

The Roman Minor Settlements, Camps, Discoveries of Coins, &c., and Roads in Derbyshire.

BY W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

IN my paper read to the Society last year, on "The Roman Stations of Derbyshire," I mentioned that I hoped on a future occasion to treat of the smaller Roman settlements, temporary camps, roads, hoards of coin, and miscellaneous remains, found within the county. The present article is written with the view of accomplishing that hope.

SMALL SETTLEMENTS.

The first named, the small settlements, are not very numerous. They seem to have been the dwelling places of a native population which had become Romanised, and even the foundations of their dwellings have disappeared. We have, therefore, only interments to guide us as to the localities, and these seem all more or less to have been fixed upon with a view to mining.

At Middleton-by-Youlgreave there seems to have been one of the largest of these. In 1820 a bronze fibula was found in excavating for a fish-pond. It was of the harp shape. In 1822, what was called by Mr. Bateman a bronze trident, but which Mr. C. Roach Smith considers a candlestick (reversing its position), was found in constructing a new line of road near the above-named fish-pond. In 1827 a Roman bronze key was found whilst planting an orchard. In 1831, whilst converting some land into a garden at the upper end of the village, many pieces of

amphorae, mortaria, and other Roman household vessels were found, also two third brass coins, one of Tetricus, the other of Constantine II., with the reverse of the Wolf and Twins. In 1843, in the same garden, another harp-shaped fibula of bronze was turned up, which had been further ornamented by the introduction of coloured stones or paste. In 1831 also, in repairing an old cottage, a small Roman altar was found, propping up a beam. It was sixteen inches in height, and six inches square, formed of the fine sandstone of the neighbourhood, but was uninscribed, though it has a recessed panel on all sides, with a plain base and capital. The altar, candlestick, and two fibulas are engraved (*Vestiges*, etc., p. 160) by Mr. Bateman, and are now with the rest of his collection in the Sheffield Museum. On 10th November, 1848, he found in a barrow at this place several pieces of Britanno-Roman pottery, and a brass coin of Constantius Chlorus, with the reverse VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC. PERP.

The ancient mining settlement at Oker Hill, Darley-in-the-Dale, where an uninscribed pig of lead, third brass coins of Gallienus, Postumus, Tetricus, Claudius Gothicus, and other Roman remains were found, I incidentally alluded to in my last paper.*

At Upper Haddon, again, there are evidences of a settlement. Numerous pieces of Roman pottery, chiefly of *mortaria*, were found in 1826, with a few coins of Constantine the Great and his son Crispus.† Since then numerous human bones, with traces of decayed wood, fragments of pottery, a portion of a glass vessel, with a large number of coins, chiefly third brass of Constantine, Constans, Constantius II., Valentinian, Valens, and Gratian, have been found in Haddon Field.‡

Somewhere adjoining the large British sepulchral low or mound, called "Minning Low," there appears to have been, in the time of the Lower Empire, a Britanno-Roman settlement, for in July, 1849, Mr. Bateman found in it numerous pieces of Britanno-Roman pottery (apparently broken sepulchral urns), and three

* *Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society's Journal*, vol. vii.

† Bateman's *Vestiges*, etc., p. 159.

‡ Ll. Jewitt in *Intellectual Observer*, Dec., 1867, p. 347.

third brass coins, one of Constantine the Great, having the reverse GLORIA EXERCITVS, two soldiers with two standards between them; another of Constantius II., with the same reverse, and a third illegible. In September, 1850, he found in the same place two more third brass coins of Constantine II., with the same reverses as those given above. More interments have since been found. Mr. Jewitt says*—"At Minning Low * * *, where several interments of the Romano-British period have undoubtedly been made in the earlier Celtic mound, many Roman coins, along with portions of sepulchral urns, etc., have from time to time been found. These are principally of Claudius Gothicus, Constantine the Great, Constantine jun., Valentinian, and Constantius II."

The celebrated "Poole's Cavern" seems to have been in the earlier part of the Roman period, either a refuge for some of the belligerent Britons, or the dwelling place of some of them who would not adopt the usages of civilisation, for beneath the stalagmite, etc., when removed by the proprietor in 1865 and subsequent years, were found, mixed with bones, animal and human, flints and charcoal, a large number of pieces of Roman pottery, one bearing the potter's name in the usual manner, many coins, two of which are said to have been of Trajan, and a very fine fibula.†

Many foundations of buildings, supposed to have been Roman, but this is not certain, were found "in Hufton Hall Field, which is but just across the road (from Linbury), as Mr. Jonathan Kendal informs me." This place is called "Ufton" by the Bishop of Cloyne, and is so marked on the Ordnance Map. It is situated a little more than half-a-mile to the north-west of Alfreton.

From the fact of a Roman urn, surrounded with stones, and filled with ashes, amongst which were two Roman coins (one of Maximianus), having been found near Bole Hill, Eyam,‡ combined with other discoveries of single coins, and also of a hoard (to be described hereafter), it is evident that some small Roman colony was resident in the neighbourhood.

* *Intellectual Observer*, Dec., 1867, p. 347.

† *Antiquary*, August, 1883.

‡ Bateman's *Vestiges*, etc., p. 114.

TEMPORARY CAMPS.

The temporary camps are few in number. The first to be noticed is that at Lombard's Green, about half-a-mile north of Parwich, and two-and-a-half miles to the west of the Roman road from Buxton to Little Chester, with which, so far as can be seen, it had no communication. Mr. Pilkington says it was oblong in form (the Bishop of Cloyne says it was square), and about half an acre in extent. It is now almost obliterated, so much so that the Ordnance Survey takes no notice of it. Mr. Pilkington says that the camp consisted of several divisions made by walls, the foundations of which were in many parts still visible, but the size and shape of the divisions were various, some being oblong, some semi-circular, and some square. They were about twelve in number, but there might formerly have been more, for those remaining did not all lie together; the ground, however, had previously been disturbed by miners in pursuing veins of lead. The camp was on a level piece of ground, near the summit of an eminence. Near it, and at the summit of the hill, was a bank extending two miles to the west, and half-a-mile to the east, about two feet high, and three feet broad, and about four hundred yards below it, another bank ran along the side of the hill for half-a-mile to the west, nearly parallel with the other. No single Roman coins have been found scattered within the area of this camp, which made the Bishop of Cloyne doubtful as to its origin, though an urn containing a number of coins, as will be described eventually, has been discovered.* The first bank named is of uncertain use; but other Roman camps show occasionally the same feature; it seems too small to be a road. The Bishop says that on one side it ran straight to the Ashborne Road, and to a pool of water on the other. It was probably a camp to guard the road makers, though somewhat distant, and afterwards used as a *vicus*.

Another camp, of a similar nature, and likewise all but obliterated, is at Castle Hill, near Pentrich, the Rykneld Street

* Pilkington's *View of the Present State of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 284. *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccxvii.

leaving it a little to the left.* It was square, with a double vallum, and Dr. Pegge tells us that Sir Edward Wilmot said he had seen a Roman coin found in it.† It was probably a small station to guard the makers of the Rykneld Street, and may afterwards have been used as a *mansio* on that road. No foundations of buildings, etc., appear to have been found.

There were formerly some remains of a Roman camp at Breadsall,‡ but they appear to have been obliterated in late years, for I could neither see nor hear anything of them.

A large square entrenchment, believed to be Roman, formerly existed just below Mosborough Hall, near Eckington, but was, even sixty years since, almost obliterated by the plough, and is now barely traceable by an expert. It was close to the line of the Rykneld Street. Another and smaller one on the line of the same road was lately (if not still) visible on the hill west of Eckington Church.§

Dr. Pegge asserted that looking down upon the village of Castleton from the hill above, he could make out the form of a Roman camp in the gardens, etc., but the Bishop of Cloyne could not detect it, and thought that if any entrenchment had existed it would be British.||

Another camp, once supposed to have been Roman, is that on the north-western spur of Comb's Moss, just above Bank Hall, in the latter parish, first described by Major Rooke.‡ It is, however, evident from its form that it is not of Roman origin, as the Bishop of Cloyne was the first to point out. From the vallum being formed of mixed stones and earth, it is probably of British origin.

In the *Reliquary*** there is an account of what is supposed to be a Britanno-Roman chariot race course, "one of the Rhedagua," by a Mr. W. Bennett, who says, "At the distance of half a mile

* See last reference.

† *Bib. Top. Brit.*, part xxiv., p. 26.

‡ Lewis's *Top. Dict.*, article "Breadsall."

§ For reference to these camps see Glover's *History of Derbyshire*, vol. i., p. 289, and Bateman's *Vestiges, etc.*, p. 189.

|| *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccxviii.

¶ *Archæologia*, vol. ix., p. 139.

** Vol. i., p. 96.

north-east of Whaley Bridge, in the parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith, upon the estate of Thomas Guy Gisborne, Esquire, and near to Horwich House, is one of these Rhedagua. It has always borne the name Roosdyche, and is now in a very perfect state of preservation, and might at this moment over a considerable part of it, be used as a race course. It is an artificially formed valley, averaging in width 40 paces, and 1300 paces in length. It is in a great measure cut out of the side of the hill to a depth of from 10 to 30 feet, but where it is not so, it is enclosed on both sides, with banks of earth. The sides of that part which has been excavated and covered with oak and other trees, which form a noble avenue and invest it with a majestic and sombre character. At the east end of the course is the goal, and at the west end are the remains of the Metæ, and other tumuli, and also several other valleys of smaller dimensions than the Rhedagua, where it is probable the chariots and horses not actually occupied in the race were placed until their turn arrived to engage in the noble strife. The spectators were doubtless ranged upon the sides or banks, on each side of the course all along its length; and many thousands might easily have found accommodation."

This place is also described by Mr. H. H. Vale, in Vol. xix. of the *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, p. 43. Without denying the correctness of the views of these gentlemen, it seems singular that such a race course should have been placed at so great a distance from any of the Britanno-Roman towns, and the nearest of these only small ones. Had it been placed outside the walls of St. Albans, York, Chester, or some of the large Roman towns, its character would have been at once recognised. In this instance where would the spectators come from? Was the spot a Britanno-Roman Epsom?

HOARDS OF COINS.

The hoards of coins found, though perhaps not so numerous as in some other counties, are still considerable. The earliest record of a discovery of coins appears to be that given by Philip Kinder in his MS. "Historie of Darbyshire," preserved in the Bodleian Library amongst the Ashmole Collection. It

was written about 1663, and after mentioning the coins found at Little Chester (named in my former paper), he says at F^o 201, "But I would not have every place where such coine is found to be a garrison; for then why not Chadston (now called Chaddesden, W.T.W.), a neighbouring town where greate plentie have beene turned up, in y^e custodie of M. R. W. Lorde of y^e soile?" Although I should infer from the terms used that these coins were found singly rather than in a hoard, as there is no precise evidence of the fact, and as coins solely (without other remains) are named, I have thought it as well to embrace them in the list of known discoveries of hoards.

In Gough's Camden's *Britannia* (edit. 1806), Vol. II., p. 418, it is said, "At Ripley, an estate of the Duke of Devonshire, in Morleston Hundred, was found, 1730, an urn full of coins of Gallienus, Carausius, Victorinus, etc." The information is taken from the Minutes of the Society of Antiquaries.

In 1736 another hoard was discovered at Wirksworth, but no particulars of it appear to have been preserved.*

In 1740, an urn filled with denarii was dug up in Greenhaigh (or Greenhill) Lane in the parish of Alfreton, in a hedge bottom,† and this was but the prelude to a much larger discovery in the same neighbourhood. The latter occurred on 20th Sept., 1748, when two labourers in making a drain on a farm called "New Grounds," found a large number of silver coins (denarii).‡ They were first seen as slaty coloured lumps, and had probably been in urns which had become broken or decayed, as they were only about three inches below the grass level; but one urn was found entire with the coins remaining in it. From 1500 to 1600 coins were estimated to be in this *trouvaille*. Large numbers of people were attracted to the spot when

* Lewis *Top. Dict. of England*, article "Wirksworth."

† Lyson's *Magna Britannia*, Vol. v., p. ccvii.; *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 30; *Bib. Top. Brit.*, Pt. xxiv., p. 26; Glover's *Hist. of Derbyshire*, i., p. 297; Bateman's *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*, p. 157.

‡ J. Reynold's MS. Collections. Lyson's *Magna Britannia*, Vol. v., p. ccvii. Lewis's *Top. Dict.*, article "Greenhill Lane." Glover's *Hist. of Derbyshire*, vol. i., p. 297. Bateman's *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*, p. 157.

the discovery became known ; and it is thought that about 500 more coins were found by searching the ground minutely. Mr. J. Reynolds, of Crich, says that about 200 of the coins which he had seen ranged from Vespasian to Septimius Severus, and twelve which came into his possession were as follows :—*

VESPASIAN. *Rev.* IVPITER. CVSTOS. Jupiter standing.†
TRAJAN. *Rev.* Illegible.

Do. *Rev.* COS.V.P.P.S.P.Q.R. OPTIMO. PRINC. A captive seated by a trophy.

Do. *Rev.*Q.R. OPTIMO. PRINC. (I cannot identify the design from the description given. W. T. W.)

HADRIAN. *Rev.* FELICITAS. AVG. Felicity standing.

ANTONINVS PIVS. *Rev.* COS. IIII. Equity standing, in right hand scales, in left a sceptre.

Do. *Rev.* COS. IIII. Which from the description appears to be Piety sacrificing at an altar.

Do. *Obv.* DIVVS ANTONINVS. *Rev.* CONSECRATIO. A funeral pile.

FAVSTINA. Sen^r. *Rev.* SAECVLI. FELICIT. Figure uncertain.

Do. *Rev.* CONSECRATIO. A peacock.

COMMODVS. *Rev.* COS.II. A standing figure, cornucopia in left hand, caduceus in right.

There was also a coin said to bear on the *obverse* the head of an Emperor, with the words ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS, and on the *reverse* the legend FELICITAS. AVGG. (the last G suggesting two joint emperors.) But no such coin appears to be known, and the description of the figure on the reverse is also decidedly erroneous.

* The particulars of the five hoards described in Mr. Reynolds' MSS. are given in a very abbreviated form by Pegge, Lysons, and Glover. I am indebted to the Rev. J. C. Cox for a perusal of a copy of the MS. that follows this paper, and which has enabled me to obtain the reverses of the few coins preserved, and the names of the emperors under whom they were coined.

† Reynolds gives this as IOVIS. CVSTOS manifestly in correctly.

All of these here described were in Reynolds' possession in March, 1778.

In Dr. Stukeley's correspondence, etc., published by the Surtees Society, the following occurs in Vol. II., p. 117:—"Oct. 18, 1754. Some silver Roman coins found lately by Alfreton in Derbyshire sold immediately to a goldsmith who melted 'em down. Mr. Smailes got 3 for me, a Faustina, Geta, Gordian."—*Diary*, Vol. xv. 18."

Whether these were part of the same find is doubtful, if so, it embraced later coins than those of Septimius Severus. It is of course doubtful what Stukeley meant by "lately," but as there were six years between the discovery just described and the entry in his journal, the probability is, as later coins are named, and their fate described, that the "finds" were different.

A few years subsequently (the exact date is nowhere given) an old woman digging for lead ore, found a number of small third brass coins, said to be "a quart full" between Winster and Bake-well.* Four of these came into Mr. Reynolds' possession, and from his description seem to be as follows:—

DIOCLETIAN. *Rev.* illegible.

LICINIUS. *Rev.* IOVI CONSERVATORI. Jupiter holding a figure of victory, and the liasta. At his feet an eagle and a captive. In the field iii .

CONSTANTINVS. II (as Cæsar). *Rev.* GLORIA EXERCITVS. Two soldiers holding two standards between them. In exergue RES (?).

VRBS. ROMA. *Rev.* Wolf and Twins, and two stars. In exergue TR. S.

But it is in the neighbourhood of Crich that the greatest number of "finds" have been made, four of which have been recorded. The first occurred on 26th July, 1761, when some workmen employed in getting limestone for Mr. Reynolds (who was present), on the south side of Crich Cliff, near the summit known as "The Parson's Nab," discovered the foundations of a small building

* J. Reynold's MS., *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 31.

about 10 feet square,* built of unhewn grit stone, and without mortar. Within it were several pieces of charcoal, and fragments of small tiles were found both inside and outside the building, some of which had turned up edges, and all appeared to have been acted upon by fire. Several Roman coins were found within the area, some lying singly, others in lumps of three or four stuck together, which generally crumbled to dust on being separated. He only describes the *obverse* of two. Of these, one is of Postumus, the other of Victorinus, the reverses of both were illegible.

I should opine from the description that the building had been destroyed by fire, that the coins had fallen from above with the burnt woodwork, which would account for their being scattered; and their brittleness, of course, would be from being heated, etc.

The second discovery near Crich was made in 1772, when a farmer, in clearing away a heap of stones in a close in his occupation, lying south of Fritchley, in Crich parish, found a number of small third brass coins lying together amongst small loose stones. Mr. Reynolds secured eight of these, but six of them were quite illegible. Of the other two, one was of Gallienus, with the reverse obliterated, the other of Tetricus, with the legend on the reverse gone, though a standing figure was visible.†

The third Crich discovery took place on the 9th of March, 1778, and, like the last, the coins were found in removing a heap of stones, by two labourers in Culland Park. Under the heap a large flat stone was come upon lying upon two others set on edge, and beneath was a vessel of pottery containing about 700 Roman brass coins,‡ which appear from the statement that some were "as big again" as the others, to have been *folles* and third brass. The pot was broken to pieces, and the men sold the money. Mr. Reynolds secured 15, which were as follows:—

* J. Reynolds' MS., *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 31. Lyson's *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccvii. Glover's *Derbyshire*, i., p. 297. Bateman's *Vestiges*, etc., p. 158.

† See same vols. and pages as in the case of the previous find. Bateman in *Vestiges*, p. 158, says that some of these coins were silver, but they were mostly of copper (*i.e.*, brass), and that Reynolds in 1778 had nine silver and eight copper ones from this hoard.

‡ J. Reynolds' MS., *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccvii. *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 31. Glover's *History of Derbyshire*, vol. i., p. 297. Bateman's *Vestiges*, etc., p. 158.

MAXIMIANVS. *Rev.* GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. The genius of Rome standing S.F. in field. In exergue P.T.R. A second example with same reverse, except that S.C. are the letters in the field. A third example with the reverse identical.

CONSTANTINE (The Great). *Rev.* SOLI INVICTO COMITI. The sun god standing. In the field T.F. Nine coins had this reverse.

CONSTANTINE (The Great). *Rev.* S.P.Q.R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI. Three standards. In exergue MO.S.T.
LICINIUS. *Rev.* GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. Genius of Rome standing.

CONSTANTINVS II. (As Cæsar.) Same reverse as last named coin.

Mr. Reynolds also describes four which were part of the same find, but not in his possession.

DIOCLETIAN. *Rev.* GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. Genius of Rome standing.

CONSTANTINE (The Great). *Rev.* MARTI PATRI. PROPVG. Mars in the attitude of combating. In exergue PLN.

A coin said to bear on *Obv.* DIVO CONSTANTINO PIO. *Rev.* An altar with an eagle sitting at the foot on each side, with expanded wings and legend, MEMORIA FELIX. For CONSTANTINO the reading should probably be CONSTANTIO.

CONSTANTINVS II. (As Cæsar.) *Rev.* GENIO POPVLI ROMANI (as above). In exergue PTR.

Mr. Reynolds also briefly describes 28 more coins of the same "find," and of the same types.

According to the *Annual Register* for 1778, p. 170, the weight of these coins was exactly 9lbs.

The fourth discovery at Crich was made on the 9th of January, 1788, and in a letter from the Rev. John Mason (Curate of Crich), in vol. x. of the *Archæologia*, p. 31, is thus alluded to—"As some labourers were getting stone upon Edge

Moor, in Crich Common, Jan. 9th, 1788, they found in digging the surface two or three pieces of Roman coin, which they judged to be silver, and looking round with attention they observed an earthen pot, the upper side lying level with the surface of the ground; the pot was broken into many pieces, and as supposed by the wheel of a carriage passing over it many years ago. Its shape, however, might be ascertained, which they described to me to be widest in the middle with a long narrow neck about an inch in diameter, and they thought it might contain about two quarts. They found it full of coins, which mouldered away in their hands, except nine or ten, and these by rubbing and pinching with their fingers they broke, all but two or three. Of these last I have not seen any, of the others I procured three fragments of two coins. One is of Gordianus III., the head with a radiated diadem. The other is a fragment of Philip the younger. These coins appear to be of copper or iron covered with tin.**

In a lead mine adjoining to Crich, it is said that coins of Hadrian and Diocletian, have been discovered,† leading to the inference that lead ore was obtained here as well as in the Wirksworth neighbourhood.

In 1770 a labouring man found a large number of denarii at Stuffynwood, near Pleasley, which being only about a mile to the north of the villa discovered by Major Rooke at Mansfield Woodhouse, the hoard may probably have been concealed by one of the residents there, on the occasion of some feared sudden attack. Unfortunately, no particulars are given as to the dates of the coins; the finder sold them to a person at Mansfield for £5. A Mr. Martin, a farmer at Pleasley, had in 1788 three more Roman coins found at the same place, according to the information of Rev. Chaworth Hallowes, Rector of Pleasley.‡

* See also *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccvii. Glover's *Hist. of Derbyshire*, vol. 1, p. 297, and Bateman's *Vestiges, etc.*, p. 158.

† Lewis' *Top. Dict.*, article "Crich."

‡ Dr. Pegge in *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 30. *Magna Britannia*, v., p. ccvii., etc.

In 1838 in removing the soil near to a stone quarry in Hooley Wood in Padfield, about a mile N.E. of Melandra Castle, a large number of coins in billon (or base silver) were found. Only five were taken particular notice of, and those were three of Alexander Severus, and two of Julia Maesa. They were, in 1851, in the possession of Messrs. W. and J. Sidebottom, of Tintwistle, since deceased, and their present representatives know nothing of the coins.*

In October, 1876, a workman employed by Messrs. W. and S. Burkitt, maltsters, of Chesterfield, in laying down water pipes from Scarcliffe to a malthouse at Langwith, whilst digging a trench, came upon, at about two feet deep, a large Roman earthenware vase, which he broke open, and it was found to be nearly full of coins, probably from 250 to 300, but they appear to have been dispersed. From a sample of about fifty, seen by several antiquaries, they appear to be in good preservation, and were third brass, those seen being of Gullienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, and Claudius Gothicus.

The Rev. J. C. Cox informs me that many years since the late Mr. Joseph Goodwin, of Hazelwood, found, in removing some stones at the base of a wall fence, near to where the Rifle Butts now stand, on the Chevin, nine Roman coins. Dr. Cox saw the coins in 1868, but did not examine them minutely. He tells me that on two the name ANTONINVS was visible, and on three others AVG could be made out, but they were nearly illegible, and he cannot speak as to their size. In 1873, however, he himself found a coin of Victorinus (third brass) on the surface of the ground, in a field on the right hand side of the wood leading from Hazelwood to Shottlegate. The reverse was illegible. It may probably have been placed in a sepulchral urn (which had been broken and gone to decay), with the ashes of a deceased person.

“ Mr. Pegge, who resided at Fenny Bentley at the time Wolley

* *Journal Brit. Archl. Assoc.*, vol. vii., p. 19, and private information from Mr. James Sidebottom, jun.

wrote his manuscript history of the county (1712), had an urn and coins of the Roman period which had been there discovered.”*

“Two hundred copper coins, principally of the Lower Empire, were discovered in a perforated rock called Scarthen Nick, close to Cromford; many of them were in fine preservation.”† (*Ibid.*, p. 158.)

“In the year 1814, some stone getters in Eyam Dale found a considerable number of denarii and small brass coins, mostly of Gallienus, Victorinus, and Probus. Towards the close of the last century a copper coin of Probus was found on Eyam Moor, and more recently a posthumous coin of Claudius (Gothicus), *Obv. DIVO CLAUDIO., Rev. CONSECRATIO*, an eagle, has been discovered in Eyam Dale.” (*Ibid.*, p. 158.)

Bateman also states, p. 158, that Glover in his *History, etc.*, says, that an *aureus* of Augustus was found near Belper, but I cannot find any reference to this in the latter work.

At Bolsover, in 1845, a small brass coin of Victorinus was discovered, together with another of Constantius II.‡

A coin of Claudius Gothicus was found in the parish of Staveley; a very fine and perfect brass coin of Commodus, in Chatsworth Park (which was given by Dr. Pegge to the Duke of Devonshire); and several at Barlborough, the seat of the Rhodes family.§

Roman coins have also been found near Cubley,|| and of those found singly in the large stations, I have spoken of more or less in my last paper. It would be almost impossible in the limits of this essay to describe them *in extenso*. But before leaving this subject, there is one other hoard to which I must allude, and with regard to which there seems to be very contradictory evidence, unless two different discoveries are alluded to. Mr. Pilkington in his “View of the

* Bateman, *Vestiges, etc.*, p. 158.

† Glover, in his *History of Derbyshire*, vol. 1. p. 316, was the first to notice this find. He says, “They are now in the possession of Charles Hurt, jun., Esq., of Wirksworth.”

‡ Bateman, *Vestiges*, p. 160.

§ *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 30.

|| *Journal Brit. Archæ. Assn.*, vol. 7, p. 184.

present state of Derbyshire," which was published about 1788, says * "About 20 years ago as a labouring man was seeking for the above mineral (lead), he found at $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet depth (in the camp at Lombard's Green) a military weapon, some coins, and an urn of very great thickness," in which the coins had probably originally been placed. The coins were principally denarii, about 80 in number, of which seventy-four were in the possession of Mr. Rawlins, of Ashbourne. He adds that they were of the Upper Empire and ranged from the triumvirate of Octavius, Marcus Antonius, and Lepidus, to as low as the Emperor Aurelian—(By the last name he evidently must mean Marcus Aurelius.) He then adds that those legible (in Mr. Rawlins' possession) were, of Nero 2, Vespasian 5, Vitellius 1, Domitian 5, Nerva 8, Trajan 15, Hadrian 15, Sabinus 1, Antonius 5, Lucilla 1, Aurelian 2, and 10 unknown. Of these, Sabinus should certainly be Sabina the wife of Hadrian; I strongly suspect the 5 of Antonius are of Antoninus Pius, and those of Aurelian should be of Marcus Aurelius, which would be the latest coin, and from which, it may with comparative certainty be inferred, that the hoard was concealed at the commencement of the reign of Commodus, the successor of Aurelius, when a great revolt against Rome broke out in Britain.

Pegge, Glover, and Bateman all copy in one form or another this account.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1784, Part II., p. 791, a paragraph occurs to the effect that an urn containing 70 coins, chiefly of Hadrian, Severus, and the younger Constantine, had been then lately found at Burton Wood, four miles from Ashbourne, "within the boundaries of a spacious Roman camp which the country people pretend has once been a large town." With the exception of the sentence relating to the camp, this is copied by Lysons, Glover, and Bateman. Do the two different accounts allude to the same discovery? It is evident that the writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* must be wrong in including the coins of the younger Constantine, for there would be a gap of 130 years between

* Vol. ii., pp. 284-5.

the reign of that Emperor and Severus, which could hardly fail to have been largely represented in the hoard.

It is probably to this hoard that Mr. Jewitt alludes when he says * "In a barrow near Parwich, upwards of eighty coins of the *later emperors* were found." As the younger Constantine appears to be the only late emperor alluded to in any of the above accounts, Mr. Jewitt's version must either be incorrect, or he must refer to another discovery. But the question is one which wants solution.

MISCELLANEOUS REMAINS.

The miscellaneous remains found have chiefly occurred in isolated barrows. In one of these opened in 1768 in the neighbourhood of Winster, two glass vessels were found, containing some clear but green coloured water, a silver bracelet, some glass beads, and other trinkets †

In 1788 in a tumulus on Middleton Moor, a sort of bulla of brass, ornamented with a scroll upon a red enamelled ground, and said to be of Roman workmanship, with fragments of other articles were found and preserved by Mr. White Watson of Bakewell. ‡

"A bronze fibula of unusual construction was found near the village of Monyash in 1845, the bowed part and the pin are both formed from one piece of metal, and to give to the latter the proper degree of elasticity to enable it to retain its place, it is fancifully twisted at the top. §

Mr. Llewellynn Jewitt in the *Intellectual Observer* (Dec. 1867, pp. 344-5-6), describes also the following articles, some of which are engraved: A fibula from a barrow near Monsal Dale, and another from Elton (besides one from Little Chester), and a very fine pair of silver *armillæ*, or bracelets, of base silver, found 8 feet below the surface of the ground at Stony Middleton, and much resembling a pair found in a tumulus at Castlethorpe (Bucks.) He also describes a bronze spear head found at Wardlow, and

* *Intellectual Observer*, Dec., 1867, p. 347.

† Lewis' *Top. Dict.*, article "Winster."

‡ *Archæologia*, Vol. 9, p. 189; *Magna Britannia*, v., p. ccvii.

§ Bateman's *Vestiges*, etc., p. 159.

another found at Hartshay, besides an iron one found at Little Chester, and an iron knife from Middleton by Youlgreave.

There were also two iron knives, apparently Roman, found on Brassington Moor, one near a tumulus, the other with fragments of urns and bones. They are engraved in the *Archæologia*, vol. x., p. 35.

It was for a long time supposed that an elaborate silver salver, found in the last century in Riseley Park, was of the Britanno-Roman period, but the inscription upon it proves that it must have been brought to England after the Norman Conquest. It may, however, possibly have originally been made by Roman hands during the Lower Empire.

ROMAN ROADS.

Having thus noticed the Roman remains in the county generally, let us look into the means by which the various stations and settlements held communication with each other, *i.e.* the Roman roads. These I am sorry to say I have not yet examined minutely, but have shortly to do so. I must therefore mainly rely on previous writers.

The chief Roman road called the "Rykneld Street" entered the county, as is agreed upon by all writers, from Staffordshire at Monk's Bridge.* It was, in the time of Drs. Plott and Salmon, very visible as a high raised way in many places, but has since been much destroyed. The account given in 1817 by the Bishop of Cloyne, embodying as it does those of the above-named writers, with that of Dr. Pegge, and the bishop's own observations, is by far the best record we have of it as it existed until a recent period. He says,† "It is called by the name of the Rignal street, in an old survey of Sir H. Hunloke's property in this county, as well as in those of other estates in Warwickshire and Staffordshire, where it is described as their boundary. It enters Derbyshire from this last county over the Dove at Monk's Bridge, and its crest is visible on Egginton Heath,

* Plott's *Nat. Hist. of Staffordshire*, p. 400. Salmon's *New Survey*, pp. 539-40. Pegge, *Bib. Top. Brit.*, No. xxiv., p. 17.

† *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccix.

though much obliterated by the modern turnpike road which continues in its line as far as Little Over, where, a little before it reaches the two milestone, the Roman road keeps its north north-east direction, while the present one slants to the east towards Derby. The old road, though not easy to be distinguished in the cultivation so near a populous town, crossed Nun's Green, and proceeded down Darley-slade to the banks of the Derwent, passing that river by a bridge (the piers of which may be felt in a dry summer) to the station at Little Chester * * * . It is by no means improbable that the British Rykneld Street crossed the Derwent lower down at a ford, perhaps at the very place where Derby now stands, and then resuming its northerly course, would pass the east wall of the Roman town as Stukeley has represented it in his map. The Roman road, however, on crossing the Derwent, seems to have passed the meadows near the north gate of the station, and after clearing the houses of the vicus, would fall into the Rykneld Street near the north-east angle of the vallum, and proceed with it in its old line. The ground about the modern Little Chester being chiefly under the plough, the ridge of the road near it has been long destroyed; but on passing Breadsall Priory on the left, and rising up towards the alms-houses on Morley-moor, a large fragment of it is visible on the right hand, and again, though less plainly, on the moor itself, abutting on the fence about a hundred yards east of Brackley Gate. It next appears close to Horsley Park, a little west of the lodge, and is very high, covered with furze in the first enclosure; then passing through another field or two, crosses the road from Wirksworth to Nottingham, about a hundred yards west of Horsley Woodhouse, being quite plain in the inclosure south of the road called Castlecroft, and again in the field to the north of it. It now enters an old lane, which it soon quits, and may be seen in a field or two to the left, running down to a house called Cumberstone, which stands upon it; from hence down another field over Botolph (corruptly Bottle) Brook, which it crosses straight for the Smithy-houses, and enters a lane, called from it the Street-lane,

where it is visible for more than a mile, as far as the water ; here the lane bends to the east, while the Roman way keeps its old north north-east bearing up a field or two, to the lane from Heage to Ripley, this lane it crosses, and goes on to Hartey ; from hence it points to the tail of Hartey dam, and is visible in the hedge of the field near the miller's house. It now runs to Coney-Gre house, crossing two lanes which lead from Pentrich town to the common, and so down to the water, leaving a camp, which is Roman by its form, and was probably a station, a very little to the left. It is again seen on the north side of the water, pointing up the lane to Oakerthorp, but enters the enclosures on the left before it reaches the village, and fragments of its ridge are quite plain in the croft opposite the manor house. (In this part of its course it leaves Alfreton, which some writers supposed it passed through and have even called a station on it, without notice, nearly two miles on its right.) On the other side of Oakerthorp the crest again appears in a line with this ridge, within the left hand fence ; it now runs to the four-lane-ends, over the ground on which Kendal's, or the Peacock Inn, stands, and Linbury chapel formerly stood, and where its gravel was dug up in laying the foundation of the summer-house. Traces of buildings, too, have been dug up in Ufton Hall field on the other side of the road, but nothing certain is known about them. It here crosses the present road, and enters the fields on the right, but recrosses it again on the declivity of the hill, and is visible for a mile on the demesne lands of Shirland Hall, called the Day Cars, bearing for Higham. Hence, along the line of the present turnpike-road to Clay Cross, through the village of Stretton, then to Egstow (where is a large barrow), and is quite plain for 300 yards, through some small enclosures (particularly in the Quaker's burying ground) and over a part of Tupton Moor near the blacksmith's forge ; and in an old survey of Egstow farm belonging to the Hunloke family, it is, as I have said, expressly described under the name of the Rignal Street. From this spot, which is about twenty miles from Derby, it is no longer visible, but it points, when last seen, directly for the

middle of Sir Henry Hunloke's avenue, and probably went from hence to Tupton hill, near Chesterfield, which is in the same line, only three miles further, and where several Roman coins have been found * * * The country people have a tradition of the road going on still further to the north, and that after crossing the Rother, near Chesterfield, it proceeded on the east side of that brook, passing on the west of Killamarsh Church, and through the parish of Beighton into Yorkshire; but I am more inclined to think the Roman road continued exactly in its old bearing, on the west side of the river, leaving Whittington on the left, through West Handley and Ridgeway to the Roman camp on the Banks of the Don, while the old Rykneld Street proceeds on the east side into Yorkshire."

I think the Bishop of Cloyne is correct in saying that the road went through Ridgeway, as small fragments of it seem still to be used as lanes, and it passes a place called "Ford," where a stream crosses the track north of West Handley. There is no doubt that it went to the Roman station at Templeborough, near Rotherham, but its exact track cannot be indicated unless by a thorough survey. The route indicated by the bishop points direct to Templeborough. On the other hand, there can, I think, be little doubt that another Roman road ran either parallel to it, or fell into it at a somewhat acute angle somewhere near Whittington.

In Glover's *History of Derbyshire*, vol. i., p. 289, there is a letter from Mr. W. Askham, an old resident of Eckington, who had been tracing what he calls *the* road, from a point a few miles north of Eckington, and he says that it went "through what is yet called the Street-field, to the slope close under Mosborough Hall, where was a large square entrenchment, now very nearly obliterated by the plough, and crossed by the turnpike road to Sheffield. Its course would then be down the hill and across the rivulet, and a faint trace yet remains of the oblique ascent to a square entrenchment, yet beautifully perfect, on the brow of the hill west of Eckington Church." This was written about 1829, and there are further slight vestiges of this road at Stratfield, near

Beighton, whilst on the Yorkshire side of the river near that place, there are some faint vestiges of intrenchments, which may be of Roman origin. It is, however, a distinct road from that running between Little Chester and Templeborough.

The road between Buxton and Little Chester is probably the next in importance. From the accounts of the road by the Bishop of Cloyne and other writers, from the Ordnance Survey, and from personal observation, the following seems to be its route:—The exact spot where it left Buxton is unknown, but it appears about a mile to the S.S.E. of that town, where it has been much interfered with by the modern road to Ashbourn, though it is in places visible on the W. side of the latter. It runs thus for more than two miles to Brierlow, where it makes an angle and points more to the E., about a mile further crossing the modern road, and becoming very visible in the fields on the E. side of the latter, until it reaches "The Duke of York." Between this point and the Hen Moor, it is identical with the modern road. At the latter place it again takes to the fields on the E. side of the modern road, and is visible passing through "Middle Street" and Benty Grange, and for several miles further is visible in the fields until it reaches Pike Hall. It then passes a little south of Aldwark, crosses Brassington Moor, where it was lately quite visible; passes Hopton, where, in the last century, Mr. Gell laid bare a portion of its gravel bank and paving, between Keddleston Park and Duffield to Darley Slade, near which it joins the Rykneld Street and with it crosses the Derwent to the station at Little Chester.

There was a road also between the stations of Brough and Buxton, and I think I cannot do better than quote the Bishop of Cloyne's account of it, as no one can (without laying bare a portion of the road itself, on the moors) add anything to our knowledge on the subject, and the Ordnance map will enable anyone to track its course. The Bishop says,* "On leaving Brough, it is discoverable bearing S.W., as soon as it passes the second water flash called the Burghwash, and fragments of its broad ridge may

* *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. ccxii., which is in turn mainly adopted from Dr. Pegge's account.

be seen in the lane. It then enters Bull Meadow, running up the hedge on the left, but soon appears again in the lane leading to Smaldale, where the right hand hedge stands upon it. It then runs into the enclosures called the Doctor's Pastures and Bagshaw Pasture, and after crossing Gray Ditch, bends N.W. to ascend the hill, being found by the spade and plough in a line well known to the farmers, till it comes upon the moor three-quarters of a mile on the Brough side of Bathom edge, where the crest of it is quite plain, to the stone fence which separates Bradwell and Tideswell Moors, retaining here its original breadth of 18 or 20 feet, and visible in a long straight streak of green, amidst the heather. It is also visible on the Buxton side of this hedge for about a mile, bearing S.W. for the inclosures at the dam in the forest, and crosses the turnpike road from Manchester to Chesterfield, then after just entering Hernstone Lane, it is visible in the field on the left, where in a dry summer the grass is of a different colour; from hence it runs in a straight green lane towards Fairfield, being seen again on Fairfield Moor, and is found by digging to have kept the same line to the hill above Buxton." The road is known by the name of the "Batham Gate," evidently derived from the "Bath" at Buxton. There seems to be a slight discrepancy between the Bishop's account of its course and the Ordnance Survey, in the portion of the road immediately before entering the station at Buxton, but the road itself has been traced beyond all doubt as connecting the two stations named. (See also *Bib. Top. Brit.* pt. xxiv., pp. 34 to 42.)

Another Roman road connected Manchester with Buxton, viâ Stockport, but it has been much destroyed, and its course within this county, which was only some three or four miles, has not been accurately determined. It probably crossed the Goyt near Goyt's Bridge.

There is little doubt but that the modern road from Buxton to Leek in Staffordshire, is upon the site of a Roman one; its straightness, and some remarkable angles in it, show decided traces of Roman engineering. It probably connected Buxton with the station at Chesterton, near Newcastle-under-Lyne.

A road, of which from time to time fragments have been observed, connected Buxton with the station at Melandra Castle, but no attempt has yet been made to thoroughly trace it. That it existed is, however, certain.

Another road connected the station at Melandra with that at Brough. From the former, both it and the road to Buxton appear identical for nearly two miles, but it then branches off to the east and passes to the south of Howard Town and Crosscliff, and its course over the moors, in order to avoid the higher eminences, is somewhat erratic, involving the construction of numerous angles. About a mile beyond Crosscliff the well-known name "Cold Harbour" occurs on its route. It is visible over the moors for many miles, and enters the station at Brough by the gate on the north-west side. Mr. Watson (*Archæologia* III., p. 237) says that the line of this road "for a great part is still followed, the old pavement in many places remaining with drains cut through it, when it crosses any marshy ground."

This road bears the name of "Doctor's Gate," and Mr. Watson was the first to point out the singular circumstance that a road running north from Melandra falls into another at a place called Doctor's Lane Head, whilst the road from Brough to Buxton passes through a place called "Doctor's Pasture," showing a connection between the three roads.

In 1874 I detected outside the south gate of Melandra Castle, and running parallel with the south side, the gravel of a Roman road some twenty-five feet in width. It was perfectly visible as a hard track, though slightly overgrown with grass, etc. It went to the brow of the hill above the river's bank on the west, where I lost satisfactory traces. It was, however, pointing directly for the line of the Roman road called The Staley Street on the opposite side of the river, and I have no doubt whatever that it was its continuation.

There was a Roman road first pointed out by the Bishop of Cloyne, which seems to have connected Chesterton (near Newcastle) with Little Chester. It crosses the Dove close to Rocester (where there was a small station) and enters Derbyshire, where it

is known by the name of the Long Lane. It passes to the north of Marston Montgomery through the parish of Cubley, to the south of Longford, and slightly north of Mackworth, crossing the turnpike from Derby to Ashborne at right angles, between the second and third milestones, uniting near Darley with the Rykneld Street and the road from Buxton, and crossing the river with them to *Derwentio* (Little Chester.) The Bishop of Cloyne says of it "Its whole appearance is such as demonstrates to an antiquary, a Roman, or perhaps British origin." He also adds, "After entering Little Chester it issues from the present main street of the village by what was probably the east gate of the station, and proceeds in its old line, leaving Chad-desden close on the right, through Stanton into Nottinghamshire." I am not, however, satisfied as to this; there are no traces of the road in this direction apparently now visible—at least I could find none, either in the Derbyshire or Notts. portion of the route indicated.

There was, however, an undoubted Roman road leading from Little Chester to the S. E. Traces of it were a few years since (and probably now are) near the N. E. corner of the Derby race-course, pointing towards the angle of the enclosure at Chaddesden Hall. From that point for the next three miles the modern road to Nottingham is upon its site, but the latter leaves it at Shacklecross, and the Roman way pursues its straight line through Draycott to Sawley, and crosses the Trent near Trent Locks, pointing towards Leicester, but its forward course from this point has not been ascertained.

According to the Bishop, also, "There are some traces of a road, said to be high raised, near Edinghall, on the S. W. border of the county, pointing to Lullington," but it passed through a very small portion of Derbyshire and was *supposed* to have gone to near Tamworth. Its course or remains have never been examined, though its construction bespeaks a Roman origin.

The Rev. J. C. Cox informs me that he has found undoubted traces of a Roman road over the hills from Brough to Wirksworth, and thence across the Derwent, near Milford, to the Rykneld

Street,* and another road from a little above Pentrich to Wirksworth. That there are traces of such roads is certain, but they have never been examined with the view of testing their origin. The straightness of the road along the Chevin by Belper, and on to Wirksworth, is remarkable, and there is no doubt but that Brough would have communication, like all other Roman stations, with the *castra* surrounding it in every direction. It has been said that there was a road from Brough to York, but no certain traces have ever been found.

It has likewise been thought, and with great probability, that a Roman road which comes near to Macclesfield from the west, was continued to Buxton. I saw some traces of a road pointing in this direction from the camp at Foot Hill, above Forest Chapel, in 1874, which I conclude are part of this line.

Nichols, in his *History of Leicestershire*, speaks of a bridle-road from Derby to Coventry, taking a most circuitous route, which was supposed to be Roman. I have no doubt whatever, that it is not Roman at all; portions of it still remain to verify my statement.

With the exception of that at Little Chester, which I have formerly described, I do not know of an *undoubted* instance of a Roman *botontinus* being visible in the county, though there must have been many. Of several mounds I have a strong suspicion that they are such, especially one at Breadsall in the glebe lands.

From the number of places in the county, the names of which

* The only Roman road in the county to which I have given anything more than the most casual attention, is the one from Wirksworth to the Rykneld Street, a road that, I believe, had been altogether unnoted. When at Hazelwood, I had frequent opportunities of noting the part nearest to the Derwent. It crossed the Derwent, I believe, at a ford that is still occasionally used between Milford and Duffield Station. Thence it mounted the Chevin, being observable in grass fields at the back of Moscow farm. Crossing the ridge of the Chevin at a very obtuse angle, it keeps the rough road on the Belper side of the ridge, close to the Rifle Butts, for about half-a-mile. Leaving Farnah Green immediately to the left, it crosses the present road from Hazelwood to Belper, and goes down a steep descent to Black Brook. In its very steep ascent it follows the line by a seldom used road as far as the place marked on the Ordnance Map as Knave's Cross. Up this steep ascent, through Street Close (Parish Map), some of the original paving is, or was recently, visible. Here, in 1873, between the stones, I found several fragments of Samian ware.—EDITOR.

terminate in "cott," or "cote," I should have expected a number of villas to have been discovered at them, but such as yet has not been the case. It may, however, be useful to suggest that enquiries be made with this view.

Such, as far as I am at present able to pourtray it, was "Roman Derbyshire." That much has been omitted, and that errors may have been made in my papers, is only what may be expected. These shortcomings I would, however, ask the Society to look over, bearing only in mind that I have honestly attempted to deal with the subject, however imperfectly. My hope is that others may be encouraged still further to develop the history and topography of the county, in that remote past of the Roman era.