

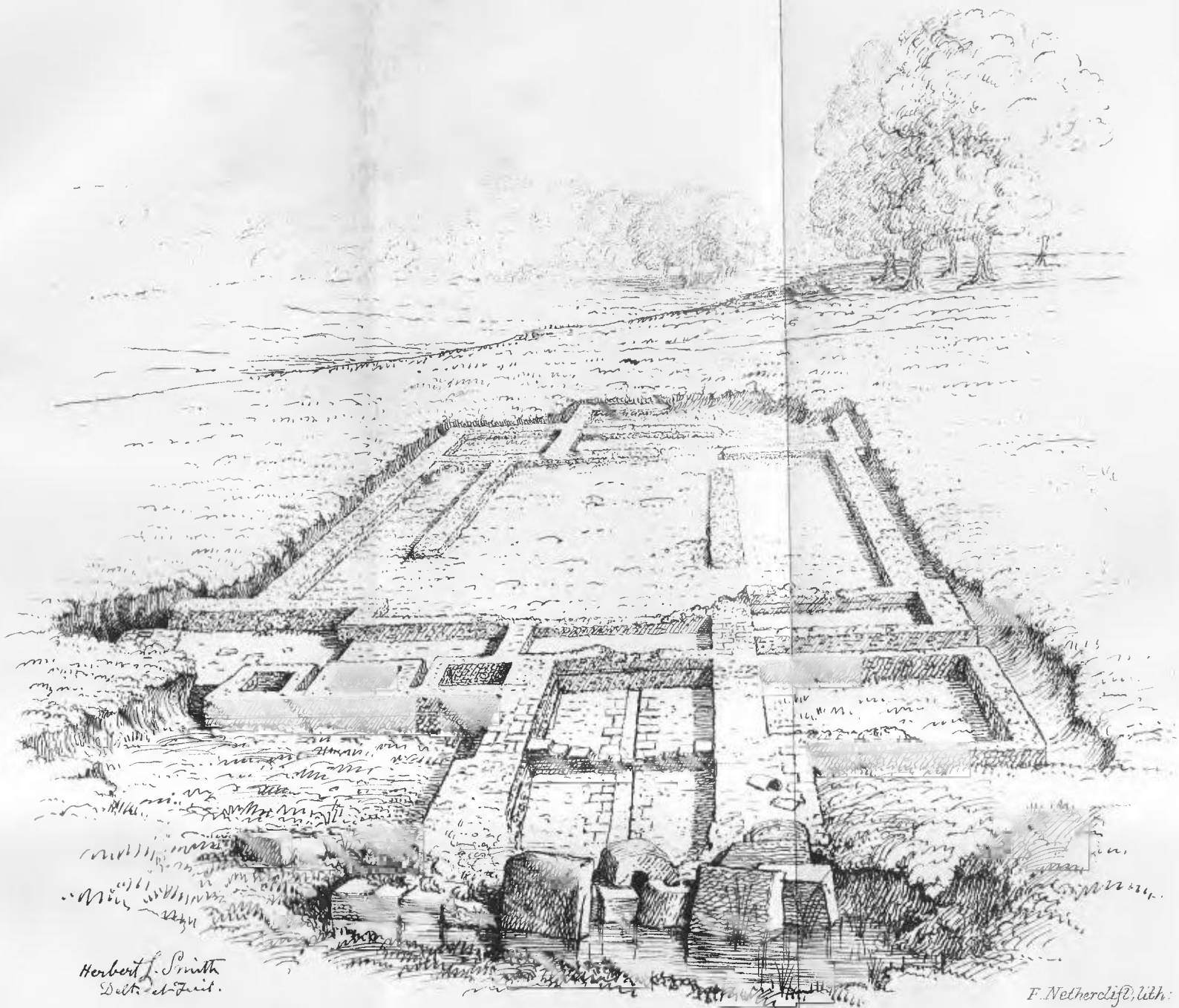
ON A ROMAN VILLA DISCOVERED AT  
TITSEY.

By GRANVILLE LEVESON-GOWER, Esq.

IT has been suggested on several occasions that a map of the County should be published under the direction of the Surrey Archæological Society, pointing out the Roman roads, camps, and stations, that are known to exist in Surrey. Such a suggestion is, I think, well worthy of attention, and may, I hope, one day be carried out. In the neighbouring County of Sussex—as I see from the last volume of the “Sussex Archæological Collections”<sup>1</sup>—it is proposed to construct and publish a map of Roman Sussex, and information is requested respecting the traces of Roman roads, or the existence of Roman or Romano-British houses, tombs, &c., or the discovery of coins, in any part of the County. In a County like our own, where the ancient landmarks are fast disappearing, it would serve on the one hand to perpetuate the memory of such Roman remains as have been already discovered, and on the other, would in all probability, be the means of bringing to light others which have hitherto escaped notice. The County of Surrey, as has been elsewhere remarked,<sup>2</sup> was, owing to the poverty of the soil and to the vast tracts of wood and heath with which it was covered, very thinly peopled in the time of the Romans, and therefore it is not reasonable to expect that we should find many traces of their occupation; but still, as in the case of Titsey, where the discovery was purely

<sup>1</sup> *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, vol. xix. p. 209.

<sup>2</sup> *Surrey Etymologies*, by J. W. Flower, Esq.; *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, vol. iii. pp. 230, 232.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE VILLA.

accidental, so elsewhere, I think, in the County may yet be found the remains of isolated Roman villas, military stations, or "hunting lodges,"<sup>1</sup> the existence of which has been hitherto unknown.

An account of the Roman antiquities of Surrey will be found in the Appendix to vol. iii. of Manning and Bray's "History of Surrey,"<sup>2</sup> in the introductory chapter of Brayley's "History of Surrey,"<sup>3</sup> and in a paper on the Archæology of the County of Surrey, by the Rev. Octavius Owen, F.S.A. ;<sup>4</sup> I shall not, therefore, enter upon the general question as relating to the County, but confine myself to a description of the villa at Titsey, merely pointing out such evidences of Roman settlement as exist in the neighbourhood, and may help to throw light upon the subject.

The name "street," which occurs not unfrequently in the district, may be taken, I think, as some evidence of Roman occupation. In Limpsfield, the next parish to Titsey, we have "Lake Street" and "Grub Street," and in Westerham "French Street," all being old lines of way. In the parish of Nutfield, about seven miles distant, Manning<sup>5</sup> mentions that about the middle of the last century a quantity of brass Roman coins of the Lower Empire were found in an earthen vessel in the highway leading from the village towards Ham Farm. In Woldingham, a parish bordering upon Titsey on the north-west, Aubrey<sup>6</sup> relates that a copper coin of Constantine the Great was found. In the adjoining County of Kent, at Keston and at Holwood, both within a distance of ten miles, are Roman buildings of considerable extent.

Neither Manning and Bray, nor Brayley,<sup>7</sup> make mention of any Roman remains at Titsey, nor was there any local tradition of any such existing. The discovery was first made in draining part of the park in the autumn of

<sup>1</sup> *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, vol. iii. p. 231.

<sup>2</sup> P. xlv. *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> Vol. i. pp. 10-25.

<sup>4</sup> *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, vol. i. pp. 4, 5.

<sup>5</sup> *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 266. <sup>6</sup> *Antiquities of Surrey*, vol. iii. p. 11.

<sup>7</sup> Aubrey, vol. iii. p. 16, mentions that in the field of Mr. Thomas Hatton, of Titsey, there had been found a copper coin of Constantine the Great, of the *medii moduli*.



1847; and although the broken nature of the surface of the ground and the cropping up of stones here and there had previously given indication of the remains of some building, there was nothing to warrant the supposition that it was anything more than one of an ordinary kind, which had fallen into decay and been removed. The season being then far advanced, no complete investigation was possible. The line of the walls was partly traced, one or two of the chambers laid bare, and a piece of tessellated pavement discovered, which, together with numerous fragments of pottery, wall frescoes and tiles, some pieces of glass, and one coin of which a figure and description is given at page 231,<sup>1</sup> was all that was then found. After a few years the grass was allowed to grow over the site again, and in this condition it remained until the summer of 1864. The excessive drought of that summer enabled me to trace the foundations of the whole building most completely; and partly at the suggestion of my friend Mr. C. Spencer Perceval I determined to begin the work of excavation. We commenced early in August, and the autumn being exceedingly favourable for the purpose, we were able to continue without interruption until the middle of November. The work occupied some time, as all the soil that came out was carefully sifted. It was commenced again in the spring of 1865, and finished by the middle of July. The result of these excavations, together with a description and drawings of such objects as were found there, will form the subject of the present paper. Such a description will, I trust, be of interest to the members of the Surrey Archæological Society, many of whom visited the spot at the annual excursion in August, 1865.

The villa is in a low situation at the foot of the chalk hill, close to the stream, which, being one of the tributaries of the Medway, has its principal source some four hundred yards to the east; and in the choice of the situation, the water doubtless formed a material element. To determine the access to it is difficult, the nearest ascertained Roman

<sup>1</sup> Plate IV. Fig. vi.

road<sup>1</sup> is that which, running from Newhaven through Lindfield<sup>2</sup> in Sussex, enters the county of Surrey at New Chapel, the southern extremity of the parish of Godstone, and passing through the lower part of that parish, which still retains the name of Stratton or Stretton (the Town on the Way or Street), ascends White Hill in Bletchingley,<sup>3</sup> and leads over Stansted Heath in Caterham, through Chaldon to Woodcote (the supposed Noviomagus), where it joins what is generally considered to be the Ermine Street. The nearest point of this road would be about five miles from Titsey. It is traversed, however, in the parish of Bletchingley by the road now known as the Pilgrim's Way; and if we may suppose that road to have been an ancient British track in use in the Roman times,<sup>4</sup> the villa was probably approached by this route, the Pilgrim's Way as it passes through the Park at Titsey running about 300 yards to the north of it. There are, however, some traces of a short piece of road approaching it on the western side, communicating with another old track which runs from Limpsfield Common over the hill to Chelsham, at Bottle Hill, in which parish are the remains of an old camp.<sup>5</sup> Besides this, the lane which I have mentioned as bearing the name of Grub Street formerly led to Titsey, and ran at no great distance from the villa. I may mention also, with regard to this latter, that having occasion to cut through the line of it during the past winter, we came upon fragments of

<sup>1</sup> For an account of this road, see Manning, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 322; and vol. iii. Appendix, xlv.

<sup>2</sup> See *Gent. Mag.* 1781, p. 306.

<sup>3</sup> A little below this hill, near Pendhill House, overlooked by the fortified ground called Cardinal's Cap, in Caterham, were discovered in the summer of 1813 the remains of a Roman building and hypocaust. For an account of this, see Manning, vol. iii. Appendix, cxxi.

<sup>4</sup> *Historical Memorials of Canterbury*, Appendix to the "Shrine of Becket," note D, p. 260. Mr. Albert Way remarks:—"Although there are no indications of the Pilgrim's Road having been formed by the Romans, there can be little doubt that it was used by them, as evinced by numerous vestiges of villas and other remains of the Roman age near its course."

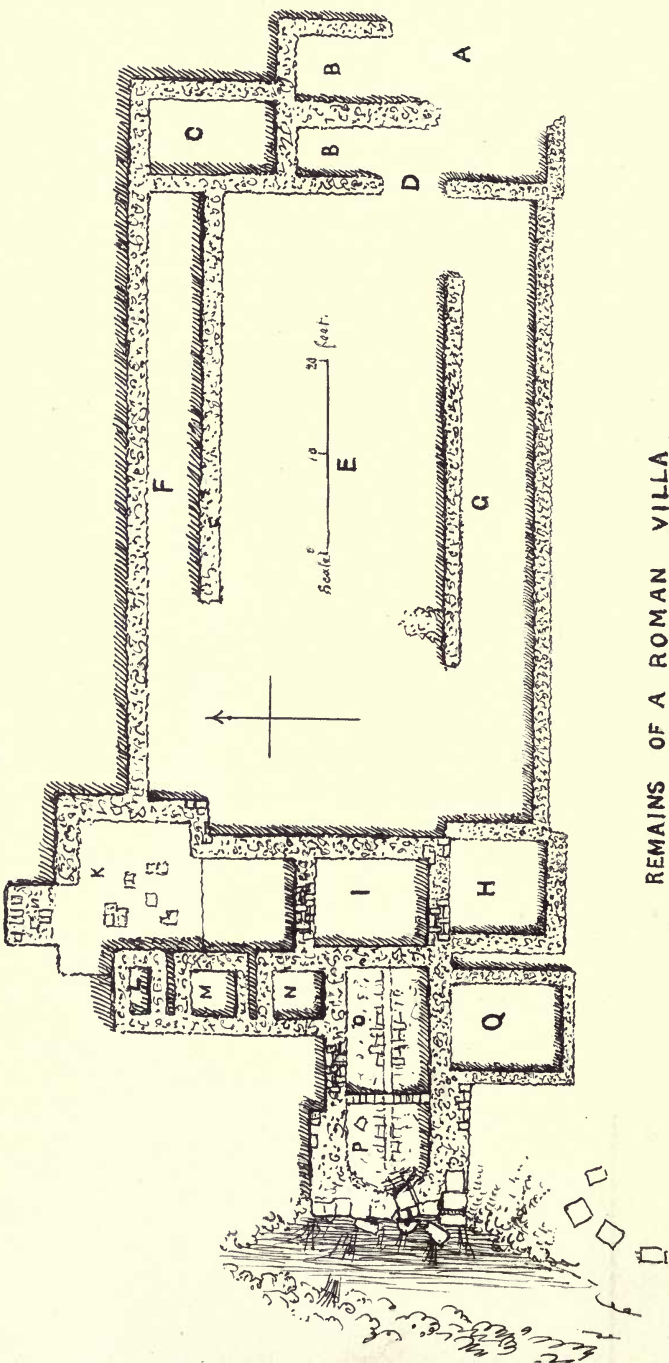
<sup>5</sup> Manning, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. ii. p. 422.

Roman bricks and tiles exactly similar to those found at the villa. In the absence, however, of any better evidence upon this point than that which I have been able to adduce, the question must remain still open to doubt.

From the fact that the villa appears to have been completely isolated, and, although all the land round it for some distance has been underdrained, that no remains of any other villa have been discovered, I am inclined to think that it was one of several military stations which would occur at considerable distances from one another. We have evidence of Roman military works in a double trench and bank, which runs for some way along the ridge of the high ground in the parishes of Lingfield and Edenbridge, immediately above the Weald. These works may be traced very distinctly on the Beeches Farm, in the latter parish. There exists also another earthwork, now in great part obliterated, which runs over a part of Limpsfield Common, called Cearn Bank, at no great distance from the woods there called the Chart. About forty years ago a workman in digging stones along the line of it came upon a quantity of Roman copper coins;<sup>1</sup> but I have been unable to find out what became of them.

In judging of the site, it may be well to consider the nature of the country at that time. From the South Downs in a northerly direction right up to the sandstone ridge stretched the Weald, one vast forest of oak. The belt of green sand, which in this part of the County is very narrow, was probably all heath and moorland; and it was here at the foot of the chalk hill that the open country would begin, a tract of land comparatively fertile and well watered. These circumstances, together with its position at the foot of one of the passes through the North Downs leading towards London, may have made it a suitable place for a military station. Chosen originally with this object, in the later and more peaceful

<sup>1</sup> From information communicated to me by H. Cox, Esq., of Treveux, Limpsfield. This gentleman has kindly presented me with three silver Roman coins, one of which, he believes that of Trajan, was found in his kitchen garden.



REMAINS OF A ROMAN VILLA,  
TITSEY PARK.



days of the Roman occupation of Britain, it may have passed into a simple villa residence; but whatever purpose it served, whether military station, villa, or hunting-lodge, it presents the usual features of a Roman building. The large courtyard with its tessellated pavement, rooms adjoining it small in proportion and few in number, and a bath considerably larger than any of the other chambers. In the construction of it the Romans availed themselves of those materials which came most readily to hand. The walls, which go down to a depth of three feet below the surface, are built as far as the ground-level entirely of flints, and above that partly of flints and partly of sandstone in small blocks; this stone being probably quarried on Limpsfield Common, as fragments of Roman pottery have been found at the pits there. At the ground-level is a bonding-course of flat red tiles about an inch in thickness; and at the angles, with a view to strengthening the walls, there are three courses of these tiles. The flints would have been easily obtained from the hill immediately above.

The outer walls are about 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, the inner ones vary from 15 inches to 2 feet. The annexed ground-plan will show the size and form of the building. The extreme length from east to west is 125 feet, the extreme width 60 feet, the width across the outer court 44 feet 6 inches. The entrance appears to have been at A, at the eastern end. At these points the walls terminate abruptly, but they are regularly finished off; and although careful examination has been made, there are no traces of their having been carried on so as to square with one another. Here may have been the vestibule or open porch through which the courtyard was entered. That portion of it marked B, though not completely separated from A, has more the appearance of a chamber. The floor of it is composed of flat tiles laid in concrete, and the walls had been painted green, as appeared by the pieces of stucco found there. A specimen of the colour is given at Plate III. It is possible that this may have been roofed in, and benches or seats arranged round it: it was here that a large flat



slab of stone was found. C is divided from B by a wall 2 feet 6 inches in thickness. It was doubtless one of the chambers, and probably communicated with the corridor adjoining. The size of it is 13 feet by 8 feet 6 inches. The entrance to the courtyard was at D. E was probably the atrium or courtyard open to the sky. It is 68 feet in length, by 20 in breadth. It was paved throughout with small red tesserae, portions of which remain, as shown on the plan, in the N.E. angle, and on the north and south sides. The pavement is laid in this fashion: there is first a layer of small blocks of rough sandstone; over this lies a coat of chalk; upon which, bedded in cement, the tesserae rest. F and G, to the north and south of the court, were in all probability the corridors, roofed in, and divided from it possibly by columns. They do not exactly correspond in size, that at F being 6 feet in width, that at G 8 feet. It will be observed that on both sides the separating wall terminates about 20 feet from the end of the courtyard: this wall is in each case 3 feet in thickness.

H and I appear to have been two of the principal rooms; the former is 10 feet square, the latter 11 feet 6 inches by 9 feet. The walls of both these chambers are very strongly built of flint, with a bonding-course of flat tiles at the ground-level, and three or four courses at the angles. The room H had been painted in red stucco. K is a chamber very irregular in shape. Whether it was originally all in one, or was divided about the centre, it is not easy to say, although there is some appearance of a partition-wall. At the northern end is a projection 5 feet in length by 6 wide. I am inclined to think that this chamber was the kitchen, and that the projection was where the stove or furnace was placed. This opinion is borne out by the fact that in excavating the ground round it, it was found all black and containing pieces of charred wood, and that the flue tiles, which were abundant here, were also much blackened. Larger quantities of pottery were found here also than elsewhere, many of the fragments being doubtless those of jars and other cooking utensils; and in addition to

these there were several bones of animals and oyster-shells. The bones that were found were those of the chicken in great abundance, hare, sheep, ox, deer, and hog. The floor showed remains of flat tile pavement laid in cement; but in this portion of the villa the walls are so close to the surface of the ground, that in some places they have been struck by the plough. It will be observed that between the projection in this chamber and the outer wall of L the wall is interrupted, nor can any foundations of one be traced. It can hardly be supposed that the western side was exposed to the outer air; but it is not easy to say what the arrangement was at this point.

L, M, and N are remarkably small, and it is difficult to conjecture their use, unless they were store-rooms in some way connected with the kitchen. The size of the first is 2 feet 3 inches by 4 feet 8 inches, that of the second 4 feet 8 inches square, and that of the third 5 feet 4 inches by 4 feet 8 inches. Between L and M and M and N is a small space 10 inches in width at bottom and tapering to a point, paved with flat tiles sloping towards room K. This arrangement may have had something to do with the heating by hot air, which, as I shall show presently, I believe was supplied from a furnace at K.

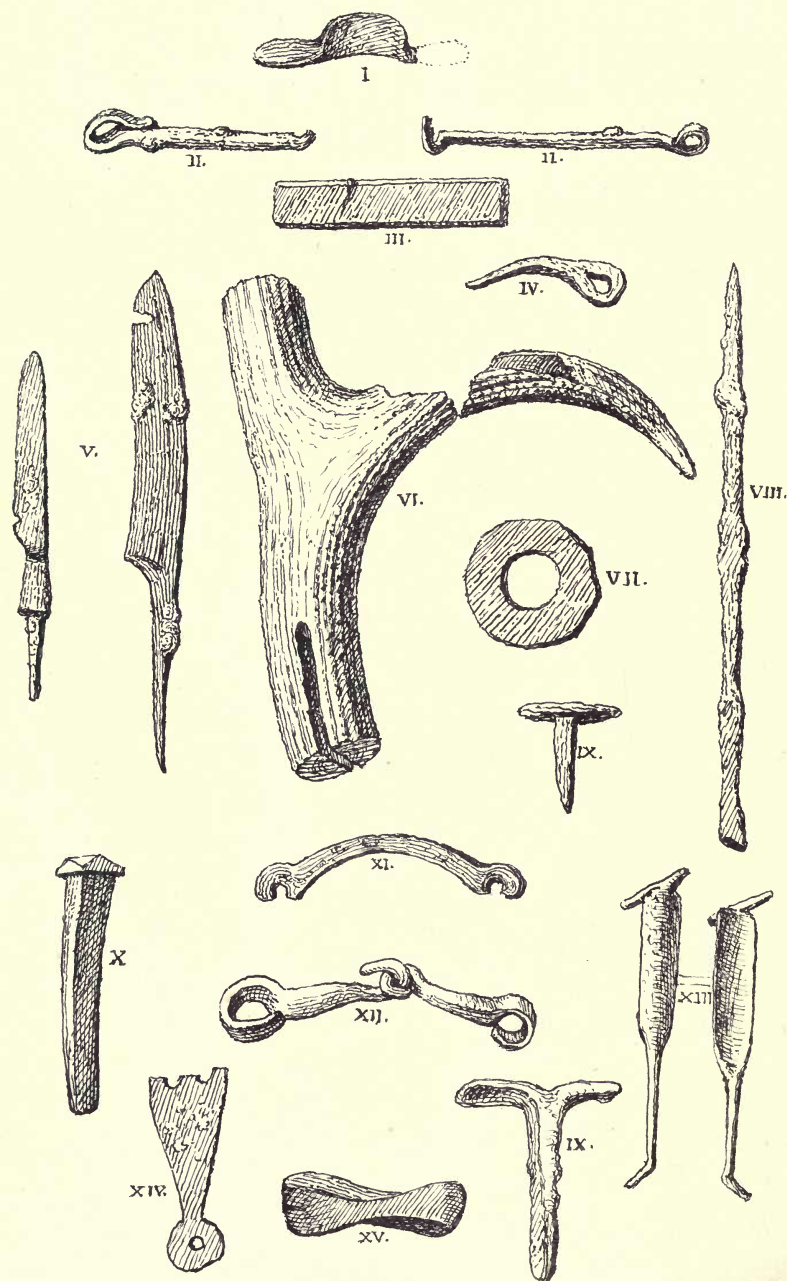
O and P have been generally considered to be the bath. The walls of the former, as will be seen by the view of the building at page 214 descend considerably lower in the ground than those of any other of the chambers, and between the ground and the floor there is a space of about 2 feet in depth. O is separated from P by flat tiles overlying one another, mounting up like steps. Through the centre of these two chambers runs a narrow channel paved with flat tiles, communicating with a drain cut through the solid stone, of which the western side is built. The whole arrangement of the western end of the building deserves careful attention. The termination of P in the interior seems to have been semicircular, or rather apsidal in form, the outer wall running straight. It is composed entirely of very large

blocks of sandstone squared. Upon digging down to ascertain the depth of the foundation, it appeared that these stones rested upon concrete, and in places had flat red tiles beneath them. One of the largest of these stones measured 3 feet in length by 29 inches in width, and was 11 inches through. Perhaps there was here an outer bath or open-air reservoir, paved with tiles; and as many of the stones are wedge-shaped, it would seem that this part of the bath had an arched form. The water had evidently been confined here by some means, for in digging down, it bubbled up like a spring. The fine sunny aspect at this point would make it a favourable position for a bath of the kind suggested.

Q is the last chamber which remains to be mentioned; it is 12 feet by 9. The outer walls, as will be observed, are much thinner than those of the rest of the building, being only 15 inches. Between it and H there is a passage 18 inches in width paved with flat tiles, up which the hot air probably was passed. This room is somewhat distinct from the other chambers, and it appears to me that it was connected with the bath. From its position and the difference in the character of the masonry, I suspect it was an addition to the original building.

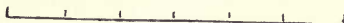
Before proceeding to give a description of the plates, it remains to say a word on the absence of any hypocaust, the almost universal feature in every Roman building. It seems to me clear that there never was one—that is to say, not in the proper sense of the term as a substructure. Had there been, notwithstanding the damage that the building has sustained, some traces of it must have remained. The nature of the situation would account for this absence. The villa is so low and so close to the stream, that at about 2 feet below the surface of the ground you come upon standing water. The pavement which remains *in situ* enables us to ascertain exactly the ground-level. These facts convince me that the heat was supplied from a furnace probably at K, which is about 8 inches below the ground-level of the walls, and carried through flue-tiles im-





Herbert L. Smith,  
delt.

SCALE OF VI INCHES



mediately beneath the floor. Abundance of flue-tiles, well charred and blackened, have been found ; but from their position so near the surface, they were mostly broken and disturbed.

The following plates are from drawings made for me by Mr. Herbert Smith, of 49, Coleshill Street. They are exceedingly accurate representations, and I am indebted to him for much useful information rendered me during the progress of this paper.

Plate I.—This Plate consists almost entirely of iron objects.

Fig. i. is imperfect, and it is not easy to determine its use ; but it was probably some part of a fastening.

Fig. ii. are two examples of keys.

Fig. iii. is of lead. It was possibly a portion of a knife-handle, part of which has been broken off. A fragment very similar in shape, but formed of bone and with a circular hole drilled through it, was found, but has not been figured. One or two other pieces of lead have also been dug up.

Fig. iv. is probably a staple of some kind.

Figs. v. are two knives, late Roman in character. The larger of the two is curiously formed. The stout back and spur next to the handle are like a modern scythe, while the rest of the blade being thin, renders it capable of sustaining a keener edge. The smaller one was found among fragments of Roman pottery, tiles, &c., in levelling a mound at some distance from the villa. It is very similar in form and size to one found at Caerleon, and figured at Plate XXXV., No. 17, of the "*Isca Silurum*."<sup>1</sup>

Fig. vi. is part of a stag's horn. A groove has been cut down the centre with a saw, or some instrument of the kind, the marks of which are visible in the inside, and also at the top, where it has been cut off straight.

<sup>1</sup> *Isca Silurum, or an Illustrated Catalogue of the Museum of Antiquities at Caerleon*, by John Edward Lee, F.S.A. This work contains a most interesting account of the excavations at Caerleon, and has numerous illustrations of the objects found there.

Into this groove a blade was probably fitted, though it is not easy to see how it was fastened. A portion of the lower part of the horn, where it would have been held in the hand, has been broken off; but the supposed shape of it when perfect is given in the drawing. It was found in excavating at D. I imagine it to have been a hunting-knife.

Fig. vii. is a portion of a bolt, technically, I believe, called the "washer."

Fig. viii. is a long straight piece of iron 10 inches in length. Part of the top, which seems to have been curved, has been broken off. It was probably a flesh-fork, or something of the kind, for taking meat out of the pot.

Figs. ix. appear to have been two hooks or nails. The larger one is very similar to one figured at Plate XXXVI., No. 4, of the "Isca Silurum"; the smaller one at No. 10 on the same plate.

Fig. x. is a very large example of a nail, selected out of a great number that have been found. It is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length and weighs 6 ounces and a half.

Fig. xi. is the handle of some small vessel.

Fig. xii. is a bit, in two pieces, fastening into one another in the centre. It will be observed that the outer ring on the one side is considerably larger than that on the other. The bit is very small, and could only have fitted a mule or some small animal.

Fig. xiii. shows a good deal of design. It is curved and hollowed out in the centre. It probably fitted on to a piece of wood, but I have not been able to find any example similar to it, and am unable to offer any suggestion as to its use.

Fig. xiv. appears to have been part of a hinge.

Fig. xv. is interesting. It is a whetstone of sandstone 3 inches in length, well worn on both sides.

Plate II. represents various specimens of pottery.

Fig. i. is a fragment of an open pan, the inside of which has had a black glaze to the depth of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$





inches from the top. When perfect, it would have been of a conical shape, about 10 inches in diameter by 4 or 5 inches in depth. It is of that kind known as the Upchurch pottery, made in the marshes a little above Sheerness. It is of a fine hard texture and of the prevailing blue-black colour. A very large quantity of the same character has been found.

Fig. ii. is the rim of a much smaller vessel. When perfect, it would have been about 6 inches in diameter by 4 or 5 in depth. At about 2 inches below the rim is a sort of diamond pattern. The colour of it is peculiar, the red showing beneath the black glaze.

Figs. iii. are two fragments of very rude pottery of a pale red colour imperfectly baked, placed in their supposed connection to one another. The side of the vessel is ornamented with a diamond pattern very roughly executed, and with no attempt at regularity in the design. They have more the character of British pottery than of Roman.

Fig. iv. is of a coarse ware very imperfectly baked. It is ornamented inside with circular bands intersected by a diamond pattern, and is, I think, a specimen of the Pottery made in the neighbourhood.

Fig. v. is of a hard ware, and of a bluish-grey colour. It is the fragment of a flat-bottomed vessel. It is interesting from having on it some Roman writing. The letters, which I read as BVSP, are very roughly cut, and are probably only part of a longer inscription, indicative possibly of the name of the maker or owner of the vessel. It has a cross cut transversely on the face of it. At Plate XXIV., Fig. iii. of the "*Isca Silurum*," is a representation of the bottom of a bowl of Samian ware, on which is scratched INGENVI, which the author of that work considers to have been the owner's name.<sup>1</sup>

Figs. vi. vii. viii. and ix. are given as specimens of ornamented pottery. The three last are of very fine

<sup>1</sup> *Isca Silurum*, p. 46.

texture and elegant design ; they belong probably to the class of Castor pottery.<sup>1</sup> The fragments that remain of them are unfortunately very small.

Fig. x. is of a dull red ware very imperfectly baked, ornamented with a succession of small dots made by a pin's head, or some instrument of that sort, impressed on the clay when soft. There is little doubt that this is an example of British pottery.

Figs. xi. are four fragments, all similar in design, a small raised moulding running all around them.

Fig. xii. This is by far the most ornamental piece of pottery that has been discovered during the excavations. It is a fragment of Durobrivian, or Castor pottery, of fine quality, and of the ordinary bluish or slate colour. The subject, as is so common in specimens of this pottery, is a hunting scene representing stags in relief, executed with considerable skill.

Figs. xiii. are three specimens of light grey ware ornamented with a scroll pattern.

Fig. xiv. is also of grey ware. It is ornamented with a circular band, from which at intervals a succession of lines is drawn to the bottom of the vessel.

Fig. xv. is of an inferior kind of red ware, ornamented with notchings.

Fig. xvi. is a fragment of the rim of a very large vessel of light grey ware. The rim is more than an inch in thickness, and there is sufficient to show that the vessel bulged out very considerably in the centre.

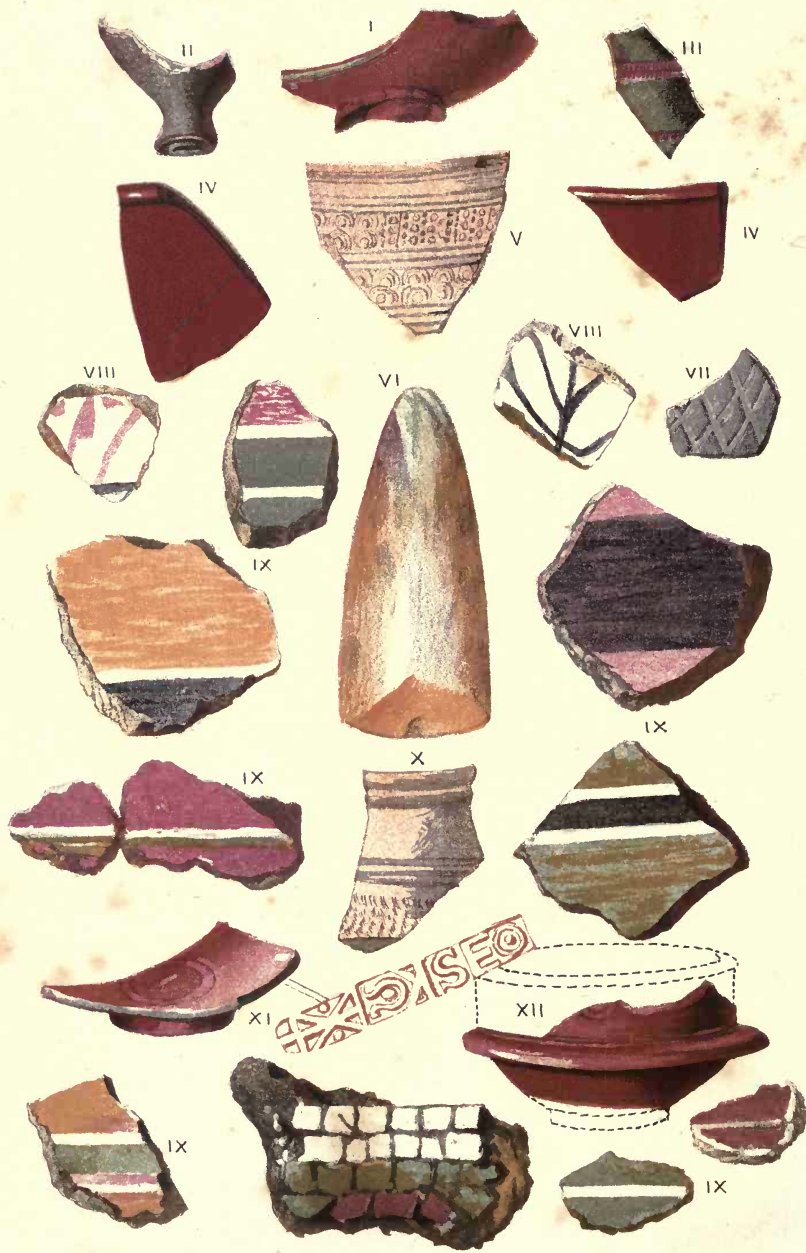
Fig. xvii. is a fragment of a rim of coarse red ware, of that inferior description of Samian pottery, which is supposed by some persons to have been made in Britain, although upon this point there is considerable difference of opinion.<sup>2</sup>

Fig. xviii. is part of a bowl of local ware of a grey colour.

<sup>1</sup> For an account of this pottery see Wright, *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, p. 214.

<sup>2</sup> See *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, pp. 220, 221 ; and *Isca Silurum*, p. 27.





Herbert L. Smith, del.

F. Netherdyft, lith.

Scale of 6 In.

Fig. xix. is the handle of a vessel possibly of Upchurch ware of a dark slate-colour.

Fig. xx. is a perfect rim of a slate-coloured vessel; it is rather more than 5 inches in diameter.

Figs. xxi. are three portions probably of the same vessel; the bottom, the neck, and a fragment of the handle of an amphora. The marks of the turning-lathe on the inside are very distinct.

Figs. xxii. are both fragments of colanders or strainers. There is no perfect example of this kind of vessel in the British Museum; but I am informed by A. W. Franks, Esq., F.S.A., that a perfect one has lately been found among some Anglo-Saxon remains at Chertsey, in this County.

Fig. xxiii. is the bottom of a bowl of brown ware. The outer side represents an example of those peculiar markings which at first sight seem to have been made in an eccentric lathe, but which are supposed to have been made in a common lathe by means of a tool which is very little known.<sup>1</sup>

Fig. xxiv. is of a blue-grey colour, and when perfect must have been a vessel of very considerable size. It is ornamented with a singularly bold scroll pattern.

Fig. xxv. is part of the bottom and side of a narrow amphora of light colour.

Fig. xxvi. is part of the side of a bowl of slate-coloured ware. The fragment above has a deep rib-moulding, and was probably part of the operculum of the same vessel. They are placed in their probable relation to one another.

Plate III. represents specimens of Samian ware, pottery of finer texture, and wall-paintings.

Fig. i. is a portion of a flat bowl, or patera, of a pale red colour, an imitation of Samian ware such as is supposed by some to have been manufactured in England. It is very inferior in quality to Figs. iv. and xi., which are of undoubted Samian ware.

<sup>1</sup> For an account of this, see *Isca Silurum*, p. 46, and Plate XXIV.

Fig. ii. is somewhat similar to Fig. i., though of a finer ware. It is the bottom of an amphora.

Fig. iii. is a fragment of very fine ware of a brownish colour, probably Castor pottery.

Figs. iv. are two fragments of the rims of bowls of Samian ware of the usual deep red colour.

Fig. v. is part of a bowl very prettily ornamented, of a pale brick-dust colour, an imitation again of Samian ware.

Fig. vi. is a flint implement of the chisel type, very perfect in form, polished, and sharp at the broad end. It measures rather more than 6 inches in length, is nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick, and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in breadth, and weighs 16 ounces. It is figured here because it was found close by the villa, in grubbing down an old bank and hedge. Its occurrence there may have been purely accidental, and cannot be made use of to establish any theory; but, taken in conjunction with the fact that numerous flint flakes, worked bones, and fragments of pottery probably British, have been found on and close by the site of the Roman villa, it may be considered as one among other evidences of a very early habitation at this spot.<sup>1</sup>

Fig. vii. is a fragment of Castor pottery of a pale grey colour, ornamented with a diaper pattern.

Figs. viii. are two specimens of wall-painting in distemper; they are distinguished from those that follow by having a pattern on them.

Figs. ix. are various specimens of the same; the prevailing colours are red, yellow, and green, with stripes occasionally of black and white. It is remarkable how the colours have preserved their freshness.

Fig. x. is a fragment of a bowl of a pale red colour. The ornamentation is peculiar and very delicate.

Fig. xi. is the bottom of a bowl of Samian ware. It has the name of the potter stamped in a label in the

<sup>1</sup> Since writing the above, there has been found not far from the same spot a stone hammer of a very early type. It is of sandstone, and measures  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length, is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. The hole in the centre is very perfectly drilled. A woodcut of it will be found at page 237.





II

I



III



IV



V



VI



VII



VIII



IX



X

inside, as appears in the drawing. The letters SE can be easily distinguished. They may stand for "Secundi" or "Severi," both names of potters of frequent occurrence. Most of the potters' marks are known, but I have not found any example exactly like this.<sup>1</sup>

Fig. xii. is portion of the side of a vessel of Samian ware of rather an uncommon shape, of which examples are to be seen in the British Museum. It is of thicker and coarser material than the other specimens.

Fig. xiii. is a fragment of a pattern of mosaic pavement, the only piece that was found, all the rest of the tessellated pavement being the common red brick cubes. It was found, to the best of my recollection, in chamber B. It has formed part of a pattern of which the white was probably the outside border, the green and red, as will be observed, being on the curve. The cubes are remarkably small, and very uneven in size.

Plate IV. is for the most part representations of coins.

Fig. i. is a bronze mask. It was found in 1863 in cutting a drain about 200 yards south of the villa, at a depth of about 3 feet. There is a slight indentation in the forehead (not shown in the drawing), caused by a blow from the pickaxe of the workman; but when first seen by him it was perfect. The lips have at one time apparently been enamelled, and there are indications of there having been beads in the eyes. I exhibited it at the Society of Antiquaries, on 9th June, 1864. They described it as "a bronze mask  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, made of thin metal beaten up in relief, and has been filled with lead, of which traces remain. It represents a bearded face, with moustache not unlike a head of Neptune. Similar objects are in the collection of M. H. Bloxam, Esq., F.S.A., of Rugby." It may have been fixed, I think, on some part of the armour.

Fig. ii. was not found at the villa, but in a hedgerow

<sup>1</sup> For a list of potters' marks on Samian ware, see *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, App. ii.

on the Pilgrim's Road, just beyond the village of Titsey, in the year 1850. It is a first brass of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, distinguished by the epithet of the "Philosopher," born A.D. 121, son-in-law of Antoninus Pius, adopted by him A.D. 138, and his successor A.D. 161, when he took the style of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus. He took the titles of Armeniacus and Parthicus Maximus, after the campaign of A.D. 162-165, against Parthia and Armenia, when the Romans penetrated as far as Babylon, and compelled Vologeses III. to make peace. After the successes in Germany, A.D. 170, the title of Germanicus was substituted for that of Armeniacus. His death took place at Vienna A.D. 180.<sup>1</sup>

Obverse—Head of the Emperor laureated. M. AUREL. ANTONINUS. AUG. ARMENIACUS. PM. (Pontifex Maximus).

Reverse—Warrior with helmet, holding a spear in his right hand, whilst leaning with his left on a round buckler, probably a personification of Mars. TRP. XVIII. IMP. II. COS. III. The letters SC (Senatus Consulta) are in the field. The letters TRP stand for Tribunitiâ potestate), the numerals indicating the date at which the tribunitian power had been conferred. COS. III. indicates the number of consulships. These dates render it probable that this coin was struck between the triumphs of A.D. 166 and the successes in Germany, 170 A.D. The letters SC appear on this as on many other brass coins, implying that that coinage was under the direction and control of the Senate, while that of gold and silver was at the disposal of the Emperor.

Fig. iii. is a small brass of the Emperor Constantine the Great. Born A.D. 274; baptized A.D. 311; sole Emperor A.D. 323; died A.D. 337.

Obverse—Head of the Emperor, galeated. CONSTANTINUS. MAX. AUG.

<sup>1</sup> From information communicated by Albert Way, Esq., F.S.A. October, 1850.



Reverse—Two Victories holding a shield, inscribed VOT. PR. Below, an altar with a cross. VICTORIAE. LAETAE. PRIN. PERP. (Princeps perpetuus). In the exergue<sup>1</sup> P.L.N. (Pecunia Londinensis, or Percussa Londini). The VOT. PR. inscribed on the shield has relation to the solemn feasts celebrated by the Emperors at the end of every ten years, as for a renewal or continuation of the sovereignty in their persons. On these occasions the “numi votorum” were struck by them, and were designed to indicate both the discharge and the repetition of their votive engagements. The vota prima would be those taken at the end of the first ten years.<sup>2</sup>

Fig. iv. Small brass.

Obverse—Head of the Emperor laureated. JUL. CRIS. (Julii Cæsaris).

Reverse—Inscribed within a wreath VOT. X (Votis decennialibus) . . . . . NOSTRORUM. There are some letters before this word, but they are illegible.

Fig. v. Small brass of Constantine the Great.

Obverse—Head of the Emperor laureated. CONSTANTINUS. MAX. AUG.

Reverse—Two soldiers with helmets, holding a spear in their left hand and leaning on a round buckler with their right. Between them two standards fixed upright. GLORIA. EXERC . . . . . In the exergue P. CONST. (percussa Constantinopoli). The seat of empire was removed to Constantinople A.D. 330, and the death of the Emperor occurred A.D. 337, which will fix the date of this coin between those two periods.

Fig. vi. A small brass of the time of Constantine.

Obverse—A galeated head, URBS. ROMA.

Reverse—Romulus and Remus with the wolf. In the exergue, TR S. (Treviris signata, coined at Treves).

Fig. vii. Small brass of Constans, son of Constantinus

<sup>1</sup> The exergue of a coin is the space below the line on which the figures of the reverse are placed.—Akerman's *Numismatic Manual*, p. 161.

<sup>2</sup> Akerman's *Numismatic Manual*, pp. 160, 161.

Maximus and Fausta. Born cir. A.D. 320, Emperor A.D. 337, killed A.D. 350.

Obverse—Head of the Emperor laureated, CONSTANS. DD! AUG. The letters immediately following Constans are not clear: they may be PP. or DD. Constans assumed the name of Augustus A.D. 337.

Reverse—Two soldiers with helmet, spear, and buckler; between them a labarum inscribed M. GLORIA. REX. or HEX. In the exergue are some letters nearly effaced, apparently TRP.

Fig. viii. Small brass of Constantine.

Obverse—Head of the Emperor, with helmet and spear. CONSTANTINUS.

Reverse—A figure, apparently in a galley. In the exergue, TRP. (Treviris percussa).

All these coins, with the exception of No. II., were found at the villa during the excavations; besides them, I have in my possession a small brass of Tetricus found at Tatsfield, and also a middle brass, very much defaced, having on the obverse the head of an emperor, and on the reverse a figure, apparently of Mars, inscription obliterated. The latter was found in ploughing a field adjoining the Pilgrim's Road, in the parish of Tatsfield.

Fig. ix. is a bone or ivory pin about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, bulging out slightly in the centre, the point being broken off. It was found at the villa.

Fig. x. is a portion of an armilla or bracelet of green colour, made of bronze wire twisted and hammered flat. The hook at one end remains perfect.

Besides the objects represented in these plates, I have a very large collection of broken pottery. I have over three hundred examples of the rims of vessels, all differing either in colour, material, or form; to which must be added numerous specimens of the bottoms of vessels which do not correspond in any way with the rims. The quantities of pottery found on all Roman sites is worthy of remark, and justifies the remark of Mr. Wright, that this article formed a large proportion of the furniture of a Roman house, and was used for a much greater variety

of purposes than at the present day.<sup>1</sup> I have also several fragments of glass. Two of them are of thick glass of a bluish-green colour, one having the reeded moulding so common on the handles of Roman glass vessels. Two others are of a yellowish-green colour. Four are of white glass of finer texture, one being the fragment of a rim, the other the fragment of a bottom either of a drinking-cup, or of a vessel popularly termed a lachrymatory. One is of a mixed colour, green and blue. There are three other small pieces as delicate and fine as any Venetian glass; one of them has a moulding on it something like that generally known as the pillar moulding, an ornament by no means uncommon on Roman glass. Besides these, I have a large quantity of molten glass, destroyed evidently by the action of fire, and reduced to shapeless lumps. To these may be added abundance of nails, flat tiles with a hole drilled in the centre and ornamented with a sort of rib-moulding, flanged tiles, fragments of cornice mouldings of concrete, large numbers of bones and teeth of animals, several oyster-shells, and shells of a large species of snail, both of which are so commonly found on Roman sites.<sup>2</sup> I have also a fragment of a millstone. It is of sandstone, circular, with a hole drilled in the centre.

There is sufficient evidence, I think, to warrant the conclusion, that the villa was destroyed by fire. Some of the stones in the walls, the tiles, and the greater part of the pottery, have the appearance of having been subjected to the action of fire, and one or two pieces of charred wood have been found among the ruins.

I cannot conclude this paper without expressing my thanks to W. W. Pocock, Esq., for the interest which he took in the result of the excavations, and for the paper which he read to the members of our society at their meeting in 1865. I would willingly have left the subject in his hands had it not been that I am disposed to differ from him somewhat in the opinions he expressed; and

<sup>1</sup> *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, pp. 228, 229.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 344.



from living on the spot and giving some attention to the subject, I have advantages which he did not possess, and have ascertained thereby facts which, had they been known to him would no doubt have led him to arrive at a different conclusion.

It will be remembered that Mr. Pocock was of opinion that the whole building, with the exception of perhaps one or two chambers, was a bath with its various accessories,—sudarium, tepidarium, frigidarium, &c., being attached to a larger villa, which would probably be found immediately to the north or south of it. It has been a common mistake, I think, in describing Roman villas, to treat the greater part of the house as a bath; and in this case to do so is, to my mind, a mistake. If the view that I have taken in describing the several chambers is correct, it will be seen that the house, though small, was tolerably complete, and possessed most of the requirements of a Roman dwelling; and with regard to there being any other building close by, the whole of the land for some distance round has been underdrained, and with the single exception of one long wall running for some distance about 80 yards to the south of it, no traces of a Roman building have been found. It was ascertained, however, that there were no cross walls running out of it: it was undoubtedly Roman, and may have been an outer or inclosure wall. The walls of the villa have been tested all round, and prove that the whole of the building has been excavated. I am not prepared to say that fresh discoveries may not some day be made; but as far as the immediate vicinity of the villa is concerned, did any other Roman buildings exist, they must ere this have been discovered. These are my reasons (*valeant quantum*) for differing from the opinions expressed by Mr. Pocock; and another argument may, I think, be found in the quantities of pottery and vessels of domestic use, which would not have occurred in such abundance had the building been merely a bath.

It appears as if the débris of the building, which in a dwelling of this size would be considerable, had been carried to various places, sometimes to a considerable

distance. In levelling the bay of an old fishpond close by the site, in the winter of 1866, we found that the whole bank behind the puddling of clay consisted of rubbish, mortar, Roman bricks, tiles, fragments of pottery, &c. The bay of another pond, which at one time covered about an acre and a half of ground, was levelled down the year before; and this pond I believe to have been made by the Romans. The bay in this case was composed entirely of clay, and the dam had been secured by blocks of wood, which had almost entirely perished; but the nails which had been driven into them remained, and were exactly similar to those found at the villa. There were a few Roman tiles, and here and there a fragment of pottery, not lying in heaps, as in the former case, but such as might have been used by workmen during the progress of the work and cast aside as broken. During the past winter, while moving some ground just outside the garden, we came upon a quantity of Roman pottery, wall-paintings, tiles, tesserae, &c., which had evidently been shot there in a heap. Among them were some curious mouldings in stucco, which had apparently been part of the decorations of a room. Scarcely a year passes without my adding to my collection of Roman antiquities, and there is certainly a field for further exploration in the neighbourhood.<sup>1</sup>

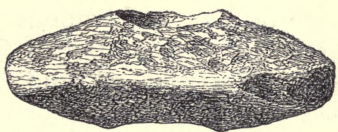
<sup>1</sup> This remark has been verified since it was made, by the discovery of large quantities of Roman pottery on Limpsfield Common; and although the investigation that has been made is as yet incomplete, I append this note to give an account of the result of it as far as it has gone. It is evident that the Romans had in the district a manufacture of pottery of considerable extent; the heaps that have been found consist of the refuse from the kilns, and judging from the large quantity of it, these kilns must have been in use for a number of years. The first heap that we explored was on a part of Limpsfield Common called "Watts Hill," and close by the old track mentioned before as Lake Street. This heap was about 6 feet long and 4 feet wide, and overgrown with bushes and brambles. The pottery was of a grey colour and coarse material, and consisted for the most part of handles and rims of vessels of a very large size. It appears to have been burnt much in the same way as charcoal is burnt now. About two feet below the surface we found a quantity of wood ashes, but there was no

Since I commenced this paper I have been in communication with some of the officers of the Ordnance Survey, and I am happy to find, that, under the direction of Capt. the Hon. W. Trench, who is himself, as I am informed, much interested in antiquarian researches, the sites of British and Roman camps and tumuli will be noted in the Ordnance Map, and an attempt made to trace out as accurately as possible the lines of Roman roads. This will render unnecessary the plan which I suggested at the outset of my paper, and may lead, I

appearance of any kiln. In a field close by, called "Loam Pit Field," there is a bank which runs for twenty or thirty yards, consisting entirely of broken pottery lying close to the surface. It appears to be of the same character as the former ; but this heap has not yet been explored. I suspect that the clay for this pottery was dug from a pit in the wood adjoining ; it is of a light loamy character. The third heap was on a part of the common called "Cearn Bank," near the earthwork which I mentioned before. This is a very large heap, and at this spot are the remains of a kiln. It is built of rough stones laid without mortar, very much in the shape of an oven. The opening is about one foot in width by 2 feet 6 inches in height, the whole being about 3 feet in diameter. On one side of it is a trough-shaped hole about 6 feet in length : in this were several pieces of charred wood and wood ashes, and in it we found the largest and most perfect pieces of pottery. They are very much the same in character as those found at the other place, and exhibit the same markings ; but, being made of a different clay, are lighter in colour. The markings on the handles are mostly round holes, sometimes pierced through, or else lines cut deeply on the face of them. The mouths of the vessels have this peculiarity, that they are all bent to one side, no doubt for the purpose of pouring liquid out of them. A few pieces have wavy lines on them, but for the most part they are quite plain and devoid of ornament. The clay for this pottery probably came from the face of the hill or from the weald below. It is difficult to say what should have led to the establishment of these potteries, unless it was the abundance of wood. The clay is of an inferior quality ; and this may partly account for the large quantity of refuse, much of it doubtless not standing the fire. As yet we have found nothing whole, nor come upon any of the workmen's tools. On comparing some of this pottery with that found at the villa, I have little doubt but that it is the same, and that the greater part of the common ware was made in the neighbourhood. It would be curious to observe whether that found at Keston or on other Roman sites in the neighbourhood was of the same quality and exhibited the same markings. I hope as soon as possible to pursue the investigation further, and to have something more to report in our next volume.



hope, to some interesting discoveries with regard to the Roman occupation of the country. The traces of a people who have exercised so great an influence on the civilization of the world, and whose works are to this day the wonder and admiration of mankind, deserve, even where they exist in a rude and humble character, minute and careful investigation.

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