

NOTES
OF THE
Roman Villa,
AT
CHEDWORTH,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE,
WITH
A Catalogue

REPRODUCED BY THE ARTIST'S REPORTER OF
THE MUSEUM ATTACHED TO IT,
WITH A PLAN.

Second Edition.

BY
PROFESSOR BUCKMAN, F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.,
*Honorary Member of the Cotswold, Malvern, Severn Valley,
and other Naturalists' Field Clubs,*

AND
ROBERT W. HALL, F.G.S.,
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CHEDWORTH
ROMAN VILLA.



INTRODUCTION.



PREVIOUSLY to the year 55 before Christ, the British Islands were occupied by barbarians, who in their nature and habits strongly contrasted with the civilized nations of Greece and Italy. The Romans having concluded the conquest of France, then termed Gaul, their celebrated commander Julius Cesar turned his eyes towards Britain, which he determined to invade, and accordingly carried out his intention in the year above referred to. This, however, was accomplished with only partial success, and it was not till about a century later, during the reign of the Emperor Claudius, that the country may be said to have been subjugated to the Roman yoke. In this second attempt we find that the invaders advanced into the county of Gloucester, then inhabited by a people called the Dobuni.

As observed by the authors of "Remains of Roman Art," "The escarpment of the Cotteswolds, almost in the centre of the Island, might naturally be expected to be occupied by the early invaders of this country as an important military post, the more especially as commanding the valley of the Severn, on the further side of which dwelt the Silures, one of the fiercest tribes the Romans had to deal with, the large fortress on the Herefordshire Beacon of the Malvern range affording evidence of the skill and labour shown by them in opposing the foe."

The late J. L. Baker, Esq., F.S.A., in a paper to the Society of Antiquaries, describes the remains of no fewer than twenty-five forts, extending from Clifton Downs to Bury Hill, and thence where the first series joins the Cotteswold range to Bredon Hill; these forts, which Mr. Baker considers as in nearly all instances originally British, having been turned to account and occupied as frontier fortresses by the Roman soldiers. The city of Gloucester would thus be the key to the Siltarian district, and most important as a military station to the Roman invaders. It is therefore not surprising that the county should be found to contain abundant traces of the Roman occupation; indeed, there are probably few, if any, which afford a greater field to those interested in the study of Roman antiquities. This is especially the case with the ancient Corinium, the modern town of Cirencester, the scene of the discovery of so many and beautiful relics of Roman art which have been fully described in the work referred to. This was evidently a highly important military station also, and one of the "Hibernia," or winter quarters for the troops. Four of the principal existing highways leading out of the town occupy the sites of ancient Roman military roads. Thus—I., the Icknold street, leading to Oxford; II., the Ackman street, to Bath;

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III., the Irmā street, supposed to have commenced at Cwerleon, in Monmouthshire, and passing Gloucester and Cirencester, extending to Cricklade and Southampton. This latter may be well seen in passing from Cirencester to Kirdlip, its course being remarkably straight, and generally raised considerably above the level of the adjoining land on either side.

The fourth, known as the "Foss Way," diverged from the Ickneild street at a place called the Hare Bushes, about a mile out of the town, and proceeded thence to the north, passing Foss Bridge and Northleach on its way. The Villa, which it is the object of these pages to describe, is situate near the line of the last-mentioned road. It seems reasonable to suppose that the country residences would thus be placed in the vicinity of the principal roads, not only for the means of communication afforded by them, but also for the sake of the protection of the camps, traces of which more or less perfect are to be found in many places along the line of all the great highways.*

The buildings are situated in the parish of Chedworth, about sixteen miles from Gloucester, seven from Cirencester, and three to the west of Foss Bridge previously referred to.

They are placed on the slope of a valley, along which runs the Colne, a tributary of the Thames, and geologically, near the outcrop of the Fuller's earth, the water-bearing stratum of this neighbourhood, a site judiciously chosen as respects water supply, a grand essential in the wants of the Roman citizen.

The discovery was made about the year 1866, by James Farrer, Esq., and the buildings stand on the property of the Right Hon. the Earl of Eldon, at whose cost the excavations, together with the Museum and necessary protecting coverings,

* Remains of Villas have been discovered at numerous places in this county; among others, at Wotton, Stancombe Park, Woodchester, Lydney, and Whitecomb.

have been carried out. The ground was under coppice wood at the time, portions of which have been left in situ in two or three instances to indicate the state it was in. The circumstance which led immediately to the investigation is stated to have been the accidental loss of a ferret, in digging out which some tesserae were brought to light, and the attention of Mr. Farrer having been called to the matter, he undertook the task of prosecuting the enquiry he has so successfully accomplished. There can, however, be little doubt that this is only one of a series of similar remains, traces of building having been found in many places in the immediate neighbourhood.

With the Romans the term *Villa* originally denoted a Country House, with a farm and its belongings, and the accommodation necessary for a husbandman; but when luxury was introduced, the name was applied to a number of buildings reared for the accommodation of an opulent citizen in the country. A dwelling of this kind was usually divided into three parts, the "*Urbana*," "*Rustica*," and "*Fructuaria*." The first contained dining-rooms, parlours, bed-chambers, baths, tennis courts, with walks, terraces, &c.; the "*Rustica*" was for the slaves and workmen, with stables; while the "*Fructuaria*" comprised wine and oil cellars, corn yards, barns, granaries and storehouses of various kinds.

The *Villa* in question occupies, so far as discoveries have yet gone, three sides of a square; of these, that on which the principal buildings stand has a frontage nearly due east, and contains the most important rooms, together with an elaborate and complete Roman bath. The few buildings on the south side seem to have served the purpose of offices, or servants' apartments; while those on the opposite or northern side may have been the "*Fructuaria*," together with accommodation for a portion of the family and dependents. From

the circumstance also of their southern exposure, and that in several of the chambers the means for the application of heat to the floors are absent, these may have been occupied as a summer-residence. According to the Rev. Prebendary Scarth, the "Fructuaria" yet remains to be discovered, and Mr. Farrer thinks there may have been two distinct Villae.

Proceeding to notice some of the details, we come first to the building marked **A** on the plan. The size of the enclosed chamber within the walls is about twenty-nine by nineteen feet, and this space, judging from the arrangement of the pavements, was in all probability divided into two by a screen or curtain. The floors are much mutilated, though displaying a high degree of artistic skill, especially in the bordering, which is of very elegant design. The larger floor is occupied by a pictorial illustration representing a dance, which would appear to be emblematical of the seasons from the figures filling up three of the four corners, one of which, indicative of winter, has a man warmly clothed holding a hare or rabbit in his hand. The whole work is, however, unfortunately too imperfect to enable one to pronounce on its details with certainty.

Passing from this to the next building marked **B**, we find a very perfect Roman bathing establishment, with its sweating and cooling chambers, and hot and cold baths. It is interesting to note the amount of use the stone step in the doorway leading out of the hot room has received, being quite hollowed with wear, and to try to picture to oneself the groups whose feet trod these floors and wore away the stones in their passage to and fro some fourteen centuries ago. The pavements here also are a good deal injured, and imperfect; and though equally worthy of notice, yet afford no studied pictorial subject. In viewing this chamber, the attention of the visitor is especially directed to the system of heating, by means of a series of flues, to which

the term "*Hypocaust*," from the Greek, literally "*to set on fire from below*," has been applied. A few words as to its construction may be interesting.

The "*Hypocaust*," then, was simply a place where heat was generated for the supply of the adjoining rooms, it not being the practice among the Romans to use open fire places. Their rooms, at least the principal ones, were usually floored with a tessellated pavement, which was arranged in a very ingenious manner to ensure warmth and dryness. The plan of proceeding was to first erect rows of small pillars, or *pila*, upon which was laid a continuous floor of red brick slabs. On this superstructure was spread a stratum of concrete, composed of pounded bricks and lime, laid to a regular thickness of about six inches; and this, when dry, formed the bed on which the tessellated pattern was worked. The design was probably first drawn on paper, and then wrought on the concrete with a fine cement. It will be seen that the patterns are sometimes worked out with great freedom of outline, as well as delicacy in detail and colour, and for this reason that the artist would seem to have made his tesserae of different sizes as he required them, and hence that stiffness one sees in modern tessellated floors all made of squares of uniform size was avoided.

The *pila* were of various materials, some of them stone, as seen in situ at **D**; others of flat square bricks, or of bricks and stone mixed, according to the materials at hand. An excellent example of this mode of construction is to be seen in the floor of the sweating room marked **C** on the plan. It will be noticed that the heated air passed between the *pila* beneath the floor, and by modifying the arrangement the amount of heat could be regulated. It has often been a question as to what became of the smoke. According to Pliny, it was carried on to the wood-house, and used for drying the figs. The small chamber

at E, outside the building, is the "præfurnium," where the fire, consisting of wood, was kindled. It is perhaps unnecessary to remark that the almost universal fuel among the Romans was wood, although there are not wanting traces in this country of their having worked coal; the process employed being a peculiar one, termed bell-working, from the method adopted in extracting the mineral. Close to the præfurnium was a space sufficient for the deposit of fuel, and for the accommodation of the person who attended to the fire. It should here be mentioned that both the steps leading down into the præfurnium, and the arch between it and the building itself, are of recent construction, though there was of course originally an opening for communication.

The floors of a Roman building were of two classes, viz., those we have been describing, raised above the level of the ground on piles, the object being to admit a free circulation of air as well as heat; and secondly, floors formed on the ground without supports, and not always even covered with tesserae, their use being confined to chambers of an inferior class.

The attention of the visitor is directed to the quantity of walling laid bare, much in so perfect a condition that it would be easy to make use of it again. To protect the walls from the effects of exposure, they have been covered with the tiles which formed the roof material of the original building. These are of the kind known as Stonesfield slate, a basement bed of the great collië, still generally employed in this district, and considerable quarries of which occur within a short distance. They are, however, of a somewhat coarse and heavy description, and to lessen their weight, were arranged in a sort of lozenge form, as seen in the existing coping, both the lower and upper corners of each tile being cut off, thereby decreasing its weight, and improving the general effect, without in any way detracting from utility.

Proceeding further to the north-western corner, a building will be observed which has given rise to much speculation as to its use, namely, that containing a circular apse and octagonal reservoir for water, which remains perfect to this day. The Rev. S. Lysons, the author of an elaborate and highly interesting paper, read at the meeting of the Cotteswold Club at Foss Bridge, May 22nd, 1867, considers it may have been a Baptistery; but, as remarked by the Rev. Prebendary Scarth, the finding of a stone altar, possibly placed there in honor of the deity, supposed to preside over the spring, somewhat militates against this notion; and the most probable view is that it served the purpose for which at first sight it would appear to have been intended, merely as a receptacle for holding water*. The Romans required a large supply for their baths and domestic use, as well as for their gardens, to which they devoted much attention, and were most particular in having them well watered. It is mentioned by Pliny that it was considered evidence of a bad housewife where the gardens were not kept in proper order.

In the enclosure marked **F**, the large masses or pigs of iron lying outside the Museum were found, and it has hence been conjectured that a forge may have existed there; no doubt a very necessary appendage to such a dwelling. The reddened colour of some of the stonework would seem to favor such a supposition. Adjoining this latter is another building, covering apparently a subsidiary bath, or rather baths. These are also in a very perfect state of preservation in every respect.

The remainder of the buildings running in an eastward direction call for no special remark, except as to that marked **D**, which has already been alluded to as containing such a very

* Mr. Scarth thinks it may have been a tank for fish,

perfect collection of piles, all of which are standing exactly as found, and another a little farther on, in which the Millstones standing in the Museum were discovered. It is curious to note that several of these chambers have an apical form.

It will be observed that the whole of the rooms were approached from corridors running the entire length of the buildings, and which were no doubt paved, as is evidenced by a portion in front of the eastern elevation, which has already been uncovered. Some of the pillars which supported the roof of these corridors remain in position, whilst others are standing on different portions of the old walls. (See p. 30, 31.)

The materials of the tessere appear to have been mainly furnished by the neighbouring rock formations.* Thus, the oolites would yield various tints of light brown, cream and grey, the lime the darker shades of slate, with as a contrast the dark rods of the old and new red sandstone. Among the artificial substances would be various kinds of terra cotta and glass; the latter, however, being used exceedingly sparingly in the examples found in this country, and not entering into the composition of the pavements at Chedworth at all.

As respects the age of the Villa, much speculation has arisen. The Rev. Mr. Lysons, who discovered the christian monogram, the Greek letters Chi and Rho, forming in combination CHR., the two first letters of the name of Christ, under the foundation stone of the principal entrance, and in four other instances, argues that the builder must have been a christian. The stones bearing this device will be seen resting against the wall of the Museum, the chiselling being surrounded by a ring of white paint. This monogram, Mr. Lysons states, is precisely of the character of those seen on the coins of the Emperors Magnentius and his

* See "Remains of Roman Art," by Professor Buckman and Mr. Newmarch, before referred to.

brother Decentius, who, Britons by their parentage, reigned A.D. 350; and further says that the same type is found on christian tombs in the catacombs of Rome, reaching back to the time of Hadrian, who began to reign A.D. 118, if not to a remoter period as old as apostolic times.*

Mr. Lysons also alludes, in the same paper, to the finding, in 1760, of the vestiges of a Roman bath, in Listercomb bottom, within about a mile of the Villa. Most of the bricks of which it was built were legibly marked ARVERI, connecting them, according to Mr. Lysons, with Arviragus, a British king, said to have been a christian. He argues similarly as respects the word PRASUTA., abbreviation of Prasutagus, another British king), found on a stone in the Villa, and now also placed in the Museum. However correct these views may be, there is certainly, as Mr. Lysons observes, a singular absence of Heathen relics. In allusion to the foregoing, Mr. Lysons, in a letter to the *Gloucester Journal*, of the date of May 20th, 1827, quotes the following lines from the chronicler Hardyng, in reference to Arviragus the king, to whom he attributes the building of this Villa.

* Joseph converted this Arviragus
By his preaching to know the law divine,
And baptized him, as written hath Nearchus,
The chronicler, in Brytain tongue, full fyne,
Ald to Christe law made him earlys,
And gave him then a shield of perfect white,
A cross end long, and over threut full perfect,

* The Rev. Mr. South states that similar monograms have been found in other places of Roman occupation, and is of opinion that the Villa, if not built by a christian, was at least restored in christian times.

† Literally, the valley of the Prince's Palace, Chief Residence.
 Llys, a Prince's Palace }
 Ter, a chief place } From the British.
 Cem., a valley }

These arms were used through all Britain
 For a common sign, who men no know his nation
 For crosses, which now we call certain
 Saint George's Arms, by Xenius information;
 And thus the Arms, by Joseph's creation,
 Full long after Saint George was generate,
 Were worship'd heir of myhell elder date."

In completing the tour of the Villa, it is necessary to allude to the remains of two buildings in its immediate vicinity; the one situate a short distance off the road along the wood to the south must have been of considerable size, as is evident from the massive stone work still to be seen in situ; the other, a little way up the wood above the Villa, is of smaller dimensions. In this were discovered various portions of stone sculpture, including a figure representing a huntsman, with a dog near him, and a hare in his hand. These will be found in the Museum, and are alluded to in the Catalogue. In the rear of the northern buildings, in the coppice, is a lime-kiln, marked **K** on the plan, believed to be of Roman construction, and differing but little, if at all, from those in vogue at the present day: indeed, in viewing the collection generally, one cannot fail to be struck with the fact of how little we have improved in the design and construction of most articles of ordinary every day use during the centuries which have elapsed since the Roman occupation. Here are much the same forms of knives, hinges, keys, locks, spoons, and other similar articles of domestic utility, including the steelyard, of which so perfect an example is to be seen in the Cirencester Museum, and which form of weighing machine, or some modification of it, is still found to be the best adapted for almost every purpose. Truly one is inclined to exclaim with the great preacher, "There is nothing new under the sun."

In alluding to the Corinium Museum, which everyone interested

in Roman antiquities should visit, and to which so excellent a guide has recently been published by Professor Church, of the Royal Agricultural College, its Honorary Curator, it may be remarked that, although the Museum at the Villa is necessarily on so small a scale, yet that it possesses examples of a large number of the articles to be found within the cases of that at Cirencester.

There is one question remaining to be cleared up, namely, the place of sepulture, of which as yet no trace has been found. The box on the central table of the Museum, containing fragments of pottery and remains of bones, points to a date antecedent to the Roman occupiers of the Villa, and to an earlier and ruder race. These were disinterred from a tumulus near.

Such, then, is a brief outline of this interesting discovery. In the concluding words on the subject, spoken by Sir William Guise, at the anniversary meeting of the Cottleswold Club, in 1868, "its aspect presents to the mind of the intelligent enquirer a subject of strange and startling interest, carrying the beholder back far into the almost forgotten past, and giving again to the mind's eye, with a vividness and freshness most impressive, the every day life of these old Romans, to whom we owe so much of our language, our civilization, and our laws."

It merely remains to commend to the attention of the visitor the following catalogue of the objects deposited in the Museum. The numbers on each, or on groups, will be found to correspond to those in the Catalogue, which gives in full, descriptions of all. Numbers will also be observed in certain parts of the buildings which refer to the same catalogue.

CATALOGUE

Of the more Interesting Objects preserved in the
CHEDWORTH MUSEUM.

The Visitor should first inspect the contents of the Glass Case on the side of the room, commencing at the left hand or east end of the case, and then proceed to examine the objects arranged on the central table, completing the survey with those around the room.

The objects in the Case are separated into groups distinguished by Capital letters. They are all numbered, and however they may be examined, such numbers will correspond with those in the Catalogue.

GLASS CASE.

Division A.—Remains of Animals used as Food.

No. 1.—*Portions of skulls of the Ox, with their horn cores attached.*

2.—*Limbs Bones of Ox and Deer.*

3.—*Antlers of Red Deer of various ages.*

DIVISION B.—Mollusca connected with the Romans.

- 4.—*Oysters*—Most of the shells found at this Villa indicate a comparatively large consumption of the coarse or "Mumble" oysters, from the Estuary of the Severn, but occasional shells of "natives" occur. This is just the reverse of the case at Corinium, where the larger sorts are the less common.

Two shells should here be noted as having a square hole cut in the centre ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. square), with what object it is difficult to determine.

- 5.—*Roman Snail*—*Helix Pomatia*.—These are found in the living state in the surrounding woods. This species is daily exposed for sale in the Paris markets.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6.— <i>Limpet</i> | } We have found thick layers of these |
| 7.— <i>Wink</i> | |
| 8.— <i>Mussel</i> | |
- at Jordan Hill, a Roman station,
near Weymouth.

DIVISION C.—Articles made from Bones, &c.

- 9, 10.—*Antlers and parts of antlers*—prepared for various purposes.
- 11, 12.—*Portions of Antlers and Bones used for Knife-handles.*
- 13, 14, 15.—*Handles—Hafts—for knives and tools made from bone.*
- 16.—*Leg of Fighting Cock*, with bold projection for the spur.
- 17.—*Tusks of the Boar*—These were sometimes used for ornamental purposes.
- 18, 19.—*Bone objects*—probably lids to small boxes.
- 20, 21, 22.—*Hair Pins of Boars*, (A., a bone bodkin.) These are curlons for the various shapes of their heads. In this collection scarcely two are alike.

Division D.—Discs in Bone, Pottery, and Glass.

- 23.—*Perforated Discs in Pottery, Kimmeridge coal, &c.*
- 24.—*Card of Discs of Glass, Bone, &c.*—Discs of different sizes and very varied in material were apparently employed as "men," or "counters," in some game or games.
- 25.—*A Disc of Kimmeridge clay*—probably a wasted centre—*Wastrel*,—from turning a ring of this material.

Division E.—Implements of Iron, Knives, &c.

- 26, 27.—*Supposed Sacrificial Knives.*—Some of this type may be seen in the Corinium Museum.
- 28, 29.—*Knives used for Domestic purposes.*—28a, shank to enter the handle.—*Haft.*
- 30.—*Knife with haft of wood*—(a.a.,) rivets by which the wood was fastened; (b.,) remnant of haft.
- 31.—*Pocket Knives, one with fœcia of bone.*
- 32.—*Oyster Knives.*—One with bronze guard, exactly like one in the Corinium Museum. This is interesting as showing the little change in this instrument in so many centuries.
- 33, 34.—*Spear Heads.*—Perhaps employed in the chase. Anything in the shape of warlike weapons appears to have been very rare at this station.
- 35.—*Arrow Heads.*—Perhaps for the same uses. These too are rare.
- 36, 37.—*Parts of Locks.* { Locks were craftily made by the
Romans, and both locks and keys
- 38, 39.—*Lock Keys.* { show good workmanship.
- 40.—*Parts of Shears.*—These were made both in iron and bronze. The Corinium Museum contains perfect examples of both.

- 41, 42, 43.—*Horse Shoes*.—Horse-shoeing among the Romans seems to have attained a high pitch of perfection. Shoes with the "Kalk," or flanges at the heel were used, but are very rare: flat shoes seem to have been very general; some of these have the nails still attached.
- 44.—*Small Looped Button*.
- 45.—*Curious but well-forged object of iron*.
- 46.—*Iron Signet Ring or Seal*.
- 47.—*Signet Rings*.
- 48.—*Various Rings of iron*.
- 49.—*Set of Manacles, 2½ in. in the clear*. These are supposed to have been intended for girls or young people. Their lightness of structure, if they really be manacles, would point to the fact that they had not very stern work to perform.
- 50.—*Iron Implement (?)*
- 51, 52, 53.—*Gouge and other tools for Carpentry*.—(See 58, Saws.)
- 54.—*Curling Tongs*.—Their form and the action of the spring make it likely they were used for this purpose, but we have never seen an object of this kind before, though we know that Roman ladies were dainty about their hair.
- 55, 56, 57.—*Various forms of Nails*.—The kinds of nails about a Roman station were almost as numerous as those that are kept in a modern Ironmonger's shop.
- 58.—*Portions of Saws*.—These are small, and their serrated teeth are much corroded, but their object is sufficiently plain.
- 59.—*A kind of Bolt*—probably belonging to a lock.
- 60.—*A Buckle*.—This is so like an old-fashioned shoe buckle that at first we doubted its Roman origin, but we now consider it an object of that period.

61, 62, 63.—*Various Iron Implements*.—One is like a shepherd's crook.

64.—*Iron Ladles*.

65.—*Implement in Iron*—probably a kind of meat chopper or mincer.

66.—*Iron Implement*.

DIVISION F.A.—Articles in Lead.

67.—*Leadens Colander, or Strainer*. These in pottery are not uncommon, (see Pottery.)

68.—*Counterpoise of Roman Statera*.—Stoolyards, a, weighs 2½ lbs.; b, 4lb. The finer objects of this kind were made of Bronze, sometimes representing the heads of different Deities.

69.—*Portions of Leadens Pipe*.

For a quantity of rough lead, see corner of Museum. This metal seems to have been much used by the Romans, both by itself and in mixed metals.

DIVISION F.B.—Articles in Silver.

70.—*Silver Coins*.—Of pure silver coins few have been found at this station, and still fewer of brass plated with silver, and even a less number of base metal in imitation of silver. As regards the plating, it is thought by some that it was with the design of lowering its value, and not for deception; but the base metal coins found here and at Corinium must surely owe their origin to classic "amashera."

DIVISION F.C.—Articles in Bronze.

71.—*Various Copper Coins*.

72.—*Beam of Roman Statera*.—This object is about 8 in. long, and graduated by various notches, much in the same manner as our modern "Steelyard." They seem to have been used for small and large weights. A fine example of a larger statera may be seen in the Corinium Museum. The small object of an acorn shape by the side of the beam is a counterpoise to a Statera. Heads of Deities, and even grotesques, were modelled for counterpoises. For larger examples lead was often employed for this purpose; but the smaller ones were constantly of brass or bronze. The counterpoise of the larger Statera in the Corinium Museum is of lead encased in copper plate.

73, 74.—*Bronze Spurs*.—These are very interesting specimens. Their metal, kind of work, and form, leave no doubt as to their origin and uses. Most Roman stations furnish examples more or less perfect. We have in our possession an example made of Iron.

75.—*Bronze Spoons—Cocklekeys*.—Three of the usual type, with pointed handles. These were probably plated with Silver, at least over the bowls.

The smaller examples of these were used to dig cockles, with the pointed end, and to take meat out of eggs with the bowl; hence, like our spoons at the present day, they were used for more than one purpose; for, while the pointed end of the spoon would be useful for taking meat out of univalve shells, both cockle and whelk, it was also employed when eating eggs to pierce the shell. Mr. Roach Smith, F.S.A.,* quotes Pliny in illustration of this idea:—

"In speaking of the precautions with which incanta-

* See *Antiquities of Richborough and Reculver*, p. 205, &c.

tions were avoided, Piny* states that, to avoid evil influences, the shells, as soon as the eggs were swallowed, were broken or perforated with spoons, that is, with the pointed ends.† This seems a widely spread superstition among us at the present time, as it is not unusual to see people break eggshells to prevent witches sailing in them.

"The Devil should think of purchasing that egg-shell,
To victual out a witch for the Burncoose!"

Reverend J. Fletcher.

The Cochleare on the same tablet with the triangular bevil and knob at the end, was probably used to take unguents from jars or bottles.

76.—*Compass or Dividers*.—This is the finest example of this mathematical instrument that we have met with. It is $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. in length, and the legs and rivet are most elaborately ornamented. At the back will be found an arrangement for fixing the points when in use.

There are two of these in the Corinium Museum, but they are not one third the size.†

77 to 82.—*Various minor Articles in Bronze*.—Two examples marked 78 were probably used for some carding or marking purposes. The ornamentation on the semi-circular object is remarkable for two rows of small impressions of the exact shape of the "spade" in our playing cards. By the side of these is a small object in jet (79) with two celices like 78.

83.—*Bronze Pins*.—These are somewhat rare. Their heads are varied like those in Rome.—See p. 16.

* Nat. Hist., lib. xviii.

† See "Remains of Roman Art," p. 168, for comments on the fine bronze with which these objects are made.

84 to 88.—*Portions of Worked Bronze objects*.—Some of these are impressed with patterns. *Impressing* in thin metal, *Engraving*, *Casting*, and *Plating*, seem to have been practised by the Romans.

89 to 92.—*Rings of various sizes*.—Nos. 91 and 92 are examples of Finger Rings. They seem to have been worked by carving and engraving on a previous casting. Perhaps the flat fillets were meant to receive precious stones.

93 to 97.—*Bracelets of various patterns*.—These are very varied in ornamental detail, proceeding indeed from absolute plainness to most elaborate patterns, in which the same design is seldom repeated.

These Bracelets must have been very generally worn, as they are always found about Roman stations, and the Chedworth series is really a very fine one. Corinium likewise contains a fine series, some of which have been copied in Silver.

98, 99.—*Annular Fibula*.—No. 98 is very perfect, and might even be worn at the present time. In these the head of the style and the turned up ends of the ring were usually carved.*

100.—*Bronze Fibula*.—This is different from the earlier Roman examples. One of a like type is figured in Akerman's *Archaeological Index*, pl. xii, f. 10. The Chedworth specimen is without the pin or style, and appears to be an example of metal casting of Romano-British work.

101.—*Bow-shaped Fibula*.—The hollow at the base was probably meant to contain a jewel.

102.—*Fibula of Saxon Work*.—The *impressed* pattern on the fascia is worthy of notice.

* A beautiful plate of some of these will be found in the "*Remains of Roman Art*."

- 103.—*Sacra Fibula*—quite plain.
 104.—*Stylis of different Fibulae*.—On the same tablet is a Stylus flattened at one end. This was doubtless used for writing.
 105.—*Bronze Chains of two patterns*.
 106.—*Handle for Cabinet (?)*
 107.—*A skara connected with the worship of Priapus*.—Corinium Museum contains one of these very elaborately wrought.

Division G.—Articles in Glass, &c.

- 108, 109, 110.—*Fragments of plain Glass*.
 111, 112.—*Portions of Moulded Glass*.
 113.—*Bit of cut Glass*, (English?)
 114.—*Two Intaglias for Seals*. (3), *Circle of Jet*.
 115.—*Bead inlaid with Lapis lazuli*.
 116.—*Bits of calcined Glass*.

The glass is but fragmentary, but it is interesting, as showing how varied were the forms, mode of working, and uses to which glass was applied in these early times.

Division H.—Pottery, &c.

The Pottery found at Chedworth, though in a very fragmentary state, is yet most interesting, from the various kinds which it includes. The richer sorts of ware of the period are only found in small quantity, so different from the town villa of Corinium. Judging from the Pottery, we should say that the occupant of the Chedworth Villa was a country gentleman who, though he had all things comfortable about him, had yet not those refinements that would belong to the occupant of a town villa of even smaller extent. See p. 12.

The following numbers for the most part refer to groups, and not to single specimens.

- 117.—*Portions of "Samian" Ware*—rare.
- 118.—*Portions of Imitation Samian*—more common.
- 119.—*Various examples of Red Pottery*.—The very varied forms of the lips of the different vessels should here be noticed.
- 120.—*Dark Chocolate-Coloured Vessels*.—This is ornamented, both by mouldings and colour. This kind of ware is supposed to have been made at Northampton.
- 121.—*Black Ware with raised white ornaments*.—This is an uncommon variety.
- 122.—*White Ware, with red colours painted in patterns*.—This is not uncommon at different stations.
- 123.—*A Mortarium*.—This is a fine example of this kind of Vessel, in which the lip, with a Potter's mark, corresponding to our modern "trade mark" as derived from name or initials, is very perfect. It is supposed that the use of these was to triturate vegetables or any soft matters into a pulp, a process which was greatly aided by the roughness caused by the small bits of quartzose matter—minute pebbles—with which the inside was thickly studded.
- 124.—*Black Smother-burned Pottery*.
- 125.—*Crucibles*.—These, so much like the modern chemical apparatus of that name, were used for melting metals at an intense heat. Some examples at Corinium had metal still adhering to them.
- 126.—*Wall Plaster, coloured*.—The peculiar method adopted by the Romans in colouring afforded great variety instead of the dull uniformity of a single colour for a whole room, as with ourselves. The nature of the

colours, too, show that the early settlers were acquainted with various pigments which were by some thought to be of more recent date.

- 127.—*Hass Stones*.—This is a curious collection of these useful domestic articles, and when taken in connection with those in the Corinium Museum, will serve to shew the wide range of Geological formations, and the great distances apart of the rocks that must have been examined to furnish them.

On the Table, around the Walls, &c.

- 128.—*A Series of red Tiles*, on which are preserved finger-marks supposed to have been made in carrying them in a soft state. Tracks of Cows, Sheep, Dog, Goat, &c, probably caused by these creatures walking over them as they were put on the ground to harden.
- 129.—*Flat Square Tiles or Bricks*.—Three of these are cemented the one on the other as they were used to form the *pila* of the hypocaust. The upper one of these has the impression of a dog's foot.
- 130.—*Hollow Flat Tiles*.—These are 16 in. high, 8 in. broad, and 5 in. from front to back.—They are hollow, with one or two square orifices at the sides. They are scored at the front and sides according to fancy, and it is highly probable that some such instrument was used in the process as the little bronze numbered 78.
- 131.—*Flat Tiles of a smaller size*.—About half the height of the preceding, their proportion being 4 in. wide, 6½ in. high on one side, and 5½ in. on the other. This peculiarity of construction is very interesting, as showing that these smaller tiles are capable of being employed for flues, either upright or in curves. When used for

arched or curved work they were all put upon each other one way; when for upright floors the alteration of the sides would make the work not only more upright, but stronger. These too are variously scored.

The visitor should observe the uses of the tiles 130 and 131 in the magnificent Bath alluded to at p. 7.

- 132.—*Flanged Tiles*.—These are scored on their upper surfaces. They were used for various purposes, but principally for the support of the *suspensura* of Roman floors: for which, see 'Remains of Roman Art,' page 66, fig. 8.

- 133.—*Semicircular conduit or drain Tiles*.—Continuous pipes were formed by placing the edges of these in apposition. We have not seen a tubular drain pipe at this station, but the natural History Museum at Worcester contains some good examples, which were found at Powick in that County.

Sometimes stone was wrought into semicircular openings, and used, either as a gutter or two together as a drain, (see figure 137;) also examine the mode of use exhibited about the building.

- 134.—*Fragments of Clay Pottery, red.*
135.—*Fragments of Black Pottery.*

These were both made from common clay; the red colour seems to have resulted from the oxidation of the iron of the clay; hence the difference between a newly-made and a baked brick. The black ware was burnt in another furnace.

- 136.—*Portions of Amphoræ, Mortaria, and other large Vessels*.—These Amphoræ were wine jars; one at Corinium must have held about 4 galls. It is figured in 'Remains of Roman Art,' p. 80. The handles of this example were marked with the letters **C.A.Z.** A handle in the Ched-

worth collection has the letters **MIO**, followed by a small leaf impressed in its side.

- 137.—*Semicircular Conduit Pipes*.—These are cut from the freestone of the district; and it may be interesting to note that the once celebrated Burford Quarries, on the Stow road, not far from the present site, furnished stone for so many years which was employed in forming conduit pipes for London.
- 138.—*Square Piles from the solid stone*.—These were 2 ft. 4 in. in height. They were used as a suspensura of floors, for which see **D** in plan of building. They were doubtless cut from the great colite, quarried not far from the spot.
- 139.—*Molers or Millstones*.—Two kinds of stone are here represented, namely, Millstone Grit and Old Red Sandstone Conglomerate. These in all probability came from the Banks of the Broad Severn. At Cirencester these and other Silicious Stones, from different and more distant parts of the kingdom, are represented; and not only so, but the Continent then, as now, furnished its "foreign grindstones;" as grit stones, from the Volcanic grit of Andernach on the Rhine, are not at all uncommon.
- 140.—*Three Freestone Slabs with Monograms*.—These are made of "fine brown ashler" of great colite Freestone, and appear to have been formed for some peculiar structure. The sacred Monogram is repeated on each Slab. These Slabs and other forms of the Sacred Symbol are considered of the highest interest, as pointing to a very early introduction of Christianity into Britain.
- 141.—*Stone rudely inscribed with the name of PRASIATA* &c. See Introductory Notes.
- 142.3.—*Carved Stones*.—One a niche probably for occupation by a Statue. This was found in the Summer-house,

- which may be seen a few yards in the Wood. See p. 13.
- 143.—*Domestic Altars*. There are several forms of these of different work and size. They show that although evidences of Christian occupation are there, Heathen rites had not been wholly forgotten.
- 146.—*Balls of Precious Stone*.—These, it is supposed, were designed to be thrown with the Ballista or Catapult. Some were found at Corinium of Oolite and of Sandstone. At Jordan Hill, near Weymouth, balls of this sort made of Flint are not uncommon, and we have met with examples on our own farm in Dorsetshire. The flint ones are supposed to have been used as hammers to chip flints by the Celtic races; they may, however, have been used as weapons by the Romans.
- 147.—*Discus—"Quoits"*.—The game which we understand by this name appears to have been common with the Romans, and the materials used to have been not over-refined. In this collection we have quoits of oolite, and one of Stonesfield Slate. At Portland one was found of indurated chalk, probably formed from one of the flat chalk pebbles which are so common at Chiswell Beach.
- 148.—*Carving in Oolite Freestone*.—Subject: a Hunter with a Hare in the right hand: beneath the game is a Greyhound; to the left a Stag. This interesting piece of Sculpture is from the summer-house in the wood. Other portions of Sculpture, too imperfect to make out, were found at the same place.

Stones connected with the Pavements.

- 149.—*Elas Limestones*.
- 150.—*Cream-coloured Great Oolite*.—This has been mistaken for a foreign stone, and called Polombino Marble. It

is, however, from the Cottesswold country, and is curious not only from affording the delicate cream-coloured tesserae, but also some of the lighter greys, the difference in colour having been made by heat.

- 151.—*Slab of Old Red Sandstone*.—This was used for chocolate-coloured or dark red tesserae.
- 152.—*Mosaic of Foreign Marbles*.—Stones of this kind might have been used for pavements, or for other ornamental work.
- 153.—*Calcareous Tufa*.—This is formed from a deposit from Springs charged with Carbonate of Lime, and is still in progress of formation in many districts in the Cottesswolds. Much of this has been used in the Temple. "The Chancel of Quatford Church, (early English date), near Bridgenorth, is built of Tufa, enclosing recent *Helices*, (*Succia*), *Planorbis*, and other recent shells, intermixed with encrusted Mosses and Leaves." "*Stone Steps*," p. 1, by J. Buckman.

Iron Work.

- 154.—*Parts of Articles manufactured from Iron*.—These are so varied, both in work and character, as to show that in all probability a Smithy was worked on the premises, as indeed would be even more necessary than in the present day, when villa residences were scattered, and regular villages had hardly become settled.
- 155.—*Different forms of Hinges*.—These show that they were made for various situations and different purposes, probably for rough gates and more refined doors, as some are very coarsely worked, while others give signs of great skill in the Roman smith.

159.—*Pigs of Iron*.—These were found in the Chamber F, which is supposed to have been the Smithy or Forge.

The following are the dimensions and weights of these masses of iron :—

No. 1.	—64 in. long,	2½ round ;	Weight, 484 lbs.
" 2.	—38 "	26 "	" 336 "
" 3.	—39 "	25 "	" 256 "

These are not of one uniform size or weight, nor are they alike in shape. They are simply rough masses of metal ready for the smith, and one of them seems to bear the marks of having had small pieces cut from it for some immediate use.

157.—*Parts of an Urn, with Bones from an Ancient British Barrow in Chedworth Wood.*

Early Celtic remains are not uncommon in Gloucestershire, and rude urns with flint implements are not unfrequently met with. Mixed with these one sometimes meets with amber beads, and even beads of glass but where the latter occur it is highly probable that the more refined articles, such as the better pottery and glass beads, were obtained from the conquerors, much as the wilder aborigines in different parts of the world are at present supplied with such coveted rarities from more civilized traders or settlers.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS.

The visitor, as he proceeds from point to point, should carefully examine the fine bits of remains of an architectural kind which are scattered over these extensive excavations. Well turned columns, with the appropriate bases and capitals belonging to the different orders of architecture, as laid down

by the great master Vitruvius, will be found here and there about the building: some in their original sites, though not all so. These attest a knowledge of proportion and a dexterity of handling truly classical, and show that when this people established themselves in Britain, they must have brought with them well-educated artists and artisans from their imperial continental cities, as in this confessedly country house the corridors were supported with wrought and faultlessly proportioned columns, with all their appropriate details, and the remains of friezes, colonnades, arcades, the internal decorations of wall paintings, pavements, &c., all tend to convince us that the Roman in Britain did not sink his artistic taste and feelings, but transported these to the country of his adoption; and the long and undisputed possession of the country is shown from the substantial and gradually augmenting details of the Roman Villa.



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