

ART. XXIV.—*Notes on the Excavations near the Roman Camp, Maryport, during the year 1880.* By JOSEPH ROBINSON.

*Read at Maryport, June 16th, 1880.\**

THE Roman Camp at Maryport stands on a high and precipitous brow overlooking the sea, and the face of the brow is now being dug away as a preliminary to opening a quarry. The soil thus removed is full of remains, dressed stones, broken pottery, and black rich earth. I fancy that the camp sewer ran down to the sea about this point, while the rains of centuries have washed large quantities of soil and debris from the camp above.

The new quarry was begun in March, 1880, by Mr. Doherty, the contractor for the new dock, for the purpose of obtaining a supply of stone. It has already been very productive of relics of Roman occupation, and its extension will no doubt produce further results. The work was commenced by driving a cutting into the side of the hill from the level of the shore, and, as it fortunately happened, at the most suitable place for remains. Only a few days previously I had decided to ask permission from Mrs. Senhouse, the Lady of the Manor, to excavate just above this place, as it had long been thought that a building had stood on the edge of the hill, and I was of opinion its materials would be found in the hollow, half way down, where they had fallen. From the evidence already obtained, there seems little doubt this surmise will prove correct.

On my first visit to the work I found that a large number of very fine building blocks had already been dug out, and were being carelessly buried again. I arranged with the workmen to have them put aside, and am glad to say

\* Revised up to date of going to press, March 1, 1881.

that

that in this matter the whole of Mr. Doherty's staff have, at his request, given most ready and willing help. Several cart loads of these blocks or wedges have already been led away to a place of safety at Netherhall, and more remain on the ground. Many of them are heavy foundation stones.

When the rock was reached it became evident that the quarry had been wrought before, and from the presence of a rich black layer of earth, mixed with charcoal, pottery, &c., running in a straight line just over the point of the rock, the conjecture that the sewer from the camp had emptied itself here was strengthened. This deposit is of considerable extent at this part, and has yielded the several kinds of pottery used by the Romans, a very fine coin of Vespasian, quantities of slate, roofing and flooring tiles, and building stone, no doubt mixed up during the washing down from above, after the fall of the building. On the 8th of April a stone inscribed LEG·XX was found, measuring seventeen inches by seven. The letters V. V., standing for VALENS VICTRIX, the title of the 20th Legion, have not been added, owing to a flaw in the stone. The base of a pillar, a quern, a stone cut into squares or diamonds, probably used for a game similar to the modern one of draughts, have been dug out, together with a piece of Samian pottery on which the name KARVS has been cut, possibly by some soldier; and a horse shoe, much corroded, has also been found at a depth of eight feet from the surface. This reminds us of the Cavalry which we find mentioned on two of the altars at Netherhall as being attached to the first cohort of Spaniards. A mass of corroded iron was adhering to the face of the rock in one place, which might be the remains of the workmen's tools. A few feet below, toolmarks were visible, and were very distinct.

The black earth I have referred to descends to a perpendicular depth of fifteen feet in one place, and extends forty yards from the face of the rock towards the sea. It  
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is distinctly visible for one hundred and fifteen yards along the shore to the point, where further observation is stopped by the new Gas Works. Below it, in one part, is the rubble of the old quarry, a band of blue clay, and then the bed of the rock. How much further out to sea it has extended cannot now be ascertained (although it might have been at one time, as a great encroachment has been made here), but its spread has thus been of considerable extent, and it gives some idea of the quantity of stone which must have been quarried away by the Romans. Charcoal seems to be present in such quantity, and to be so evenly distributed, that I am inclined to think it has been purposely put in as a deodorizer. From the depth to which this debris is covered in some parts by soil and clay, a striking proof is obtained of the extent to which the hill has been denuded.

On 25th June, after the workmen had left, a very fine altar, measuring three feet five by one foot ten in front, and one foot three in depth, was dug out in the level, twenty-five yards from the face of the rock. It had evidently fallen from above, being surrounded and covered by the black deposit previously referred to. It is of greyish freestone of very coarse grain, unlike any found in this locality as far as I know, and is so much weathered that the inscription cannot be made out in full. It has consisted of four lines, and by placing it in different lights the following letters can be seen :—

N . . . . .  
 . . . . . AM  
 HISPANAQF  
 HERMIONE

The reading of the last line is certain. The first four letters in the third line are given with reserve. The letters P or B, ANAQ, are the most distinct, and beyond dispute.

A large block of freestone, apparently quarried from the outcrop on the shore, and worn into grooves by the action  
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of the water, was lying close to the foot of the old workings, with luis holes in it, as if it had been intended to be lifted to the works above.

On 29th September, during my absence, one of my volunteer helpers, James Hamil, the finder of the altar of 25th June, took out of the top of the hill, just above the quarry, a small household altar, ten inches by four, roughly chiseled. It has on it a rude incised figure, four inches in length. The arms are extended from the side, and the feet turned to the right. Two projections appear over the head. A cross runs over the body, commencing from each shoulder. The figure may represent some god, but has not yet been identified.

The point from which this was taken is the one I first referred to as the probable site of a building: as soon as time permits, it will be examined. It is distant eighty yards from the seaward wall of the camp.

Turning to the excavations that I have personally conducted, I may say that the work I have had in hand was suggested to me by Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A., and was begun with a two-fold object, viz., to determine accurately, field by field, the course of the road from this camp to that near Wigton, and, if possible, to find if the road to the camp at Beckfoot ran along the shore, as generally supposed. As there is no evidence of the latter at present known nearer to Maryport than the point to which I have traced it from the Beckfoot Camp, I was in hopes that I could find in these fields the point where the two roads separate, assuming they do so. The point where the road to Old Carlisle, near Wigton, begins to deviate from the straight line was found in the fourth field from the Maryport Camp, but so far no trace of the other has been seen.

I began the work early on the morning of the 12th April, and uncovered the road in the second field to the north east of the camp. It is twenty-one feet in width and in good preservation. Close to the side of the road I found the  
remains

remains of a wall, near to which I dug out a good deal of pottery and slate. It was out of this place that we subsequently took a large stone conduit, seven feet in length, which appeared to convey water under the road. At a distance of twenty feet there is a parallel wall, which was traced fifty-three feet. No doubt they had formed part of a house. Between the walls a green glass bead, ribbed and perfect, was picked up. On the morning of Saturday, the 17th April, I found the road in the fourth field, and having learnt that this would be required for cultivation a fortnight earlier than the other, I proceeded in the afternoon to complete my examination, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Carey. We had only just begun to work, when my attention was attracted by the projecting point of a stone, only a few yards distant. This, on being dug out, proved to be the square base of an altar or pillar, apparently broken off by the plough. About four yards distant a similar projection appeared, and in digging about it we found it extended further into the ground. In a few minutes we came upon the octagonal shaft, and, finally, the top of the pillar, on which was sculptured a face, with two serpents meeting over the head, and two fishes below the chin. Lifting the valuable relic out of the position it had so long occupied, we saw, with no little delight, that the reverse side had on it a large snake, three feet nine inches in length, by two inches in breadth, and in perfect condition. The impression left in the soft ground by the serpent was very fine, and I regretted that it got injured by the lifting out of the stone. This is the so-called Serpent Stone: it has given rise to some discussion, which is embodied in a communication from Mr. Thompson Watkin, appended to this paper. The full height of this stone is four feet two, divided thus:—Base, including moulding, one foot four inches; octagonal shaft, one foot ten, tapering from three feet three in circumference to two feet five; top, which contains the face, one foot. The base is much  
marked

marked by the plough. Iron has been let into the top, probably to support some emblem or ornament. A detached portion of this iron was found, and is preserved. The figure of the serpent occupies nearly the whole length of the stone on one side. The only sculpture on the other is the face with the snake and fishes.

Immediately in front of this was a pavement measuring thirteen feet by six. Around and near this, in every direction, we found burials, the remains of the funeral pyres, and calcined bones, being most distinct. Numerous urns, all in a broken condition, were taken out. One of these, dug out by Mr. E. T. Tyson, in thirty-two pieces, has been skilfully restored by Mr. William Beeby Graham. Its height is five inches. A little to the east we found three cists. The first of these consisted of four stones, three forming the sides and one covering the top. It was open at the ends and empty. Burials were found in three cases under single slabs, and generally under no stone at all.\* An active search was carried on for ten days to find the pillar belonging to the base first found, and we came upon two fragments of a serpent, somewhat broader than the other, and a portion of the shaft, from which I conjecture that both stones have been of the same character. We found in one of the burials a red water bottle in good preservation. At a depth of three feet was a stone, carved to represent a fir cone, nine inches in height, and a conical stone, seventeen inches in height, shaped like a modern rifle bullet, and probably intended as a missile to be thrown from a balista. The fir cone was an emblem of immor-

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\* The interments are very similar to those which Mr. J. E. Price, F.S.A., and Mr. Hilton Price, F.S.A., excavated in the Romano-British cemetery at Seaford in 1879, namely, black patches in the soil, composed of charcoal, fragments of burnt bone, and frequently iron nails (see a paragraph in the *Times* of April 28th, 1880, headed "Anthropological Institute"). The Messrs. Price conjecture that these patches, where no urns were found, are the interments of poor people, or of soldiers. I have no doubt that the same holds good at Maryport, and that the black patches without urns represent the Spanish soldiers, who kept guard over the Solway. In two or three cases at Maryport urns accompanied the patches: these would be burials of people of superior rank.

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tality with the Romans, and its use on tombstones has come down to our times. We also found iron nails in connection with many burials.

I had the pavement in front of the Serpent Stones taken up, and four burials were found below. It was then carefully put down again, in exactly the same place, but two feet deep, so as to be out of the way of the plough, and to mark the place. The same stones were used and accurate measurements taken, so that the position can at any time be ascertained.

The figure of a female, or of a child, gracefully draped, but minus the head, was found in the hedge in this field by two lads, having been ploughed up some time before and left there unnoticed. It measures twenty inches in height. Each hand has held something, but the objects have been injured, and cannot be identified. An apple and a dove were often represented as being held in the hands on such stones. Mr. C. Roach-Smith, F.S.A., kindly informs me that this stone indicates the sepulchral effigy of a child.

The field being now required for the putting in of the crop, the works were closed on 27th April.

Early in the morning of next day I resumed work in the second field from the camp—Pipeherd Hill. In passing through it I had observed, in the south corner, dressed stones in the hedges, no doubt dug or ploughed out in previous years, and had also noticed a small patch of green sward which had escaped the plough. This, I thought, must have been left owing to the presence of stones, and I decided upon examining the place, and soon found it consisted apparently of a pavement of freestone blocks, set with the squared and dressed side downwards, and the tapered end pointing upwards. As it was in line with the camp, and the site where the sixteen altars were found on 18th April, 1870, I conjectured at first that it was a road between the two places, and left a labourer to uncover it from side to side during my absence. In the afternoon

Mr.



Mr. Carey sent a messenger with the gratifying intelligence that an altar had been found. On hastening up I was glad to see it was inscribed, the reading being :—

I. O. M.  
C. CABA  
LLIVS. P  
RISCVS.  
TRIBVN

That is,

JOVI OPTIMO MAXIMO  
CAIUS CABALLIUS PRISCUS  
TRIBUNUS.

Three other altars have already been found at Maryport, and are now at Netherhall, which record Caius Caballius Priscus. He was the colonel of the 1st cohort of Spaniards which garrisoned Maryport, or “Axelodunum,” as the Romans called it. The 1st cohort of the Spaniards is mentioned in at least sixteen inscriptions found at Maryport, which give the names of seven of its colonels. As the Notitia stations the 1st cohort of Spaniards at Axelodunum, we thus are enabled to identify it with the Maryport Camp. The base of the altar was broken off, and part of the inscription remains lost with it, although it has been trenched for. The fragment measures twenty inches by twelve, falling to eight inches at the inscribed shaft. Several burials were found between the altar and the so-called pavement, a distance of a few feet only, and a very large quantity of broken pottery of different kinds, with loose stones.

Digging from this point being extended in the direction of the find of 1870, a wall was partly uncovered the next day, 29th April, and this being followed on its outer edge, eventually revealed the foundation of a building, forty-six feet at its greatest length, by twenty-five in breadth, outside measurement. The walls are two feet three in width on one side, and two feet nine on the other. The lowest course consists of cobbles set in clay, in exactly the same way

way as the foundations of the Beckfoot Camp. The second course is of freestone, and is *in situ*, except at the east end, and a patch at the north-west corner. The base of an altar was found here, much scored by the plough—so much so, in fact, that it cannot be identified as part of the inscribed fragment, which, from its size, it may have been.

The soil was thrown out of the area to see if anything else could be brought to light to show the uses of the building, and this has detracted considerably from its appearance. The place has since been left in the same state, and is carefully preserved. The interior has apparently been flagged, fifteen flags remaining in their original position, and now showing scratches of ploughs or harrows. It may be divided into three parts, viz.:—At the east end a division formed by a two feet wall gives eight feet by twenty; then the main body of the building twenty-five feet by twenty; and, finally, a recess at the west end measuring six feet by eight feet six. A large flag in the east corner, three feet ten by two feet three, and six inches in thickness, has been left, as found, in a slanting position. A pavement beneath it has the same angle. We have found nothing to show at which end the entrance has been. The opinion most generally expressed is that this building has been a Temple, probably to Jupiter, from the position in which the altar was found. This, however, is only conjecture. A Basilica or Court of Law has also been suggested as a possible use for it.

The pavement previously referred to proves to be of considerable interest. It extends eighteen feet from the recess of this building, in three patches, as shown on the plan, and measures twelve feet across. After most careful examination, I believe it to be the remains of the wall of the building, which has fallen and retained much the same position as when built up. I found a similar instance at the building on the Bowness Glebe, Pasture House, Campfield, in September of this year. Several of the inner  
stones

stones there were still in their original position. Here they have been removed by the plough. The stones left have a small but decided tilt outward, which they would acquire by being thrown forward when they fell.

The reports of these excavations had now spread through the town, and the works were constantly visited by crowds of people, many of whom dug in various directions. The most successful of these visitors was Mr. B. D. Dawson, who, by a vigorous use of the sounding rod, hit upon the round building I am about to describe, an altar, the foundation on which it has apparently stood, and a female figure.

The round building is twenty feet distant from that last noticed. It was first observed on the afternoon of Saturday, 1st May, and the line of the circular wall was uncovered in an hour. Its outside diameter is thirty-four feet, the wall being two feet six to two feet nine in thickness. As it was found to contain stones in the centre, they were dug down to, and have been kept as found, so far. An opening in the centre of these stones, of about a foot square, was cleared out, and found to have water at the bottom, which disappeared, however, in a few days. The depth of the stones, which are rough and unhewn, is three feet, and, except around the opening, they appear to have been put in without order. A coin of Antoninus Pius and a cist were found here. A funeral pyre occurs at one side of the building, with the deepest layer of charcoal, &c., yet found—fourteen inches—and a large number of burials are near at hand. There are four slight projections, about eighteen inches square, on the outside of the wall. These may have supported light buttresses. Freestone is left half way round. The remaining half of the circles shows the cobble and clay foundation. The purpose for which this round building has been erected is dealt with in the Appendix. From the manner in which the stones in the centre have been thrown in, it may be that they have been placed round a pole or mast which supported a roof.

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A similar building existed in Scotland, on the banks of the Carron, but is now destroyed, and was known as Arthur's Oon. This is described by Gordon\* as a "Sacellum" or chapel to Mars Signifer, where the Eagles of the Legions and the Insignia of the Cohorts were kept with great honour, sacrifices being offered. Sacella, however, had no roofs.

About seven o'clock on the morning of Monday, 3rd May, Mr. Dawson struck a stone with the sounding rod, and on uncovering it with the spade, I was glad to see it was another altar, two feet four by one foot five, falling to one foot at shaft. I should fail if I tried to convey any idea of the excitement such a discovery gives rise to. I must admit that in this case it was somewhat damped by finding, after the altar had been taken out, that two letters only of the inscription were left, the rest having been either purposely destroyed or broken off by the plough, as, unfortunately, it had fallen or been buried face upwards. From the letters left, ET, and their position, the extreme right of the first line, the inscription would appear to have been a compound one. Mrs. Senhouse has kindly reserved half an acre of ground, by arrangement with Mr. Lee of the Camp Farm, and the trenching since carried on has had for its first object the recovery of this inscription.

The impression of the altar on the soil where it had so long rested was perfect, and was preserved till it had been seen by Mrs. Senhouse, and by the Literary and Scientific Societies, at their meeting here on 5th May, 1880. It was then dug up in presence of Dr. Bruce and Mr. Senhouse, and two beautifully carved heads, supposed to have been ornaments on a building, were found near it, together with several blocks of dressed stone. At a distance of twenty-two feet the square basement, on which it is probable the altar or some heavier erection stood, was found.

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\* *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, part I, chapter III, and plate 4. See also Roy's *Military Antiquities of the Romans in Britain*, plate xxxvi.

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The opening is three feet square, and was filled to a depth of nine courses with cobbles and clay. It is defined by four large freestone slabs.\*

Almost immediately after the finding of the two heads, a mutilated figure of one of the Deae Matres, one foot in height, was dug up near the hedge. This represents one of the three goddess mothers, whose individual names it was considered by the Romans most unlucky to mention. The base of a small household altar and a wheel of Nemesis, the latter evidently broken from the altar of 3rd May, have been dug up in the trenching, together with several fragments of thin slabs, apparently split off that altar, but none of them contain the inscription.

In this part of the field five coins in all have been found, viz., one Hadrian, A.D. 117-138; two Antoninus Pius, 138-161; two Marcus Aurelius, 161-180. These were kindly identified by Mr. Blair, of South Shields, the eminent and well-known numismatist, and were presented to me by Mrs. Senhouse, but as the proper place for the custody of such relics is Netherhall, they have been at my request added to the collection there.

Concurrently with the works in this corner, extensive excavations of a most interesting nature were carried on about the line of the road in the middle of the field. The road was uncovered in several places, and many other curious foundations were laid bare. In one place a breadth of sixty-three feet of pavement occurred. This included the road. Out of another was dug a quantity of iron debris, mixed with small coal. It seemed almost like the hearth of a smithy. A layer of red broken pottery or decayed brick, over twelve inches in thickness, was cut through at the same opening. Many burials were dug up on the seaward side of the road, covered by large flags.

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\* My friend, Mr. John B. Harvey, has drawn for me a plan of these buildings. The Temple, or whatever it is, is 165 yards from the east angle of the camp. The altars found in 1870 were 160 yards further east, and the Serpent Stones were 150 yards north-east of the latter place.

Several

Several of the flags were taken up and sent to Netherhall. The largest measured five feet by two feet eight. It was impossible to dig in this part without finding remains of houses, which, no doubt, had bordered on the road, as was usual in the neighbourhood of camps. Several places were found which had apparently been dug in the clay for cess-pools, judging from the black rich nature of the soil thrown out, and the fragments of pottery, &c. One of these had an area of five feet square, by six feet in depth, another was four feet deep. The latter had a row of eighteen stones leading to it, arranged at intervals of about a foot apart.

In one of the photographic groups I have had taken will be observed an incised figure holding something over its head with the right hand. This stone was found near the new quarry, on the sea brow, on the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd May, when I was passing, by a boy who had been helping at the excavations. It measures sixteen inches by eight, tapering to six. The figure has not been exactly identified, but Mr. Thompson Watkin states it may be a Genius, holding a Cornucopia, as in Nos. 275, 708, and 710, in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, or may be taken for Apollo, like the other figure at Netherhall (No. 899.)

Up to this point the excavations had been carried on as an individual effort without any outside assistance, beyond that given by a few friends in digging. On the 18th August this Society was good enough, at the Kirkby Stephen meeting, to vote me a grant of £10 to be spent in future work, and this was supplemented by a similar sum, kindly placed at my disposal by several gentlemen, through Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A. The whole of this money has been spent in the hire of labour at Beckfoot and here. Through this fund we have been able to get a complete plan of the former camp, but in the hurry of going to press with that paper, this escaped acknowledgment. The work now to be described has also been done from the same source, and  
both

both have thus become part of the operations of the Society. Those who have seen the excavations can form a better opinion of their extent and nature than I can hope to convey through the medium of this paper.

The ground next selected was the first field from the camp to the north-east, in line with those previously described. These fields are popularly known as the Borough Fields—a name which sufficiently indicates the Roman town, although it is restricted on the estate plan, I think, to two adjoining fields. I believe I am strictly correct in stating that, out of numerous cuttings, we have not made one in any part of this field without finding remains of some kind—walls, dressed stones, pottery, ashes, or pavements. On each side of the road the surface is strewn with rubble freestone, fragments of pottery, &c. The extent of the extra-mural town must have been considerable, and these fields, now devoted to agriculture, must at one time have presented a busy scene, when the camp was fully occupied.

The work was begun on 10th September. Finding many buildings on each side of the road, I decided upon excavating one on the seaward side, as a specimen of the rest. The side walls are forty feet six inches in length outside, by two feet to two feet six inches in thickness, and the end wall at the south-east measures seventeen feet. The side wall facing south-west is finished off square, but on the opposite side it is broken. At a distance of seven feet nearer the sea is a patch of wall seven feet by two, probably the remains of the end wall to the north-west, but the character of the stones is different, and only one course remains. Assuming it to represent the end wall, the interior of the building would be forty-five feet by twelve. Three courses are left in several places, and four in one corner. The courses have followed an inequality in the ground when the foundations were laid, and in two places show these curves to the second and third layer of stones. No mortar  
has

has been found about this building, nor was any observed about those in the next field. The doorway is half-way up the south-west wall. Its width is two feet four inches. In front of it outside are two large flags. Inside this part is paved with small flags and large stones, with a layer of gravel in several places. Close inside was found nearly a bucketful of charcoal, some of the pieces being large. In a corner was a quantity of coal. Opposite to the door was a row of flat stones, set on edge, as if to mark a division. These were left undisturbed, as were also a number of stones blackened by fire, and arranged as if intended for a hearth. To the right of the doorway was a large flat stone, which we lifted, and under it was a large fragment of a house tile. The foundations are of freestone, and the whole of the building blocks used are roughly chipped into shape, the faces being left undressed. Many finely-chiselled stones of the wedge type were found in other parts of the field.

A good deal of pottery and many fragments of slates were spread about the interior, particularly towards the end nearest the sea. Several of these fragments had holes in them, and a few the remains of the iron nails with which they had been fastened. A few pieces of glass, slightly opaque, and one ribbed piece, like the handle of a jar, were also in the interior. Parts of the lower stone of a quern were found in this building. The quern, when complete, has been ornamented by over fifty notches cut in the edge. The effect of these is very good on the portion left. A very curious figure was thrown out here, and afterwards picked up. It is part of a water-worn freestone, five inches by four, on which has been cut the head and body of a man, three inches in height. The part containing the legs has been broken off. The hands are extended opposite the face, and the fingers stick out like the teeth of a comb, or just as a child would draw them. A spear, an inch and a half long, runs through the left hand—the  
fingers



fingers being extended do not grasp it. On the right of the body are the letters SIG. A line is drawn over the body from each shoulder, forming a cross, as is the case of the figure found on 29th September. Mr. Roach-Smith thinks the letters are a contraction of SIGNIFER, "Standard bearer."

Just outside the south-west wall was found a piece of slate, about half an inch in thickness, and weighing about eight ounces. It is not unlike a modern paper weight in shape. The under side bears a high polish about the centre, and measures four and three-quarter inches by three and a quarter. The other side is bevelled, and the flat part measures three and a half inches by two and one-eighth. It is chipped in two opposite corners, and can be grasped easily in the hand, with the bevelled side down, by the aid of these breaks.\* I lately observed a piece of dark marble of the same size and design in the Mayer collection in Sir W. Brown's Library and Museum, Liverpool, No. 6070-6071. The ticket states it was dug out of a Roman grave at Frindsbury, near Rochester, Kent.

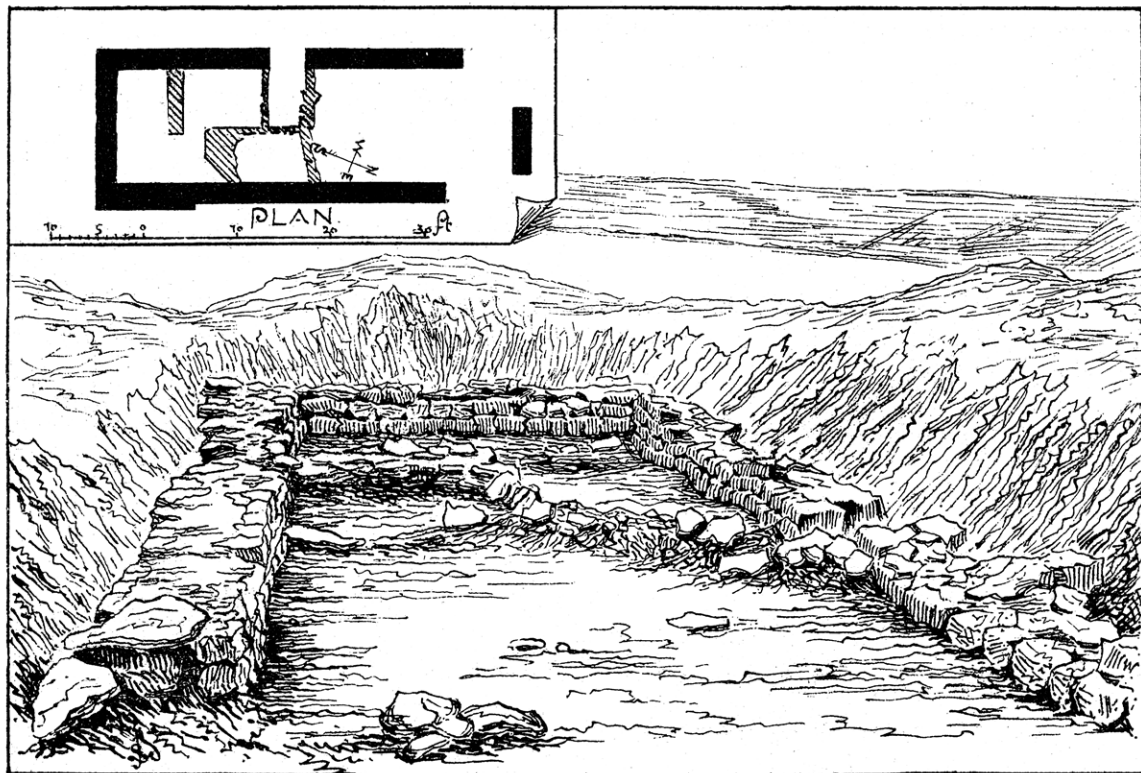
When filling up the excavations on 12th February, 1881, the interior was carefully examined, and we came upon a trench where the soil had been disturbed. In this we found a coin, (identified by Mr. Blair as one of Faustina, wife of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius,) a portion of a bronze fibula of very neat design, a few pieces of glass, several fragments of pottery, and some fragments of bone. Dr. Taylor recognizes the latter as human, and as having been burnt. He states they consist of portions of the shaft of the femur and tibia and fibula. Another piece of bronze was so much decayed that it could not be removed.

A view, with plan, of this building has been drawn by Mr. J. J. Seymour, of Carlisle, and is reproduced with

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\* This object is a Roman painter's palette. Similar ones have been found at Uriconium (Wroxeter) and are described and figured, *Journal British Archæological Association*, vol. xv, p. 316.

This



FOUNDATIONS NEAR ROMAN CAMP, MARYPORT.

this paper. The distance of this building from the north-east gate of the camp is ninety-nine yards.

Foundations exist on each side of it. In one a flagged passage, a yard wide, was bared. Out of another was dug a stone trough. It was firmly set in stonework, and shows signs of wear at two corners. A little further down the field a curious cistern or tank was exposed. It is made of thin freestone slabs, one and a half to two inches thick, and two feet to two feet ten in height. The area of the bottom, which is on the clay, is four feet two by two feet. At the top of the field was a similar place, only when complete it had been circular. Unfortunately our trench was sunk upon it, and one half of it taken away before the design was seen. What is left consists of six stones, set on end, about two feet in height, with a course of building stone above, the floor being three feet four below the surface, flagged, and measuring two feet by eighteen inches. In the first were found some bones, apparently those of a fowl; some broken pottery, with a good deal of black sediment in layers, was in both.

Halfway between these places was found on 3rd January, 1881, an enamelled stud of Romano-British work. It is an inch and a quarter in diameter. The centre, half an inch in diameter, is filled with green enamel, and divided into six divisions. Outside this the colour is red, and a zig-zag pattern, like the teeth of a saw, divides the surface into thirty equal triangular spaces. The spaces radiating from the interior are red, those commencing from the edge are blue. I sent it to Mr. Roach-Smith for his inspection, and he states it is like those in the collection of Mr. Clayton, F.S.A., at Chesters, and that figured in his *Collectanea Antiqua*, and found in France, only inferior.

The pottery is very fragmentary, and only in two cases are there any potter's marks. One, on the handle of an amphora, cannot be made out. The other is on a part of  
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the side of an amphora, and ends in OCCEI. Probably the full name has been DOCCEI.

I regret that during the latter part of the work no altars or other inscribed stones have been discovered. Up to 1870 no record exists on the plan of the estate of the exact sites of former finds, so that the connection between the present and past work cannot be ascertained. The experience gained by these efforts may be turned to account in the future. A great many cuttings, interesting in themselves, presented nothing calling for record here, but the foundations they revealed have been noted. The whole of the portable objects described in this paper have been photographed, and added to the collection at Netherhall.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mrs. Senhouse and her tenant, Mr. Jacob Lee, for the facilities they have so willingly given for these explorations.

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## APPENDIX.\*

BY W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

Since the beginning of April Mr. Joseph Robinson, of Maryport, has been making considerable excavations in the vicinity of the Roman *castrum* at that place, which have resulted in a number of interesting discoveries.

The primary object in view was to trace the Roman road from the great station (*Axelodunum*) at Maryport to the newly discovered *castrum* at Beckfoot, noticed in the *Journal* in December last. This had been satisfactorily done to the fourth field beyond the Maryport station, the road having been uncovered in many places, and found in perfect condition and of the most substantial structure, when on the 17th April two stones were observed slightly projecting above the surface of the ground, which were immediately dug out. One was found to be only the square base of a pedestal or altar. The other stone

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\* Reproduced from *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxvii, p. 280. This Society is also indebted to the Council of the Archæological Institute for the electro of the Serpent Stone.

was



STONE FOUND NEAR THE ROMAN CAMP, MARYPORT.

was found entire, and is most interesting in its features. Its entire height is four feet, of which there is, first, a square base fourteen inches high, on which is, secondly, an octagonal shaft one foot ten inches in height, then a nearly circular head one foot high. On the latter there is sculptured, on the front of the stone, a female face or mask face, with two snakes above the head and two fishes under the chin. The whole length of the back of the stone is occupied by the figure of a serpent three feet nine inches in length. The sculpture would seem to belong to a good period of art; but on that point I would leave the members of the Institute to judge from the accompanying photographs, which represent the front and back of each stone. The complete one is engraved herewith.

In front of the larger stone was a pavement thirteen feet by six, and underneath were several urns containing burnt bone and charcoal. Three stone cists were discovered in the vicinity, two of them containing human remains, also two stones carved to represent fir cones (a well known Roman emblem of immortality), one sixteen inches high, the other nine inches. There was also a portion of a monumental figure, with the head and lower extremities broken off. It resembles several found on the line of the Wall of Hadrian. A portion of another serpent was also found, which had probably been part of the monument of which the base was discovered previously.

It is an interesting question, What is the nature of the larger stone? Is it a tombstone? If so, does it refer to the deceased being a member of any particular sect? The surroundings of the discovery suggest that the spot was one of the usual road-side Roman cemeteries. Again, is it probable that it was a medium of worship in the same sense as an altar? I incline to the opinion that we have in it a relic of gnosticism, but should like the matter to be discussed by the Institute.

Returning to the second field from the camp, Mr. Robinson dug up, on the 28th of April, a rough freestone pavement, apparently leading direct to the spot where the great find of seventeen altars occurred in 1870, and by the side of it, was found an altar with the base broken off, inscribed—

I. O. M  
C. CABA  
LLIVS. P  
RISCVS  
TRIBVN

*i.e.*, I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) C(aius) Caballius Priscus Tribun(us). This is the fourth altar dedicated by this officer to Jupiter which has been found at Maryport. From the others we learn that he was the  
Tribune

Tribune of the first cohort of the Spaniards. The altar is one foot eleven inches in height.\*

The whole of these remains have been added to the already great collection of Roman monuments at Nether Hall, the seat of Mrs. Senhouse.

The Rev. C. W. King writes to me as to the stone bearing the figure of a serpent, and the base of a similar stone found with it, to the following effect :—

“There can be no doubt they are Phalli, which emblem was a primitive style of tombstone, for example on the tumulus of Alyattes at Sardis, where a gigantic specimen stands to this day.

“The sculptures are Mithraic. Caylus, *Rec. d' Antiquités*, iii, Pl. 94, figures a tablet with a serpent of the same form inscribed, “*Deo invicto Mith. Secundinus dat.*” It is a marble slab found at Lyons. The serpent forms a regular part of all Mithraic groups, where it is explained as signifying the element water.

“The meaning of the full face mask is not so easy to divine, but may be that of the Gallic sun-god Belenus, who wears a more ferocious aspect than his Greek brother Phœbus-Apollo. The nature of these tombstones seems to imply that they marked the interment of persons initiated into the Mithraic rites. They are certainly the most curious things of the sort that have ever come to light in this country.”

At the end of the pavement were found the foundations of a building measuring (nearly east and west) forty feet in length and of oblong shape, with an entrance vestibule of six feet, making forty-six feet as the entire length. The breadth is twenty-five feet. The walls were two feet six inches in thickness, and near the north-east angle was the base of an altar *in situ*. In front of the vestibule was a very peculiar pavement. It appears evidently to have been a temple. Can it have been, from the close proximity of the altar of Jupiter, dedicated to that divinity?

On the 1st May, twenty feet to the west of this temple, Mr. Robinson came upon the foundations of a circular building, thirty-four feet in external diameter, with walls two feet thick. In the centre is a large heap of stones, three feet in depth and without order, but the area has not yet been excavated, with the exception of an opening of a foot square in the middle of the heap, which contained nothing but water, and this disappeared in a few days. Above the centre was a coin of Antoninus Pius. On one side of the building was a funeral pyre and a cist, with a layer of charcoal fourteen inches in thickness. The building very strongly resembles one found at Keston (Kent), adjoining

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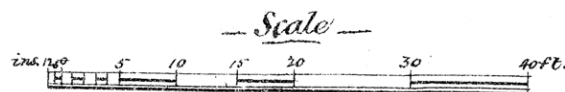
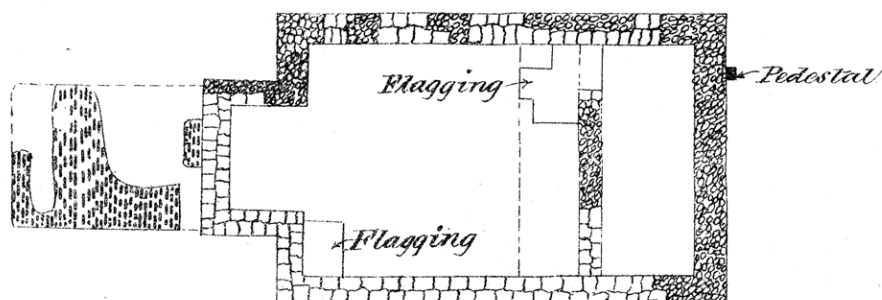
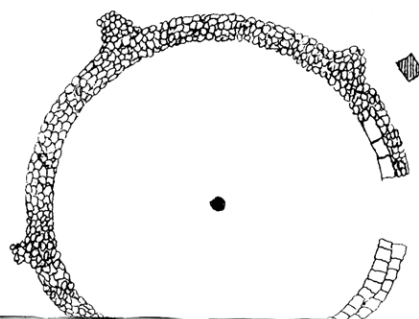
\* A heap of broken pottery and four Roman coins were found lying with it. the

\_\_\_\_ *PLAN of BUILDINGS* \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *Discovered near the Roman Camp, Maryport,* \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *by Mr. Jos. Robinson.* \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *April & May 1880.* \_\_\_\_



*Drawn by*  
*John B. Harvey,*  
*Maryport.*



the Roman camp at that place, by the late Mr. T. Crofton Croker, F.S.A. Like this last, it has buttresses.\*

On the 3rd May a fine altar, which had been inscribed, was dug up, but the inscription had been purposely obliterated, with the exception of two letters at the end of the first line. These letters are ET, and serve to shew that the altar had been dedicated to more than one deity. Probably the inscription commenced in a similar manner to others found in the same place.—

I. O. M. ET  
NVM. AVG.

Two carved heads, which appear to have been portions of a tomb, were also found, and also a *Dea Mater*.

Simultaneously with Mr. Robinson's operations, a new quarry has been opened upon the slope of the hill between the camp and the sea. The workmen found a number of squared stones, as if from some building above, and a quantity of pottery, &c. One of the stones bore the inscription:—

LEG. XX.

It is, of course, the mark of the twentieth legion.

Mr. Robinson turned his attention subsequently to this quarter, with the result of finding a fine altar three feet five inches high, but the inscription is much weathered. As far as I can make it out the inscription is:—

I. O. M.  
N.....  
.....AM  
.....IANA. Q. F.  
HERMIONE.

The base of another small household altar was also found, and a number of peculiarly cut stones.

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\* See the *Archæologia*, Vol. 22, p. 336, Plates xxxi. and xxxii.