

## ROMAN REMAINS NEAR NEWGATE.

IN preparing for the new buildings erected, in the summer of 1857, on the north side of the gaol of Newgate, in the Old Bailey, and very near to the site of the city gate which gave its name to the prison, on the ground being excavated to a considerable depth, the foundation of the City Wall was cut through, and many vestiges of old London were discovered. Among these, Mr. G. R. Corner, F.S.A., obtained a fragment of a mortarium, with the potter's mark very clearly and distinctly impressed on the rim, but the words singularly disposed within a twisted border, thus:



It is remarkable that a similar fragment, bearing the same mark,\* was also found in Newgate Street, on the 23rd Oct. 1835, and is now preserved in Mr. Charles Roach Smith's Museum of London Antiquities at the British Museum.

During the recent excavations, abundance of Roman bond-tiles and building materials appeared in and about the City Wall; and Mr. Corner observed under a stratum of pounded brick, which was the foundation of a coarse pavement, a layer of burnt wood, the evident remains of a fire during or previous to the Roman period. Many feet higher was a similar layer of wood-ashes, produced by the Fire of 1666, or some similar occurrence in latter times.

It is much to be desired that advantage should be taken of every opportunity of discovering Roman remains in this part of London, in which, according to a strong opinion expressed by Mr. C. Roach Smith, the great Theatre of Londinium was situate, on the ground lying between the Old Bailey, Fleet Lane, Seacoal Lane, and Snow Hill, a spot raised in a remarkable manner above the level of the banks of the Fleet, and which is now approached from Seacoal Lane by several steep flights of steps.

\* See the Catalogue of that Museum, page 16. Another mark, MARTINVS F. mentioned in the same page, is not now to be found, and perhaps did not occur on a mortarium.