

TRACES OF ROMAN OCCUPATION IN AND NEAR MAIDSTONE.

BY CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON.

THE learned Camden, in his *Britannia*, sought to identify Maidstone with *Vagniacæ*, a Roman station mentioned by Antoninus as forming one stage on the second *Iter*, or route, given in his Itinerary. He says it stood twenty-eight miles distant from London, between *Noviomagus* and *Durobrivæ* (Rochester), on the road to *Durovernum* (Canterbury). He founded its identification mainly upon a fancied resemblance between the Saxon name of Maidstone and the word *Vagniacæ*.

We cannot endorse Camden's conjecture, although it was adopted by many learned writers after him; but modern research has proved that the whole district around Maidstone was largely occupied and cultivated by the Romans, who also worked stone quarries in the neighbourhood. From Upchurch, Rochester, and Strood, as far as Tunbridge, they seem to have settled, on both banks of the Medway,* throughout its entire course; and the name Pencester, an early mediæval equivalent for Penschurst, suggests the presence of the Romans, even there.

Many ancient place-names no doubt contain memorials, unsuspected by us, of Roman occupation; but around Maidstone we find several names which are in other districts known to be associated with Roman remains. Such names

* The *Peutingerian Tables* mention a station called *Madus* on a road from Canterbury westward. Of this, Mr. Gordon Hills says, "*Madus* may be conceived to be the Medway; but the distance goes two miles and a half beyond the Medway, on the direct Roman London road through Rochester; and as much beyond the town of Maidstone, if it be supposed to have gone there by branching off at Sittingbourne. It may have been some place beyond the Medway, at Cobham or Higham; or if it must absolutely be on the Medway, then at Barming or Teston, above Maidstone" (*Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. xxxiv., p. 300).

are *Buckland* and *Boughton*, originally written as *Boc-land* and *Boc-ton*; *Stone Street*, and *Week Street*, containing a corrupted form of *Wyke*; *Whitehall Place* occurs in the eastern portion of the town, not far from the Vicarage and Mote Park. Where the name *Whitehall* is really ancient, it is often found to be associated with Roman remains. I cannot ascertain that it has clung for many centuries to this site in *Maidstone*; but probably it has.

Within *Maidstone* there are three sites adjacent to each other on the west bank of the *Medway*, to which the significant name of *Buckland* still clings; and Roman remains have been found at one of them. From the time of our Old English or Saxon forefathers, *Maidstone* has consisted of at least three "boroughs" or townships, which bore suggestive names. One being on the west bank of the river, was called *Westree*; other two, on the eastern bank, were the boroughs of *Stone* and *Wyke*.

The late Rev. Beale Poste has drawn attention to the significance of the latter name. Writing, a quarter of a century ago, in the first volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* (p. 161), he said, "There must have been an ancient *vicus*, that is village or town, of the Romans at the spot; for it is not to be believed that the Saxons ever gave the name, except in reference to the Latin term *vicus*, before existing at the place." Mr. Poste made a most commendable effort to fix the position of *Vagniacæ* at *Maidstone*; and suggested for it a site on the *Sandling Road*, opposite the lodge south-west of the grounds of *Park House*. His paper is full of interest, and abounds with information, most carefully put together.* He believed that in summer only, or chiefly, did the Romans use the short route of the *Watling Street* (alluded to in the third *Iter* of *Antoninus*) from *London* to *Rochester* through *Deptford*, *Welling*, *Dartford*, and *Southfleet*. His opinion was that, as this route crossed three estuaries of the *Thames*, it might often in winter be difficult or impassable. He therefore suggested that, in bad weather, a longer route was adopted, which passed through *Keston* (where Mr. Poste would locate *Noviomagus*), beside *Oldbury*

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, I., 154-175.

Camp, over Wrotham-Heath, to a point, nearly four miles beyond that Heath, where it branched off in two directions. One branch, said Mr. Poste, crossed the Medway at Aylesford. The other branch, he believed, led down to Radford, beside Throt Wharf, within the parish of Maidstone, half a mile north of the town, and a quarter of a mile north of the Barracks. It emerged upon the Sandling Road, opposite the Lodge at the south-west corner of the grounds of Park House. The state of the tide, or of flood-waters, would dominate the traveller's choice of these alternate fords; and their double character, said Mr. Poste, would account for the plural form of the name *Vagniacæ*.

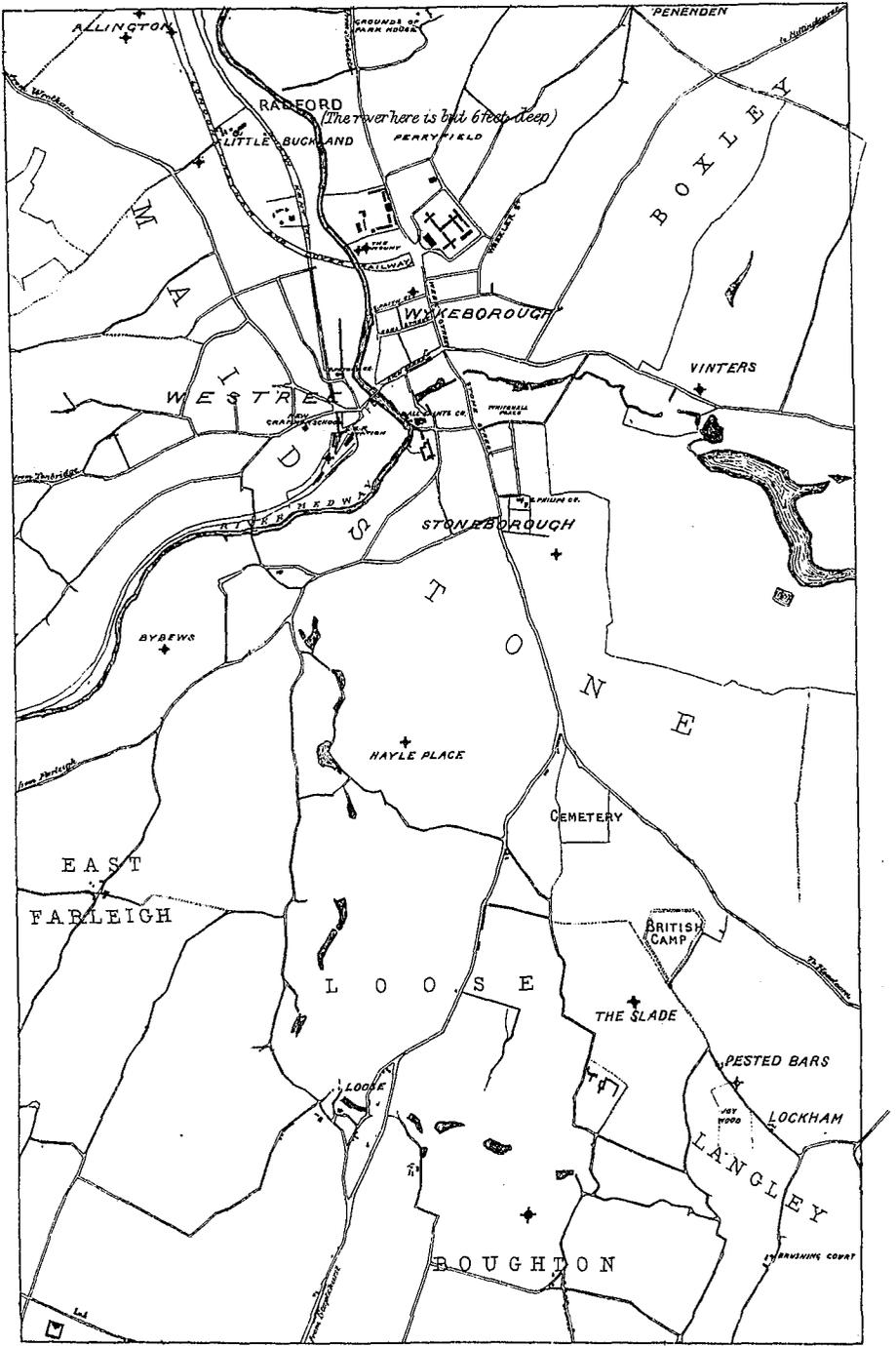
Much as Mr. Poste's paper is to be valued, we cannot endorse his views respecting *Vagniacæ*. Mr. Roach Smith has admirably summed up the results of modern research, in an able paper furnished by him to the tenth volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*. He says, "Although it appears to me that we are more justified in placing *Vagniacæ* near Springhead, yet I have no doubt a Roman road ran near or through the site of Maidstone probably direct from London to the *Portus Lemanis*; that it branched off in one direction to Rochester, in another towards Loose and Sutton Valence; and that it had vicinal ways, as, indeed, all the main roads must have had."*

Mr. Gordon Hills has recently published valuable notes on the Antonine Itinerary, in which he also places *Vagniacæ* upon the ancient Watling Street. He says, "At nine miles from Rochester, on the line of the Watling Street, in the woods of Swanscombe Parish, is a singular collection of earthworks called on the Ordnance maps Clubber-Labber. As the public road is here diverted for several miles from the Watling Street, these remains are little known, and rarely visited. I take them to be the site of *Vagniacæ*."†

Nevertheless, Mr. Beale Poste's researches, and his collection of local facts, are of great value. His paper should be consulted by all who take interest in the subject. From old documents he hunted out the name and site of Rad-

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, X., 171-2.

† *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. xxxiv., p. 306.



H. Bensted.

THE MARK ◆ INDICATES ROMAN REMAINS.

SITES OF ROMAN REMAINS FOUND IN OR NEAR MAIDSTONE.

ford, where he found the river to be now twenty feet deep. Yet it may possibly have been forded there by the Romans; as the road to Radford passes close beside the remains of a Roman villa at Little Buckland. The name *Radford* may imply that the Old English, or Saxons, used that ford, as the direct passage across the river, for all who desired to travel from the west bank to any great Kentish gathering, council (*Ræd*), or moot, held on Penenden Heath. The highway from this ford, when it reached the Sandling Road, or Wyke Street, passed close beside "Perryfield," the name of which suggests the site of a Saxon "bury," a fortified dwelling, or earthwork. Mr. Poste's enumeration of ancient roads* which formerly converged towards Perryfield and Radford, deserves to be remembered, although we need not dwell upon it here.

Within Wyke borough, which comprised the northern portion of Maidstone, extensive discoveries of Roman remains have been made, from time to time. On high ground close beside the river, near the Chatham and Dover Railway Company's bridge across the Medway, at a place called "The Mount," within the limits of an ancient Fair-meadow formerly called Carings, extensive remains of a Roman building were found in 1843. The late Mr. Thomas Charles, of Chillington House, excavated a portion of the site, and discovered the less interesting offices of this dwelling, extending over a large space. The south wall, of ragstone, was supported by thick buttresses, which Mr. Charles was perplexed to account for. He considered that the building, in its entirety, covered a large area, but we must not stop to descant upon its details.† A late Gordian coin among its ruins gave some clue to the date of its occupation.

More towards the east, yet still in the northern part of the town, a small image of Mercury and two Roman coins (large brass) were dug up (*circa* 1827) near the site of Wheeler Street, in the garden of a solicitor named Lam-

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, I., 163. One, crossing the hills near Boarley Farm; another from Boxley through the grounds of Park House; a third from Detling and Sittingbourne now diverted.

† See his account and plan of the excavations in *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. ii., pp. 86-88.

prey, on the Boxley Road, about one quarter of a mile out of Maidstone.* A cemetery, mentioned by Mr. Charles as being found in 1836, on the east side of Wheeler Street, seems to have been Saxon rather than Roman; yet a two-handled urn was dug up there. This probably was part of the same cemetery which Mr. Poste speaks of as being opened in 1823, when foundations were dug for a Lancastrian School in Wheeler Street.*

Nearer the heart of the town, Roman urns have been dug up in St. Faith Street, towards its upper end. In Earl Street also (of old called Bullock Lane), several Roman urns and an entire skeleton were found, in 1715, at one of the angles of Pudding Lane.† Coins of no less than eleven Roman Emperors have been found, in the town itself, or in the river Len, at various times.‡ The wide period embraced by the reigns of these Emperors affords some clue to the length of time during which Maidstone was occupied by the Romans. It indicates about three centuries, *circa* A.D. 75-380.

We have hitherto dealt with the northern side of Maidstone, on the eastern bank of the river; let us now cross the river and examine traces of Roman occupation, in the corresponding northern district, upon the western bank. It is worthy of remark that the northern district of the town and parish (on both banks of the Medway) seems to have been the site of the principal portion of the Roman buildings. This fact however simply corroborates the silent but suggestive testimony of the name "Wyke," borne by the northern borough, indicating the site of the Roman *vicus*. When we come, by-and-bye, to examine the southern district around Stone Street in Stone Borough, we shall find traces of Roman buildings, but they are separated by a very considerable area from the "*vicus*" on the north.

Crossing the river, then, to examine the north-western

* *Archæologia*, xxx., 535-7 (in a letter from Mr. Charles to Mr. Roach Smith, 1842), and *Archæologia Cantiana*, I., 165-6, where Mr. Poste states that the figure of Mercury came into the possession of Mr. Lamprey's nephew, Captain Skinner, R.M.

† Newton's *History of Maidstone*, p. 6; and *Archæologia Cantiana*, I., 164.

‡ *Archæologia*, xxx., 535-7. Coins of Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Gordian, Carausius, Allectus, Constantine, Constans, Constantine junior, and Gratian.

district of Maidstone, and its immediate vicinity, we stop first at Little Buckland. About one quarter of a mile from the Rad-ford, and close beside the road which led thereto, the foundations of an extensive Roman villa were found in a cherry orchard, on Little Buckland Farm. Mr. Beale Poste says that Roman coins are stated to have been found in the vicinity of the site.*

Three quarters of a mile north-west of Rad-ford, Mr. Charles, in 1844, noticed that portions of masonry, from another Roman villa, were being removed. He rescued and preserved some fragments of its hypocaust.† This villa stood on the west side of Allington Castle; and the Castle road was frequently mended with bits of Roman tiles obtained from the ruins. Three years later, in a large stone quarry, the surface soil of which had originally stood as high as seventy feet above the Medway, a Roman "tile-tomb" was uncovered. It was situated in Allington, near the boundary of Maidstone parish, about 100 yards eastward from the site of the villa just mentioned, and about 220 yards from the Medway.‡

So far as we can ascertain, no other remains of Roman buildings have been found in this immediate neighbourhood. If, however, we turn back towards the town, still remaining within Westree, we find further traces of Roman occupation; although of a different kind. Not far from Maidstone Bridge, a tiny little bronze image of Sylvanus, only two inches long, was found sixty years ago, together with a Roman lamp, in a garden beside the ancient chapel of the "Hospital of St. Peter of the Newark" (now St. Peter's Church). A sketch of this figure was given by Mr. Beale Poste in the first volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, on page 166.

Indications of extensive Roman cemeteries have been found still further south, in Westree. On the South-Eastern Railway line, some distance south-west of the station, and nearer the engine-house, portions of a cemetery were uncovered. This would be about 500 yards south-west of All

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, I., 156.

† *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. ii., 88.

‡ *Ibidem*, vol. iv., 65. See, also, Mr. Roach Smith's observations, in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XI., 116.

Saints' Church, as the crow flies. Oddly enough, a similar discovery seems also to have been made at a site about 500 yards north-west of All Saints' Church. Mr. J. M. Russell, in his recently issued and commendable *History of Maidstone*, mentions that 24 human skeletons, and about 150 Roman urns and coins, were dug up by men who trenched a piece of ground at the back of the present Grammar School. These cemeteries indicate the course of a Roman road, on the west bank of the river. Possibly it led towards the bridge at East Farleigh, where I believe that the Romans probably had a passage of the river (whether ford or bridge) which was of as much, or of more, importance than the Rad-ford at Maidstone. Towards it ran a direct road, across Barming Heath. The Roman remains found in East Farleigh* shew that its site was much occupied during the four earliest centuries of our era; and similar traces have been found at Barming,† to which place, or to East Farleigh, the remarks of Mr. Gordon Hills, already quoted in a note, respecting the Roman station *Madus*, may apply.

We must, however, return now to the east bank of the river, and examine the southern branch of the town, around Stone Street, in Stone borough. Undoubtedly, the chief Roman road in or near Maidstone ran thither from Rochester, and its memory is perpetuated and enshrined in the names of Week (*i.e.* Wyke) Street and Stone Street. It probably passed on through the site of the modern Cemetery of Maidstone, traversed Mangravel Wood, skirted a British Camp beyond, passed Pested Bars and Lockham, made towards Amberfield and Chart Hill, and joined the modern Headcorn road, near a place called The Harbour in Sutton Valence. This route must be taken as simply conjectural, in its latter portion; future research in the district may enable better traces of its direction to be obtained.

Far removed from the Roman buildings discovered in Wyke and Westree, we find in Stone borough, near Upper Stone Street, the foundations of a handsomer villa than any

* Urns in the new Vicarage garden; a villa at Combe Town or West Stone; a vase or urn at Gallants; and other remains.

† Mr. George Payne has described these discoveries in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XIII., 169-70.

yet explored in or near Maidstone. Its extensive basement-walls were found beneath the surface of Mr. Fauchon's hop-garden, at no great distance, south-east, from St. Philip's Vicarage. Mr. Hubert Bensted made an admirable plan of its foundations, shewing the various rooms; one with an apsidal end, and another circular, forming a tower. Pavements also were preserved, and indicated on his plan, which was inserted in the tenth volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, where the villa was admirably described by Mr. Roach Smith.

The ragstone used in building the walls of that villa proves that the neighbouring quarries were worked by the Romans. According to their custom, in places where stone abounded, the main highways leading from the quarries to Maidstone were, no doubt, paved with blocks of ragstone. Hence, probably, came the name of Stone Street, given by the Saxons in wonder at a highway so laboriously constructed. Accustomed, as our old English or Saxon forefathers were, to wooden or wattle dwellings, they would naturally give to the site of such a paved street and of such a noble villa as this, and others probably in its vicinity, the name of Stone Borough. That name still survives, a fossil word, bearing unobtrusive testimony to the early civilization and skill of Roman settlers in this district.

Further afield, at Vinters a Roman burial-place was found, about 150 years ago;* at Hayle Place, cinerary urns and a Samian patera were dug up in 1834;† south-east of Loose an important Roman villa was excavated in Slade field, on Brushing Court Farm, more than forty years ago.‡ Thus, on the southern or Stone side of Maidstone, extensive traces of the Romans are found, in groups completely distinct from those discovered in the northern, or Wyke portion.

The original course, southward, of the Roman continuation of Stone Street, has been clearly indicated by the discovery of an important cemetery, about two miles beyond Maidstone, at a point towards which converge the boundaries of three parishes, Maidstone, Langley, and Boughton Mon-

* Newton's *History of Maidstone*, p. 5.

† *Archæologia*, vol. xxx., 535-7.

‡ *Archæologia*, vol. xxix.

chelsea. The fork now formed by the modern roads to Loose and Headcorn does not represent the course of the old Roman road. The Roman cemetery, to which we allude, stands about midway between those two modern roads. The original Roman road runs close beside the cemetery, being only eleven yards distant from its south-west wall; for this Roman cemetery has the unusual peculiarity of being surrounded by a stone wall.* It is situated about half a mile from the Roman villa in Slade field, at Brushing, and it lies within a wood, between Pested Bars and Lockham Farm; not many yards south-east of the Bars, but a little further distant from the Farm. The woodland close beside it, on the opposite or southern side of the Roman road, is called Joy Wood.

It was discovered in 1842 by the late Mr. Clement Taylor Smythe, an accomplished lawyer, who was for many years one of the leading men of Maidstone. He devoted much time to the exploration of this cemetery, and yet further time and care to the elucidation and description of his discovery. In 1847 he prepared for the Society of Antiquaries an elaborate account of the cemetery. That wealthy body, however, failed to print it. The bare fact of his discovery of this cemetery was mentioned in several Archæological publications;† but during Mr. Smythe's lifetime not one of them printed his paper. Some years after his death, his sister through her nephew, the Rev. W. W. Bird, entrusted the manuscript to Mr. Roach Smith, to prepare it for the pages of *Archæologia Cantiana*. Time passed on; the manuscript (which contains three separate versions of Mr. Smythe's discovery, together with much other matter, some elucidatory and some irrelevant) comprised seventy sheets of foolscap. Mr. Roach Smith at first proposed to himself to re-write the account entirely. At length, however, he abandoned that idea, and on the 13th of July, 1874, Mr. Roach Smith handed over the whole manuscript, *en masse*, to the present writer, as Editor of *Archæologia Cantiana*,

* Mr. Roach Smith, in his *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. i., 191, has recorded Mr. Noble's discovery of a small walled cemetery at Barming.

† *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, ii., 86; *Archæological Journal*, xx., 392; *Archæologia Cantiana*, II., 39.

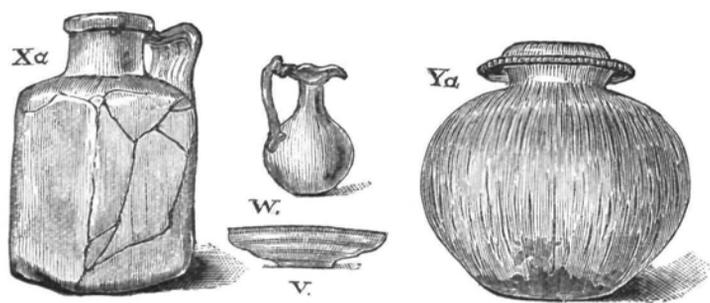
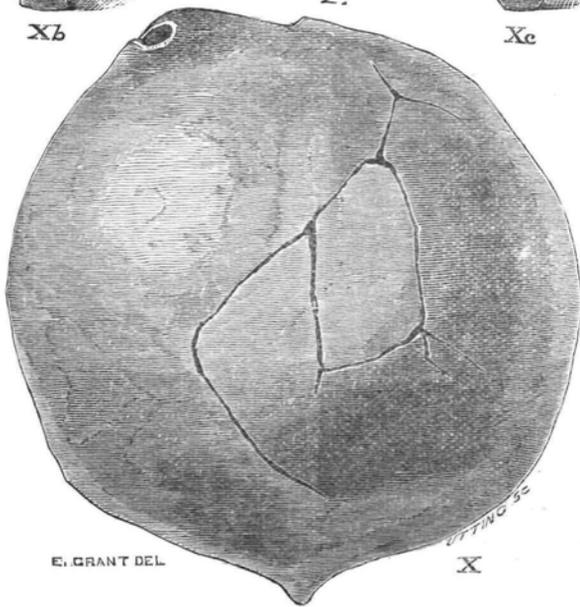
suggesting that a portion, prepared by Mr. Smythe for the Society of Antiquaries, might be printed, but that some digressions should be omitted.

As the manuscript was so voluminous, a time of leisure was absolutely needful for its due examination; and as 32 years had elapsed since the discoveries were made, there was manifestly no urgent need for haste. The meeting of the Kent Archæological Society at Maidstone, in August 1882, seemed, however, to afford a suitable opportunity for recalling the memory of Mr. Smythe's discovery; and the present writer resolutely set himself to face the task of wading through Mr. Smythe's manuscript, and of preparing it for the press.

He has now much pleasure in laying it before the readers of *Archæologia Cantiana*, premising that many of the Roman vessels dug up by Mr. Smythe, from the walled cemetery, are carefully preserved in the Charles Museum, at Chillington House, Maidstone, where they can be inspected by any one.

Among them will be found two large, round wine-jars, or *amphoræ*, of earthenware, which contained the cremated deposits that are numbered 3 and 6 on the plan of this cemetery. The base of each *amphora* tapered away to a point. They were 24 inches deep, and their widest diameter was 21 inches. They could not stand upright without support; consequently, in the Museum, circular frames of iron have been made for them, with legs. To prepare these wine-jars, for use as funeral urns, their necks and handles were broken off, and a large aperture was cut symmetrically in the top of each. In one *amphora* (X) this aperture was made square, and each side of it measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; through it the cremated deposit No. 3, enclosed in a square jug of glass (Xa), was introduced into the *amphora*. In the other *amphora* (Y) the aperture was made larger, and perfectly circular; in order that a large round glass vessel (Ya) might pass through it, to enshrine a cremated deposit, numbered 6 on the plan.

The square-mouthed *amphora* (X) is so put together as to be nearly perfect. Within it was the vessel Xa, $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, containing the calcined bones of the deceased person.



The body of this jug is square in plan ($5\frac{5}{8}$ inches square, and $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches high); above the square body rises a neck 3 inches high, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter; with a rimmed mouth $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Attached, to the neck and shoulder, is a broad reeded handle, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, and varying in width from $2\frac{3}{8}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Two bronze vessels also found in *amphora* X are still preserved in Maidstone Museum. One of them is an octagonal jug (Xb), 7 inches high, from which a hinged lid has been torn away, leaving a sufficient trace of the hinge on the mouth, above the handle. The diameter of this octagonal bronze jug is 4 inches at its widest part, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the narrowest part of the neck, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ at its mouth. Its handle is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch distant from the narrowest part of the neck. Another bronze vessel (Xc)* is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and has two handles, each 4 inches long. The diameter of this vase is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches at its largest part, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches at its mouth, and $2\frac{3}{8}$ at base.

Into *amphora* Y, through the large round aperture cut in its top, was inserted a large globular hollow vessel (Ya) of glass, $36\frac{3}{4}$ inches in widest circumference, containing the calcined bones of cremated deposit No. 6 on the plan. This fine circular vessel stands $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches high; and its diameter is $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches at mouth, $11\frac{1}{4}$ at centre, and 6 inches at base. An erroneous memorandum in the Museum suggests that with this globular vessel (Ya) there was, in *amphora* Y, a large square jug of glass, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches square in its body, labelled No. 19 in the Museum. Mr. Smythe's description of his discoveries shews that this is a mistake.

That jug, No. 19, the largest of the three preserved from this cemetery, seems to have contained calcined bones from a cremated deposit No. 5 on the plan. Although Mr. Smythe speaks of these square glass vessels as being all of the same size, the fact is that no two of them are exactly alike in size. They vary in height from $11\frac{1}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and their bodies vary from $5\frac{5}{8}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches square. Together with that jug which contained deposit No. 5, was a *patera*, or

* The Museum labels at present on these vessels are :—on Xa, No. 20; on Xb, Case 7, No. 320; on Xc, Case 7, No. 319.

plate of lovely sea-green glass, which stood $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch high, its width was $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches at base, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the top of its broad sloping rim.

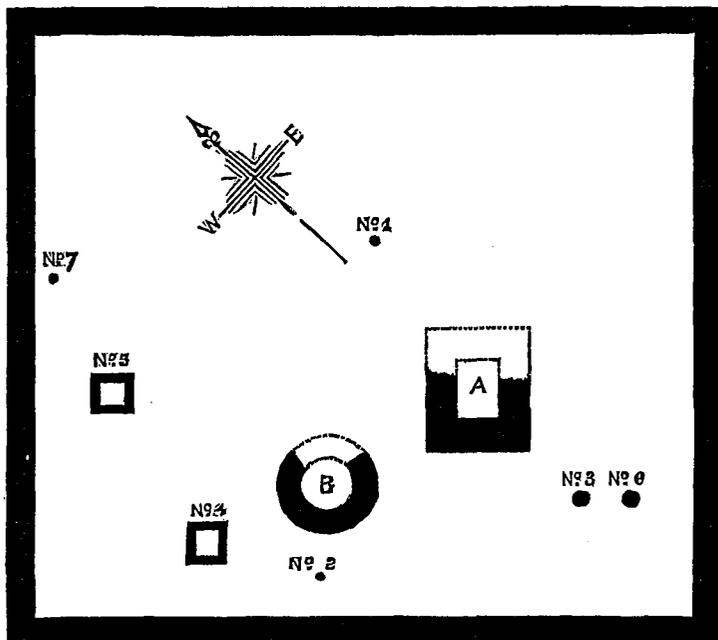
Preserved in the Museum, and numbered 18, there is a third jug of glass, 6 inches square at base, with broad, reeded handle, and it is probable that it contained the cremated deposit which is numbered 4 on Mr. Smythe's plan. This and other glass vessels there preserved cannot be identified by means of Mr. Smythe's description. Perhaps they come from another cemetery, which he discovered at Sutton Valence. The most beautiful of these is a jug (Z), which stood 10 inches high before its foot was broken off. It has a handle, 6 inches long, with a further projection of nearly half an inch above its mouth. The mouth is 3 inches wide, but the neck tapers down to a diameter of only 1 inch; it then swells again until the body of the vessel attains a diameter of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, whence it once more tapers down to three quarters of an inch, but it then again swells out to form a foot, which is 3 inches wide. The elegant contours of this vessel cannot easily be surpassed. Its Museum label now bears the number 167, Case 5.

Three small low glass jugs, of varying size but about 4 inches high, and nearly as broad as they are long, have the broad rims of their mouths turned up and over until their edges meet near the lip, so as to lessen the outflow of liquid. The effect of the upturned rims is very pretty, and similar to that seen in many Etruscan vases. The Museum label on (W) is No. 155, Case 5.

A fifth vessel (V) is somewhat like a deep saucer, of glass, with its rim curved over inward. It stands $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch high; its base is $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches broad; and its mouth $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the clear. The section of its outer contours shews three or four bulgings, or bold convex curves.

In taking the measurements of these various vessels I was much assisted by Mr. Bartlett, the Curator of the Maidstone Museum. For the accompanying sketches of them I am indebted to the kindness of Miss Emily Grant, of Maidstone.

W. A. SCOTT ROBERTSON.



SCALE 24 FEET TO ONE INCH.

A WALLED ROMAN CEMETERY IN JOY WOOD, LOCKHAM, NEAR MAIDSTONE.

BY THE LATE

CLEMENT TAYLOR SMYTHE.

WHEN the surface earth was removed, the enclosure presented the form of a quadrangle, about 80 feet square. I proceeded to trench its whole area and to grub up the old roots; and in the course of this work I uncovered the remains of [A] a square tower, the ruins of [B] a circular tower, and at seven places funeral deposits. Two of them in large amphoræ, two in stone cists, and two in common earthen urns, and fragments of small urns, pateræ, etc., which will be described in detail in the order in which they were found. The plan will shew the site of each.

The boundary wall, of quadrangular form, measured 77 feet by 85 feet. Its corners pointed approximately to the four cardinal points of the compass. The entrance was probably on the north-east side, in the wall of which there were some indications of a gateway. On that side of the enclosure were, also, the remains of

the funeral fires. The north-east and south-west walls, 85 feet long, ran on the south-west side parallel with the Roman road, which was 33 feet distant. The top of the wall was covered with earth and decayed vegetable matter to a depth of 6 inches. The remains of the walls averaged about 1 foot in height from the original surface of the earth, on all four sides, except at the south-east corner, where the wall was defective down to the footing, in length from 16 to 20 feet. The wall was of a uniform width of 3 feet, and was built of the indigenous green sandstone called Kentish Rag, faced on both sides with hammered headers about 4 inches square, and from 4 to 6 inches long, which were laid with strong mortar, composed of lime intermixed with sand and charcoal, in regular courses above the footing of the wall. Beneath the surface, and below the footing, a trench had been originally dug, 3 feet 6 inches in width and 2 feet in depth, and the foundation wall below the first course was of Kentish Rag stones of irregular sizes and forms, varying from 6 inches to 2 feet, which were carefully laid in, and (as Thorneycraft and the other workmen described it) dovetailed, and the interstices were filled with earth dug out of the trench, and rammed in, forming a compact mass very difficult to remove. At some parts of the wall the foundation was from 6 inches to a foot deeper; but all of the same character. In the area within the walls the earth rose higher at the south corner, and along the south-west side where the towers and the other tombs were; about half the enclosure towards the north-east had never been disturbed. Thorneycraft thought there were some indications of an entrance gateway in the north-east wall. On reference to the plan the situation of the tombs will be found indicated by the letters A, B, and by numbers 1 to 7 in reference to the following description in the order in which they were found.

SQUARE TOMB, A.

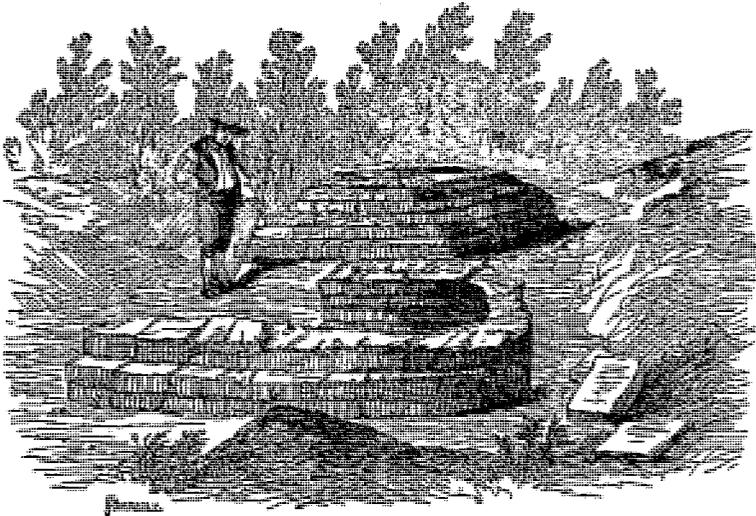
The ruins of the square tower, which stood 20 feet distant from each of the walls on the south-east and south-west sides, and near the south corner of the enclosure, consisted of about half the base or lower part of the building; the south-west side measuring about 12 feet in length, and the north-west and south-east sides from 7 to 8 feet in length, varying from 3 to 5 feet in height. The other portion of the remains of the base of the tower was destroyed, between twenty and thirty years before, by Mr. Cole, the owner of the wood. The walls being prejudicial to the growth of the underwood, he took a large quantity of stones away; but, finding the work tedious and expensive, he abandoned it. At that time the contents of the tomb were probably disturbed and destroyed. In clearing out the earth from the interior of the tower, Mr. Roach Smith found fragments of Roman pottery, and part of a large globular-shaped glass vessel, similar to one (*Ya*) found afterwards in another tomb, and described below. The foundation walls below the original surface of the ground were left entire, not having been disturbed when Mr. Cole removed a portion of the upper walls.

The base of the tower measured on the outside 12 feet 6 inches, on the north-east and south-west; 14 feet on the other sides; and 4 feet 6 inches by 6 feet within. The foundation walls were 2 feet 6 inches deep, and consisted of rough Rag stones of various sizes at the bottom; upon which was a layer of strong cement, composed of lime and sand, 9 inches thick, forming a compact mass, the upper surface and sides of which had been smoothed and shaped whilst in a liquid state. On this were laid rough Rag stones of various sizes, in random work, in similar cement. The thickness of the walls was 4 feet. The wall was carried up above the surface of the ground to the height of 1 foot, by two courses of Rag stone headers laid in fine cement, and of 4 feet in thickness; above which the walls were contracted to 3 feet 6 inches, having a set-off of 6 inches in width running round the whole building. They were constructed of regular courses of Rag stone headers laid in cement. The bottom, or floor, of the interior was covered with large masses of stalagmite.

This tower must have been lofty. The ruins of its upper walls, which appeared to have been thrown down by violence, lay in large quantities close under the remaining walls, although Mr. Cole had carried away many tons of stones from this building. I may observe that Rag stone is not found on the spot, but was all brought from a quarry (still open) about half a mile off. This fact, Thorneycraft, who had been accustomed to work in the quarries, ascertained by comparing the stones. On the outside of the south-west side of the tower, which fronted to the Roman road, among the stones thrown from the upper part and close to the foot of the building, was found a small altar-shaped tablet formed of terra cotta, which had evidently been inserted in the wall of the tower. It had been formed with a rough and unequal back for that purpose. The upper part of the tablet is ornamented with a Greek pattern; the face had been covered with pink or red cement overlaid with yellow, on which were the remains of lines and characters painted blue. They are much defaced, and so little of the surface has been preserved, that it is not possible to decipher them.

CIRCULAR TOMB, B.

The ruins of the circular tower stood 10 feet from the boundary wall facing the Roman road, about midway between the south and west corners of the enclosure. They were covered with earth, and upon clearing the ground away it was found that a portion of the wall on the north-east side had been removed. There remained about three-fourths of the circular walls, which stood about 2 feet or 2½ feet above the original surface of the ground. This round tower measured 11 feet 6 inches in diameter on the outer side, and 5 feet within. The walls, which were 3 feet thick at the base, were contracted at 1 foot above the ground to 2 feet 9 inches, having a set-off of 3 inches running round the building. The foundation was laid at 2 feet below the surface, 3 feet wide, and consisted of Kentish Rag stones of irregular sizes, in random work, laid in very fine



VIEW OF THE CIRCULAR TOMB, AS SEEN FROM THE WEST, WITH THE SQUARE TOMB BEYOND IT.

mortar or cement. The sand used was bank sand, and finer than any in the other buildings. The wall above the surface, up to the set-off, consisted of two courses of hammered Rag stone headers of irregular sizes, varying from 6 to 15 inches long, by 3 to 4 inches wide, laid in cement on the outer face; but the interior of the wall had been grouted. The upper part of the building was of similar construction. In the walls were large quantities of a very hard blue mortar or cement.

The exterior of this tomb had been covered with cement, and ornamented with engaged columns and pilasters, the whole being coloured. The lower part of the wall to the set-off, 1 foot high, was covered with cement mixed with powdered tile, 1 inch thick, of a pink colour. Above the set-off the wall was covered with cement, and painted in stucco in small squares of a reddish-brown colour, and divided by broad lines of yellowish-white or cream colour, with furrows, made by some blunt instrument before the cement was dry, along the middle of the lines, and coloured red, the divisions forming a pattern similar to modern pointed plaster work; this ornament which was carried round the building was about 2 feet in height. Above rose the engaged semi-columns and pilasters from small square bases. Upon examining the fragments of stucco which were found among the ruins it appeared that the upper walls of the tomb were painted in stucco, the ground colour being a light green, the engaged columns and pilasters red, and their small square bases of blue.

In the interior of the circular tomb, in the lowest part of it, were found portions of a human skeleton; but the contents had evidently been disturbed and partly removed. We found the lower jaw bone

with the teeth in it, the atlas, some portion of the spine, rib bones, and a few others. Mr. Thomas Charles and Dr. Bromet examined them, and found that the shortness of the jaw bone, the teeth, and the smallness of the bones indicated a young child.

There was a great mass of stones, tiles, and fragments of cement and stucco spread around the building, shewing that this, as well as the square tower, had been destroyed by violence, and that it must have been of considerable height. There was no appearance of timber having been used in the lower parts of either of the towers for floors or other purposes, and all remains of roof timbers had disappeared; but there were many of the roofing tiles, some of which were long, with their edges turned up on two sides, and others were hollow semi-circular tiles, one of which spanned over and covered the upturned edges of each pair of adjacent long tiles. The hollows were filled up with cement or mortar.

Cremated Deposit, No. 1 on the Plan.

On this spot were found the remains of the funeral fires at a foot and a half below the present surface, strewn with ashes and charcoal. Among them fragments of urns and burnt bones. Some of the pottery was of the thin black ware, embossed with dogs and other animals in full chase.

Cremated Deposit, No. 2.

On the spot, between the circular tomb and the boundary wall, a few feet under the surface of the earth, was found a red unglazed bottle with a handle; beneath it was an urn, of dark unglazed earth (containing burnt bones and ashes), which was standing in a patera of Samian ware, with the maker's name in it.

Cremated Deposit, No. 3.

At about 7 feet from the south corner of the square tomb we found that the earth had been moved to a greater depth than at other places. Here we discovered many large Rag stones, thrown in loosely, and fragments of cement, and one large piece of Headcorn or Petworth marble. About 6 feet from the surface we came to a Roman tile 9 inches square. Under it there was a second tile, which had been placed over the mouth of (X) a large amphora of unglazed reddish earth, measuring 1 foot 9 inches in diameter at the middle, and 2 feet in depth, capable of holding many gallons. The neck and handles of the amphora had been taken off, and a regularly-formed square hole had been cut in it to admit the contents. Within it were a large glass vessel quite perfect and several urns were found. The glass vessel (Xa) was of square outline with a reeded handle; it measured $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches square. It was filled with burnt human bones and ashes. The bones of the cranium were uppermost, and reached to the neck of the vase. The other vessels within the amphora were an earthen libation vessel, with

handle, of a light red colour, unglazed; two bronze urns, one (Xc) with two handles, the other (Xb) with one handle, fragments of a small glass vessel, and the remains of an iron lamp much decomposed. To the smallest bronze vase there was still adhering a substance of a coarse texture resembling linen cloth, probably asbestos. The amphora, in which these were contained, was broken by the pressure of the earth, and it appeared to have been broken soon after its deposit there; but it had not collapsed. The pieces were carefully taken out, and have since been firmly put together.

Cremated Deposit, No. 4.

On Monday, 28th November, 1842, the workmen having met with another tomb, I went to the wood and found that they had just come down to the neck of a bronzed vase and to a glass vessel, which had been broken by their injudicious use of the iron probe. They said that, at about 4 feet below the surface, they met with Kentish Rag stones placed irregularly; upon clearing these away they came (to use their description) to a square dome of Rag stone laid regularly but without mortar, upon removing which they came again to earth which had been previously moved, and which they were throwing out of the hole when I arrived. This tomb was a cist of 3 feet 2 inches in length by 3 feet in width; the side walls (1 foot deep and 1 foot wide) were constructed of Rag stone headers (the best that had been found in any part of the walls) laid in cement, in regular courses. Into this cist the earth had been cast after the deposit had been made, and we found it very difficult to remove; the depth, from the surface of the ground to the bottom of the cist, was about 6 feet; allowing for the accumulated soil, we may suppose it to have been about 5 feet below the surface at the time of its formation. The contents of the cist were:—(1) A small bronzed vessel with one handle, similar to the smallest one found in the amphora; it was much decayed, the bottom and handle having fallen off. (2) A large square glass vessel of the same size and description as that in the amphora, but much broken; although it had been filled with burnt human bones and ashes, we could only take out the fragments of glass, the rain having made the place a perfect puddle, so that we could not take out the bones. (3) An iron lamp, with rod and hook, much corroded. (4) An upright vessel of some metallic substance, but in fragments, much decomposed; it appears to have been of lead or silver. (5) A small upright glass vessel with a handle, nearly perfect and of elegant shape. (6, 7, 8) Three small globular-shaped glass vessels with lips and handles, two of them crushed to pieces and the other having lost its handle and lip. I have, however, been able to get them sufficiently together to shew their forms.

Cremated Deposit, No. 5.

This was a similar tomb to that last described, but with some little difference in the way it was covered over. In this instance

the Kentish Rag stone, placed over the cist, was in large quantities, many cart loads, and of large size, the pieces varying in weight from a quarter of a hundredweight to a hundred and a half, thrown in without any regularity as in the last deposit. This cist was constructed like the former one, but it varied a little in size, measuring 3 feet 8 inches by 3 feet, but of the same depth. The contents were:—(1) A large square glass vessel with handle (containing burnt bones and ashes), of the same size and description as the two described above; it was broken, and the land springs had got in and disturbed its contents. The water was very troublesome; we were, several times, obliged to bale it out, so that it was impracticable to get out the bones, they were imbedded in mud and much decayed. (2) An iron lamp, with rod and hook, of the same form as that found in the other cist, and much decomposed. (3) A small drinking cup of yellowish-white glass, broken into small pieces. (4, 5) Two small upright glass bottles, also broken, the long neck and handle of one of them being perfect and very handsome. (6) A patera of rich green glass (very like in form to an ice plate of the present fashion). (7, 8) A boar's tusk and jaw bone. The large glass vessel, the drinking cup, and the glass patera I have joined sufficiently to shew their forms, and also portions of the other glass vessels found in this tomb.

Cremated Deposit, No. 6.

Another amphora (Y), which had nearly escaped our search, was discovered by the use of the iron probing rod, when the whole of the area was again carefully searched at the conclusion of the work. It was near the formerly described amphora, towards the south-east, of the same size and material, and also covered with a Roman tile of large size, measuring 2 feet square and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. The neck and handles of this amphora had been taken off, and a large circular hole, nicely cut to admit the urns, etc., which were deposited within. The contents were:—(1) A large globe-shaped vase (Ya), of pale-green glass, with a large mouth, the edges of which were nicely turned over, in this were burnt bones and ashes. (2) An iron lamp, with a rod, having a joint and a hook at the end of the rod; this had corroded and was so much decayed that it had broken asunder and fallen upon the glass vessel, breaking it into pieces, which with the bones and ashes had fallen to the bottom of the amphora. (3, 4) Two earthen libation bottles with handles, one of them of a light-red colour, powdered over with some metallic ornament like gold dust, very slightly put on. (5) A small upright earthen vessel of a brown colour. This amphora was also cracked and was nearly half full of water, the fine mud which had oozed through the cracks was nearly as tenacious as glue, and gave much trouble in removing it from the urns, etc. All the pieces of the amphora were preserved and have since been put together. The large globular glass vase was fortunately broken into large pieces, which have been joined together.

Cremated Deposit, No. 7.

At this spot, about 3 feet below the surface, was a large urn of coarse brown earth; it was filled, about two-thirds, with burnt bones and ashes, and above them was a hard mass of cement which had been poured in when in a liquid state and filled the urn to the top. Near to it was a small earthen vessel and a dish of coarse material.

All the tombs were carefully examined, and the mud deposited in them washed and searched, and it is very singular that not a single coin was found.

NOTE.

Mr. Roach Smith, in his new and interesting work, entitled *Retrospections, Social and Archæological*, vol. i., p. 145, makes the following observations respecting Mr. Smythe's discovery:—

“A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr. Clement Taylor Smythe, in Lockham Wood, which Mr. Charles participated in, defraying most of the expenses in excavating. It was a Roman walled family cemetery, containing well-built stone sepulchres of considerable elevation, enclosing cinerary glass urns, one of which, of large size, was placed in an amphora, which had been adapted to receive it. There were some very fine specimens of glass, pottery, and various objects. Unfortunately, neither Mr. Smythe nor Mr. Charles prepared for press an account of this important discovery. Of course, I could not, uninvited, do what should have been done at the time; and thus the discovery remains unpublished. Miss Smythe kindly placed in my hands a somewhat elaborate paper by her brother, which I have passed on to Canon Scott Robertson for the *Archæologia Cantiana*; but I fear there will now be difficulty in identifying many of the objects from Mr. Smythe's very rude sketches.”

On page 147 of the same valuable work, Mr. Roach Smith describes another *walled* Roman cemetery, found by Mr. Smythe at Sutton Valence. There were in it three rows of urns, amounting to nearly one hundred, containing calcined bones and ashes; as well as many Samian *pateræ* bearing these potters' marks:—TITIVS, QVINTI, DONN.MA., OF.MA., COMPRINNI, CRESI. All are now in the Charles Museum, at Maidstone, together with glass vessels and pottery from this cemetery.