

ART. XX.—*Report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee for 1902.* By F. HAVERFIELD, M.A., F.S.A., Hon. F.S.A., Scot.

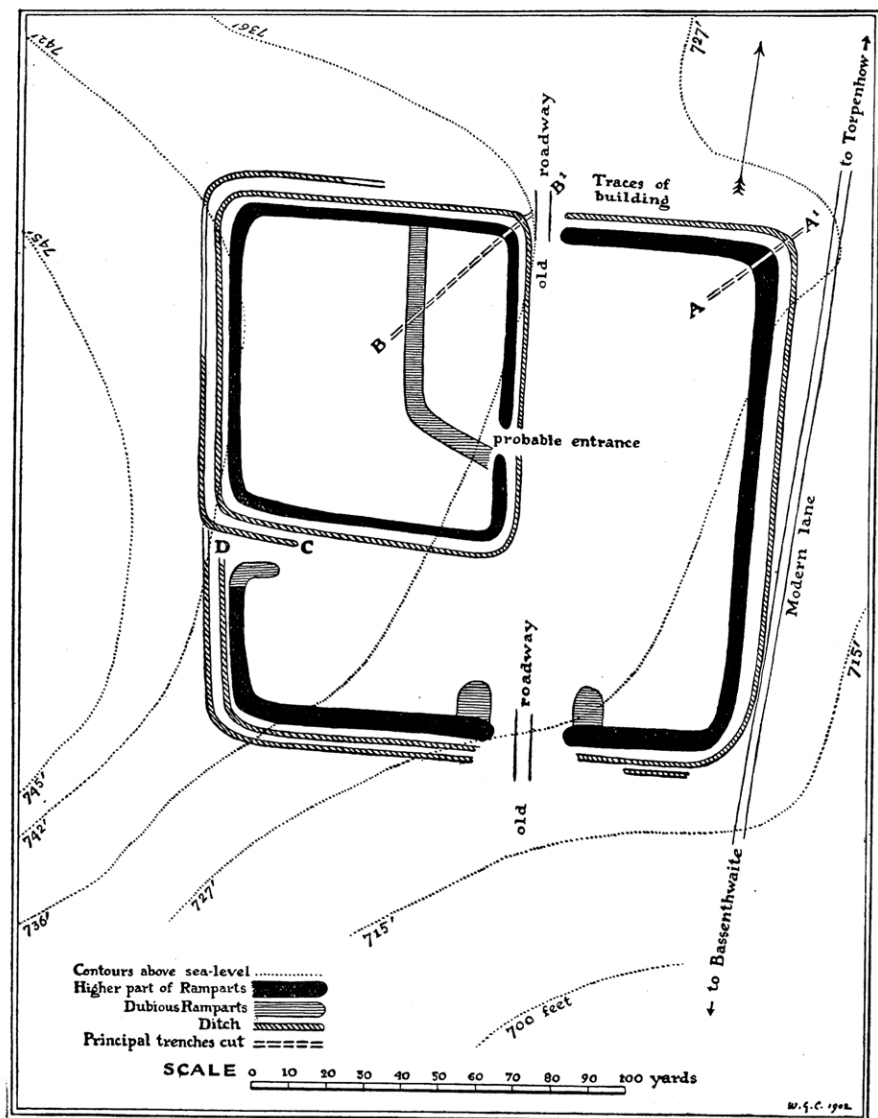
THE work done by the Cumberland Excavation Committee in the ninth successive year of its activity concerned two sites. In Mid-Cumberland a camp near Caermot, in the parish of Torpenhow,\* was provisionally explored, and on the Wall the researches of 1900-1 near Castlesteads were continued and practically completed. In both cases definite results were obtained. The Torpenhow camp was proved to be definitely a Roman site, though perhaps occupied only for a little while. The Vallum at Castlesteads was found to run roughly parallel with the Wall, in its usual manner, east and west of the fort; but in the actual neighbourhood of the fort to deviate southwards, so as to enclose the fort between itself and the Wall. Both these results are new, and both are archæologically important. The interpretation of earthen camps like that near Torpenhow has hitherto been very much a matter of guessing, and we have lacked proper *criteria*; we now obtain, at least, some definite facts. The interpretation of the Vallum has equally proceeded without full knowledge, and in particular the course of this strange work near the forts has been little understood, and serious mistakes have been made in relation to it. We now obtain one more definite instance of its line. We may claim this year to have distinctly advanced the knowledge of Roman Cumberland and the Roman Wall.

As in previous years, we have been greatly helped by the kindness of landowners and farmers, who have given

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\* Pronounced, and anciently sometimes spelt, Torpenno.





# CAMP HILL, NEAR CAERMOT.

AA<sup>1</sup>, BB<sup>1</sup>, PRINCIPAL TRENCHES.  
 C, END OF DITCH FIXED BY EXCAVATION.  
 D, DUBIOUS : see text.

us all necessary permissions with much readiness. The vicar of Torpenhow, the Rev. C. H. Gem, especially aided our work in that parish, by granting leave to excavate on his glebe and finding labour. At and near Castlesteads we were much indebted to the Earl of Carlisle, to Mr. F. P. Johnson of Castlesteads, who allowed us every facility and rendered much kindly aid, to the Rev. C. P. Calvert of Sandysike, and further to Mr. Richardson of Wintershields, Mr. J. Mounsey of Hill Field, Mr. A. Gillespie of Irthing House, Mr. Robert Law of Irthington, Mr. Waugh of Hurtleton, Mr. Jardine and Mr. Gillespie of Newtown, and Mr. Hetherington of Irthington Mill. Mr. G. B. Grundy, of Brasenose College, Oxford, and Mr. Hodgson gave us valuable assistance in surveying the Torpenhow site; Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson again helped effectively by laying down the trenches near Castlesteads, and preparing a plan of their positions and the lines of the Wall and Vallum, and Mr. Collingwood helped us very kindly in preparing the plan of the Torpenhow Camp.

#### I.—CAMP HILL, TORPENHOW.

Among the western outliers of the Skiddaw range is a high ridge which rises steeply to the south of Torpenhow and Bothel. On the top of this ridge is the rocky eminence of Caermot, which, despite its name, seems never to have been fortified by man, and a little north of it a small irregular earthwork called the Battery.\* Southwards, the ridge slopes sharply down to the north end of Bassenthwaite Lake, and on this southern slope, a little way from the summit and perhaps 70 feet below it, is Camp Hill Field. This is an expanse of 70 acres, formerly part of Torpenhow common land, and at the enclosures assigned to the vicar as glebe. It adjoins the road from

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\* As the names are now used, Caermot, the Battery, and Camp Hill denote three distinct spots. Caermot may in old times have denoted more than it does now, and may have included either the Battery or Camp Hill. But the history of the name is obscure, and it is safest to follow present use.

Torpenhow village to Bewaldeth and Bassenthwaite, and in it, close to the same road, is the "camp" which gives it its name.

The camp has received due notice from antiquaries, but with unsatisfactory results. It was first detected in the eighteenth century by Thomas West of Ulverston (*Guide to the Lakes*, first ed., 1778). He assumed it to be Roman and described it, not quite correctly, as "a square encampment with a double foss, extending from east to west 120 paces, and from north to south 100 paces . . . traversed by the [Roman] road from Keswick to Old Carlisle." This account was copied bodily by Hutchinson, but nothing was added till, in 1855, Benjamin West wrote to the London Society of Antiquaries deploring "the disappearance of the double foss," and exhibited specimens of "the vitrified foundations" of its ramparts and drawings of two bronze utensils found within it (*Proceedings*, 1855, p. 224).\* Twenty years later, Mr. W. Jackson of St. Bees recalled attention to the camp, which he identified with a Roman camp alleged by one or two earlier writers to exist near Ireby, which is near Torpenhow.† In 1881, Mr. J. Robinson of Maryport dug some trenches; outside the camp on the north he discovered foundations of rude buildings, "over three stones" of melted lead, some iron nails, charcoal, and decayed bricks, but nothing that he recognised as Roman.‡ The account of his work in these *Transactions* was illustrated by an indifferent plan, and a worse one, an utter travesty of the actual remains, was inserted in the second edition of the Ordnance Maps of the neighbourhood issued in 1900. Two facts emerge at the end of this retrospect. In the first place, the Roman character of the site, though almost invariably assumed, has been assumed without any evidence to support it. In the

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\* I have tried in vain to trace these specimens and drawings.

† These *Transactions*, iii., 43, 243-5.

‡ *Ibid.*, vi., 191; see following footnote.

second place, no accurate and detailed account of the site has yet been compiled. In the following paragraphs I propose to attempt such an account, so far as our examination and excavation permits. But I must premise that our work was intended only to ascertain a few important points, and much was of set purpose left untouched.

The camp stands on a comparatively level site, with a wide prospect southwards, but with no other outlook. It seems never to have been ploughed, but the Torpenhow and Bassenthwaite road cuts into the eastern defences, and the ground immediately outside part of its north front has been at some time or other much disturbed. It consists of two parts, (A) a large rectangular camp with rounded angles, and (B) a smaller rectangular camp with rounded angles standing within it, occupying its north-western corner, and using its exterior ramparts. Traces of rude buildings (C) are also visible just outside the north-east front.

(A) The larger camp measures about 400 feet from east to west and slightly less from north to south across the centre of its area, and contains about  $3\frac{2}{3}$  acres. It is defended by an earthen rampart, much worn down, but still traceable on the surface all round. Outside the rampart is a berm and a double ditch—the latter still recognisable along the south, west, and part of the north sides. Earth from the outer ditch has seemingly been thrown up outside it, so that there is a lower outer mound, which (as it were) accentuates it. The total width of these defences, measured along the present surface from the inside of the rampart to the outer mound, is about 70-75 feet. The rampart at present appears to be quite 20 feet wide, but it may have “spread” in the course of years; the width of the berm is uncertain; the ditches seem to have been each some 10 feet wide. The rampart, as we ascertained by trenching at and near its north-east corner, consisted of earth and not of stone. Its strata were—at the bottom, on the original surface line, much

wood (mostly oak and birch, but one stem of fir or larch) laid horizontally; above and round that, some black matter; then, two or three layers of bleached earth with dark lines 2-2½ inches apart, and on the top the gravel which forms the general subsoil of the site. The bleached earth and dark lines represent turves, such as have been found in the Birdoswald Turf Wall and elsewhere, and the construction of the rampart is plain. First a layer of brushwood was laid down, probably to provide a rude foundation, for it is a damp spot; then turves, taken off in digging the ditches, were laid on, and finally the gravel subsoil from the same ditches was piled up above. A few pieces of wood were also found standing vertically. Chief among these was a huge oak log, 4 feet long and 3½ feet in circumference—half a tree trunk, split down the middle and pointed at the bottom into a blunt wedge shape. The bottom of this post was planted 6½ feet below the present surface, and had been well preserved by the damp subsoil; the top, in drier earth, had perished. It stood at the north-east corner of the camp, in the interior of the rampart but nearer its inner face, and indicates a wooden corner turret or stockade.

The interior of the camp, so far as we trenched it, yielded in general no trace of human occupation. But immediately within the north-west corner, our trench revealed a stratum 23 feet long and 6-12 inches thick, of black matter. Our workmen took this to be burnt stuff; we thought it the result of water draining off the camp, and forming a little pool against the bank of the rampart. In this stratum we found some bits of decayed Samian, a few other potsherds, several pieces of sewn leather, one or two cinders of one sort or another, and two fragments of brick. Below this stratum were four vertical pieces of wood, two close together about six feet from the large oak post above mentioned, and two about 10 feet further into the camp. The former were birch branches, 9 inches in circumference, the latter oaken staves 21 inches long, and

in one case  $2 \times \frac{3}{4}$  inches, in the other  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$  inches wide and thick. They are too small for building poles, but, if not accidental, might have served as tent-pegs or the like.

The rampart had two entrances, one each in the north and south fronts. The south entrance, still recognisable on the surface, is an aperture 50 feet wide, through the middle of which runs a raised bank, 11 feet wide and at its crown 2 feet high, composed of gravel and stones—the biggest stones in the centre and at the edges as kerbs. The space on either side of this bank, 16 feet on the west and 23 on the east, had some few stones scattered over it, but was in general untouched soil. On either side of the aperture, the surface indicates a return of the rampart as if to flank the entrance, but a trench across the eastern return showed only faint and dubious traces of such a return. Apparently the raised bank is a roadway going south from the camp, but the aperture is a mere entrance and not a regular gateway. The road itself was traced for about 150 yards southwards, till lost in a little gully. Another entrance is on the north, close to the edge of the inner camp. Here our trenches showed that the north ditches ceased and road metal, or something like it, was plentiful. Presumably, therefore, a road ran through the outer camp from north to south. No definite signs of any other entrance were noted. The east rampart is somewhat disturbed by the modern road and surface drainage, and was not examined. On the other hand, an apparent entrance in the west rampart was found to be crossed by a continuous ditch.

(B) The inner rectangular camp measures 215 feet from east to west and 235 feet from north to south. It is defended all round by a rampart and ditch, which on the north and west are those of the larger camp, and on the east and south are independent. Here the ditch is single, except that at the south-west corner the double ditch is continued a little way round. (See plan.) The rampart, as we found by trenching at and near its north-east



corner, resembled the rampart of the outer camp in general size and character, but, perhaps as being on higher and drier ground than the north-east corner of the outer camp, it yielded no bottom stratum of wood, nor was any post found in it. Outside it is a small berm and a ditch, V shaped, about 5 feet wide and deep. A few potsherds (Samian, &c.) occurred just within the corner, but otherwise the interior of this camp, like that of the larger camp, yielded practically no sign of occupation. Large undressed stones were common at one point (see plan), but we met no trace of masonry or timberwork. The entrance to this inner camp seems to have been in the centre of the east side, convenient to the road traversing the outer camp. A low bank, visible on the surface, runs from near this entrance to the north face of the camp. Where our trench BB<sup>1</sup> cut this bank, we found many large undressed stones. The meaning of the bank is not clear: it may contain débris from some structure of undressed stone and wood.

(C) Immediately outside the north rampart and ditches of the outer camp are traces of a rude building—perhaps two rooms, covering an area of less than 20 × 60 feet; the walls are of undressed stone. We found nothing here, and Mr. Robinson, though he reports *inter alia* “three stones” of melted lead and suggests that the wretched structure was roofed in that metal, recognised nothing as Roman. The masonry is too rude to date, and the building must for the present be left unexplained.

It remains to draw conclusions as to the whole site. First, Samian and other Roman potsherds occur in it.\* It was therefore occupied in Roman times. Secondly, everything found in the camp either is or may well be Roman; leather, for example, is frequent on Roman sites. Moreover, the rectangular shape and double foss of the defences are Roman features—though they occur, of

\* Samian, &c., had been found before our excavations (the Rev. C. H. Gem showed me some pieces), but had not apparently been recognised as Roman.

course, also in non-Roman works. We may, therefore, fairly infer that the defences are of Roman construction, and that the camp is definitely a Roman camp. Thirdly, the remains appear to be few; the ramparts are earthen, and no buildings of stone can be traced.\* The camp was, therefore, probably a temporary fort, used in one campaign or set of campaigns, perhaps during the first conquest of the district, perhaps in some subsequent trouble.† The road which traverses it may also have been merely a campaigning road.

So far it seems possible to form a clear and tolerably safe conception of the nature of the camp. It is more difficult to determine the exact relation of the inner and outer enclosures. A combination of large and small Roman camps is not unparalleled; but usually, as at Chew Green and Ardoch, the smaller and inner camp is the more strongly fortified of the two. At Chew Green, for instance, the smallest inner camp, with an internal area of about 60 yards square ( $\frac{3}{4}$  acre), is defended by a rampart and berm and three ditches, the whole defences having a width of about 90 feet.‡ In such a case we might suppose the inner, stronger, fort to be the real fort and the outer area to be rather a fortified enclosure, occupied in full strength only on occasion. But at Camp Hill the outer area is the more strongly fortified, and the explanation just mentioned, though tenable, is less suitable. Chancellor Ferguson once suggested that the larger fort was first

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\* We examined incidentally some alleged Roman stones in Torpenhow Church. We found only one—a small plain panel, with a cable border, on the north side of the chancel—which had the least resemblance to Roman work, and this cannot be called at all certain.

† It has been suggested that the camp was occupied while the road which traversed it was being made. That does not seem to me an adequate cause, especially as the road would have taken only a few days to construct. I doubt also whether this "road" has been rightly conceived by former writers. They speak of a Roman road from Keswick to Old Carlisle, but no proper evidence of such a road exists, and the alleged "fort" at Keswick is extremely doubtful. The finds cited in the late Chancellor Ferguson's *Survey* under Keswick are almost all wrong. I should imagine that the road at Caermot was as temporary as the camp.

‡ As measured by myself and Mr. R. C. Bosanquet in 1899.

built; subsequently the garrison was reduced and the inner fort constructed, and he asserted, in proof, that the ditch of the inner fort was carried through the former western gate. Our trenches, however, revealed no sign of a western gate or road-metal, and though not carried far enough to prove the exact lines of the ditches at the point in question, gave no hint of any reconstruction or of earlier or later ditch making. The return of the rampart south of the alleged gate is not quite certain; but if it existed, it may well have defended the gap caused by the two ditches round the corner of the inner camp.

Here we must leave this curious site. For its fuller explanation we need not only more excavation of it, but, still more, some search in similar camps. It is the first Roman camp of earth in the north of England which has been even provisionally examined with any sort of care.

It may be convenient to add a summary of the trenches which we dug :—

- I.—Trench 100 feet long, taken from outside the N.E. corner of the outer rampart diagonally into the camp. At 10 feet from the N.E. end the rise of the rampart was detected, at 27 feet the large oak log described above; from 32-45 feet a black layer with Samian potsherds, and leather &c., in it; at 33-43 feet, pairs of small vertical sticks. The rest of the trench yielded only two potsherds. The subsoil throughout contained much water. (Plan, AA<sup>1</sup>).
- II.—Trench 16 feet long, across north face of outer rampart, opposite the 'traces of building,' revealing the same construction of rampart as No. 1, but less wood and peat; a drier spot.
- III.—Trench 160 feet long, taken from outside the N.E. corner of inner rampart diagonally into inner camp. At 14-19 feet the ditch, V shaped, full of black matter; 26-46 feet, traces of the rampart constructed as in No. 1, but without wood, as being drier ground; 105-135 feet, many large undressed stones, but no trace of actual building. Some potsherds at about 46 feet, but little elsewhere. (Plan, BB<sup>1</sup>).
- IV.—Trench through east rampart of inner camp, near to No. 3; same features of rampart, a few potsherds (Samian, &c.).

- V.—Some holes in area of building, to north of camp; nothing found.
- VI.—Trench at south entrance across bank of road. Bank 11 feet wide, 2 feet high at highest, large and small stones, large stones most on kerbs and centre. On each side of bank a few stones, which had apparently spread from the "road."
- VII.—Trench 25 feet long across surface-indication of a rampart flanking the entrance (east side); mixed soil and a stratum of blue clay, in all 18 inches thick, ceasing at east end of trench. If a return of the rampart, it has been greatly destroyed.
- VIII.—Trenches at S.W. corner of inner camp, alleged west gateway. The trenches showed that the outer of the ditches outside the whole camp was continuous, that no road metal was traceable, and that the inner camp had here a double ditch for 50 feet, and no more, along its southern face. I believe that the plan shows the Roman ramparts and ditches correctly, but we had not time to work the spot completely, and I have therefore marked it 'Dubious' on the plan.
- IX.—Trench across alleged north entrance (near No. 3) showed that here the ditches of the north rampart stopped, and stones resembling road metal lay in the line suitable for the road.

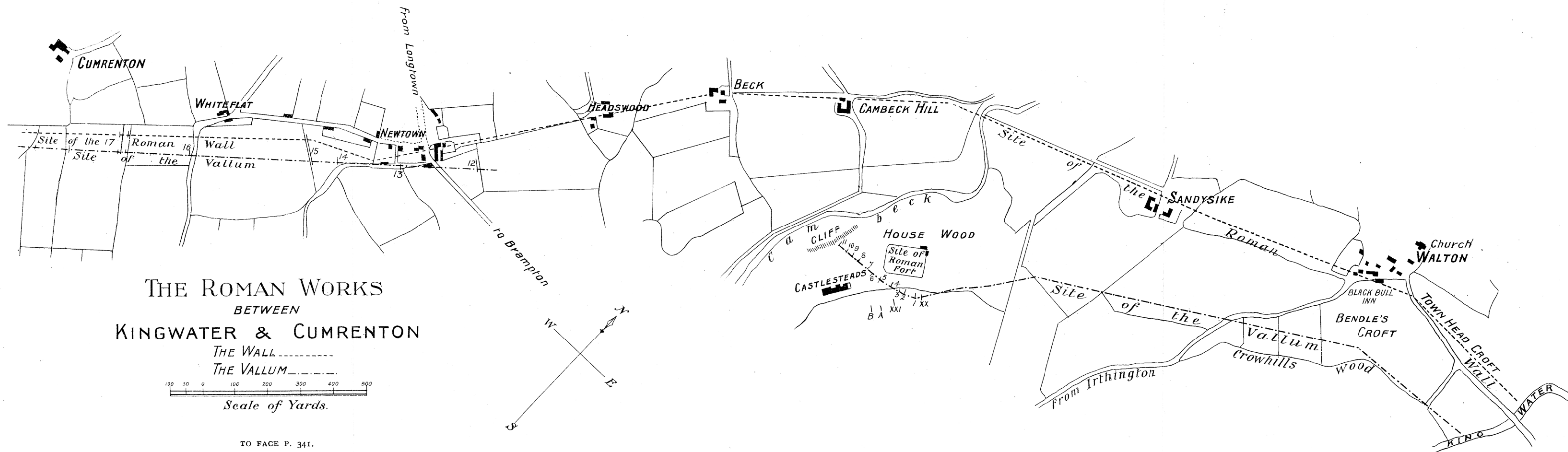
The excavations at Torpenhow were superintended by the present writer; Mr. R. P. L. Booker, Mr. G. B. Grundy, and the Rev. James Wilson of Dalston, editor of the *Cumberland County History*, were—one or more of them—also present and assisting almost all through the work.

## II.—THE VALLUM NEAR CASTLESTEADS.

In 1901 we traced the Vallum westwards from near Walton to the "grass park" of Castlesteads, and found that 320 yards east of the fort its line (as we followed it from the east) deviated southwards in order to pass south of the fort. In 1902 we traced the line further west, through Castlesteads Woods, and found that it turned, taking a direction slightly north of west, so as to sweep round Castlesteads fort at a distance of about 90 yards, and approach the Wall once more. At the cliff above the

Cambeck its traces had been destroyed by landslips, and in the holms on the other side of the stream we had already found in 1897 that the movements of the river had been numerous, and search was therefore useless. We were able, however, to trace it on the high ground beyond the holms, at Newtown of Irthington. Here it coincides with a green lane behind the houses, and is separated from the Wall by an interval of barely 35 yards. West of this it runs roughly parallel with the Wall, and was easily followed by a series of trenches up to the point where it was sought in 1894 by the late Mr. Calverley (Report, 1894, p. 465). In general, the line of the Vallum given on the Ordnance Maps west of Newtown is fairly correct. For the sake of precaution, we may perhaps dig a few more test trenches across the line of the Vallum in this neighbourhood. But practically we may say that the lost section which we have been following for some time has now been satisfactorily recovered, and that the line of the Vallum is now known with reasonable certainty from Birdoswald to Stanwix. As the line has in many places entirely vanished from the face of the ground, it has been no easy work to trace it. In 1902, in particular, we met no trace whatever, on the surface, of its course.

It may be well to add the usual summary of our trenches. We must state beforehand, however, that owing to an accident a good many unproductive trenches were dug at the outset of our work. Our last trench of 1901 (No. xxi.) had shown us one side of a ditch or hole, filled with mixed earth and peat below, and having a flat bottom  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the present surface. As this was in a straight line with the previously discovered line of the Vallum we took it for a part of the Vallum ditch, and proceeded in this year to follow the same line. It was only after many failures that we discovered that trench xxi. of 1901 did not cover the Vallum ditch, and that this had taken a different direction near to trench xx. I have distinguished by letters (A, B, C, &c.) the trenches thus



dug in wrong places, and have summarised them at the end of the others :—

Trench i., 36 feet long and 20 feet west of trench xx., 1901. The two lips of the Vallum ditch were found at five feet from each end; at 10 feet from each end the depths of the sides of the ditch were each just over six feet; in the middle, the depth was 9-10 feet for about 10 feet horizontally. Freestone, Samian, and other potsherds occurred in the filling of the ditch, and black matter at the bottom. This trench was extended northwards to make sure that we had not again got upon some hole, and that no other ditch existed north of it.

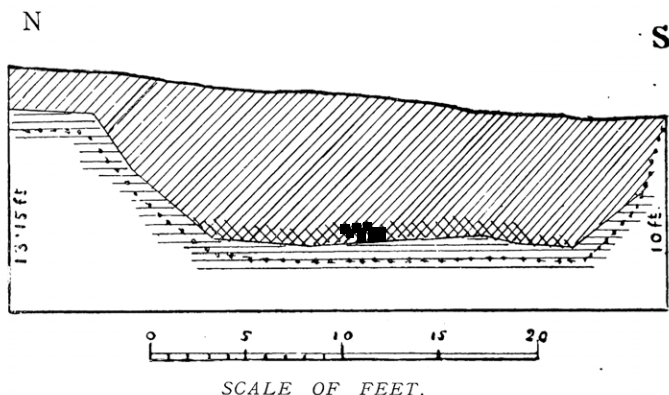
Trench ii., 40 feet long, 128 feet west of No. i., close to the fence of the grass park. The north lip of the ditch was found 11 feet from the north end of the trench, the south lip five feet from the south end; the bottom of the ditch was about eight feet below the present surface, but was not dug entirely out. The ditch was filled at the top with mixed earth and cobbles, then grey and (at the bottom) black matter, which contained potsherds, &c., and a bit of red sandstone rudely scratched to represent a face (p. 348). The cobbles formed a layer nearly 30 inches thick, and indicate that the Vallum had here been at some (probably recent) date filled up on purpose (? in 1790, when the present house was built and the grounds laid out).

Trench iii., 19 feet long, 55 feet west of No. ii., close to the same fence. This trench showed the south slope of the ditch, beginning at eight feet from the south end, and the bottom of the bottom of the ditch at 14 feet. The slope is five in six; the bottom is marked by black matter, &c. This trench cut the ditch obliquely, as both the contents of the trench and the calculations of the surveyors show.

Trench iv., 11 feet long, 45 feet west of No. iii., on the north side of the fence and within Castlesteads Woods. Here we found the south slope of the ditch at the south end of the trench, and its bottom (a thick layer of black matter) at  $7\frac{1}{4}$  feet deep.

Trench v., 42 feet long, 123 feet west of No. iv. The north slope of the Vallum ditch was found to begin at 13 feet from the north end; the south slope is under the south end of the trench; the diagram annexed shows further details. As in trench iii., the vestiges of the slope of the ditch ran obliquely to the trench, which cuts the ditch at an angle of about  $80^{\circ}$ . The bottom of the ditch was marked by a peat layer, 8-14 inches thick, out of which came various relics—a handled knife, many Romano-British potsherds, leather (p. 348), bones, freestone fragments,

abundant traces of ancient vegetation (oak, birch, ling, &c.), and some pieces of wood cut by human agency—in short, just what one might expect close to a fort, here only 30 yards distant.\* The small rise in the middle of the bottom of the ditch has been found elsewhere.



The diagonal shading indicates surface soil and disturbed earth.

The horizontal shading, undisturbed subsoil.

The crosswise shading, black deposit in the ancient ditch, containing fragments of leather, bones, &c.

The continuous line represents the line of ancient surface during the existence of the ditch.

The dotted line, the limit reached by the excavators

The position of a path prevented complete excavation of the southern lip of the ditch.

CASTLESTEADS.

T. H. H. and E. H., Aug., 1902.

Some other trenches were dug somewhat east of trench v., but only showed undisturbed subsoil. They are noteworthy only as proving that the Vallum did not run where they were dug—that is, they supply negative evidence that trench v. really cut the ditch.

Trench vi., two trenches were dug 70 and 120 feet west of No. v. on what was at first taken to be the line. They showed only undisturbed subsoil; one yielded a bit of what may be an inscription (p. 348). Finally a trench 47 feet west of No. v., and slightly north of the line fruitlessly tried, cut the ditch, with

\* By the kindness of Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, K.C.M.G., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, some 30 specimens of the wood were examined at Kew by Mr. H. H. W. Pearson. Thirteen pieces (the largest in the lot) were found to be oak, eight to be birch, two ash, one probably hazel, and the rest principally birch roots. One piece of birch seemed to be the lower end of a stake. On several other pieces of birch the bark was as fresh as if the pieces had been cut quite recently: compare *Report* for 1900, p. 87 note.



black matter at  $7\frac{3}{4}$  feet deep. As subsequent surveying proved, the two fruitless trenches were out of the true line, while trench vi. was upon it.

Trench vii., 140 feet west of No. vi., 46 feet long, showed the north slope of the ditch at 25 feet from its north end, and much mixed clay and peat filling the ditch.

Trench viii., 105 feet west of No. vii., 37 feet long. The north lip of the ditch was under the north end of this trench; the bottom eight feet deep; the filling mixed red clay above, grey and black stuff below; the latter yielded potsherds, leather, worked wood, &c. The clay must have been laid on purposely at some time or other, perhaps in 1790.

Trench ix., 92 feet west of No. viii., 15 feet long, showed the north slope of the ditch (apparently fallen in), and similar mixed stuff in it.

Trench x., 70 feet west of No. ix., 18 feet long, showed the north lip of the ditch at seven feet from its north end, the bottom at 12 feet. The north slope of the ditch had fallen in, or been somewhat disturbed.

Trench xi., 40 feet west of No. x., 28 feet long. Here the south slope of the ditch was found rising sharply at the south end of our trench; the bottom was eight feet deep at the south end, six feet deep at the north end; the north slope was found at five feet from the north end of the trench. This trench is on the very edge of the cliff above the Cambeck, and the ditch here has probably been altered by water running through it.

A further trench (not marked on the plan) was dug for 45 feet, at 110 feet down the hillside, but no trace of the Vallum or its ditch were found. The hillside has, indeed, been so vexed by landslips that one would not expect any sort of traces to survive. The holms by the Cambeck have also been so turned over by the river, which is known to have repeatedly altered its course, that search there would be futile, and was proved to be so in 1898 (Report, 1898, p. 354). We therefore resumed operations on the higher ground near Newtown of Irthington.

Trench xii., 68 feet long, close to the eastern hedge of a croft close tenanted by Mr. Gillespie. The north slope of the ditch is 11 feet from the south end of this ditch, and is very steep and indeed almost vertical. The bottom was found at  $8\frac{1}{4}$  feet; the filling of the ditch is soft soil with some bits of freestone, contrasting markedly with the subsoil of hard sand.

The steepness of the side was surprising. It recurs further west, and was also noticed by us near Howgill in similar subsoil (Report, 1900, p. 78). Our labourers declared that such subsoils

would stand on an almost vertical slope. Explorers of Kentish 'dene-holes' sunk through sand have noticed the same fact. But it is remarkable that the constructors of the Vallum should have *chosen* to make the sides of its ditch so steep.

Trench xiii., 16 feet long, at a field gate opening into a green "lonning" behind Newtown. This showed the south lip of the ditch and a steep slope down, three feet from its south end. The ditch was traced under the lonning; at the other end of the trench it was  $6\frac{3}{4}$  feet deep, and had two black layers of decayed vegetation at the bottom. Apparently the lonning does not actually run along the ditch, but the ditch must first have silted up, and the lane has then taken its course along the filled up surface. Here Wall and Vallum are barely 30 yards apart.

Trench xiv., 16 feet long, on the east side of the West Field, a large grass meadow. At eight feet from the north end the dip of the south side of the ditch was found; the filling was mixed sand, with grey and black stuff below.

Another trench was dug near this, but it showed only the vestiges of a now extinct pond, close to the lane.

Trench xv., long trench, along the western hedge of West Field. The south lip of the ditch was found at 350 feet from the north-west corner of the field; the slope was very steep; the flat bottom of the ditch was 6 feet 3-7 inches below the present surface.

The line of the Wall in this field is indicated by debris, which we trenched, to be about 110-120 feet from the north-west corner of the field. Here, therefore, Wall and Vallum ditch are about 80 yards apart. A milecastle is said to have been in this field, and Dr. Bruce, in his *Handbook* (ed. 1895), speaks of "evident traces." We were unable to find such traces, but there is a local belief that something of the sort once existed, and in the second (1853) edition of his *Roman Wall*, Dr. Bruce says that the foundations were all uprooted in 1852.

Trench xvi., on the west side of the road leading to Irthington, in the headrigg of a turnip field. The trench was 17 feet long; at its south end was the steep south slope of the Vallum ditch, with bottom at seven feet deep.

Trench xvii., long trench on the east side of High Croft, a large grass field, formerly ploughed, belonging to Mr. R. Law. Here we trenched from the ditch of the Wall to that of the Vallum. The Wall ditch (now filled up) was found to run along the north side of the field, with its north slope under the hedge. We were able to ascertain, however, that the ditch was (as usual) V

shaped, the bottom 10 feet below the present surface, and the slope of the south side about 1 in 2 at the bottom and 2 in 3 at the top. Behind—that is, south of the ditch—we found a clear space, presumably the berm, 28 feet wide, and then a layer of Wall debris 12 feet wide; this latter we tested by parallel trenches 48 feet eastwards. There followed an expanse of untouched soil for 176 feet, and then we reached the Vallum ditch. This proved to be 20 feet wide from the lip of untouched soil to lip, 16 feet wide at the bottom, and eight feet deep below the present surface; the filling was mixed grey soil, easily distinguished from the sandy subsoil. The sides were very steep. As the subsoil is here  $2-2\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the present surface, the original ditch must have been six feet deep at least. We tested this ditch by parallel trenches, 55 feet westwards, 47 feet eastwards, and on the western side of the field, and in all three cases found mixed soil in the proper place to eight feet depth. No trace of the Mural road was found in any of these trenches.

Now I subjoin the trenches dug in error, in Castlesteads grass park :—

- (A) Trench 58 feet long, 105 feet west of trench xxi., 1901. The south part of this trench showed a depression, sinking to five feet below present surface, and filled with mixed soil and peat, with cobbles above. But the depression is only six feet wide, and is too small for the ditch of the Vallum. It appears to have been filled in comparatively recently.
- (B) Trench 88 feet long, 88 feet west of A. This revealed two small depressions each about six feet deep and two feet wide, and at the south end a bed of cobbles, laid on undisturbed soil, and plainly a road. We traced this road for about 150 yards westwards, and found it to agree with a carriage road to Castlesteads House closed many years ago.
- (C) Trench 154 feet west of B, in front of Castlesteads House. This showed untouched subsoil throughout.
- (D) Trench 45 feet long, 39 feet west of the gate into the grass park. This also showed untouched sand.
- (E) Trench 150 feet long, west of Castlesteads House—untouched sand throughout.

These trenches may help to convince any sceptical readers that the ditch of the Vallum is a real thing, not to be found at any chance trench.

The trenches at Castlesteads were supervised by the present writer, Mr. R. P. L. Booker, and Mr. T. H. Hodgson ; those at Newtown by the present writer.

### III.—THE WALL AT WALTON.

The line of the Wall at Walton is given variously by various writers, and in all cases conjecturally. We were able to trace most of the doubtful portion, and to form an opinion as to the position of a supposed milecastle.

The Wall exists above ground, and, indeed, retains a few facing stones of its southern side, on the bank above Kingwater, immediately west of Dovecote Bridge.\* From this starting point, we followed the Wall in thirteen trenches up the field north of the road from Dovecote to Walton, called Townhead Croft. Our trenches showed regularly debris, freestones, cobble foundation layers and concrete of mortar and pebbles, and bits of freestone—exactly the same concrete as may be seen along the Wall east of Kingwater, at Dovecote, at Garthside, and at Banks. The width of the debris varied, but was usually about 9-13 feet; no freestone was found *in situ* except perhaps in the fifth trench, and the Wall, it is clear, has here been very thoroughly robbed. A trench was dug also to find the front of the Wall, and showed a berm of some 28 feet width between the rubble and the south lip of the ditch. It may be added that in this field the Wall follows a very weak line, singularly overhung by rising ground immediately to the north.

The Wall crosses the Dovecote and Walton Road about 130 feet from the corner where it reaches the hilltop, and presumably enters the field on the other side of the road, Bendle's Croft (Reports, 1900, p. 82 ; 1901, p. 391). Here

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\* A story that the Wall, or Roman concrete of it, was found in 1893-4 in building Dovecote Bridge was investigated by Mr. Booker, and seems to be incorrect. The remains actually found were insignificant, and not *in situ*. The bridge is not, indeed, in the line of the Wall, but just south of it.

we dug two long parallel trenches and several short ones without discovering any certain traces of the Wall.\* We were able, however, to find the ditch. It appears, in fact, that the mound which occupies the north-east corner of the field consists on its south side of undisturbed sandy soil, while its northern part is mostly made ground. This made ground is the filling of the ditch in front of the Wall. For the convenience of visitors, it may be added that the Wall seems to run through the Black Bull Inn, while its ditch underlies the gate into Bendle's Croft, and passes just south of the group of beech trees in the north-east corner of the field. In fact, the line suggested by Maclauchlan is practically correct, while that laid down in the Ordnance Survey is entirely wrong.

Of the milecastle which has been supposed to have stood here we found no trace. Our trenches of the last three years have, however, yielded so much debris as to make the existence of something more than a Wall not improbable, and the discovery of a bit of "Samian" in the filling of the ditch, isolated as it is, suggests that the site was occupied in Roman times. It has, moreover, since been much disturbed. The stone used in this part of the Wall by the Romans is soft and perishable; it has been extensively borrowed by subsequent builders, and as, within almost living memory, farm buildings occupied the north side of Bendle's Croft, the disappearance of Wall and milecastle is not inexplicable.

#### IV.—MISCELLANEOUS FINDS.

Few objects of individual interest were found; excavations along the Vallum are, indeed, rarely productive of such. We may mention the following, found at Castlesteads :—

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\* A small parcel of debris found in one trench of 1901 (not recorded in our Report) seems to be in the line of the Wall. It was, however, so small that it is hardly noteworthy.

- (1) Block of red sandstone,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, 5 wide, 4 thick, found in trench ii., having on the front a rudely scratched nose, eyes, lips, and beard, the beard indicated by pickmarks, the rest by straight lines. (See Plate opposite.)
- (2) Block of red sandstone,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  wide, 4 thick, found near trench vi. It appears to have three lines of very rude letters between horizontal marks, the upper lines two inches high, the lowest  $1\frac{1}{2}$  high. The letters might be:—

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{MI}} \text{ (or } \Lambda) \\ \overline{\text{AN}} \\ \overline{\text{AII}} \end{array}$$

The object is broken on all sides, but the line MI (or MA) has blank space above, and was the top. (See Plate opposite, from a photograph by Miss Hudson. For convenience in photographing, the stone has been placed upside down.)

- (3) Soles of a pair of sandals, found in trench v., near the bottom, with other not distinguishable leather fragments. A bootmaker to whom I showed a tracing of the better preserved sandal (right foot) said it would be now a "five" or a "six." He thought it indicated a narrow woman's foot, and probably an ill-fit. One of the tags which was fastened from the sole over the foot is preserved; it would have passed over the joint of the great toe.

The "Samian" potsherds found at Castlesteads were mostly mere fragments. A few were embossed pieces—all of the "bowl" type (these *Transactions*, xv., 192, plate vii., fig. 6), which is commonest on the Wall, and probably belongs to the second and third centuries.\*

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\* I may here correct my statement in xv., 194, that the cylindrical type, there represented in plate vii., 3 and 4, does not occur along the Wall. It does occur, though not very commonly. Dragendorff's dating of this type exclusively to the first century seems also untenable on later German evidence. I imagine the type was used both in the first and, though less extensively, in the second century.



FRAGMENTS FOUND IN CASTLESTEADS WOODS

(Inscribed Stone, Head. and Knife).

(TO FACE P. 348.)

## EXPENDITURE.

			£	s.	d.
Labour at Castlesteads	...	...	23	12	0
Compensation at Castlesteads	...	...	2	15	0
Labour, etc., at Caermot	...	...	3	15	0
			<hr/>		
			£30	2	0

Of this £10 was defrayed out of the £25 voted by the Society for the continuance of our excavations, and the balance out of Oxford and other private subscriptions. These subscriptions, which provided us with a small balance for the last three or four years, are now exhausted. As the balance of the Society's grant is not likely to be sufficient for the whole of another year's work, we must appeal to the kindness of those who are interested in the excavations again to help us.