

ACCOUNT OF ROMAN FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER  
ANTIQUITIES DISCOVERED IN 1860-62 AT TINGEWICK,  
BUCKS, UPON THE PROPERTY OF MR. R. P. GREAVES,  
OF GROVE HILL.

BY REV. H. ROUNDELL, *Hon. Sec.*

[The labour of the Contributor of this Paper has been very much lightened by, and his best thanks are due to MR. R. P. GREAVES, for the interest and energy he has shown in carrying on the excavations on his property, and the free use allowed to the "Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society" of the Antiquities discovered both for Exhibition and Engraving for the illustration of the "Records;" and also to MR. BEESLEY, of Banbury, for permission to use the careful and complete description of the Pottery and other articles, drawn up by him for MR. GREAVES, much of which will be found embodied in these pages; and also to MR. R. INWARDS, for the drawings of the antiquities from which the accompanying illustrations have been engraved by the anastatic process.]

IAM SEGES EST UBI TROIA FUIT.

The County of Buckingham, fruitful in memorials of the period preceding the Norman Conquest, has produced striking evidences of the several and successive occupations of the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, and Danes. Of the earlier of these periods, no more valuable hoard of gold coin has been yet discovered in England than that found in Whaddon Chase in 1849. Of the Roman period, the tumulus at Thornborough, opened by the late Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, proved to be "the depositary of the richest series of Romano-British remains, hitherto explored, with the exception perhaps alone of the Bartlow Hills in Cambridgeshire."\* While of the Saxon or Danish period, *White-leaf Cross* at Monks Risborough,

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\* Archæological Journal, vol. vii. page 82.

and the *Bledlow Cross*, still remain valuable and magnificent monuments. And besides these remarkable historical Memorials, almost every district of the County supplies proofs of its occupation at a very distant period by various nations, and though the traces of the Briton have well nigh disappeared, evidences of the colonization or military occupation of the Roman conqueror, ineffaced by the lapse of fourteen hundred years, survive in their roads, their earthworks, their foundations, and the names of existing towns and villages. It is much to be regretted that notwithstanding their abundance, partly in consequence of the rapid disintegration which exposure to the air causes in long-buried walls and foundations, and to the want of care if not positive destruction they have to encounter, and partly also to the dispersion among collectors of the more durable antiquities, few of the antiquarian treasures of the County are now available in a way calculated to give additional insight into the history of Buckinghamshire during the period of the Roman occupation. Against destruction by the hand of time there is no remedy. *Tempus edax rerum*. If, however, on the first discovery of the foundations of ancient edifices, care be taken to ascertain their depth, dimensions, materials and style of masonry, to trace their course with exactness, and make drawings of any peculiarity of construction, together with an accurate ground plan, noting at the same time the situation, aspect, and nature of soil, much may be done to preserve and utilize whatever is most valuable in these relics. Should, however, adverse circumstances prevent these measurements and details being taken at the time of discovery, the remains should be covered up again without delay in their protecting earth, till the investigation can be resumed under more favourable auspices. Turning to the second cause which has deprived us of many advantages that might have been reaped from past discoveries, namely, the dispersion into private hands of the most interesting of the Buckinghamshire Antiquities, the establishment of a County Museum at Aylesbury will form a nucleus to which to gather them, and offer a receptacle in which the most careful collector may deposit his treasures either by gift or loan with the fullest confidence of their security. But whether entrusted to the Museum, or retained by the owner, the real value to the Historian or Archæologist of

antiquities found at the same time and place consists in their being kept together, *as a whole*. Fifty coins in a cabinet, historically useful *as a series*, for the events they severally commemorate, and for the skill or otherwise with which they have been fabricated, reveal nothing of their common history, they have come together no one knows whence, and in a few more years will be separated again. But the same number of coins, found together in the spot where they have been lost or hidden, have a story of their own to tell, of carelessness, of avarice, of theft, or, if associated with the ashes of the dead, of filial or parental love. Thus, from the size of their dwellings as indicated by the vestiges of foundations, from the fragments of their pottery, from their implements of husbandry or of the chase or of war, from their ornaments and articles of dress, from the number and description of their coins, dug out from the ruins of their habitations, we can conjecture, at each fresh antiquarian discovery, whether those long forgotten men were poor or rich, colonists or soldiers, artificers or cultivators of the soil, what they wore, how they were wont to live, at what time they came, and when they departed.

The parish of Tingewick lies about two miles westward from Buckingham, and hard by the track of the ancient Roman roadway leading from Bicester (*Bina Castra*) through Stratton Audley, and Water Stratford (*Via Strata*) in the direction of Towcester. The field in which the discoveries have been made bears the name of "Stollidge" and has been long under the plough. The soil is of a loamy nature, scarcely two feet in depth, with a substratum of strong hard gravel. From the position of the foundations, the buildings must have stood on the brow of a hill, which slopes in a north-westerly direction towards the river Ouse, about a quarter of a mile below Tingewick Mill, and their inhabitants would have been well supplied with excellent water from very strong springs, close to their dwellings. On the situation of the buildings, Mr. Beesley remarks, "The aspect is unusual; for the spots selected by the Romans for their country habitations were commonly upon the southern slope of a hill." At this point, and immediately opposite the foundations discovered, at a distance of not more than two hundred yards, an ancient ford crossed the river. It is now nearly

blocked up by the accumulation of mud, and the growth of sedge, but a public right of road across the river existed until stopped by the formation of the embankment of the Buckinghamshire Railway. The field is unmarked by any of those irregularities of surface which frequently denote the site of former habitations, and owing perhaps to the long course of tillage, nothing indicated the existence of the memorials of human residence buried below. Many years ago, a former occupier, still living, was accustomed to dig and cart away out of various parts of this field considerable quantities of stone and broken tiles, even then supposed to be the remains of ruined buildings, but as no valuable articles were known to have been found there, little or no interest was attached to the circumstance. It is now said that a village tradition always pointed out this spot as the site of "old Tingewick," and assuming that this tradition preceded, and has not been created by the recent discoveries, it must be considered a remarkable instance of the fidelity with which a matter of local tradition has been preserved without any external mark of corroboration, for upwards of fourteen centuries, and a proof that "*oft times relations heretofore accounted fabulous have bin after found to contain in them many footsteps and reliques of something true.*"—*John Milton's History of England, Lond., 1689, vol. 8., p. 7.*

Browne Willis derives the name Tingewick "from *Tede*, "*Gramen*, and *Vicus*, Village, quasi a Town of Pasture," and this derivation, part Saxon, part Roman, may suggest the idea of a Roman village reoccupied or rebuilt by the Saxons. The present village of Tingewick is to the south, or south-west, and upwards of a quarter of a mile distant from the field "Stollidge." Now the recent discoveries lead to the inference that after the destruction of the Roman village, no later buildings took their place upon the same spot. Had a Saxon or any other village in after times occupied this site, some traces of theirs must have been left behind. But all the antiquities hitherto found, are exclusively Romano-British, and can only be assigned to the period of the Roman occupation of Britain.

The first discovery of these remains was, as frequently happens in such instances, the result of accident. A ploughman of Mr. Greaves, while at his work in the autumn of 1860, found the plough strike on some hard

substance. On throwing out a few shovelful of earth, the foundations of a strongly built stone wall were exposed, enclosing a recess lined with mortar baked hard to a light red colour, and furnished with a drain through the outer wall. When this was communicated to Mr. Greaves, he at once prosecuted further investigations. Under his superintendence more earth was excavated, and the line of wall followed, disclosing the foundations of a detached oblong building, divided into two apartments, and described upon the plan by the letters A to I. The external length of this edifice was twenty-two feet four inches, its breadth twelve feet. It stood North and South, with the smaller of the two chambers (E) towards the East. In this apartment was placed the recess (F,G) which first attracted the notice of the ploughman. It measured three feet ten inches in length and twenty-two inches across, the sides and bottom plastered with mortar hardened by fire. A moulding also of the same material, (G) two and a half inches wide and of the same depth, is carried round the bottom, and a drain or flue (H) five and a half inches by six, sunk a little below this level, passes through the outer wall in the first or lowest course of the foundation. In its passage through the wall the flue is covered with one strong tile fifteen inches in length by one and a half thick. The whole of the recess is embedded in strong masonry; on the South side, eighteen inches thick; on the East, two feet ten inches; on the North, towards the smaller apartment, two feet; and on the West, towards the larger apartment, three feet. By this recess the size of the eastern chamber (E) is much reduced, and it only measures six feet six inches by four feet ten inches. No part unfortunately of the floor of this apartment has been discovered *in situ*, nor are there any indications to show its exact position. But it may be presumed to have been not lower than the ground round it, since the gravel bed on which the building stands rises to the same height within the walls of this chamber with that outside, and evidently has never been disturbed. Assuming the floor of the chamber to have been on this level, the bottom of the recess was seventeen inches below it.

It now remains to describe the larger apartment (I) placed towards the West. The partition wall (D) between it and the adjoining chamber was in breadth twenty

inches; the other walls all of them outer ones, less thick. That on the South (C) eighteen inches; that on the West (B) only twelve. The North wall which while forming the smaller apartment was twenty inches, suddenly became reduced to twelve (B) on entering the larger apartment, and the advantage of this space was given to the chamber, which measured eleven feet six inches by nine feet six inches. Here in one corner a single paving tile remained in its original position, showing the pavement of this chamber to have been thirteen inches below the bottom of the recess, and two feet six inches lower than the presumed level of the other apartment. The walls of the whole building were so entirely razed that the position of the doorways could not be determined.

From the complete demolition that has taken place, the precise purposes to which the building was applied cannot be ascertained with undoubted accuracy. The number of flue tiles excavated from this spot, within and without the walls, lead Mr. Beesley to conjecture it to have been a hypocaust or vapour bath, and he accounts for the absence of the piers on the supposition of the frequent disturbance of the ground by former occupiers.

PLATE I. Ground Plan of the Building, lettered from A to I.

- A A. The outer walls of the smaller chamber, on the North and East twenty inches in thickness.
- B B. The outer walls of the larger chamber, on the North and West twelve inches in thickness.
- C C. The outer wall on the Southern side, eighteen inches in thickness.
- D. The partition wall between the chambers, twenty inches in thickness.
- E. The Eastern or smaller apartment, six feet six inches by four feet ten inches.
- F. The bottom of the recess, exclusive of the mouldings, three feet five inches by seventeen inches.
- G. The mouldings of the recess, two inches and a half wide.
- H. The drain leading from the recess through the outer wall and continued down the hill.
- I. The Western or larger apartment, eleven feet six inches by nine feet six inches.

An excavation on the outside of the wall at the point where the flue passed through, discovered the existence of a drain (H), probably when in use only an open trench, paved with rough stones, and now about three feet below the surface of the field. Its course ran in a Westerly direction down the hill and was easily followed to its outlet on the slope by the line of black crumbling earth which formed its bottom. Here were found bones of animals, oyster and snail shells, and broken pottery in profusion, pretty equally distributed along the whole length, but in the greatest abundance in the curve of the drain close to the building.

The success of these investigations encouraged Mr. Greaves to explore further. Traces were found of another ditch (K) forty-two feet South of the first and parallel with it, but the excavations here, although continued with much perseverance produced nothing of value. On the opposite side however of the foundations already described, at a distance of thirty-five yards the labourers met with the foundations of another and much larger building. They were uniformly two feet thick, and their position and length are shown upon the plan (L to O.) At all the points marked M, these foundations break off abruptly, as do also the other fragments (N and O), the rest of the walls having evidently been dug out, and that at so distant a period as to destroy all hope of now tracing their course. Assuming that the walls, of which these foundations are the sole remaining fragments, were once connected, they would have enclosed an area ninety-three feet by twenty-seven feet. And the length of the Southern wall, of the foundations of which eighty feet still exist, seems to favour the conjecture that these walls formed but one edifice. Below the fragment of foundation (O), lower down on the hill side, the course of another ditch (P), containing several circular rubbish pits, was discovered and followed about forty yards. From this ditch the greater number of the antiquities were exhumed.

PLATE I. Explanation continued, lettered from K to P.

KK. A second ditch, forty-two feet South of the building described.

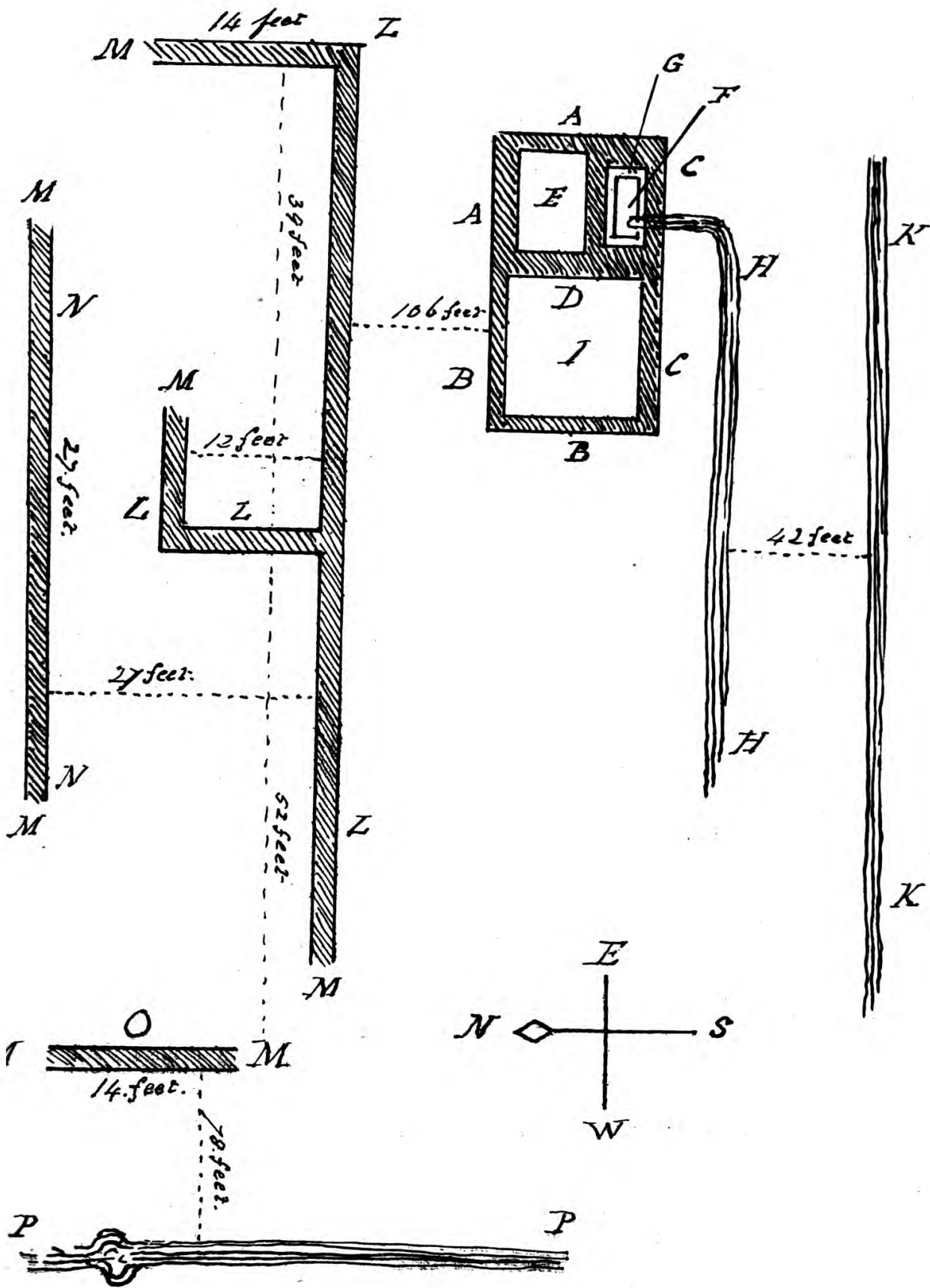
LL. Portions of the foundations of another building thirty-five yards distant from the supposed hypocaust and to the North of it.

- M M. The points where the foundations abruptly terminate, the remainder having been excavated at a distant period.
- N N. Part of a foundation, twenty-seven feet in length, and at a distance of twenty-seven feet from, and parallel with, the long Southern wall of the building L.
- O. Fragment of a wall, fourteen feet long, at right angles to the last mentioned walls, and at a distance of fifty-two feet from, and parallel with the interior wall of the building L.
- P P. Another drain, on the slope of the hill, containing several circular holes or rubbish pits, seventy-eight feet below the foundation O; excavated for about one hundred and twenty feet.

The antiquities discovered at Tingewick in the course of these excavations were very numerous. The ditches were filled with broken pottery, tiles, and bones of animals; iron nails, coins, and implements occurred occasionally. Round the foundations fragments of tiles abounded, showing great variety of pattern, size, and shape, smooth and impressed, straight and flanged, and in company with them, pieces of earthenware vessels for domestic use. In one part of the field a large quantity of dark-colored earth, resembling mould was found, and when carefully sifted by Mr. Greaves' order, yielded several articles of interest. Out of the many antiquities brought to light, the following have been selected for illustration, and the representations are of the same size as the originals:—

PLATE II. Figure 1. Pair of bronze compasses in perfect preservation, six and a half inches long, found by Mr. Greaves close to the smaller building, and undoubtedly the most curious object discovered. They are remarkable for the peculiarity of their construction, being made to work upon a nail, as a pivot or axis, the pointed or sharp end of the nail projecting half an inch on the side opposite to the head or nut, and having the point bent downwards. In his important work, *Récueil d'Antiquités, Paris, 1762, Tome 5, p. 238*, M. Caylus comments upon the great rarity of these instruments, and figures a pair of compasses in Plate LXXXV, fig. 5, of the

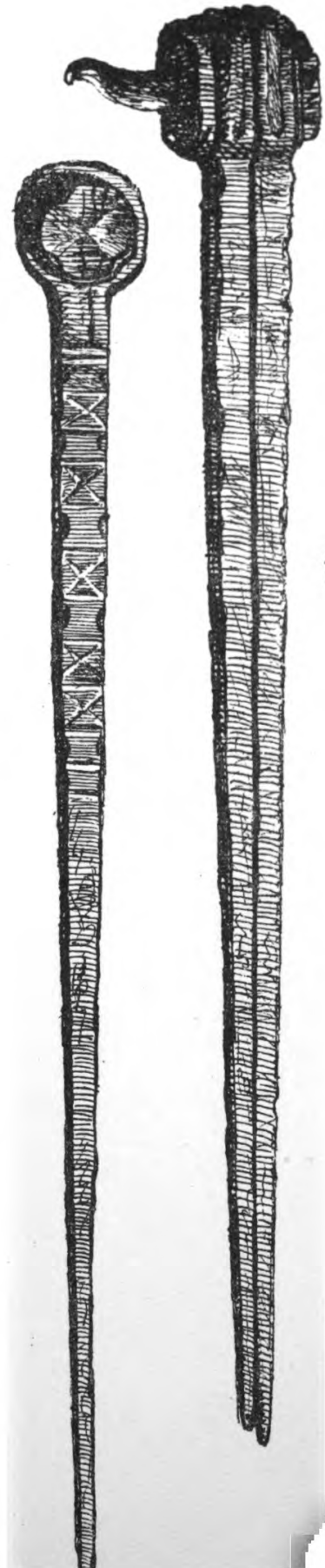
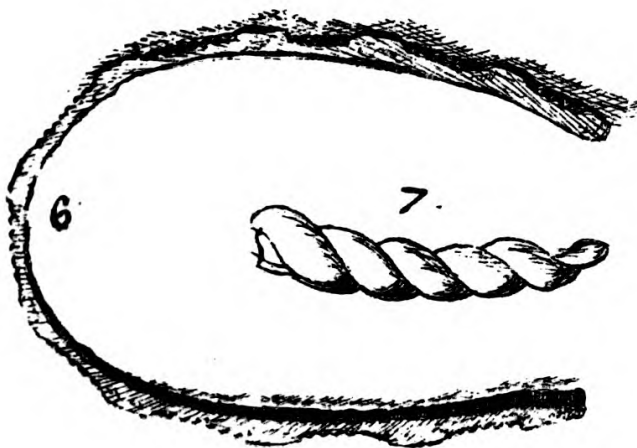
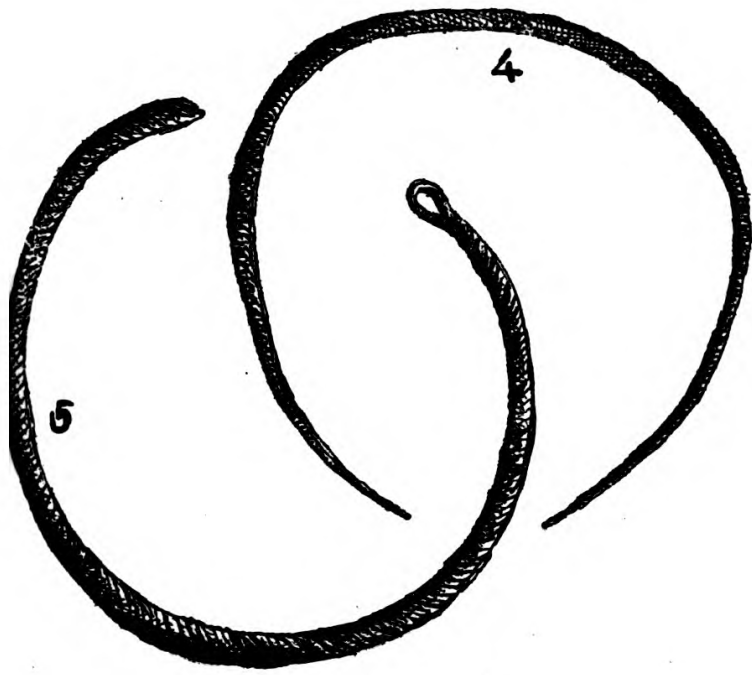


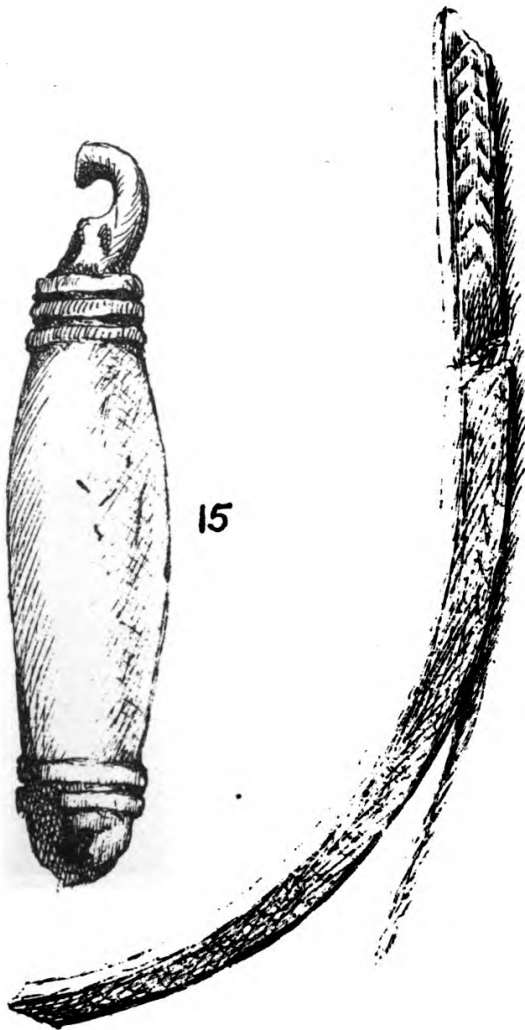
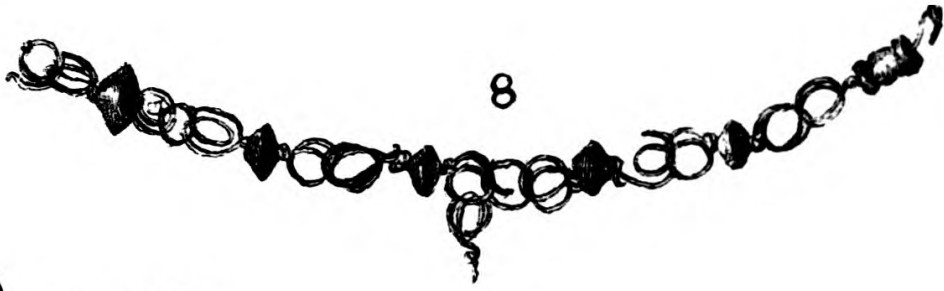


Ground Plan of Roman Foundations discovered  
at Tingewick, Bucks. 1860. 1861.

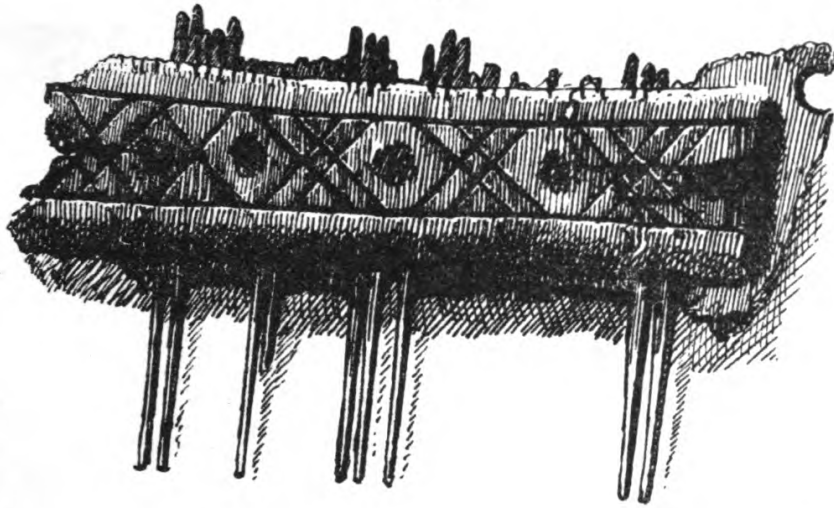
Plate I.

Cowells Anastatic Press, Ipswich.

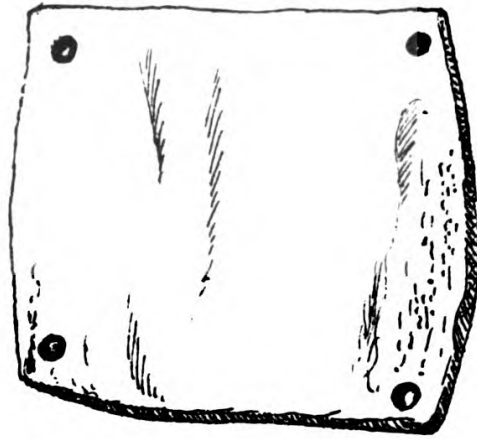




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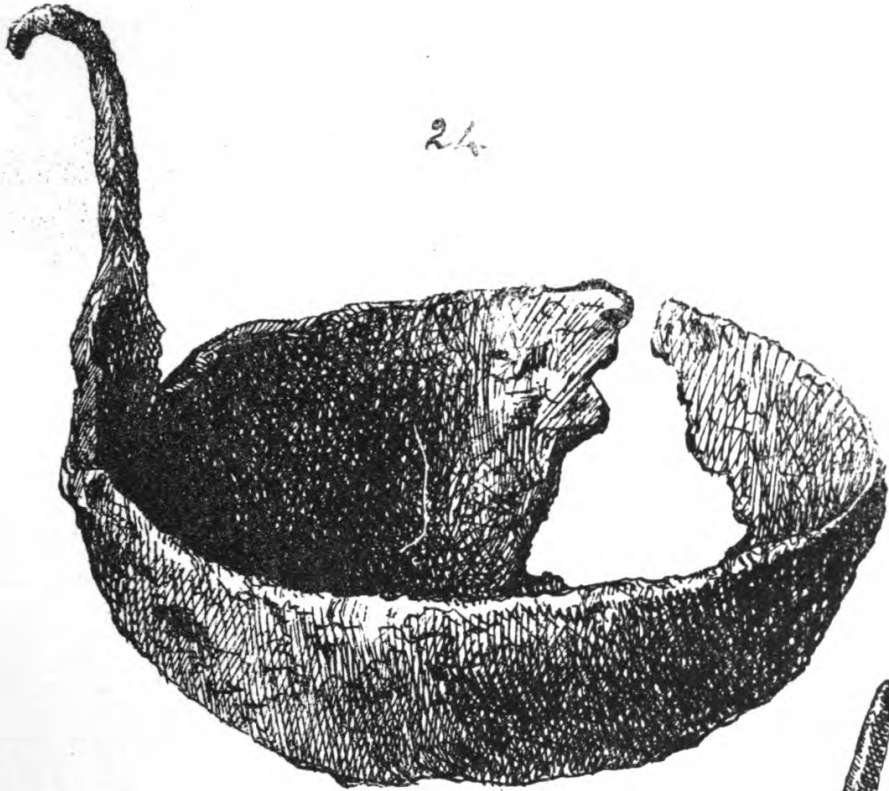


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same volume, which in the axis projecting on one side much resemble those of Mr. Greaves. A very similar pair may be seen in the British Museum, *Foreign Bronze Room, Case A*. Two pair of Roman compasses have been found at Cirencester both wanting the elongated point, one of them is described and figured in "The Archæological Journal," *vol. vii. p. 412*.

Figures 2 to 7. Portions of bronze *armillæ* or bracelets. No. 2 shews the "circle and point" pattern between four incised lines; and No. 3 "the point pattern." *Armillæ* precisely similar to both these patterns were discovered at Cadbury Castle near Tiverton, Devon, in the year 1848, and are engraved at *page 193* of the Fifth volume of "The Archæological Journal." Another found at Cirencester resembling Figure 6, is engraved in the Seventh volume of the Journal *at page 410*.

PLATE III. Figure 8. Part of a necklace, made of rings of silver wire, ornamented with glass beads. The rings, each consisting of two coils of fine wire, are set alternately two and three together, divided by small beads of dark blue glass. The fragment is five inches in length, and the clasp at one end remains perfect.

Figure 9. The pin of a *Fibula* or brooch, four inches in length and formerly gilt. A very similar bronze pin, from Woodperry, Oxon, is figured in "The Archæological Journal," 1846, *vol. iii. p. 120*.

Figure 10. Bronze ring with hoop and two links of wire chain, broken.

Figure 11. Part of a clasp, or snap; bronze and formerly gilt, seems to have belonged to a belt.

Figure 12. Triangular piece of bronze; the surface and edges, which are rough, appear to have been plated with gold, probably part of some ornament.

Figures 13, 14. Bronze rings.

Figure 15. Bone handle of a knife. The knife was worn at the girdle to which it was attached by a riband or string, passed through the hole at the upper end. The smaller hole at the other end contained the rivet on which the blade worked,

and the green stains on the bone at this part show the rivet to have been bronze or copper.

Figure 16. Fragment of a bone *armilla* or bracelet.

Figure 17. Bone pin, broken however at both ends.

PLATE IV. Figure 18. Comb, formed of several pieces of bone rivetted together with bronze fastenings. It was quite perfect when first discovered. A similar comb found in Yorkshire is preserved in the Museum of Antiquities at York. And a bronze comb of this description dug up at Chesterford, in Essex, is figured in "The Journal of the British Archæological Association," 1848, *vol. iii. p. 210.*

Figure 19. Flat piece of bone, nearly square, with a small hole perforated at each of the four corners. Use unknown, but supposed by Mr. Beesley to have been attached to the girdle or some portion of the dress.

Figures 20 to 23. Portions of *cultra* or knives. Nos. 20-22 are iron, No 23 bronze. Similar examples have been found in London and at Hod Hill, near Blandford in Dorset; some of the latter are engraved in "The Journal of the British Archæological Association," 1848, *vol. iii. p. 97.*

PLATE V. Figure 24. Iron *patera*. See the same volume of "The Journal of the Archæological Association," *p. 211.* Another and a larger *patera*, much broken, was found at Tingewick.

Figure 25. The head of a dart or small spear, iron, much corroded.

Figure 26. An iron arrow head. This is identical in size and shape with an example found at Woodperry, co. Oxon, and figured in "The Archæological Journal" for 1846, *vol. iii. p. 120.*

Figure 27. Fragment of an iron hook or bill, which may have been used as a pruning knife. For pruning hooks of this description from Waterperry, see "The Archæological Journal," *vol. iii. p. 122.*

Figure 28. Iron pin, use unknown. It may have been a *ligula* or probe, similar to that figured in Mr. A. Way's representation of Roman relics from

Silchester, in "The Archæological Journal," *vol.* viii. *p.* 245.

Besides these antiquities, various other articles were discovered; among them, a large iron ladle for melting metal, a lump of molten lead, another of bronze, pieces of charcoal, a large quantity of nails, an iron spindle, several bronze *styli* or pens for writing, a key like one found at Hadstock, in Essex, numerous fragments of Stonesfield slate used for the roofs, some of them having the nails by which they were fastened to the timber still remaining in them, and a piece of Andernach lava, which from its shape may have formed the key stone of an arch.

The fragments of pottery, occurring in all parts of the field, were carefully collected and proved very numerous, sufficient to fill several wheel-barrows. Out of the immense mass, Mr. Greaves, after great patience and labour, has been successful in joining together a few pieces, which permit a conjecture to be offered of the shape or size or use of the original vessels of which they have formed parts, and a careful examination of all the pottery has been made by Mr. Beesley, the result of which will be best given in his own words—

"No complete articles of pottery were found; but the number of fragments was, as usual in such spots, very great. It should be recollected that these and other things which have been collected upon ancient sites are mostly obtained from rubbish pits, or other receptacles of refuse, where none but broken or worthless pottery would be thrown. And the same may generally be said of other objects, however we may now prize them, found in the same position.

"Many of the pieces of pottery are, however, quite sufficient to enable us to distinguish the shape, size, and ornamentation of the vessels to which they belonged. No potter's name or mark occurred upon any of them. Of *Amphoræ*, of large size, in coarse light red ware, were many pieces. There were numerous fragments of *mortaria*, shallow, basin-shaped vessels, with overhanging rims serving as handles, and spouts, with fragments of coarse sand or iron-scoriæ imbedded in the inner surface, and which apparently served for the trituration and heating of soft vegetables. These were in red and cream colored clay. One only was roughened with iron scoriæ; this variety is



unusual in these parts, siliceous sand being ordinarily used. The perfect vessels must have varied in diameter from six inches to one foot.

“Somewhat similar in shape to the *mortaria*, but more carefully and elegantly formed with an under rim serving as a foot, and made of a fine red clay, which seems, like the so-called Samian ware, to have been covered with a glaze or varnish produced by a wash of fine clay mixed with water, were numerous vessels of which considerable pieces remain. They were from seven to eleven inches in diameter; and one of them is ornamented on the overlapping rim with a series of two concentric segments of circles inclosing a row of dots in white *slip*.

“There are several pieces of a hard cream-colored ware painted with a red clay upon the rims and in the inside. These are of the kind commonly called Romano-British.

“Only one piece of the fine ware, called Samian, occurred. This was a portion of the upper part of a bowl with the usual festoon and tassel ornament.

“Amongst the smaller vessels are pieces of two of red ware, shallow and with bellying sides. They were five inches in diameter. One is ornamented below the rim and projecting sides with rows of impressed vertical lines. The other, of finer ware, once glazed, has on the bellying part alternate ornaments of fern-leaves, and semicircles of adjacent rings. This is, I believe, a rare, if not unique pattern.

“There are many specimens, red, brown, and black, ornamented with white *slip*; one or two specimens of plain ware with copper-coloured glaze (Caistor ware); and heaps of the common black ware, variously ornamented inside or out with indented or scored lines. One piece of hard grey ware, with a deep black glaze, is interesting as making a near approach to modern stoneware, the paste being partially vitrified.

“One fragment is a portion of a vessel, probably a crucible, of black-lead ware such as are used by metallurgists. Under other circumstances this would be thrown aside as undoubtedly modern; but in this case occurring as it does in company with iron ladles, some of which must have been used for melting metals, there is at least suspicion of its ancient character, and the more so as there is reason to believe that the Roman metallurgists did use plumbago crucibles.

“A few pieces of glass were found, probably portions of ampullæ or small flasks. They are yellower in colour than the usual Roman glass, but very different to modern glass work.”

In addition to the antiquities already described, coins were frequently exhumed, though occurring more sparingly and of less intrinsic value than in some other Romano-British settlements of no greater extent. These coins were found singly and pretty equally distributed through the field, none being discovered in the masonry of the foundations or withinside the walls. This leads to the conclusion that they had been lost by accident or thrown away rather than buried by their owners. They are thirty-nine in number, two of them “Denarii,” the remainder of the currency denominated “Third Brass.” Some are in fine preservation, and those on which the inscriptions are most legible may be assigned as follows:—

I.—ELAGABALUS. Denarius, silver, A.D. 218—222.

*Obverse:* Head of the Emperor, laureated.

ANTONINVS PIVS AVG

*Reverse:* Figure seated in a curule chair, extending his right hand holding an apple, his feet upon a mat, SECVRIT . . . . RII

II.—CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS. Third Brass, A.D. 292.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor, diademed.

CONSTANTIVS AVG

*Reverse:* Pretorian Gate; over it three stars; PROVIDEN . . . AVGG

III.—LICINIUS. Third Brass, finely patinated, A.D. 307—323.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor, to the left, filletted, IMP LICINIVS PF AVG


*Reverse:* Genius standing; in her right hand a patera; in her left a cornucopia. In the field a star. On the exergue PLN GENIO POP ROM

IV.—1. CONSTANTINUS MAXIMUS. Third Brass, well preserved, A.D. 306—337.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, galeated.

IMP CONSTAN . S . . X AVG

*Reverse:* Two winged figures supporting a shield

inscribed  above a cippus inscribed X

On the exergue S T R

VICTOR . . . . .

2. Constantinus maximus. Third Brass.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the left, filletted.

IMP CONSTANTINVS PP AVG

*Reverse:* Figure of the Sun standing. In field TE

On the exergue PLN

SOLI INVICTO COMITI

V.—1. CONSTANTINUS JUNIOR. Third Brass, A.D. 317—340.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the left, filletted.

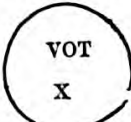
CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C

*Reverse:* A wreath enclosing

On the exergue ISB III  
CAESARVM NOSTRORVM

2. Constantinus Junior. Third Brass.

*Obverse:* similar with the last.

*Reverse:*  On the exergue STR

3. Constantinus Junior: Third Brass.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor as before

. . . STANTINVS IVN N . .

*Reverse:* Two soldiers supporting a standard.  
Legend erased.

VI.—CRISPUS. Third Brass, A.D. 322—326

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, filletted;

FL IVL CRISPVS NOB CAES

*Reverse:* Pretorian gate with star. On the exergue  
PLON (this inscription is supposed to indicate  
that the coin was struck in London.)

PROVIDENTIAE CAESS

VII.—CONSTANTIUS SECUNDUS. Third Brass, A. D. 323—351.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the left, diademed.

FL IVL CONSTANTIVS AVG

*Reverse:* Two soldiers with standard.

On the exergue TR

GLORIA . . . . .

VIII.—1. MAGNENTIUS. Third Brass, in fine preservation, A. D. 350—353.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the left, plain. On the right side A

DN MAGNENTIVS PF AVG

*Reverse:* Two winged figures holding a shield,

inscribed



On the exergue TR

VICTORIA . . . . . CAES

2. Magnentius. Third Brass.

*Obverse:* similar with the last.

*Reverse:* Soldier standing, in his right hand a figure of Victory, in his left a labarum.

Legend erased.

3. Magnentius. Third Brass.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, diademed. Inscription as before.

*Reverse:* Soldier as before.

. . . . . CITAS REIPUBLIC. .

IX.—JULIANUS. Denarius, silver, A. D. 355—363.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, diademed.

FL CL IVLIANVS FP AVG

*Reverse:* a wreath inclosing

On the exergue PLV



X.—VALENTINIANUS. Third Brass, A. D. 364—375.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, diademed.

DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG

*Reverse:* Soldier with standard in his left hand, and holding a captive in his right.

On the exergue LVS  
GLORIA RO . . . . .

XI.—GRATIANUS. Third Brass, A.D. 367—383.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, diademed.  
DN GRATIANVS PF AVG

*Reverse:* Victory marching with palm branch and laurel crown. On the exergue TRP  
GLORIA ROMANORVM

XII.—THEODOSIUS. Third Brass, A.D. 379—395.

*Obverse:* Head of Emperor to the right, diademed.  
DN . . . ODOSIVS . . .

*Reverse:* Two winged figures holding wreaths.

With the foregoing data perhaps it may be allowed to wander a little way into the field of speculation, and hazard a conjecture upon this long buried Roman settlement. The entire absence of all weapons used exclusively for warfare, the circumstance that the ground adjacent no where presents the outline of trench or earth-work, remains which are seldom totally obliterated, seem to indicate that it was never occupied as a military post. Possibly these foundations have supported the villa of a wealthy settler, but as Mr. Beesley has well suggested, the aspect was not that usually selected, and it is hard to believe that the luxurious Roman knight coming from his own warmer climate into Britain, "penitus toto divisos orbe Britannos," would build his house towards the cold north-east. Nor have the discoveries hitherto made produced any proofs of former wealth. Had the building been the residence of a man of opulence or taste, some floors at least would have been laid in pattern with plain or colored *tessera*, the interior of the edifice would have been adorned in some parts with mural painting, of which traces would have shown themselves in the broken plaster, yet such tokens of former decoration are wanting. Nothing has been discovered hitherto to remove the idea that the old inhabitants were in a humble condition of life, and that they may have dwelt together either under one roof or in close adjoining habitations for successive generations, supporting themselves either by the chase, or by agricul-

ture, or some other industrial occupation. The small value of their coins, their bracelets made of bronze and bone ornamented with simple patterns, the plain and useful character of their pottery and implements, all indicate a poor community. Even the silver necklace with its glass beads, valuable from the very simplicity of its construction and from its elegance, was no unfitting ornament for the wife or daughter of a Roman peasant. And turning again to the evidences the earth has yielded up, we may further infer a settled and prolonged occupation. The foundations prove the existence of substantial buildings; the coins which bore witness to the poverty of the inhabitants, fix also the period of their residence. Apart from the solitary one of Elagabalus, their coins commence with the Emperor Constantius Chlorus, and end with Theodosius. This would give the Roman settlers about one hundred years of residence, and such a lengthened occupation will go far to account for the vast quantities of broken pottery and bones of animals which surrounded their habitations. What their employment was is yet to be told. The carpenter's compasses, the ladles with the molten metal, seem to show that some were mechanics working at their trade; of others, like their successors in modern Tingewick, it may be supposed that—

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,  
 Their furrows oft the stubborn glebe hath broke;  
 How jocund did they drive their teams afield,  
 How bowed the woods beneath their stubborn stroke.

But it is beyond the province of these notes to travel further away. Antiquarian studies have their uses beyond that of assisting history, or affording food for enquiry and speculation, or giving recreation by diverting the mind from the severer cares of life. It is salutary to stand upon a spot where Virgil's prophecy is fulfilled—

Scilicet et tempus veniet, cum finibus illis  
 Agricola, incurvo terram molitus aratro,  
 Exesa inveniet scabra rubigine pila:  
 Aut gravibus rastris galeas pulsabit inanes,

to think that where now the blade is springing up to the full ear and the joy of harvest, men and women once lived out their span of busy life with its hopes and fears, its successes and disappointments, its friendships and its rivalries, and to mark how, after they had disappeared, the hand of nature has silently buried all the relics of their sojourning, and

their place knoweth them no more. And it is profitable to remember as we walk over the fields and meadows of our County, and search for vestiges of the past in unfrequented places, that the Memorials of those long gone, who in their day were the conquerors of more than half the world, and colonized where they conquered, are often lying beneath our unconscious feet, their empire departed from them, their names forgotten, and the voice now left to them only that which tells of the vanity and decay of earthly possessions, in sunken foundations, in crumbling weapons, in broken vessels, in mouldering bones.

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