



Miscellanea

SQUEEZES

THE following brief hints, printed at the suggestion of friends, aim only at indicating a rough practical method of securing adequate squeezes of inscriptions in England or similar countries:—

1. The *materials* required are cold water, a brush, and paper. The brush must be a hard close-set one, like the stiffest of the three used in blacking boots. For the paper, ordinary stout red or white blotting paper is enough, though several varieties of special "squeeze paper" are manufactured.

2. To *make the squeeze*, wash the stone clean, wet the paper by dipping in the water or otherwise, lay it on the stone and pat into the surface with the brush. (i.) It is best to use small pieces of paper (not more than 10 × 15 inches), and to squeeze the stone, if a large one, in overlapping sections, which can be easily fitted together afterwards. (ii.) If possible, place the inscription face upwards; if the surface is immovably vertical, the wet paper will usually adhere after a few pats of the brush along the top. (iii.) If desired, two layers of paper may be used, but, except with thin paper, this is rarely required. (iv.) It is most important to pat the paper right into the surface, and not to fear breaking it. If the squeeze is properly dried afterwards, no harm is done by a few fractures in it.

3. Great care must be taken in *drying*. The sun is seldom hot enough in England to help in this. It is best to let the squeeze dry on the stone if it is under cover and circumstances permit. If this is not possible, take it carefully off, slip it on to *e.g.* a tray made by an old newspaper, and dry in any neighbouring oven. This secures a crisp and accurate impression.

4. When dry, the squeeze should be packed, flat or slightly rolled, in some tin or box in which it can travel without risk of pressure. If the squeeze has been taken (as suggested) in small pieces, this is easy to manage. Pressure often destroys much of the value of a squeeze by blurring the crispness of the impression.

So far as my experience goes, the most important of the above hints are those which require that the paper should be patted very hard right into the surface, and that the squeeze should be properly dried and packed.

F. HAVERFIELD.

THE Dean of Chester's¹ SPEECH TO His MAJESTY,²

August the 27th, 1687.

[Communicated with notes by Mr. J. Wiseman]

ALLOW Us, Great *SIR*, to express our Loyal Joy, in beholding here the Face of Your Sacred *MAJESTY*. Our Eyes are now Blest, while VVe see amongst us that Mighty and Wonderful *KING*, who equals in Clemency His late *Royal Brother*, in the sincerity of His Religious purpose; His Father the Glorious *Martyr*; in other Princely Virtues, both His Grandfathers, the Great *HENRY* of *France*, in Courage and Conduct of Wars: And King *JAMES* the I. of *England*, in Wisdom, and Defence of this National Church: And what more recommends this Generous Patronage, He preserves that *ALTAR* from being overthrown, at which He does not VVorship.³

'Twere to be wished True, that all who enjoy this Protection, had return'd suitably their Thankful *ADDRESSES*: However it be, VVe humbly hope, that Your *MAJESTY*, like God, (whom in Governing-power, You Represent upon Earth; and in Pardoning-mercy, You do imitate,) will be kind to the unthankful, and according to Your accustom'd Goodness, will spare the Place for the smaller visible number of good Men therein.

¹ Dean James Arderne. Installed July, 1682; died August 18th, 1691.

² James II.

³ He heard mass in the Shire Hall. He also received the Sacrament according to the ritual of the Roman Church in the chapel in the square tower of the Castle.

So great Grace certainly heals their Infidelity and Revolt, especially, when they are thus invited to believe, and adhere to a Prince, of whom we have had the Experience, that He will no sooner recede from His Promise than He would fly from an Enemy in the Field.

As for what concerns Us of this Royal Foundation, with all Humility, I undertake for my self, and several of my Brethren, that VVe will continue to advance amongst Your Subjects the strict Principles of a mannerly, peaceful, and active Loyalty, making earnest Prayers to Almighty God, that He would in this VWorld grant Your *MAJESTY* length of Days, and hereafter Eternal Life and Glory.¹

IT is much to be regretted that our fine old houses, if repaired they must be, should not be restored in the spirit of their original design. The Old White Bear Inn, Lower Bridge Street, has recently suffered a most deplorable transformation. Not only have the fine stone cornices been completely destroyed, but the whole brick-front has been painted a black and white pattern, we presume meant to be in imitation of timber work. It is almost incredible that such a piece of vandalism should take place in Chester. E. H.

THE *Cheshire Observer* of January 27th, 1894, reports:—
“In connection with the old disused cellaring found last week in the widened portion of the City Walls roadway

¹ Bishop Cartwright in his Diary says, 27th August, “I met him [the King] at the palace gates, attended by the Dean and Prebends, and about forty more of the Clergy, and afterwards introduced them to kiss his hand, Mr. Dean making an excellent speech to him. Then his Majesty went and viewed the Choir; after that the Castle, to which he walked on foot, and then returned to supper, and I waited at his cushion till I saw him in bed.” On the 28th he says, “I was at his Majesty’s levée, from whence at 9 o’clock I attended him to the Choir, where he healed 350 persons.” On the day of his departure, August 29th, he again healed 450 people in the Choir of the Cathedral.

When it was intended to translate Bishop Cartwright from Chester to Salisbury, the King is said to have purposed nominating Dean Arderne, who delivered the above excellent speech, to the See of Chester. But the King failing to recover his throne, this proposition came to nothing, and James Arderne died Dean in 1691, after bequeathing all his estate to “the Glory of God and the service of the Cathedral Church of Chester.”

by the Watergate, the workmen have since come across further remains of the Roman Villa discovered at the time the houses on Watergate Flagg were erected in 1779. This recent find consists of a small arched opening built of Chester district stone, and having a lower-floor of concrete which can be traced *in situ* for a distance of 12 feet. So far as at present can be seen, the upper covering consists of large tiles about 2 feet square."

ACTIVE building operations have been commenced at the new bank buildings in Foregate Street, adjoining the Eastgate, and, as some of the old premises are built near the City Gate and Walls, no doubt the excavations will prove interesting to the antiquarian. Several drawings of the old Eastgate, taken down in 1768, shew that the outer portion consisted of a large octagon tower on either side of the gateway, the latter being shewn as very narrow in proportion to the width of the towers. These towers were let to various trade guilds during the 16th and 17th centuries for meeting houses, and they would be of some size, probably about the same dimensions as King Charles' Tower, as at least ten to fifteen members of the guilds would be present at some of these meetings.

Already an interesting discovery has been made during the excavations, the foundation of an octagon turret being found at the south-east angle of the old Eastgate. This turret is about 7ft. square, the octagon sides being somewhat irregular on each face. The outer face of the turret stands about 23ft. east from the line of the existing face of gateway, and about 13ft. 6in. from the south face of Foregate Street building line. The portion discovered has had a double course of plinth stones, the upper being removed, the lower course being 9in. deep, with plain splayed face. Above this plinth there exists a very level platform of masonry, extending towards, and no doubt going under, Foregate Street to meet the opposite turret on the north side of the Eastgate. Assuming that the Eastgate was placed central to Foregate Street, when complete, the full width of the Eastgate would extend to about 14ft. on either side of the street. The depth from the present

street level to the top of this lower plinth is about 8ft. 9in., and the level of the old City Ditch, as exposed during the excavation, appears to be about 14ft. 9in. below the present roadway. The city books prove that there was a ditch at the Eastgate, for in 31 year of Elizabeth's reign, this, with certain buildings, was asked for by Thurston Hollinshed.

Judged by the drawings of the last Eastgate, and the present discovered remains, it would appear that the foundation of a still earlier gateway has been discovered, or that an outer flanking wall, with turret to the Eastgate, extended to this point, and this turret would form part of the wall of approach from the City Walls to the rooms over the Eastgate. Accurate plans of the position and levels of these foundations are being prepared by the architects; as the excavations are opened out steps will be taken to have them placed on record and reported to the 'Archæological Society of the city.

Following up the discoveries, the top plinth already named has been found again *in situ*, and continues with the lower part under the street. The south-east return of the turret seems to have been built up to an older and less substantial wall, but further excavation is necessary to deal with this.

It was absolutely necessary to remove about half of the turret, and this has been done; the removed portions being erected in the garden attached to the Old Bank, and here, no doubt, Cestrians may have a visible relic of mediæval military architecture.

The lower angle-stone has been apparently removed from an older building, possibly from the Roman gateway, which would be reduced by the erection of this later building. The section of the mould is 2in. deep and 2in. set back, as shewn on drawing.

The section of the ditch is formed in three stages, the first next the masonry being 3ft. 3in. below the lower plinth, and is 4ft. wide. From this a drop of 18in. brings us to the second level formed of natural rock which is likewise 4ft. wide; a lower section consisting of a triangular trench cut in the rock 12in. at bottom sloped up to 2ft. 6in. at the level of the rock. The eastern side of the ditch is continued at a quick slope until it forms a ditch 15ft. wide from the Eastgate masonry. From this point there is evidence of the ditch being 6ft. 6in.

wider, making a total of nearly 22ft., as it is augmented by a smaller ditch as shewn in the section; the lower ditch being 16ft. 6in. below present street. Possibly this higher excavation may have been done subsequently to the original formation.

The drawing shews an accumulation of rubble and other filling-in next to the masonry, and over this, in the lower gutter, and on the red-clay slope occurs a mud filling-in which appears to have commenced about the time of Elizabeth, as one piece of pottery exhibited and marked "A" was found about 12in. from the bottom of the lower trench.

Extending in a more easternly direction, the excavations have exposed two street levels that have existed since the Roman occupation of the city. These strata are very interesting, possibly for the first time giving an advantageous opportunity of recording the earliest approach to the Eastgate. For a depth of 5ft. there is nothing remarkable, the ground being made up mainly of soil and débris from buildings. Then comes a road roughly formed of boulders, pebbles, and gravel, about 5in. thick, simply laid upon a rubble foundation very well consolidated, but with no evidence of any paving having been executed; the pebbles, &c., being apparently to save the wheels grinding out the sandstone foundation, which is about 1ft. 9in. in depth. Immediately below this comes the lower, and more interesting, road; being that formed and used by the Romans. Conclusive evidence of this is afforded by the fact that a small piece of Roman pottery has been found embedded in the road paving, which also was made up of gravel, flints, and boulders, laid upon a foundation of roach. This foundation is more consolidated than the previous one, as the whole seems to have been pounded down to fill up all inter-spaces, so as to form one solid mass.

The level of this Roman road may be roughly taken as 6ft. 9in. below the present street level; and the lowest part to the foundation as 7ft. 3in. It lies upon a bed of solid clay, 6in. of which seem to have been exposed to the weather. The remaining clay is yellow and of a deeper red than the clay beds on the higher levels. This lower road has a rise of 7in. in 13ft. towards the Eastgate; and according to the accepted belief that Roman arches did exist at the Eastgate when the old gate was removed, this rise must have increased at a

greater pitch than at this point. Evidence of the paving is found beneath the site of the property already taken down, so we may assume that the street approach to the city has been curtailed in more recent times, as in fact the mediæval turret already described proves. This would probably take place when the ditch was filled in during the time of Elizabeth's reign, for mediæval tiles and Elizabethan pottery have been discovered in the soil used for such filling in at the south side of the gate. The piece of Roman pottery is part of an amphora of yellow clay, and within a few inches lay a small piece of roofing tile, both of which are exhibited.

If this lower road is Roman, it gives a clue to the water supply of the Roman camp, for a line of pipes has been found that have every appearance of being used for water supply only. Two pipes are exhibited which it will be noticed are very clean and in every way adapted for water. They were laid in the clay strata, about 5ft. below level of the lower roadway, and as the disturbed clay was well pounded over, and very good clay joints formed to the pipes, also as the pitching of the lower level had never been disturbed, proving that the pipes were laid prior to the road being made, we may conclude that this was a Roman water supply, especially as the line of pipes runs *towards* the Eastgate and the city.

The dimensions of the pipes are as follows:—Length, 2ft. 2in.; diameter, wide end, 7in.; narrow end, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; thickness, $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an inch; and having one end smaller than the other, they were fitted up with a flanked end and clay-jointed; the colour of the clay is inclined to be grey, as the amphoræ.

The late Mr. George W. Shrubsole, F.G.S., in a lecture read December 12th, 1892, dealt with the Roman water supply to the Roman camp, and mentions a line of earthen cylindrical pipes as being found when forming the Grosvenor Park, in 1867, of which our Museum possesses examples. They were two sizes, one 23in. long, wide end 7in., and narrow end 5in. diameter; the other being 21½in. long, 6¼in. and 5¼in. diameter, and were formed of a superior kind of clay, and from their clear bright red colour are of the nature of terra-cotta, as is so generally the case with Roman bricks and tiles.

If the two pipes from the Eastgate are not Roman, what are they? Mr. Shrubsole says that "The middle ages produced

no fictile ware to compare with the pipes found in Grosvenor Park, and that we may take it that neither the Saxons nor Normans were equal to producing the pipes in question, the plastic art over that period being at a very low ebb." A remark well to be borne in mind in dealing with this last find.

There is considerable difference between the pipes from the two finds, but it does not follow that those from the Eastgate are not Roman because they are of grey clay, and it is only natural that after their experience of the working and the holding properties of this clay that the Romans should make their water mains and amphoræ of the same stuff. The pipes are hand-turned, and owing to being embedded in the clay beds, are as good as if only just come from the kiln.

Hemingway mentions a find in 1814 of a long line of pipes, in an east and west direction, when levelling the ground near Dee Hills, Boughton; and it is somewhat remarkable that Mr. Shrubsole should write—"We have found these water pipes at Boughton, and at the Grosvenor Park. It would have been an interesting fact if we could have recorded their further progress citywards—say towards the site of the Post-Office. The ground in question is covered with houses, and the prospect of finding any more is remote. The direction of the pipes is clearly east and west, and on the south side of the Roman road out of the Eastgate. The lower level in this direction would seem to indicate hereabouts as the site of the reservoir of fresh-water for the use of the camp." Dare we say that his anticipation has been substantiated, and that we have intercepted the line of water supply that he would very much like to have examined; or is this another water supply entirely distinct—say from Billy Hobby's Well—as it seems to come from that direction? The question of raising the water up to the level could easily be solved by the Romans, who were never behind with mechanics and calculations.

There is great conflicting evidence as to the Roman Eastgate whether it was of one arch, or two or four arches, but of this we need not treat. We may, however, mention what has been recorded relative to the various heights of pavements found in the vicinity. The late Mr. Thos. Hughes, F.S.A., informed Mr. Thompson Watkin "that from what he had seen in excavations the Roman fosse is fully 60ft. in advance of the

present gate." Mr. Hughes also records "that in trying for a foundation for the Eastgate Buildings (? which), a depth of 30ft. had to be gone to before the rock was reached, shewing that the fosse did exist although it had been lost sight of. A similar incident occurred in building the Wesleyan Chapel in St. John Street"; also that "he had seen the water-course (*i.e.* fosse) pass in front of the Eastgate from north to south himself," in the course of excavations, and near the site of the present Post-Office. The water-course ran, he thought, under what was now Messrs. Williams & Co.'s Bank, past the Post-Office and Wesleyan Chapel to Souter's Lane"; and he further states "that no rock can be met with for a great depth immediately outside this east wall which he considers is another proof of the track of the fosse."

If the Roman fosse *was* 60ft. from present face of the Eastgate, then these roads discovered at 6ft. 9in. below ground would be *inside* the camp; and the Roman road found in 1848, in Foregate Street, at 9ft. below the street, would no doubt be lower than the inner pavements. Bearing in mind the fact that the lower road dips at a considerable angle, it looks as if the second road had been made to form the street at a higher level; the first being very much worn out by traffic. (*See Thompson Watkin's "Roman Cheshire," p. 112-5.*)

JOHN HEWITT.

March 14th, 1895.

