



ROMAN EXPLORATION FUND.*

SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS IN 1872.

I. THE House of Sallust and the Temple, situated at the north-east corner of the agger of Servius Tullius, and on the horn-work to protect the Porta Collina. Arrangements for this excavation have been made with the proprietor of the ground, Mr. Spithœver, who will bear half the expense, and will leave it open.

II. In the middle of the same great agger, near the railway station, to cut a trench through the bank and the wall in front of it, in a direct line, in order to show the height and the thickness both of the bank of earth and the wall, and the depth of the trenches on each side of it. This is rather a formidable undertaking, as we are told by Strabo that the outer trench was 100 ft. wide, and 30 ft. deep *in its smallest part*; and we know, by what was visible in 1870, that the inner trench was nearly equally deep; how wide it was could not be seen. The spot proposed for this exploration is close to the railway station, and would be clearly visible from that point. It would be desirable to purchase a strip of ground in the vineyard adjoining, through which the agger runs, and cut through it in a direct line, not obliquely, as the railway does.

III. At the south end of the great agger, where it turns at a sharp angle to join the cliff of the Esquiline, and where there was probably another horn-work like that still existing at the north end; here it has been more levelled. This is now in the garden of the monastery of the Liguorini, which will have to be sold during the next year. To make some explorations in the garden of the Nunnery near this, where the agger and wall joined on to the cliff of the Esquiline. No one has been permitted to examine this for the last half century; but as this convent will also have to be sold, there will be no difficulty now.

IV. To explore further the line of the short agger between the Cœlian and the Esquiline, near S. Clemente, a part of which has been done by Father Mullooly, and he is now endeavouring to raise funds to go on with this excavation.

V. To re-open and leave open a portion of the pit between the Cœlian and the Aventine, with the Piscina Publica, and that part of another short agger with the aqueducts upon it, near the site of the Porta Capena. It would be desirable here also to purchase a strip of ground at the end of a vineyard, in order to leave the excavation open.

VI. The Porta Trigemina under the Aventine on the bank of the Tiber. The site belongs to the Government, but permission could readily be obtained. The tufa wall remains at the lower end of the salt wharf or salaria.

VII. In the wall of Aurelian, to excavate the interior of the Porta

* Accounts for this Fund are open at Coutts & Co., Strand, and Parsons & Co., Old Bank, Oxford.

Pinciana, and leave it open. This gate-house is perfect, and is one of especial interest, as the one at which the great general Belisarius was refused admission by the Romans, and was very near falling into the hands of the Goths in consequence, as related by Procopius.

VIII. To excavate the Porta Nomentana, both outside and inside, and leave the pits open. The exterior is in the road under the wall, but there is space enough to allow of it. The interior is private property, but the owner would probably be willing to have it done.

IX. To excavate a portion of the Prætorian Camp, to ascertain whether it is built upon an ancient earthwork or not, and to see how high above the level of the road on the outside the ground is on the inside.

X. To reopen and leave open the interior of the Porta Chiusa, which was explored in 1870, but the pit was obliged to be filled up again. This is also the property of a nobleman, but he would probably be willing to make some arrangements to further a public object.

XI. To reopen and leave open the pit near the Porta di S. Lorenzo, excavated in 1870, but filled up again, in which that part of the arcade of the Marcian aqueduct was clearly shown.

XII. To reopen and leave open a pit on the high ground through which the Marcian aqueduct passes, half-way between the Porta di S. Lorenzo and the Porta Maggiore.

XIII. At the Porta Maggiore, to make excavations outside and inside, at the point where the Marcian arcade passes through the wall, showing the Anio Vetus by the side of it, half under ground, the end of which was walled up by the Pontifical authorities in 1870. In the interior, to show the place where the Anio Vetus enters Rome, and to make more distinct the one broken arch of the Marcian arcade which remains there.

XIV. To open and leave open a portion of the interior of the Amphitheatrum Castrense (the Vivarium of Procopius), an important illustration of an interesting piece of Roman history. This has hitherto been for a long period in the garden of the monks of S. Croce in Gerusalemme, and ladies have in consequence been excluded. This garden will also have to be sold, with the other church property.

XV. To reopen the pit outside the Porte Lateranensis, which was opened in 1869, down to the pavement of the road, and the tombs by the side of it, and leave open a branch from thence to the road under the front of that portion of the old Lateran palace which faces the east, and forms an angle in the wall of Aurelian.

XVI. To throw open the interior of the Porta Metronia, where the water of the Marrana and the Aqua Crabaa enters Rome in the bed of one branch of the old river Almo, under a bridge in the wall of Aurelian, which passes over it, and had a gate there, all which would be plainly visible, but is now concealed by a Mediæval tower.

XVII. To excavate and leave open the Porta Ardeatina of the first century, both outside and inside, and to show a portion of the old Via Ardeatina, which could easily be done in the vineyards both inside and outside.

XVIII. To make an excavation at the Porta Ostiensis (or S. Paolo), to show the level of the old road.

XIX. To excavate a portion of the Emporium, and show the storey now underground, in connection with the recent excavations on the Marmorata or marble wharf. The ruins of the Emporium are the pro-

perty of Prince Torlonia, and there is reason to believe that he would be willing to make this excavation at his own expense, if properly applied to.

XX. To reopen, and leave open, the pits that were made in 1870 in the Thermæ of Commodus and Severus, in the Monte d'Oro, and carry them further in the interior of the great corridors then found.

XXI. To complete the exploration of the subterranean passage from the vestibule of the Mamertine Prison, commonly called the Prison of S. Peter, under the Church of the Crucifixion, to the principal chambers of that celebrated prison made in the old *Lautumice*, or stone quarries at the foot of the Capitol, now under the houses in the Vicolo del Ghattarello, and at the south end of the Via di Marforio, and under the modern part of that street. The distance from one part of the prison to the other is 36 yards, and thirty of them have already been cleared out, but it has been a difficult and expensive work.

XXII. To make another search for more fragments of the *marble plan of Rome* of the third century, on the same spot where *all* the other fragments have been found, both in the seventeenth century, and recently; and to leave open the corner of the Basilica of Constantine, which has fallen on to the pavement in front of the wall to which the *marble plan* was attached, and now lies buried there, with a portion of a newel, or corkscrew staircase in it, upside down.

XXIII. To complete the interesting excavation on the Viminal made in 1871, and put doors on to the entrances to secure them. Signor Rosa undertook to do this on the part of the Corporation; but when? The curious cave of Mithras (?) has been almost entirely ruined by this neglect already.

XXIV. To excavate a part of the great house of Pudens and Claudia, on the other side of the Viminal, a considerable part of the subterranean chambers of which are known to exist; this ground is for sale. It is probable that this great senator's house was the residence of Caractacus and the British Royal family, during the seven years they were hostages in Rome, and that S. Paul was a frequent visitor in this nobleman's house. In this the Thermæ of Novatus were afterwards made. It is supposed to have extended, with its gardens, right across that part of the Viminal hill, in the same manner as the house of Nero, with the thermæ of Titus over it, extended over that part of the Esquiline hill. The church of S. Pudentiana was made in part of these thermæ in A.D. 150. The property now for sale does not interfere with the church.

XXV. To excavate more of the quays in the Port of Rome, in the same manner as the quays for landing marble and wine were excavated a few years since by the Pontifical Government. Especially the quays at the upper end of the port of the time of the Republic, where the large corbels for mooring vessels carved into the form of lions' heads have recently been buried again on the Trastevere side, and the quay under the Pulchrum Littus on the side of the city.

XXVI. To excavate the lower part of the fine marble columns of the Temple of Pallas, and build a wall to support the earth by the side of the street. The upper part of these columns has been long visible, and calls loudly for the lower part to be brought to light. A plan and drawing for this was sent to the Pontifical Government, by Signor Cicconetti, in 1869, but nothing more was heard of it.

XXVII. The Porticus began by Caracalla, and finished by Elogabalus, now in the vineyard of Signor P. Brocard, should be more thoroughly explored and excavated, to demonstrate that it was an arcade and not a colonnade, as is commonly but erroneously supposed. In the same vineyard to excavate more of the important house of the first or second century, supposed to be part of the same extensive building, of which a portion has been excavated by the Cavaliere Guidi, and called the Villa of Asinius Pollio, but it is now believed that the whole formed part of the private house of the Emperor Hadrian.

XXVIII. To clear out the subterranean storey of the Thermæ of Caracalla, which is of the same extent as the upper building, and is only partially filled up, chiefly by the earth thrown down the old *luminaria* by the workmen employed by the Pontifical Government in searching for marble statues in the ground above.

XXIX. To excavate another portion of the great Golden House of Nero, with the Thermæ of Titus and Trajan over it, which has hitherto been only partially opened. There is a great work here to be done. I have obtained written permission from the Italian Government to do this, and have ordered the work to be commenced at once.

XXX. To re-open, and leave open, a portion of the Colosseum, to show the original level of the arena, about fifteen feet below the present level.

The last three are the property of the Government. For the present, they have undertaken to excavate the whole of the Palatine Hill with the slopes round it, as far as the Forum Romanum and the Arch of Janus on the north, the Via Sacra and Clivus Sacer on the east, the arch of Constantine and the Via de S. Gregorio on the south, and the Circus Maximus on the west. This is a great work, but as all Rome is built upon old foundations, they very properly announce that they intend to stop there, lest all householders should be in fear of having the foundations of their houses examined. The Italian Parliament has voted £12,000 for this great excavation, which will be enclosed by a wall, as at Pompeii.

Those here suggested are comparatively small affairs, some of which can be done for £50 or £100, others would cost perhaps £1,000 or more, but in the latter case there would generally be a fair interest for the money. Some of them might be done by a company or companies. The value of land is rising rapidly in Rome, where a new city is being built on the high ground. It is understood that the Italian Government and the Municipality of Rome are generally willing to have such excavations made by others who will pay for them, and will make fair compensation to the owners and occupiers of the ground.