probably be placed on the *inside*, that is, nearer to S. Botolph's church. The church of S. Botolph, the patron saint of wayfarers and vagabonds, should be near the entrance to the town. Mr Robert Ellis, whose memory carries him back to the beginning of the century, has given me much valuable information, and allowed me to copy a MS. map constructed by him to show the position of the King's Ditch and adjoining properties in the neighbourhood of Garlic Fair Lane in the year 1818, where a considerable part of the King's Ditch was still open. Mr Ellis, whose zeal for the interests of the Borough led him particularly to enquire into the tenure of various strips of property belonging to it, is of opinion that a careful examination of the position of the King's Ditch would often assist in determining the exact limits of the area belonging to the Corporation, because the ditch and its marginal waste, generally, according to him, about 24 feet in breadth, which was originally claimed by the Crown, subsequently became the property of the Corporation. Mr Ellis supports the view that the gates were inside the ditch by the ingenious argument that at each end of what, on this hypothesis, was the gate, there is, or was, both in Sidney Street and Trumpington Street, a small separate property of such extent as might have been left for the gatehouse and

its opposite post and flanking defence. Dr Caius<sup>1</sup> says that he recollected the two posts of the Barnwell Gate, though one was gone by the time he wrote. He also describes the position of the Trumpington Gate, but he does not say whether they were inside or outside the King's Ditch, and his description does not enable us to determine their exact place.

I have now endeavoured to trace further east and south the two ditches of which I formerly obtained evidence as running, one along Hobson's Street under the new Post Office and down Tibb's Row, the other under Mr Hunnybun's premises, and, as I was informed by Mr Burwick, touched again under Messrs Cork and Child's, where it was seen turning away to the south.

Mr Moyes informed me that one ditch passed across the corner of the bowling green of the Lion Hotel, and that the edge of it was supposed to have been touched in digging the foundations of the Masonic Club. That which ran up Tibb's Row seems to have turned a little south under the end of the Vicar's Buildings, and if so would probably be continued east of the Masonic Hall to the ditch which is known to run into the corner of the site of the old Botanic Garden. When the foundations of the new Chemical Laboratory were being dug this ditch was exposed, and though its occurrence was not unforeseen, it cost the University a considerable additional sum of money. There was a single deep trench, which was filled with black silt and pottery and bones of medieval date, but some of the water from Hobson's conduit found its way north along it. I am not aware of any second ditch having ever been observed along this line. It ran obliquely across the site of the old Botanic Garden, from the south-west corner of the new Chemical Laboratory to the north-east corner of the new Museum buildings, and west of the old Chemical Laboratory.

#### EXCAVATIONS AT THE PITT PRESS.

When the foundations of the Press Extension buildings were dug last summer, the whole area as far as excavated was found to be covered with medieval remains of various kinds. It was evidently upon the area along which the great boundary

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. Cant. Acad.* 116.

ditches of the town ran, and yet was close to dwellings, the household rubbish from which had been for ages thrown away into the ditches, or into pits dug for the purpose, while here and there wells had been sunk into the waterbearing base of the gravel, and carefully lined with brick or dressed stone. These wells had almost always been filled with rubbish, purposely thrown in at some remote period. The section across the area now described was as follows (fig. 1).

S. Botolph's Hostel stood somewhere on the margin of this ditch between Penny Farthing Lane and Pembroke College, and this site was in Fuller's time occupied by a cook named Wenham. Near the ditch on the other side of Trunpington Street, where the tower of the Press now is, stood the inn called The Cardinal's Hat<sup>1</sup>, so that ample provision was made for the accommodation of travellers immediately upon their arrival in the town.

Unfortunately there was no systematic record of the exact position of the ditch first opened, or of the relics disinterred during the early part of the excavations. A good deal of the work had been done before I noticed that earth was being removed from the site, after which I endeavoured to make notes of the sections and of the position of the objects found.

The area may conveniently be described under three heads: (1) the site approached from Silver Street; (2) the site on the north side of Mill Lane; and (3) the site on the south side of Mill Lane.

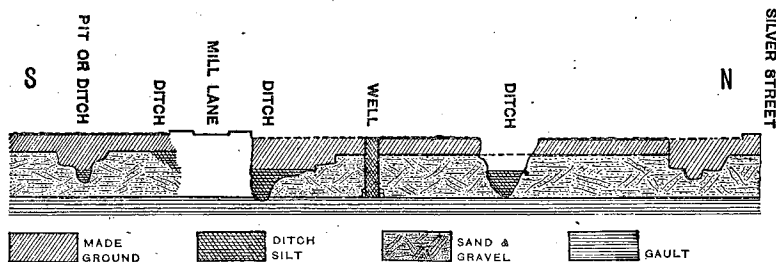


FIG. 1. Section of area described.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Hist.* III, 135. The Inn of that name is now in the lane at the back of Mr Headley's premises.



## THE AREA ADJOINING SILVER STREET ON THE SOUTH.

On the south side of Silver Street, nearly opposite the back entrance to the Master of S. Catharine's Lodge, there was a varying but considerable depth, generally 10 feet or more, of made earth, and various classes of objects occurred in different patches of ground. In the south-west corner<sup>1</sup> there was a pit in which numerous fragments of slip ware were found. Among these was a figure (Pl. XIV. fig. 15) with the hands crossing the front of the body, and perhaps intended to be represented as supporting a small shallow basin  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch across, such as might have been used as a vessel for holy water. A rosary hangs down nearly to the ground on the left, and two white bands are seen in the folds of the dress on the right. The head of the figure is unfortunately lost. There were a good many vessels of a similar slip ware from this locality.

As deep excavations were being carried on at the same time over several parts of this area, as well as inside the buildings to the south, there is some little doubt as to the association of objects obtained from the workmen here.

Further back to the south, but before the first ditch was reached, a great number of tobacco pipes were found together. These did not appear to be the broken pipes thrown out from some place of public entertainment, for there were many perfect specimens. They belong to the 4th period of the tentative classification offered to the Society. Behind the Black Lion Inn, and about 35 yards from the street, there was a deep ditch. My informant, one of the workmen engaged on the spot during the excavations, said it was some 20 feet deep. It ran under the new buildings at the west side of the area, and was again dug into for some alterations necessitated under the old buildings further east. This would indicate a direction through the middle of the block between Silver Street and Mill Lane. This part I saw, and from it procured some pottery which may belong to a period from the 13th to the 15th century. I cannot help suspecting that whereas near Barnwell Gate the inner ditch was

<sup>1</sup> Most of the specimens from this part of the site were obtained by Mr Freeman, who kindly placed them at my disposal for description.

the older, here, on the contrary, near Trumpington Gate, of the two ditches opened on this occasion, the outer may be the older. It may be that in the time of Henry III. they reopened part of the older ditch, so that the two lines coincided through the site of the old Botanic Garden, and then carried the new extension north of the original line, filling the outer and older ditch when it left it again. Perhaps changes in the pool below the mills may have called for a different outfall. Perhaps the equivalent of what we have spoken of as Hunnybun's Ditch may run further south than Mill Lane, i.e. nearer Mr Hough's garden.

#### THE AREA ADJOINING MILL LANE ON THE NORTH.

About half way across the site from east to west, on the north side of Mill Lane, and some four feet from the north wall of the new block of buildings, there was a well 12 feet 9 inches deep, square at the bottom, measuring inside 2 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, walled to a depth of 2 feet 4 inches with dressed blocks of Barnack stone, evidently derived from some ancient building, as there were several split columns about a foot in diameter used up in the work. At the bottom of this well or cesspool there was a mass of black mud, containing much vegetable matter, and fragments of iron and pottery. Among the other objects found here was a large colander in coarse red partly glazed ware. It was broken, but nearly all the pieces were present, so that its size and shape could be ascertained. It measured 12 inches in diameter by 3 inches in depth, and had short projecting drawn out knobs to catch on to an iron ring or frame. A green-glazed, vertically fluted, pipkin or porringer was also found, with fragments of various other pots and pans, and a few pieces of iron such as might have been part of the handle of a bucket. There were also a number of uppers and soles of hobnailed boots, of much larger size than those found in the adjoining ditch<sup>1</sup>. The leather was black and sodden, but well preserved. All traces of thread had perished, but the marks of the stitching could be seen on the leather. The boots were strongly curved to

<sup>1</sup> See fig. 2, p. 276, No. 4.

the natural form of the foot. There was one small glass tumbler with an ornamented base, but this had probably fallen in at some much later date than the other objects mentioned above.

In the upper part of the deposit, where what may be called the made ground extended across the black silty deposit in the ditch, there were large round bottles or flagons of at least two sizes, one having a base as large as a magnum, the other smaller, but as to the age of these I am unable to offer any suggestion. As the whole area was at one time or another waste land, over which rubbish might be shot, and in which gravel pits were dug, there were many isolated objects brought to me the exact association of which I am unable to record, but which often suggest points in the history of the site. The coins and tokens found, as far as I can make out, do not carry us farther back than the time of Charles II., and consist chiefly of Nuremberg tokens. But such metal objects work their way down, and fall unobserved out of surface soil to the bottom of a pit, and moreover a large number of the workmen in a district like this always have a few in their pockets. So that unless one finds them oneself *in situ* they do not as a rule furnish trustworthy evidence.

#### THE MILL LANE DITCH.

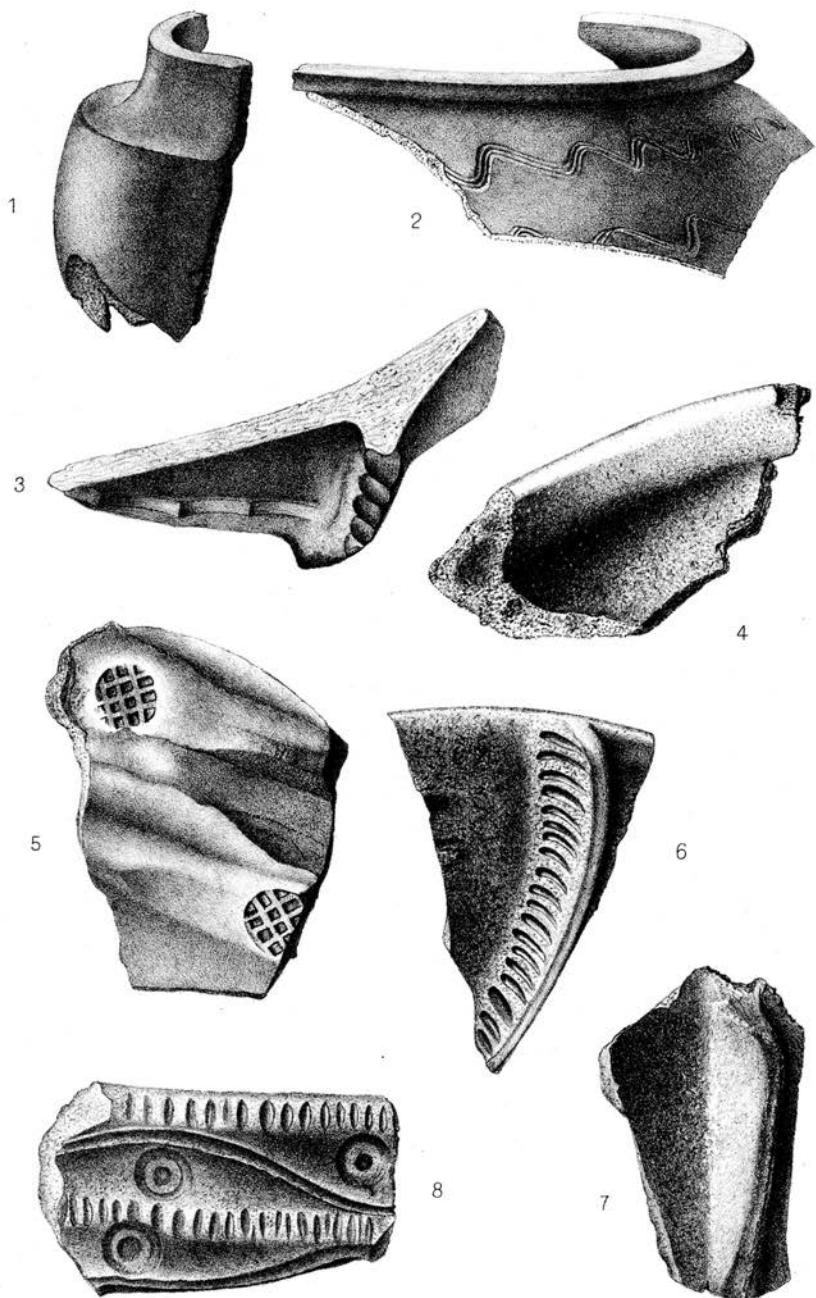
Along the north side of Mill Lane, and partly under the roadway, a deep ditch was found, agreeing exactly both in dimensions and in the objects found in it with that described in my former paper as Hunnybun's Ditch. The quantity and variety of the pottery of identical character in the two ditches points to their having been filled during the same period. We rarely found any pieces that could be joined together except those obviously broken recently by the workmen's tools. They were fragments which had been scattered over the waste ground on which rubbish had been thrown. The unglazed black pottery, in texture and form strongly resembling Roman ware, occurred in this ditch abundantly, and in such a manner as to leave no room for doubt that it was contemporaneous with the jugs with fluted and stamped handles, and to render it almost

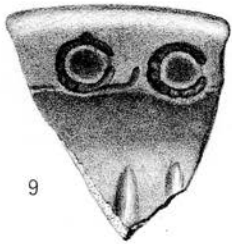
certain that it was in common use down to the time of the tall red jugs with long necks and pinched base, the first appearance of which we have referred to the 13th century. Although we have now some better specimens, the character of most of them is so exactly like that of the vessels figured in my former paper (Plates II. III. IV. figs. 18—21)<sup>1</sup> that it is unnecessary to repeat either the description or the figures. There are, however, some forms not observed among the pottery from the Barnwell Gate which call for notice, either as showing the persistence of Roman characters in medieval vessels, or their association with more obvious productions of the Middle Ages. We should not formerly have had much hesitation in referring No. 1 to Roman manufacture (Pl. XIII. fig. 1). It has a grey paste with a kiln-blackened exterior, and is of a hard texture with metallic ring. There was also a portion of the rim of what was probably a saucer-like vessel with zig-zag markings, and several portions of a vessel similar to one from the Barnwell Gate (Pl. II. fig. 1), but which is of sufficient interest to be figured here (Pl. XIII. fig. 2). It has a strongly bent back rim, and two lines of zig-zag pattern roughly scraped on with a hard body which opened into three or more points, as it might be a broken stick. This, while on the one hand resembling the Roman ware in texture, and, except for its strongly bent back rim, in form also, is connected with medieval pottery by the pattern, which is the same as that which occurs on the glazed red vessel figured above (Pl. VI. fig. 48) and less clearly in fig. 53. It is in trifles of this sort, rather than in similarity of form such as might be determined by domestic requirements, that we may expect to see evidence of continuity of manufacture through long ages in any district.

The coarse ware with white specks of calcined flint in vessels with rims  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad occurred here also. Pipkins were also found, we may almost say as a matter of course.

There were a good many portions of handles and rims of

<sup>1</sup> Plates II. to XI. were published in illustration of my former paper. Plates XIII. and XIV. are in illustration of this paper.

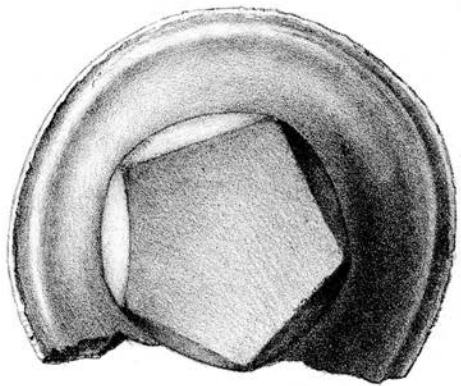




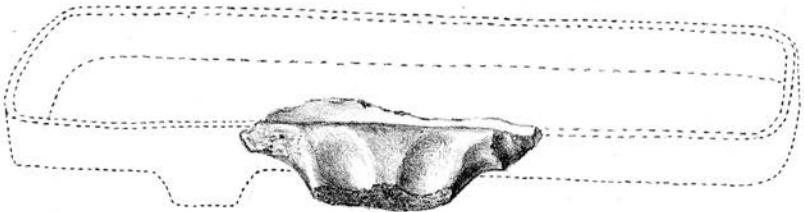
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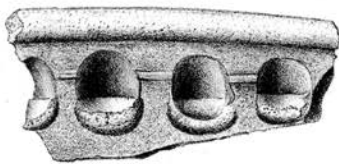
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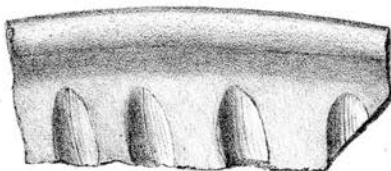
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15

large jugs of the same unglazed hard black ware. In all of these the handles sprang from close to the rim, and in most of them were flat and fluted (Pl. v. fig. 31), though a few were round as in Pl. v. fig. 37. The handles were pinched on, the impressions of the fingers being very clear, and arranged more or less symmetrically; but the handle appears to have been generally brushed over when still wet to remove all traces of joining, so that the skin marks are obliterated. It is difficult to suggest a reason for some of the mouldings on this dark grey ware. The base-rim of No. 3 for instance (Pl. XIII. fig. 3) is symmetrically scalloped, and has remains of a projecting band, cut, when the clay was soft, into a transverse ridge and furrow, at intervals of about three-quarters of an inch. Of course a vessel so marked would not be so likely to slip off the irons as a smooth bottomed one..

There were fragments of vessels of reddish unglazed ware, with the white speckly appearance given by chips of calcined flint, and much resembling Roman mortaria (Pl. XIII. fig. 4). On one piece of this black ware (*ibid.* fig. 5) there was the cross-bar stamp with which we are familiar on Saxon cinerary urns—another small connecting link between the Old English and Roman ware.

We found the next group mixed up with these fragments of black ware, but becoming more common in higher and newer deposits when any sequence was clear. In this the ware was more often red, or at any rate red inside. The common forms of jug still prevailed, but the fluting of the handle was supplemented or superseded by irregular perforations made with some sharp pointed instrument, and arranged in rows or in patterns along the handles and around their place of attachment. In some cases it seems as if these deep punctures were made where a separately moulded piece of clay had to be attached to the vessel, as at the base of a handle, so as to drive some of the clay of the handle through into the vessel and so clip it on as it were. These are all modifications of the forms already figured (Pl. v. figs. 29—33 and 34—37). The red jugs and other vessels found with them were at first unglazed, then partially glazed, and the

glaze allowed to run irregularly down the sides. Whole glazing does not appear to have been general at any time.

There were some vessels belonging to the oldest type of glazed pottery with flat fin-like projections. The parts thus thickened and strengthened are generally the only fragments preserved (Pl. XIII. figs. 6 and 7). This ware has a strong metallic, dark, or yellowish green glaze.

A portion of a large coarse vessel with a rough glaze has such an interesting ornamentation that I have thought it worth reproducing (Pl. XIII. fig. 8). A barred pattern runs round the rim, and is repeated below at about an inch from it. Between the two a strong furrow is traced, probably in long loops, but the fragment is too small to make this out. Above and below this furrow alternately there are circular stamps, also strongly reminding us of some of those seen on Saxon cinerary urns. On another piece a similar stamp occurs in which the ring is interrupted in the manner seen on stencil-plates (Pl. XIV. fig. 9). We found here a considerable number of the bases of the tall red jugs with pinched base which occur everywhere in deposits belonging to the 13th and two following centuries. There were also several small bases, or stands, of vessels of a somewhat brighter red ware and glaze, but I do not know the exact spot where these were found, and can offer no evidence as to their age. There was the red pipkin, the *tire-lire* or money pot, like that formerly figured (Pl. VII. figs. 62, 63 and 64), and another curious little vessel like that represented on Plate IV. fig. 22. A saucer (Pl. XIV. fig. 10), of red unglazed ware, a little under 4 inches across, and 1½ inches in height, is remarkable for its pentagonal base. It occurred with the long red jugs like that figured above (Pl. V. fig. 28).

A rectangular earthen frying-pan (Pl. XIV. fig. 11) occurred in more than one locality on this site. The outline of one of these has been restored from a nearly perfect specimen procured by Mr White during some excavations recently carried on in Trinity College<sup>1</sup>. That vessel had apparently sagged and got crooked in the burning, and was adjusted by the addition of an

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 297.



earthen foot. Some of the pans were coarsely ornamented round the margin by squeezing a portion of the clay down, probably with a bit of wood. This caused a small ledge and hollow above it, which is finely fluted by the jagged edge of the instrument with which it was done (Pl. XIV. figs. 11, 12). Other vessels exactly similar to those found near the Barnwell Gate occurred in about the same numbers. For example, the red ware spout (Pl. IV. fig. 24), the dark green-glazed porringer and jugs (Pl. V. fig. 37, Pl. VI. figs. 50—52), and the red-glazed dish with a zig-zag pattern incised before glazing (*ibid.* fig. 48), the colanders, the brown-glazed ware with yellow slip (Pl. VII.), and the Cullen ware and greybeards of the varieties shown on Plate VIII. were all represented here also.

The bones of a pike may have been kitchen refuse, or have belonged to the time when, in flood at any rate, there was free access along the ditch from the river. It is clear from the stratified silt with freshwater shells that this ditch was often full of water, whether this came chiefly from the river or from the springs in the base of the gravel or along the channel cut for the purpose of flushing it. Before the existing network of gutters and drains had diverted the underground waters from their natural course it is probable that this ditch, carried down to the gault, would tap a considerable body of water in the gravel. Oyster shells were very rare, this fact of itself being enough in this district to prove that the pottery was medieval not Roman, which is confirmed by the absence of Samian ware. I obtained two small bracelets of twisted bronze (Pl. XIV. fig. 14), which were said to have been found here. I obtained also two bone handles and one of bronze, a large coarse knife-blade, and fragments of what look like iron bucket-handles. The metatarsal of a deer sawn across one end and partly sawn across the other, points to the probable home manufacture of such handles, and other common articles of domestic use. No tobacco pipes occurred in the silt of the ditch, but in the surface made-ground, which was of great thickness and extended over the ditches and surrounding area, pipes were found of various ages, ranging from the small elfin-pipe only  $\frac{2}{3}$

inch internal diameter to the long straight-bowled pipe of William III. These were all broken pipes which had been thrown away, but those described above from the new buildings west of the Press seem to have formed part of a stock of whole pipes.

Bones of the Horse, Ox, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Dog, Cock, Duck, and Pike were found, and a shell of *Fusus antiquus*. The horses were small, but, as shown by the teeth, adult. The oxen could all be referred to the same small short-horned breed, with occasional slight variations in the flatness of the horn-core and in the height and position of the occipital ridge. They showed a reversion from the improved Romano-British breed to the type of *Bos longifrons*<sup>1</sup>. There was a very large number of horn-cores in proportion to the other bones. In seeking an explanation of this I obtained much curious information, some of which seems to bear upon our enquiry, and I have therefore recorded it below. The sheep had strong, very flat-fronted horns. The goat had nothing very distinctive about it. Most of the remains found here were those of young animals which had been used for food. The pig was a long straight-faced breed. The dog was a powerful mastiff. The remains of cock and duck were rare, and suggest no remark.

#### HORN-CORES OF OXEN.

It is not easy nowadays to realise what must have been the state of the towns and of the surroundings of the houses in mediæval times, before the rag and bone man collected from street to street, and every bone of the animals that died was manufactured into useful articles, or returned to the land as superphosphate. One may get some idea of it from what is seen round the dwellings of men still living in a primitive state of society, and from occasional notices in early writers, or in the orders and regulations issued from time to time, as the intolerable state of the public thoroughfares forced upon the authorities

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Royal Soc.* June 13, 1894; *Journ. R. Agric. Soc.* Vol. v. 3rd Ser. Pt. III.; *Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.* June 14, 1894.

the necessity of intervention. All the larger bones, which were not devoured by dogs and pigs, lay about, or were thrown into the neighbouring ditch. There is no place round any of our towns or villages to-day where we should find such collections of bones as we dig up everywhere in the ditches, cesspools, and deserted wells of medieval and pre-medieval date. Even as late as the last century the horn-cores of oxen were so abundant about London that they made fences of them. Kalm<sup>1</sup>, writing in 1748, gives the following account of barriers around meadows, market gardens, &c. made of ox-horn cores :

I have above in several places described the fence (*stängsel och hägnad*) which they mostly use near London round their kitchen gardens and meadows, &c., which consists of high cast-up earth walls (*mull-vallar*), but now I will tell you about another kind of fence (*hägnad*) which they also avail themselves of here very much, and is such : An earth-wall is cast up in the usual way. The breadth or thickness at the ground is made proportionate to the height of the intended fence, for the higher the wall the broader the *basis*. When the earth has been cast up to the height of about six inches, it is levelled all over the top. Thereupon they have ready to hand a multitude of the quicks or inner parts of Ox-horns ; for the outer part of the horn itself is taken off and sold to comb-makers and others who work in horn ; or these have, after they have bought the whole horn from the butcher, retained the outerpart, and left the inner and useless part for this behoof.

This quick is so cut off that part of the skull commonly goes with it. The quicks are then set quite close beside one another over the earth that has been cast up for the wall, and this so that the larger and thicker ends of the quick, or that to which a portion of the skull is attached, is turned outwards or lies just in the face of the side of the wall. In this way two rows of quicks are laid, viz. : one row on one side of the wall, and the other on the other, so that the small ends of the horn quicks meet in the middle. Over this is afterwards cast earth about six inches thick, when again in the afore-named manner is laid a *stratum* of double-ranged ox-horn quicks viz., so that one row turns the large ends towards one side, and the other towards the other.

It is thus continued alternately (*skiftevis*) with earth and ox-horn quicks till the wall has reached the desired height. Only it is noted that the wall is battered, or made narrower and narrower the higher it gets.

<sup>1</sup> Account of his visit to England on his way to America in 1748. Translated from the Swedish by Joseph Lucas: Lond., Macmillan, 1892, pp. 69, 70.

Thus there may often be seen in such a wall as many as six strata of ox-horn quicks. The object of using these quicks is principally to bind the earth in the wall by them, and make it steady that it may not so soon slip down. Sometimes there were less strata of these quicks in a wall, as five, four and three; but then there was also more earth between each stratum, up to the thickness of one or two feet; but such a wall was not so lasting as when more layers of ox-horn quicks were inlaid in it. In some few places there were walls of bare ox-horn quicks laid quite thick one upon another, only that they filled up the spaces between the horns with mould. Thus they knew here to make use of that which in other places is thrown away.

*Ox-horn Walls and barriers around Market gardens*<sup>1</sup>.

To-day I saw on the north side of the Town a barrier or wall around a market garden, which was built of bare ox-horn quicks. The height thereof was four feet, the breadth the same. It was not here as in the former place laid strata-wise of ox-horn quicks and earth, but the horns were piled up on one another as thick as ever they could find room, and the interstices only were filled up with mould. The large ends of the quicks were turned outwards. The sides of these walls were quite perpendicular. On the top there was as much earth laid as would lie (som kunde liggar quar) and this was now overgrown with the following plants which bound it together:

Convolvulus, 173 [*C. arvensis*]; Hordeum, 107 [*H. murinum*]; Triticum, 105 [*T. repens*]; Senecio, 690; Scandio, 241 [*Anthriscus vulgaris*]; Ceras-tium, 399 [*C. viscosum*].

A *quick* fence was a very different thing in those days from our quickset. But this was not the only use to which these ox-horn quicks were then applied. Kalm further relates<sup>2</sup>:

Ox-horn quicks, in addition to walling purposes are carried out on to the high roads and there spread out, earth and sand are then laid upon them, which makes the road firm and durable.

I have quoted in full this very circumstantial account, because it seems to me to have an important bearing upon our present enquiry. If it was the custom about London down to the middle of the 18th century to fence in gardens with horn-cores, we may reasonably conjecture that the same method of enclosure was in use at Cambridge, and perhaps the large

<sup>1</sup> 11th June, 1748.

<sup>2</sup> p. 73. 19th June, 1748.

proportion of horn-cores as compared with other parts of the animal which we found together might be thus explained. We know that the great town ditches were not always kept in order, but that they got silted up so that they could be easily crossed, and this would necessitate some fence along them. If such a fence crumbled into the ditch, or was pushed in when the ditch had been reopened and the additional protection was no longer necessary, we might well expect to find here and there a large number of horn-cores together.

Horn-cores were also laid in the bottom of field-drains as brushwood was in later times. My friend Mr Francis Barclay of Leyton in Essex has just sent me some specimens of horn-cores of the long-horn type which he had dug up on the Epping Forest House Estate. There was often a small portion of the skull attached to the core, and they were arranged longitudinally three abreast in a single layer at the bottom of drains 14 inches deep. I have no evidence as to when fencing with horn-cores or laying drains with them first began, but Mr Barclay informed me that there was some reason for believing that the drains which he found laid with horn-cores were about 200 years old. Now that attention has been called to the fact we may learn something more about it in time.

#### MEDIEVAL SHOES.

Among the most interesting remains turned up in the course of these excavations are the shoes or low boots. I cannot say that I have never seen specimens before, but, having no evidence as to their exact mode of occurrence, and no experience of similar objects where the date was known, I did not keep them, or make particular note of them. In this case, however, I found some of the soles *in situ* myself, and soon got together a large number from the same ditch. I then began to make enquiries as to what was known on the subject. First to describe our specimens. I procured in all some 20 soles, 3 upper leathers, and 3 bits of boot-lace. The shoes were of small size, with toes often sharply pointed, but sometimes round and

strongly curved inwards, so as to fit the right and left foot respectively. The instep was generally very narrow. I figure some fairly typical specimens (fig. 2, nos. 1, 2, 3, 5). The only

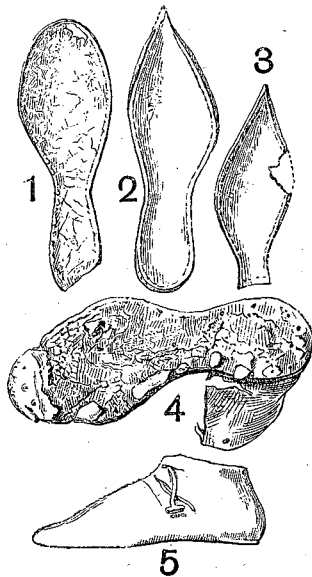


FIG. 2. Medieval shoes.

similar sole that I have seen is one in the Liverpool Museum, placed among objects which were found in the ancient Meols on the Cheshire shore, and referred to the 13th century, but itself referred by Mr H. Ecroyd Smith<sup>1</sup> to the 15th. This is an interesting assignment of date, as the objects found with our specimens seem, as nearly as we can infer their age, to range from the 13th to the 15th century. Similar shoes found at Carlisle<sup>2</sup>, like the jug figured with them, must be medieval.

Dr Jessopp has kindly sent me an extract from Matthew Paris<sup>3</sup>, in which he draws attention to the fact that on the feet of the primitive monks of S.

Albans, whose bones were then exhumed, there were shoes different from those of the monks of his time, inasmuch as the old monks had shoes that were not peaked or sharp pointed, nor curved so as to fit the right and left foot respectively :

...Quorundam enim ossa inventa sunt instar eboris candida et in fragmentis candidiora, et quasi lita balsamo redolentia. Calciamenta insuper eorundem habuerunt fratrum soleas integras et incorruptas, ita quod viderentur adhuc pauperibus profutura. Rotundæ autem soleæ, ita scilicet ut viderentur indifferenter tam uni quam alteri pedum convenire. Erantque ipsa calciamenta corrigiata, et aliquæ corrigiarum adhuc incorruptæ...

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancashire and Cheshire*, xix. 185, Pl. ii. f. 20.

<sup>2</sup> *Archæologia Æliana*, ii. 205—6, 314. Pl. xii.

<sup>3</sup> *Matth. Parisiensis Chronica Majora* A.D. 1251, Vol. v. p. 244. Rolls Edition.

From this it would appear that in the 13th century it was the custom to have shoes pointed and curved so as *not* to be interchangeable, and hence it was a matter of surprise to find that the old monks, as Matthew Paris records, wore shoes of such a rough make that they could be put on either foot. He further observes that they were laced, from which it may be inferred that he was more familiar with buckles than with boot-laces. The lace in our specimens was cut so as to leave a piece at the end in the shape of a hammer-head to prevent its slipping through (fig. 2, no. 5). In the case of sandals it seems hardly possible that the soles should be cut so that they could be used on either foot. It is improbable therefore that the early shoe or boot, derived directly from the sandal, should have been made so that it could be worn indifferently on either foot.

In the treatises on the shoes of the ancients collected by Nilant<sup>1</sup> there is much useful information and interesting speculation. Baldwin<sup>2</sup> says "Malum omen...si calceum sinistrum pro dextero sibi perperam inducerent," referring to Pliny<sup>3</sup> and Suetonius<sup>4</sup>. While it is clear that the mode of tying on sandals necessitated a difference between the right and left sole, and Latin authors mention that there was a right and a left shoe, some ancient slippers are represented by Baldwin as adapted for either foot, as shown in the figure of an Egyptian papyrus shoe (p. 22), and in the figures of the shoes of three Popes (p. 233), in which, as in the case of the ancient monks of S. Albans<sup>5</sup>, they are represented as adapted for wear on either foot.

We may get some idea of the sort of thing a Roman shoe must have been from casual references to it in Latin authors<sup>6</sup>. There was a difference between those worn by men and women,

<sup>1</sup> B. Balduini *Calceus Antiquus et Mysticus*, et Jul. Nigronus *De Caliga veterum*. Accesserunt ex Cl. Salmasii notis ad librum Tertulliani *de Pallio* et Alb. Rubenii libris *de Re Vestiaria* Excerpta ejusdem argumenti. Omnia figuris aucta, et illustrata observationibus Joh. Frederici Nilant. Lugd. Bat. apud Theod. Haak, 1711.

<sup>2</sup> Op. cit. p. 194.

<sup>3</sup> Lib. 2 Cap. 7, Lib. 28 Cap. 4.

<sup>4</sup> Cap. 92.

<sup>5</sup> See above p. 276.

<sup>6</sup> Smith's *Antiquities*, 220. Smith's *Latin Dictionary* sub vv. Calceus, Solea.

and between those worn by ordinary people and by persons in high position. We meet with *Calcei viriles et muliebres*<sup>1</sup>; *calceos mutare*, to become a senator, in reference to the high shoes worn by senators<sup>2</sup>. They were sometimes made large and easy, and sometimes tight fitting, *Calcei habiles et apti ad pedem*<sup>3</sup>; but it may be a question whether this means fitted to the foot on which they were intended to be worn, i.e. to right or left, or merely a comfortable well fitting shoe, as opposed to a loose unshapely shoe, of which it would be said *Male laxus in pede calceus hæret*<sup>4</sup>. The Romans took their shoes off at meals, *Cedo soleas mihi auferte mensam*<sup>5</sup>, *Deponere soleas*<sup>6</sup>; so that *poscere calceos* or *poscere soleas*<sup>7</sup> was a phrase for rising from table. The habit may be explained by the climate rather than the fashion of the shoe.

In Shakespeare's time it is clear that the difference between a right and left shoe was very obvious. Hubert, trying to impress upon King John the uneasy state of public feeling, says<sup>8</sup>:

Old men and beldams, in the streets  
Do prophesy upon it dangerously:  
Young Arthur's death is common in their mouths;  
And when they talk of him, they shake their heads  
And whisper one another in the ear;  
And he that speaks doth gripe the hearer's wrist,  
Whilst he that hears makes fearful action,  
With wrinkled brows, with nods, with rolling eyes.  
I saw a smith stand with his hammer, thus,  
The whilst his iron did on the anvil cool,  
With open mouth swallowing a tailor's news;  
Who, with his shears and measure in his hand,  
Standing on slippers, which his nimble haste  
Had falsely thrust upon contrary feet,  
Told of a many thousand warlike French  
That were embattailed and rank'd in Kent.

It is clear that in Shakespeare's time shoes were not made

<sup>1</sup> Varr. 44. 9. 29.

<sup>3</sup> Cic. *de Or.* 1. 54. 231.

<sup>6</sup> Pl. *Truc.* 2. 4. 12.

<sup>7</sup> Hor. *S.* 2. 8. 77.

<sup>2</sup> Cic. *Phil.* 13. 13.

<sup>4</sup> Hor. *S.* 1. 3. 32.

<sup>5</sup> Mart. 3. 50.

<sup>8</sup> *King John*, Act iv. Sc. ii.



to fit either foot indifferently, for among the confused ideas of Launce's soliloquy in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*<sup>1</sup> we read: "This shoe is my father;—no—this left shoe is my father;—no, no, this left shoe is my mother."

Tailors used always to work barefooted, and therefore, before they ran out into the street had to slip on a pair of shoes. Shakespeare showed that the tailor had just left his work by telling us that he had his shears and measure in his hand, and so every body would in those days understand that he must have thrust his feet into his slippers and run over to the blacksmith's; and then Shakespeare, to make his audience realise what a fluster and hurry the tailor was in, adds that he had put them on the wrong feet.

Some of the remarks upon Shakespeare's wonderful description are curious. Johnson, for instance, says that Shakespeare "seems to have confounded the man's shoes with his gloves. He that is frightened or hurried may put his hand into the wrong glove, but either shoe will equally admit either foot." If that was commonly the case in Johnson's time, it is a useful fact to note with a view to future excavations. Farmer, commenting upon Johnson's note, seems to admit the fact that in his time shoes were made to fit either foot, for he says, "Dr Johnson forgets that ancient slippers might possibly be very different from modern ones." He goes on, in illustration of Shakespeare, to quote Scott<sup>2</sup>: "He that receiveth a mischance, will consider whether he put not on his shirt wrongside outwards, or his *left shoe* on his *right foot*. One of the jests of Scogan, by Andrew Borde, is how he defrauded two shoemakers, one of a *right foot* boot, and the other of a *left foot* one." Steevens gives several quotations in support of the plain interpretation of the passage, about which there can be little doubt. Frobisher<sup>3</sup> in 1578 remarked that: "They also beheld (to their great maruaile) a dublet of canuas made after the Englishe fashion, a shirt, a girdle, three shoes for contrairie feet," etc. Barrett<sup>4</sup> in 1580, as an instance of the word *wrong*,

<sup>1</sup> Act ii. Sc. iii. p. 215.

<sup>2</sup> *Discoverie of Witchcraft*.

<sup>3</sup> *Second Voyage for the Discoverie of Cataia*, 4to.      <sup>4</sup> *Alvearie*.

says "to put on his shooes wrong." In another of Barrett's plays<sup>1</sup> we read how "Howleglas had cut all the lether for the *lefte foote*. Then when his master sawe all his lether cut for the *lefte foote*, then asked he Howleglas if there belonged not to the *lefte foote* a *right foote*. Then sayd Howleglas to his maister, If that he had tolde that to me before, I would have cut them; but an it please you I shall cut as mani *right shoone* unto them." In Holland's translation of Suetonius, 1606, we read: "if in a morning his shoes were put one [on] wrong, and namely the *left for the right*, he held it unlucky." Yet it would appear that about this time, or soon after, shoes were sometimes cut straight, so as to fit either the right foot or the left. "This fellow is like your *upright shoe*, he will serve either foot<sup>2</sup>." It was pointed out by Martin<sup>3</sup> in 1703 as a peculiarity in the Western Islands of Scotland that "the generality now only wear shoes having one thin sole only, and shaped after the right and left foot, so that what is for one foot will not serve the other."

These notices are interesting in view of our present enquiry, as showing when shoes were commonly adapted for the right or left foot, and when it was a subject of remark to find them so made.

#### THE AREA SOUTH OF MILL LANE.

On the south side of Mill Lane also there were extensive excavations for the foundations of buildings. Here we found that the ground had been much dug into, and that rubbish had been scattered over the irregular surface, and swept into the hollows, from the 15th century onwards at any rate. There was a deepening of the made earth on the south side suggestive of a hollow place, and laystalls, in that direction, but no ditch was

<sup>1</sup> *A merye Jest of a Man that was called Howleglas*.

<sup>2</sup> *The Fleire*, 1615.

<sup>3</sup> *Description of the Western Islands of Scotland*, 1703, p. 207. See also *The Philosophical Transactions Abridged*, III. 432, VII. 23, where are exhibited shoes shaped to the feet, spreading more to the outside than the inside; and *The Gentleman's Magazine*, April 1797, p. 280, with the plate annexed (fig. 3).

crossed on this site. The first suggestion would be that there was an outer ditch somewhere along the edge of Mr Hough's garden, as hinted above, but we cannot lay too much stress on the fact that the rubbish deepened south of the Mill Lane Ditch, seeing that we have our oldest College, "*Hospicia juxta ecclesiam Sancti Petri extra portam de Trumpeton*<sup>1</sup>," and the church of S. Mary the Less, beyond the ditch on that side. The difficulty that drives us into these speculations is that the objects dug up in the Mill Lane Ditch are more like those from Hunnybun's Ditch, which there is much reason for referring to a date earlier than the ditch made by order of Henry III. If these correlations should turn out to be correct, the ditch of Henry III. should be looked for outside the Mill Lane ditch; and therefore, having regard to the evidence now furnished by the excavations on the south side of Mill Lane, running somewhere between Mill Lane and the ancient buildings of S. Mary the Less and Peterhouse. There is much to suggest that the prolongation of this ditch runs further south than Mill Lane to King's Mill. We must also bear in mind that the border land is full of old ditches, drains, cess-pools, and wells, and where the recent excavation has been of limited extent it is quite possible that some mass of black silt may have been wrongly assigned to one of the great ditches we are tracing.

## SUMMARY.

It is certain that both near the Barnwell Gate and near the Trumpington Gate, as well as here and there along the intervening ground, we have evidence of two ditches, bordered by an area which was generally waste land over which rubbish was thrown. At the south end, however, near the Trumpington Gate, the outer of the two principal ditches seems to correspond to the inner ditch on the north side; and, outside the outer of the two principal ditches there are pits, and what as far as excavated appeared to be the commencement of another ditch. These seem to run along the line of the great ditches, and not

<sup>1</sup> Charter of Peterhouse, May 28, 1285, *Commiss. Docts.* II. 1.

to be in connection with Peterhouse and the church near it. Besides the strong probability that William the Conqueror, when he built the Castle, ordered some defensible boundary to be thrown round the town on the other side of the river, the pottery found in the deepest parts of the oldest ditches points to a period earlier than that of Henry III. or even of King John, to a time when the Roman fashion of earthenware was only slowly dying out, and medieval influence gradually being felt. Some fragments of rough glazed red ware with rings stamped on by way of ornament, as on some Saxon cinerary urns, have exactly the same characters as those I noticed in a whole jug in General Pitt Rivers' collection, labelled 11th century, Barnwell, Cambridge.

It is something to have got so far as to show that we must no longer speak of the King's Ditch, but of the Kings' Ditch or Kings' Ditches, and we may hope that with greater interest in the subject, and more careful observation, we may find further evidence, and perhaps trace the boundaries of the area within which the Romans, the Saxons, and other pre-Norman people lived. Incidentally I found it necessary to hunt up what could be learned respecting the age and object of some of the remains, and, to save others the trouble in similar cases, I have recorded pretty fully what seemed most important in the case of medieval shoes and the horn-cores of oxen.

Baron A. von HÜGEL said that some of the marks on the pottery exhibited by Professor Hughes were identical with those on the Saxon cinerary urns which he exhibited.

Mr J. W. CLARK read some passages from Cooper's *Annals* and other authorities pointing to the conclusion arrived at by Professor Hughes, namely, that there were two ditches, an inner and an outer, approximately concentric.

Dr CLARK suggested that there must also have been a palisade.

The PRESIDENT called for the co-operation of members of the Society in collecting evidence brought to light by local excavation.

BARON A. VON HÜGEL, M.A., Curator of the Museum of General and Local Archeology and Ethnology, exhibited about sixty cinerary urns found in Saxon burial places at S. John's

College and at Girton. Many of these had been broken into fragments when they were first discovered, but had been put together again with extraordinary skill by the Curator and his assistant. Baron A. von Hügel pointed out the characteristic patterns stamped on the pottery, and drew attention to some particulars in which those from Girton differed from those found at S. John's College.

Mrs LEWIS exhibited a small dish of Samian ware.

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WEDNESDAY, *November* 8th, 1893.

W. M. FAWCETT, M.A., *Treasurer*, in the Chair.

The Reverend J. B. PEARSON, D.D., Emmanuel College, made the following communication:

THE ASSESSMENTS OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: 1291—1889.

I desire to submit to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society some statistics which I consider may be of assistance to those who have interested themselves in the more scientific dissertations read before the Society by the late Mr Pell, and the late Dr Bryan Walker, on the Domesday Survey, and the Inquisitions of Cambridgeshire; while they will be valuable for reference to those who are studying the history of the county at large, or any particular place. I call them "Assessments of Cambridgeshire," though they are not exactly that. They give the value of each parish for church purposes at three separate epochs; and the value for secular taxation at three other epochs; and, knowing with some precision the system on which each valuation was made, we can readily infer the means and substance of any individual place at any of these six several periods. I do not mean that such a result will always be perfectly accurate; a popular church in the middle ages was enriched by offerings which raised its valuation above what the character of the land of its parish would justify; and a 'great house' seems to have augmented the valuation for Land Tax in the days of good

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