

NEWENDEN NOT ANDERIDA.

BY C. ROACH SMITH.

THAT certain earthworks on the Lossenham estate, in the parish of Newenden in Kent, represent the remains of the Anderida of the *Notitia*, is a belief that has been current from the time of Camden, (the first, apparently, who held and published it,) down to the present day. This belief has been entertained by eminent men, and endorsed by Societies, notwithstanding the strong antagonistic opinions, which deny the possibility of these earthworks ever having been able to answer the conditions requisite for a Roman fortified and permanent station or *castrum*, such as Anderida, upon the *Littus Saxonicum*, must have possessed.

The authorities, *pro* and *con*, are probably so well known, or at least so accessible, to the members of the Kent Archæological Society, that I need not even refer to them. Thus, I shall avoid transcribing an enormous amount of ingenious hypotheses, which have run into great length, chiefly because their propounders have neglected to take, as the basis of their arguments, a due consideration of what Anderida must have been; and also where it must have been situated, to explain its character and its position, as indicated by the *Notitia*.

Should it, however, be thought necessary to review the discussion, Mr. Holloway's *History of Romney Marsh\** may be consulted. The subject is there

\* London: J. Russell Smith, 1849.

elaborately treated, and illustrated by plans, and by an engraving of the earthworks at Newenden, which the author considers to be the vestiges of Anderida. When, in 1858, I printed a *Report on Excavations made upon the site of the Roman Castrum at Pevensey*, I overlooked Mr. Holloway's volume, and did not, therefore, refer to it. Indeed I was not then aware of the extent of what had been printed on the subject; but had I been, I doubt if I should have enlarged what I have written. I had not even visited Newenden, not thinking a personal survey of the earthworks necessary. During the present autumn, however, I found time to make a journey of two days across the Weald for that purpose.\* The exact position is where the river Rother divides Kent from Sussex; at the distance of about two miles from Rolvenden, in a straight line; and about a mile and a half from Newenden village, by Lossenham Manor House. The site is on the border of low meadow ground; and it is evident that, at some remote period, the sea, at high tides, flowed up to and filled a moat, now dry, which runs round the raised ground, called Castle Tolls, supposed to represent Anderida. These earthworks are probably of British origin, and are well adapted

\* I was accompanied by my friend Mr. John Harris, a member of the Society; and our excursion was accelerated by the hospitable attention of Mr. Henry Latter of Harbourne, and of Mr. James Selmes of Lossenham Manor. I have also to record a grateful remembrance to Mr. Rodmell of Hawkhurst, for shielding me from probably fatal results of a violent storm, during a long ride on the outside of an omnibus. The traveller in the Weald, unless he can command time, will often be compelled to recall to mind the days of stage coaches; and he will more clearly see why Shakespeare's "Franklin from the Wild" rested at Rochester on his road to London.

for a position of defence ; the elevated mounds affording also the advantage of a good look-out over the wide expanse of low ground, and for raising beacons and signals. For this purpose in all times they must have been important ; I only deny the possibility of their having been a Roman station, much less a permanent station, such as Anderida must have been.

The principal mounds cover about an acre and three quarters, exclusive of the moat. Mr. Selmes informs me that, many years since, he had the principal mound dug through to the base, cutting it completely in two ; and then he opened another trench, from the centre to the outside, at right angles to the first. He found "no trace either of pottery, coins, or building materials ; neither has he ever been able to find anything of the kind near the place. The great mound consisted simply of successive strata of earth, piled one upon the other."

Had the Romans ever occupied this position, for any length of time, there would have been abundant vestiges of their sojourn, such as are found, in some cases, within British *oppida*, not always of a military character ; but here, at Newenden, it has been contended that the Romans not merely settled, but erected, or used, the earthworks, as one of the great stations for a large body of soldiers, on the Saxon shore ; a station that must have been a walled *castrum*, well provided with barracks, and all the conveniences for supporting health and life, and for repelling the cruel rigours of northern winters, so trying and fatal to natives of milder climates. My argumentative position is that, even if the earthworks at Newenden had been of a far more important kind than what they really are, they could never have sheltered Roman soldiers, in winter quarters.

It is remarkable that Camden, and his followers, did not look for Anderida where it is placed in the *Notitia*, which alone gives the name and index to its position. It stands between *Portus Lemanis* and *Portus Adurnus*, which were, the one at Lymne, and the other near Shoreham on the Adur. All of these stations, with the exception of the most southernly, are clearly indicated by existing ruins; and those at Pevensey, which must represent Anderida, are as remarkable as any, from their grandeur and good preservation. Here was placed, according to the *Notitia*, a *numerus* of the *Abulci*, under a commander or *præpositus*. A *numerus* does not express any determinate number of men; but there is every reason to believe it indicates fully five hundred, or six hundred, and probably more, which the *castrum* at Pevensey was fully competent to shelter; but, for such a number, or, indeed, for any number, the earthworks at Newenden were inadequate in every way.

The account of Anderida, given by Henry of Huntingdon, which I have printed in my "Report" referred to above, cannot be admitted as evidence against the claims of Pevensey; but, on the contrary, no other place can be suggested with the slightest confidence. The great Roman *castrum* must not be subjected to fulfil every assertion made by a writer of so late a date, with imperfect information; but he says nothing, if certain allowance be made, inconsistent with the calamitous fate of Anderida.