ROMAN MARITIME TOWNS IN KENT.[1]

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Two parts of this island are especially remarkable for the traces of Roman occupation which they have preserved; these are *Kent* and *Northumberland*, with the county of Cumberland adjoining it. They are rich in Roman remains, especially in Roman military remains, such as fortresses or *castellæ*. Northumberland is especially rich in inscriptions, nearly all military; Kent has very few. The fortified Roman towns in Kent are also remarkable as indicating the later period of Roman occupation, and do not so much mark the period of conquest as of steps taken to preserve those conquests; also as the great northern barrier running through Northumberland was raised against the Picts and Scots, so the fortresses along the Kentish coast were raised against the Saxons and other northern pirates.

We have documentary records of the forces by which these fortresses were garrisoned. The "Notitia Imperii" has preserved to us their names,[2] and the inscribed stones on the line of the northern barrier has verified the correctness of the "Notitia." Unhappily, in Kent inscriptions are wanting, but the names of ancient ports survive in several places, as Regulbium (Reculver), Portus Lemanis (Lymne), Dubris (Dover). In treating of the Roman remains in Kent the "Notitia" is of the first importance, not only as giving

[1] Read at the Canterbury Meeting of the Roy. Arch. Inst., July 27, 1875.

[2] They are—1. "Subdispositione viri spectabilis comitis Limitis Saxonici per Britanniam."—2. "Præpositus numeri Fortensium, *Othnoæ*." Supposed to be Felixstowe, near the mouth of the river Orwell, on the Suffolk coast. Submerged ruins.—3. "Præpositus militum Tungricanorum *Dubris*," *Dover*.—4. "Præpositus numeri Turnacensium, *Lemanis*," *Lymne*. — 5. "Equitum Dalmatarum Brano-dunensis, *Branaduno*." Brancaster, at the mouth of the Wash.—6. "Præpositus Equitum Stablesianorum Gariannonensis, *Gariannono*." Burgh Castle, on the Yare. — 7. "Tribunus Cohortis primæ Vetasiorum, *Regulbio*." Reculver. — 8. "Præpositus Legionis," 11 Aug., *Rutupis*. Richborough. — 9. "Præpositus Numeri Abulcorum, *Anderidæ*." Pevensey. — 10. "Præpositus Numeri Exploratorum, *Portu Adurni*." *Aldrington*, on the river Adur. The office of the "Comes Lit. Sax." was to defend the coast of Britain against the Franks and Saxons. The term *Littus Saxonicum* was also applied to the opposite coast of Gaul, and was under *Dux Tractus Armoricani*.

the names of the fortified towns and ports, but also the troops that occupied them.

The earliest notice, however, which we have of Kent is in the landing of Cæsar, and the interesting account he gives in his Commentaries;[3] and as Kent was the county on which the Roman eagle was first planted, so it was probably the county which witnessed the final departure of the Roman power.[4] When we refer to Ptolemy, the Roman geographer, we find three cities especially mentioned—Ptolemy flourished in the time of Trajan, Hadrian and Antoninus Pius, *i. e.*, the first half of the second century—these towns are Londinium, Durovernum, Rutupiæ; but he has made a mistake in assigning London to Kent. In the Itinerary of Antonine, Iter II., Rutupiæ is given as a PORT, "ad *Portum* Rutupis." This Iter, beginning at the wall in Northumberland, is carried through York, Chester, London, and on through Southfleet, Rochester, Davington and Canterbury to Richborough. In the course of this Iter we have six Kentish stations mentioned.[5] It is, however, to the "Notitia"[6] that we must chiefly turn for information respecting the Roman occupation of this part of Britain. That work was probably compiled either in the time of Theodosius the Great or his successor, *i. e.*, previous to A.D. 450. It was in the reign of Theodosius the younger that the Romans abandoned this country. Coins of Honorius, Arcadius and Constantine are the last that are found in Britain on the sites of Roman cities, camps, or villas.

The Roman remains in Kent at Richborough, Reculver and Lymne have been so well worked out and carefully recorded by Mr. Roach Smith, that little remains for the

[3] C. Julii Cæsaris, Bell. Gal., iv. 26, 27, &c., et. v.

[4] Cæsar's description of Kent is:—'Ex his omnibus, longe sunt humanissimi qui Cantium incolunt: quæ regio est maritima omnis, neque multum à Gallicâ differunt consuetudine," Bel. Gall. lib. v. 14.

[5] Noviomagus: ? Keston, near Bromley; Vagniacæ, Southfleet; Durobrivæ, Rochester; Durolevum, Davington, near Faversham; Durovernum, Canterbury; Ad Portum Ritupis, Richborough.

[6] "Whenever the 'Notitia' may have been written," says Mr. Roach Smith, "it must have been before the Roman troops were withdrawn from Britain, though probably but a short time previous; for we find them concentrated upon the two great points of attack—the Wall on the north, and the Saxon shore—while other stations, which had in former years been garrisoned, are not mentioned, a silence which implies that some urgent cause had required the withdrawal of the troops; and that cause is explained by their disposition on the frontiers. Thus the Second Legion, surnamed Augusta, whose headquarters were at Isca Silurum, had been removed to Rutupiæ."

antiquary to describe which will not be found in his book on those three stations, and in his subsequent report of the excavations at Lymne, but it may not be amiss to state in brief what will there be found detailed at length, and a few other points may be added. One cannot but be thankful that the same observation applies to the Roman antiquities of Kent which Camden applied to the general history of the county—that such a source of information existed through the labours of others, that he had only to summarise those labours.

Professor Hübner in his lately published volume, "Inscriptiones Britanniæ Latinæ," a work of much labour and research, has, under the head "Portus Lemanæ" (see p. 20), briefly enumerated all the authorities, ancient and modern, who have either alluded to the Roman city or the district, or treated of the antiquities there found, but it is curious to observe the mention of only *one inscribed stone*, an altar, probably dedicated to Neptune,[7] by Aufidius Pantera, prefect of the fleet of Britain, and a remnant of pottery with the name *Severianus* upon it.[8] That much interest has been taken of late in the investigation and preservation of the Roman remains in Kent is testified by Professor Hübner, who thus alludes to them when he mentions the inscriptions above named,—"Horum vero omnium oppidorum cum reliquiæ alius quidem generis supersint, servatæ illæ et explicatæ magna cum cura a Societate Archæologica Cantiana, cujus etiam Museum extat in Maidstone."

Those who had the benefit of hearing Dr. Guest's learned and elaborate dissertation on the landing of Julius Cæsar in Kent, since published in the "Archæological Journal" (vol. xxi. p. 221), with a map, will have studied the Kentish coast with no slight feeling of interest, whatever view may be taken as to the place of Cæsar's landing. Perhaps the late adventurous exploit of Captain Boyton,[9] and the place of his landing, may have settled the question of *tides* and *currents*, but to me it appears that if Cæsar sailed from

[7] At Sandwich a fragment with the word "PRIMITIVI" is recorded by Battaley, Antiq. Rutup. See Hübner's "R. B. I.," p. 281.

[8] A small marble altar to the Diis Manibus, in the Museum of the Institute at Canterbury, and dedicated by Elius Teluminus, and said to have been found at Petham, requires to be authenticated, as no such altar has yet been found in this island. It has most probably been imported. See "Inscrip. Rom. Brit." p. 20.

[9] Since followed by the still more daring feat of Captain Webb (Aug. 24, 1875.)

Sangate or Wissant, he would most probably land at Deal; if he sailed from Boulogne (as the late Emperor of the French, in his life of Julius Cæsar, and the French antiquaries suppose), he would then probably land near Hythe, not far from the ancient Portus Lemanis.[1] Taking it, however, as an indisputable fact that *he did land*, although the exact point may be doubtful, we have, as a subsequent effect of his landing, three Roman roads from three fortified points on the Kentish coast, all three converging to one Roman town, Durovernum—Canterbury. Beginning at the sonth-western point of Kent, we have *Portus Lemanis*, the antiquities of which have been so well delineated and the plan given by Mr. R. Smith, in his report of the excavations there made in 1850, which forms a supplement to his earlier work on Richborough, Reculver and Lymne. From hence we have a Roman road direct to Canterbury, called "Stone Street," and proceeding along the coast we have *Portus Dubris*, and from thence the Roman road over Barham Down, leading also to Canterbury.[2] At Dover we have probably one of the earliest examples of Roman masonry in the "Pharos," or lighthouse; this stands within the traces of the Roman entrenchment. In constructing the Pharos, the Romans followed their usual method of laying a certain number of courses of ashlar alternated with two courses of Roman bonding tiles. Finding the Kentish rag too small and shapeless, and no other materials being within easy distance, they laid their foundations upon blocks of calcareous tufa, brought from Normandy, to the depth of 7 ft. 4 in.; below this they placed a single course of tile and a stratum of conglomerate, a foot and a half thick, resting upon clay mixed with flints.[3]

The Pharos at Dover, in its original state, probably resembled the lighthouse at Boulogne, said to have been built by Caligula, and destroyed in 1644. It is octagonal without and square within, and the walls 10 ft. thick and 40 ft.

[1] Horsley supposes Cæsar to have landed at Rutupiæ, see "B. R." p. 13. West Hythe is supposed to have arisen out of the decay of Portus Lemanis.

[2] Mr. Leman, in a note to Horsley's "B. R.," says, "The present distance from London to Dover is 70 measured miles, but the Roman Road, which was from the capital nearly in the track of the present turnpike to Dartford, beyond that place quits it, and while the former goes in a direct line to Southfleet, and Cobham Park, the present road bends considerably to the left, to pass through Northfleet and near Gravesend, on its way to Rochester." (See MS. Notes to Horsley, in Bath Lit. Inst.)

[3] See "The Architect" for March 27 1869.

high, but it has had additions made to it in times subsequent to the Roman dominion. It is mentioned in documents of 15 Edw. I., 1287, and appears then to have been used as a bell-tower, and was called the tower of Julius Cæsar. The Roman town of Dubræ was probably in the hollow between the hills now occupied by the modern town. Roman foundations have here been uncovered ;[4] coins have been picked up on the beach. Roman tiles are found at Dover impressed with the letters CL. BR., which may be read "Classiarii Britannici," Roman marines.

From *Rutupiæ*, Richborough, another line of Roman road passes to Canterbury. The remains of the castrum here are very striking, and there is no difficulty about making out the plan, which is rectangular, and the masonry of the walls deserves careful examination. Accurate drawings of the walls are given by Mr. Roach Smith. The north wall is the most perfect, extending 560 ft. in length, and in places 30 ft. high. The facing remains perfect in places. The masonry consists of layers of squared stones with bonding-courses of tiles. The first course begins about 5 ft. from the foundation, and the other courses succeed at intervals of from 3 to 4 ft.[5] In no place can the masonry of the Roman period be better studied. At the angles of the castrum are circular towers, and the face of the wall on each side between the angles is strengthened by square towers.[6] The river Stour appears to have run originally under the walls, and to have formed the defence on the south-east side, if the sea did not formerly come up to the fortress, which appears to have stood upon an island between Thanet and the mainland. At the north-east angle, are the ruins of a return wall which seems to have run down under the cliff. Here was probably the landing-place which led into the citadel. In the north-east wall is a postern gateway, which externally has the appearance of a square tower, but when approached is found to be only a return wall covering a side entrance. The main entrance was near the middle of the western wall. Within the area is a mass of masonry which has perplexed hitherto all excavators ; it

[4] See "Wanderings of an Antiquary," by Thos. Wright, F.S.A., pp. 110 and 111.

[5] See an account of these walls in the "Wanderings of an Antiquary," pp. 88, 89.

[6] For an account of Richborough, by Dr. Stukeley, see a Letter by him in the "Bibliotheca Topographica," No. 11, p. 15, 22 Sept. 1716 ; also "Itin. Cur.," 1, p. 97 ; Harris, "Hist. of Kent, additions," p. 36 ; Somner's "Rom. Ports," p. 20 ; Batteley's "Antiq. Rutup."

is a solid platform, with a raised portion in the form of a cross. The platform is 145 ft. long by 104 ft. wide, and composed of boulders and coarse mortar, on which is a floor of mortar 6 in. thick. From this floor the cross rises in a solid mass to between 4 and 5 ft., and appears to have been faced with squared stones.[7] I am inclined to think that the work was intended to support a wooden superstructure. There is an instance of a similar cross within a fortified parallelogram at Banwell, in Somersetshire, outside the Roman station there, but in this case the cross is formed of stones and earth thrown loosely together. A plan of it is given in Sir R. C. Hoare's "Ancient Wilts, Roman Period." The object of this arrangement has yet to be discovered. Outside the castrum are traces of the Roman town.

Leland, in the time of Henry VIII., describing Richborough, says, "The site of the old town or castle is wonderfully fair upon an hill. The walls which remain there yet be in compass almost as much as the Tower of London. They have been very high, thick, strong and well embattled. The matter of them is flint, marvellous and long bricks both white and red, of the Britons' fashion. The cement was made of the sea sand and small pebble. There is a great likelihood that the goodly hill about the castle, and especially to Sandwich-ward, hath been well inhabited. Corn groweth on the hill in marvellous plenty, and in going to plough there hath out of mind been found and now is more antiquities of Roman money than in any place else of England."

In Leland's time no care was taken to collect or record the remains of which he speaks; happily now these ancient records are valued and preserved and described, so as to assist in the study of the history of the past. The remains chiefly found at Richborough have furnished a very instructive and pleasant volume.

At the distance of nearly 500 yards from the castrum, towards the south-west angle, are the remains of a camp amphitheatre, sections and measurements of which are given by Mr. Roach Smith.[8] Unhappily for the antiquary, agricultural operations have reduced its depth and destroyed

[7] For a particular account of this curious structure see "Researches in the Roman castrum at Richborough," by G. Dowker, Esq., F.G.S., in the "Archæologia Cantiana," vol. viii., with plan.

[8] See "Richboro," Reculver, and Lymne," p. 52.

the traces of its original arrangement. This injury it has shared in common with other Roman amphitheatres which remain outside Roman towns and forts, as at Silchester, Dorchester, Cirencester. These amphitheatres are more frequent than is sometimes supposed, and others remain still to be discovered. The plan of one at Castell, in Anglesea is given by Mr. Owen Stanley in Vol. xxxi. of the "Archæological Journal," p. 319, and is very similar in size and form to that at Richborough. In this some of the stone seats are still remaining *in situ*. I do not know that there is another instance of this in Britain, but probably all may not have been so fitted, the seats being cut in the turf. In most places the demand for hewn stone for building purposes would soon cause the removal of all cut stone that could be turned to use.[9] The outer wall of the amphitheatre at Richborough has been traced. There were three entrances, north, south, and west. On the northern entrance two side walls were traced running inwards, with a paved passage between them sloping down into the arena; at each of the other two entrances one of the side walls was found.[1] As is the case on the site of all other Roman cities, a very large number of Roman coins have been found at Richborough, some in excavating on the site of the amphitheatre. A description, as well as a catalogue of these coins is given in Mr. Roach Smith's book.[2] They amount to 1300, but others have been found, as well as the small coins called "Minimi," which are probably the product of the period immediately following the withdrawal of the Romans. The Roman coins extend over a period of 400 years, beginning with consular

[9] Lipsius gives an account of an amphitheatre at a place called Doveon, near du Sey, upon the Loire, on the road from Anjou to Poictou. This is cut out of a mountain of stone, but of a soft kind like our chalk, and small in size. The chambers are hewn out of the rock, and the area is small. (See Stukely, Iter. VI. p. 173.) At Silchester the form of the seats on the turf was once discernable. Stone seats are still existing in the remains of one in Wales. See "Archæol. Journal," vol. xxi. p. 319.

The people of Rome originally stood at the games. "Cicero de Amicitia," c. 7; "Stantes plaudebant in re ficta," also "Tac. Ann." xiv. 20, and "Val. Max." xi. 4.

"If you look back to the customs of antiquity, the people stood at the shows, for if they had been accommodated with seats they would have idled the whole day away at the theatre."—Tac. Ann.

"It was ordered by the Senate that no one should set benches for shows in the city, nor within a mile of it, or should see the games sitting, that the manly posture of standing, the peculiar note of the Roman nation, should be observed even at diversions."—Val. Max.

"In gradibus sedet populus *de cespite factis*,
Qualibet hirsutas fronde tegente comas."—Ovid de Arte Aman.

[1] See "Wanderings of an Antiquary," p. 96.

[2] *Ibid.* pp. 120—152.

denarii, and ending with Constantine III. Saxon coins have also been discovered, which prove the occupation of the port subsequent to the Roman period. This port is also mentioned by Bede in his "Ecclesiastical History," and may have been the point at which St. Augustine, the great missionary to the Saxons, landed, A.D. 597. The number of Roman coins which are continually found on Roman sites has sometimes occasioned surprise; but if we consider the difficulty and the risk of conveying money in those troublous times, we cannot wonder that much was hidden away, in the hope of being hereafter reclaimed, and has thus become lost for so many ages, and preserved to our time as a confirmation and exponent of past history. Rutupiæ was, no doubt, a place o great importance during the whole period of the Roman occupation. It was a stronghold where treasure could be guarded, and where soldiers would receive their pay or donative. We may well, therefore, expect to find here specimens of the coinage of Rome from an early to a late period.

Rutupiæ is particularly mentioned by Roman writers of different periods. Thus by Ptolemy the geographer; in the Itinerary of Antoninus; by Lucan, the poet; in the Putingerian tablet; by the chorographer, Ravenna; by Ammianus Marcellinus; by Orosius, and by Ausonius the poet; and by Juvenal the satirist, who tells of the excellence of the oyster-beds upon the coast, remains of which are found. And we find the *Second* legion, after its removal from Caerleon on Usk, stationed here in the fifth century, according to the "Notitia." Most of these authorities will be found quoted in Mr. Roach Smith's work, and they are summed up by Prof. Hübner with particular references. The remains also of pottery and other articles are drawn and described in Mr. R. Smith's work, and are too many here to enumerate. Roman remains are found in the churchyard of St. Clement, at Sandwich, and these are supposed to have come from Rutupiæ, and here may have been a burying place for that city.

The Isle of Thanet was originally separated from Kent by a series of marshes forming an estuary rather than a river, called the Wantsum. In Dr. Guest's map we have the *Wantsum*[3] marked with Rutupiæ on the south-east, and

[3] The name given by Bede.

Regulbium on the north-west coast of the mainland. These two fortified Roman towns seem to have formed landing places on the respective shores, and beyond them is the Isle of Thanet, though Rutupiæ probably stood on a small island between Thanet and the mainland. Roman coins and other remains are found in Thanet. This was the case in laying the foundation of Ramsgate pier, and the remains of burial places have been found, as at *Minster*. Thanet, however, is better known in connection with Saxon history, but the two Roman fortresses at the extreme points of the opposite coast link it with Roman occupation.

Regulbium, now Reculver, was of inferior importance to Rutupiæ (Richborough), though fortified by a rectangular wall, and a place of sufficient strength. It is mentioned in the "Notitia Imperii," as the station of the first cohort of the Vetasians under a tribune.

"Tribunus cohortis primæ Vetasiorum Regulbio."

The commander here was only a tribune; at Rutupiæ he was *prepositus*, or *commander* of the *Second* Legion, the August. We must not therefore expect to find the same memorials here as at Richborough, but we have enough to interest us both in situation and in the reliques that remain. Neither have we the same references in the Roman Itinera, or allusions in classical and later Roman writers. No inscriptions[4] have here been found—we cannot therefore ascertain the probable date of its foundation, or its occupation previous to the later days of Roman power. The southern portion of Britain seems to have enjoyed tranquillity from the time of Claudius until the decline of the Empire, the wars subsequent to the time of Claudius having been carried on in the West or in the North of Britain. In the time of Carausius or Allectus, or subsequently, this portion of the coast became fortified against the attacks from the sea, and we have a Roman officer bearing the title of "Comes Littoris Saxonici," who was responsible for the defence of this portion of the island against irruptions from the Franks and the Saxons from the opposite coast.

During the usurpation of Carausius and Allectus, bodies of Franks and Saxons had been brought into Britain, and though

[4] The name CLAUDIA ATERICCUS is mentioned by Leland. See Hearne's Edit. vol. vii. p. 137.

the province was afterwards freed from them, yet they were never wholly prevented making descents upon the island and harassing the Roman power. Unhappily the records of those times are very brief. Theodosius the Great expelled the Picts, Scots, and Saxons from Britain, and he is stated to have rebuilt the cities and garrison towns. "Instaurabat urbes et præsidiaria, castra, limitesque vigiliis tuebatur et prætenturis." (Amm. Marcell., lib. xxviii. c. 3.) It is probable that to this period Reculver owes its fortifications. The cohort which garrisoned it was the first cohort of the Vetasii, a people of Belgic Gaul, now called Brabant. They are mentioned in rescripts of Trajan and Hadrian as among the auxiliary soldiers. Monumental inscriptions record the Vetasii or Betasii, one found at Elenfort in Cumberland, and two on the Rhine, one at Mayence, the other at Kattwyk, &c.[5] The cohort at Regulbium probably numbered 300 or 400 men ; the legion at Richborough probably 1500.

The question has been asked why the region protected by these two fortresses should have been called the *Saxon Shore*, and it is commonly considered that it was so named from incursions of Saxon pirates who harassed the Roman province. "Nam illis diebus agilem audierunt esse piratico in opere Gentem Saxonum in totâ maritimâ a Rheno fluvio usque in Doniam urbem, quæ nunc vulgo Danmare nuncupatur, ac in omni armatura robustam," (Ethelwardi Chronicorum, Lib. i. See also Beda, i. 14, 15.) The maritime parts of the continent north of the Rhine are assigned to the Saxons, though other tribes are included in that name.

It is not improbable that Thanet and Kent, if not actually peopled originally from these parts, had much of its population from thence, and held frequent intercourse with these northern people.[6] I am inclined to think that this better accounts for the name "Littus Saxonicum" than the fact of its being infested with pirates. We know from Cæsar that the population of the maritime part of Britain was different from the inland, and the fact that the Britons, when in

[5] See "Horsley's Brit. Rom.," p. 251 ; Steiner, "Codex Ins. Rom. Rheni," Nos. 491 and 965 ; Roach Smith's "Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne," p. 152. Also Hübner's "Ins. Brit. Lat.," where seven inscriptions are given which contain the name of "I. Cohort. Batasiorum," all found in Britain.

[6] "Ergo jam dextro Suevici maris litore Æstyorum gentes alluuntur : quibus ritus habitusque Suevorum, lingua Britanica proprior." Tacitus de mor. Germanorum, c. 45.

trouble, sought aid from the Continental Saxons seems to strengthen the supposition.

Mr. Roach Smith observes that Reculver, at the present day, presents a very different aspect to Richborough. "The vestiges of the walls of the castrum have not that solemn grandeur and impressive majesty of loneliness which distinguish the more perfect remains of its ancient ally." The sea has forsaken the one, but has encroached upon the other. Half the site of Regulbium has been swallowed up by the sea, which has destroyed as much of its walls. From measurements taken in 1781, the castrum seems to have occupied a little above eight acres of ground, while the area enclosed within the wall was seven acres, two rods, twenty-six poles. There appears to have been only one entrance in the centre of the west wall. The thickness of the wall is from eleven to twelve feet, and some facing stones are found where the wall has been covered up. The ground has risen to the top of the wall in the interior, but on the outside the wall is twelve feet high. The walls are built of flint and pebbles, with layers of septaria. The foundation is a thick stratum of pebbles, and a thick moulding of concrete seems to have been carried round the bottom of the wall in the interior. There are no tiles as at Richborough and Lymne.

In Leland's time Reculver was a quarter of a mile from the sea. There was probably a road from hence to Dorovernum or Canterbury, but the traces do not appear very certain. Dorovernum was the central point where the Roman roads from these maritime fortresses met. The *Stone-Street* coming from Portus Lemanis being distinctly marked.

About the remarkable fortress of Lymne something should be said, though its peculiarities have been so well described and so carefully delineated by Mr. Roach Smith. "The haven was connected by roads with the military stations on the sea coast to the east and west, and also with London by a direct road through Canterbury, securing for it the most expeditious communication with the capital of the province. The fourth Iter of Antoninus, which points direct from Londinium to the Portus Lemanis, reveals the character and importance of this ocean fortress." Ptolemy in his list of places in the territories of the Cantii mentions χαινος λιμνη, which name probably distinguished it from the μεγας λιμνη, now Porchester. Lymne may take its name from λιμνη, the marsh

or marshy land where it is situated. It forms the terminus of the fourth Iter of Antonine, A Londinio ad Portum Lemanis, M. P. LXVIII. The geographer Ravenna mentions the Station Lemanis and the River Lemana. In the Putingerian Tablet, Lemanis, Dubris, Rutupiæ are marked on the line of the sea coast in their proper positions. They are also referred to in the Ravenna list.

The plan of this interesting fortress is given by Mr. R. Smith with the subsequent derangement of the walls through the landslip, which has thrown them completely out of place, yet their original position may be pretty well ascertained. For an account of the landslip I would refer to Mr. Wright's "Wanderings of an Antiquary," p. 125 and following. He says, "The appearance of the walls when uncovered was extremely interesting. The lower part in perfect condition, and the facing stones retained a freshness almost as if they had been recently wrought. The round towers which were on the exterior of the wall had been built up solid and attached to the wall. Several small entrances were traced, with one or two vaults or chambers in the wall. The grand entrance was in the middle of the eastern side, looking towards Dover and Folkestone. This had consisted apparently of an arch between two small semicircular towers." One of the houses within the area of the castrum, the site of which was uncovered, is described by Mr. Wright. The walls remained at a uniform height of about 5 feet, the floors were gone, but the hypocausts remained in a broken condition, and the fire-places contained heaps of ashes. The date of the occurrence of the landslip is uncertain, as no record remains, but it is probably much later than the Roman occupation. Towards the lower end of the eastern wall in the interior, a penny of the Saxon King Edgar was found. The date of his reign is from A.D. 959 to A.D. 975, and the landslip must have occurred subsequent to this period. At the time of the occurrence the town walls appear to have been perfect, and the walls of the houses remained, with the superstructure cleared away; otherwise the rubbish of the upper portions would still be discoverable. The materials of the walls of the fortress appear to have been used for building purposes after they had come into the position in which they are at present, as that which is covered up had escaped depredation. This would have been sacrificed if it had remained in its original upright position.

I must confine this paper to the mention of the Roman maritime towns of Kent, for were I to touch upon other stations it would be drawn out to too great a length. One word may however be said about Durovernum, the city in which we are now met. In the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica (No. 6, Part ii., pp. 33, 34) will be found a drawing and description of Northgate, through which in ancient times the Roman road continued in a direct line from Castle Street to Wincheap, Chilham and Northgate. This is said to have been the finest remnant of antiquity in the city, and perhaps the most entire of its kind in the kingdom. "The preservation of it (until recent times), we are told, was owing to the care and generosity of Dr. Gray, an eminent physician who died 1737, through whose intercession the Corporation were prevailed on to let it remain, who otherwise would have taken it down ; and for its further security the doctor at his own charge repaired the inside wall with new brickwork and coping, and under it erected a commodious bench. The boldness of the arch, consisting entirely of Roman bricks (says the writer), strikes the eye of the beholder with a kind of veneration." Measurements of this gate are given, and careful drawings made in the year 1771. This has unhappily now disappeared before the march of modern improvement—Cannot such remains be preserved without detriment to modern requirements ?

NOTES ON THE FIRST INCURSIONS OF THE SAXONS INTO BRITAIN.

At what period these incursions commenced we have no means of judging. They were probably much earlier than the date of the Notitia Imperii in which the first mention occurs of the "Comes Limitis Saxonici." The date of the Notitia may be placed about A.D. 450. The term "Littus Saxonicum," or "Limes Saxonicus," was therefore probably known much earlier. From the date of the Notitia we have constant mention of the inroads of the Saxons, together with other neighbouring peoples.

Claudian, Paneg. de quarto Honorii Consulatu, v. 31, writes thus :—"——— maduerunt *Saxone* fuso Orcades, incaluit Pictorum Sanguine Thule."

Claudian, In Prim. Consul. Stilichonis, lib. ii. v. 247, A.D. 400, writes :—

"Illius effectum curis, ne tela timerem
Scotica, ne Pictum tremerem, ne litore toto
Prospicerem dubiis venturum Saxona ventis."

And again—

"Quæ sævis objecta Getis, quæ Saxona frenat
Quæ Scotum legio, quantæ cinxere cohortes
Oceanum, quanto pacatur milite Rhenus."

Ammianus Marcellinus (who flourished A.D. 380) divides the people of North Britain into Picti, Saxones, Scoti and Attacoti. Lib. xxvi. c. 4, circa A.D. 364. "Hoc tempore Picti Saxonesque et Scoti, et Attacotti Britannos ærumnis vexavere continuis." "Gallicanos vero tractus Franci et Saxones iisdem confines, quo quisque erumpere terra vel mari, prædis acerbis incendiisque, et captivorum funeribus hominum violabant."

Prosper Tyro, about A.D. 441, writes, Theodosii xviii.: "Britanniæ usque ad hoc tempus variis cladibus eventibusque latæ, in ditionem Saxonum rediguntur."

According to *Bede*,[7] H. E. I. 14, 15, the coming of the Saxons was about A. D. 449, *i. e.*, no sooner was the Roman power withdrawn than we find them landing upon the coast.

Nennius, who finished his "Historia Britonum" A.D. 858, writes in his preface, "Nec non et de historiis Scotorum Saxonumque licet inimicorum, non ut volui sed ut potui"; also, cap. xi., "A primo anno Saxones venerunt in Britanniam usque ad annum IIII. Mervini Regis, supputantur CCCCXXXXIX."; and cap. xxviii. concludes with the words (after speaking of the first coming of the Saxons into Britain, "tres Chiulis a Germania") "Hæc est genealogia istorum marum de quibus primo creverunt Saxones."

The geographer Ravenna, who may be taken to have written not later than the seventh century, says, "In oceano occidentali est Insula quæ dicitur Britannia, ubi olim gens Saxonum veniens ab antiquâ Saxonica cum principe suo nomine Anchis in eâ habitare videtur."

It will be seen that according to these writers the earliest conquerors of Britain after the Roman force was withdrawn are invariably called Saxons.

Gildas (who was born A.D. 516, and died A.D. 570), xxiii., says:—"Tum omnes Consiliarii una cum superbo tyranno Gurthrigerno Britannorum duce cæcantur, et adinve-

[7] Beda, born A.D. 673, died 735.

nientesta le præsidium, imo excidium patriæ, ut ferocissimi illi nefandi nominis Saxones, Deo hominibusque invisi, quasi in caulas lupi in insulam ad retrudendas aquilonales gentes intromitterentur."

Beda, H. E. Gentis Anglorum, lib. i. c. v., states:—"Advenerunt autem de tribus Germaniæ populis fortioribus, *i.e.*, Saxonibus, Anglis, Jutis. De Jutorum origine sunt Cantuarii, et Vectuarii, hoc est, ea gens quæ Vectam tenet Insulam, et ea quæ usque hodie in provincia occidentalium Saxonum Jutarum natio nominatur, posita contra ipsam insulam Vectam. De Saxonibus, *i.e.*, ea regione quæ nunc antiquorum Saxonum cognominatur venere orientales Saxones, meridiani Saxones, Occidui Saxones. Porro de Anglis, hoc est, de illa patria quæ Angulus dicitur et ab eo tempore usque hodie manere desertus inter provincias Jutarum et Saxonum perhibetur, orientales Angli, mediterranei Angli, Merci, tota Nordanhymbrorum progenies, *i.e.*, illarum gentium quæ ad Boream Humbri fluminis inhabitant, ceterique Anglorum populi sunt orti."

Here we have the earliest distinct account of the settlement of Britain after the Romans left the island, and from this settlement dates the destruction of all the great Roman works in Britain, fortresses, roads, bridges, villas, posting stations, and all that marked the refinement of a civilized people.