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July 1908

1907

## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

IT is, perhaps, needless to say that the division of the country known as Leicestershire had no existence during the Romano-British period.<sup>1</sup> At the time of the Roman invasion probably the whole of this district was inhabited by the Coritani, a British tribe whose chief towns we learn from Ptolemy, writing about A.D. 120, were Lincoln (*Lindum*) and Leicester (*Rbage* or *Ratae*).<sup>2</sup> The boundaries of the land occupied by this tribe are uncertain, but their territory probably extended into the counties of Lincoln, Northampton, Leicester, Rutland, Nottingham, and Derby.

The Roman occupation under the Emperor Claudius began in A.D. 43; at first the subjugation of the country was comparatively easy. A strong foothold was obtained in Kent and Essex, and then the army was formed into three divisions, the Second Legion going south-west towards Somerset and Devon, the Fourteenth and Twentieth Legions north-west towards Shrewsbury and Chester, and the Ninth Legion north towards Lincoln.<sup>3</sup> Possibly some evidence of the presence of the Ninth Legion may be traced at Leicester, as will be noted hereafter. By A.D. 47 or 48 the whole of the eastern part of Britain up to the Humber, including the district now known as Leicestershire, was occupied; and in A.D. 48, or shortly afterwards, the subjugation of the more hilly country northwards began, which latter enterprise, however, does not concern our present inquiry.

Professor Haverfield divides Britain into two districts;<sup>4</sup> the eastern, southern, and south-western district or the lowlands he describes as civilian, whilst the northern and western district or the uplands he describes as military. Leicestershire falls within the former category, and was a part of the midland area which may be termed undistinguished. With the exception of Leicester it contained no great town. The villas in the county are few, its mineral wealth was unknown to the Romans, and on the whole it was not so well suited for agriculture and pasture as other parts of the country. It was wanting in that marked Romano-British life which was to be found in the surrounding district, such as at Colchester, Verulam, Silchester, Gloucester, Wroxeter, and elsewhere. It is clear that Leicestershire showed the peaceful and simple characteristics of the rest of the midlands, and the population must have been sparse. Probably the western side was

<sup>1</sup> Much of the information contained in this article has been taken from Professor Haverfield's contributions to the History of Roman Britain in the volumes of this series.

<sup>2</sup> Ptolemy, *Geographia*, i, 99 (ed. Firmin-Didot, 1883).

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 215.

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H. Derby*, i, 192.

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forest land, and beyond the valley of the Soar we have evidence of nothing denoting occupation during the Roman era but the hoards of coins buried in Charnwood Forest, and small miscellaneous finds such as spear-heads and odd coins, which do not denote any settlement. Along the course of the Roman roads, however, remains are naturally to be found. On the Watling Street, which forms the south-western boundary of the county, are the stations of Tripontium, Venonae, and Manduessedum, which, lying on both sides of the road, are each partly in this county and partly in Warwickshire. On the Fosse Way, which also passes through Venonae or High Cross, there is the town of Ratae or Leicester, and along the valley of the Soar, west and north of Leicester, there were probably villas of some importance at Danett's Hall, Westcotes, Rothley, Mountsorrel, and Barrow-upon-Soar. The eastern side of the county is almost as equally devoid of remains of the Roman period as the western. There are traces of villas at Market Harborough and Medbourne, in the valley of the Welland, and at Wymondham. With the exception of Wymondham all the villas mentioned lay in the valleys of the Soar and the Welland, sites selected no doubt in order that the produce of the lands might be distributed by water. These villas were the properties of large landowners, sometimes Romans, but more often probably Romanized Britons, who lived in the houses, caused the lands immediately round them to be cultivated by their slaves, and let the rest to the half serf *coloni*. The houses were of types suitable to this climate, and only to be found in Britain and northern Gaul. The simpler, and generally the smaller, of these was the corridor house, which consisted of a row of rooms with a passage or corridor running along one side of it. The other type was the courtyard house, consisting of three rows of similar rooms, and passages forming three sides of a square, with an open courtyard in the middle. Both types were seldom, if ever, carried higher than the ground floor.

No less than ten hoards of coins have been found in the county; of these the dates of the coins have not been recorded for two, Kibworth and Market Bosworth; that at Hinckley cannot have been hidden earlier than A.D. 180; one at Edmondthorpe possibly as late as A.D. 383, and one at Leicester A.D. 423; one at Lutterworth not earlier than A.D. 138, and another one at Leicester not later than A.D. 337. The remaining three, those found at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Loughborough, and Lutterworth, comprise coins dating between A.D. 257 and 275.

It is perhaps worthy of remark that hoards, of which the date of the latest coins is approximately the same as that of those last referred to, are not infrequent.<sup>5</sup> The natural reason to be assigned for the depositing of hoards is that they were hidden as treasure, to avoid loss by plunder during a disturbed condition of the country. A systematic investigation of the evidence of such hoards would probably throw considerable light upon the history of the times to which they refer. Those, however, now under consideration

<sup>5</sup> In Derbyshire, at Crick, two such hoards have been found, the covering dates being respectively 250-70 and 265-8; at Eyam one hoard, 253-82; at Langworth, 253-75; and at Wirksworth, B.C. 29-A.D. 275; *V.C.H. Derb.* i, 256-62. In Warwickshire, at Knowle, 253-73; at Chalveston, 253-83; and at Nuneaton, 70-267; *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 247. In Northants, at Hardingstone, 250-80; and at Wootton, 253-68; *V.C.H. Northants.* i, 217, 222. In Bedfordshire, at Flitwick, 268-73, and at Luton, 196-270; *V.C.H. Beds.* ii. In Yorkshire, at Nunburnholme, 3,000 small brass, 253-75; and in Sussex, at Eastbourne, near Beachy Head, 253-75; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxi, 201.



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refer to deposits which must have been made about A.D. 270 to 275, during the time of the Emperor Aurelian, whose coins are the latest found in them. Britain, we know, was at the beginning of the reign of Aurelian under the weak rule of the usurper Tetricus, 'the slave and sovereign of a licentious army, whom he dreaded and by whom he was despised.'<sup>6</sup> During the victorious advance through Gaul by Aurelian against Tetricus in A.D. 272-3, it can well be imagined that the want of authority caused by the withdrawal of available troops and the rapacity of those who remained would take away all security of property in Britain, and create a period of disturbance such as that to which hidden hoards of coins may be expected to belong.

Several camps with earthen defences exist in the county and are attributed to the Roman period because of their shape or for some other reason; in some cases, however, they are probably of an earlier date, and were utilized perhaps by the natives as habitations, or possibly only as cattle shelters; among these may be mentioned Burrow-on-the-Hill, Hallaton, Hungerton, and Market Harborough, which, from the remains found in them, seem to have been inhabited.

The history of Romano-British Leicestershire, however, centres round the chief town Ratae or Leicester, of which a detailed account will here be given.

### LEICESTER

The position of Leicester is well adapted for the site of a Roman town, being situated on the great Roman track known as the Fosse Way, and protected and supplied with water by the Soar on the north and west sides. Its identity with the Roman city of Ratae seems to have been universally acknowledged since the discovery of a milestone at Thurmaston in this county.<sup>1</sup> There seems to be little evidence of any permanent settlement at Leicester before the time of the Roman occupation, although it is probable that such a settlement existed, as the Romans generally built their towns on sites previously occupied by the Britons, and Lindum (Lincoln) and Rhage or Ratae (Leicester), according to Ptolemy, as before mentioned, were the two towns of the Coritani or Coritavi, a British tribe. A portion of what is probably a boundary bank of the late Celtic period, known as Row or Raw Dykes, exists to the south of the town, but nothing has been discovered which would indicate more than a general occupation of the district before the Romano-British period.<sup>2</sup> We may dismiss the fabulous story of the city of King Lear built in B.C. 800, as having no surer foundation than the fertile imagination of the twelfth-century chronicler, Geoffrey of Monmouth. What evidence we possess seems to point to the Roman settlement having been of an early date. It may perhaps be conjectured that such a settlement existed before the middle of the first century from an inscription on a roof tile found at Leicester in 1854, which has roughly scratched upon it the letters L. VIII, for Legio VIII. Herr Hübner suggests that the inscription should be read L. VIIII, as there is no evidence that the Eighth Legion was ever in Britain, but the Ninth Legion (Hispana) was at Lincoln under Ostorius

<sup>6</sup> Gibbon, *Roman Empire*, cap. xi.

<sup>1</sup> See under 'Thurmaston' in Topographical Index at the end of this article.

<sup>2</sup> Flint implements have been found, but not in sufficient quantities to indicate more than this.

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in A.D. 48,<sup>3</sup> and a portion of it may well have been at Leicester about the same time. The evidence of this legionary tile, such as it is, does not imply that Ratae was a permanent military station. Being on the road from the south to Lincoln, it is quite probable that a small party of soldiers was left there, and that this tile made by the legionary tile-makers was utilized in some building for the accommodation of the soldiery. This military occupation, however, was apparently only for a short period in the early years of the conquest, and did not affect the later history of the town, which was administrative and commercial.

Ratae had not the privileges of the *municipium* of Verulam or the *coloniae* of Colchester, Lincoln, Gloucester, and York, but it had a municipal organization of a lower kind, and was governed probably by the senate and magistrates of the tribe.<sup>4</sup> No doubt it had a forum with a basilica for the accommodation of magistrates, traders, and others, and possibly also baths; and in the fourth century the town was protected by a wall. In size it was perhaps one of the smaller towns of its type, being about half the size of Silchester and much smaller than Wroxeter and Cirencester, but almost twice as large as Bath. Of its inhabitants we are practically without information. From the remains hitherto found there is nothing to indicate particular wealth or poverty, if anything they would point to prosperity without great wealth. The only indications of the occupation of the townsmen are three crucibles and bone-work which refer to trades which are common to all towns.

The references to Ratae by Ptolemy, and that on the milestone at Thurmaston, show that the town was in existence in A.D. 120-1 and this is corroborated by the evidence of the archaeological and architectural remains. The series of Roman coins begins with those of Caligula (A.D. 37-41), but coins are not found in any quantities till we reach those of the late part of the first and the early part of the second centuries. The potters' marks on the Samian ware, which have been recorded, show a predominance of recognized marks of the first century (thirty-eight in number), but there are also a considerable quantity of the second century (thirty in number). The architectural details show more surely that probably by the time of Hadrian (A.D. 117-38) Ratae had buildings of some architectural pretensions. The prosperity of the town apparently continued, and reached its height about the time of Constantine (A.D. 306-37), for it is to this period that the greatest number of the coins and the greater but not the better part of the architectural details belong.

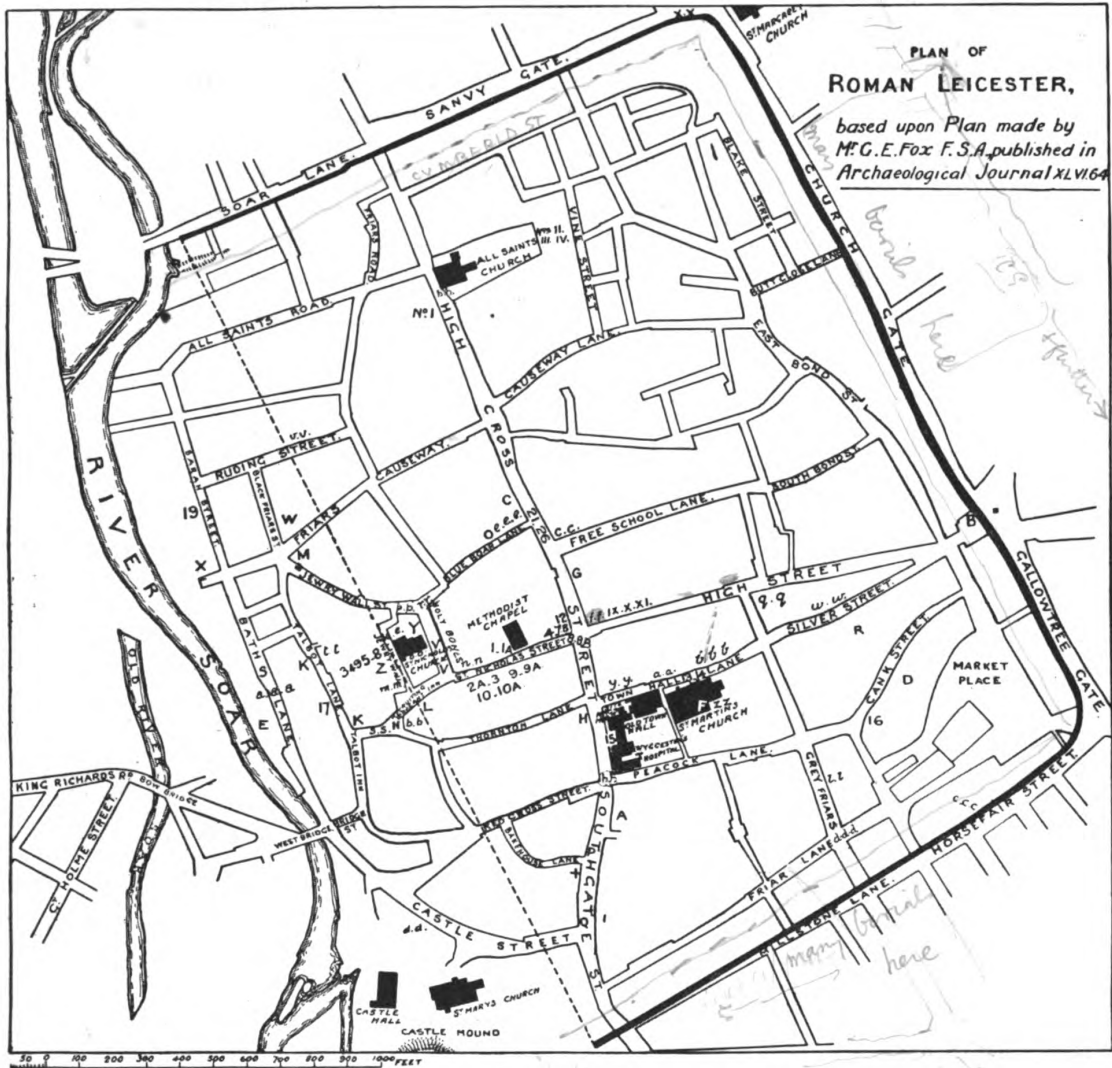
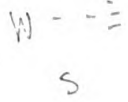
*Plan and Architectural Remains.*—Ratae appears to have been rectangular in shape, measuring from north to south 2,780 ft. and from east to west 1,740 ft., the area being between forty and fifty acres, and the circumference nearly two miles. The mediaeval walls of Leicester ran along Soar Lane and Sanvy Gate on the north, Church Gate and Gallow-tree Gate on the east, Millstone Lane and Horsefair Street on the south, and there seems no reason to doubt that they were built on the foundations of the Roman walls, if indeed the Roman walls were not themselves utilized. Dr. Stukeley, writing in 1772, states that the line of the Roman walls and ditch were easily to be

<sup>3</sup> Hübner, *Ephem. Epigr.* iv, 206.

<sup>4</sup> Haverfield, 'The Romanization of Roman Britain,' *Proc. of Brit. Acad.* ii, 23.



*Spurway, trace of street from S. Marlow St. towards High Street*



**NOTE**

The broad black line shows the limits of the Roman city.  
 The dotted line indicates the supposed west wall.  
 Letters and Numerals indicate as nearly as possible the sites of remains which are set out in List on p. 205.

*Plan of 1830  
 shows the street  
 from the river to the  
 market place  
 and the street  
 from the market place  
 to the castle mound*

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traced, especially at Sanvy Gate, where the ditch outside the wall could be seen in the gardens thereabouts,<sup>6</sup> and in his plan of the town he marks the site of the Roman walls along the streets above mentioned. With regard to the site of the west wall there has been some doubt, but the general consensus of expert opinion is that it ran in line north and south with the great mass of Roman masonry called the Jewry Wall still existing, and traces of foundations which are supposed to have been continuations of the same to the north and south have been found, but unfortunately have been insufficiently recorded.<sup>6</sup>

The sites of the Roman gates on the north, east, and south sides are uncertain, but it is probable that the gates of the mediaeval town, namely, North Gate, East Gate or Humberstone Gate, and South Gate, corresponded in position with those of the Roman era. The Western Gate of the mediaeval town is shown in Speed's map of 1660 to be standing at the Jewry Wall, and there can be little doubt that this Roman building, still in existence, was the West Gate of the Roman town. 'As this has a plan<sup>7</sup> quite unlike that of the usual type of city gates, and is also the only existing relic *in situ* above ground of Roman Ratae, it may be well to give some little detail of it.

'It must be understood that the town wall ran for its length in a continuous line from north to south, but in the centre of that line for a space of 74 ft. it was carried on at a less thickness than usual, viz. about 4 ft. Against this length of 74 ft. an arcade of four arches was built, either butting against the diminished wall or bonded into it. These arches are about 5 ft. in depth;<sup>8</sup> the southern is 14 ft. 6 in. in width, the next two 12 ft. each, and the northern is only 6 ft. 3 in. wide. Between the two middle ones the pier dividing them is of considerable size, showing a face 11 ft. wide in which is a niche probably intended for the statue of some divinity, possibly of Minerva, the protectress of the gates of cities.<sup>9</sup>

'In the back wall of these two middle arches are the two gateways. They are of small size, only about 7 ft. 6 in. wide, and are very singularly placed, for instead of piercing the back wall in the centre of each arch, in the south arch the gateway is jammed against the south angle, while in the north it is similarly butted against the north angle. The reason for this arrangement may be found perhaps in the necessity for providing sufficient room for the doors of these gateways when they were thrown open to lie back against the masonry. One fact seems to confirm this view, which is that the plinth or base, having a general projection of 1 ft. 2 in., which ran at the foot of the arcade, is cut off at the north and south angles of the middle arches respectively. Had it been continued without these breaks it would have blocked the gateways. How the doors of the gateways were hung it is now impossible to say from the injuries the structure has received. Of the two outer arches little can be said. The southern is somewhat wider than the others, but does not differ from them except in depth. It has been supposed

<sup>6</sup> Stukeley, *Itin. Cur.* i, 103.

<sup>6</sup> In 1876, whilst making a tunnel from Messrs. Rust's yard, St. Nicholas Street, to the River Soar, it is said that the ancient ditch or fosse was pierced which marked the western boundary of Ratae. A massive stone wall was, it is said, cut through at a depth of 33 ft. from the surface, and was thought to be part of the west wall; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 41 n.

<sup>7</sup> The following account of the Jewry Wall or West Gate has been contributed by Mr. G. E. Fox, Hon. M.A. Oxon. F.S.A.

<sup>8</sup> With the exception of the southernmost, which is 7 ft. 6 in. deep.

Such a niche may be seen at the Sea Gate of Pompeii; it originally held a statue of Minerva.

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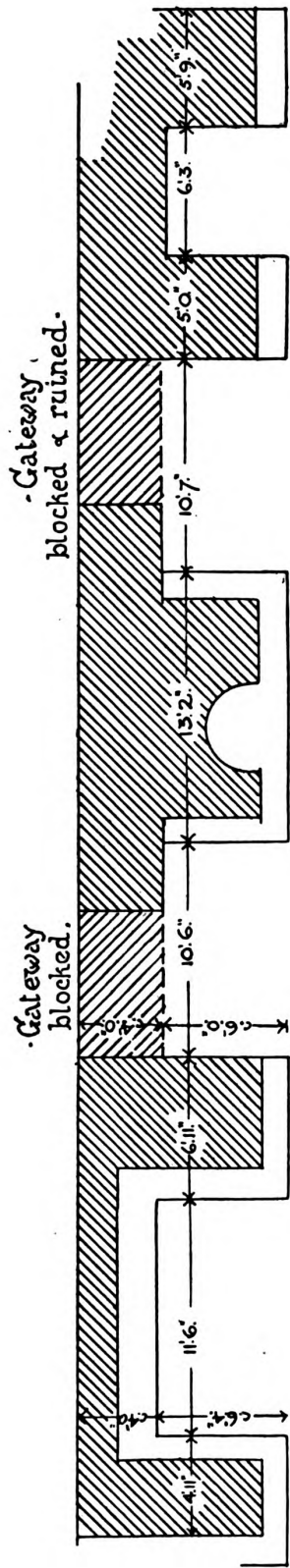
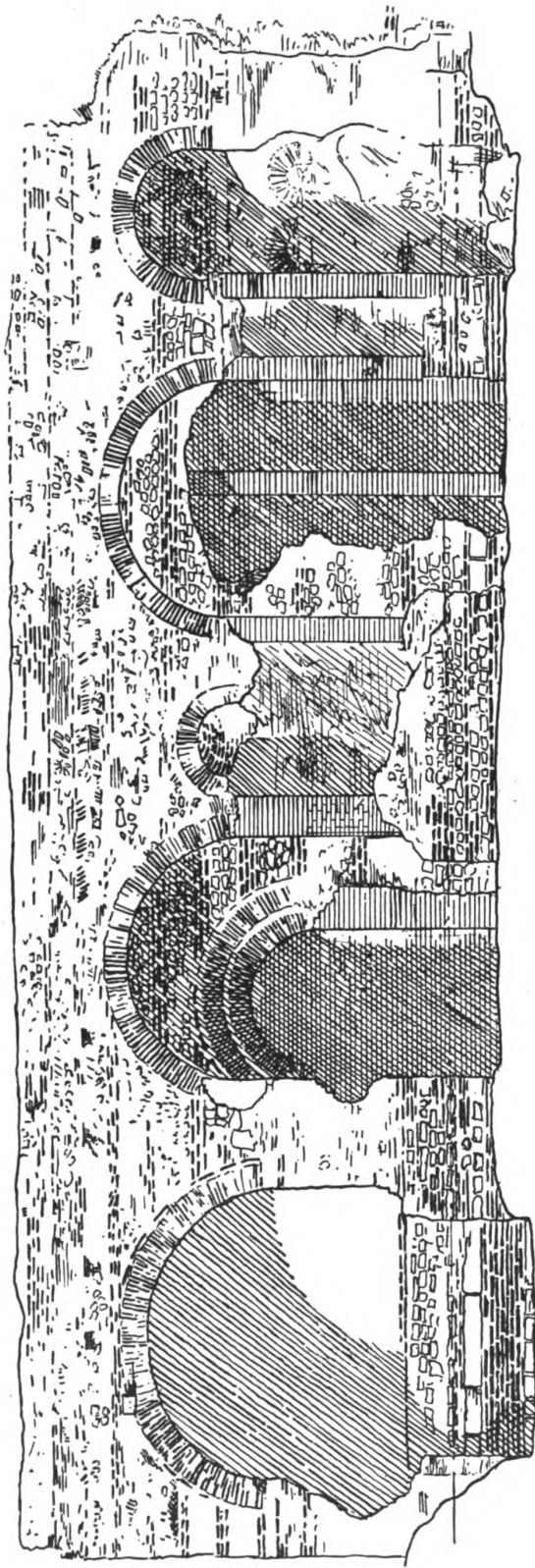
that it served as a guard-house, but it is too shallow for any wall to have inclosed it for this purpose. The northern arch is much narrower than the others. The back wall is pierced by two loops, evidently intended for the purpose of watching the approaches. The height of the arches is 19 ft., the wall above them another 6 ft., making altogether 25 ft. to the rampart-walk—about the usual height of Roman city-walls in this country. To this must be added 4 ft. for the height of the parapet walls and embrasures.

‘The wall is of the usual construction, viz. the body composed of rubble having a facing of small squared stones banded at short intervals by wide bonding or lacing courses of tiles. All the arches are turned with tile. No doubt a ditch ran in front of it, access to the gateway being obtained by wooden trestle-bridges on to each portal. Similar arrangements have been noted at the two posterns of the town wall at Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), and the gate in the Roman wall of London, known in mediaeval times as Aldersgate, was reached across the moat in the same way. A road led up to the gate of Ratae from the direction of Watts Causeway, which connected the town with the Fosse Way.

‘The date of this gate cannot be fixed with certainty, but perhaps it may have been erected under Constantine. The late Mr. J. H. Parker judged it of that period, being guided to his opinion by the size of the tiles and thickness of the mortar joints of the bonding courses; but Roman construction in Rome, on which he based his judgement, does not always give the rule for similar work in Britain. Possibly a safer guide to date may be found in the narrowness of the gateways—only 7 ft. 6 in.—and their distance apart, for the later in date a fortified inclosure may be, the narrower are the entrances. In fact, the two portals in the Jewry Wall have more the appearance of a couple of posterns side by side than one of the main entrances to a city. The best idea of what this gateway was like is to be obtained from the views in Stukeley’s *Itinerarium Curiosum*. The elaborate drawing to scale made by Mr. A. Hall in 1870, in the possession of the Leicester Architectural and Archaeological Society, shows all that we are likely to know of this relic of Roman Leicester. It has been reproduced in vol. viii of the *Transactions* of the society, and from it the plan and elevation here given has been made. It is a satisfaction that so excellent a record has been made of one of the few remains of Roman antiquity standing above ground, as to whose ultimate fate it would be hazardous to venture a prediction. Wrecked, not by time but by the hand of man, with blocked portals and its western side covered by workshops, while the eastern is more than half hidden by a pathway, it is no wonder that it has proved a puzzle to antiquaries until excavations and more careful research than was formerly possible had revealed the true character of the remains.’

Judging by the structural details of the Jewry Wall, already referred to, the town walls of Ratae were probably erected at a late date of the Roman occupation. Mr. Haverfield has pointed out that in the western provinces of the empire, town walls seem to have been principally erected after A.D. 250, when the barbarian invasions grew formidable,<sup>10</sup> but this would not probably have affected Britain till a later date, as the reason for the building of walls here was as a protection against the attacks caused by local disturbances in

<sup>10</sup> *V. C. H. Somers*, i, 228.



PLAN AND ELEVATION OF THE JEWRY WALL OR WEST GATE, LEICESTER  
 (Adapted from a drawing by Mr. A. Hall)

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the province. It is considered, as above mentioned, that the Jewry Wall was erected about the time of Constantine (A.D. 306-37), which, it may be assumed, was the date of the erection of the walls round the town, and this agrees with the evidence as to the date of the circumvallation of other Romano-British towns. The town would most likely have been surrounded by earthen defences from the time of its foundation, but it is curious that, according to the evidence of the architectural details and tessellated pavements, the extension westward (including the important and prosperous suburb towards the River Soar) must have been made before the town was walled. As in a parallel case at Bath, there was no attempt to include the suburb within the protection of the walls.

For the construction of a plan of Roman Leicester we have very little material. Perhaps the existing High Cross Street and Southgate Street, running north and south from the North Gate to the South Gate, and High Street and St. Nicholas Street, running east and west from the East Gate to the Jewry Wall or West Gate, may approximately follow the lines of the principal Roman streets. Of the other Roman streets there is no evidence, for it is evident that the plan of the mediaeval town did not follow that of the Roman, as was usual when mediaeval towns rose on Roman sites.<sup>11</sup>

It seems clear that the principal buildings of the Roman town stood at the junction of High Cross Street and St. Nicholas Street. Burton, in 1622, called attention to the quantity of Roman remains found there.<sup>12</sup> In 1861 the base and plinth of a column were found close to the north-east corner of St. Nicholas Street (Nos. 8-8*b* in Museum).<sup>13</sup> In a direct line with the above and close to them there were discovered in 1866 two bases of columns with shafts and plinth, standing erect from 14 ft. to 15 ft. below the present surface (Nos. 4-7*b* in Museum). The plinth of wrought stone was 1 ft. thick on a sleeper wall of rubble. The two columns with their bases complete stood 10 ft. 10½ in. from centre to centre. They were 1 ft. 11 in. in diameter. The height of one, as found, including base, was 4 ft. 4 in., of the other 6 ft. 2½ in.<sup>14</sup> Mr. G. E. Fox, in his paper on the architectural remains at Leicester, points out that these bases 'follow pretty closely the usual type of Attic base, though these are somewhat clumsy,' and therefore may be taken to belong to one of the earliest buildings in Leicester, dating possibly from the period of Hadrian.<sup>15</sup> He adds that it is not impossible that these remains supported the portico of the basilica, although such a conjecture is mere guess-work.<sup>16</sup> In the same way it may be suggested that the forum, of which the basilica would probably form a part, stood here also. In the Leicester Museum are also fragments of the shaft of a column found at the south-west corner of the Methodist chapel in St. Nicholas Street (Nos. 1, 1*a* in Museum);<sup>17</sup> and bases, plinth, and capitals of columns found between the Methodist chapel and the corner of 'Holy Bones' (Nos. 2*a* to 3, 9, 9*a*, 10, 10*a* in Museum)<sup>18</sup> belong to a building of probably the same period as the remains previously mentioned.<sup>18</sup> In 1885 two columns found in the street called 'Holy Bones' were placed in the churchyard of St. Nicholas;<sup>19</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Fox, 'Roman Arch. Fragments in the Leic. Museum,' *Arch. Journ.* xlv, 47.

<sup>12</sup> *Descrip. Leic.* 146.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* iii, 334; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlv, 63.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 60.

<sup>18</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 334; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlv, 63.

<sup>13</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 334.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 58, 59.

<sup>17</sup> *Ord. Surv.* xxxi, 10.

<sup>19</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xviii, lx, 24.

Burton does not say  
here as far as he is  
concerned.

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(2)

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1777!

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fragments of a moulded capital and base of a smaller column, and a large weather-worn stone, circular moulded in one part, are also to be seen there. In 1888 the remains of two walls were discovered in the churchyard of St. Nicholas. One ran at right-angles north and south, about 8 ft. from the buttress supporting the tower at the east end of the north aisle of the church, and about 4 ft. 4 in. below the surface. The bottom of the wall was not reached at 8 ft. to 12 ft. from the surface. The other block of masonry, 3 ft. 4 in. away, lay edgewise, and had apparently fallen. The coins found at this time were a second brass of Licinius (A.D. 307-24) and a third brass of Delmatius (A.D. 335). Both wall and roof tiles were among the *débris*.<sup>20</sup> In 1898 an interesting discovery was made in digging some cellars in St. Nicholas Street, about fifty yards from St. Nicholas' Church, of two pavements. These have fortunately been preserved and remain *in situ*. The larger appears to be a square of about 14 ft. Its great peculiarity is that as far as the main divisions go it is a duplicate in design of the pavement in Jewry Wall Street (plate I), being composed of nine octagonal panels with, it seems, a border similar in design to that of the floor just named. The centre panel, instead of geometrical ornaments as in the others, has the image of a peacock, within a circle of elaborate braidwork, standing with tail displayed, a rare representation of this bird. The head, neck, and legs are of blue-grey *tesserae*, the tail is red, dark brown, and yellow, with blue-grey eyes. The other panels, as mentioned, are filled with bold geometrical forms which are coarser than those of the Jewry Wall Street example. Both floors may well be the work of the same hand (plate III.) The smaller pavement near this elaborate one has a simple diagonal pattern in white on a grey ground with white and grey borders, beyond which are traces of red *tesserae*. Another portion has a grey ground diapered with white crosses and apparently with bounding lines of brick *tesserae*. All these fragments are perhaps part of the pavement of a corridor.<sup>21</sup> At the same time were found some Roman coins, principally bronze, in bad condition, with small pieces of tiles, and potsherds of various wares, mixed with bones, oyster shells, and various other refuse. Part of a silver denarius of Severus Alexander (A.D. 227-235) and a small brass of Victorinus (A.D. 265-7) were also found on the same site.<sup>22</sup>

Nichols<sup>23</sup> mentions 'a plain Roman pavement' found at the Recruiting Sergeant Inn, St. Nicholas Street, at a depth of 8 ft. from the surface, 'of a lightish close grain, friable, and by the side of it a thick wall built with very hard stone like that of the Jewry wall, and in a direct line with it.' About forty yards off in the same direction this wall was apparently used for the foundation of a house by the churchyard side on the south-west of the church. Another wall ran towards the west at right-angles with the first.<sup>24</sup> In 1839 a pavement was found in the street leading from St. Nicholas Street to Talbot Lane,<sup>25</sup> and further foundations of buildings were said to have been discovered near the church.<sup>26</sup> In 1889 a fragment of ~~tesselated~~ floor was found, but was covered up before it could be inspected.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii, 17.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* viii, 375; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Soc.* (new ser.), iv, 289.

<sup>22</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* viii, 375; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxiv, xcix; Haverfield, *Antiq.* xxxiv, 234.

<sup>23</sup> *Hist. Leic.* i, 12.

<sup>24</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 12.

<sup>25</sup> *O. S.* xxxi; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 62.

<sup>26</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 207. = *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* viii, 11

<sup>27</sup> *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vii, 285 (1900).

188. ...  
all - pist. ad. 4 1889

X ? Roman

approximate but sure  
of N. ... Fox ... of  
of S.S.

Roman  
in S. Nicholas



PAVEMENT FOUND IN ST. NICHOLAS STREET, LEICESTER, 1898

PLATE I





## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

The next most important group of remains discovered was at St. Martin's Church. In 1861, while excavations were being made for the new north transept, close to the fence dividing the churchyard from Townhall Lane a sleeper wall of rubble covered on the top with dressed stone was found, upon which stood the bases of two massive Doric columns each about 2 ft. in diameter. It has been suggested that these columns, which are now in the Leicester Museum (Nos. 13, 14), formed part of a colonnade, which, judging from their size and from the space intervening between them—about 10 ft.—would be of considerable length. The earth inside the wall contained coins, numerous fragments of pottery, and the bones of birds and animals. Mr. Fox conjectures that the columns are of the time of Constantine, and were possibly a portion of a temple.<sup>28</sup>

13. 14, 22  
more bones found 1822

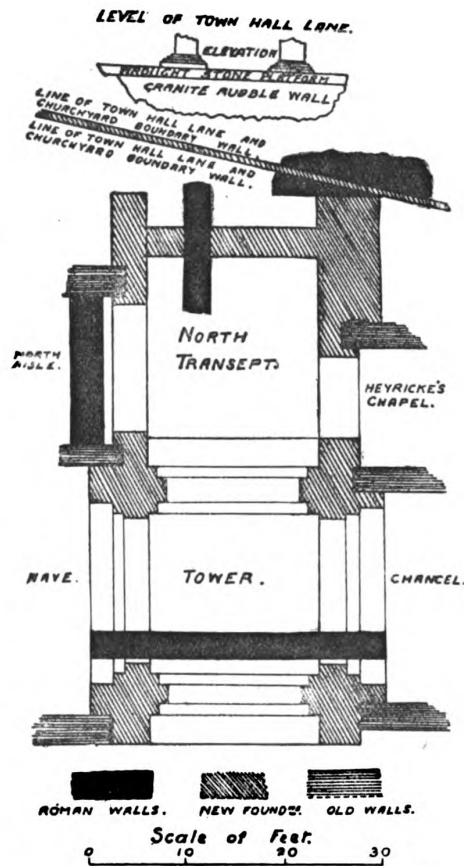
In 1773 about a foot of pavement was discovered under the south aisle of St. Martin's Church, and in 1784 'several scuttlesful' of bones, horns, and jaw-bones of cattle were found under the tower 5 ft. from the surface, and nearly a foot in thickness, with an appearance of a lateral continuation. A few yards to the south of these, a foot from the surface, a vast quantity of very large pebbles, wedged or heaped together without mortar, were discovered. Foundations well set in mortar have also been seen by the sexton when opening graves within the precincts of the church.<sup>29</sup>

An arched cellar under an old house in Townhall Lane was discovered in 1845 which was supposed to be Roman, but it is more likely to have been later work in which Roman material was used.<sup>30</sup> In 1902, opposite St. Martin's Church, 14 ft. below the surface, two pieces of tessellated pavement were discovered, which were unfortunately destroyed. The larger was 3 ft. by 4 ft. in size, the pattern being worked out in white, red, and blue *tesserae*. It resembled a pavement found at the corner of High Street and High Cross Street in 1901.<sup>31</sup> In the Leicester Museum (No. AA.) is a portion of a small figure in a niche which came from this street. Only the head and the arm and hand holding a spear are preserved.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> *Arch. Journ.* i, 390, xlvii, 59; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* vi, 274; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* xix, 113-14; *ibid.* (new ser.), vii, 159. To demonstrate the similarity of the mouldings with those of the time of Constantine, Mr. Fox shows a section of a base of a pier in the Basilica of Constantine at Rome, which is reproduced on the accompanying plate.

<sup>29</sup> Bickerstaffe in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 8, 12.

<sup>30</sup> *Arch. Journ.* i, 390. <sup>31</sup> Mr. Freer, *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 462. <sup>32</sup> *Guide to Leic. Mus.*; Fox, *op. cit.*



PLAN SHOWING ROMAN WALLS UNDER THE NEW TOWER OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, LEICESTER

## A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

cc  
Nichols<sup>33</sup> describes a coloured tessellated pavement found in 1794 at the Grey Friars, on the south side of St. Martin's Churchyard, at a depth of 6 ft. below the surface. No design, he says, could be seen on it.

Near to St. Martin's Church, on the site of Wyggeston's Hospital, a small column was found in 1875, which is now in the Leicester Museum (No. 15). Mr. Fox mentions that this 'looks very like the column of a colonnade of the upper storey of some buildings which had a hand-rail from shaft to shaft. The hole for the tenon of the rail cut as small as possible so as not to weaken the shaft and the little bracket worked on the shaft under it to carry the greater width of the rail are noteworthy.'<sup>34</sup>

p 1859 Q  
A portion of a coarse tessellated pavement was discovered in Southgate Street in ~~1866~~, with the fragment of a column, thought to be No. 20 in the Museum. Lower down the street, near to Bakehouse Lane, fragments of painted wall-plaster were found (at a depth of 18 ft. below the present surface).<sup>35</sup>

mw  
In 1871, 3 ft. or 4 ft. below the surface, several square feet of concrete, from which *tesserae* had evidently been removed, were discovered on the south side of Silver Street, and a little later an extensive portion of tessellated pavement in good condition was revealed within 2½ ft. of the present street level; it was described as being of the guilloche pattern, within a square border all of black, white, and red *tesserae*. The peculiarity of the find was its nearness to the present surface, most of the Roman discoveries in Leicester being from 8 ft. to 12 ft. below the street level.

R.  
Near to this discovery, in the same street, on the site of the new Opera House and about 12 ft. below the present level, a tessellated pavement was found in 1876 about 20 ft. by 14 ft. in size. The *tesserae* were of a rough make, and strewn about on the floor were several pieces of pottery, fragments of Samian ware, and a few coins much corroded. Other remains of the foundations of this building had been uncovered some years before. Relics have frequently been discovered between this spot and St. Martin's Church.<sup>36</sup>

99  
During 1889 some excavations made for new buildings between High Street and Silver Street disclosed the existence of a Roman wall running due east and west for a considerable distance, but it was unfortunately destroyed before it could be properly inspected.<sup>37</sup> Later (in 1902) a wall was again found under High Street, which was thought to be part of that discovered in 1861 in St. Martin's and Townhall Lane.<sup>38</sup>

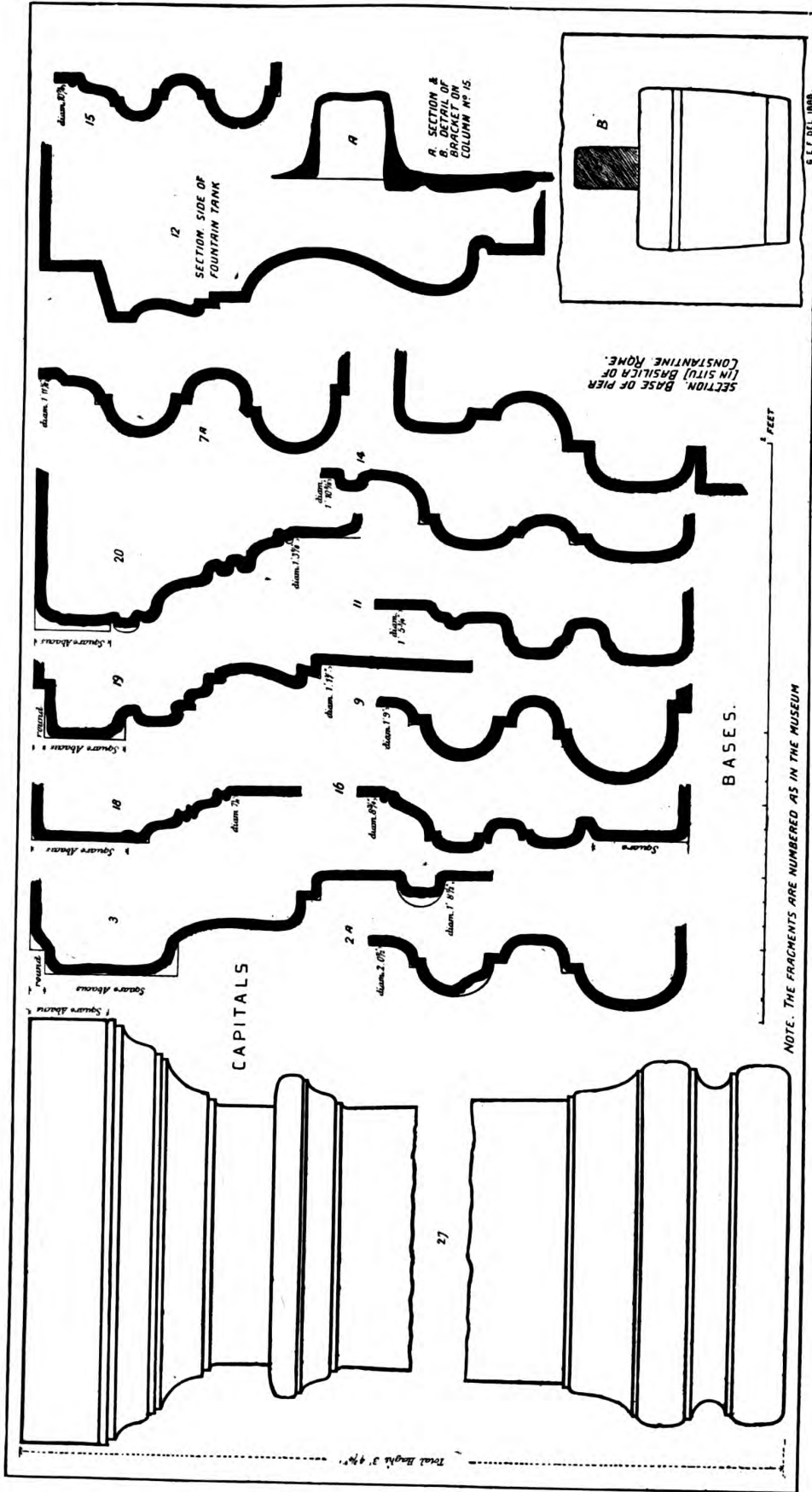
Turning now to the remains of buildings in the northern part of the Roman town, if the evidence of Carte can be relied upon, it would appear that High Cross Street very closely followed the line of one of the main Roman streets. He mentions that during excavations for waterworks in 1685, a wall of stone and Roman tiles was discovered, which extended from Redcross Street to the elm trees near the North Gate and followed the line of the street, 6 ft. or 7 ft. from the houses on the west side, 'many loads of stone' being carted away from it. In 1716, 'at the second house beyond Blue Boar Lane,' a little out in the street in front of the house, a similar wall was found, standing upright to within 3 ft. of the surface. The height of

<sup>33</sup> *Hist. Leic.* i, 619. <sup>34</sup> *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 49. <sup>35</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 62.

<sup>36</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xiii, p. cii; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 106; v, 49, 55.

<sup>37</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xx, p. lx (Rep.); *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii, 207.

<sup>38</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 461.



CAPITALS AND BASES FOUND IN LEICESTER

(From a drawing by Mr. G. E. Fox, in *Arch. Journ.* xli.)

## A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

the wall was uncertain, as the workmen did not reach the foundations. It was 4 ft. thick, and the upper part had fallen. Carte concluded from the depth of the previous excavation that it would have been 12 ft. high, and was certainly part of the wall found in 1685. On the east side of it in the street the made earth was 2 ft. thick, and 'below it was a pavement of stone like a street.' This wall apparently extended almost the whole length of High Cross Street.<sup>39</sup> A granite and sandstone 'walk' is said to have been discovered running down the middle of the street from near All Saints' Church to the gaol.<sup>40</sup> A tessellated pavement and hypocausts were found under what is now No. 18, High Cross Street, and also under another house in the possession of Mr. King, afterwards of Mr. Collier.<sup>41</sup> At the corner of High Cross Street and High Street, when excavating for cellars under the new High Cross Coffee House in 1901, three pieces of pavement (now in the Leicester Museum), a portion of a stone column, and part of a wall of masonry about a foot high were found.<sup>42</sup> The pavement shows a border of elaborately twisted braidwork within which, on a white field, are closely set knots of braidwork in lines perpendicular to the border. The colours and materials are, apparently, for white a limestone, brown an ironstone, grey or slate colour lias limestone, and red, as always, a brick. The sizes of the *tesserae* range from  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  in. square (plate VII). The pavement is one of a class in which the field is covered by a geometrical diaper. Other specimens have been found at the Blackfriars. Another tessellated pavement was also found on the site of the county gaol, where Free School Lane turns from High Cross Street.<sup>43</sup>

Some carved impost mouldings and other carved fragments, perhaps from an arch, were found at the junction of Blue Boar Lane and High Cross Street (Nos. 21-26 in Leicester Museum) (plate II). Also a stone fountain (No. 12 in Museum), found at No. 52, High Cross Street, at a depth of 10 ft., which may, as Mr. Fox says, have been a street fountain, or perhaps, if considered too small for that purpose, may have stood in the peristyle of an important house. Traces of a lining of pink cement were found in it (plate II).<sup>44</sup> A wall with bases and shafts of columns was discovered in 1859 in Blue Boar Lane, not far from the place where the carved mouldings were found.<sup>45</sup> Another base of a column was discovered in June, 1907, in Blue Boar Lane, 12 ft. from the surface, and is now in the Leicester Museum. The base is 2 ft. square and the diameter of the column 18 in.; the mouldings are of an early type (plate II).

In making the cellar of a house (which belonged then to Mr. Worthington) opposite the elm trees near All Saints' church, about 1675,<sup>46</sup> a piece of tessellated pavement, a little over a yard square, was discovered about 5 ft. below the surface. It is interesting as being the only figure subject yet found in Leicester, and is now in the Leicester Museum (No. 1). It was discovered at a time when few thought or cared for such things, otherwise it is

<sup>39</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, pt. i, 11; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. p. 447; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 61.

<sup>40</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 23; Fox, op. cit.

<sup>41</sup> Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 20; *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 62.

<sup>42</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 459. <sup>43</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* p. 224; Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 383.

<sup>44</sup> Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 51. Mr. Fox had made out the finely-moulded outline of the tank which is shown on plate II.

<sup>45</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 23, 24 (1866). Information of the discovery of 1907 has been kindly supplied by Mr. H. Pickering.

<sup>46</sup> Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 9; *Leic. and Rutl. N. and Q.* iii, 136.



CORINTHIAN CAPITAL, FOUND IN TALBOT  
LANE, LEICESTER



COLUMN, FOUND IN 1907 IN BLUE BOAR LANE,  
LEICESTER



STONE TANK, FOUND IN HIGH CROSS STREET, LEICESTER



IMPOST MOULDING, FOUND IN BLUE BOAR LANE, LEICESTER



## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

possible that more of the pavement might have been recovered and other panels with figures might have been brought to light. The fragment is an octagonal panel, evidently one of a set, perhaps nine in number, so arranged as to cover a square floor, the panels possibly containing alternately figure-subjects and ornaments (plate III). Such a disposition is suggested by the composition of other pavements found in Leicester. The bands which formed the octagons are designed as a braidwork of two strands of quite simple character. This pattern is found as a universally dividing band between panels or as a border, not only in this country but almost wherever Roman mosaic pavements exist. The subject, however, is more important than its setting. It represents a youth leaning against a stag. He is nude but for a scrap of drapery depending from his shoulders and neck and partly upheld by his left arm, which is raised. His right arm is outstretched, and with his right hand he is caressing the neck of the stag, the animal returning the caress by bending its head towards him. In front of this group is a figure of Cupid, nude like the principal figure save for some drapery over the left arm. He stands with bow bent and arrow raised against the youth and his stag. The interpretation of the group has been a puzzle for many years, and strange have been the conjectures respecting it. One has it that it represents Diana and Actaeon, but it would be difficult to find either of these two personages within the bounds of the panel. Other conjectures made in 1782, when a drawing of the pavement was shown to the Society of Antiquaries, were that the subject was Hercules and the Idumean stag; a 'fable of Venus' who caused someone who had offended her to fall in love with a monster; and, most fanciful of all, that it was Joab laying hold of the horns of the altar. Setting aside these absurdities it is not difficult to see that the group has to do with the myth of Cyparissus, which, as related by Ovid in the *Metamorphoses*, was as follows:—Cyparissus, a youth of Cea, had a tame stag of which he was inordinately fond. One day, he inadvertently wounded it, from which wound it died. The youth became so frenzied with grief for the loss of his favourite that Apollo, who loved the boy, in compassion for his unhappy condition changed him into the tree which bears his name, viz. the cypress, which became henceforth an emblem of sorrow and death. The figure of Cupid may have been introduced into the group to explain by his action the immoderate affection of the youth for his four-footed companion. It is much to be regretted that there is no adequate representation of this panel. The best, perhaps, is that in colours in Fowler's *Pavements*, dated 1801, but the colouring is unsatisfactory. The late Mr. John Paul, F.G.S. of Leicester, made a useful identification of the materials of the *tesserae* employed in the mosaic. He says that in his opinion

the white, grey, creamy white, the black, and a few pieces of liver colour in the horns of the stag, are all fragments of marble. The bluish grey is a limestone, probably from the coal measures, the tesserae of reddish brown and others of a yellowish brown are both limestone, whilst a brown and dull citron are both fine-grained sandstones. I am unable to determine from what locality these materials have been procured, but I think the probability is in favour of Derbyshire for the marbles and limestones; and the sandstones must I think have been from a distance. . . . The red tesserae are pottery, and . . . this is the only artificial material used.

The art displayed by the composition is poor enough, but is neither better nor worse than that of many other examples of figure mosaic in this country

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or abroad. A certain amount of interest lies in the fact of the unusual number of differently coloured marble *tesserae* worked up, for the employment of marble is quite exceptional in Romano-British mosaics.<sup>47</sup>

A  
In 1667-8, near the 'Water House,' being the corner house, where the street grows narrower, next to the west end of 'The Friars' (the site of 'Johnson's Buildings'), 12 ft. below the surface, was discovered a floor of lime mortar 6 in. or 7 in. thick, 16 ft. long and about 14 ft. wide, and some remains of the walls of a house. On the north side of this room, about 4 yds. apart, stood what Nichols calls 'two chimnies, as high as to the mantel tree'; which may be traces of a hypocaust. Throsby mentions 'a tessellated floor, a hypocaust and painted walls' found in 1667, which were probably the same.<sup>48</sup>

Under the south side of the room below some gravel a vast quantity of oyster-shells was disinterred, and in the cellar of the same house, underneath gravel 1½ ft. deep, was a large foundation of a wall of forest stone laid dry, without mortar. On the west side of the street 12 ft. deep in loose earth many shoe-soles of large size and a quantity of refuse leather were found.<sup>49</sup>

Nichols, in his *History and Antiquities of Leicestershire*, gives an account of two fine tessellated pavements and a fragment of a third, found in 1754 in 'the Black Friars about 35 yards from the river Soar,' under a stable, the property of Roger Ruding, who wrote an account of the discoveries to the Society of Antiquaries in 1766, and further declared that 'the Pavements had been entirely destroyed, and all the Materials taken away, so that no remains of them were left.'<sup>50</sup> These three pavements were all of the class mentioned in the note on that found on the site of the High Cross coffee-house in 1901. In the minutes of the Society of Antiquaries under date 17 November, 1766, is the following note, which explains these floors and their disposition with sufficient accuracy. The note says that the first pavement (plate IV) was found in 1754.

The most elegant square of this pavement consists of a corded line enclosing an area of curved and regular figures somewhat resembling crossed S.S. with a true-lovers' knot in the centre of them. The second pavement consists of a corded line enclosing an area divided into double Frets, with Five small Squares in the Quincunx border containing each a true-lovers' knot within them. The third pavement consists wholly of plain circles intersecting each other, with small squares lozenge fashion in the centre. The colours of the first two are composed of a deep mazarene blue (probably a slaty blue nearly black), red, yellow, and white; of the other of white, slate colour, and a muddy red (plate V).

W  
M.  
Each pavement was 9 ft. square and there were some traces of others in continuation. They appeared to be laid in line with each other, and probably formed the floor of the principal corridor of some important mansion. In 1885 a large piece of pavement was discovered near the river in Blackfriars Street, which probably belonged to the same house and is thought to be a part of the building of which<sup>51</sup> a tessellated pavement was discovered in 1830 at the corner where Friars' Causeway formerly met Jewry

<sup>47</sup> Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 53; *Phil. Trans.* (1711), xxvii, 325; Soc. Antiq. MS. Min. (1782), xviii, 271.

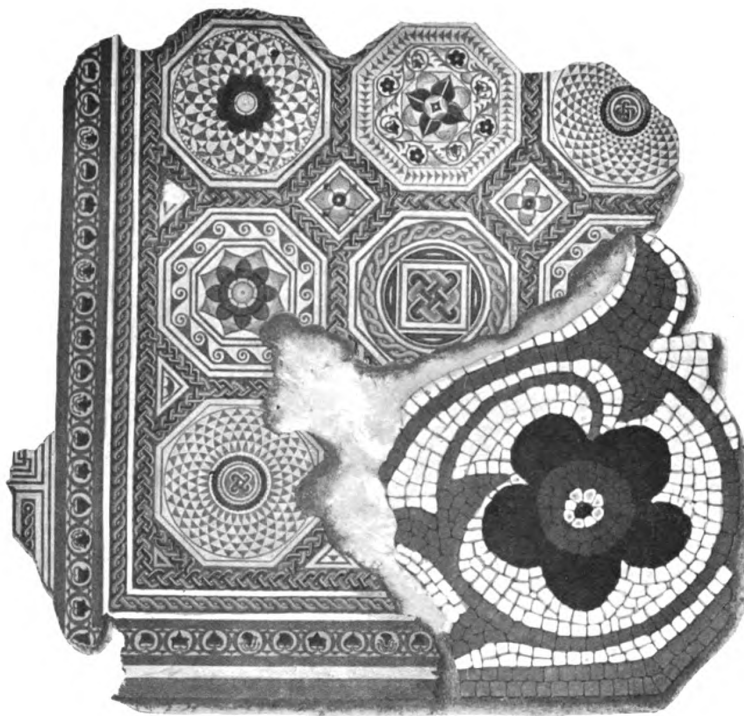
<sup>48</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11; Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 19; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 61.

<sup>49</sup> Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 61; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* 448; Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.

<sup>50</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11, 72; MS. Mins. Soc. Antiq. vii, 163; viii, 170; x, 196; *Arch.* lv, 247, note a; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* 445.

<sup>51</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 208 = *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xviii, lix.





PAVEMENT FOUND IN JEWRY WALL STREET, LEICESTER



PAVEMENT FOUND IN HIGH CROSS STREET, LEICESTER  
(From Fewler's *Pavements*)



## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

Wall Street<sup>52</sup> (now *in situ* under the Great Central Railway Station). The town council improved this district in 1882, and further discoveries were made. It was found that the pavement continued under the adjoining house and under the street. Fragments of painted wall plaster were also discovered, but the walls appear to have been removed, probably for building purposes.<sup>53</sup> The pavement is a square of 23 ft., the design of the mosaic consisting of nine panels divided from each other by bands of braidwork. The panels are filled with elaborate geometrical compositions, and the whole is framed by two bands, one of simple braidwork, the outer and larger of a frieze of flowers and leaves in flattened circles. The design is evidently a translation into mosaic of a coffered ceiling, the outer bands taking the place of frieze and cornice. The materials and colours of the *tesserae* are as follows:—Black, perhaps slate; blue grey, lias; green grey, possibly limestone; yellow in two shades, perhaps brick from its crude colour, or it may be an oolite. The white ground is either a limestone, or perhaps from its clearness, from the beds of the lower chalk. The reds in three shades are all brick. The use of the grey green (sage green) *tesserae* in the floor gives it a much softer look than most pavements, and offers a marked contrast to the mosaics of the southern counties. As for the *tesserae* the size is pretty constant everywhere in this country, the larger being 1½ in. more or less and the smaller ½ in. or less. In this instance the larger are only ⅝ in. square. They always approximate to a square in shape, but are cut to fit a space if required. The larger sizes are only used as grounds for finer work, for borders, or for the pavement of corridors. This pavement is one of the finest of its kind in England (plate III).

In 1885 a tessellated pavement was found in excavating under the premises of Messrs. Kympton and Howell in Sarah Street, Old Bath Lane. It measured about 12 ft. or 14 ft. by 3 ft. or 4 ft., and was in good preservation, the pattern distinct, the *tesserae* rather coarse. A small piece was exhibited at a meeting of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society by Mr. Freer in 1886. The level was below the surface of the river and considerably lower than the pavement discovered in Jewry Wall Street. ~~Two columns~~ in the Leicester Museum (Nos. 18-19) are said to have been found in this place.<sup>54</sup>

About ten years before, in the same street, while some drainage works were being carried out, a bed of concrete composed of lime and finely broken tiles was disclosed, 9 ft. from the surface. In some places the concrete was a foot thick and extended for 20 ft. in length, it was not explored in any other direction; the surface was quite smooth, and rested on a bed of black mould from 4 ft. to 5 ft. in depth, below which were marl and gravel. The flooring was intersected by a rough foundation, apparently the angle of a building, one side being curved. Some thick walls of coarse masonry were also found, one running parallel to the street, north and south, and two others crossing it at right angles. Beneath the floor a passage or conduit was discovered leading to the river.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. A. 445.

<sup>53</sup> ~~*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xviii, lix; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. A. 445; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvii, 62; MS. Min. Soc. Antiq. x, 196.~~

<sup>54</sup> *Guide to Leic. Museum*; *Antiq.* xii, 228; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 210; ix, 175; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvii, 62.

<sup>55</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22; v, 41; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvii, 62.

different find - more or less in the

Part of a calc. l.  
possibly multi  
m m  
Sarah Street

Pamphlet bought on site - 72 Friar's Causeway.

e

X

S.

## A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

Nichols mentioned some tessellated pavements found at Vauxhall Wharf in 1747, 'in a bathing-room near the river, which now rises over and damages them.'<sup>66</sup>

In 1839 the traces of a small pavement about 11 ft. square were discovered in Vine Street at a depth of 6 ft. 6 in. below the level of the street. A drawing of it was presented to the museum by Mr. J. Horsepool. The pavement consisted of a central circular panel with semicircular ones joining it on each side, with a quarter of a circle filling each corner, the dividing lines being the usual braidwork bands. In each angle panel was a vase, and three heart-shaped leaves filled each of the semicircular ones. The central arrangement was lost. The colours were the usual black, red and yellows, all on a white ground. Other pavements very like this have been found elsewhere. For example, one was found at Lincoln, another at Silchester. The design, however, is cheap and poor, and the execution distinctly bad (plate V).

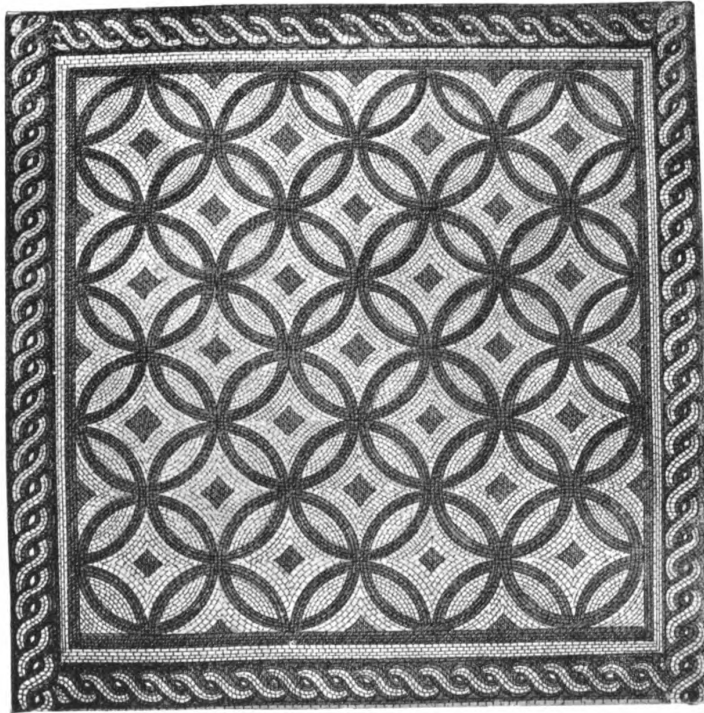
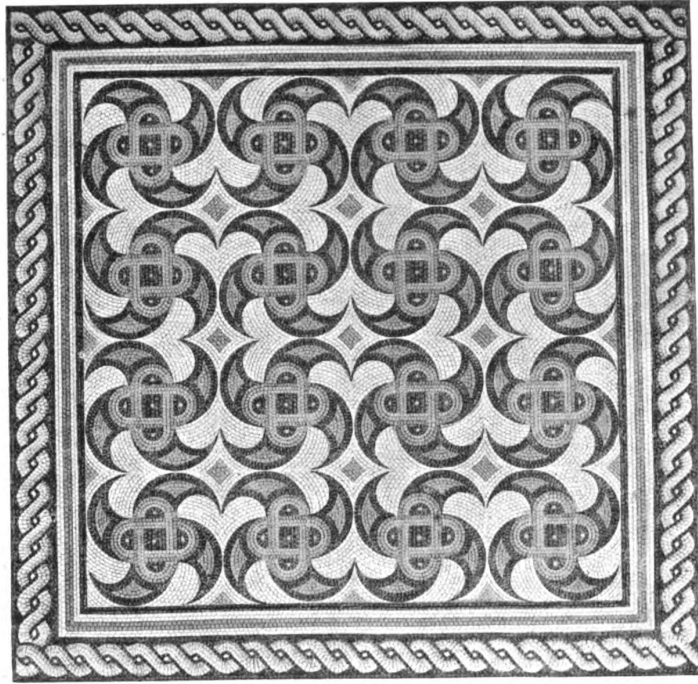
The remains of a large villa were discovered at Danett's Hall in 1782, in a field called the Cherry Orchard, about three-quarters of a mile west of the old town, on the opposite side of the Soar. It was probably connected with the town by a lane called Watt's Causeway, now King Richard's Road, the site of the villa being 25 ft. from the road, opposite the Newfound Pool Inn. It was re-opened in 1851, and again in 1868. According to Nichols's account the cherry-trees which gave the site its name were planted early in the eighteenth century. In 1782, when digging up one of the trees, part of the floor of a corridor was discovered, and a continuation of it in a northerly direction was traced. In 1851, and again in 1868, the Literary and Philosophical Society of Leicester, conjointly with the Architectural and Archaeological Society, undertook further explorations, before the site was built over and all traces of the original building destroyed. A plan of the villa was made and preserved in the Leicester Museum, which indicates the disposition and colouring of the floors, as well as the supposed lines of the walls.<sup>67</sup> It seems to have been a house of the courtyard type, a series of rooms placed round an open court, and connected by corridors looking into the open space. The fragments discovered in 1851 were the floor of a room about 15 ft. square, the *tesserae* being of red brick and a greyish drab stone, each about 1 in. square. The pattern consisted of interlaced circles of red on the grey ground. To the north of this another room was found, measuring 28 ft. by 18 ft.

A semi-circular pattern was disclosed at the western end of this room, executed in very small *tessellae* of four colours: blue, red, brown-pink (or yellow), and white; representing in the centre a shell pattern, in the two divisions of which, next the line of the diameter of the semicircle, are dolphins swimming towards the centre. The shell pattern is bounded by the guilloche ornament, outside of which is a vandyke of black and white, surrounded by strips of grey and red *tessellae* about 1 in. square.

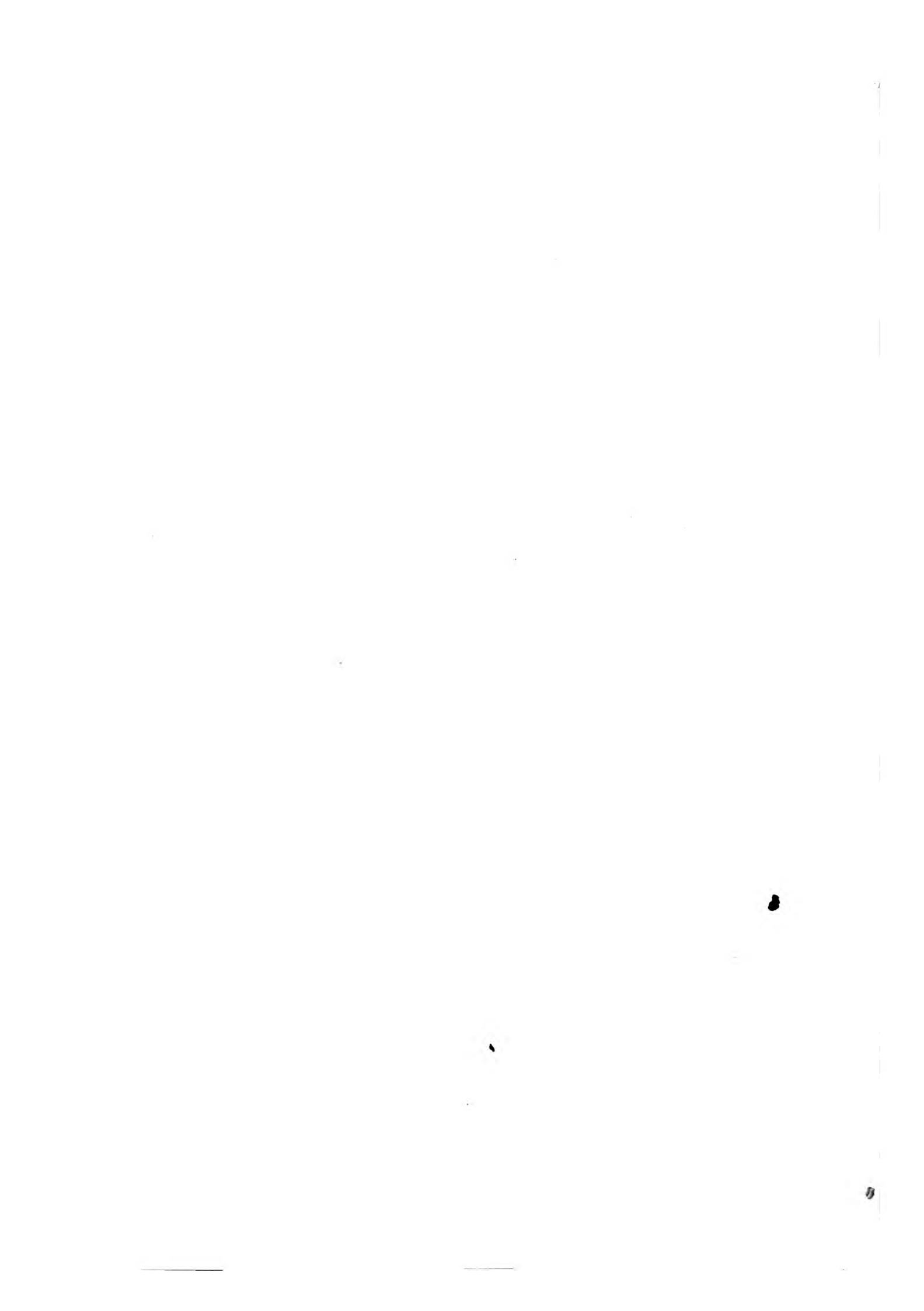
A fragment of a guilloche border at the eastern end of the room marked the extent of this apartment. (This pattern is No. V in the Leicester Museum.) On the south-western side of this pavement a pedestal and short column of

<sup>66</sup> *Hist. Leic.* i, 11; Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 19; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 62.

<sup>67</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, pl. ix; *Gent. Mag.* Oct. 1786; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vi, 439, 442; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* ix, pp. cxviii, 2; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* iv, 183, 185; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 387.



PAVEMENTS FOUND IN BLACKFRIARS STREET, LEICESTER  
(From Nichols' *Hist. Leic.* vol. 1)

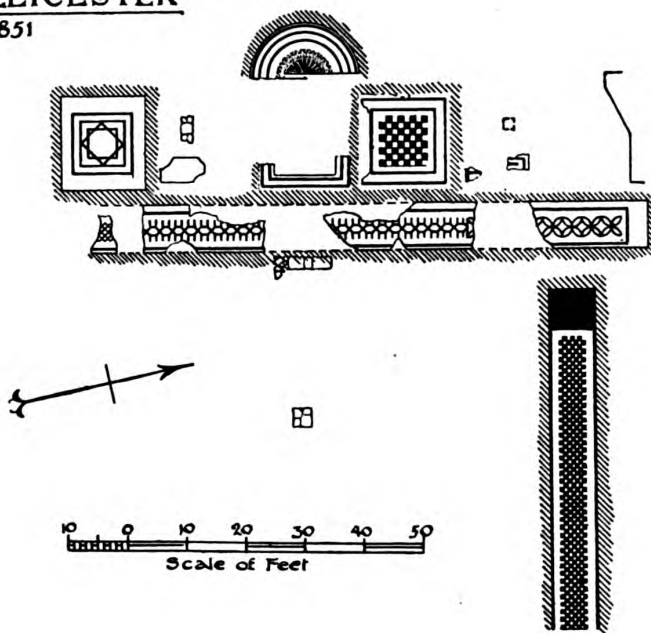


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Ketton stone was found, laid down carefully on the *tesserae* which were uninjured beneath it (No. 27 in Leicester Museum) (plate VI). Still further north in the same direction another floor about 14 ft. square was found, of a chess-board pattern in grey and red. The pavement of a corridor was then disclosed at right angles to the set of rooms already discovered. This was 56 ft. in length and 7 ft. 8½ in. in width, consisting of alternate squares of grey and red *tesserae* each *tessera* being an inch square. At the upper end of this the corridor floor illustrated by Nichols was found. It ran beside the range of rooms already described, and at right angles to the corridor just mentioned, with which it probably communicated. This last discovery was upwards of 120 ft. long by over 11 ft. wide, and showed the same red and grey *tesserae* as the other rooms, arranged in three distinct patterns. No foundations of the walls were discovered, and no hypocausts appeared, though flue-tiles were turned up, and one filled with concrete to serve as a support to a floor was discovered apparently *in situ*.<sup>57a</sup>

Fragments of wall plaster and wall tiles, some bearing the impress of reeds, and pieces of common pottery were plentiful. No Samian ware seems to have been found in 1851,<sup>58</sup> but in 1865 two fragments were discovered, one plain with a potter's mark, and one with an embossed pattern.<sup>59</sup> In 1868 another pavement was disclosed, 15 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in., with a pattern of intersecting circles in coarse black and white *tesserae*. A bronze statuette was also discovered, said to be 'of Apollo or Jupiter,' the feet roughly encased in a lump of lead which was evidently intended as a stand. Four coins found in 1851 were of the lower Empire (A.D. 268-364,) and one was of Vespasian (A.D. 70-79).<sup>60</sup> In 1863 a coin of Trajan, first brass (A.D. 98-117), one of Nero (A.D. 54-68), and a third brass of one of the Constantines (A.D. 306-40), were picked up near the site.<sup>61</sup>

Plan of Pavements  
found in the  
CHERRY ORCHARD  
LEICESTER  
1851



<sup>57a</sup> This account is mainly taken from Mr. Fox's paper in *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 56, but see also *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* ix, p. cxviii; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), iv, 183; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 200; iii, 15, 387; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vi, 439, 442.

<sup>58</sup> Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 56.

<sup>59</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 15.

<sup>60</sup> G. Thompson, *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), iv, 183; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 56.

<sup>61</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 200.

3256/

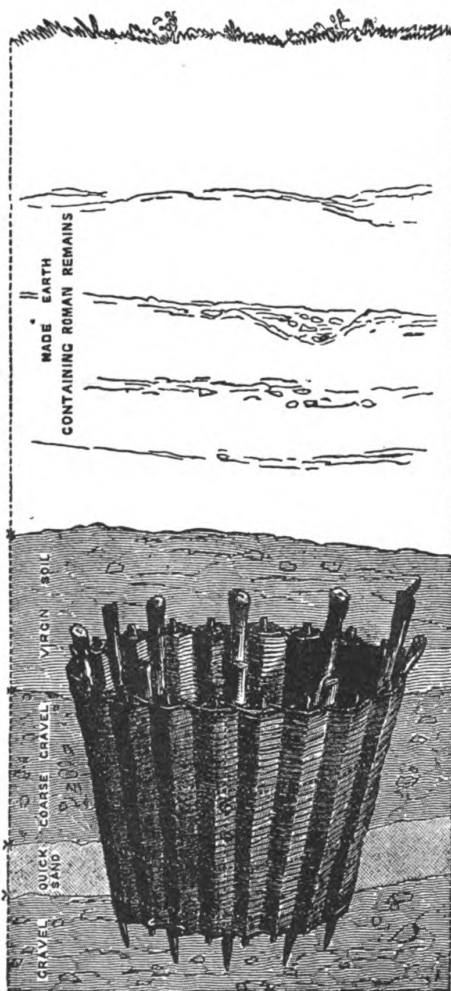
## A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

A sewer or *cloaca* is supposed to have run from the east gate of Ratae, where a piece of it has been found,<sup>63</sup> across the town to the west gate through the Jewry Wall, then in a due westerly direction almost to Talbot Lane, where it is thought to have turned in a north-westerly direction to the River Soar. Remains of it were discovered in Talbot Lane in 1793 at a depth of 5 ft. from the surface. Some very large blocks of freestone, half a ton in weight, having been removed, a kind of tunnel, 2 ft. across and 4 ft. deep, was found. It was made of the same materials as the Jewry Wall, the bottom of the tunnel being also of freestone. Throsby stated that the commencement, as far as could be discovered at the time, was in the cellar of a house near the south end of the Jewry Wall, and continued with a considerable descent north-westwardly to the river. This house stood in St. Nicholas Square, where the south-east end of Messrs. Rust's factory now is, but later discoveries tend to prove that the sewer turned slightly towards the centre of the wall. The contents of this passage seem to have been earth, light on the surface,

heavier lower, and gravelly at the bottom, mixed with broken pottery, some Samian ware with potter's marks, a few bones of animals, a fragment or two of glass vessels, and a coin of the Augustine age (B.C. 29—A.D. 14), the earliest coin yet found in Leicester.

A yard from the sewer (at the end near the Jewry Wall) lay the columns already described in St. Nicholas Street.<sup>63</sup> In 1887 the sewer was again opened and found to be entirely filled with earth. The direction towards the river, if carried straight, would show that it emptied itself where the old Soar joins the present canal, which increases the doubt whether the stream now used as a canal existed in the time of the Roman occupation. Throsby thought that it was a new cut made by the Romans themselves. It seems more probable that it was mediaeval, contemporary with the mill and the castle, the space between the bottom of the hill (from Talbot Lane) to the old Soar being probably a swamp. By sinking shafts to ascertain the upward direction, it appeared that the sewer bent towards the Jewry Wall, and apparently passed through it.<sup>64</sup>

In 1890, at a different part of Talbot Lane, the sewer was again opened,



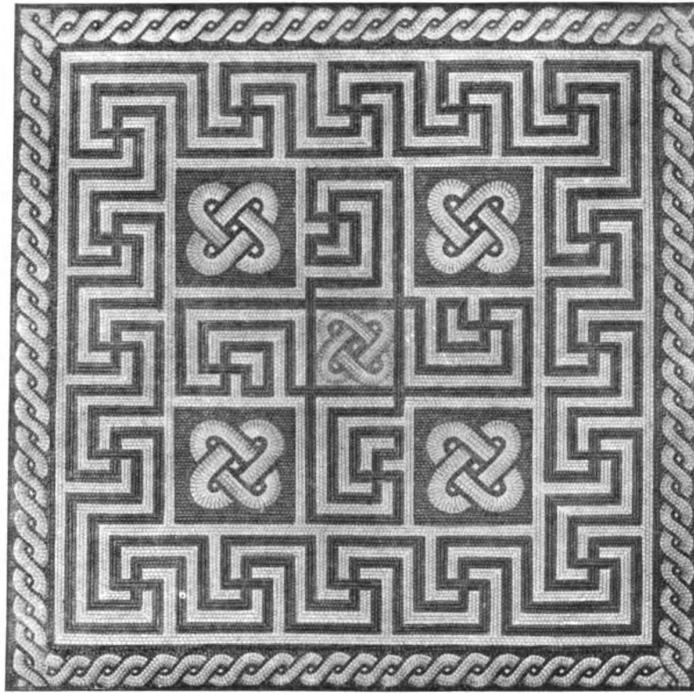
SECTION OF ROMAN WELL FOUND AT LEICESTER, SHOWING BASKET

<sup>63</sup> Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. A 447.

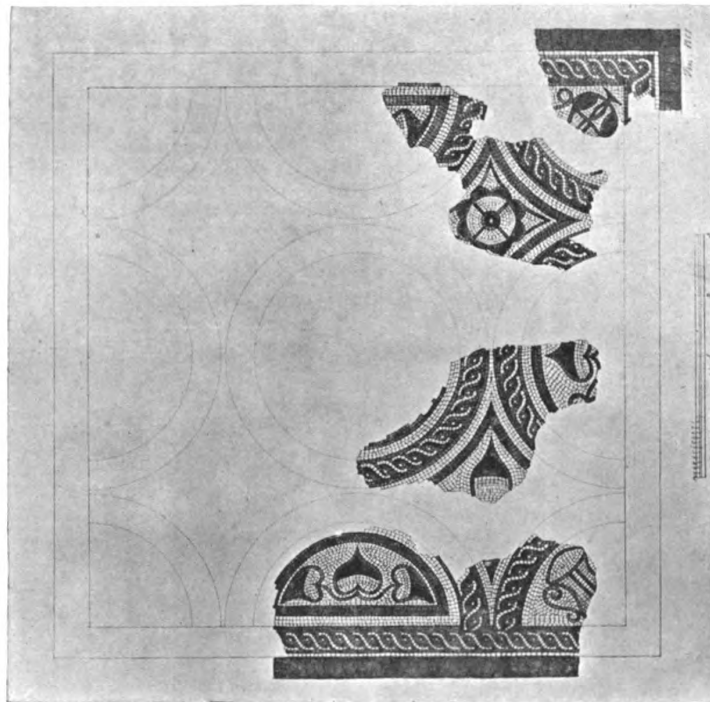
<sup>64</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 312.

<sup>65</sup> Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 388.





PAVEMENT FOUND IN BLACKFRIARS STREET, LEICESTER  
 (From Nichols' *Hist. Leic.* vol. i)



PAVEMENT FOUND IN VINE STREET, LEICESTER  
 (From a Drawing in the Leicester Museum)





## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

and was left as it was found, except that part was filled with concrete and used as the foundation of a new building. The excavations showed that there was no continuation of the sewer beyond the centre of the Jewry Wall, and it seems certain that it turned at an angle and went through or underneath the wall into the town.<sup>65</sup> Throsby said that it entered the town at the south end of the wall by way of St. Nicholas Street.<sup>66</sup>

Outside the angle, formed by the meeting of the northern and eastern walls of Ratae, opposite to where St. Margaret's



BONE OBJECTS FOUND IN ROMAN WELL AT LEICESTER

Church now stands, Roman coins have often been found, and in a spot close to the angle thus made two wells or pits containing Roman relics, chiefly pottery, were discovered. In a third pit, about 14 ft. below the present surface, a basket, formed of wood and wicker, evidently sunk as a means of collecting water in a bed of gravel, was disinterred. It was 5 ft. 6 in. in height, and measured 5 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 6 in. at the bottom, 7 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 6 in. at the top. About 2 ft. above the rim of the basket were visible indications of a ground line, on which were found part of a flint celt 4 in. long, and various bone articles. The basket itself was choked with rubbish—pieces of stone, fragments of horns, and teeth of various animals, including the tusks of a boar, portions of skulls of two goats, two whetstones, two pointed pieces of iron, &c. The lower part contained a mass of weed, rushes, hay, and snail shells, blanched with age. Four feet above this line another level was visible. On this a pair of Roman shears, a rude crucible, and other things of the same date were seen. This level was 6 ft. above the basket. About 4 ft. higher fragments of Roman pottery, small and coarse, were discovered. On the supposed Roman levels streaks of charred material were distinctly visible. In the upper crust of the bank of sand or gravel in which these things were found, small bits of Roman pottery were plentiful. From the general appearance of the bone articles found, and their similarity to antiquities discovered at Settle, in Yorkshire, it has been concluded that they were of a late Roman date.<sup>67</sup> The bone articles found were:—1, a circular ring, pierced with holes, 2½ in. in diameter; 2, a hexagonal handle, 2½ in. long; 3, a whistle, 3½ in. long; 4, a piece of bone pierced in the centre, 1¾ in. long; 5, a cylindrical object, 3½ in. long, with wide oval slit; 6, a tooth, perhaps of a dog, 1½ in. long, pierced for suspension; 7, a boar's tusk, 3¾ in. long, two holes pierced at the broad end.

*Cemeteries.*—The principal cemetery of Ratae was outside the southwest corner of the Roman town. In the Abbey Meadow a number of cinerary urns containing bones have from time to time been discovered,

<sup>65</sup> Bellairs, *Leic. Arch. Soc.* viii, 40.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*; and vii, 311–12.

<sup>67</sup> F. Thompson, *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), i, 243 (1860).

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Plate vi. (2)

among them a good specimen of an indented Castor-ware pot about 7 in. in height, and it is said that some black and white *tesserae* were found here in 1885. Adjoining the Abbey Meadow in Oxford Street, some distance outside the line of the south wall, a large glass jug was found in 1865 covering a deposit of burnt bones. It contained a solution of salts of lime, and its mouth was closed by a leaden cap firmly fixed with hard cement, and a piece of syenite had been placed upon this covering. The vessel was of an unusual hexagonal shape, and had the ordinary handle on one side. A similar glass vessel<sup>68</sup> was found in the grounds of the abbey in 1830. Both vessels are now in the Leicester Museum.<sup>69</sup> In Newarke Street in the same district many burials have been found. In 1840, whilst excavating for the foundations of a warehouse, there was discovered an urn of coarse, dark ware 4 in. high and 7 in. diameter, with a crimped border below the rim.<sup>70</sup> Later, six skeletons were found, each with a large stone over it, and round the neck of one was a brass chain. Some 2 ft. or 3 ft. below the skeletons, which may have been of a later date, a Roman pot was discovered. Other skeletons and urns have been found, notably a cinerary urn containing bones and ashes, 9 in. high by 10 in. in diameter, covered with a broken tile, under the Drill Hall, 7 ft. from the surface. But what is perhaps of more interest is a series of Roman lead coffins found here and in Millstone Lane at different times. In 1873 three of these coffins were discovered just outside the site of the south wall, under 15, Newarke Street, about 7 ft. from the surface. The first was empty, and Mr. C. Roach Smith, who examined it, was doubtful, but probably without sufficient cause, as to its being Roman. Two others discovered later on the same spot contained skeletons, and were associated with fragments of Roman pottery and glass.<sup>71</sup> Other similar coffins are said to have been found on this site at different times, and in July, 1899, one was found at the corner of Marble Street in Millstone Lane containing a skeleton and associated with Samian, Castor, and other kinds of Roman pottery and a small brass of Hadrian (A.D. 117-38).<sup>72</sup> These coffins were formed out of a large sheet of lead  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick, which was cut to the required shape, and the sides and ends bent up and hammered together, apparently without the use of solder. The lid, which was supported by three iron bars, was bent down over this about 2 in. all round. One coffin at least had been inclosed in a wooden chest.<sup>73</sup>

Burials have been disinterred outside the East Gate, and it has been suggested that there was another Roman cemetery on this site. Skeletons were discovered lying north and south associated with brass fibulae, and an armet and sword blades which may have been Saxon, though the pottery which was found at the same time was undoubtedly Roman.<sup>74</sup> Some coins were also found, one of which was of the time of Domitian (A.D. 81-96). A cinerary urn and other pottery were discovered with a leaden coffin containing a skeleton at Humberstone Gate in 1783.<sup>75</sup> Also urns with

<sup>68</sup> Glass vessels of a similar shape have been found at Barnwell, near Cambridge (now in the Brit. Mus.), and in St. Stephen's Churchyard, St. Albans.

<sup>69</sup> *Arch. Journ.* xxiii, 70; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* viii, cxi; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 112.

<sup>70</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 113.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 246; *Illus. Lond. News*, lxiii, 326; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xii, xli.

<sup>72</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ix, 15, 16.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>74</sup> Bickerstaffe, in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 5.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* and i, pt. ii, 619.



FRAGMENT OF SAMIAN WARE FROM  
BATH LANE, LEICESTER  
(p. 201)



HEXAGONAL GLASS CINERARY  
URN, 9 IN. HIGH, FROM OX-  
FORD STREET, LEICESTER 1865  
(p. 200 top)



FRAGMENT OF GREEN GLASS CUP FROM BATH LANE,  
LEICESTER  
(p. 203 bottom)

4.



ROMAN MILESTONE FROM  
THURMASTON (p. 217 bottom)

5.



COLUMN FOUND AT DANETT'S HALL IN 1851



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several skeletons were found there in 1846, and another urn containing burnt bones in a gravel pit in 1886.<sup>76</sup> A skeleton was exposed in 1872 about 8 ft. or 9 ft. from the surface in Sanvy Gate, outside the north wall. At the head was a pot of Castor ware ornamented with a pattern, and the word *VITA* in white slip, and at the feet was another pot of ordinary Romano-British ware which appeared to have been subject to the action of fire on the inside. Both pots are now in the Leicester Museum.<sup>77</sup>

In the town itself, among others, a cinerary urn covered with a piece of slate, containing burnt bones, was found in Horsefair Street, near the line of the south wall in 1876.<sup>78</sup> In Butt Close Lane, near the east wall, a cinerary urn was discovered in 1854-5.<sup>79</sup> In Church Gate, also near the east wall, an urn containing human bones, covered with what appeared to be the iron boss of a shield, and two skeletons were found in 1866. The remains of Saxon burials have also appeared in this part.<sup>80</sup>

*Pottery.*—As is to be expected on the site of a Romano-British town, great quantities of pottery and other miscellaneous articles have been from time to time discovered over the whole area. It would serve no purpose to record here exactly all the finds which have been made, but it will be well to call attention to the important features of the discoveries of this nature. With regard to the Samian ware a considerable quantity has been found, to some extent indicating the wealth of the inhabitants. The Samian pottery has the usual embossed designs of hunting scenes, figures, &c. One fragment of a *patera*, with a hole in it probably for suspension, now in the Leicester Museum, has scratched upon it *VERECUNDA LYDIA LUCIUS GLADIATOR*. It was found in Bath Lane in 1854, and may be a love token from Lucius the gladiator to the blushing Lydia (plate VI). Another piece was found, which is also in the Leicester Museum, with *VIIR*—or *VER*—scratched on it. The potters' marks, however, are of considerable interest as they cover a wide area.

The following names<sup>81</sup> are of the first century (La Graufesenque fabric):—

<p>ABITI.            ALBINI. M. }            ALBINVS. F. }            OF. APRI.            APRO. F.            AVITI. M.            CARILLI.            OF. CEN (SORIS) }            OF. CENS. }            OF. CRESI (? CRES(T)I.)            DONTI. OFFIC.            GERM. }            GERM(A)NI. }            JUCUNDI.</p>	<p>LOGIRNI. M.            OF. LUCCE(I.)            MACRINVS.            OF. MAPOMI. (?)            MARCI. M.            MARTI. M.            OF. M(A)TUG(EN)I.            METHILLVS.            OF. MODESTI.            OF. MONTANI.            OF. PASSIENI.            PATRICI. MA.            OF. PONTI.            OF. PRIM(I.)</p>	<p>OF. RUFINI.            OF. SABI(N)I.            SECUN. F.            SECUNDI. M.            L. TER. SECU(NDUS.)            OF. SEVERI. }            SEVERI M. }            OF. SEVER(I) PUD(ENTIS.)            SILVANI.            SILVI. OF.            SILVINVS.            SILVI. PATRICI.            VITALIS. M.</p>
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<sup>76</sup> *Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*

<sup>77</sup> *Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*

<sup>80</sup> Post, 'Angl.-Sax. Remains'; *Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*

<sup>81</sup> The marks in this list have been identified by Mr. H. B. Walters, M.A., F.S.A., of the British Museum.

<sup>78</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 185.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*

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The following names are of the second century (Lezoux fabric):—

ALBUCI.	CRACIS(A).	MATERTI.
APOLAUST.	CRECIRO. OF.	MEDETVS.
ARICI. MA.	CRICIRONIS.	{ MOSSI. MAN.
ATILLANI. M.	DAGOMA(RUS.)	{ MOXI(N)I. (MOXII?)
BORILLI.	DOCCUS. F.	NAMILIANI. MA.
BUTRIO ( <i>circa</i> 150)	DONNANCUS.	PATERCLINI. M.
CARATILLI.	GEMINUS.	PATERNI.
CELSIANI. F.	GENITOR.	TITURO.
CINNAMUS. F. ( <i>circa</i> 120)	JVLLINI.	VERECU(NDUS.)

The following are German potters (of Rheinzabern, 2nd century):—

AUGUSTINUS.	MERCATOR.	REGINUS. F.
BUCCUS.	MATERNINUS.	

The following names are unidentified :—

AETERNI. M.	DOMI(T)ATAN.	OF. PASSIEN.
ALBI. M.	DOMINCI.	PATE . .
AMICUS.	DOMITVS.	PATERNI. M.
ANAILL.	DOMS . . .	PATERATI. OF.
ANNIOS.	DONV . .	PATERCLO(S. FE.)
ARDU.	DUPPIUS. F.	PATRI.
ASURIV.	EPPN . .	PATRICI. M.
AVIF.	ESCUSI. M.	PA. T. RI. CI. MA.
BACCATU —	ELVILLI (? ILVILLI.)	PAULI. M.
BALELAS (? BATELAS.)	GIPPI. M.	PEPP . . . .
BIGA. FEC.	HABILIS. F.	OF. PISSIA.
BISSV . . .	HABIT —	OF. PONTI.
BITVRIX.	IBERI. M.	POR. P. M. H.
BONOXUS. F.	INCOLVA.	PORP . . S.
CA . . . . M.	— IRNI.	POTITINI. M.
CAMPANIO.	IMPRITO.	POT-TACUS.
CANTOMALLI. M.	IVCANIA. M.	PRIMANI. M.
CAP . . . .	IVLI.	PRIMVLLI.
CAPELLINAI.	IVLI. LALLISSA.	PRISCI. M.
CAPILLIO.	LOLLI. M.	PRISCUS.
CAPIIR. O.	LVPPA.	QUADRA.
CARU(S)SA. F.	LVLPVA.	QUINTILIANI. M.
CATILLVS.	MACRINI.	REGINUS. F.
OF. CATUS.	MALLIACI.	RICCI. (? BRICCI.)
OFF. CE . . .	MALLVR.	RISPI. M.
CICVR . .	MANVS. (?)	ROPPUS. FE.
CINT. . VGE . .	MAR . .	OF. RVFINI.
CIPPI. M.	MARCILLIANI.	RVFIVS. FE.
CLEMENS.	{ MAR . . . . NI.	RUFIANI. M.
CLEMENTI.	{ MARTINI.	SABIA. MA.
CNATOS.	MARΓNH.	SABINI. M.
CON . . .	MATII(?E)RNINVS.	SACCERO. M.
CONDOLLUS. F.	MAXIM. IN.	SACERO.
CORIN . .	MEDITI. M.	SACR . . . .
CRASSIACUS. F.	MIMANNIO.	SACROT. M. S.
CROBISO. F.	MINVLI. M.	SARRI . .
CUCILI. M.	OF. MODE.	SAXA.
DANVILLI. M. (? SANVILLI.)	MUXTULLI. M.	SENNIUS, F.
DIV . . . .	OF. NIGR. (? OF. FIGR.)	O]F. SEVERPVD.
DIVICATVS.	NIGRI. AND.	SEVERIAN. M.
DIVICI. M.	NOM . .	SEXTUS. F.
DOCCALI. M.	PA . .	SILXTI. MA.
DOCCI. M.	PANIC. M.	SILXTIN.
DOMETOS.	PASSIE.	SVOBNI. M.



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SUOBNI. O.  
SVRDILLUS. F.  
TEDDI. OR TEDEDEI.  
TIBERI. M.  
TITI. M.

TITTICI. O.  
TITURONIS.  
TITURONIS. OF.  
TITVS. FEC.

VIDUCUS. F.  
C. VIDA.  
OF. VITAL.  
VITALIS. M. S. F.

Some fragments of a rare black glazed pottery occasionally found on Romano-British sites are recorded ;<sup>82</sup> one piece is said to have been ornamented with a trellis pattern with bosses at the intersections in relief.

Probably in consequence of the nearness of the kilns, Castor ware is found in considerable quantities. Among other pieces is a good specimen discovered under 45, High Street, ornamented with a scroll in white slip and having the following six letters: M E X I . . . V I.<sup>83</sup> A piece of Castor ware was found on the site of the Three Crowns Hotel, being of an unusual dull brick-red colour and having the usual scroll pattern in white slip.<sup>84</sup>

Very little New Forest ware has been recorded as found on the site of Ratae, but the ordinary black Upchurch ware is of frequent occurrence. A portion of a lamp said to be of this kind was found on the site of Lloyds Bank in High Street,<sup>85</sup> and two feet, part of a child's toy, at the Jewry Wall.<sup>86</sup> A bowl found in Horsefair Street has the letters OVIN scratched on it.<sup>87</sup>

Some few pieces of painted Salopian ware as it is called, covered with the usual red pigment and ornamented with a female mask or face have been found in South Bond Street, West Bond Street, and Pocklington's Walk, and are now in the Leicester Museum.<sup>88</sup> As in all Roman sites, great quantities of the common Romano-British ware have appeared, much of which was probably made in local kilns. These consist of the usual household patterns, urns, vessels for liquids of all kinds, mortars, bowls, lamps, etc. Attention may be called to one ornamented with a head in a medallion found near Wyggeston School in 1893,<sup>89</sup> to a mortar bearing the stamp of the potter CEMNI.F,<sup>90</sup> and to a large amphora with the mark POR. P. M. H. on the handle.<sup>91</sup>

Some elaborately ornamented wall tiles have been found, which probably decorated the walls of the bathrooms of some building. These are stamped with reed-like lines forming patterns of diamond and other shaped diapers: a rarer type has a design imprinted in very low relief.<sup>92</sup> A hollow flue tile 17 in. long by 7 in. wide, having scratched upon it the words PRIMUS FECIT, was found in the grounds of Wyggeston School, which may be evidence of the Latin language having been commonly in use in Britain.<sup>93</sup>

*Glass.*—Fragments of Roman glass are not uncommon; the most interesting is that of a cup of bluish green glass 3 in. in diameter bearing military figures roughly modelled and an inscription in relief. The figures are about 1 in. in height, and resemble the designs on Samian ware. Two are entire, and show the Roman soldier's equipment of helmet, shield, and short sword. The inscription seems to read . . . VS SPICVLVS COLVMBVS CALM . . . which it has been suggested may be the names of gladiators represented below (plate VI).<sup>94</sup> Two other specimens of bluish green glass, ribbed, were found in North

<sup>82</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* viii, 29; Throsby, *Hist. Leic.*

<sup>83</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 2.

<sup>84</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 461.

<sup>85</sup> *Catalogue Leic. Mus.* 1874.

<sup>86</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* viii, 29.

<sup>87</sup> *Fox, Arch. Journ.* xlvi, 51.

<sup>88</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 113; *Antiq.* xxx, 214, 220.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* vi, 96.

<sup>90</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 96.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 185.

<sup>92</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 185.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.* vii, 131.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 308.

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Bond Street.<sup>95</sup> In the Leicester Museum there are also an octagonal glass vessel with two handles containing human bones, a hexagonal one (plate IX) and a square one; the two latter closed with leaden caps, and were associated with burials.

*Miscellaneous Antiquities.*—Opposite the Arcade in High Street there was found in 1904 a ring with a gold bezel representing Rome as a female figure, which is said to be of the first century.<sup>96</sup> In 1873 a silver ring set with an engraved cornelian stone was found in Silver Street, and is now in the Leicester Museum. The bronze articles which have been found from time to time in Leicester consist of a considerable quantity of *fibulae*, bracelets, pins, toilet implements, rings, spoons, *styli*, and steelyards. Occasionally ornaments or pendants with traces of enamel have been discovered. In 1858 a bust of bronze 3 in. high and somewhat corroded was found; it probably represents a faun or young satyr, the features being semi-African, with flat nose and round face.<sup>97</sup> With it was a *bullæ*, also in bronze, the shape of a heart, attached to a chain with long narrow links. In 1898 a bronze boss or ornament in the shape of a grotesque mask was found at Newarke Bridge.<sup>98</sup> (These are all in the Leicester Museum.) The figure of ‘Apollo or Jupiter’ found on the site of the villa at the Cherry Orchard is noted elsewhere.<sup>99</sup> An eagle’s head in bronze was found on the site of the Royal Arcade in High Street,<sup>100</sup> and a small bronze cross 2 in. long with a coin of Valens (A.D. 364–78) in Belgrave Gate.<sup>101</sup> A finger-ring of bronze of the key type was discovered in Blackfriars Street.<sup>102</sup> The iron framework and chain of a large bucket, said to be Roman, were found at a depth of 25 ft. when sinking a well in Southgate Street.<sup>103</sup> A bone spoon, now in the Leicester Museum, was found in Causeway Lane,<sup>104</sup> some bone discs in St. Nicholas Street,<sup>105</sup> and many bone pins have been found in different parts of the town. A quern of pudding stone was found in Butt Close Lane in 1862.<sup>106</sup> A seal or stamp of blue lias was found in High Cross Street bearing a grotesque face and the inscription in two lines, C. PAL. GRACILIS,<sup>107</sup> which Hübner reads C[AIVS] PAL[FORIOS] GRACILIS.<sup>108</sup>

*Coins* have been found in considerable quantities in the town, separately and in hoards.<sup>109</sup> Burton records isolated finds made as early as 1622, dating from Vespasian (A.D. 70–9) to Antonine (A.D. 138–61).<sup>110</sup> In 1718 a hoard was discovered near the North Gate, in an earthenware pot capable of holding 3 pints or 2 quarts, and containing a considerable number of coins, first and third brass, dating from Titus (A.D. 79–81) to Honorius (A.D. 395–423).<sup>111</sup> In 1730 600 brass coins were found, presumably together, ‘near the town,’ dating from Diocletian (A.D. 284–305) to Constantine Maximus (A.D. 306–37).<sup>112</sup> In 1797 the *Gentleman’s Magazine* records the find of many consular coins in the ploughed lands north-west of the town,<sup>113</sup> apparently all silver. A great number of coins were found near Bow Bridge

<sup>95</sup> C. Roach Smith, *Illus. Rom. Lond.*

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.* i, 214.

<sup>99</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* ix, p. cxviii; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), iv, 183–5.

<sup>100</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 169; vi, 113–14.

<sup>102</sup> *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xii, p. xli.

<sup>104</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 178; v, 59.

<sup>109</sup> Hollings, *Leic. Lit. and Phil. Soc.* 364.

<sup>112</sup> Camden, *Brit.* ii, 209 (ed. Gough); MS. Min. Soc. Antiq. ii, 200; Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 4.

<sup>113</sup> *Gent. Mag.* 1797, i, 203; *Arch.* liv, 494.

<sup>96</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ix, 225, 238.

<sup>98</sup> *Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.* ii, 247.

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.* ii, 247.

<sup>105</sup> *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 92.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.* vi, 96.

<sup>110</sup> *Descr. of Leic.*

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.* iv, 328.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.* ix, 175.

<sup>109</sup> Hübner, *Corpus Inscrip.*

<sup>111</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 4.

## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

in the same garden, but at different times up to 1855, including coins of almost all the emperors from Caligula (A.D. 37-41) to Valens (A.D. 364-78),<sup>114</sup> with the exception of a break of about sixty years between Albinus (A.D. 193-7) and Posthumus (A.D. 258-68), for which period there are no representative coins. Scattered in various parts of the town at different times have been found coins, chiefly first and third brass, dating from Claudius (A.D. 41-54) to Gratianus (A.D. 375-83).<sup>115</sup> Coins of the earlier Caesars are rare, but those of Hadrian (A.D. 117-38) and Antoninus (A.D. 138-61) are sometimes found in considerable numbers. Silver denarii of Nero (A.D. 54-68) and of Domitian (A.D. 81-96) have occasionally been brought to light. Silver coins have also been found of Vespasian (A.D. 70-9), Hadrian (A.D. 117-38), Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-61), Severus Alexander (A.D. 222-35), and Aurelian (A.D. 270-5). The coins of Constantine (A.D. 306-37) constitute perhaps half the total number of those found.<sup>116</sup> The only gold coins that have been recorded are one of Trajan (A.D. 98-117) and one of Honorius (A.D. 395-423).<sup>117</sup>

### ROMAN ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS IN LEICESTER

The letters and numerals on the Plan indicate remains the site of whose discovery has been ascertained as nearly as possible. This list is compiled, with a few additions, from a similar list by Mr. G. E. Fox, in *Arch. Journ.* xlv, 61.

- 12194
- A.—Floor of mortar, walls and traces of a hypocaust (?) and large foundations of a wall of Forest stone, laid dry. Near Water House, High Cross Street, next west end of the Friars (site of Johnson's Buildings). Found 1667-8. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.] A tessellated floor, a hypocaust and painted walls, site of Johnson's Buildings. Found 1667. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 19.]
- B.—Large Sewer from East Gate, found at end of seventeenth century. [Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. A. 447.]
- C.—Wall and pavement of stone like a street. Found 1716. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.]
- D.—Tessellated floor, White Lion Inn. Found 1723. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.]
- E.—Tessellated pavements on site known as Vauxhall, close to the River Soar. Found in 1747. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 19; Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.]
- F.—Tessellated pavement found under south aisle of St. Martin's Church, 1773. [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 12.]
- G.—Tessellated pavement found on site of County Gaol. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 383.]
- H.—Tessellated pavement and hypocausts, under Mr. Stephen's house, now No. 18, High Cross Street. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 20.]
- I.—Tessellated pavement under Mr. King's house, afterwards in possession of Mr. Collier. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 20.]
- KK.—Concrete floor, large foundations, columns, and large drain. Found 1793. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 388 et seq.] And foundations at the Talbot Inn. Found 1793. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 2.]
- L.—Concrete floor, and massive wall in line with the Jewry Wall, at Recruiting Sergeant Inn. [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 12.]
- M.—Tessellated pavement, *in situ*, found 1830. Jewry Wall Street, now under Great Central Railway. [Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. A. 445. *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22.]
- N.—Pavement found in 1839, St. Nicholas Square. [O. S. xxxi, 10. Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. 445.]
- O.—Wall and bases and shafts of columns. Found 1859. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 23, 24.]
- P.—Painted walls of a room. Found 1886, in the street, Southgate Street, near Mr. Warren's premises. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22.]
- not marked  
no reference  
Fox, p. 117  
+ ss. pavement
- 59  
p. 117

<sup>114</sup> Hollings, *Leic. Lit. and Phil. Soc.* 364.

<sup>115</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 4; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* App. 446-7; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* i-ix.

<sup>116</sup> Hollings, *Leic. Lit. and Phil. Soc.* 364 et seq.

<sup>117</sup> Thompson, *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vii, 151; Hollings, *Leic. Lit. and Phil. Soc.* 364 et seq. A considerable list is given in the *Reports* of the Museum Committee, p. cclxii, of coins found in St. Nicholas Street in 1899, but it is stated that 'there is every reason to believe that the site was "salted" with intention to deceive.'

# A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

- Q.—Coarse pavement and fragment of column. Found 1866, in Southgate Street, in street, between Mr. Johnson's malt offices and Mr. Collier's house. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22.]
- R.—Rough tessellated pavement. Found 1876. Site of Opera House, Silver Street. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 106; v, 55.]
- S.—Concrete floor, foundations, and drain. Found 1859 and 1876, in Bath Lane. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22; v, 41.]
- T.—Inscribed tile, *Primus fecit*, Wyggeston's Hospital. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 96.]
- VV.—Columns found in 1885, now placed in St. Nicholas Churchyard. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 161.]
- W.—Tessellated pavement, Blackfriars Street. Found 1885. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 208.]
- X.—Tessellated pavement, Sarah Street. Found 1885. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 210.]
- Y.—Foundation of wall, roof tile, and fragments of ornamented, stamped flue tiles. Found 1888, in St. Nicholas Churchyard in digging foundations for new north transept to church. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii, 17.]
- Z.—Large drain to west of Jewry Wall, mentioned by Throsby [*Hist. Leic.* 388], re-discovered and its direction traced towards the Jewry Wall. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 312.]
- found in 1901. [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 459.] *Leic. Conf. Me. Rep. xliii. f. xvii*
- Remains of a stone wall about 1 ft. high (with column and pavements). Found in 1901. [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 459.]
- h h.—From about Red Cross Street down to the Elm Trees (near All Saints' Church), 6 ft. or 7 ft. from the houses on west side of street, an old stone wall, fallen down towards the houses. Found in 1685. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.]
- Found next the 'King's Arms' (formerly in High Street), a stone wall running to the street, 1710. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.] *only a yard and a half*
- Found, a wall in the cellars of Mr. Carter's house, and, in next house, a drain of stone, 1717. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.] *covered and buried about a foot deep*
- 11.—Fragment of tessellated pavement, found on site of Grey Friars. [Throsby, *Hist. Leic.* 396.] *7 ft. deep*
- Foundations and remains of floors, near the Peacock Inn, High Cross Street, 1858. (?) [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 215.] *Throsby's excavations*
- m m.—Foundations south and west of Jewry Wall. Found in 1864. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 305.] *Throsby's excavations*
- Granite and Sandstone Walk, from near All Saints' Church to near gaol, running in middle of High Cross Street. Found in 1864. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 23.] *shown (beard) h h.*
- n n.—Foundations on Mr. Sarson's premises, near St. Nicholas Street. Found in 1864. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 207.] *2-3.*
- o o.—Sites of excavations along the east front of Jewry Wall in 1867 and 1875. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 202 et seq.; iv, 54, 79.] *2/0*
- p p.—Foundations and town ditch. (?) Messrs. Rust's yard, near Jewry Wall. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 41.] *II. 202. 1.305.* *Throsby's excavations*
- q q.—A wall running east and west between High Street and Silver Street, with a tessellated pavement. Found in 1889. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 23, 24. *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xx, lx.] Foundation of a wall, from the same place. Found in 1902. [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 461.] *vii. 207*
- r r.—Continuation of tessellated pavement found at the corner of Jewry Wall Street and St. Nicholas Street in 1830. Found in 1843. [Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* 445.] Some masonry also found in St. Nicholas Street in 1902. [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), xix, 245.] *from the east side of the street*
- ss.—Tessellated pavement in St. Nicholas Square. Found in 1853. [*Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*] *Bath St. square*
- Fragment of pavement in St. Nicholas Street. Found in 1889. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii. 207.]
- tt.—Part of a paved road in Talbot Lane, of considerable width, leading to the Jewry Wall. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 202.] *31*

(In Museum, but not numbered.—a a to ff inclusive, except b b)

MER - c (?)  
PRD - P

Found in 1897. [*Cat. Arch. Specimens in Leic. Mus.*]

ff.—Part of a stone column from the corner of High Street and High Cross Street,

## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

- Site wrongly marked really same as E no wall for S.*  
*13-14 = (quarry stone) EA 212-113 Assoc Archit. Soc. 1174*  
*3*  
*1961*
- v v.—Three mosaic pavements, found in 1754, in Blackfriars, on property belonging to Roger Ruding, esq. [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11, 12.]
- w w.—Tesselated pavement, Silver Street, 2½ ft. from surface. Found in 1871. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 106.]
- x x.—Foundations of walls and two wells; corner of Church Gate and Sanvy Gate. Found in 1860. [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), i, 243.]
- y y.—Two pieces of tesselated pavement in Townhall Lane. Found in 1907. [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 462.]
- z z.—Fragments of walls and columns near St. Martin's Church. Found in 1874. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 273.] 1961
- a a a.—Inscribed tile L VIII. Bath Lane (Sarah Street). Found in 1854. [*Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* xix, 46; *Arch. Journ.* xxxiv, 141.]
- b b b.—Wall and roof of granite and tiles. Townhall Lane. Found in 1902. [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 462.] Portion of pavement from same place. Found in 1884. [*Rep. Mus. Com.*]
- c c c.—Pavement from Horsefair Street. Found in 1875. [*Rep. Mus. Com.*]
- d d d.—Drain of hewn stone at entrance to lane leading to castle, running from the Friars to the river. Found in 1685. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 11.]
- wrong ref. ?*  
*wrongly marked on map - shows St. Southgate St. of Castle St.*

### ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS IN TOWN MUSEUM

(The fragments are numbered as in the Museum)

- L*  
*2/ PL IX (2)*
- No. 1.—Octagonal panel from a pavement. Subject, Cyparissus and the Stag. (?) Found in 1675. [Carte in Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 9; *MS. Min. Soc. Antiq.* xviii, 271-95; *Philos. Trans.* xxvii, 325; *Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 36; *Reliq.* xiii, 224; *Leic. and Rutl. N. and Q.* iii, 136, &c.]
- Nos. 2. 3. 4.—Portions of a pavement of geometrical design. Found in 1839 in Vine Street. [Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* 445; Fox, *Arch. Journ.* xvi, 53.]
- Nos. 5. 6. 7. 8.—Portions of pavements found in the 'Cherry Orchard,' Danett's Hall, to the west of the River Soar. [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 19; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* 445.]
- Nos. 9. 10. 11.—Three pieces of tesselated pavement, from the corner of High-Street and High Cross Street. Found in 1901. [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 459; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ix, 169.]
- Nos. 1 and 1A.—Parts of shaft of column found at south-west corner of Methodist chapel, St. Nicholas Street. [O. S.]
- Nos. 2A. to 3, 9 and 9A. and 10 and 10A.—Bases, plinths, and capital of column. All found in 1861 in St. Nicholas Street, between Methodist chapel and corner of Holy Bones. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 334.]
- Nos. 4 to 7B.—Two bases of columns, with shafts and plinth, &c. Found *in situ* at north-east corner of St. Nicholas Street in 1867. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 334.]
- Nos. 8 to 8B.—Base and plinth of column, found in St. Nicholas Street, matching the above and close to them, 1861. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 334.]
- No. 12.—Fountain tank. Found at No. 52 High Cross Street, in 1862.
- Nos. 13, 14.—Two bases of columns found *in situ* when excavations were made for new north transept of St. Martin's Church, 1861. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 90.]
- No. 15.—Small base and shaft, with bracket worked on the shaft. Found 1875, on site of Wyggeston's Hospital.
- No. 16.—Small base and shaft. Found in 1850 in Cank Street (called in O.S. 'an altar stone').
- No. 17.—Corinthian capital, found in 1844 in Talbot Lane. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 24.] (Plate V.)
- No. 19.—Portion of capital, found in Sarah Street, 1875. (?)
- No. 20.—Portion of column, found in Southgate Street, 1859. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 22.]
- Nos. 21 to 26.—Carved impost mouldings and carved fragments, perhaps from an arch, at junction of Blue Boar Lane and High Cross Street. Found in 1859. (?) [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 23.] (Plate II.)
- Nos. 34-5-8.—Fragments of ornamental, stamped flue tiles in Case No. 4, archaeological room. Found in 1879. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 41.]
- Much-worn base and fragment of a capital. Found under house, west side of Southgate Street, about 12 yds. south of Bakehouse Lane. Lying in grounds of Museum, outside conservatory.
- See Nos. 21, 26.—Column, Blue Boar Lane. Found in 1907. [Inf. from Mr. Horwood and Mr. Pickering.] (Plate II.)
- II*  
*Should be near X*  
*Mus Guide p. 15, A.S. XLVI 50.*  
*29*

# A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

## ROADS

One of the first duties of the Romans in the occupation of this country was to provide for easy communication to all parts of it by the construction of roads. In doing this they connected the principal tribal towns they found already established, and formed posting stations at convenient distances between them. With regard to the roads of the Romano-British period, the sources of information available are of two kinds, written and archaeological. The archaeological evidence is supplied by actual remains such as Roman milestones or ancient metalling, and occasionally by the persistent straightness with which a still existing track runs from one Roman site to another. The chief written evidence is the *Itinerarium Antonini*, a Roman road-book which gives the distances and 'stations' along various routes in the empire. Its exact age is uncertain, though it is supposed to have been written about A.D. 320. Its accuracy is by no means unfailling, and it is more useful in showing that a road proceeded in a particular direction than in testifying its precise course and the exact sites of the stations along it. Two of the Itinerary routes (Itin. vi and viii) passed through Leicestershire, on the same road from north to south, and one (Iter ii) along the south-western border of the county. These follow the line of two well-known and indisputably Roman roads—the Watling Street and the Fosse Way.

1. Watling Street is the name in use since Saxon times to describe the Roman road which ran north-west from London, past Verulam (St. Albans) to Viroconium (Wroxeter) (part of Iter ii of Antonine). The course of the Watling Street in general is certain, and not least in Leicestershire, where it forms the boundary between this county and Warwickshire.<sup>1</sup> It enters from the south, crosses the Avon at the place called Tripontium in the Itinerary (Shawell and Cave's Inn), proceeds from there to Venonae (High Cross), where it is crossed by the Fosse Way. Thence it continues to Manduessedum (Witherley and Mancetter), where it crosses the River Anker and leaves the county.

2. The Fosse is the name used since Saxon times for the roads or series of roads which ran from Lincoln through Leicester, Cirencester, and Bath into the west. Its general course is no less certain than that of Watling Street.<sup>2</sup> The Fosse enters Leicestershire from the south-west, out of Warwickshire, at Venonae (High Cross), where it crosses Watling Street, and proceeds north-east to Ratae (Leicester), passing Narborough and Whetstone, where Roman remains have been found, and crosses the River Soar at Langham Bridge. It is once or twice lost in fields, though traces of the road are generally visible, and merges into the present Leicester and Narborough road  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Leicester. It is conjectured that the Fosse crossed the Soar again at Bow Bridge, continued by the causeway now known as King Richard's Road, entered the city by the West Gate<sup>3</sup> (Jewry Wall), passed along what is now High Street, and left by the East Gate (Humberstone Gate), following the course of the present road to Melton Mowbray, as far as

<sup>1</sup> Haverfield, in *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 242-3.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* i, 243.

<sup>3</sup> Codrington, *Roman Roads in Britain*, 252; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vii. 269-74.

## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

Thurmaston, where a Roman milestone was discovered,<sup>4</sup> whence it proceeds for 6½ miles to Six Hills, where it leaves the county.

3. The Gartree Road or Via Devana does not appear in the Itinerary of Antonine. It has been laid down by many English antiquaries on their maps or in their books as running more or less directly from Colchester by Cambridge and Huntingdon to Leicester, and finally to Deva (Chester). There is no evidence for the existence of the whole of this road, and the name Via Devana is a modern invention. Parts of the route, however, may be accepted as independent roads of Roman origin, and in particular it is credible that a Roman road connected Leicester and Huntingdon. It enters the county at Medbourne on the boundary of Northamptonshire,<sup>5</sup> and can be traced for 15 miles to Leicester, which it enters by the South Gate, here probably to be identified with the existing Southgate Street and High Cross Street. It leaves Leicester by the North Gate,<sup>6</sup> from whence its course is uncertain but probable, and ran it would seem through Markfield and Coalville to Ashby de la Zouch and Blackfordby, where it would leave the county. From thence it continued to Burton on Trent, where it joined the 'Rycknield Street' on its route from Lichfield to Derby.<sup>7</sup>

The other roads in the county are less certain, and in some cases are based upon very slight evidence. A straight road which leaves Watling Street at Mancetter, pointing for 5 miles to Leicester, and continuing in the same line by other roads, represents, it has been suggested, a possible Roman route to Leicester.<sup>8</sup> In the north of the county there is a suggestion that the road from Little Chester (Derby) to Sawley crossed the river at the point where the Derwent and Soar join the Trent, and proceeded to join the Fosse Way either at Willoughby in Nottinghamshire, which is perhaps the more probable, or at Six Hills in Leicestershire, but the evidence either way is not conclusive.<sup>9</sup> An equally uncertain route sometimes called the Salt Way is supposed to have started at Six Hills and to have branched off to the north-east to join Erming Street, near Ponton, in Rutland.<sup>10</sup> In evidence of this it is said that from Six Hills a straight road is followed by a parish boundary for 3 miles to the high ground near Dalby Tunnel, continuing with a slight turn to the line of highways on the north of Croxton Park, which it followed, and leaving Leicestershire at Croxton Kerrial.<sup>11</sup>

A route has also been suggested which would join the Rycknield Street at Derby to the Erming Street at Stamford, in Northamptonshire, passing through Sawley and Willoughby (Verometum).

<sup>4</sup> See Thurmaston, in *Topog. Index*.

<sup>5</sup> Existing roads and boundaries tend to prove that this road ran on in the same straight line from Medbourne to Stanion in Northants, where its traces are lost, but are thought to be re-discovered on the eastern side of that county, and to join the Roman road at Alconbury, in Huntingdonshire; Haverfield, in *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 206.

<sup>6</sup> *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vii, 274.

<sup>7</sup> Haverfield, in *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 206; in *V.C.H. Derby*, i, 251.

<sup>8</sup> Codrington, op. cit. 75. *Haverfield VCH Wars.*

<sup>9</sup> Haverfield, *V.C.H. Derby*, i, 246; Stukeley, *Iter Boreal.* 25.

<sup>10</sup> Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* cxlviii.

<sup>11</sup> Codrington, op. cit. 250; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vii, 274; this road is also supposed to have proceeded in the direction of Barrow on Soar to the south-west of Six Hills.

# A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

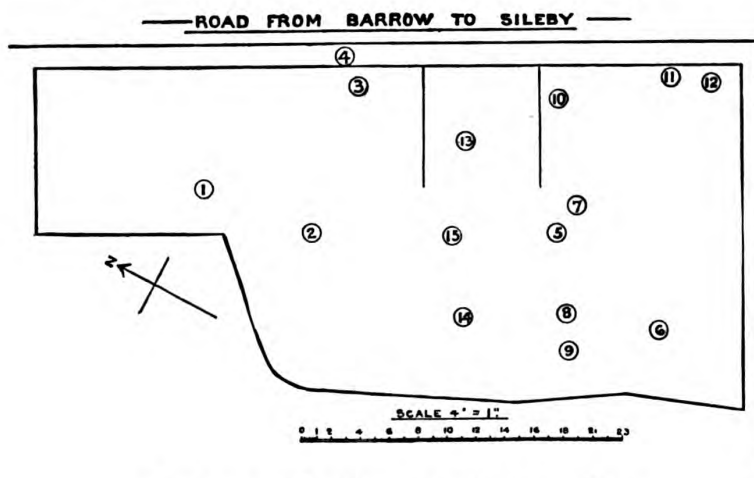
## INDEX

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH.**—In 1818, a mile north-east of Ashby de la Zouch, on a high point of ground on the Lawn Hills, two urns filled with third brass coins were found by labourers ploughing. Some of the coins were of Gallienus (A.D. 253–68), Victorinus (A.D. 265–7), and Tetricus (A.D. 268–73) [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 81, 382]. A circular vessel of unglazed light-coloured clay, 7 in. in diameter at the top, 1½ in. at the opening in the bottom, perhaps used as a funnel, was found near Ashby de la Zouch in 1866 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 179].

**BARROW UPON SOAR.**—The remains of a Roman cemetery, containing a considerable number of skeletons, urns, and other relics of burial, were opened in 1867, and again in 1874. The site is about 7 miles north of Leicester, not far from the river Soar on the west, and about 3 miles from the Fosse road on the east; the lane from Sibley to Barrow passes the spot. It is thought that a barrow formerly existed, since levelled, as the present elevation is not more than 2 ft. or 3 ft., and the remains were found 2½ ft. below the surface. A floor of rubble of Mountsorrel granite was disclosed, measuring 10 ft. by 6 ft., near the road, by labourers digging for limestone in 1867; it is conjectured that this may have been the site of the funeral pyre. On all sides of this, except where the road passes, remains were discovered of burials of different dates (*vide plan*)—five skeletons, five glass vessels containing calcined bones, or, according to another account, at least eight vessels and remains of from ten to twelve persons [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* iii, 448–61]; also a large amphora full of ashes mixed with iron nails and another clay cinerary urn were found. Two of the skeletons and some of the glass vessels were in rough vaults or cists made of stone and tiles. Two iron lamps suspended from long jointed handles were also discovered. The jars had apparently been buried in separate small pits, in two rows at even distances from each other. Three of the glass vessels, the large amphora, and the lamps are in the Leicester Town Museum. In the following list the numbers given correspond with those on the accompanying plan and show the positions where the objects were found.

(1) Hexagonal green glass vessel, 10 in. high, with ribbed handle, the mouth covered with sheet lead. (2) Square green glass vessel, the mouth also secured with lead. (3) Two iron lamps, suspended from handles 20 in. and 14 in. long respectively, evidently intended to swing from a beam or holdfast. (4) Another square glass vessel, found in a cist of limestone. (5) Hexagonal glass vessel, long shape, with two handles (nearly complete). (6) Square glass vessel. (7) Amphora, containing ashes and iron nails, 2 ft. 6 in. in height, 2 ft. in diameter, capacity 15 gallons. (8, 9, 10) Human skeletons. (11, 12) Skeletons in cist. (13) Rubble floor. (14) Clay cinerary urn. (15) Fragment of Samian bowl. No personal ornaments of any kind were discovered except part of a bronze fibula found later, now in the Leicester Museum, but some large bones of oxen and horses were dug up and several bone implements, pins, &c., which are also in the museum [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), iii, 448–61; *Reliq.* xiii, 17; *Antiq.* 214, 220; *Illus. Lond. News*, April, 1867, 1, 380; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 221–332].

In 1874 a further discovery was made in close proximity to those found in 1867, consisting of another large amphora, now in the Leicester Museum, also containing charred wood and nails; four *ampullae* of light-coloured ware; three lamps of the same ware, and another large



PLAN SHOWING EXCAVATIONS AT BARROW UPON SOAR

glass vessel similar to those found before. The whole were inclosed in a cist about 2 ft. by 1 ft. which occupied the centre of a space inclosed within a low circular wall of rubble of Mountsorrel granite, about 15 ft. by 12 ft. The relics were not more than 2 ft. from the surface, the smaller vessels protected separately by rude cists formed of thin limestone slabs. Several human skeletons were also found, much decayed [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 321].

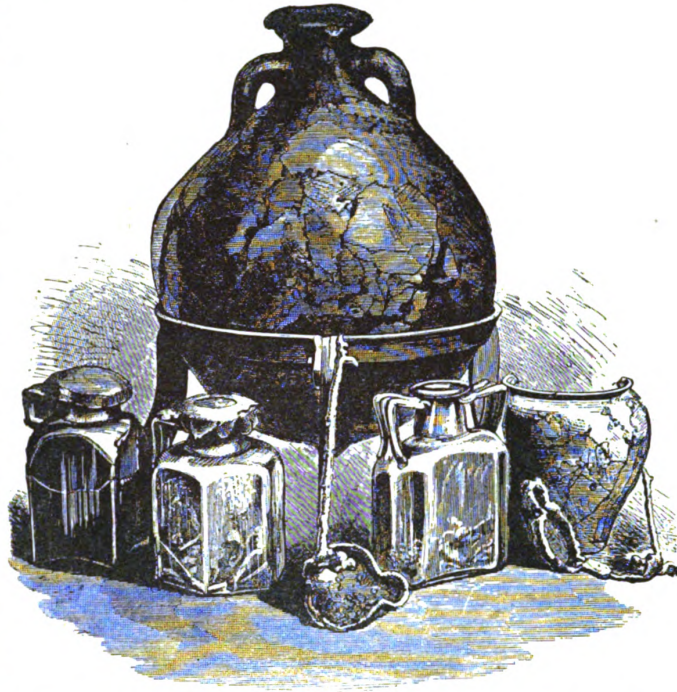


## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

A painted vase of Salopian ware, now in the Leicester Museum, was found in 1877; a coin of Vespasian (A.D. 70-9), and a stone hammer found in 1870, near the site of the other things, are also in the Leicester Museum [*Rep. Mus. Committee*]. These finds indicate the existence of a Roman cemetery, and consequently of a neighbouring settlement, probably a villa of some importance, judging by the remains found.

**BARBY.**—At a place on the Fosse Way called 'Round Hill,' the site of a tumulus now levelled, between Thurmaston and Barkby, an urn was found, which is now in the Leicester Museum. [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii, 360].

**BEACON HILL** (Charnwood Forest).—A bronze celt of the ordinary flat form, a little more than 5 in. in length, and two large brass coins, were found on the north-west side of the Beacon Hill, about 1839. One coin was of Vespasian (A.D. 70-9), and was remarkable for having in front of the bust the figures lxxxiii, very deeply incised. It is suggested that it may have been used as a military tessera.



AMPHORA, GLASS VESSELS, AND LAMP, FOUND AT BARROW UPON SOAR

The other coin was a sestertius of Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161-80) [*ante*, 'Early Man'; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), i, 44].

**BELVOIR PRIORY.**—During excavations in 1900 on the site of the priory, among other antiquities, fragments of late Celtic or Roman pottery, part of a bronze stylus, &c., were found [*Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* vii, 321].

**BITTESBY**, near High Cross (Venonae).—An urn and coins were turned up by the plough at an early date; Burton is said to have had some of the coins [*Throsby, Views of Leic.* ii, 301].

**BURROUGH ON THE HILL.**—Five miles north of Melton Mowbray, and nearly a mile north of the village, is Burrough Camp, a fortified position of great strength, of which the circumvallation is irregular in shape, governed by the natural features of its position [*post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'; *Leic. Lit. Soc.* 328]. Leland and Stukeley [*Iter. Cur.* i, 132] speak decisively of the existence of walls, but no traces of masonry have lately been discovered, though in 1774 an article in *Archæologia* mentioned the manner in which the Romans 'laid the foundations of the walls at the town of Burrough-field in Leicestershire, where the stones were set edge-wise in clay, but the superstructure was laid with lime mortar' [*Arch.* iv, 76]. Some excavations were made in 1853, and signs of Celtic occupation were thought to have been discovered, i.e. rude potsherds, flint arrow-heads, and the remains of a skeleton, buried in a crouched position, but Roman coins have also been unearthed, and a dagger and spearhead thought to be Roman [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii, 23].

**BREEDON.**—A tall jug of red ware was dug up in Breedon churchyard in 1863. It is now in the museum at Ashby de la Zouch [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 137].

**BURBAGE.**—A large heap of animals' horns, said to be of the Roman period, were found here in 1864 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 313].

**CLAYBROOKE.**—(See *High Cross*.)

**COSTON** (3 miles from Saxby).—A quern was found here 9 in. in diameter, 2 in. deep, with the piece of iron on which the upper stone revolved still remaining [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vii, 131].

**CRANOE.**—A small Roman coin was found here in 1864 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 352].

**CROFT.**—Croft Hill looks down on the 'Langham Bridges' as they are called, which cross the Soar to the south of Narborough on the Fosse Way; they are a series of arches, built of

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forest stone, 'joined with admirable mortar'; very narrow, without a parapet of any kind, and much overgrown with moss and weeds. Throsby considered that they were undoubtedly Roman [*Views of Leic.* ii, 519-20].

**CROXTON KERRIAL.**—One or two small Roman coins (bronze) were found here with a British arrow-head, &c., in a field called 'Egypt' [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 423].

**EASTON MAGNA.**—Roman pottery was exhibited to the Leicestershire Archaeological Society in 1858, which was thought to come from here [Information from Mr. Freer; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 176].

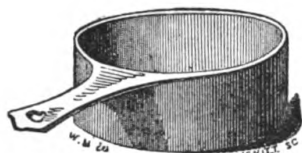
**EDMONDTHORPE.**—A great variety of potsherds have been found here, and in the neighbouring villages of Cottesmore and Barrow (Rutland) [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), xix, 194]. Between the villages of Edmondthorpe and Teign a hoard of Roman coins was found in 1797, in a square hole formed in the rock, 3 ft. below the surface. The coins were of Marcus Antoninus (B.C. 44-30), Trajan (A.D. 98-117), Constantius (A.D. 291-306), Constantine II (A.D. 317-40), Magnentius (A.D. 350-3), Valentinian (A.D. 364-75), Valens (A.D. 364-78), Gratian (A.D. 375-83) [*Gent. Mag.* 1797, i, 95].

**ELMESTHORPE.**—A stone coffin with a lid was found near the infirmary, Elmesthope, and is now in the Leicester Museum [*Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*].

**GLEN PARVA.**—Several specimens of pottery, including a small Roman *mortarium* and part of a square flue tile, were found here [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 187].

**GOADBY.**—A piece of gold, a gold ring, a fibula, and various coins found in a mound in Goadby Park were exhibited in the temporary museum at Melton Mowbray in 1865. It is also said that numerous coins and human bones have been discovered in the locality [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 39].

**HALLATON.**—There are two so-called 'camps' at Hallaton (*post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'). 'Castle Hill Camp,' to the west



PATELLA OF BRONZE, FOUND AT HALLATON



GLASS BOWL, FOUND AT HALLATON



BRONZE HANDLE, FOUND AT HALLATON

of the village, is a large conical mound, 630 ft. in circumference at the base, 118 ft. in diameter at the top. Evidences of Roman occupation have been found, fragments of cinerary urns and other pottery, crucibles, smelted iron ore, &c., but it has not afforded decided tokens of earlier occupation, though the generally received opinion has been that it was British [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), vii, 317; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 75]. On the Ordnance Survey map it is marked 'Saxon'; a considerable quantity of pottery and other remains, Danish, Saxon, and Norman, have been found [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 75; Hill, *History of Gartree*, 284; *Leic. and Rutl. N. and Q.* i, 173]. Excavations were made in 1878 without any very striking results being obtained. No traces of building or building material were discovered, no weapons, coins, or human bones [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), vii, 316-21]. There is a smaller rectangular camp, about 1,600 ft., to the west of 'Castle Hill,' which measures 300 ft. by 220 ft. An uninscribed gold coin of early date was found in 1848, about 500 yds. from the place [*ante*, 'Early Man'; *Arch. Journ.* vi, 403; Evans, *Anct. Brit. Coins*, 75-6].

In 1856, on the property of Lord Berners, on a spot where it appears that two ancient roads crossed (indications of these roads can be seen), remains, probably sepulchral, were found. They occupied a space of about 5 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in. There were no indications of a barrow, but they had evidently been inclosed in a wooden cist, and were found encrusted together in a mass, with some bones [*Midl. Hist. Coll.* ii, 66, 154]. The articles found were: four green glass vessels or lachrymatories, one perfect, the others in fragments; fragments of a ribbed green glass bowl, and of a long-necked dark blue glass bottle; several pieces of Samian bowls

and *paterae* of different shapes, without potters' marks, in a much broken condition; a bronze *patella*, the only entire vessel found; portions of a jug with a foliated ornament round the neck; a bronze ladle, and several handles, one representing a youth dancing, and one terminating in a ram's head, like those found at Shefford in Bedfordshire, and at Bartlow and Topesfield in Essex [*Arch. Journ.* xiii, 409; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 75; Brayley, *Graphic and Hist. Illustrator*, 344; *Arch.* xvi, 24]. There are said to be traces of a Roman encampment on an adjacent hill called 'The Ram's Head,' in the parish of Keythorpe [*Arch. Journ.* xiii, 409].

**HIGHAM ON THE HILL.**—A find was made in 1607 on the Watling Street, which passes through Higham; a large square stone was lifted, and under it lay two or three silver coins of Trajan (A.D. 98-117), with coins and other relics of a later date. Burton suggests that this was 'an altar stone, dedicated to Trajan' [Burton, *Descr. Leic.* 131-2; Thompson, *Assoc. Arch.*

## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

*Soc. xi*, 181]. In 1873 a small urn was found containing silver coins [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), vi, 73].

**HIGH CROSS (Venonae).**—High Cross is a hamlet situated on a small hill on the borders of Warwickshire and Leicestershire. The Fosse Way and Watling Street intersect one another at this point, and as 'the Antonine Itinerary places Venonae at the spot where these roads cross, and also assigns to Venonae distances from other places known to us—Manduessedum and Bannaventa—which agree satisfactorily with the actual mileage, it is natural that there should have been general agreement among archaeologists, since Camden, to identify Venonae and High Cross' [Haverfield, *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 232]. No traces of Roman camp or town are now to be seen, but Camden mentions that numerous coins were found, and that foundations of hewn stone lay under the furrows on both sides of the road [*Brit.* ii, 297, ed. Gough, 1806]. Burton in 1622 spoke of 'many ancient coins, great square stones and brickets and other rubbish of ancient Roman building'; and added that the coins dated from Caligula (A.D. 37–41) to Constantine the Great (A.D. 306–37) [*Descr. Leic.* 67]. Dugdale described 'large stones, Roman brick, with ovens and wells, and coins of silver and brass,' and stated that the earth of the site was darker and richer than elsewhere [*Warw.* i, 71]. Elias Ashmole in 1657 saw a foundation measuring 18 ft. by 12 ft. which he thought was the site of a temple [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, p. cli; *Bibl. Topog. Brit.* vii, 287]. Stukeley, Horsley, and Nichols mention further discoveries of a few coins only, a denarius of Mark Antony (B.C. 44–30), another of Domitian (A.D. 81–96), and copper coins of the late third and fourth centuries, down to Gratian (A.D. 375–83) [Stukeley, *Itin. Cur.* 110 (ed. 2); Horsley, *Brit. Rom.* 385, 420; Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* iv, 125]. Mr. Haverfield considers that it is now impossible to decide the precise position, the size, or the character of the Roman station, it may have been a village, or a posting station [*V.C.H. Warw.* i, 232]. Venonae being on the edge of several parishes, Claybrooke, Wibtoft, Copston, and Wigston, has been variously described as being in one or other of them, and this has led to some confusion, and a mistaken idea that the site is uncertain or disputed [*V.C.H. Warw.* i, 233; O.S. xlvi, 2].

**HINCKLEY.**—Thirteen miles south-west from Leicester, near to the Watling Street, and about half-way between Venonae (High Cross) and Manduessedum (Witherley and Mancetter), there are remains of a rampart and fosse, and Roman relics have been found near the site, chiefly a hoard of coins found in 1871; but the earliest evidence concerning this 'Castle Hill,' as it is called, is of a mediaeval castle [*post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 305; vi, 325]. In a cutting on the Hinckley branch of the Nuneaton and Ashby Railway, about 18 in. below the surface, a Roman vessel of brownish ware, holding rather more than a quart, full of small silver coins, was discovered by some labourers who unfortunately dispersed the contents before they could be examined. Some of these coins were seen by Mr. Thompson, the historian of Leicester, who estimated that the jar must have held several hundreds [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xi, 178]. They were described as being in good preservation, dating from Otho (A.D. 69) to Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus (A.D. 161–80), the most numerous being those of Trajan (A.D. 98–117) and Hadrian (A.D. 117–38). The following is a list of the numbers of each type, as far as they could be ascertained:—Otho (A.D. 69), two; Vespasian (A.D. 70–79), seven; Domitian (A.D. 81–96), three; Nerva (A.D. 96–7), three; Trajan (A.D. 98–117), fourteen; Hadrian (A.D. 117–38), twelve; Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138–61), eight; Faustina the Elder (A.D. 138–41), three; Faustina the Younger (A.D. 161–75), three; Lucius Verus (A.D. 161–8), two; Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161–83), one. Total fifty-eight [*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), v, 282–4; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 325; O.S. xlii, 7].

**HOLYOKE (Stockerston).**—In October, 1799, an urn was found in a ditch, in Holyoke Wood, containing 250 silver coins of Julian (A.D. 355–62), Gratian (A.D. 375–83), Theodosius (A.D. 379–95), and Arcadius (A.D. 395–408). Many of them were said to be in good preservation [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* iii, 535].

**HUNGERTON.**—There seems to be no doubt that a manorial defence, known as 'Old Ingarsby Moat,' is an adaptation of a strong rectangular camp of an early period. Its proximity to Billesdon, and the discovery of spearheads and other implements and Roman coins, lead to the same conclusion [*post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'; O.S. xxxii, 6–11].

**KIBWORTH HARCOURT.**—A large bell-shaped barrow surrounded by a ditch is in Hall Field, north-west of the village and east of the Gartree Road or Via Devana. It was opened early in the last century, and again in 1863, when fragments of bone and of Samian pottery were found. The mound was cut through from north to south, the depth of the cutting being from 8 ft. to 9 ft. About 5 ft. deep a layer of black soil, ashes, and pieces of burnt wood were found, with bones and teeth, and one or two pieces of Roman pottery. On the same level a pavement of large stones 4 ft. by 2 ft. was discovered, probably part of a cist, and with it a bone bodkin and an iron implement (or lamp). At a depth of 8 ft. to 9 ft. there was

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a regular layer of black soil, which appeared to be the natural level of the ground [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 230, 1863; *post*, 'Ancient Earthworks.']. A hoard of coins is said to have been found at Kibworth, but there is no recorded description of it, and it was removed from the county [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* ii, 310]. An inscribed stone is said to have been found here, but has been since lost [Reynolds, *Itin. Brit.* 448; *Arch. Journ.* xxxiv, 146]. In 1723 a gold coin of Julian (A.D. 355-62), found at Kibworth, not in the barrow, was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries [MS. Min. Soc. Antiq. i, 12; O.S. xlv, 6].

**KNAPTOFT.**—A Roman vase was found in a gravel pit at Knaptoft [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, pt. ii, 136].

**LEICESTER.**—See separate account.

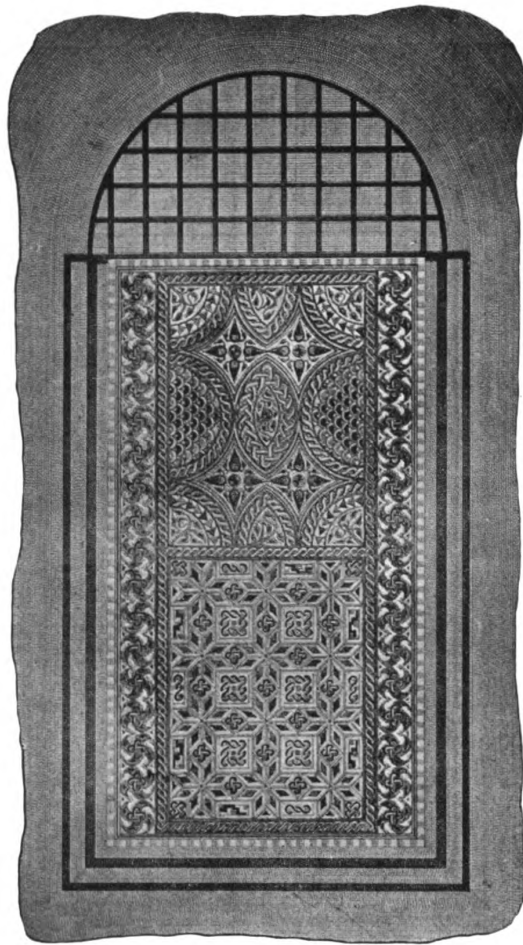
**LOUGHBOROUGH.**—In the part of Charnwood Forest which now forms the little estate of Mount St. Bernard, near Loughborough, was found in 1840 a Roman urn containing a great number of coins. It was turned out of the ground and broken by the plough, at a depth of from 10 in. to 12 in. from the surface. The land had never been previously cultivated, as far as is known. The urn measured 22 in. in circumference, and weighed 12 lb. The coins dated from *circa* A.D. 254 to *circa* A.D. 273:—Gallienus (A.D. 253-68), four coins, with different reverses; Postumus (A.D. 258-68), eleven coins, seven different reverses; Claudius Gothicus, (A.D. 268-70), four coins, three different reverses; Victorinus (A.D. 265-7), seven coins, five different reverses; Tetricus (A.D. 268-73), fifteen coins, seven or eight different reverses. Specimens also of the following other emperors' coins are said to have been among them:—Salonina (A.D. 254-8); Saloninus (A.D. 254-8); Victorinus (A.D. 265-7); Marius (A.D. 267); Tetricus, junr. (A.D. 268-73); Quintillus (A.D. 279); Aurelianus (A.D. 270-5); Probus (A.D. 276-82); but a particular examination was made only of the coins previously mentioned [*Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* (Ser. 1), vii, 1-5; *Num. Chron.* iii, 674]. Some upper and lower stones of querns found here are in the Leicester Museum [*Rep. Mus. Com.*].

**LUTTERWORTH.**—At this place, which is situated near the Watling Street, and not far from High Cross, quantities of Roman coins have been discovered at different times. In 1725 Stukeley saw a number, found between Bensford Bridge and Lutterworth, dating from Vespasian (A.D. 70-9) to Hadrian (A.D. 117-38), 'all well cut, indicating that they were hidden early' [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 4; Stukeley, *Itin. Cur.* i, 112]. In 1869 a large hoard of coins was found, of which only 254 came under examination. The numbers of each type were as follows:—Vitus Volusianus (A.D. 251-4), one coin; Valerianus (A.D. 253-60), three coins; Gallienus (A.D. 253-68), three coins; Salonina (A.D. 254-8), one coin; Saloninus (A.D. 253-9), one coin; Postumus (A.D. 258-68), thirty-seven coins; Victorinus (A.D. 265-7), one hundred and thirty coins; Marius (A.D. 267), one coin; Tetricus, senr. (A.D. 268-73), one coin; Tetricus, junr. (A.D. 268-73), three coins; Claudius Gothicus (A.D. 268-70), thirty-three coins; Quintillus (A.D. 279), seven coins; total, two hundred and fifty-four. There is reason to suppose that more than these were discovered [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xi, 200; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 36; *Num. Chron.* (new ser.), xi, 169, 181]. In the Lutterworth Museum are a sword, said to be Roman, dug up in Watling Street Road, and some of the coins mentioned above [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 66].

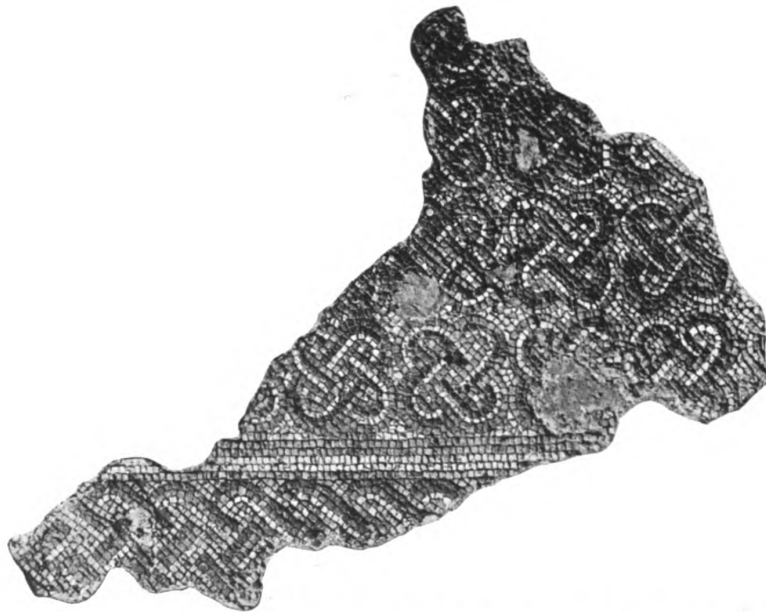
**MARKET BOSWORTH** (13 miles west from Leicester).—In 1871 Roman coins were found here, but were unfortunately dispersed before they could be examined. In 1890, on the site of Bosworth House, 2 ft. 6 in. below the surface, a spearhead and a gold coin were discovered [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iv, 197; ix, 243].

**MARKET HARBOROUGH.**—Until the site was recently built over the remains of a camp were visible in a field to the east of the town, sloping upwards from the River Welland. Roman pottery and other relics were found there [*post* 'Ancient Earthworks']. In 1873 what was thought to be a cemetery used by both Romans and Saxons was discovered, indicating the probable existence of a villa near it. A large collection of pottery and glass, several *fibulae* of different shapes, and an iron pot-hook were preserved. Some of them are in the Market Harborough Museum [*Pub. Camb. Antiq. Soc.* viii, 133; *Arch. Journ.* xxxi, 86; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* viii, 386-401; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 153-69].

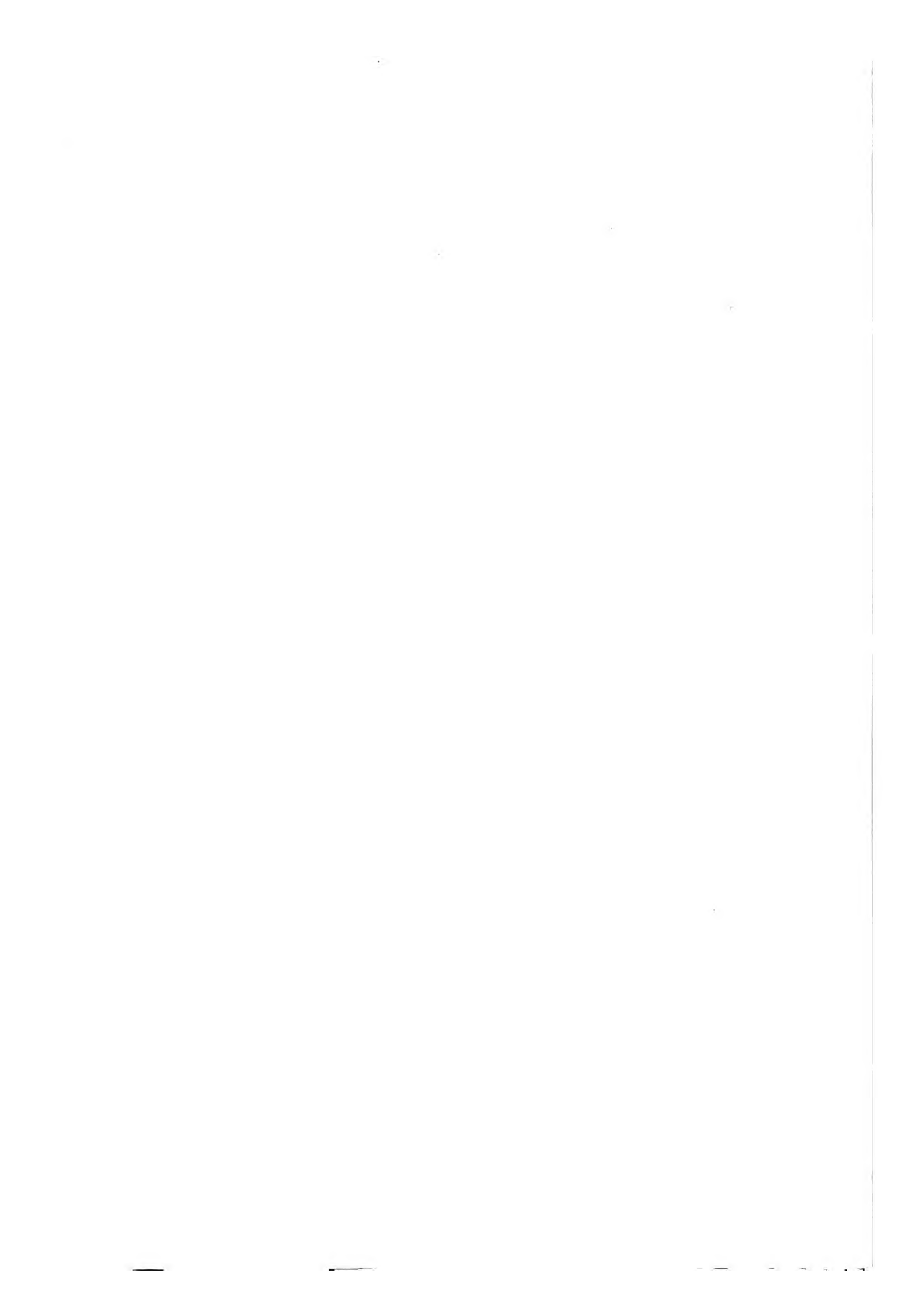
**MEDBOURNE.**—A tessellated pavement was found in 1721, in a square entrenchment on high ground near a stream, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north-west from the village, to the north of the Gartree Road (or Via Devana), which passes through the parish on its way from Cottingham to Leicester [MS. Min. Soc. Antiq. 1721]. The pavement, which probably formed part of a villa, was re-opened in 1793, and in 1877 was again disclosed, and the tesserae removed to the South Kensington Museum (plate VII) [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* ii, 717; Camden, *Brit.* ii, 301 (ed. Gough, 1806); Stukeley, *Itin. Cur.* i, 109; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), vii, 315; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 209; v, 70, 170]. It measured 42 ft. by 22 ft., and was laid due north and south, at a depth of



PAVEMENT AT MEDBOURNE  
(From a Drawing in Leicester Museum)



PAVEMENT AT THE CORNER OF HIGH STREET AND HIGH CROSS STREET, LEICESTER

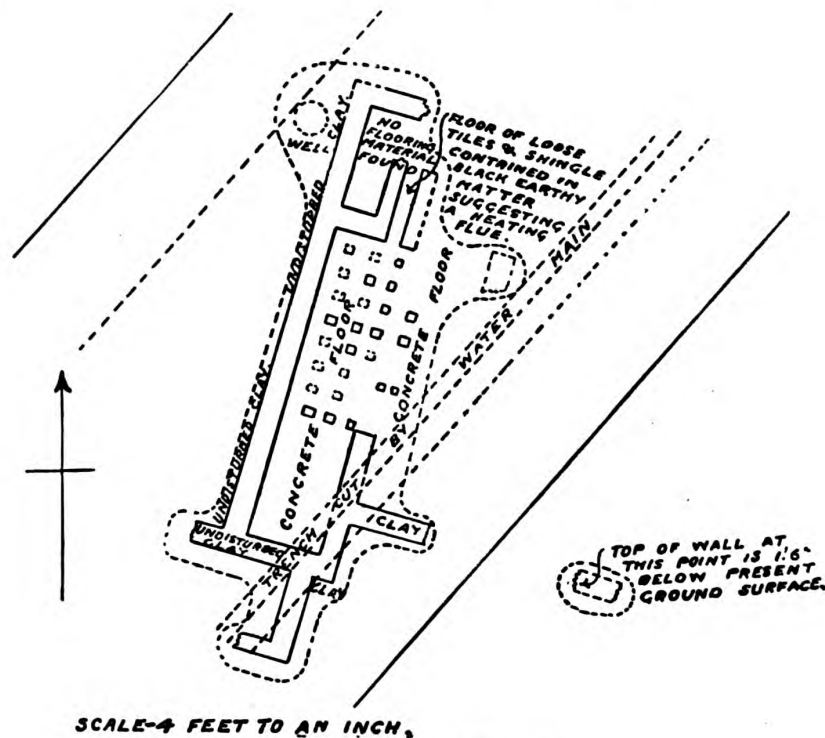


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- about 4 ft. from the surface. The pattern was geometrical, the inner *tesserae* being  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. square, the outer ones double that size. It was thought to be of late date, about the beginning of the fourth century, and probably the *atrium* of a Roman villa. The materials used were whinstone (blue), brick (red), oolitic stone (drab), and composition (white) on a bed of ordinary mortar about 2 in. thick, laid on the ground, which gave no indication of being otherwise disturbed. The pavement showed signs of having been destroyed by fire. Numerous coins, bones, pieces of pottery and wall-plaster, and a stone quern were also discovered. Silver coins of Vespasian (A.D. 70-79), Domitian (A.D. 81-96), Antoninus (A.D. 138-61), Honorius (A.D. 395-423), and Arcadius (A.D. 395-408) were identified [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 209; v, 70, 170; vi, 42; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xiv, lxii; *Leic. and Rutl. N. and Q.* ii, 209; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* (Ser. 2), vii, 196, 197, 315]. Between Medbourne and Port Hill, a few hundred yards to the west of the village, were three tumuli. Two of these have been removed, the third is now surmounted by a mill [*post.*, 'Ancient Earthworks'; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 70]. Coins have also been found in other parts of the village. A small silver one of Arcadius, found on the Gartree Road (A.D. 395-408) [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 290], a coin of Constantine (A.D. 306-37), found at Ashley on the Medbourne boundary [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 42], and two third brass Consular coins, found near the Manor House [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 295].
- MELTON MOWBRAY.**—Near Melton Mowbray, in 1863, a gold coin of Valentinianus I (A.D. 364-75), and two brass coins, the larger of Allectus (A.D. 293-96), the smaller undecipherable, were discovered [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 185]. Two gold coins of Valens (A.D. 364-78) were also found in the neighbourhood in good preservation [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 207; O.S. xx, 5].
- MOIRA.**—The remains of a paved roadway, thought to be Roman, were discovered here [*Reliq.* ii, 209].
- MOUNTSORREL.**—In June, 1881, in clearing away soil to find granite, a Roman sepulchral chamber, about 1 ft. below the surface, was unearthed. It was nearly a parallelogram in shape, the largest side being 8 ft. 3 in., the shorter side 7 ft., the ends 3 ft. 7 in. and 2 ft. 7 in. The walls averaged 4 ft. in height, and about 1 ft. 4 in. in thickness. They were coated inside with plaster from 1 in. to 2½ in. thick, divided into panels of unequal size by bands of red 2 in. wide, with a dado of the same colour 8 in. from the ground. Within the panels a wide pattern in colours could be discerned, made by brush markings in red, black, and amber. One of the panels on the shorter side was ornamented with a figure resembling the letter A.
- Outside the chamber, and independent of it, about 1 ft. below the present surface, a band of mortar, 3 in. to 7 in. thick, was to be observed. Two years before, another chamber had been opened about 12 yds. away. It was of rude construction, and not plastered. The floor was of rough Swithland slates, laid in clay or very bad lime concrete. Inside it were found bones, probably of deer, a stag's antlers showing saw-marks, some pieces of dark pottery and tiles, and fragments of coloured wall-plaster. A small iron arrow-head was also discovered [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* v, 345]. Near this spot were found a small bronze gouge, a stone quern, and some pieces of pottery [*Camb. Antiq. Soc.* viii, 133; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 106]. A well was opened at Mountsorrel in 1898, containing Celtic and Roman remains; a mass of concrete with pebbles, portions of roof and flue tiles and *tesserae* were considered Roman; a bronze bucket and other utensils of the late Celtic period [*ante.*, 'Early Man']. Several of these things are in the Leicester Museum [*Camb. Antiq. Soc.* viii, 133; *Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.* 1891-1902]. These remains point to the existence of a Roman villa in the neighbourhood.
- NARBOROUGH.**—A coin (third brass) of Antoninus (A.D. 138-61) was found near the Fosse Way in 1862 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 82].
- NETHER BROUGHTON.**—The Fosse Way passes between Upper and Nether Broughton and Willoughby-on-the-Wold in Nottinghamshire, and Nichols states that many mosaic pavements were found in Broughton, 'sometimes for as much as five yards together,' also pot-hooks, other utensils, and a great quantity of brass coins. 'Broad stones' and foundations were also found by the side of the Fosse. Stukeley decided that this was the Roman station of Margidunum (on the west side of the Fosse Way), but more recent opinion has decided that Verometum and Willoughby are the same [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* ii, pt i, 121; Stukeley, *Itin. Cur.* i, 107; Haverfield in *V.C.H. Warw.* i, 243].
- ORTON-ON-THE-HILL.**—Coins were found here in laying the foundations of a house at the west end of the village [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* iv, 852].
- OWESTON.**—Pottery was discovered here, some of it said to be cinerary urns [Throsby, *Views of Leic.* ii, 390.]
- RATBY.**—Five miles north-west of Leicester is a rectangular camp of single vallum and fosse, known as 'Ratby Burrow,' or 'Bury' Camp; it lies a mile west of the village of Ratby, and occupies an area of over nine acres [*post.*, 'Ancient Earthworks'; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* (new ser.), vii, 24; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 62; *Gent. Mag.* 1773, p. 76].

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ROTHLEY.—The remains of a Roman villa were discovered in 1901 near Rothley Temple, 5 miles north of Leicester, about 50 yds. from the Great Central Railway station, at the junction of the roads leading to Swithland and Rothley. The walls, so far as they were traced, inclosed an area of 45 ft. by 30 ft.; the floor was composed of concrete, still sound and hard, from 4 in. to 6 in. thick, and lay from 3 ft. to 4 ft. below the present surface. The walls, 2 ft. thick, were of large-sized granite rammel made solid with mortar, from 1 ft. 6 in. to 2 ft. in height. On the floor were hypocaust piers of red tiles embedded in mortar, varying from 3 in. to 3 ft. 6 in. in height. The tiles showed clay of the sandy nature common in the locality, and were from 11½ in. square and 2 in. thick, to 8 in. square 3¼ in. thick. The inside of the building to the level of the walls was filled with débris, including granite, stones, clay, mortar, and red clay tiles which were thought to be roof and floor tiles; fragments of pottery, bone, and horn were also found. A well was discovered at the north-east corner; it was roughly circular, 3 ft. in diameter, and lined for a distance of 3 ft. from the top with limestone slabs 3 in. thick, and for the remainder with granite rammel, no jointing material being used. The well was also filled with rubbish, containing fragments of bone, and was



SCALE—4 FEET TO AN INCH.

PLAN OF VILLA AT ROTHLEY

covered with stone slabs to the same level as the walls (*vide* plan). Mr. Haverfield considered that 'the plan showed a furnace-room, hypocaust, and the adjacent walling of a Roman villa, but the area uncovered is only a small part of the whole building; there is much more to be discovered' [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 458]. At a later date, not far from the east side of the portion uncovered, a coffin made of limestone slabs was disinterred, but was considerably broken in digging it up. The bones inside it were collected as far as possible. It was lying east and west, 2 ft. below the surface. Pieces of many different kinds of pottery, a quern, and fragments of *tesserae* were found, also an iron knife, probably Roman, and a Saxon spearhead (both now with other things from this place in the Leicester Museum) [*post*, 'Anglo-Saxon Remains'; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xxvi, 458; *Leic. Arch. Soc.* ix, 157; *Antiq.* xxxviii, 108]. In 1904 an urn containing bones and ashes was found in a sandpit, not far from the stone coffin [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ix, 239]. Nichols reported the discovery in 1722 of a pavement of small red and white *tesserae* with some human bones and roof tiles, which were found 'near a hedge,' at Rothley [*Hist. Leic.* iii, 956]. In 1784–5 a small piece of pavement, about 4 ft. square, made of limestone cubes, a cross 'plated with silver and gilt,' with a hook behind it, some coins of



## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

- Constantine (A.D. 306-37), a coin (first brass) of Julius Caesar (*circa* B.C. 62-44), and a circular piece of metal, perhaps part of a fibula, were found about 1 ft. from the surface, among fragments of stone and lime, possibly the foundations of a building [*Arch.* ix, 370; *MS. Min. Soc. Antiq.* xxii, 434; *O.S.* xxv, 6].
- SALTBY.**—Near Saltby, in 1811, a pavement of large pebbles said to bear the marks of wheels was discovered [*MS. Min. Soc. Antiq.*, xxxiii, 15]. Close to the south side of the long line of entrenchments known as 'King Lud's Entrenchments' are three tumuli, 8 ft., 5 ft., and 2 ft. high respectively [*post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'; *Leic. and Rutl. N. and Q.* ii, 41].
- SAPCOTE.**—In 1770, on a piece of ground called 'Black Piece,' was discovered a tessellated pavement, said to be like one found near the cathedral at Lincoln. The *tesserae* were kept by different people, and two small brass coins, one of Germanicus (A.D. *circa* 56?) and one of Constantine (A.D. 306-37), were also discovered. Foundations, tiles, pottery, and large covering slates were disinterred at various times. On Mill Hill, in this parish, towards Stoney Stanton, a stone coffin and some pieces of pottery were found [*Nichols, Hist. Leic.* iv, 898; *Throsby, Views of Leic.* ii, 231]. Some querns were found 3 ft. deep, and are now in the Leicester Museum [*Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.* 1860].
- SAXBY.**—Some Roman urns containing human remains were found in this parish in 1890, on the estate of Mr. J. Hornby, during the construction of the Saxby and Bourn Railway [*post*, 'Anglo-Saxon Remains'; *Kelly, Leic. Directory*, 329; *Assoc. Arch. Soc.* xx, xcvi; *O.S.* xx, 8].
- SHAWELL.**—A large bell-shaped barrow lies in a field south of the church. It has a fosse partly round it. By Cave's Inn Farm are the remains of the supposed Roman Station of Tripontium, which stood on the west side of Watling Street, which here divides Warwickshire from Leicestershire. Pottery and bricks have, however, been found on both sides of the road [*O. S.* lii, 12; *Haverfield in V.C.H. Warw.* i, 230; *post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'].
- SIX HILLS.**—This place has sometimes been identified with Verometum in the Itinerary, but Willoughby is now more generally accepted as the site of this station. The pavement of the Fosse Way still exists about a mile to the north of the village, and is described as being of 'red flints laid with the smoothest side upwards on a bed of gravel' [*Codrington, Rom. Roads in Brit.* 250; *Stukeley, Itin. Cur.* i, 136]. A road is said to have branched off from the Fosse Way at Six Hills, to join the Erming Street near Ponton [*Nichols, Hist. Leic.* cxlviii]. A milestone found here is now in the Leicester Museum, but the only part of the inscription which can now be deciphered is IMP [*Arch. Journ.* xxxi, 353; xxxiv, 396-400].
- SKEFFINGTON.**—The head of a bronze spear, 5 in. in length, thought to be Roman, was discovered in 1862 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 73].
- SKETCHLEY.**—A coin of Tetricus (A.D. 268-73) was found in a garden here [*Nichols, Hist. Leic.* iv, 468].
- SPROXTON.**—In 1811 an urn containing 100 silver coins, and the broken pieces of a larger urn, were found. It was thought that there had been a tumulus on the spot. The coins were presented to the Duke of Rutland [*Nichols, Hist. Leic.* i, 619; *MS. Min. Soc. Antiq.* xxiii, 15; *Num. Chron.* (Ser. 3), x, 30].
- STANFORD.**—Roman coins have been found here [*Reliq. and Ill. Arch.* i, 113].
- STONEY STANTON.**—A coin of Sabina, the wife of Hadrian (A.D. 117-37), was found near Soar Mill in 1860 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 395].
- SYSTON.**—A quern was found here about 1862, and is now in the Leicester Museum [*Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*].
- THURMASTON.**—About 3 miles north of Leicester, on the Fosse Way, a Roman milestone or milliary was found in 1771. It was a short column, 3 ft. 6 in. high, and 1 ft. 9 in. in diameter, made of millstone grit, from Derbyshire, and apparently stood formerly on a square base near to where it was found. It had been used for many years as a sort of stepping block, and was claimed by the parish authorities to mend the road, but the inscription on it having attracted notice it was set up in 1773 in Belgrave Gate, Leicester, as 'the centre of a neat obelisk surmounted with a lamp.' It was thence removed to the Leicester Museum in 1844, where it now is (plate VI). The inscription commemorates the progress of the Emperor Hadrian through Britain in the fourth year of his reign, and third of his consulate, A.D. 120-1. It is considered the most perfect milliary and the earliest inscribed stone yet found in Britain. It also decides the distance to Ratae, and finally settles the identity of Leicester with the Roman town. The inscription is as follows:—

IMP. CA.S  
DV TRALAN PARTH FD . . . . . EP  
ALAN HADRIAN. . . . . B  
POT IV COS III A RATIS

II

## A HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

Mr. Haverfield has given the following expanded reading—Imp[eratore] Caes[are], div[i] Traian[i] Parth[ici] f[ilio], d[ivi] Nervae [N]ep[ote] Tr[ajan]o Hadrian[o] Augusto patre patriae tribunicia pot[estate] iv, cons[ule] iii. A. Ratis [millia passuum] ii.

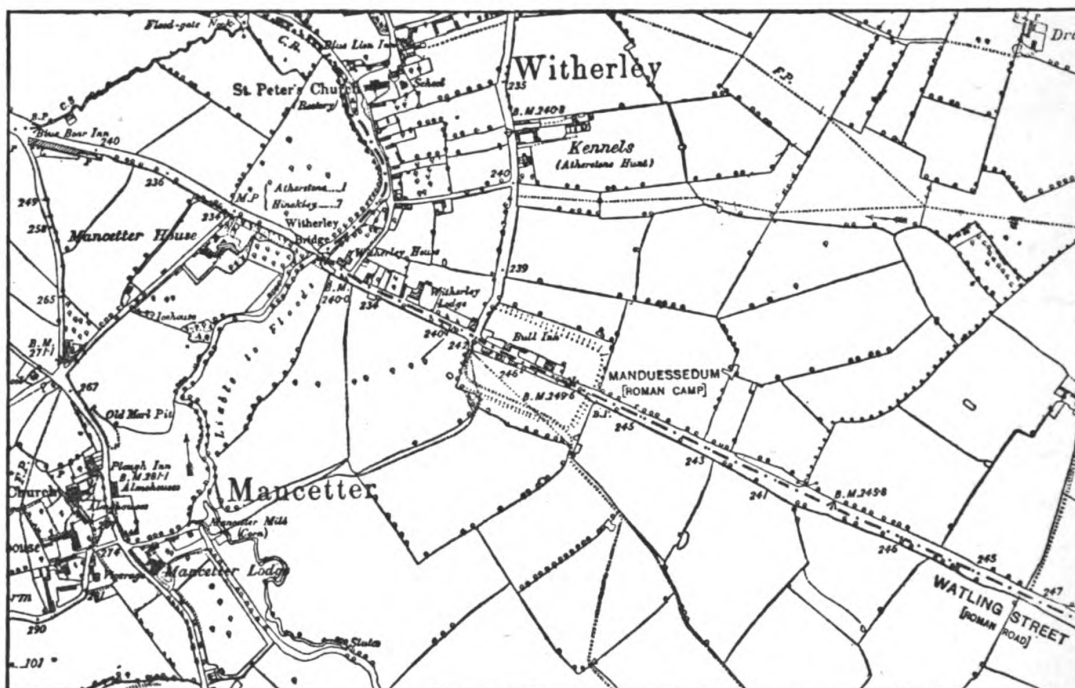
[*Bib. Top. Brit.* viii, 723; Thompson, *Hist. Leic.* 5; Hollings, *Leic. Lit. Soc.* 327; Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 5; *Arch. Journ.* xxxi, 353; xxxiv, 400; *Arch.* vii, 84; *Gent. Mag.* 1773, p. 16; Codrington, *Rom. Roads in Brit.* 250-1; MS. Min. Soc. Antiq. xviii, 3.]

'The date given by the Emperor's titles is, of course, the date when the stone was erected, A.D. 120-1.' Mr. Haverfield considered that the stone had been to some extent erroneously recut [*Guide to the Leic. Mus.* 1899].

**TILTON ON THE HILL.**—There are said to have been some earthworks on Houbank Hill, and two small entrenchments further south. Coins have been found here in considerable quantities. [Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* i, 330].

**TUR LANGTON.**—A small brass of Arcadius (A.D. 395-408) was found here in 1865 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* iii, 15].

**WALTHAM ON THE WOLDS.**—Two stone coffins were found here in 1860 [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* i, 397].



MANDUESSEDUM

**WANLIP.**—It has been stated that the remains of a Roman villa were found at Wanlip, but the only evidence forthcoming is Nichols's reference to many coins of Constantine (A.D. 306-37), with broken urns, a human skull, &c., having been found 'on the other side of the Soar, near Wanlip' [*Hist. Leic.* i, 4; Jewitt, *Reliq.* xiii, 18].

**WHETSTONE.**—During excavations for the railway in 1864 a large quern was found [*Leic. Arch. Soc.* ii, 312].

**WESTCOTES.**—On the east side of the Fosse Way, near Leicester, traces of a cemetery, containing both Roman and Saxon remains, were found in 1887. Several skeletons, lying nearly north and south, and with them some *fibulae*, an armet, sword-blades, fragments of coarse pottery, two vases of Castor ware, and some coins were preserved. Two of the *fibulae* were large, brass, of the 'fiddle' pattern, two were smaller, the same shape, one had traces of enamel and pieces of glass set in it [*post*, 'Anglo-Saxon Remains']. The five brass coins were undecipherable except one of Domitian (A.D. 81-96) [Bellairs, *Leic. Arch. Soc.* vi, 339]. A fragment of a stone inscribed—

IS. T. R. A.

A. N.

was found near the Old House, Westcotes, and is now in the Leicester Museum [*Rep. Com. Leic. Mus.*].

## ROMANO-BRITISH LEICESTERSHIRE

WITHERLEY.—Eleven miles north-west of High Cross, the remains of a rectangular earthwork lie half on each side of Watling Street, in the parishes of Witherley (Leicestershire) and Mancetter (Warwickshire). The name of Mancetter and the mileage of the Antonine Itinerary justify the identification of the site as that of Manduessedum. The northern or Leicestershire part is called the 'Old Field,' or 'Oufort Bank,' the Warwickshire side 'Castle Bank.' The earthwork measures about 600 ft. by 450 ft., and encloses an area of nearly 7 acres, but it is not clear whether it comprises the whole or part only of the Roman settlement. Burton, in 1622, thought that it extended as far as half a mile to the west near Mancetter church, where he stated that foundations were discovered [Burton's MS. quoted by Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* iv, 1027]. He also mentioned coins found in different parts, a bronze of Nero (A.D. 54-68), and one of the elder Faustina (A.D. 138-41) from Oufort Bank, Witherley; a Carausius (A.D. 287-93) also from Witherley; and others from Mancetter and towards Atherstone. Stukeley, who visited the place in 1725, heard of 'great stones and mortar-work—Roman brick, iron, and great numbers of coins, brass and silver, and some gold' [*Itin. Cur.* i, 20]. More recent writers only mention coins [Dugdale, *Warw.* 1076; Horsley, *Magna Brit.* 420; Nichols, *Hist. Leic.* iv, 1027]. The character and extent of the permanent occupation of the site is therefore uncertain, but it was probably a village or posting-station [Haverfield in *V.C.H., Warw.* i, 233-4; *post*, 'Ancient Earthworks'].

WYMONDHAM.—A few yards of tessellated pavement, the *tesserae* being  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. square, and smaller, discovered in a field adjoining Wymondham House, about 4 ft. from the surface, probably indicated the existence of a villa at this spot. Portions of pavement and pieces of painted wall-plaster have been discovered from time to time, also human bones [*Assoc. Arch. Soc.* viii, lxiii; *MS. Min. Soc. Antiq.* xxxiii, 15; *Gent. Mag.* 1797, i, 75; *O. S.* xxi, 9].