

A a View of part of the buildings as they now appear
 1 The Pillars about 18 Inches high
 2 Flags laid over
 3 The Terras 9 Inches high
 B Brick Pillars
 C One of the Pipes 15 Inches long

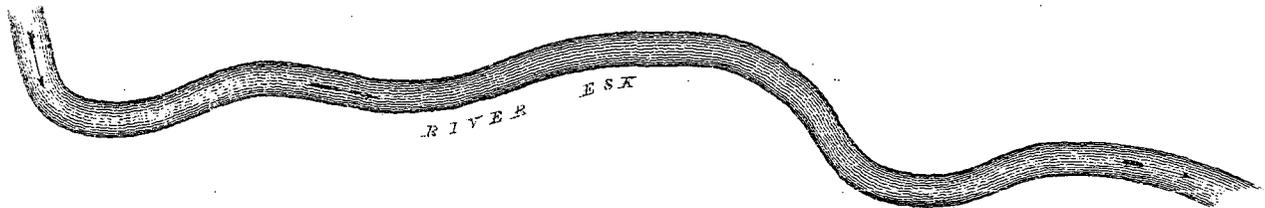
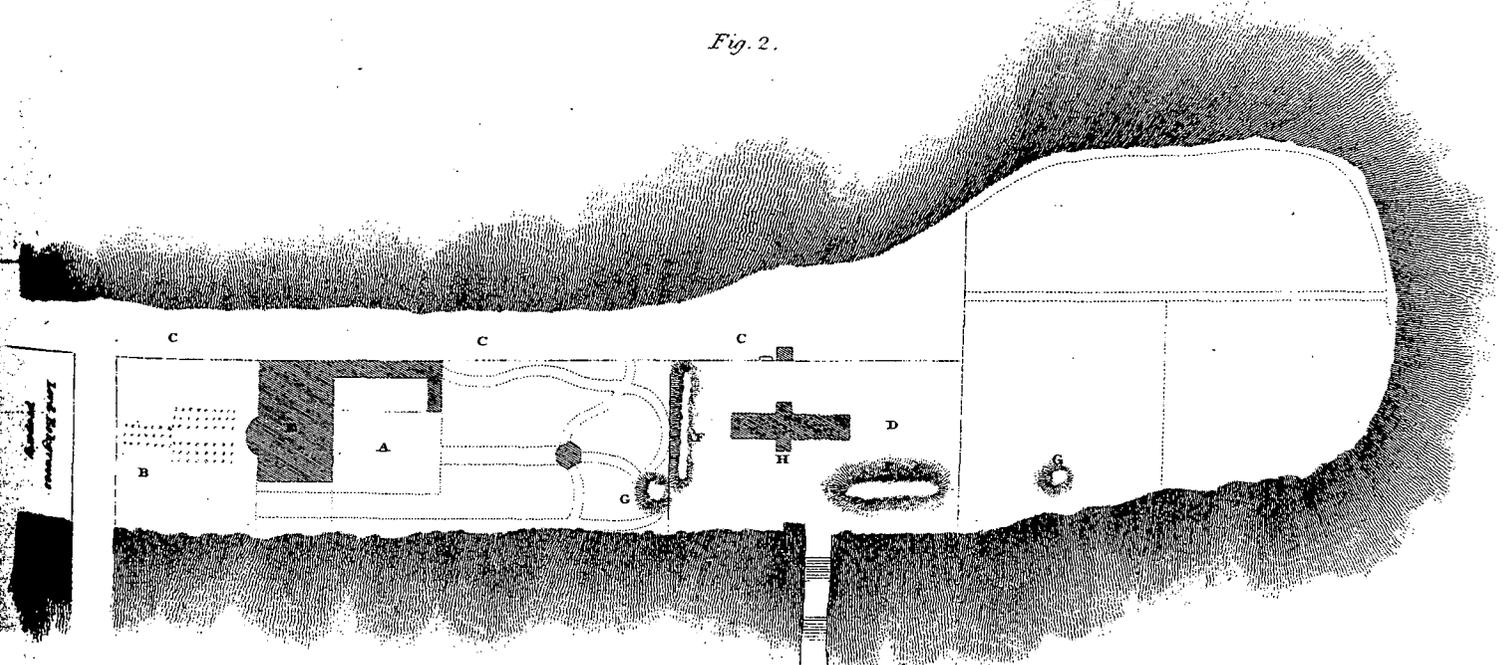


Fig. 2.



A The Bowling green
 B The court where the ruins were found
 C The church road
 D The church yard
 E M^r Courts house
 F F The breastworks erected by Cromwell
 G G The bastions ditto ditto
 H The Church

DESCRIPTION

OF

CERTAIN ROMAN RUINS DISCOVERED AT INVERESK.

By Adam de Cardonnel, F. S. A. Scot.



In the month of January 1783, some workmen levelling a piece of ground in front of a house belonging to Robert Coult, Esquire, at Inveresk, near Edinburgh, discovered the remains of some ancient buildings, covering a space about 60 feet long, and 23 feet broad. Of these buildings there are two rather indistinct, and one in tolerable preservation. It would seem that measures had at some distant period been taken for destroying them; and the earth (from 8 inches to 2 feet) laid on them to cover the ruins. The most entire of these buildings, which are separated by stone walls, consists of a bason 10 feet long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ broad,—with the foundation of a wall 15 inches thick all round it, having a passage by a hole, 3 inches in diameter, to another directly north, through the wall, close to the floor. This last appears to have exceeded 15 feet square; but has been so much destroyed by the workmen, that the exact measures cannot now be ascertained. It is supported on

rows of pillars of stone, generally 18 inches high, placed at irregular distances, having stone flags laid over, carelessly jointed, and covered with a terras, 9 inches thick, consisting of two layers, one 7 inches, made of the siftings of the lime, being small angular stones, coarse lime, and large bits of lime undissolved, with broken bricks and river pebbles; the second coat, 2 inches thick, of finer materials, the basis being fine mortar, made of good lime and fine river sand intermixed, with as much broken bricks and large river pebbles, of different sizes, as it could contain, none larger than a walnut. (For a view of this building as it now remains, see letter A annexed drawing.) To the east there appears to have been a large fire-place 4 feet wide.

Of all these buildings, the superstructure seems to have been pulled down and carried off, as nothing remains above the level of the floors,—and was probably used in building the church, erected above 200 years ago, in the walls of which some bricks, exactly similar to those found here, appear. To the westward of the buildings above described there were two parcels of stone pillars, consisting of 3 rows each, which seem to have supported more such basons as above mentioned, 10 feet by $4\frac{1}{2}$. Some of the pillars are set upon the gravel, others upon a stone pavement, others upon a pavement of small stones bound with mortar. Parts of some other larger floors likewise appear, supported partly by stone, partly by brick pillars, the bricks 8 inches square, and 2 inches thick, having one for the foundation $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches square of the same thickness. These pillars are in general 15 inches high. (See letter B.) The foundation for them has not been levelled; they are therefore of unequal height. Under the westernmost, the ground, which is a fine sand, is covered all over with a coat of clay, uniformly 2 inches thick, upon which the pillars are set. In this space are marks of several

fire-places; and in general the pillars are much burnt and destroyed by fire. Considerable quantities of charcoal, soot, &c. were found scattered throughout the whole. A number of clay pipes were found about these buildings; but the manner in which they have been applied is not seen. They are mostly covered with soot in the inside, and in some, quantities of the charcoal adhering to the inside. These pipes are 15 inches long, 5 by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide in the channel, being an oblong square. On the two narrow sides are apertures opposite to each other, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. (See letter C.)

Many bricks were found among the rubbish, 22 inches long, 12 inches broad, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, but to what purpose they were applied, is not known. A coin of Trajan and one of Faustina were discovered; many horns and bones of deer, also some boars tusks, jaw-bones of different animals, &c. besides large fragments of earthen-ware; but no bones of common oxen or black cattle have yet been dug up.

A bowling-green, considerably to the westward, was made some years ago (see letter A. drawing No. 2); and floors of the same kind found, besides many fragments of earthen-ware, &c. From a view of the whole, there evidently appears to have been a space of 100 yards long, reckoning from the walls of the court B to the end of the bowling-green, and 23 feet broad, covered with their baths; and very probably their buildings extended 300 yards at least from the bricks, earthen-ware, &c. found upon the road G to the church, and in the church-yard D. Besides these, I have been informed by the ploughmen, that there are pavements along the whole ridge eastward to Pinkieburn; an extent of near a mile, which resists the plough, and will not bear corn in dry seasons. All the buildings appear on the brink of the north slope of

the hill, having a commanding view of the Firth, about half a mile distant to the north; and the river winding round the west end of the hill from the south. The declivity to this point is steep; and the vale, through which the river Esk runs, extending a long way southward; the banks bearing the remains of having once been clothed with wood for a considerable space.

To the description I have given, I beg leave to add a few general remarks.

With regard to the brick pillars, the cement between the bricks is not hard, and the cement between the facing stones of the wall is not generally very hard; but the mortar used, according to the Roman method, in filling up the wall, is excellent, as the stones break before it can be separated. There are considerable vacant spaces in the wall amongst the stones used in filling up, not penetrated by the mortar, which, by that and other appearances, must have been used very thick, and no grout to fill up the vacancies. In the best mortar there are small particles of lime undissolved, and large bits in the coarsest 7 inches thick terras, which clearly shews the lime was used hot, and scarcely allowed time to slake.

The finest mortar has very little lime, and chiefly consists of a clean river sand, of a hard kind, the grains small. Many of the fragments of the earthen vessels found are of fire clay, that stands the fire, upon trial, better than any at present known in England, the Stourbridge not excepted, said by the potters at *Prestonpans*, who have examined it, to be equal to the black crucibles. The mortar which has been applied to the outside of the end wall of the bason, by way of stucco, is smooth, without cracks, and no appearance of decay; adhering well to the smooth surface of the stones. The workmen think it equal to the best of theirs in common use; but it is by no means comparable to that in the heart of the

wall. It is a remarkable circumstance, that there are not the least marks of decay; although the building is only from 6 to 10 inches under the surface of the earth, and the soil loose and sandy, and therefore within reach of frosts, roots, vegetables, &c.

The considerable thickness given to the terras floors, and the large pebbles and bits of brick in it, seem to have contributed to make it water tight; for no crack can go further than the first bit of brick or pebble. The stucco has a hard skin, but crumbly in the inside, is about half an inch thick, and seems of the same materials as the mortar, which is remarked to be so solid in the inside of the wall.

Having consulted the potters upon the substance of the bricks, pipes, and earthen-ware found, they are of opinion that there is no clay in this part of the country which resembles it, and, consequently, that it must have all been imported. The bricks are what are called *stock-bricks*, being wrought as if for tile, and full of small river pebbles, of a close substance, and as fresh and sound as if made last year. The surface is very smooth, being cast out of the mould with water, instead of sand or ashes. Those of them built into the church are equally sound, though, as I observed above, exposed to the air above 200 years. The earthen-ware, although rendered black in the burning, for want of covers to keep it from the smoke, is of the same red clay, full of very small river pebbles, which have escaped through the sieves. The fragments of ware indicate that the vessels had been of the same size and figure as those delineated in Sir Robert Sibbald's history.

Several years ago, an altar was dug up in the spot where the bowling-green is at present; and was, through want of curiosity in the person who then had the management of laying down the

ground, buried among the rubbish. The inscription, according to Sir Robert Sibbald, is,

A.P.O.L.L.I.N.I.

G.R.A.N.N.O.

Q. LVSIVS.

S.A.B.I.N.I.A.

N.V.S.

P.R.O.C.

A.V.G.

* V.S.S.L.V.M.

To the south-west of Inveresk is the Shirehaugh, from which extends westward a Roman encampment. It reaches as far as the road which goes from Edinburgh to Dalkeith; and at that place is called *Camp-end*, now named *Cam-end*. It consists at present only of a pretty high ridge, from ten to fifteen feet high, and about twelve feet broad. From the old harbour of Fisherrow, which is in many people's remembrance, and appears to be Roman, there were some years ago evident remains of a Roman road to the camp above mentioned.

About thirty years ago, the high-road from Musselburgh to Inveresk was through a deep hollow, immediately to the west of where the buildings were discovered, and within a few feet of the front of Mr Coult's house, E, which may have been the *vallum*, though the buildings to the westward of the house, in the bowling-green, A, in part destroy this idea. In the church-yard are the remains of intrenchments thrown up by Cromwell. They appear to have

* Votum susceptum solvit lubens volens merito.

been very strong, consisting of two breast-works, F F, facing the east and north, with bastions, G G, covering both. There is a probability that the hollow way I have before mentioned, instead of the *vallum* of the Roman station, might be the ditch cut across the hill to secure this post by Cromwell.

This hill appears at very distant periods to have been considered as a place of strength. The Romans very probably were the first who appropriated it to this use. In a later period, it was occupied by the Scottish army before the famous battle of Pinky, the account of which is very distinctly given by *Patten*, who was Secretary to the expedition under the Duke of Somerset, in the year 1547. It is evident that Oliver, who was at all times ready to seize every place of strength, looked upon this place as worthy of his attention, from the great works he raised here, the remains of which are still distinct. When the hollow above described was filled up, and another road, about twenty yards farther east, cut to the depth of about twelve feet, there was discovered a subterraneous passage, or gallery, *directly* below the place where the east end of the buildings appear.

Whether it belonged to them, or was connected with any of Cromwell's operations, is uncertain. It had a look-out to the north; and, when opened, the skeleton of a man, and a quantity of gunpowder, were found. This, which I assert from having seen them, seems to determine that it was the work of Cromwell.

Sir Robert Sibbald, in his *Commentarius de Gestis Agricolaë in Scotia*, page 77, mentions this as a station of the Romans, as described by C. Tacitus. "Alia colonia videtur posita fuisse in terrarum interstitio, inter sinum de ABERLADY prædictum, et Ostium ESCÆ fluminis ubi nunc oppidum, quod a Mytalis nomen habet, nostris

“MUSSELBURGH dictum, situm est. Hic etiam fœcundissimus
 “ager, fossa quadam prælonga munitus fuit, cujus vestigia per
 “multa milliaria in hoc tractu apparent incolis, *the Long Syke* vo-
 “catur, h. e. fossa prælonga.” This certainly alludes to the camp
 I have mentioned before. What relates to the buildings follows :
 “Et non longe a *Muskelburgo* versus meridiem sita, villa de Inver-
 “esk, quæ a fluvio *Esk*, ad quem sita est, nomen habet ; ubi *Castrum*
 “*Romani vestigia cernuntur*, ubi nunc Templi cæmeterium jacet.”

Similar to these, at the confluence of the rivers Earn and Tay, in a noble and beautiful situation, very considerable ruins of the same kind are seen, bricks, pavements, &c. They have been ignorantly mistaken for the ruins of a palace of the Earls of Strathern. They are situate on the estate of Carpow, or Carpoe. From this post, and the camp at Ardoch, the Romans seem to have, at the earlier period of their visit, considered the river Earn as their boundary, and as covering the county of Fife completely ; and they must have been in peaceable possession, when they erected stone and brick buildings of imported materials.

Caer, the first syllable of Carpow, and of Carberry, is, according to Sibbald, the mark of a Roman settlement. Inveresk was formerly part of Carberry estate.

In the foregoing pages, I have attempted to describe the vestiges of buildings, which, from every observation, appear to be Roman, and worthy the attention of the curious. I must confess myself very deficient in point of diction ; but with regard to the facts, in whatever language they may be clothed, they may be depended on. What I had not an opportunity of investigating fully myself, has been most generously supplied by a friend, James

Wedderburn, Esquire, of Inveresk, who, on account of his indefatigable pains in endeavouring to preserve for the inspection of the curious, under the unskilful hand of the workmen, such of the buildings as were most worthy of attention, and collecting together specimens of the different things found, deserves the thanks of the Antiquarian.