

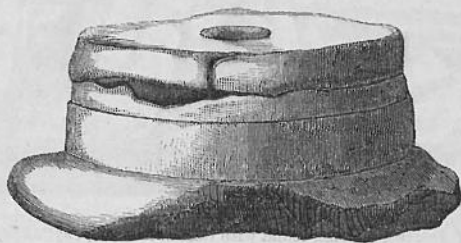
ROMAN ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT CAYTHORPE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE, 1855.

THE Ermin Street in its passage throughout the county of Lincoln was carried along the summit of a ridge of high heathy ground, sloping more or less abruptly towards the west, and running nearly due north and south from one extremity of its limits to the other. Such a line was very judiciously selected, first, because it was the most direct one from the south to "Lindum," and eventually to "Ad Abum" (Winteringham) on the Humber; secondly, because the oolite below this district everywhere presented a ready means for the formation and after reparation of this great work, as well as for the building of stations and detached dwellings required by its guardians in its vicinity; and thirdly, because the Roman forces, for whose especial use it was doubtless at first constructed, would on their marches from its generally commanding elevation, be able to guard the better against any sudden surprise on the part of the natives, who were ever impatient of the heavy, and often grinding yoke to which they had been forced to submit. But though this ridge and *via* both pursue their way towards the north in the same general direction, nature has given to the former a waving boundary, whilst the Romans marked out the latter rigidly by line, so that occasionally the edge of the declivity is found at some distance from the road for a considerable space together. Such an instance occurs a little to the north of *Causennæ* (Ancaster), where the *via* runs about two miles to the east of the ridge, until gradually again approaching each other at Navenby, they once more advance together. Along the western edge of this space, however, another very ancient road exists, commanding a panoramic view of the extensive plains of Nottinghamshire below, whence arises many a tapering spire of exquisite beauty, including that of Newark visible in the distance, and finally breaking the line of the horizon with the stately pile of Belvoir Castle on the one hand, and the massive

towers of Lincoln Minster on the other. This ancient road, although connected at both its extremities with the great northern military *via*, clearly did not *originally* form any portion of that design; but as its sinuous line passes by some of the most desirable sites for private residences situated within an easy distance of a great guarded highway, it probably formed a "Via Vicinalis" for the accommodation of a group of settlers who had established themselves at this point. It is called the "Pottergate road," a term not derived I believe from Porta, or Portus, as some have been anxious to maintain, but one simply acquired from its frequent use by Potters on their way from the great potteries of Lincoln, in which city the same term is also still retained, being applied to the south-eastern approach, and the archway leading into the Minster-yard.

Many Roman coins have from time to time been discovered in the immediate vicinity of this road (now little more than a grass riding), chiefly small and late brass specimens, whilst the discovery of the objects found on its immediate border, and which I am about to describe, seem to confirm the belief ever entertained, that it was originally of Roman construction.

Pursuing the Ermin Street, or "High Dyke" as it is now commonly called, to a point three miles north of Ancaster

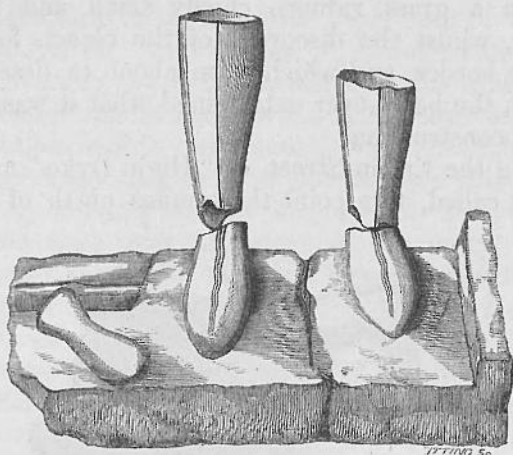


Diam. of the base 2ft. Caythorpe.

a road there branches off to Caythorpe, situated the same distance to the west of the Roman *via*, and crossing the Pottergate road about midway between that village and the *via*. And here, in the south-western angle made by their conjunction, at a distance of 120 yards from the former and 40 from the latter, in a field belonging to the Rev. C. D. Crofts, owing to the grating of a plough against a large stone, some Roman remains deserving of notice have lately

been brought to light. These consist of the base of a pillar formed of Ancaster stone, two feet in diameter below, and one foot five above (see woodcut), upon which was placed another circular stone corresponding with the one below, and having a perforation in its centre between three and four inches wide. This, on raising the upper stone, was found to contain a small olla of black earthenware filled with copper coins, about sixteen in number. The jar fell to pieces immediately on its exposure to the air, and most of the coins are illegible, but amongst them there is one large brass of Faustina, junior, reverse, Juno ; one small brass of Constantius, another with Urbs Roma, reverse, the Wolf and Twins ; a third brass of Magnentius ; also coins in defaced condition, apparently of Gratianus and of Honorius or Arcadius.

Within three yards of the above, at the same time, the



Fragments of a statuo, life size, found with Roman remains, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire.

base of a statue, broken in two, was also discovered about two feet in length, having a ledge on one side, and some signs of a similar feature on the other. Upon this are worked the feet of a figure of life size, the whole being of Ancaster stone (see woodcut). Near the base were found portions of the corresponding legs, and one wrist, retaining a small portion of the hand, here represented on the left of the feet. No portion of a pavement was discovered, nor any other articles serving to throw any light upon these

objects, and as the shoes are simply represented by slits down their centres, and the edges of the leather gathered together without any characteristic ligatures, there is only the testimony of the adjacent hoard of coins remaining to show the Roman date of these remains, which, however, from their general appearance, might have been attributed to a late period. The statue appears to have stood in a niche, judging from the return of the base, but who it represented it is impossible at present to decide. Possibly, however, some further fragments may be discovered on the spot where it was found, or other objects which may assist in explaining more fully the character of this discovery, an event for which I shall anxiously watch.

EDWARD TROLLOPE.