

EXCAVATIONS IN ROME DURING THE WINTER 1870-71.

THE excavations in Rome this season have been so numerous and so important that it is difficult to know where to begin a description of them, but it seems natural to begin with those that were made under the direction of the British Archæological Society, or in connection with them.

1. At the beginning of the season it was ascertained that the tenant of a large vineyard or garden outside of the Porta Portese (or Portuensis) near the Tiber, at the south end of Rome on the western side of the river, was about to have the ground trenched from one end to the other to improve the soil, and as the wall of Aurelian must have passed through that ground, it was thought a good opportunity, by having the trenches made rather deeper than usual, to be able to see the exact line that it took. In this we succeeded ; we found the foundations in three places, and the direction was straight towards the Emporium and the Marmorata, on the opposite side of the Tiber.

2. The next point to which our attention was directed was to the vineyard of Signor Brocard, between the Thermæ of Caracalla and the road (the Via Appia), in which the Porticus is situated that was begun by Caracalla and completed by Elogabalus. We are told by the historian of his life that when this work was completed this was the richest part of Rome, and it is probable that a good deal more will be found here in future seasons. We had begun last season, and could go on more easily there than elsewhere. We have now shown that under each of the arches of this long arcade (called porticus) were bath chambers ; alternately one long chamber and two smaller ones, with doorways from each of the smaller ones into the one long one. This alternative arrangement is continued all along the arcade ; it would therefore have been a useless expense to carry this part of the excavation any further. At the south end we found the *specus* of the aqueduct to carry the

water to these baths, running along at the back, just under the surface of the ground, and carried upon the top of the back wall. This wall does not go very deep, and is then carried on earth only. Our pit was considerably deeper than the bottom of the wall; we went down to the depth of 30 ft., and then found an old pavement with water on it. The water has been unusually high in Rome the whole of this season, and the excavations have been impeded by it in several places. This work was carried on at that depth in the direction of the great central building of the *Thermæ* at the south-east corner. Several walls were found faced with brick of the time of the Emperor Hadrian, and some with his brick stamps. One of these walls also has fresco paintings upon it. This extends in the direction of the other house in the adjoining garden of the Cavalier Guidi, excavated in 1868, and *miscalled* the Villa of Asinius Pollio, for which name there is no authority. In all probability it all belongs to one large building, and that was the private house of the Emperor Hadrian himself, (called in the Regionary catalogue "*Privata Hadriana*" in this Regio,) like the house of Nero under the thermæ of Titus, so this house of Hadrian was under the southern part of the great thermæ of the Antonines, now called after Antoninus Caracalla.

In another part of the vineyard of Signor Brocard also, under the west end of the Church of S. Cæsareo, another pit has been dug, and a series of foundation walls of some extensive buildings have been found. These buildings seem to have extended under the church. Among the ruins found here are two marble columns, one of which has the base *in situ*; the other has the base also, but detached. This has the appearance of having been a colonnade of small columns; a similar colonnade was found by Guidi some years since, *in front* of S. Cæsareo, and another similar one was found in 1869 in some excavations in front of S. Sisto Vecchio, between that and the road. These colonnades are all parallel to the Via Appia, and as such a colonnade of small columns is called in Greek *Xystus*, some persons think that S. Sisto Vecchio was originally the old *Xystus*, and S. Cæsareo perhaps the "*Mutatorium Cæsaris*," which was in this Regio, and the site of which has not been found. It is supposed to have been the "*Royal Exchange*" of ancient Rome, and therefore placed near the principal entrance from the south,

and near the junction of the Via Latina with the Via Appia; but all this is mere conjecture. The legends of the saints "Sixtus and Cæsareo" are, however, of comparatively late date, and of doubtful authority.

3. Some slight excavations were made to find out the line of the Aqueducts along the Via Latina. The lower chambers of a large *piscina* or *castellum aquæ* were found near the Porta Furba, at two miles from the Porta Maggiore; the vault of it is only a few feet under ground. The water must have come from one of the great aqueducts; the situation is between this and the road to Frascati and Tusculum. It is believed to have been a branch of the Anio Vetus, which is generally found near the level of the ground, or only just under ground. From thence the *specus* was traced in a stone quarry at the back of the "Albergo dei Spiriti," two miles from Rome on the Via Appia Nova. The distance is about a quarter of a mile across from one road to the other. The quarry had fallen in and brought the *specus* to light. It was then traced again by the side of the Via Latina, where there are remains of a *piscina* against the bank or cliff on which the road is there carried, about a mile from the Porta Latina. Thence the aqueduct does not follow the road but goes again in a cliff to another lane that runs parallel to the Via Latina on the southern side of it, and near that lane the *specus* was found on a brick arcade, made more distinct by a little digging. It was then traced along the bank of this lane (which is a deep fosse-way) to the railway which cuts through it. Near to the wall of Rome in this part, and after passing on, appearing to be only the hedge bank of a garden in a direct line towards that point, it passes through the city wall, then underground through the vineyard in which is the small hill called Monte d'Auro, and then over the arch of Drusus, just inside the Porta di S. Sebastiano, by the side of which one of the arches of the arcade on which the *specus* was carried remains; the rest have been destroyed in this part, but remain further on, near the Porta Ardeatina. It then goes against another bank to the great *piscina* and reservoir of the *thermæ* of Caracalla.

4. Another excavation of considerable interest was carried on upon the Viminal Hill, on the northern side, just opposite the church of S. Vitale, which stands against the cliff of the Quirinal. Permission was obtained from Monsignor de

Merode, to whom the property then belonged ; and Signor Rosa, the head of the Commission of Archæology, when the property came into the hands of the municipality of Rome permitted the excavations to be continued, on condition that nothing found should be exported. Here remains of ancient buildings were formerly visible, and had been partially excavated on previous occasions, in the time of Flaminius Vacca, and again in the time of Canina ; but the ancient remains had been buried again, and no drawing of them preserved. The result of the later investigations has been to bring to light more clearly the foundations of two towers against the cliff, the walls of which are of tufa, in the style of the kings of Rome, and which belonged to the original fortifications when the Viminal was a separate fortress, with its arx or citadel near this part. Just below one of these towers a cave was found dug out of the rock, described by Flaminius Vacca as a cave of Mithras ; but the exact site of it was not known. It had been thoroughly rifled in his time ; but the niches remain in the wall, and three short marble columns were found which had served as bases for images. These have since been stolen, Signor Rosa having refused his permission to put up a door at the entrance, saying, "*That* was the duty of the Government, and he would do it himself," which will perhaps be done some years hence. On one side of this cave is a deep pit, which might be either a bath (?) or a place for stone coffins (?). The Cavaliere Visconti, who has paid special attention to the worship of Mithras, says this is *not* a Mithræum, and he is disposed to think it a very early tomb, perhaps the tomb of one of the kings of Rome (?). Near this is the *specus* or tunnel of an aqueduct cut in the rock ; it was traced back for about a hundred yards into the hill in the direction of the great aqueducts on the eastern side of Rome. Here, also, permission to put up a door was refused by Signor Rosa, and these two interesting old caves have ever since they were dug out been used by the population of the neighbourhood as receptacles for ordure.

A little farther to the east along this cliff is one side of a house of two storeys of the time of the Republic, about a century before the Christian era. The wall is built of concrete, and is hollow, a space of about two feet wide being left in it, in order to keep the inner surface of the wall dry,

as it stands against the cliff, which is a very common arrangement in Rome. The wall is faced with that rude kind of reticulated work, or net-work, called by Vitruvius *opus incertum*, similar to that of the Emporium.

On a lower level in front of the towers and cave before mentioned are the remains of the Lavacrum of Agrippina, identified by an inscription found there by Canina. The building (which is extensive, and only partly excavated even now) therefore belongs to the first half century of the Christian era. We excavated three chambers, in which we found a fine mosaic pavement and painted walls. The paintings that remain are small figures, of no great importance; and as Signor Rosa refused us permission to export them if we had the plaster detached (which could easily have been done at a moderate expense), we left them in their places, and they were shortly afterwards destroyed by boys, who amused themselves by pelting them with stones. This is the first instance of the practical application of the pontifical law of 1820, since its revival by Signor Rosa, who forbids any excavations being made or any antiquities exported without his permission, and giving him a weekly report of what is found. It is a law more fit for the ninth century than the nineteenth, and one which might well have been left in oblivion, and not posted up all over the walls of Rome, as revived by the new Government.

5. On the Aventine the pit under S. Saba, which we had dug last year, and which had been partially kept open, was cleared out in order to show the Society the tufa facing of the concrete wall of the ancient fort there to protect the gate of the Servian CITY; it corresponds with the other fort opposite to it, under S. Prisca, the two being at the two angles of the gorge in the cliffs, at the narrow end of which was the gate; and at this point the four roads meet, or perhaps, more strictly, two roads cross each other. Close to this point of junction is the stone quarry made out of the ancient aqueducts, in which seven distinct aqueducts met (or perhaps seven branches only), all of which cast their water into the lowest *specus*, that of the Appia, which crossed the fosse-way at this gate. Here also some further excavations were made.

6. Another pit, 24 ft. deep, was dug in the garden of the monks of S. Gregory, in continuation of the one previously

dug on the site of the Porta Capena, but here the tufa wall had been removed; we found the pavement of the Via Appia, and fragments of the gateway of Domitian, who rebuilt that gate of travertine, according to the custom of his time; we ascertained that there were two arches to this gate, the one found in 1871 being to the east of the one found in 1869. The work was interrupted by water, which was much higher than it was two years since, when we made our previous pit here. The monks had been very friendly to us, and had given us leave to open the pit by paying ten pounds to their *Locataire* (the middle man who stands between the monks and the actual gardener), to which he had assented. But as soon as the pit was dug he required a further payment of twenty pounds to keep it open for six months. We therefore agreed to its being filled up again as soon as we had obtained plans, drawings, and photographs of what was found.

7. At the Mamertine Prison the subterranean passage from the "Prison of S. Peter" to the other part of the prison, under the south end or modern part of the Via di Marforio and the Vicolo del Ghettaello, probably the part called the *Lautumia*,¹ having been originally stone quarries (?). These two parts were connected by a subterranean passage 36 yards long, 2 feet wide, and 5 feet high, of which we have now cleared out 30 yards, and have reached as far as the foundations of the houses where the vault has been broken through. The wall and the vault of this passage are of very early construction, and seem certainly earlier than the Empire, possibly as early as the time of the Kings, which is the probable date of the walls of the prison. The construction of this vaulted passage is almost identical with that of the Cloaca Maxima.

8. At S. Clement's the worthy Father Mullooly, during our absence last summer, had carried on his excavations and found a Mithræum, or cave of Mithras, at the lowest level, and behind the site of the altar of his church. This Mithræum is beyond the wall of Servius Tullius, and the brick wall of the time of the Emperor Hadrian, parallel to it, at 2 ft. distance, which many will remember. It was, therefore, within the city, and made in the inner fosse, while

¹ See Livy, Hist. xxvi. 27, xxxii. 26, xxxvii. 3, xxxix. 44.

the church stood in the outer fosse. There was no communication or opening through the wall until Father Mullooly himself made a hole through it into what he thought was the private oratory of S. Clement, the apse of the underground church having been carried over it at a considerably later period. It is now clear that this so-called oratory was the vestibule of the Mithræum, with a flight of steps leading down into it from a doorway at the end of the south aisle of the lower church. This doorway is of the time of the Emperor Hadrian, as shown by the construction of the arch over it, but it had been plastered over for painting upon in the eighth century, if not earlier, and all access to the Mithræum was then closed. Father Mullooly has recently (that is in March and April, 1871) sunk another pit in the garden of the monastery to the depth of 30 ft., and has found remains of some considerable building of the time of the Emperor Nero, probably a part of his enormous Golden House, carried upon a wall of large blocks of tufa, that had belonged to the wall of Servius Tullius, but seem to have been removed from the upper part of the wall and used as foundations only. This wall runs longitudinally along the valley, and not across it, as the wall of Servius Tullius must have done. Last year the good father had sunk another pit in another part of the garden, and there also had found part of a house of the first century, but *not* part of the wall of Servius Tullius. In the cellars of the monastery, also, there are brick arches of the first century, that appear to have been another part of the great house of Nero, or of the thermæ of the first century connected with it, which have also been traced under the gardens of the Capucins, on the cliff of the Esquiline, near to S. Clement's. A contribution was made to Father Mullooly from the Exploration Fund.

9. As related in my last lecture, at the end of 1870, the monks of S. Agnes, outside of the walls of Rome, have made considerable excavations in that part of the great catacomb which adjoins their church. The part first excavated was that nearest to the church as far as the *loculi* (or grave in the rock) that is enclosed by a slab with a mosaic inscription upon it. This part was particularly interesting because the graves were unopened, and covered by the original tiles or slabs across the openings, with places for the lamps, some

of which remained, and for the bottle of red fluid. This small portion had not been reached by Bosio, or disturbed in the sixteenth century ; but immediately afterwards the name of BOSIO was found inscribed, and in all that part the tombs had been thoroughly rifled and all the inscriptions and other relics carried away, so that this portion presents the same desolate appearance as the catacombs in general, and is in a very bad state—dangerous in some places. One painted chamber was found, but not very early, or of much importance. A donation was made to the monks to encourage and assist them.

10. The other excavations, with which the Society has not been connected, have been unusually numerous and important during the present season. The Italian Government has granted £12,000 sterling for excavating the whole of the Palatine Hill in the same manner as Pompeii, and has placed the direction of the work under Signor Rosa, who had formerly been employed by the Emperor of the French. Their plan is to have a Commission of Archæology, consisting of six persons, to consult with Signor Rosa, who is to be at the head of it, but not to act alone ; four of these persons have been appointed, and all four have signified their disagreement with the mode of proceeding adopted by him. They protest especially against his system of *restoration*, which they justly say is *not* archæology ; and they consider that he began in the wrong manner. One of the first things he did was to dig two rows of holes through the ancient marble pavement of the Basilica Julia, in the Forum Romanum, where he thought there *must have been* pillars of travertine, or buttresses to carry the roof. No traces of any such pillars were found ; and when the English came to Rome in December, those pits were all full of water, and a piece of travertine was seen *to be placed* in one of them. He then set his men to work to remove the mountain of earth that had been piled up to the south of the Arch of Septimius Severus, in the Campo Vaccino, over the pavement of the Via Sacra, in the time of the first Napoleon, as it was then considered that nothing was hid by it. But Signor Rosa's plan is to clear away everything above the old pavements and show them all over the Palatine. In consequence of this mode of proceeding there has

been little to show *here* during the last few months, except the mosaic pavement of the temple, with the three fine tall columns at this angle of the Palatine, the name of which is so much disputed, but which appears to be of the time of Tiberius, and the pavement was that of the Cella. Some fragments of architectural details were also found there. Was it the Temple of Castor and Pollux, as is now said? On the southern side of the Basilica Julia the pavement of an old street, supposed to have been the Vicus Tuscus, has been brought to light again; it was uncovered by Visconti in 1868, but covered up again soon afterwards. Some vestiges of shops by the side of this street, against the base of the Basilica Julia, have also been found. If Signor Rosa had begun at the Church of SS. Cosmas and Damian, where the marble columns are half buried, there would have been something fresh to show day by day. In the upper part of the Palatine there has been more to show,—a very early temple, supposed to be that of Apollo, has been brought to light near the north-west corner, built of the large tufa blocks, in the style of the kings, and a grand flight of steps down from it of the same construction, leading towards the Church of S. Anastasia, and having apparently passed through that site to the Circus Maximus. Under this church is the old street called after Julius Cæsar, and there is a marble staircase going up in the same direction, probably a continuation of it. This is supposed by some to be the Scala Caci. But Signor Rosa had formerly put that name up in another place.

Towards the south end of the Palatine the great excavations that had been begun by Visconti have been to some extent carried on, the Exedra cleared out, and some remains of painting found. This is said to be of the time of Domitian; but a considerable part of the palaces at the south end of the Palatine are of the third century. The Exedra was of two stories. Some columns of Pavonazzetto marble were also found, and fragments of statues. This part is supposed to have been the Stadium, but more must be done before this can be established. In the middle of the Palatine some more parts of the Wall of Romulus have been shown on each side of his great fosse across the hill, which formed the southern side of his arx, or Roma Quadrata. Another part is visible at the west end; and that on

the north side, with the foundations of his towers, has long been known. But this is not consistent with Signor Rosa's views, and therefore nothing is said about them. Further excavations must show whether his views are correct or not, and it is expected that much will be done during the next half-year. A cave-reservoir of water at the north-west corner of the Palatine has been cleared out and *restored*, and props introduced to support the roof. There are channels to bring the water into this from other parts; it is popularly called the Cistern of Romulus,² and is behind the most perfect part of his wall. Other reservoirs have also been found, made out of old quarries, but these are at a much greater depth, and near the centre of the hill. At the north-east angle a considerable clearance has been made in part of the palace of the time of Caligula; some remains of fresco pictures were found, and a staircase leading to the Forum Romanum.

The arch called the Arch of Janus has been cleared of the earth round the base, which is now brought out, and the old pavement of the Forum Boarium uncovered. A considerable number of the large oblong blocks of tufa, of the character of the time of Romulus, corresponding with those on the Palatine above, have also been brought to light, and some of them seem to be in their original places in a wall, indicating that the primitive fortifications of the Palatine extended to this gate. This I had said before in one of my lectures was probable.

In rebuilding some of the edifices round the Forum of Trajan several portions of the old building have been found, and a fragment of a porphyry statue of an emperor, and a base dedicated to the Emperor Honorius, by *Rufius Antoninus Agrippinus Volupianus*, præfect of Rome in 424.

The new government works carried on by Signor Rosa are now being developed in other directions also. The great Thermæ of Caracalla are being cleared out of rubbish; some fresh mosaic pavement, fragments of the great vaults, portions of columns, capitals, and bases, and other details, have already been uncovered.

Since the English left Rome, I hear, from a Roman friend, that Signor Rosa has been pushing on the excavations in these

² There is a similar reservoir, with similar wells, at Alba Longa, under the corner of the Arx there, mis-called a prison.

great *thermæ* vigorously; and to remove some obstruction (the nature of which I do not quite understand), he has employed gunpowder, which has shaken one of the main walls of the building considerably. There is quite an outcry against his mode of proceeding, and the Roman people now say that half the money spent by Rosa for the Emperor of the French was wasted, much being spent in *restoration* to make a display. Archæologists do not want *restoration* at all; they want only excavation and preservation. I am sorry to say anything against Signor Rosa, for he is always very obliging to English people, and has been so to me personally; but it is well known in Rome that when he was appointed by the Emperor, he knew nothing at all about archæology; and although he has worked hard, and has acquired a good deal of information, his mode of proceeding is not satisfactory. The large labels that he had put up on the Palatine have several times changed their places, and cannot be depended on.

The arch of the time of Septimius Severus, built by the silversmiths in this quarter, at the entrance to the Forum Boarium, has been *restored*; and a part of the brick pier of the Campanile of the Church of S. Giorgio in Velabro, which concealed a part of the cornice, has been removed; the rest of the surface has been scraped to make it all look new alike. A fine piece of the ancient sculpture was here brought to light, representing Bacchus in a feminine attitude, called "Bacchus Hermaphroditus," with the cornucopiæ in his left hand; the figure is enveloped in the rich upper garment called a *peplum*. Bacchus and Hercules were the two guardians of the family of Severus, and both are represented on this arch.

11. On the eastern side of Rome, the large vineyard and garden near the Porta Maggiore, the modern name of which is the Vigna Belardi, has been purchased by a building company for the purpose of building new houses; but previously they are excavating the ground thoroughly in search of marble statues, and to see what old foundations there are that can be made available for building upon. This ground will be best known to the English visitors by the fine building called the Temple of Minerva Medica that stands in it. These extensive works have brought to light a number of old tombs with columbaria, and inscriptions on old tomb-

stones, none of much importance, but belonging to rather an early period, chiefly to the time of the Republic. The ground is also full of aqueducts and reservoirs, and piscinæ at a higher level than the tombs. This ground is believed to have been at one period a public burial-place, called the Exquilæ, or Esquilæ, and afterwards the garden of Mæcenas; but the aqueducts are chiefly of a later period. The Minerva Medica itself is of the third century, and is believed to have been a Nymphæum belonging to some great thermæ of that period. The arcade of the Aqua Marcia, however, runs across one corner of this ground, from the arch that is visible just inside the Wall of Aurelian, close to the Porta Maggiore, passing within a few yards of that arch into the higher ground just beyond. The railway cuts through this small hill and the aqueduct. Part of the stone arcade of the Marcia is visible in the first pit to the right from the gate; the tombs are to the left.

The property of the company extends beyond the old road or fosse-way called the Via di Porta Maggiore, and as far as the road made by Sixtus the Fifth, from S. Maria Maggiore to S. Croce. In this part also a large pit has been dug, and a curious ancient structure brought to light, of the time of the Early Empire, a circular chamber, very deep, surrounded by a square building of considerably larger size. This building touches the road of Sixtus V., and the wall of it, which projects into the road, has long been visible, but supposed to be a tomb only. It is now supposed that very extensive thermæ were built in this part of Rome in the third century, to which the Nymphæum of Alexander Severus, where the trophies of Marius were placed, was at the entrance, and to which the "Minerva Medica" also belonged.

In digging the foundations of the new Palace of the Senate on Monte Citorio, a fragment of a hypocaust was found, supposed to have belonged to the Thermæ of Alexander Severus, and a pavement of *vigio* marble. In the garden of the convent of the Chiesa Nuova a remarkably fine head of an ancient Roman statue has been found.

Some excavations have been made in April, 1871, in the garden of Prince Doria, at the place called "Porta Leoni," on the opposite bank of the Tiber to the Pulchrum Littus,

and near S. Maria in Capella in the Trastevere, at the upper end of the port of Rome, in the Tiber, made in the time of the Republic, B. C. 180 (Livii Hist. xl. 51). The foundation walls of a *horrea*, or large warehouse, probably of the third century, have been found. On the surface of the vault was a pavement of marble of various colours, but not of early character; another wall faced with brick, and one with *silex*. At the foot of this building in the bank of the Tiber are the large stone corbels carved into lions' heads of Etruscan character, discovered in 1869. These have now been almost entirely buried under the earth thrown on the bank from these excavations in the garden above; one only is left visible. It is very desirable that this earth should be removed again, and that the quay below the corbels should be cleared of the hard mud and sand under which it is now buried.