

NOTES ON ROMAN REMAINS
RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.

BY JOHN EDWARD PRICE, ESQ.

Director of Evening Meetings.

It is proposed in the following observations to lay before our members a record of the more important discoveries of Roman Remains that have been made in London since the publication of the last number of the *Transactions*, and which have for the most part been under the notice of our Society at its evening meetings. So rapid has been the progress of metropolitan improvements that excavations have been going on in almost every part of the city and its vicinity; occasionally revealing what was *the condition of London and its inhabitants in Roman times*. The works for the Cannon Street Railway Station have long since been completed, and whatever relics of past ages may be still beneath its massive foundations will now probably remain buried for ages to come. The additional observations made since the publication of my *Reminiscences of the Steelyard* will be presently referred to. Nearly all West Smithfield has been excavated, and the amount of soil removed consequent on the erection of the Dead Meat and Poultry Market has left but little for investigation. The result, however, has been a full corroboration of opinions formerly expressed as to the locality having been extensively used as a Roman cemetery. Adjoining St. Mildred's Court, Poultry, a tessellated pavement has been found; and from this spot, from Tokenhouse Yard, and Lothbury, numerous antiquities have been exhumed. Remains of other Roman buildings have been traced in Southwark. A marble sarcophagus was found at Lower Clapton, and an interesting series of stone coffins have been discovered in the vicinity of Old Ford. Other excavations are in progress, and further discoveries may be anticipated.

The marble sarcophagus found at Lower Clapton is unique (at least in modern times), and therefore possesses the first claim to

our attention. The earliest notice of its discovery was communicated to the Society by our esteemed member Mr. Alfred White, F.S.A.; and subsequently a paper on the subject was contributed by Mr. Benjamin Clarke, F.R.C.S., of Clapton. Soon after its discovery, the coffin came into the possession of my friend Mr. Thomas D. E. Gunston, who very kindly permitted drawings to be made for illustration in our *Journal*, and has since readily afforded every facility for its complete investigation. It still occupies an honoured place in his valuable collection. The site of this discovery has been so ably described by Mr. Clarke that I need only refer to it here. It is a locality that has not hitherto been considered as productive in Roman remains, and but few instances of such discoveries have been recorded. During some repairs at Temple Mills, on the borders of Hackney Marsh, in the year 1783,* an urn was found full of Roman coins, some in high preservation, from Julius Cæsar to Constantine the Great, several medals, a stone coffin (with the skeleton in it entire) measuring 9 feet 7 inches long, and an inscription on it unintelligible; it is added, that in removing the old foundation a vault was discovered in which were several urns, but very imperfect, and that it is very remarkable the vaults for centuries past are supposed to have been 16 feet under water. In the year 1814, Mr. Bros, who was making some improvements in his grounds in Springfield Lane, at Upper Clapton, a short distance from the River Lea and the marsh, discovered several stone coffins, and other relics of antiquity. The first coffin was found on the north side of the sloping line which forms part of the pleasure ground, sixty feet above the level of the marsh; the coffin was about 7 feet long and 4 feet wide, of hewn stone, lying about 6 feet under ground. Near this, in the year 1837, another was found, and at about the same depth; both coffins lying north and south. The latter one contained the remains of two human skeletons, male and female, the bones being in a very decomposed state, except the skull. A great quantity of human bones were also found near the last coffin, and some rude pottery, most of which was broken by the workmen. The bones

* *Gentleman's Mag.* vol. liii. p. 899.

were removed and buried in the churchyard, but the skulls and remainder of the pottery fell into the possession of Mr. Greatrex, the occupier of the premises.* In the fourth volume of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* we read that Mr. Southcott, of Dalston, forwarded for inspection some Romano-British urns, recently dug up (1849) near the canal adjoining Sir W. Middleton's estate, at the bottom of Shrubland Road, in the Queen's Road, Dalston. In taking a map of the locality it will be seen that while the above places are some distance from the site of the sarcophagus, they are in a direct line across the rising ground, which is flanked on one side by the great Roman road from London into Essex, and on another by the River Lea. The numerous interments discovered near the highway need only be alluded to, as they are fully described in the *Archæologia*, and other antiquarian works. Sepulchres were placed by the public ways as a warning to the living, and that the dead might benefit by the prayers of the passer by; they were likewise considered as boundaries in the division of property, particularly in military allotments of land.† There were also public cemeteries, but the wealthier classes were frequently buried on their own estates, generally selecting an elevated spot. Instances of this have been demonstrated in discoveries at York. The interments lately examined at Eastham,‡ in Essex, are considered to be those of a Roman magnate, with his family or retainers.

The coffin is in tolerable preservation. Its general description with accurate dimensions have already been given by Mr. Clarke. The ornamentation is thoroughly classical in its design; the bust inclosed in the medallion, the attitude, and position of the fingers, are all characteristic of Roman work. This will be readily

* Robinson's History of Hackney, vol. i. 1842.

† Douglas, *Nenia Britannica*, p. 95, cit Laws of Tiberius in the *Authores Rei Agrariæ*, Paris ed. 1554. "Cum ager divisus militi traderetur extremis a compaginantibus agris limitibus, monumenta sepulchrave sacrarentur." And "eorum igitur sepulchrorum sequenda est constitutis quæ extremis finibus concurrentes plures agrorum cursus spectant."

‡ Essex Arch. Transactions, 1867.

recognized on examining the statues and bronzes of the period. The fluted channels with the cylindrical pieces termed cablings are designed in accordance with the rules of the Corinthian order. Cablings in architecture were not generally used until after the time of Constantine, but were afterwards frequently introduced. The two pilasters are of peculiar interest. Pilasters are said to be a Roman invention differing only from columns in the fact of being square. These diminish upwards from the base, which is thought to be unusual; but I observe in the late Mr. Joseph Gwilt's work on architecture "that among the remains of antiquity there are numerous instances of such diminution, particularly where they are employed in connection with columns;" among others, "the Temple of Mars, the portico of Septimus Severus, and the Arch of Constantine, all at Rome." They at first sight appear to have been polished; but the gloss may be only where time has spared the original surface, and merely indicate the usual softness and finish peculiar to marble sculpture. The inscription comprises three lines of what were well-cut letters; unfortunately so many have been worn away that no satisfactory reading can be given. From a tracing and rubbing examined by the Rev. H. M. Scarth, M.A. author of *Aquæ Solis*, he considers the last line to contain the word *MARITIMIUS*, a name shown by Gruter to have occurred before in Roman inscriptions; the other lines he fears are illegible. Whatever the inscription may be it is brief; the first line would possibly be the dedication, the second the name of the individual interred, and the third doubtless that of the person who erected the sepulchre or provided the sarcophagus. In assuming the first line to commence with the usual *D. M.* or *D. M. S.* we are influenced by the knowledge that such was the pagan practice. We cannot satisfactorily define the letters; and were the tomb to be assigned to Christian times, their absence would be accounted for, as would also that of any coins, urns, or other funereal accompaniments. Though not always the case, these letters generally have a line to themselves, stand alone, or are divided from the general inscription by an intervening space. Of this there is no evidence; if anywhere they commence the first line, and it is hardly probable that they would be thus crowded in a monument

so beautifully executed. The date of the interment may be attributed to the third century or possibly early in the fourth. Whether Christian or pagan can only be conjectured: the presence or absence of the letters above referred to would be no conclusive testimony to its origin any more than does the existence of the well-known cypher, the Christian monogram, on ancient monuments stamp them as belonging to Christian times. Maitland, in his *Church of the Catacombs*, remarks that the D. M. is often to be found on tombs undoubtedly Christian, and gives examples in the Vatican, observing that it was often but an imitation of the old practice—"that the ignorance of the sculptor led him to continue the old heathen formula, neither understanding its meaning nor reflecting on its unsuitableness to a Christian grave." Their absence in this case would be a reason for its preservation from the effects of the iconoclastic spirit that prevailed in former times. The base of the sarcophagus presents a singular appearance. It is either unfinished or was left in its present condition for the purpose of resting the tomb on some support or ledge above the ground, or for placing it in a wall. In tracing a line midway from end to end, one half of the base or underside of the sarcophagus will be seen to be in the same state as when it left the quarry, the other having been chiselled out as shown in the diagram; the cuttings of the marble, from the marks of the mason's chisel that remain, appear to have been made in an upward direction towards the centre. Mr.



Thomas Milbourn, Hon. Sec. suggests that this was probably done after the sarcophagus had been fixed, otherwise the sharp line of division would have been fractured by the course the chisel took; and that the object of the undercutting was to prevent any water which might fall upon the face from running underneath the projecting portion, and down the face of the wall in which the sarcophagus was placed. There being no ornamentation at either end favours the idea that little more than the sculptured front was intended to be seen. There is no evidence of any such supports or traces of any wall in which it could have been inserted. Such, however, may have been destroyed when the tomb was rifled, and the lid—which is missing—removed.

A fragment of the coffin has been submitted to Professor Tennant, F.G.S. for examination. He describes the material as crystalline magnesian carbonate of lime, a variety of white marble of coarse crystalline structure, and probably from Greece or Italy. The coarseness of its grain accounts for the honeycombed appearance presented by its surface. I am informed by Mr. John G. Waller that in character it is identical with the Elgin Marbles now in the British Museum. These were sculptured by Greek artists, and the stone of which they are composed is said to have come from the marble quarries of Mount Pentelicus in Greece. The beauty of the design on the sarcophagus, and the highly artistic way in which it is carried out, would seem to indicate that it was brought over from the continent. I may mention that, in Mr. Roach Smith's *Catalogue of London Antiquities*, he refers to a work by Count Caylus, *Recueil d'Antiquité*, in which it is stated that several ancient quarries of different kinds of marble have been discovered by M. Carrey on the banks of the Loire, and one in particular of white marble. It is known by the name of Vaudelat, and is situate at five leagues to the north-east of Moulin en Bourbonnois, three leagues from the left bank of the Loire, one league from the river Besue, two from the little town of Donjon, and half a league from the hill of Puy St. Ambroise. This quarry is said to be very productive; the marble is neither so white nor so fine as that of Carrara, but it possesses the grain, colour, hardness, and in short all the qualities of Parian marble. Mr. Smith considers it probable that the quarry furnished most of the material for the marble statuary, and other sculptures in marble discovered in France, and also for the architectural remains found in England.* It is probable, too, that marble was imported into this country direct from Rome itself. That it was traded in extensively has been evidenced by some valuable discoveries recently made on the banks of the Tiber. In the course of excavation, under the direction of the Papal Government, an ancient wharf has been found, extending some distance along the river bank. On a length excavated nearly 500 blocks of different qualities were observed, with fragments that might be counted by thousands. Here was the *Marmorata*, the emporium to which

* *Catalogue of London Antiquities* by C. R. Smith, F.S.A., p. 3.

the quarries of ancient Greece, Africa, and other subject provinces sent their tribute to the imperial city; and, knowing as we do that wherever the Romans settled they opened up trade and commerce, marble may have been shipped at this very wharf for transport into Britain. In England ancient works of art in marble are extremely rare. The scarcity is easily explained. The necessity for bringing it from the continent would, in architecture, confine it to buildings of importance only; and in the construction of tombs or sepulchres its costly character would restrict its use to individuals of rank and wealth. The Romans always turned to account the products of the countries they inhabited; and in the clays, the oolites, and other stones indigenous to Britain would find ample materials for such requirements. Their monuments and altars are mostly of native stone, and their sepulchres were usually constructed of the same materials: sometimes leaden coffins would be employed, or those of baked clay, and even wood; but there seems to be no authentic instance of one in marble that can be described with certainty. There is reason however to believe that such were used by the Romans in this country. In Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* there is mention of a marble coffin which is thought to have been of Roman workmanship. The story is frequently quoted, but always cautiously. It often happens that statements made by the early chroniclers are from their improbability looked upon as fables until subsequent discoveries confirm them as facts; and the doubt that has been cast on the material of the coffin referred to by Bede, is, perhaps, due more to the circumstance of there being no example in England to be produced as an illustration, rather than the existence of any ground for questioning the veracity of the record. The passage relates to the burial of St. Etheldroda at Ely. About the year 673 she is said to have founded a religious society there. In the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, under this date, we read that "St. Ætheldryth began the monastery at Ely." It was subsequently destroyed by the Danes, but restored A.D. 963 by Æthelwold Bishop of Winchester. The foundress died in 679; and in the year 695, a period contemporary with Bede, her sister Sexburga, then Abbess of Ely, had her remains col-

lected for interment at the church, and commanded some of her brethren to seek stone from which they could fashion a coffin (or chest) "suitable for the burial of such a virgin." There being no native stone in Ely or its vicinity, it would have to be sought for at a distance. In pursuit of this object, they came, says Bede, "ad civitatem quandam desolatam, non procul inde sitam, quæ linguâ Anglorum Grantacæster vocatur, et mox invenerunt juxta muros civitatis *locellum de marmore albo*, pulcherrime factum, operculo quoque similis lapidis aptissimè tectum." * Translated as follows: "They came to a certain desolate city, situated not far from thence, which is called, in the language of the English, Grantacæster; and soon they found, close to the walls of the city, a chest of white marble, beautifully wrought and fitly covered with a lid of the same stone." The words *marmore albo* are perfectly clear, and the reference by the writer to the lid being of the same material would imply that he was acquainted with what he was describing. The desolate city, Grantacæster, was a Roman station in ruins at this very time. It is thought to have occupied the site of the modern Grantchester, a village some two miles south-west of Cambridge; but Professor Babington is of opinion that the place so named was situate at Cambridge itself. This is the more probable as it is often referred to in Saxon documents as Grantabrycg, Grantebrycg, &c. Granta being the ancient name of the Cam, Grantbridge and Cambridge would seem to be identical. The present town of Cambridge originally rose from the ruins of the Roman city, the adjoining villages of Grantchester and Chesterton deriving their names from the same source. In the *Palæographia Britannica* occurs a description of the walls and boundaries of the ancient "Granta," as traced by Stukeley, with an account of numerous antiquities discovered. Where so likely a spot for the existence of a sarcophagus as *outside* the city walls? Amid the ruins of the deserted place there would be doubtless many tombs, but it was the material and beauty of the one mentioned that attracted the monks of Ely. And in continuing the narrative we read that, "impressed with the belief that God had prospered their journey,

* Bede, *Ecc. Hist.* iv. c. 19.

they returned as quickly as possible, and with a favourable mind, to the monastery." If this story be divested of its miraculous garb, it is credible enough, and receives some confirmation from a mention of the tomb in the Saxon Charter, as being that of "Ætheldrytha, the holy maiden, that there lieth entire till now in the white chest made of marble." And again, in a charter attributed to King Eadgar, 970, mention of her is made as "remaining incorruptible in a white marble tomb." In the *Liber Eliensis* it is also referred to. From a reference to a portion of this work, corroborative of the foregoing facts, and for which, with other assistance, I am indebted to Mr. T. Felton Falkner of Christ's College, Cambridge, the precise spot of the discovery at Grantacæster is indicated, viz. "a place which to this day is called Ærneswerch." Where this is I have as yet been unable to ascertain.

In a paper by Mr. Essex in the fourth volume of the *Archæologia*, the author, while considering marble to have been used by the Saxons both for coffins and fonts, refers to this sarcophagus as being probably of Roman workmanship, but thinks it must have been of some other kind of stone, and quotes a passage from a work on Cambridge by Dr. Caius in favour of the supposition. I am unable to identify the reference, and, with the present discovery in view, should in the absence of more authentic information be inclined to believe the original statement of the chronicler. The inquiry may suggest itself that if marble tombs are known to have been in use, why, amid all our discoveries, has one never been found before? Rather should we express surprise at one ever being brought to light at all. The monuments and tombs discovered are as nothing to what must have existed, and when we consider the wholesale and constant destruction of them in early times, the avidity with which any at all suitable for building purposes would be seized, added to countless other causes for their disappearance during the lapse of centuries, the wonder is that anything has been spared. The Romans themselves were poor conservators of their own works. If wanted for other purposes they were destroyed, and when they relin-

quished Britain we read that "they collected their treasures, hid some in the earth that no man might afterwards find them, and conveyed some with them into Gaul."* The presence of marble fragments, pieces of statuary, and architectural remains, all go to indicate the magnificence of their cities, but we are fully alive to the fact that it is principally due to their use in the erections of later times that they have been preserved. The pilasters and fluted slabs from Cloak Lane,† and other parts of the City, were found worked in Roman walls. Slabs of marble have been observed at Bath, and also at Richborough in Kent.‡

The only sarcophagus that has been found in London which bears any resemblance to that under consideration is the one from Haydon Square, Minories,§ and that only in the fact of its being ornamented on its front and side; the lid too, which is sharply ridged, is decorated with a foliated pattern. It is formed of ragstone, and more roughly made than that from Clapton. In the centre is a bust in bas-relief, and on either side a striated pattern, such as may be frequently observed on examples from abroad. At York, sarcophagi have been discovered with inscriptions upon them on plain labels; others have had objects in relief. At Avisford in Sussex, a fine example was exhumed containing glass, pottery, &c., which has been described in the Journal of the Sussex Archæological Society and other antiquarian publications.

In Gaul and Italy marble sarcophagi are of course the rule; the material was at hand, and easy of access; consequently the ruins of the Roman towns produce countless instances of ornamented marble tombs. Some are described by Mr. Roach Smith, F.S.A. and the late Mr. F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A. in their papers in the *Collectanea Antiqua* on the Antiquities of Treves, Autun, the town of Arles, and other places. In a valuable and profusely illustrated work of De Rossi, "*Christiana Sotteranea*," comprising a full descrip-

* Saxon Chronicle, A.D. 418.

† See *Collectanea Antiqua* by C. Roach Smith, vol. i.

‡ *Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne*, by C. Roach Smith, p. 48; *Aque Solis*, by H. M. Scarth, p. 77.

§ Now in the British Museum.

tion of the Roman catacombs, various figures are given, (p. 109) possessing in their general design the especial features of the one from Clapton.* Many fragments are drawn, and there are also perfect examples. The two cuts here given will at once indicate the origin of the devices on such sarcophagi as have been found in England, showing them to be but variations of a type frequently met with on the continent, one which has been in use for centuries, and with slight alterations been handed down to modern times. Fig. 1 † appeared in a paper by Dr. McCaul on Britanno-Roman Inscriptions printed in the *Canadian Journal* of last year. Fig. 2 is from a tracing in De Rossi's work. The inscrip-



Fig. 1.

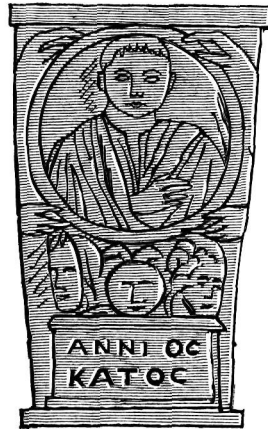


Fig. 2.

tions are in the Greek language, often adopted in Roman customs. That on fig. 1 is read as follows:

* In the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge there is preserved a marble sarcophagus of analogous form. I am informed by Mr. Massey, Curator, that it is considered to be of the time of Septimus Severus; it was brought from Rome by W. Lloyd, Esq. Beaconsfield, Bucks, parted with by him in 1761, and subsequently fell into the possession of John Disney, Esq. Ingatestone, Essex, by whom it was presented to the Museum. The devices upon it comprise scenes from the life of Bacchus.

† In Mus. Vat. De Rossi, n. 69.

ΚΑΤΑΘΕCIC
 ΟΚΤΑΒΙΑΛΗC
 ΠΡΟΘΚΑΛCΕΤ
 ΡΩΜΟΤΑΙ

Καταθεσις Οκταβιλλης προ θ καλ(ανδων) Σετ(εμβριων) Ρωμούλι.

The burial of Octavilla (took place) on the ninth day before the calends of September (in the consulship) of Romulus, *i.e.* August 24. 343 A.D.

On either side the bust appears the striated ornament as observed at the discovery at Haydon Square, and which is seen on numerous examples among the collections at the Vatican.

The centre portion of fig. 2 bears great resemblance to the medallion and bust from Clapton; the figure is in the same attitude, and the general treatment of the design bespeaks a common origin. Such sarcophagi were kept by manufacturers ready made, and the prevalence of one style of decoration over another would be a matter of fashion; one would die away and another be favoured with popular patronage, as might be the case in our own day. It is more than probable too that the Clapton tomb was brought from abroad, may be by the individual himself for whom it was intended. So beautiful is it as a work of art that it is hardly probable for it to be of native workmanship.

Ordinary stone sarcophagi are by no means uncommon, but they are principally of uniform type, generally plain and devoid of ornaments; the prevailing form is that of which selections are given in the annexed plate from drawings by Mr. Emslie. An interesting form of coffin is that shewn in the woodcut. It is an outline of one discovered at Sydney Gardens, Bath, and preserved in the museum of that city. It is Roman, and contained the skeleton of a female, and is curious as indicating the antiquity of the shape universally adopted in our own times.

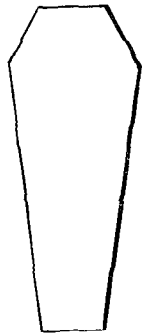
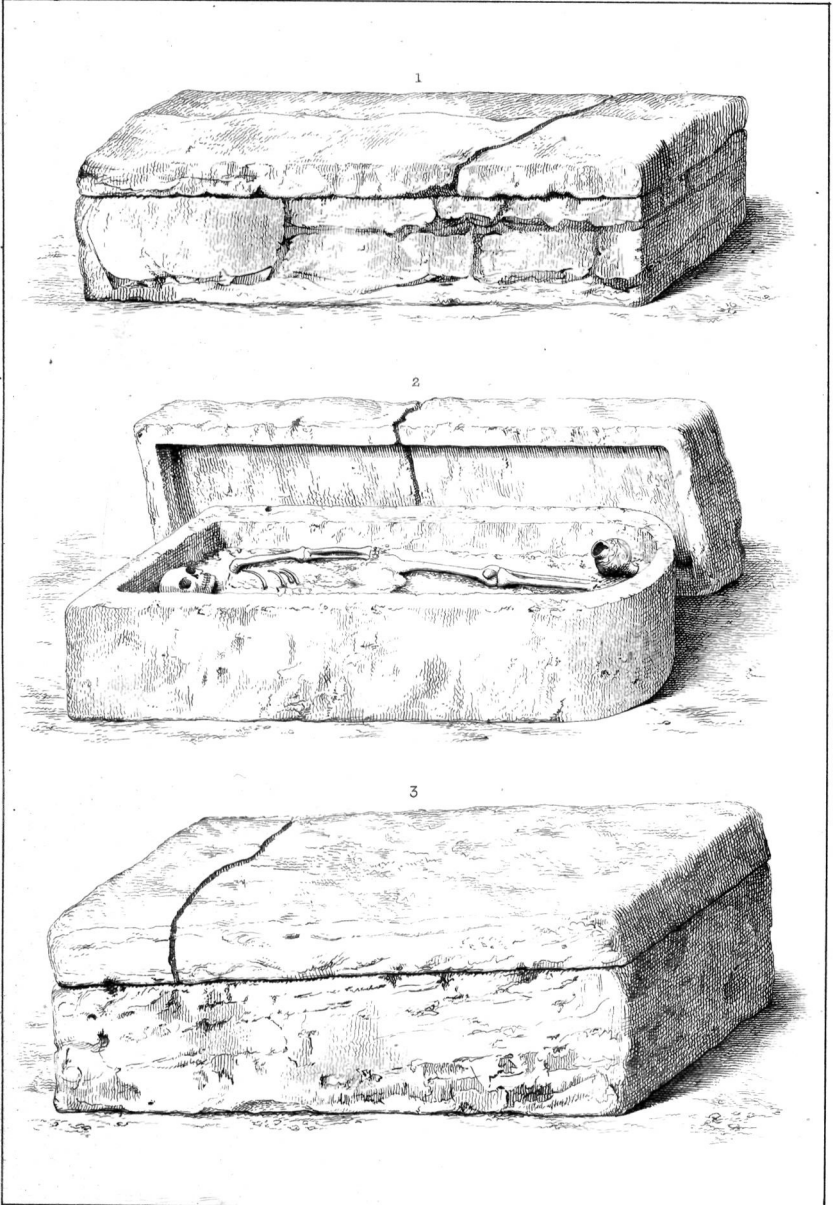
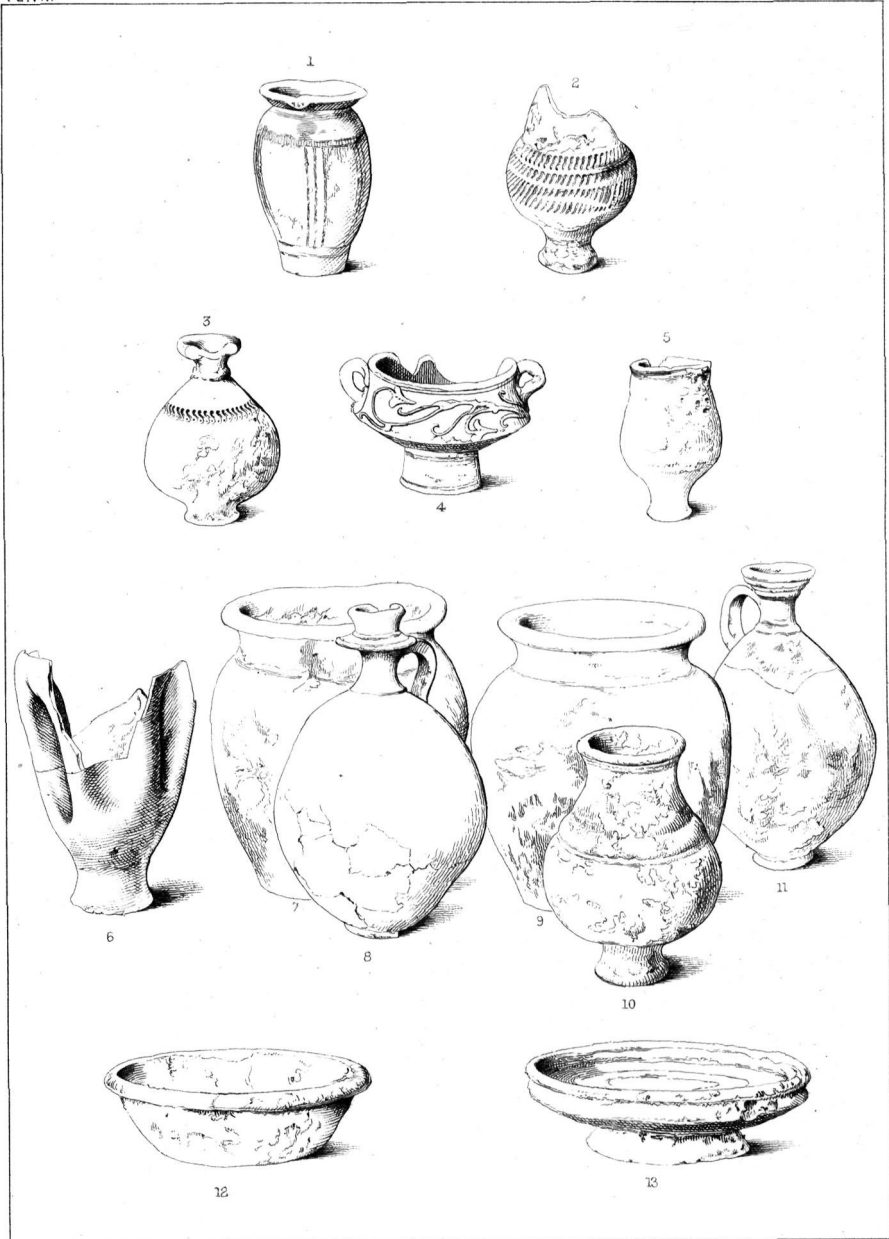


Fig. 1, plate VI. is in the museum of Mr. Gunston, and was discovered in the vicinity of Old Ford, near Bow, associated with



J. Emshe & Sons, lith.

ROMAN SARCOPHAGI FROM THE VICINITY OF OLD-FORD.



J.P. Emshie, del.

J. Emshie & Sons, lith.

ROMAN POTTERY DISCOVERED AT OLD-FORD.

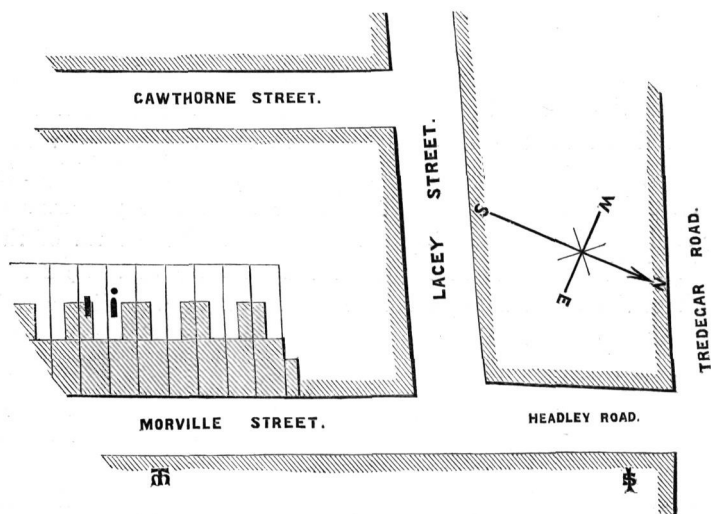
pottery. Another of the same character was found not long since in the same locality on some property belonging to Mr. Joseph Wilkinson. He has very kindly sent me all the particulars concerning it. He describes it as being excavated from some ground held by him for building purposes near the Saxon Road and Coborn Road, Bow, some 60 yards south of the Roman highway. The coffin lay upon the gravel beneath some 30 inches of superincumbent soil. Its length is about 6 feet 6 inches, width 2 feet 1, 2 inches less at the foot. The lid is slightly ridged. In it were contained the bones of a full-sized man in a good state of preservation. There was a fracture across the lid through which a quantity of gravel had fallen, covering as it were the skeleton, which appeared to have been buried, as the custom was, in lime. Its situation was east and west, and the arms of the skeleton were drawn down *at the side*, differing in this respect from that found some years since in the same locality, and described by Mr. B. H. Cowper in our Journal.* In the latter case the arms of the skeleton were crossed upon the breast, and the form of the coffin similar to that in fig. 1. At a distance of some 2 feet south of the coffin a large collection of pottery was discovered. The more perfect specimens are in the possession of Mr. Thomas Mathews, Resident Engineer of the North London Railway in Broad Street, who has kindly permitted me to select examples for illustration; they are given in plate VII., and are such as are usually associated with Roman burials.

With the exception of fig. 4 they will be at once recognised as examples of what is known as Upchurch pottery. The two cinerary urns, figs. 7 and 9, are of this familiar ware, and are rather rough in character. They contained burnt bones, but no coins or other relics. The two vessels 8 and 11 are varieties of the water jug (*gutturium*), and are often met with in Roman graves. Fig. 4 is a pretty little vase of black glazed ware. In form it resembles the Greek pottery. In a border round the vessel runs the ivy leaf, a favourite ornament in ancient pottery. Its diameter at the mouth is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Fig. 5 is of white ware with black glaze. Fig. 10, a perfect specimen; it measures 6

* Vol. i. pp. 192, 193.

inches high, and is of a coarse red ware. Fig. 12 is black; and 13 the only perfect example of what is termed Samian in the series; it is 7 inches in diameter, and resembles those dredged off the Pan Rock near Whitstable.

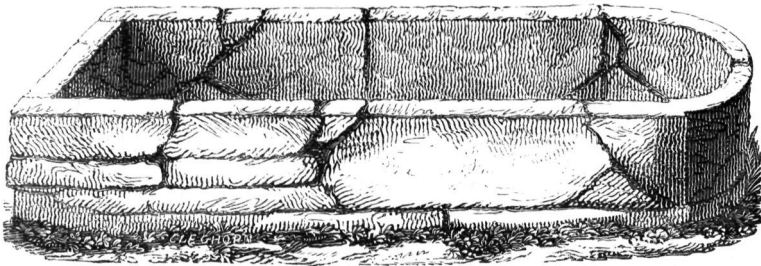
In May last I received a letter from my friend Mr. H. W. King, Hon. Sec. Essex Archæological Society, announcing that two more sarcophagi of a similar character had been found in the same locality in the course of excavations for buildings on a site some 200 yards south of the former discoveries. Their position when found can be well identified in the annexed plan taken on



the spot, and kindly contributed by Mr. Thomas Milbourn, Hon. Sec. The first found was the smaller of the two, and is illustrated by fig. 2, in plate VI. It is hewn from a solid block of stone, which is highly fossiliferous, and belongs to those oolitic beds which may be observed in the neighbourhood of Bath, Dundry, Northampton, Uppingham, and other places. Its main peculiarity consists in its being rounded at one end, which is rather unusual in London. There is one similar, but of much rougher execution, found at Binstead, Hants, and now in the British Museum. Also one preserved at Bath, where the form has been

often met with; and in a grave cut in the chalk for a young Frankish warrior at Envermeu, France, the excavation is of the same form.*

I find among some of my late father's antiquarian memoranda the account of a similar one being found on the 7th August, 1841, in digging the foundations for the new buildings situated in Victoria Park, near the Hippodrome, Notting Hill. The annexed illustration of this coffin, for the loan of which I am indebted to Mr. J. G. Nichols, F.S.A. appeared with full description by Mr. Thomas Faulkner, the historian of Chelsea, in the November number of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for that year:



It was discovered 6 feet from the surface of the turf, was composed of a single stone, and contained a skeleton, the teeth of which were nearly entire, and the cranium and bones in good preservation, the interior being filled up with lime. Its internal length is 6 feet 2 inches, its external length 6 feet 8, breadth without 2 feet 3, within 1 foot 8. It was placed north and south, the head lying to the north. Adjoining were found the remains of wooden coffins containing bones, but quite rotten. Several pins of bone or ivory were also discovered. The material of the coffin is said by Mr. Faulkner to be Purbeck stone.

The extreme length of this from Old Ford is 6 feet 2 inches, width 2 feet; inside measurement 5 feet 6½ inches long, and 1 foot 6 inches wide. Its depth is uniform, 12 inches inside and 16 inches outside. It contained the perfect skeleton of a female in excellent preservation. It will be noticed in fig. 2 plate vi. that,

* See *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvii. p. 102.

instead of the head occupying the rounded end, as is usual in coffins of this form, the position of the body is reversed. By the side of the ankle was a small cup of the black glazed pottery of the Northamptonshire make. The ornamentation is simple and laid on in white. The body had evidently been covered in with lime as usual with the Romans, especially as regards interments in the vicinity of London. The practice does not seem to have been entirely universal throughout the country. At Bath, where Roman interments abound, it appears to have been the custom to cover the bodies with fine sand. Examples of this are given by Mr. Scarth in his *Aquæ Solis*,* and in one case the sand found had evidently not been collected in the neighbourhood, but must have been brought from a long distance, probably from the mineral district of the Mendip Hills, as on examination it was found to correspond with that which occurs in some of the ancient mining seams of that district.

The lid of the sarcophagus was as usual broken, and through the aperture the overlying sand had fallen, which, on being cleared away, revealed the lime as pure and white as when first thrown in upon the corpse. The dimensions of the lid are 6 feet 3 inches long and 2 feet wide. On the under surface a space measuring 5 feet 7 inches and 17 inches wide has been hollowed to the depth of 2 inches. It is of the same stone, but does not appear to have been made for the sarcophagus, inasmuch as it is square at both ends. It may, though, have been thus made designedly, for the few inches that overlapped the coffin partly covered one of the most interesting features of the discovery, viz. a large earthen vessel in the form of an amphora; this was the first thing found by the workmen, and it was much broken in being extracted from the soil. It is of coarse red pottery of globular form, 2 feet in diameter, and has a pointed base for resting in the ground. Being fractured at the top it is impossible to get at the width of the aperture; there are traces of strong handles at the sides. It contained the remains of two skeletons of adults. Mr. Roach Smith says that it was a "common practice with the Romans to use the amphora, after separating the upper part, as a

* Page 101.

cist or coffin for the cinerary urn."* This would be where cremation was practised, of which there was no evidence in the present case. It is therefore difficult to conceive how two full grown bodies could have been inclosed in this vessel, unless we assume them to have been skeletons when placed there; in fact, that they had been exhumed, collected, and re-interred by the Romans themselves. Earthen vessels of large size have been before noticed in Roman graves. At Crendon, in Buckinghamshire, portions of an urn, with handles 5 inches in circumference, were discovered some years since associated with burnt bones. It also joined a sarcophagus, and stood at least 3 feet high. An account of this interment is given by Mr. Smith, in his valuable but insufficiently known work the *Collectanea Antiqua*.

The second coffin, illustrated by fig. 3 in the same plate, lay about 10 feet from the other, and is of much larger dimensions; it measures 7 feet 2 inches long by 2 feet 4 inches wide. At each end its outside depth is 20 inches. It is of simple, trough-like form, and square at each end, formed also of oolitic stone, but of finer texture. The lid is extremely massive, and the same length as the coffin; its thickness is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; it is flatter than the other, and has the same hollowed panelling on the under surface. It also has been filled with lime. It contained the skeletons of three adults, two males and a female, in perfect order. Two lay side by side; the third had been placed at the other end of the sarcophagus, and laid between the others. It would appear that one male had been interred subsequently, as he was lying at full length, whereas the body by his side had apparently been shifted to make room for the new comer, and been buried sideways. Not far from this interment the fragments of a sword were found; unfortunately many pieces had gone to the relic-hunters, but sufficient was preserved to indicate that it had been a short flat sword of iron. The pieces were tinged with the oxide of a bronze covering, and a thin plate of this metal was adhering to a portion of the weapon. From this it would seem to have been encased in a bronze scabbard. Such have been noticed among Romano-British remains, especially of late date,

* *Illustrations of Roman London*, by C. R. Smith, F.S.A. p. 88.

but not usually associated with interments. Almost the only articles not found in Roman graves, says Mr. Thos. Wright, F.S.A.* are arms; and he instances no example in Britain of a Roman being buried with his warlike weapons. No personal ornaments were observed, or any further examples of pottery; but, as the excavations were not completed, more may be revealed. The only coins that have been noticed are two small brass of Probus; the reverses are well known. These, taken in connection with the coin of Gallienus, found at Clapton and referred to by Mr. Clarke, and the large quantities of still later dates, found some years since with the leaden coffin from Bow, and described in the *Archæologia*, all point to the conclusion that the whole of these interments are to be ascribed to a very late period in the history of Roman Britain.

EXCAVATIONS AT CANNON STREET, DOWGATE HILL, ST. MILDRED'S COURT, LOTHBURY, TOKENHOUSE YARD, &c.

In pages 74-5 of the present volume a general description is given of the various antiquities found during the progress of the excavations for the Railway Station, Cannon Street. Prior to the completion of these works, some additional discoveries were made which are worthy of attention, as indicating how densely occupied by buildings must have been this portion of Roman London. The numerous piles and transverse beams which extended across Thames Street were traced for a considerable distance along the river bank, and in an upward direction towards Cannon Street. So complete a network of timber did they form, and so massive and durable were the means employed for holding the entire fabric together, that it is evident it was intended to resist a heavy strain or pressure. The Wallbrook † here

* T. Wright's *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*.

† A series of piles adjoining the line of this ancient stream were observed some years since in Prince's Street and Lothbury at a depth of 12 feet from the surface, and their position clearly indicated the embankments of a watercourse. They penetrated the earth to a depth of 5 or 6 feet, were of oak, and quite black from the boggy character of the soil. In Cateaton Street in the year 1843 a number were discovered at a depth of 10 feet;

flowed into the Thames, and the drainage of the old city being on a different scale to what it now is, it is probable that the soil of the locality would be damp and yielding, and that some protection for the foundations of the buildings reared along the water line would be necessary against the inroads of the river. Above this embankment buildings of great magnitude must have existed, if we may judge from the strength and solidity of these foundations. Mr. Thomas D. E. Gunston, who paid great attention to the excavations at the time, took copious notes, from which he has courteously permitted me to condense the more important particulars. Running nearly in a line with Bush Lane* was an immense external wall, some 200 feet long, 10 feet high, and 12 feet in thickness, formed of rag-stone, chalk, and a variety of materials bound together with mortar in the ordinary Roman fashion. At an angle were foundations 8 feet wide, of flint and rubble supporting smaller walls, some 3 feet wide, composed principally of bonding tiles 18 inches by 12. These were connected by a series of cross walls 2 feet 6 inches thick, and built of flat tiles 14 inches by 11; also set on rubble footings 4 feet in width. Still nearer Cannon Street were the remains of an apartment 50 feet by 40, floored with a coarse red concrete; this was connected with a second, which had access to a third but smaller room. A long series of smaller apartments were satisfactorily traced, with floors of coarse tesserae of red and yellow brick in cubes about an inch square. Some little distance in front of the centre apartment in this series was a square

these, however, from the quantity of Roman pavement and other relics, had evidently formed the foundations of extensive buildings. In November 1867, while excavating in Southwark Street, between Southwark Square and Worcester Street, a large number were met with; they were at a depth of about 12 feet, were as close together as possible, and driven straight into the earth. They varied from 5 to 11 feet in length, and many were as thick as 12 inches square. A large quantity of Roman pottery, pieces of Kentish rag-stone, and other evidences of buildings were observed. Some account of this discovery was contributed to one of our Evening Meetings by Mr. John Wimble.

* See references to Roman Buildings in Bush Lane and Scots Yard in Mr. Roach Smith's papers in *Archæologia*, vol. xxix.

piece of paving comprised of oblong bricks on edge, known as "herring-bone pavement." Adjoining a thick rubble wall was a large portion of a mosaic pavement, comprised of half-inch cubes of black, white, red, and grey tesserae, worked into a simple pattern and surrounded by a double border of black and grey stones of a compact nature and from 4 to 6 inches square, but varying in thickness. In close proximity to this human remains were found. There were evidences of strong timber drains, or waterways, one 5 feet beneath the foundations of the building, and having a steep incline to the river. This measured 4 feet across, and was 18 inches deep, the boards forming the sides being 4 inches and those at the bottom 6 inches in thickness. The other channels were of smaller dimensions.

Within several of the rooms wall paintings remained, the designs in various colours; some divided by lines and bands into panels, others ornamented by a trellis-pattern, or powdering of fancy-coloured spots: besides a quantity of roofing, hypocaust, and building tiles; fragments of pottery, glass, and articles of personal and domestic use. On many of the tiles were the letters PPBR. LON,* such as have been observed before to be worthy of notice as "recording the fact of their having been made by the first cohort of the Britons stationed at Londinium;" others were scored with geometrical figures, or small squares worked with a diamond pattern. In Mr. Gunston's museum is one indicating a rude attempt at portraiture, as shown in the accompanying illustration. It would seem the intention was to represent the head of Medusa, one of the Gorgons, celebrated for her beauty and flowing locks, which were afterwards changed to serpents by Minerva. The locks with the rest of the design have been executed on the tile when soft, and been entirely done with the finger, the course of which may be at once detected on the original. The indentation for the mouth is a perfect impression of one of the fingers of the designer. Though of far rougher character, it forcibly reminds one of the sculptured head on the tympanum of the temple dedicated to Minerva at Bath, on which serpents are entwined with the curling hair in an inge-

* *Illustrations of Roman London*, p. 32.



nious and artistic manner. It was doubtless sketched off in a moment of fun by some youthful fabricator of Roman tiles to whose mind representations of Minerva were familiar, either in the spirit of caricature, or as a rude effort to delineate the characteristics of the Gorgon's head. The peculiar expression of the countenance has been well caught by our Member, Mr. J. Emslie, who kindly contributed the drawing from which the engraving has been made. Some of the tiles had impressions from the feet of dogs, sheep, &c., indicating where they had walked across them while exposed to the sun to dry: such are often met with. An impression of the hoof of an ox was observed in one discovered some time since at Wroxeter. Pieces of flue and hypocaust tile abounded, and were ornamented in a variety of ways. Many of the designs, as well as those which have been noticed before, are tasteful and artistic, and it is certainly singular that the Romans should have wasted so much time in decorating objects which were to be concealed from view.

It is indicative of their love of art, and their desire to carry it into practice in matters even of every-day life. These devices are said to have been scored upon the tiles with a toothed instrument when soft, and to have been merely for the purpose of making the mortar adhere more closely to them. Possibly, sometimes, the flucs may have been so constructed as to be visible, in which case the labour spent in their decoration would not be thrown away. Sometimes they are ornamented with patterns from wooden blocks, which appears to have been the case with the example selected for illustration. That shown in plate VIII. is in the valuable collection of Mr. J. W. Baily, and was found a few years since in Fenchurch Street.

The fragments of pottery found represented almost every known variety, both as regards material, size, and form. There were also large numbers of styli: spoons of various forms in iron and bronze; knives of steel, with bone ornamental handles; portions of whetstones, spindles of wood, bone whorls, and other objects employed in weaving; a portable balance in bronze; fragments of a lava handmill; and, among a series of keys, one so small and delicate that it had evidently been intended for wearing on the finger as a ring. Among personal ornaments several bronze fibulæ were noticed, one bearing the figure of a satyr, another harp-shaped, enamelled with a deep blue, and having a chain for suspension; fragments of bronze armlets, hair and dress pins, in ivory, bone, bronze, wood, and jet; also a variety of coloured and ribbed glass beads. Coins were represented by examples of Agrippa, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, and Trajan, but all of well known types. Among the hundreds of potter's names found on fragments of the red pottery are the following, which are here appended, as being in most cases new since the publication of Mr. Roach Smith's "*Roman London*," and in others as variations of names already recorded in his list:



FLUE TILE DISCOVERED IN FENCHURCH STREET.
IN THE POSSESSION OF J. W. BAILY, ESQ.

AVCANI	* COSRV . F	DONATI	IVIENI M
AMICO	CARVS . F	DECIMI	O . MOMA
	CELADI	ESECV	OF . MAS
	CACCARI	ESCVSI . M	OF . MONTOR
	† CARATILLI		MASVETI
			OF . PARE
			OF PATCIO
			PRVSO
			RIPPINI
			SACIOS . FE
			* SACIRO
			TRIV F
			TASCILIV
			VLTOR
			VIOCENSIS
			VEVS.

At an Evening Meeting in February 1867 some interesting fragments of Roman Pavement were contributed for exhibition by Messrs. Cubitt at the suggestion of P. C. Hardwick, Esq., architect of the new buildings for the Union Bank of London recently erected at the corner of St. Mildred's Court, Poultry. In excavating at this spot some 18 feet from the surface level the workmen came upon a pavement in its original position. The pieces exhibited were but a few selected from a vast number, many of large size, which had been packed in cases and sent to the workshops of Messrs. Cubitt. From the quantity exhumed it would seem to have been perfect and of some extent, resembling those discovered in Leadenhall Street beneath the East India House, that beneath the Excise Office, and those under the French Protestant Church, Threadneedle Street. Since these discoveries there does not appear to have been found in London

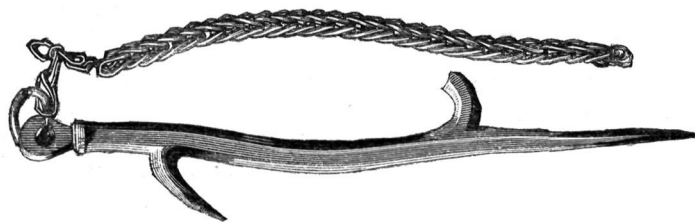
* The two thus marked occur in Mr. Smith's List from the collection in the museum at Douai.

† This does not appear to have been hitherto recorded in the London List, but it is a very usual name on the Pateræ from the Pan Rock, Whitstable.

any such perfect example of the finer kinds of pavement. Through the kindness of G. Plucknett, Esq. F.S.A. I am enabled to give some notion of its character, but without all the pieces being arranged together it is impossible accurately to describe the dimensions or design. In the centre was a vase, not unlike that which was observed in the pavement at the Excise Office, and similar to many other examples in this country. It was formed in lines of tesserae of various colours, of small size, and of the finer kind, the effect being occasionally heightened by the introduction of coloured glass. Encircling this was a scroll of foliage beautifully arranged, and various intricate designs made up the corners, the familiar guilloche pattern bordering the whole. The tesserae were laid on the usual Roman concrete. There appeared to be few traces of any border of the coarser kind formed of large red squares, such as has been often noticed where the finer work occupied the centre of a tessellated floor. The excavations being so near to the bed of the ancient Wallbrook it is possible that these remains were but isolated fragments buried in river debris; but the quantity found at one spot, and its flat position, rather point to the conclusion that they belonged to a building of importance which may have once existed on the eastern bank of this stream. In this and the adjoining neighbourhood the depth of the bed of the Wallbrook is placed by Mr. Tite and other antiquaries as low as 30 feet. Its course is thus described by Stowe: "From the wall of the city the course whereof (to prosecute it more particularly) was and is from the said city wall to St. Margaret's Church in Lothbury; from thence beneath the lower part of Grocers' Hall, about the east part of their kitchen, under St. Mildred's Church; thence by Bucklersbury," &c. Adjoining the pavements numerous antiquities were observed, all of superior character: a good mortarium, having on the rim the name ALBINVS, several specimens of pottery, and, among other things, some fine bronze fibulae. Some of them are now in Mr. Baily's collection; and in the museum at Guildhall is one from this site beautifully ornamented with blue enamel. The level of the pavement appears to have

been at much the same depth as other remains of this character in Cheapside. That example found a few years since opposite Bow Church was 17 feet from the roadway; and from this point to Paternoster Row, where one was disclosed as near to the surface as 11 feet, the Roman pavements along the whole line appear to have been on a very uniform level.

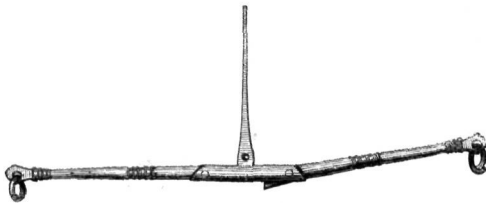
Near Tokenhouse Yard and Lothbury many objects of interest have been found. This is a locality always rich in Roman remains. It was opposite Founders' Court, at a depth of 11 feet and some 20 feet westward of the gate of the Bank of England opening into Lothbury, that the celebrated pavement now in the British Museum was discovered in the spring of 1805 and taken up entire by the direction of John Soane, Esq. the Bank Architect. It is described in the Gentleman's Magazine of 1807 by Mr. Fisher, and is figured in Mr. Roach Smith's *Roman London*. Other examples are known to have been found in this locality. The annexed woodcut illustrates an interesting little object from the



recent excavations. It is in the possession of Mr. J. W. Baily, and is an instrument for trimming Roman lamps. It is of bronze, and has a small chain attached for fastening to the lamp. It is difficult accurately to describe the mode in which it was used, but the pointed end was probably for raising the wick, and the projections for removing any hardened crust. Among all the illustrations we have of the various articles in domestic use with our Roman ancestors, I am unable to trace any engraving or description of a lamp trimmer as being found in London. Among lamp appendages, stands of clay have been identified by Mr. Roach Smith, and are referred to in his *Roman London*. He has

also described others of iron with chains attached for hanging the lamp from a projection driven into the wall, but the specimen before us has been fastened to the lamp itself. It is such as has been frequently met with among Roman remains abroad. A good example is illustrated in La Chausse's *Grand Cabinet Romain*, p. 94, Lampe v.: and in Montfaucon's *Antiquité Expliquée** there is a figure of a bronze lamp suspended by a chain; from the lamp there hangs a trimmer of this character. In the same work are other examples varying slightly in form. Mr. Baily informs me that among the small bronzes at the Museo Borbonico at Naples there is an object of this kind attached to a figure holding a lamp. The engraving is the actual size of the original.

Among a variety of things from this locality in the museum of Mr. Gunston is an example of a scale beam of rather unusual



form. The engraving is about two-thirds the size of the original, which is of iron, and constructed for folding into a small compass. The illustration has been so drawn as to show the position of the folding joints. At each end is seen the ring from which the scales would be suspended. Balances of this kind are presumed to have been for the purpose of weighing jewellery or precious metals. They were carried on the person, the folding hinge adapting them for portability.



In Mr. Gunston's series there is also an interesting example of a Roman wedding-ring. It is of iron, with the exception of a small plate of brass that has been inserted, and on which are inscribed the words *VITA VOLO*. Rings of

* Montfaucon, vol. v. p. 212, pl. 153; also plates 139 and 150.

this description are not often met with in London discoveries. Mr. Roach Smith in his Catalogue records instances of rings of gold, one from the Thames weighing nearly five drachms, and others are mentioned as being found of bronze. Did space permit much might be said about ancient finger-rings generally, for there are few things in modern use whose origin can be traced to so remote a period as the practice of wearing rings. It may be said almost to be lost in obscurity. We read of them in Scripture, when "Pharoah took off his ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's hand,"* and in many other passages. They were profusely worn by the Egyptians; gold being the metal generally in use among the higher classes; with the lower, porcelain was the material employed.

With the Greeks and Romans the practice was almost universal. It is stated by Pliny that in his time they used iron rings without any jewels.† To certain individuals rings were given by the State as a distinguishing mark, which they wore on state occasions, reverting to their usual ones of iron on returning from the ceremony. Among the wealthy the immense sums expended on rings may be seen from two recorded instances: the ring of Faustina is said to have cost a sum equal to 40,000*l.* and that of Domitia no less than 60,000*l.*

In the period of the second Punic war, at the battle of Cannæ, when some 40,000 Romans were slain or taken, Hannibal is said to have sent to Carthage three modii of rings taken from the fingers of the dead.

It is recorded that from the desire of Cæpio and Drusus each to possess a single ring arose the social war of the Marsians and ruin of the state. Among the Roman authors reference to finger rings abound. In the play of Hecyra,* by Terence, mention is made of the betrothal ring; and it bears a significant part in the working out the plot of the play. With the Anglo-Saxons the ring also formed part of the marriage contract. It was generally placed on all the fingers in turn, ultimately leaving it on the fourth.

* Genesis, xli v. 42.

† Pliny, Hist. Nat. lib. iii. chap. 1.

‡ Hecyra, Act v. scene 3.

The subject of mediæval rings is too extensive to be more than referred to here. The numerous posies found upon them, as well as on others of still later date, are but a perpetuation of the old Roman practice, as evidenced by the ring above described. Other Latin mottoes are recorded, such as BONAM VITAM—AMOTE—AMA ME—VIVAS BENE—PIGNIS AMORIS HABES (You have a love pledge).