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COLLECTIONS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ROMAN OCCUPATION IN BRITAIN. No. 1. CORINIUM.

OBSERVATIONS ON REMAINS LATELY DISCOVERED AT CIRENCESTER.

AT no period of our history has the progress of modern civilisation contributed so extensively to more certain knowledge of the habits and manners of the earlier occupants of the British islands, as during the last twenty-five years of the present century. Within that space of time, the liberal, nay, prodigal patronage, bestowed by the speculations of wealthy capitalists on any scheme which appeared to promise a realisation of profits, has been the means of bringing to its present state of perfection that system of internal communication which now pervades almost every corner of Great Britain. It is by many of the gigantic works requisite for the schemes thus fostered, that the science of Archaeology has been much promoted; the excavations and "diggings" necessary for the formation of level roads through all descriptions of country, have brought to light the sites and remains of ancient buildings, neglected and forgotten for centuries; railway cuttings have produced a most fruitful harvest of antiquities; canals and waterworks have also done much, and lastly, the formation of sewers and other operations carried on under the direction of the "Health of Towns Commission," have made further disclosures. It is to the minor works of this last-mentioned body that we owe the discovery of many beautiful remains, the subject of this memoir, and which the liberality of Earl Bathurst has enabled some gentlemen of Cirencester to rescue from destruction, and raise from beneath the streets for preservation in a museum about to be erected by his Lordship for the advantage of the public.

So many discoveries have been made in various parts of the kingdom, bringing to light the vestiges of the early

colonisers of Britain, that it seems not an inapt appropriation of a portion of the pages of this Journal, occasionally to chronicle these events, and, under the general head now adopted, to supply memoirs from time to time, descriptive in turn of the treasures of some particular site.

Roman remains, found at Cirencester, have on several former occasions, demanded the notice of the antiquary, and there are few places, perhaps, which have so strong a claim on the attention of the Archaeologist. At a very early period, under the name of "Cair Ceri,"¹ it appears to have been a town of some consideration, sufficiently so at the time of the Roman invasion, at once to attract the attention of the conquerors under whom it rapidly rose into greater importance. Three, if not more, of the great Viæ constructed by that road-making people met there; its situation on the river *Corin*, or *Churn*, a tributary to the *Isis*, and also to the *Thames*, in an open fertile district, was very central for the purpose of the subjection of the natives, as well as for the protection of the new settlers, and raised it to a military station of the first eminence, which must have been found useful in keeping in check the incursions of the warlike *Silures*. In the XIIIth *Iter* of Antoninus, it is called "*Durocornovium*," XIV. m.p. from "*Glevum*" (*Gloucester*). By Ptolemæus it is named "*Corinium Dobunorum*," being the chief town of the *Dobuni*, whose territory was eastward of the *Silures*, and adjoining the *Attrebatii*. The same authority states that the *Belgæ* were to the southward of the *Dobuni*, and that their chief town was at *Aquæ Calidæ* (*Bath*). In the *Itinerary* of Richard of Cirencester, *Corinium* is found in the xth *Iter* between "*Glebon Colonia*" and "*Aquæ Solis*," XIV. m.p. from the former. These several boundaries and distances so clearly point out the situation of *Corinium*, that there can be no doubt as to its identity, or that *Cirencester* is its modern representative. *Corinium* is said to have been built by a Roman General in the time of *Claudius*,² and to have had walls and a castle in the time of *Constantine*, and was strongly fortified. After the departure of the Romans, early in the fifth century, it continued to maintain its importance, and at the time of the *Heptarchy*

¹ According to Nennius, "Cair Ceri" is the fourteenth in a list of 33 towns enumerated in chap. ii. *Hist. de prim. inhab. Britonum Britannicæ insulæ*. See also *Hen. of Hunt.*

² *Ric. Mon. de situ Britannicæ*. c. vi.

it received its present name, and was included in the kingdom of Wiccia,³ (which was at a later period absorbed in that of Mercia). After the battle of Deorham,⁴ in 577, Glevum, Corinium and Aquæ Solis yielded to the West Saxons, and Cirencester became a frontier town against the Mercians. About 628, Penda, king of the Mercians, fought a great battle near Cirencester, and in 656,⁵ Peada, first Christian King of Mercia, held the town. During the year 879, it was in possession of the Danes, being wrested by them from the Mercians. In that year the Danish army moved from Chippenham to Cirencester, and in 880 went from Cirencester into East Anglia,⁶ and settled there. Canute, on his return from Denmark, held a Council in the town in 1020.⁷ In the wars of Stephen it was the subject of severe contests: the castle was finally destroyed by Henry III., in 1216. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Roman structures and edifices were ruined during so many successive contests for its possession, although Giraldus Cambrensis speaks of Roman buildings still existing at Cirencester in the reign of Henry II., and the walls erected by the Romans were, notwithstanding, entire, as late as the reign of Henry IV. The area inclosed was in form rather more that of a parallelogram than of a square, about two miles in circumference, the longer sides of the figure being towards the north-east and south-west. The Ermine or Irmine Street, from Glevum to Calleva, passed through the town from north to south. The Great Consular Road, the Foss Way, approached it from the north-east of England, and passed through the town to the south-west; a way called by some the Ikenild Street, and by others the Akeman Street, joined the Foss Way about a mile without the walls; the two united were carried through the town westward to Bath, being more generally called the Foss Way, but by some writers denominated the Akeman Street or Acman Street, leading to Acemannescaster⁸ (Bath). Some authors speak of another "Ikenild Street" from "Trajectus Augusti" (Aust Passage), on the Severn

³ "Cyrenceastre adiit, qui Britannice Caer Ceri nominatur, quæ est in meridiana parte Huiciorum."—Asser de reb. gest. Ælfredi, Ann. 879.

⁴ Angl. Sax. Chron.—Flor. Wigorn. Chron.—Hen. Hunt. Hist. Angl., lib. ii.

⁵ Angl. Sax. Chron.—Ethel. Chron., lib. ii., Cirnceastre.—Flor. Wigorn. Chron.

⁶ Angl. Sax. Chron.—Asser., ann. 880.—Sim. Dun. Hist. de gestis Reg. Angl. 879, 880.—Hen. Hunt. Hist. Ang., lib. v.

⁷ Angl. Sax. Chron.—Flor. Wigorn. Chron.

⁸ Ace-mannes-ceaster—the Saxon name for Bath. Sax. Chron. Ann. 973. Aca-manni civitas. Flor. Wigorn.

to Cirencester, and there meeting the Akeman Street, which extended to Alcester, in Berkshire. In this there appears to be some confusion; the road from Aust Passage appears to fall into the "Ridge Way," near Old Down, in its course between Bristol and Gloucester, and is not satisfactorily traced as far as Cirencester. With the advantage of so many main roads, the military position became the resort of the rich and great, and its consequence as a civil station is sufficiently indicated by the number, as well as the magnitude and beauty of the remains which still exist. The modern town does not occupy more than one-third of the area of the Roman city, the south-eastern portion being now garden ground, and the extensive pleasure grounds of the Abbey being in great part within the line of the Roman wall. The mounds, and occasionally parts of the walls, can still be traced for more than a mile on the east, south, and west sides, and masonry of some strength may be seen near the mill beyond the London road to the southward. The stream taken up for this mill is carried on a bank supported for a quarter of a mile or more by the Roman wall. The town may be assumed to have had four gates at least, viz., at the points where the two great Viæ above mentioned entered and left the walls; no traces of them are visible, but as the four principal streets of the present town mostly coincide with the lines of the ancient viæ, it is not difficult to obtain a sufficiently accurate knowledge of the position of the Roman buildings, confirmed in a number of instances by remains of structures hitherto discovered. In the site opened in August last, however, the foundations run obliquely across the present Dyer Street, proving that the curve in that street is a deviation from the line of the Roman street, a part of which was uncovered, with foundations on the opposite side, indicating its width. In this part of the town the rich Abbey of Cirencester, and also the Convent of St. Peter at Gloucester, had large possessions, and it is at the period in which monastic influence was dominant, that the existing street was most probably formed.

Before describing more particularly the pavements lately disinterred, it may not be amiss to advert shortly to former discoveries of a similar kind made at different times in Cirencester. The earliest recorded, I believe, is by Leland, who, after speaking of the ruins of an ancient tower, broken down in

order that the Abbot might erect a new clothing mill, and of the "cumpace" of the walls, a Roman inscription, coins, &c., says,⁹ "In the middes of the ould Toune in a Medow was found a flore *de tessellis versicoloribus*." Sir Robert Atkyns¹ also speaks of a "building underground supported on pillars, and curiously inlaid with Tesseraic work, with stones of divers colours, little bigger than dice." Hearne, the editor of Leland, mentions shortly that before 1711 he had received accounts of a pavement discovered "*some time*" before. Stukeley in his Itinerary speaks of a hypocaust and floor of Terras, and other antiquities and ruins which he saw in 1723.² All these refer most probably to the large hypocaust discovered about the year 1683, in the open grounds known as the "leauses," or "lewses," at the south end of the town, which were then converted from pasture to garden cultivation. It was again examined by Sir Harry Englefield in 1782, and further uncovered by Mr. Master, at the desire of Lord Bathurst, in 1785, under the care of the Rev. John Price, and was then carefully investigated and measured. The Roman Forum has been supposed by many to have been near that spot. An ancient street (now called Leauses, Lewis, or Leases Lane,) crossed at the northern limit of this ground, in a direct line to the amphitheatre from the entrance of the Foss Way, and cutting the Ermine Street at a right angle.

From the time of Stukeley there is no record of any further discoveries until about 1750, when a pavement was found in digging a vault near the "Boothall," this building stood in what is now the open street opposite the church; and shortly afterwards, another in "Archibald's" garden, behind Dr. Small's house, in Dyer Street; a second was found in Dyer Street in the year 1777, (which is minutely described by a local historian,³) in digging a cellar under the house of Messrs. Croome, about six feet below the surface; a part of this was raised, and for a time preserved, but it at length perished from neglect. The walls of the room to which it belonged, as far as they remained standing, were coated with stucco, and coloured in various designs. A third, also in Dyer Street, was found in 1793, in forming a cellar under the house of John Smith, Esq., a part of which was preserved entire.

⁹ Lel. Itin. v. 5, p. 65.

¹ Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire, London, 1712.

² Stukeley's Itin., vol. i., p. 63.

³ Rudder's History of Cirencester, p. 62.

These two last mentioned were drawn and published in the second volume of the *Reliquiæ Britannico-Romanæ*, by Samuel Lysons, the author of the magnificent work, which made its appearance in 1797, chiefly devoted to the noble villa discovered at Woodchester, and the representations of the numerous gorgeous pavements that adorned its apartments.

Dyer Street, by whatever name the Romans called it, was evidently a Patrician quarter; the houses of Plebeians were not adorned with such expensive decorations. It does not appear whether any of the pavements discovered subsequently to 1700 were laid on *suspensuræ*, or on the solid ground. At the north end of the town, outside the limits of the ancient walls, a mosaic pavement of great beauty was discovered in the year 1826 at the Barton farm, the property of Earl Bathurst, and adjoining his park; a building was erected over it for its better preservation, but no precautions appear to have been taken for keeping the spot well drained, so that now it is constantly receiving injury from damp and water; it is desirable that a drain should be constructed, and the building rendered more capable of admitting a sufficiency of light and air. The design is of considerable merit, and represents Orpheus in a centre medallion, charming with his lyre the beasts which surround him in a circle, resembling, in some degree, the centre of the largest pavement at Woodchester.

In August last, during the excavations made for a main sewer through Dyer Street, the workmen struck upon the foundation walls of the building, which had been enriched with the newly found pavements. The attention of the Institute was called to the circumstance by the Vicar of Cirencester, and on his invitation, hospitably followed up by that of Earl Bathurst, Mr. Lane the secretary, visited Cirencester twice, and with his assistance and instruction as to the most effective method of raising the pavement from under the street, the one first found, was divided into portions coincident with the geometrical arrangement of the pattern, with the thick terrass, or bed of concrete attached, so as to enable them to be relaid exactly in the original form. The operations, though tedious, perfectly answered the end in view. The whole having been thus, by degrees, successfully removed, the search was continued to the south-west, in the direction beyond the partition wall of the large room, and the labours

of the excavators were soon rewarded by the discovery of the second pavement, of which we give an outline plate. The whole of this, also, as far as it was possible to get it out from beneath the foundations of the houses, has been raised by the care and exertions of the Vicar, Mr. Newmarch, and Mr. Buckman, with the concrete attached, and without injury. In both instances, Lord Bathurst most handsomely defrayed the cost of labour and all other attendant expenses.

This first pavement is about 14 feet square, more than three parts of it being perfect; it was laid on a *suspensura*, the hypocaust being more or less entire beneath. The design is geometrical, formed by a twisted guilloche border, a circle in the centre, four half circles or lunettes, one on each side, with four quarters of circles occupying the corners, the intermediate spaces being filled by four squares with concave sides. In the circle was a group, the portion remaining represents three dogs in chace of some object, most probably Actæon; the two side lunettes have marine monsters, a sea-lion and a sea-dragon pursuing and preying on fish; in the bottom lunette is a scroll of ivy; the upper compartment is defaced. In one corner is a head of Medusa; in two others are figures formed from members of the dividing patterns; the fourth is destroyed. Two of the squares have heads or masks of Jupiter or Neptune, most probably the latter; each compartment has an inner border of elegant design, varied around each figure, and rich in colour. The walls, which remained about eight inches above the floor on two of the sides of the room, were found to have been stuccoed and painted in patterns of various brilliant colours, but on exposure to the air the colouring peeled off. In a line with this room, towards the east, the bases of partition walls and parts of the pavements of two other rooms were discovered, but in consequence of the foundations of existing buildings it was impossible to disinter them, or trace them out. The mosaics, as far as seen, were all in black and white, and of a somewhat coarser description than that above described. On the west side, where it was possible to extend the excavations, the sumptuous Pavement, represented in our engraving, was found; the original design is 25 feet square: within a deep and highly enriched triple border, formed of a labyrinthine fret and twisted guilloche, are nine circles, each about 4 feet 8 inches in diameter, enclosed by twisted guilloches, shaded and arranged octagonally, the interstices having small

squares and triangles, so as to fill up the whole area. Unfortunately a portion of this pavement does, or did extend under the adjoining mansion, by the foundations of which three circles have been destroyed; those at the three corners preserved, contain heads of Flora, Ceres, and Pomona; Flora, with a swallow on her shoulder, and flowers on her head and in her hand, representing Spring; Ceres, holding her sickle, her head adorned with ripe corn, in allusion to Summer; and Pomona, with a pruning-hook, and a head-dress of green leaves, and groups of fruit, indicative of Autumn. It may be assumed that the fourth circle contained a representation of Winter; the assumption, moreover, is supported by the fact that, in one of the Mosaic Pavements discovered about 35 years since at Bignor, in Sussex, four circles in the four corners formed a part of the design, and the only circle remaining entire has a female bust in a dark hood, with dark drapery over the shoulders, and holding in her hand a branch of a tree devoid of leaves, doubtless intended for Winter. The designs at Bignor are extremely elaborate, but the execution of the work is coarser than at Cirencester. In one of the side circles of the Cirencester pavement is Silenus riding on his ass, and in another Actæon pursued by his own dogs; enough of the third remains to show that it contained Bacchus and a panther; the fourth side circle is quite destroyed. All that remains of the centre, which is surrounded by a braided guilloche, are the two fore-feet and legs of a quadruped, probably a centaur, in action; one square has a grand head of Medusa, and another a small full length human figure; the angles are filled with devices, parts of the prevailing patterns; five of the circles have each an inner border. As works in Mosaic of the peculiar kind they are very admirable specimens, but the designs from which the heads and figures were executed must have possessed much of the grand in art, and have borne a striking resemblance to the works of an excellent period of Greek art. Mr. Westmacott, R.A., in alluding to the late exhibition of full sized coloured tracings⁴ from the originals, at a meeting of the Institute, observed "that interesting as they are as monuments of past time, these pavements have a further claim on our attention for the qualities of art exhibited in them, in which respect they are

⁴ These valuable tracings, marking every tessella, and coloured correctly, were the fruits of the industry and patience of Mr. Cox, of Cirencester.



CERES.

One of four circular compartments, personifying the Seasons, from the Tessellated Pavement found in Dyer Street, Cirencester, September, 1849.

Diameter 34 inches.

superior, so far as my recollection serves me, to any that have been brought to light in this country. The execution, owing to the nature of the materials, and the mode of workmanship adopted in putting them together, is somewhat coarse, and the details and drawing rather rude; but passing over these mechanical and technical defects, there is a style of design in them which associates them, in my humble opinion, with the happiest examples of the best period of Art. Here is grandeur of form, dignity of character, and great breadth of treatment, which strongly reminds me of the finest Greek schools. I do not mean to say that of Phidias, but of subsequent masters, even of Lysippus. This appears in all the three female heads of Flora, Ceres, and Pomona. The smaller figure of Actæon attacked by his dogs, abounds also in these characteristics of fine Greek example. The proportions are good, the action full of energy, and the composition of the figure is almost a close copy of statues and reliefs to be found in our own collection of Greek sculpture in the British Museum. Were I a painter I should venture to enlarge upon another point of comparative excellence in these mosaics, and that is, the quality and breadth and distribution of colour, so far as the masses are concerned. The fine feeling of the picturesque confined within the limits of grand simplicity, is shown in the relief and contrast afforded by the head-dresses of rich green foliage, corn, flowers, and fruit. As a whole, these interesting specimens satisfy me as an artist, beyond the shadow of doubt, that such works were produced after examples of the very highest reach of Art."

A few yards further to the north the workmen came on the side of another pavement, a part of the border only could be uncovered, the design being a bold and elegant Grecian scroll, in three colours, black, yellow, and red, about 12 inches wide; as this extended under buildings it could not be further examined. It is to be observed that the one last mentioned, the two before described, and that discovered in 1793, and still existing in a cellar in Dyer Street, all fall into the same line, parallel with the ancient Roman way, and the relative positions favour the supposition that they all belonged to a private house of the larger class and not to any public establishment. The majority of the Mosaic pavements discovered in England, partake chiefly

of geometrical designs, with figures of infinite variety, both of form and colour. The largest of the many floors at Woodchester has in the centre Orpheus, attended by animals, birds, and fish. In the four corners of the great square surrounding the large centre circle, are some elegant figures, or Naiads, in floating positions; these partake to some extent of the beauty of the figures at Cirencester. At Withington⁵ there was a fine pavement, also engraved by Lysons, and similar to the one above-mentioned at Barton Farm. At Horkstow,⁶ in Lincolnshire, Orpheus and the animals occur, but coarsely done; there is a chariot race in the circus, spirited, the horses better than the human figures. Orpheus also occurs at Winterton,⁷ in Lincolnshire; at Littlecote, in Wiltshire, discovered in 1730; and at Ivonand Cheire, in Switzerland, found in 1778; at Bignor there are representations of several classical subjects, and at Frampton, in Dorsetshire, men on horseback in contests with leopards and in chase of other animals. Throughout the whole series of those found in Gloucestershire, there is a prevailing similarity of design; every border, ornament, or pattern occurring in the Cirencester floors, is to be found in the floors at Woodchester. All these ornaments prevailed in the pavements of the time of Hadrian. It might seem probable, therefore, that the artists who executed them were brought from Rome to assist in decorating the grand Imperial Villa at Woodchester, and, finding sufficient encouragement for their art, remained in the colony, and very possibly in Corinium itself. In no part of England have so many Roman mosaic pavements been discovered, and with such striking propinquity, as in the country of which Corinium was the capital. The heads of Ceres, Flora, and Pomona, the figures of Actæon and Silenus and head of Medusa, in the pavement No. 2 represented in our plate, are superior in design to any of those at Woodchester, and call to my recollection the gorgeous floors of the Vatican Museum, rescued from the ruins of Hadrian's Villa, and other decaying edifices of the Romans in Italy, while the less ornate floors in black and white are similar to those now in the minor apartments of the Papal Museum; but few that remain in England will compare in extent with the superb floor from the Pinacoteca of the Baths of Caracalla,

⁵ Discovered in 1811, published by Lysons. Parts of this are now in the British Museum.

⁶ Discovered in 1796.

⁷ Discovered in 1747.

preserved in the great Hall at the Lateran Palace, and which without geometrical patterns, represents *athletæ*, bathers, gladiators, &c., showing the human figure in a great variety of positions. In the Cirencester pavements, even and good as the work is, the high polish of the Roman ones is not attained, the materials of which they are formed not being capable of that last finish. The *tessellæ* are all of hard stone, the dark blue or black, and the light blue or grey, are of a kind of blue *lias*, found in various parts of the Vale of Gloucester; the dark brown are of a gritty stone, found in the Forest of Dean, and also near Bristol; the light brown or yellow are like the hard calcareous stone found at Lypiatt, near Woodchester; the white, which are polished, are of a stone very similar to that used in Mosaics in Italy, and there called "*Palombino*," I am not aware of any quarry of the kind in England; the red *tessellæ* are all of *terra cotta*.

Nothing was found in connection with these apartments in Dyer Street to lead to the supposition that any of them were for the purposes of the Bath; they appear, with most probability, to have belonged to the house of a wealthy or noble proprietor, the object of the Hypocausts being to ensure that degree of warmth and dryness so essential in the humid climate of the British Islands. It is not a little remarkable that one-half only of the larger floor was a *suspensura*, the remainder of the *terrass* being based on the solid ground. This fact seems to suggest that the two parts of the room were intended for use at different seasons of the year, and this again, that the room was the *Triclinium* of the house, that the portion over the Hypocaust was the *Triclinium hybernium*, and the other end the *Triclinium æstivum*, for use in warm weather. The subjects represented in the floor also substantiate this supposition; there are, in the first place, representations of the four seasons of the year, indicating that it was adapted for use at all times; then there are two subjects connected with convivial festivity, and, lastly, the *Actæon* will suggest the food to be obtained in the chase. The Centaur seems to have been a favourite subject; it is often met with in sculpture, in fresco, and in Mosaic. From the second representation of *Actæon* in the adjoining room, it is not improbable that the owner of the residence had a taste for field sports. The archways of three flues were detected communicating with the hot-air chamber, and passing

up into the wall which divided the apartment from that in which the other pavement was found; the large archway of communication with the *præfurnium* also remains entire. The three archways are formed of bricks of the kind called by Pliny^s "*Didoron*," measuring 1 foot 6 inches by 1 foot, and being 2 inches thick. The larger arch was formed of the kind called "*Tetradoron*." The *pilæ* under the *suspensuræ* of both apartments were variously formed; some in the usual way, with the "*laterculæ bessales*;" others of concrete, with tiles for caps and bases; others were formed by flue tiles set on end; and others again were the bottoms of small stone columns cut to the length required, and taken, apparently, from some other building: the bottom of the Hypocaust was irregularly made, partly with concrete, and partly with tiles. The "*Tegulæ bipedales*," resting on the *pilæ* to receive the concrete, were laid with the flanges downwards, whilst those in the Hypocaust in Thames Street, London, had the flanged edges upwards. In the Hypocaust opened in 1683, and also in those at Woodchester, they are used in rows, with the flanged edges against the walls, so as to form channels for the passage of hot air. Where the pavement is not on a *suspensura*, the *stratum* seems to be formed thus:—rammed ground at bottom, on that about six inches of gravel, lime, sand, broken tiles, and rubbish, above which is a *stratum* of about four inches of pounded brick, mixed with lime and sand; the materials of the concrete most usually met with, and agreeing with the direction of Vitruvius for forming the "*rudratio*," viz., at the bottom the "*statumen*," next above that the "*rudus*," and above that the "*nucleus*" on which the *tessellæ* rest.

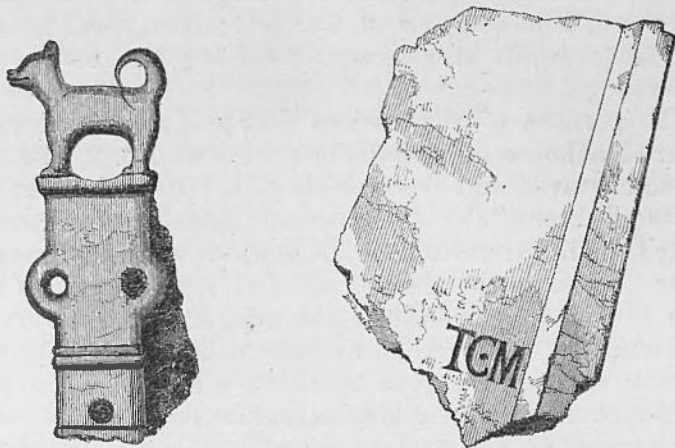
Few objects of domestic use were met with; the annexed wood-cut (size of orig.) represents a small article in bronze, probably the handle of an instrument, which was found near the first opened pavement. Here were also a few other small objects in bronze, many flue tiles, not in situ, bases and shafts of small columns, much broken earthenware, a few fragments of Samian, and the piece of tile bearing the potter's initials **TCManu** (see wood-cut, $\frac{1}{4}$ orig. size). In more than twenty

^s "Genera eorum tria; didoron,* quo utimur, longum sesqui-pede, latum pede; alterum tetradoron; tertium pentadoron; eadem est latitudo."—Plin. N. H. lib. xxxv., cap. xiv.

* Didoron, i. e., pollicum decem et octo; tetradoron, pollicum triginta sex, nempe trium pedum: pentadoron, pollicum quadraginta quinque, nempe trium pedum et novem pollicum.

Vitruvius, lib. ii., cap. iii.

different spots in Cirencester, Roman remains, such as pavements, wells, coins, pottery, &c., have been detected within a few years. At a spot called Watermore, immediately outside



the wall on the south, there were found in 1835 and 1836, three Roman monumental stones of much interest; they were published in the *Archaeologia*,⁹ accompanied by a very learned memoir, written by Dr. Conrad Leemans, Conservator of the Museum at Leyden. Other discoveries are recorded in the *Archaeologia*,¹ and many fragments of sepulchral stones have recently been dug up in a spot near the Amphitheatre, supposed to have been a cemetery immediately without the walls.

That part of the parish of Cirencester called the Tything of *Chesterton*, includes within its limits the ground called the "Leauses," or "Lewses," where so many vestiges of the Romans have been discovered: in the name, the Roman *Castrum* will be recognised, but its precise position seems to be uncertain. The present Castle Street is the continuation of Dyer Street, the assumed line of the Foss Way in its westward course, after crossing the Irmine Street. The modern Spittle-gate is about where the north gate from Glevum would have stood, whilst the south exit towards Calleva would probably have been where there is a break in the mounds, near the spot at which the three sepulchral stones before mentioned

⁹ Vol. xxvii. pl. xiv.

¹ *Archaeologia*, vol. vii, pl. xxix.; vol. viii., p. 407; vol. x., pl. ix., xiii.; vol. xviii., pl. viii., p. 203; vol. xix., p. 176.

were found at Watermore. The district called the "Querns," to the west of the town, is also in Chesterton Tything, and at that spot is the Roman Amphitheatre, perfect in form, and still presenting slight traces of the gradini. The measurements are, from east to west, 148 feet; from north to south, 134 feet; width of entrance, 28 feet; the mounds are 20 feet high.

The portions of the curious floor still preserved in the cellar of a house adjoining the pavement No. 2, is similar to one engraved and described in "*Le Pitture Antiche delle grotte di Roma*," by Pietro Santi Bartoli and Francesco Bartoli, published at Rome in 1706, which was found near the Porta Capena, in the remains of a building believed to have been the piscina publica for the aqua Appia, the very one mentioned by Cicero when writing to his brother Quintus: "*Romæ, et maxime Appia ad Martis mira proluvia, crassipedis ambulatio ablata, horti, tabernæ plurimæ, magna vis aquæ usque ad piscinam publicam.*" The subject there represented is the espousals of Neptune and Amphitrite. The fragment at Cirencester contains a figure mounted on a dolphin, a sea-horse, marine monsters, and various kinds of fish.

In the grounds of Miss Master, at the Abbey, Cirencester, are preserved parts of two very large capitals of the composite order, the acanthus leaves are very boldly cut, as are the parts of a human bust introduced in the volutes. A series of beautiful bronze armillæ, found in some of the excavations, are also preserved at Cirencester, with a variety of other objects.

As soon as the season is more suited for further explorations, it is very desirable that the gentlemen who have been so successful in the recent works should resume their operations, as no doubt many relics of great interest still remain beneath the surface.

CHARLES TUCKER.

We beg to express our hearty thanks to the several parties at Cirencester who have so obligingly rendered assistance and information in our inquiries, and particularly to Mr. C. Newmarch and Mr. Buckman, for the loan of the plate from which our illustration is taken; and we hope that the public also will give these gentlemen due support in their very spirited undertaking of the valuable volume, devoted to an illustrated description of the antiquities of Corinium, now preparing for the press.