

ART. VIII.—*On the remains of a Mediæval Stockade recently found in Carlisle.* By R. S. FERGUSON, M.A., LL.M., F.S.A.

*Read at Windermere, June 5th, 1878.*

IN the recent issue of this Society's Transactions\* is an account of a remarkable stockade, of early Roman or pre-Roman days, found in Carlisle.

I have now to record the discovery, in another place in Carlisle, of a stockade of another character, but equally remarkable.

The earthen vallum (with ditch towards the south,) of Hadrian's barrier long marked, and still marks, the boundary between the Socage of Carlisle Castle and the City of Carlisle, and the ditch formed the third fosse on the south side of the castle. That there were three fosses is proved by an entry in the Liberate Rolls, 29 Edw. I., in which year also the same authority shews that John de Halton, Bishop of Carlisle, farmer of the Castle and Lordship of Carlisle, was allowed £5 5s. for timber to make new the stockades (bretechias) round the castle.†

Some houses and barracks have been erected on sites recently cleared on the north side of Annetwell Street, that is exactly in the ditch, now long ago filled up.

The new barracks have no cellarage, but at the west end of Annetwell Street, close to the site of one of Carlisle Gates, known as the Irish Gate, excavations for cellars were made in the ditch, and the vallum itself cut into.

In the very heart of the vallum, about the level of the original ground, were two skeletons lying together, in an east and west position, as the vallum runs, but with their

\* Vol. 3, p. 134. See also Proceedings, Society of Antiquaries, N.S., Vol. 7, p. 317, and Journal, British Archæological Association, Vol. 33, p. 525.

† The Parliaments of Carlisle, by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne. *Archæological Journal*, Vol. 16, p. 336.

heads in different directions. Unfortunately, a crowd collected, and the remains were scattered about before they could be examined, but nothing whatever was found with them. The section into the vallum showed it to be composed of soil evidently taken from the ditch. The excavations into the ditch showed a fat black soil, such as the silting up of a ditch would produce. Little Roman pottery was found, but several fragments of mediæval date, with green glaze.

On the south side of the ditch was found a stockade,—much like a stockade of railway sleepers. It seemed framed together: an oak beam, hewn with an axe, about twelve feet long and eight or ten inches square was found with treenail holes in it. Apparently it had bound together the top of the stockade. Only a small portion of the stockade was disclosed, so that no very minute examination could be made. About twelve feet deep were found three or four stone balls about twenty-six inches in circumference. These would seem to be relics of the siege of Carlisle, 1315, by Robert Bruce. The Chronicle of Lanercost tells us that the Scots then erected an engine for casting great stones, and continually threw them at the Irish Gate. Stones missing the Gate and going over it would roll harmlessly into the ditch and be silted up. The place where they have been found is only a few feet from the back of the site of the Gate.

The following articles were also found:—the top of a trefoil-headed window, carved out of one solid piece of stone, some two feet five inches high, by two feet eight inches broad, and ten inches thick; a hole for a stauncheon is in the apex of the trefoil. Two fragments of early English columns, of small size, were found: also part of the skull of a red deer; one of whose antlers has been sawn off close to the skull, while the other was broken off above the brow-tine, which alone measured one foot from base to tip. Two smaller stone balls, each about five inches in diameter,

were

were also found, and a pipe bowl of red clay; it had been smoked, and must have been made at Assouan or Siout. How it got to Carlisle I cannot conjecture: no one saw it found, and the finder says it was buried about eleven feet deep: it has evidently been long buried. The stem portion has been long ago knocked off, and the finder sold the bowl for a few pence as an ancient egg cup.